guidely

YouTube

Current Affairs Power Capsule for IBPS PO/Clerk Mains 2023

BUNDLE PDF COURSE

- Topic-wise + Section-wise + Exam-wise Bundle PDF Courses (Get 50 Days Daily Targets)
- Separate Bundle Courses for Beginners
- All Exam Memory Based Paper Bundle Course
- Bilingual Questions (Eng & Hindi)
- Detailed Video Solution & Quiz Format

Guidely www guidely.in Grab Now

IBPS PO/CLERK GA POWER CAPSULE 2023

S. No	Topics	Page No
1.	IMPORTANT DAYS	3
2.	NATIONAL NEWS	6
3.	INTERNATIONAL NEWS	58
4.	STATE NEWS	69
5.	BANKING AND ECONOMY	79
6.	BUSINESS NEWS	133
7.	APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS	150
8.	AWARDS AND HONOURS	159
9.	RANKING AND INDEXES	167
10.	MOUS AND AGREEMENT	174
11.	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	184
12.	DEFENCE NEWS	194
13.	ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS	204
14.	SPORTS NEWS	209
15.	BOOKS AND AUTHOR	227
16.	OBITUARIES	228

Click Here for August 1 to 15 Current Affairs

Click Here for August 15 to September 08 Current Affairs

Click Here for August 15 to September 08 Current Affairs

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

IMPORTANT DAYS

APRIL MONTH

Date	Observed as	Theme/ Aim / Key Points
April 1	Odisha Foundation Day	-
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	Transformation: Toward a Neuro-Inclusive World for All
April 4	International Day for Mine Awareness	Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home
April 5	National Maritime Day	MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on
April 7	World Health Day	Health For All
April 10	World Homeopathy Day	One Health, One Family
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	Remain at home amid coronavirus, protect mother and infant from coronavirus
April 13	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre	-
April 17	World Hemophilia Day	Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds as the global standard of care
April 18	World Heritage Day or International day for monuments and sites	-
April 21	National Civil Service Day	-
April 22	Earth Day	Invest in our planet
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day	Indigenous Languages
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	-
April 25	World Malaria Day	Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity
April 29	International Dance Day	-

MAY MONTH

Date	Observed as	Theme/ Aim / Key Points
May 2	World Tuna Day	-

May 2	World Asthma Day	Asthma care for All
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a driver for all other human rights
May 4	Coal Miners Day	-
May 11	National Technology Day	-
May 12	International Nurses Day	Our Nurses. Our Future
May 15	International Day Of Families	Families and New Technologies
May 17	World Hypertension Day	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer
May 17	World Telecommunication And Information Society Day	Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing
May 18	International Museum Day	Museums, Sustainability and Well Being
May 18	World AIDS Vaccine Day	-
May 20	World Metrology Day	Measurements supporting the global food system
May 24	Commonwealth Day	'Forging a sustainable and peaceful common future'
May 28	International Day Of Action For Women's Health	-
May 29	International Everest Day	-
May 29	International Day Of United Nations Peacekeepers	Peace begins with me
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	We Need Food, Not Tobacco

JUNE MONTH

Date	Observed as	Theme/ Aim / Key Points
June 1	World Milk Day	-
June 1	Global Parents Day	-
June 3	World Bicycle Day	-
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	-
June 5	World Environment Day	Beat Plastic Pollution
June 7	World Food Safety Day	'Food Standards Save Lives'
June 8	World Oceans Day	'Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing
June 8	World Brain Tumour Day	-
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	-
June 13	International Albinism Awareness Day	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

June 14	World Blood Donor Day	Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often
June 15	Global Wind Day	-
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Her Land. Her Rights,
June 18	World Autistic Pride Day	Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking
June 19	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	-
June 19	World Sauntering Day	-
June 20	World Refugee Day	hope away from home
June 21	World Hydrography Day	Hydrography - Underpinning the Digital Twin of the Ocean"
June 21	International Yoga Day	'Yoga For Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam
June 21	World Music Day	-
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	#LetsMove
June 23	International Olympic Day	-
June 23	International Widows Day	-
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking	People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention"
June 29	National Statistics Day	Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goal
June 30	World Asteroid Day	-

JULY MONTH

Date	Observed as	Theme/ Aim / Key Points
July 1	National Doctor's Day	Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands
July 2	World UFO Day	-
July 2	World Sports Journalists Day 2023	-
July 3	International Plastic Bag Free Day	-
July 6	World Zoonoses Day	-
July 11	World Population Day	Unleashing the power of gender Equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities."

July 12	World Malala Day	-
July 15	World Youth Skills Day	-
July 17	World Day for International Justice	Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day	The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food and Solidarity"
July 20	World Chess Day	The Global Chess Alliance (FIDE) was established in Paris, France in 1924
July 22	World Brain Day	Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind
July 23	National Broadcasting Day	-
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas	-
July 28	World Nature Conservation Day	Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
July 29	International Tiger Day	-
July 30	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind
July 31	World Ranger Day	'30 by 30'

NATIONAL NEWS

APRIL MONTH

➢ Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, **Shri Bhupender Yadav launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project,** an initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in 4 states at Tikli Village (Gurugram) **in Haryana.**

- He also unveiled the **National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions.**

➢ Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw traveled on the first trial run of a track-mounted trolley on the **world's highest arch bridge constructed on the Chenab river.**

➢ The **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has given most airports the **target of achieving 100 percent use of Green Energy by 2024 and Net Zero by 2030.**

- Currently, Mumbai, Cochin and 25 other **AAI Airports (include** Puducherry, Kanpur (Civil), Hubballi, Belagavi, Mysore, Tezu, Kangra, Shimla, Kullu, Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Imphal, Pakyong, Pantnagar, Dehradun, Dimapur, Jalgaon, Kohlapur, Pune, Aurangabad, Gondia, Akola, Sholapur and Juhu) are using 100% Green Energy.
- Cochin Airport is the **first green airport** in the world, fully powered by solar energy.

The Union Budget plans to borrow Rs 8.88 lakh crore (57.55%) in the first half (H1) of the estimated Rs 15.43 lakh crore gross market borrowing for FY 2023-24.

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has signed Rs 19,600 crore contracts for the acquisition of **11 Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV)** and **6 Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV)**, equipment, and BrahMos supersonic missiles for coastal defence for the Indian Navy and improved Akash Surface to Air missile (SAM) system and 12 Swathi Weapon Locating Radars (WLR) (Plains) for the Indian Army.

The Contract for acquisition of 11 NG-OPVs: It was signed with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata (West Bengal), at a total cost of **Rs 9,781 crore**.

Contract for acquisition of 6 NGMVs: MoD signed a contract worth **Rs 9805** with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for the acquisition of 6 Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV), and delivery is scheduled to commence in March 2027.

➢ **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Sericulture Fair which was** organized at **Yogiraj Baba Gambhirnath Auditorium**, UP.

- He also laid the foundation stone for 18 Chaki rearing buildings, 9 threading machine sheds, and 36 community buildings.

➢ Union Minister for Urban Housing and Urban Affairs **Shri Hardeep S. Puri has announced that by October 2024, a target has been set to make 1,000 cities in the country 3-star garbage-free cities, including New Delhi.**

➢ The Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) launched a mobile application – "**SAGAR SETU**", the app Version of National Logistics Portal (Marine) in New Delhi, Delhi.

➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted **India's first public transport ropeway** to run from Cantonment Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Godaulia Square **in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP).**

- Along with the ropeway he laid the foundation stone for 9 **projects worth Rs 1592.49 crore while he also inaugurated 20 other projects of Rs 189.41 crore.**
- He also addressed the **One World TB Summit** at Rudrakash Convention Centre during the visit.

➢ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has formed a **nine-member task force chaired** by the additional secretary (MeitY), **Bhuvnesh Kumar** with the primary goal of making India a 'product developer and manufacturing nation.

- **Joint secretary (electronics) Amitesh Kumar Sinha** will serve as its member convenor.

➢ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference** at Subramaniam Hall, National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC) Complex, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Campus, PUSA **New Delhi**.

The conference was organised by the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).**

The year **2023** was declared the **International Year of Millets (IYM)** by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The Indian Institute of Millets Research of ICAR was declared a **Global Centre of Excellence**, a symbol of India's responsibilities towards the global good.

In 2021-22, the **top 3 importers** of millets from India are: **Nepal** (USD 6.09 million), the **United Arab Emirates** (USD 4.84 million), and **Saudi Arabia** (USD 3.84 million).

➢ The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO),** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India (GoI), carried out the **Multiple Indicator Survey (MIS)** covering the entire country in its **78th round** for the first time to cater to the requirements of various national indicators of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

➢ **India has become the first country in the world to estimate the Tuberculosis (TB) burden in-country** and launch its own mathematical system to estimate the disease burden.

It was launched at the 36th Stop TB Partnership Board meeting at the One World TB Summit 2023, which was held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from 23- 26 March 2023.

Delhi has the highest burden of all forms of TB and pulmonary TB at 747 per 100,000 and 534 per 100,000 respectively, while **Gujarat has the lowest burden** of all forms **of TB at 137 per**

100,000 while Kerala has the lowest burden of pulmonary TB at 151 per 100,000.

➢ The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has amended PNGRB** (determination of natural gas pipeline tariff) under the mission of "**One Nation, One Grid and One tariff" and notified a tariff of Rs 73.93/MMBTU** and created three tariff zones for a unified tariff.

- The zonal unified tariffs became **effective on April 1, 2023.**
- The tariff will be apportioned over 3 zones, Zone 1 to Zone 3, with the tariff of Rs 39.45/ MMBtu, Rs 74.97/ MMBtu and Rs 99.90/ MMBtu respectively.

➢ The Union Minister **Narayan Tatu Rane**, launched the **revamped Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme** in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

CGTMSE has been provided with an additional corpus support of **₹9,000 crore** in the Union Budget for FY 2023-24 to revamp its Scheme to provide guarantee for additional ₹2 lakh crore to Micro & Small Enterprises.

The modifications included a 50% reduction in guarantee fees for loans up to ₹1 crore, bringing the minimum guarantee fee to the level of 0.37% pa.

Another major change announced was raising the ceiling for guarantee from ₹2 crore to ₹ 5 crore and enhancing the threshold limit for claim settlement without initiation of legal action to ₹10 lakh.

➢ **The government has launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, "New India Literacy Programme" (NILP)** for implementation during **five years from FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27 with financial outlay of Rs. 1037.90 crore out of which Rs.700.00 crore is the central share and Rs.337.90 crore** is the state share.

- The scheme aims to cover a **target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.**

➢ **The Ministry of Education has shortlisted around 9,000 schools** from 2.5 lakh government schools, including Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas **from across the country for its flagship Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)**

- They were assessed on the basis of **6 broad parameters**: curriculum, pedagogy and assessment; access and infrastructure; human resources – leadership; inclusive practices and gender equity; management, monitoring and governance and beneficiary satisfaction
- The PM SHRI scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet on 5 September 2022.

➢ **Minister of Commerce Piyush Goyal has unveiled Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023** to raise India's goods and services exports to **two trillion dollars by 2030** by shifting from incentives to remission and entitlement based regimes.

- FDI inflows into Maharashtra went up by 19% year-on-year (y-o-y) to Rs 85,186 crore during the April-December of FY23 as compared to Rs 71,858 crore of FDI inflows during April-December of FY22.
- India is likely to end this fiscal year with **total exports of $760-770 billion as against $676 billion in 2021-22.**
- It will **replace Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20** and **will become effective on April 1, 2023.**

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has amended the **PFRDA (Redressal of Subscriber Grievance) Regulations 2015** and increased the upper age limit of the Ombudsman from **65 to 70 years.**

The Union Minister of Heavy Industries, **Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey**, announced the sanction of **Rs. 800 crores** under FAME India Scheme Phase II to the PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) - **Indian Oil (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL),** and **Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL)** - for setting up 7432 public fast charging stations across the country.

The ministry has released **Rs 560 crore or 70% of the total amount, to three OMCs — Indian Oil (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) as** the first installment for the installation and commissioning of upstream infrastructure and charging equipment for EV public charging stations at respective retail outlets in the country.

The installation is expected to be completed by March 2024.

➢ **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi** for the first time will organise "**Spring Fiesta" 2023,** to celebrate 69 years of the museum which was officially inaugurated on March 29, 1954 by Vice President Dr. S Radhakrishnan.

➢ **Bandipur Tiger Reserve, established in the 1930s** as a wildlife sanctuary, became a tiger reserve in 1973 under Project Tiger. It **completed 50 years** as a Project Tiger Reserve **on April 1, 2023.**

- It is situated in two contiguous districts (Mysore and Chamarajangar) of Karnataka and **located at the tri-junction area of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**

➢ The **Union Cabinet approved** a **LIGO-India (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory in India) mega science proposal for research on gravitational wave detectors in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs 2,600 crore**.

- The LIGO project is piloted by the Department of Atomic Energy(DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- LIGO-India is scheduled to **begin its scientific operation in 2030** and it will be the **fifth detector after Virgo in Italy and KAGRA in Japan**.
- LIGO Laboratory is a consortium of the **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)** and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).**

➢ **The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has formed a 14 members committee headed by former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant** to **examine** issues related to **stalled real estate projects.**

- The committee will submit its report within 6 months from the date of its first meeting.

➢ The **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has elected India as a member of the UN Statistical Commission,** the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; all three are important subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN).

- During the elections held for the membership of 14 subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, India was elected as a member of the UN Statistical Commission
- **India has been elected to the highest statistical body of the United Nations** for a term of 4 years, **which will start on 1 January 2024.**
- India was last elected a member of this commission in **2004.**
- India was also elected to the Programme Coordinating Board of the **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).**

➢ On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, Union **Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a 54-feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Sarangpur temple** in Botad district of **Gujarat.**

➢ The **Ministry of Cooperation has approved and released a one-time grant-in-aid of 30 crore rupees** to establish the **Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management.**

- This grant will be used to create essential infrastructure for students and trainees.
- Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management was established in **1967**, and is an apex Centre for Cooperative Management Training, Research and consultancy.

➢ In order to achieve saturation **under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha**

Bima Yojana (PMSBY), the Finance Ministry launched a 3-month campaign.

- **The campaign has been launched by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) at the Gram Panchayat Level** covering all districts in the country, to saturate all eligible persons under the PMJJBY and PMSBY **w.e.f 1st April 2023 to the 30th June 2023.**

➢ Finance **Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented Rs 1.18 lakh crore Budget for Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2023-24** with a thrust on providing housing **in rural areas and water tap connections to 18.36 lakh households.**

- The budget has set a goal of doubling the GDP of the Union Territory in 5 years, and it encompasses several objectives such as good governance, enhancing democracy at the grassroots level, encouraging sustainable agriculture, promoting investment and industrial growth, generating employment, accelerating development, and promoting inclusivity, as well as empowering women and fostering social inclusion.

➢ The **Ministry of Finance** stated that around **41 crore loans amounting to ₹23.2-lakh-crore were sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) Yojana (PMMY) in the last 8 years** of the scheme's existence.

- The loans have been divided into 3 categories based on the need for finance and the stage in the maturity of the business & these are **Shishu (loans up to ₹50,000), Kishore (loans above ₹50,000 and up to ₹5 lakh), and Tarun (loans above ₹5 lakh and up to ₹10 lakh).**
- The **PMMY was launched on April 08, 2015 by Prime Minister (PM) Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Delhi.**
- Since the launch of the scheme, as of March 24, 2023, about ₹23.2-lakh-crore has been sanctioned in 40.82 crore loan accounts.
- About **68% of accounts under the scheme belong to women entrepreneurs, and 51% of accounts belong to entrepreneurs in the SC/ST and OBC categories.**

➢ The **eastern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered a stay on the ₹72,000 crore Great Nicobar Island project** and constituted a committee to revisit the environmental clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

A High-Powered Committee (HPC) headed by the Secretary, MoEF&CC has been asked to submit its proceedings within 2 months.

The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) is a megaproject to be implemented at the southern end of the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

➢ **Bengaluru, Karnataka,** will soon have **India's first post office constructed using 3D printing technology**.

The post office is being built by **Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)** at the Cambridge Layout in Ulsoor at a cost of around ₹23 lakh, approximately 30 to 40 percent less than that needed to build a normal post office

➢ As per the information provided by the Union Minister for Power and Renewable Energy **R.K. Singh** in the Lok Sabha, **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL)**, a joint venture company of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Ministry of Power, has installed more **than 1.28 crore LED street lights** across 29 States/UTs under Street Light National Programme (SLNP), till date.

- On January 5, 2015, the Hon'ble Prime Minister launched SLNP, to replace conventional Street Lights with smart and energy efficient LED Street Lights across India.

➢ The **Cabinet gave its nod to inking an agreement with the German development bank** ,KfW (formerly KfW Bankengruppe)**, for securing a loan of Rs 919 crore for the Green Energy Corridor** (GEC) project being **implemented by the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB).**

- The tripartite agreement will be signed by the **Kerala State government, Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB)** and **KfW.**
- The loan will be obtained at an interest rate of **3 to 4%.**

The Union government is likely to set up the 16th Finance Commission this year to suggest, among other things, the ratio in **which tax is to be divided between the Centre and states for 5 years, beginning April 1, 2026.**

- In 2017, the **15th Finance Commission was set up with a mandate to make recommendations for the five -year periods from 2020--21**, later the mandate was extended by a year till 2025--26.

➢ According to the report of the **5th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of 12 Tiger Reserves under Excellent Category :**

Tiger Reserves in India in 2022, by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA),** the **Periyar Tiger Reserve (TR)** in **Kerala** has **topped** the list of **best-maintained tiger reserves** in India with a **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) score** of 94.38%

- In the 5th cycle, there are 12 Tiger Reserves that scored 90% and above; therefore, a new category of 'Excellent' has been added.
- 12 tiger reserves have ranked in the "Excellent" category, followed by 20 in the 'Very Good' category, 14 in the 'Good' category and 5 in the 'Fair' category & none of the country's tiger reserves was graded as poor.

Tiger Reserve/State	MEE Score
Periyar/Kerala	94.38
Satpura/Madhya Pradesh (MP)	93.18
Bandipur/Karnataka	93.18
Nagarhole/Karnataka	92.42
Kanha/MP	91.67
Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple (BRT Hills)/karnataka	91.67
Annamalai/Tamil Nadu (TN)	91.67
Pench (MH)/MP	90.91
Bhadra/Karnataka	90.91
Kali (Dandeli-Anshi)/Karnataka	90.3
Similipal/Odisha	90.15
Mudumalai/TN	90.15

➢ The total balance in basic bank accounts under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** has recorded a significant surge of **Rs 50,000 crore** in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2023.

● The total balance at the end of FY23 was Rs 1.99 lakh crore, compared to Rs 1.49 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year.

● According to **RBI data, nearly 8% of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts have zero balance.**

➢ **4 infrastructure projects** related to railways **have been approved by the Network Planning Group** (NPG) under the PM Gati Shakti initiative.

● The 4 projects are construction of broad-gauge double line between Sawai Madhopur and Jaipur in Rajasthan, broad-gauge line between Junagarh and Nabarangpur station in Odisha, broad-gauge line between Anand Nagar Ghughuli and Maharajganj on North Eastern Railway in Uttar Pradesh and provision of automatic block signaling on freight dense, high utilisation network on Western Railway.

➢ T**he Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has launched a scheme that **envisages monetary** aid to poor inmates who **cannot afford the penalty or the bail amount.**

● The government has taken various steps to resolve the issue of undertrials in prisons, such as the 'Support for Poor Prisoners' initiative.

● The Government has also inserted **Section 436A** in the Code of Criminal Procedure and a new chapter XXIA '**Plea Bargaining**' in the CrPC for poor undertrials.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the program '**Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger At Mysore University** in **Mysuru, Karnataka**, the first of its kind in India, organised to mark 50 years of Project Tiger.

● **He released the latest census data** of the tigers in the country at **Mysuru, Karnataka and as per** the data, in the year 2022, the **number of tigers in the country was 3167.**

● Since its formative years, Project Tiger coverage has increased to **51** at present, spread out in 18 tiger range states. This amounts to around 2.23% of the geographical area of India.

Other Initiatives :

● He released the publications 'Amrit Kaal Ka Vision For Tiger Conservation', a summary report of the 5th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves, declared tiger numbers and released the summary report of All India Tiger Estimation (5th cycle).

● He launched the **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)** for the conservation of seven major big cats – tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah in collaboration with 97 countries which contain the natural habitat of these big cat species.

● He also released a **commemorative coin** to mark the completion of 50 years of Project Tiger

➢ During the RPM (Review, Planning and Monitoring) meeting of States and State Utilities in New Delhi, U**nion Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh** released the report of **State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22.**

● The index developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, in association with Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE), assesses, the annual progress of states and UTs in energy efficiency implementation, for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.

● In SEEI 2021-22**, 5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana - are in the Front Runner category (>60 points) while 4 states - Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab - are in the Achiever category (50-60 points).**

● The best-performing states in their respective state groups are: **Chandigarh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Karnataka.**

● **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh** showed the **most improvement** since the last index.

➢ **The government is planning to overhaul the livestock insurance scheme** and will launch a comprehensive livestock insurance scheme just **like Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana.**

● At present, **less than 1% of India's cattle population is insured and the average yearly premium is 4.5%** of the insured amount.

● The main focus of the revamped scheme will be **to reduce the premium to attract more farmers to enroll in the insurance scheme.**

➢ Union Minister of **Law Kiren Rijiju has released the first Dogri version of the Constitution of India** at the University of Jammu.

● **Dogri is an Indo Aryan language that is mainly spoken in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir** and was included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution in 2003.

● The Ministry of External Affairs, in association with the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), also conducted a seminar titled "**Seven Decades of the Constitution of India**" on 28th March 2023.

'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' of Varanasi, a project funded by the Indian community of Uganda has been launched by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during his visit to Uganda's Kampala.

● During the visit, **he will co-chair the 5th session of the Joint Commission Meeting with Mozambique's Foreign Minister, Veronica Macamo.**

● Uganda is chairing the **Non-Aligned Movement on behalf of Africa for the period 2022–2025.**

● The position of chair of NAM rotates every three years during the conferences.

● The first conference was held in Belgrade in 1961.

➢ **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** has announced India's first semi high-speed **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** as RAPIDX as it is easy to read and simple to pronounce in both Hindi and English.

● RAPIDX, with a design speed of **182 kmph,** will connect Delhi with the National Capital Region (NCR), including Meerut, Alwar and Panipat.

➢ **The Center has extended ceasefire** agreements with **three Naga groups National Socialist Council of Nagaland-NK (NSCN-NK), National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Reformation (NSCN-R) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-K-Khango (NSCN-K-Khango)** for 1 year.

➢ The **Union Minister of Steel & Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** chaired meetings with the **two Advisory Committees** formed under the **Ministry of Steel for Integrated Steel Plants (ISP)** and the **Secondary Steel Industry (SSI).**

● He also shared that the Ministry of Steel has approved the formation of **13 task forces** to identify action points for each aspect of **green steel production.**

● The move is expected to drive the development and adoption of sustainable steelmaking practices and technologies in India.

➢ The **Ministry of Education has released a pre-draft version of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for School Education** and has sought feedback from various stakeholders.

● **The National Steering Committee, under the chairmanship of K. Kasturirangan, was set up by the Ministry to undertake and develop NCFs.**

● It covers the framework of curriculum for **age groups 3 to 18 years.**

The **Finance Ministry has set up a 4-member committee under the chairmanship of Finance Secretary TV Somanathan** to suggest measures to improve the pensionary benefits of government employees covered under the **National Pension System (NPS).**

The the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala launched the "Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)"**

● He also launched the **World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project** , under the aegis of

National One Health Mission to improve India's preparedness and response to potential animal pandemics.

- AHSSOH is **India's first animal pandemic response plan** in collaboration with the World Bank.

➢ The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** stated that rainfall is likely to be **96%** of the long period average of 87 cm, which means that the country is likely to receive about 83.5 cm for the four months from June to September, 2023.

- The long period average is calculated with data from 1971 to 2020**.**
- The effect of **El Nino will be felt in the second half of the season**.
- El Nino conditions mean that rainfall will be below normal.

➢ **The Central government has tightened the fund flow rulebook on Centrally Sponsored Schemes** (CSS) even further and, for the first time, has also brought in a '**penal interest' clause for delays in fund transfers by states**.

- States have been asked to ensure that their share of funds is transferred to the **Single Nodal Agency (SNA) for the CSS scheme within 30 days of receiving central funding instead of 40 days, as allowed earlier.**

The University Grants Commission (UGC) released new regulations proposing the establishment of the **Students Grievances Redressal Committee(s) (SGRC)** in all **Higher Education institutions** (HEIs) for the **grievance redressal of students**.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has envisaged a special project called 'The Language Friendship Bridge' which aims to expand cultural footprints in neighborhoods with whom India has historical ties.

- As of now, the **ICCR has zeroed in on 10 languages**: Kazakh, Uzbek, Bhutanese, Ghoti (spoken in Tibet), Burmese, Khmer (spoken in Cambodia), Thai, Sinhalese and Bahasa (spoken in both Indonesia and Malaysia).

➢ Union Minister of State for Tourism **Shripad Naik inaugurated the 7-day SCO Millets Food Festival organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace** to commemorate the **International Year of Millets (IYM 2023)**.

➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **1st All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** in the Northeast at Changsari near Guwahati, Assam built at a cost of Rs 1,123 crore, for the nation.

- He also laid the foundation of the Rs 546 crore **Assam Advanced Healthcare Innovation Institute (AAHII),** a joint initiative of the state government and IIT Guwahati.

➢ The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)**, and the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)** agreed to connect **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs)** and **Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMAs)** under the initiative **to promote innovation in the agricultural sector.**

➢ In a first-of-its-kind move, the **Ministry of Railways has started using Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) codes for the classification of commodities in freight transportation.**

- The **six-digit identification code developed by the World Customs Organization** (WCO).

The Government has set a 7-day timeline to report old invoices on e-invoice IRP (Invoice Registration Portal) for **tax assessees having annual turnover of Rs 100 crore or more.**

DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat inaugurated **DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence** (DIA-CoE) at the campus of the IIT-Hyderabad at Sangareddy in Telangana.

The **Energy Transition Advisory Committee has recommended a ban on diesel 4-**

wheelers in cities with a million-plus population by 2027.

- The committee suggested the extension of the Faster **Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME)-II scheme beyond March 2024**.

➢ **Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda** launched the new Central Sector Scheme (CSS) – '**Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from the North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)**' for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes (STs) of NER, with an aim to strengthen livelihood opportunities for NER's artisans from Scheduled Tribes (STs) through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from the North Eastern states during a function at Auditorium of Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS) in Imphal, Manipur.

- For the implementation of the scheme, a substantial Budget of around **Rs. 143 Crore** has been allocated.

This **scheme will be applicable in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.**

➢ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu conferred the **National Panchayat Awards 2023** and inaugurated the '**National Conference on Incentivisation of Panchayats**' in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The President also inaugurated the National Panchayat Awards Week which was celebrated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) from April 17 to 21, 2023 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) 2.0.
- The **Theme of the National Panchayat Awards Week Celebrations is "Panchayaton ke Sankalpon ki Siddhi ka Utsav".**
- National Panchayat Awards were presented to the Panchayats selected in the following different categories-

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (DDUPSP) for performance under individual LSDG themes

Nanaji Deshmukh Best Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (NDSPSVP) for overall performance under all 9 LSDG themes and specific categories related to green initiatives

Gram Urja Swaraj Special Panchayat Award

Carbon Neutral Special Panchayat Award.

➢ **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **2 day first Global Buddhist Summit** hosted by the **Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with the **International Buddhist Confederation** in **New Delhi**.

- **"Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis"** is the theme of the Global Buddhist Summit.

➢ Union Minister of State Science and Technology, **Dr Jitendra Singh,** launched the **"YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) Portal"** and **One Week- One Programme** at **National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** in New Delhi, Delhi, to help in connecting and identifying potential young Start-Ups.

- From 17-21 April 2023, **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is organising the One Week- One Lab program.**

➢ The **All-India Institute of Ayurveda** (AIIA), under the Ministry of AYUSH, has organized a **two-day national conference 'SRIJNA' on infertility in women in New Delhi.**

➢ 5-judge Constitution bench **led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud** has been formed to hear petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

- Besides the CJI, the bench comprises **Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha.**

➢ **The Cabinet** approved the **National Quantum Mission with a budget outlay of Rs 6003.65 Crores** for **8 years (from 2023-24 to 2030-31)** to scale-up **Scientific and Industrial research and Development (R&D) for** Quantum Technology (QT) **on April 19, 2023.**

- With this, India will join the top six nations (the United States of America (USA), Canada,

China, France, Austria, and Finland that are involved in the R&D in the QT.

● The National Quantum Mission will be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

➢ The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has put up a signboard at the entrance of Uttarakhand's Mana village** on the India-China border reading '**India's first village**'.

➢ Union Minister Amit Shah, launched "**IFFCO's liquid nano Di-Ammonia Phosphate (DAP)**", the world's first liquid Nano DAP(Diammonium phosphate), developed by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) at NewDelhi, Delhi.

IFFCO's nano-DAP will have 8% nitrogen and 16% phosphorus, compared to 18% nitrogen and 46% phosphorus that the conventional granular bag contains.

G Asok Kumar, Director General, of the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** led the **48th meeting** of the Executive Committee of the NMCG, which approved 8 projects worth around **Rs 638 crore.**

● Out of these 4 projects costing Rs 407.39 crore were approved for pollution reduction in the **Shamli district** as part of the comprehensive 'Hindon Rejuvenation Plan' with the aim of cleaning the Hindon, a tributary of the river Yamuna.

● NMCG is the implementation wing of **National Ganga Council (NGC)**, which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority.

➢ The **5th edition of International Exhibition & Conference on Steel Industry – 'INDIA STEEL EXPO 2023'** is being organized by the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, along with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from April 19-21, 2023** at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, India.

➢ The **First Census of Water Bodies has been conducted in association with the 6th Minor Irrigation** (MI) Census under the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Irrigation Census".**

● Top 5 States in terms of number of water bodies are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam which constitute around **63%** of the total water bodies in the country.

● Top 5 States in terms of number of water bodies in urban areas are West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura, whereas in rural areas, top 5 States are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam.

● Top 5 States which lead in the privately owned water bodies are West Bengal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand.

● Top 5 States wherein major use of water bodies is in **pisciculture** are West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

● Top 5 States wherein major use of water bodies is in **irrigation** are Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat.

➢ The **Ministry of Health in association with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** urged States and Union Territories **to develop 100 food streets in 100 districts across India** to ensure hygienic and safe food practices across the country.

This **initiative will be implemented through National Health Mission** (NHM) in association with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and technical **support will be provided by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSA).**

➢ To make Aadhaar people-friendly, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed rules to enable Aadhaar authentication by entities other than Government Ministries and Departments**.

➢ The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** announced that the Government released a new commemorative coin of Rs 100 denomination on 30th April 2023, for the 100th episode of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's radio show Mann Ki Baat.

- About the Coin : It will be circular, with a **diameter of 44 millimetres and 200 serrations**, and weight will be **35-gram, coin's metal composition** will be a quaternary alloy, with silver having a share of **50%, copper 40%, nickel 5%, and zinc 5%.**
- The coin's obverse face will bear the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with the legend "Satyamev Jayate" inscribed below.
- The **Lion Capital will be flanked on the left periphery with the word "Bharat " in** Devnagri script and on the right periphery with the word "INDIA " in English.
- The **coin's reverse face will have the logo for the 100th Episode of Mann Ki Baat.**
- The logo will have an image of a **microphone with sound waves and year '2023' written on it.**

➢ **The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released a report titled- "The Status Of Women In Agrifood Systems"** highlighting the importance of Gender Equality in the Agricultural Sector.

- Women make up a significant proportion of the agricultural workforce, accounting for around 40% of the global agricultural labor force.
- **Closing the gender gap in agri-food systems could increase agricultural productivity by up to 4% in developing countries**, which could, in turn, boost global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by up to 2%.
- Closing the gender gap and empowering women would: **Increase global GDP by 1%/ nearly USD 1 trillion.**

➢ **Jakson Green** is developing a green hydrogen fueling station at Badarpur in **New Delhi** for a major power company, which is expected to offset **3.7 tonnes of CO_2 per day** once operational.

➢ The Prime Minister of India praised "**Abhilekh Patal" , a portal with over 1 Crore Pages of Historical Records of the National Archives.**

Abhilekh Patal is a full-featured web portal to access the **National Archives of India's reference media** and its digitized collections through the Internet.

➢ Following the four successful rounds of bidding, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the **5th round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) to further enhance connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country and achieve last mile connectivity.**

➢ After the launch of the **Sakshi portal for digitising the fund flow architecture in the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), data provided by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** in Parliament shows that more than a third of the Rs 3,965 crore budgeted under MPLADS for 2022-23 (FY23) remain non-disbursed.

- **MoSPI, informed that, until March 30, only Rs 2,387 crore had been disbursed** (60%).
- **Gujarat (35.7%), Kerala (37.2%), Tamil Nadu (38.9%), Haryana (41.3%), and Himachal Pradesh** (48.6%) have disbursed less than half the amount sanctioned to their parliamentarians.

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the **1st phase of SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) portal,** a centralized online system to address seed production challenges, seed quality identification, and certification and **mobile application.**

It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on **the theme of 'Uttam Beej – Samriddh Kisan.**

➢ The **Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat lauded the**

achievement of a fivefold increase in ODF Plus villages in India under the **Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen, Phase – II, in just one year, with more than 40 percent** of India's inhabited villages having declared themselves ODF Plus.

- ODF Plus villages increased from 46,121 villages (7.4%) in March 2022 to 2,38,973 villages (40.21%) in March 2023.
- **Top performing States** were **Telangana with 100% ODF Plus villages followed by Tamil Nadu with 95.7% ODF plus villages and Karnataka with 93.7% ODF plus villages.**
- As far as the North East States are concerned, **Mizoram has moved from 6% ODF Plus villages in 2022 to 35% villages in 2023.**

➢ The **Union Cabinet approved the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023,** which has provisions to curb the transmission of pirated film content on the Internet.

- It **seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act 1952.**
- It has provisions to classify films on the basis of age group instead of the current practice of rating them **"U" (unrestricted public exhibition), "A" (restricted to adult audiences), and "UA" (unrestricted public exhibition subject to parental guidance for children below the age of 12).**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), **NITI Aayog, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund** (UNCDF) launched a **whitepaper aimed at making India a global leader in agritech innovation.**

- The whitepaper offers actionable **steps to overcome challenges faced by Agri-Tech start-ups and facilitate their growth at national and international levels.**
- The whitepaper outlines the significant observations and recommendations required to tackle challenges in the agriculture sector and promote sustainable practices that support smallholder farmers across developing economies.

➢ **The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** (FSSAI) has undertaken to translate the Food **Safety and Compliance System (FOSCOS) into Hindi, followed by all the regional languages** with an aim to support ease of doing business in procuring licenses or registration by **Food Business Operators (FBOs).**

- The **FOSCOS** is an enhanced version of the **Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS)** which was launched in 2012 for the issuance of pan-India FSSAI Licenses and Registration.
- It is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).

India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) Mr Jaishankar co-chaired the 4th India-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) ministerial meeting with his **Jamaican counterpart**.

Around 10,000 kilometres of **Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) infrastructure across India will be developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) by the fiscal year 2025.**

- The project of implementing the network of **`digital highways` will be handled by State-owned NHAI's** special purpose **vehicle National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML).**

➢ Prime Minister (PM) **Shri Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various development projects related to health, housing, tourism, education, and urban development, worth more than **Rs 4850 crore** in Silvassa in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Union Territory (UT) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

- He also inaugurated the new campus of **NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute,** the first and only medical college in the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

➢ Union Minister for Labour, Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Shri**

Bhupendra Yadav launched new features in e-Shram Portal to enhance the utility of the portal and ease the registration of unorganised workers.

● As on 21 April 2023, more than 28.87 crore unorganized workers had registered on the e-Shram Portal.

➢ **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, as the precursor of World Malaria Day, has **organized Asia Pacific Leaders' Conference for Malaria Elimination in partnership with the Asia Pacific Leaders' Malaria Alliance (APLMA) in New Delhi** to reaffirm political commitment to encourage action to eliminate malaria by **2030**.

The conference was presided over by Dr. **VK Paul, Member (Health)**, NITI Aayog.

➢ **The Ministry of Railways started Puri-Gangasagar Divya Ka shi Yatra from Pune** under "**Dekho Apna Desh" and "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" Scheme.**

➢ As many as **28 States / Union Territories (UTs)** have adopted the **National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) for Land Records.**

MAY MONTH

➢ **India's first 'dark sky reserve' in Ladakh's Hanle village** is now ready and will be opened for the public soon.

➢ The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)** in collaboration with the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)** has launched the 1st of its kind '**Millets Experience Centre' (MEC)** at Dilli Haat, INA (Indian National Airways), New Delhi, in order to increase awareness about millet and encourage its adoption among the general public.

● The **United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023),** acting on India's proposal, supported by 72 countries.

➢ To provide products from more than 35 Lakh Handloom weavers and 27 Lakh Handicraft artisans directly to consumers while eliminating the middlemen, the Union Minister of Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Commerce and Industry **Shri Piyush Goyal** has developed an **E-Commerce portal** for handicrafts and handloom sector from **Gujarat** with the aim of making artisans and weavers self-reliant

➢ As part of attempts **to reduce compliance burden and simplify norms for various stakeholders,** the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has set the ball rolling on undertaking a comprehensive review of **NPS regulations.**

It has now set up **two committees for this comprehensive review, Deepak Mohanty, Chairman, PFRDA.**

While **one committee is an internal one**, the **other is an external panel headed by former IBBI Chairman M.S. Sahoo.**

➢ The Union Minister **Narayan Tatu Rane**, launched the **revamped Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme** in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

This launch was on the lines of an additional corpus support of **Rs 9,000 crore** in the Union Budget for FY 2023-24 to CGTMSE to revamp its Scheme and provide guarantee for additional Rs 2 lakh crore to MSEs.

CGTMSE has issued guidelines regarding reduction of annual guarantee fee from the high rate of **2% per annum** to as low as **0.37%** per annum for loans up to Rs 1 crore.

The limit for guarantee has been increased from **₹2 crore to ₹ 5 crore** and the threshold limit for claim settlement without initiation of legal action has been increased to ₹10 lakh.

➢ The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has announced that India will start participating in the **International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International**

Aviation (CORSIA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) in 2027.

- CORSIA is a global market-based measure designed to offset international aviation CO_2 emissions in order to stabilize the levels of such emissions.

The National Health Account Estimates 2019-20 have been released, as per this, the **government spent 1.35% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (total value of the final goods** and services in a year, indicative of a country's economy) on healthcare during the year, bouncing back from a slight drop seen in 2018-19.

The share of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) in total Health Expenditure (THE) declined from **62.6% to 47.1%.**

➢ **PM Narendra Modi** remarked on the **100th episode of "Mann Ki Baat"** that the **broadcast filled the "emptiness" he felt after coming to Delhi in 2014**, and that he connected with crores of Indians and never cut-off from people.

➢ Union Minister of Panchayati Raj of India, **Giriraj Singh** launched a mobile application **GS NIRNAY (Gram Sabha National Initiative for Rural India to Navigate, InnovAte and Resolve PanchaYat decisions)**, for empowering rural communities during the National Conference.

- National Panchayat Awards Week Theme: **Panchayaton ke Sankalpon ki Siddhi ka Utsav.**

During the 11th meeting of the Empowered Task Force of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), **Jal Shakti Ministry launched PRAYAG (Platform for Real-time Analysis of Yamuna, Ganga and their Tributaries)**, a real-time monitoring centre for planning and monitoring of projects, river water quality, etc.,

- **PRAYAG monitors various projects** through various **online dashboards such as Ganga Tarang Portal, Ganga Districts Performance Monitoring System**, etc.

The Misinformation Combat Alliance (MCA) has approached the government to act as a self-regulating body to flag fake news online in line with the **IT Rules, 2021.**

- This would be in line with an anti-fake news provision in the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 that has prompted fears of censorship in the news media industry and civil society.
- **MCA is a network of 14 digital publishers**.

➢ **The Fact Check Unit as proposed in the Information Technology Rules, 2021**, is likely to **have 4 members** -a representative from the IT Ministry and one from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, a "media expert" and a "legal expert".

- The unit will be supported by designated nodal officers from other ministries.

➢ As part of a public-private partnership (PPP), the **Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCC)** started operating the **Rewari Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT).**

- This is the first operational GCT with full private investment and no revenue-sharing on the part of the Indian Railways.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL), **Mr. Ajit Kumar Thakur,** announced that the company has completed the construction of **Asia's largest underwater hydrocarbon pipeline** below the river Brahmaputra connecting Jorhat and Majuli in Assam.

- The challenging task of laying a **24-inch diameter** hydrocarbon pipeline beneath the mighty Brahmaputra river by **Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)** was completed, marking the completion of a major milestone in the construction of the **North East Gas Grid (NEGG)** connecting North East India to the National Gas Grid.
- The total length of the pipeline in this single HDD crossing is **4,080 metre** across the main water channel of Brahmaputra river.
- This is the **longest river crossing** by any hydrocarbon pipeline of size 24-inch diameter

and above in Asia and the second longest in the world.

➢ **The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF),** the marketer of Amul has identified land at **Vargal** near **Hyderabad, Telangana to set up a milk processing plant with a capacity of 5 lakh litres** per day (LLPD).

The upcoming plant will be done through one of the **18 GCMMF member dairy unions, Sabarkantha District Cooperative Milk Union (Sabar Dairy).**

➢ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry **has decided to extend the Smart Cities Mission deadline by one year, from June 2023 to June 2024**.

● The Smart Cities Mission was launched on June 25, 2015, involves the development of 100 cities into smart cities with the aim of improving the quality of life for people living in India and driving economic growth.

➢ According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report, **India needs to spend an estimated Rs. 85.6 lakh crores ($1.05 trillion) by 2030 to adapt its various industries** to be compliant with climate change norms**.**

The theme of the report **: Towards a Greener Cleaner India**

The report is written by contributors from the **Department of Economic and Policy Research.**

Key Highlights :

According to the data released by RBI, India's services exports increased by a record 26.6% in 2022-23 (FY23) to **US$ 322 billion.**

Services imports grew **22.2 %** to US$179.7 billion, leading to a services trade surplus of US$142.5 billion.

Merchandise exports rose by only 6% to US$ 447 billion in FY23.

With a **US$267 billion merchandise trade deficit** in FY22, India has a cumulative trade deficit (or net exports) of US$124.5 billion.

While software exports continue to dominate India's services exports.

India's goal of achieving the net zero target by 2070 would require an accelerated reduction in the energy intensity of GDP by about 5% annually and a significant improvement in its energy mix in favour of renewables to about 80% by 2070-71.

➢ According to a report by the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** and **KANTAR,** the number of active internet users in India is expected to grow to **900 million** from the current 759 million by 2025.

● An active internet user is defined as someone who accesses the internet at least once a month, and these 759 million people represent 52% of the country's population.

● This is the first time that a majority of Indians have become active internet users.

➢ **India will launch its own heat index next year** to quantify heat hazard, generate impact-based heatwave alerts for specific locations.

● The heat index **also known as the apparent temperature** is a measure of how hot it feels when humidity is factored in along with the air temperature, and the **figures were calculated using data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).**

➢ **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana** (APY) **completed 8 years of providing social security cover in 9th May 2023.**

Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman stated that till 26th April 2023, **16.2 crore, 34.2 crore** and **5.2 crore** enrolments have been done under PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY respectively.

The total enrollment under all three schemes is **55.6 crore.**

● PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY were **launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 9th May, 2015 from Kolkata, West Bengal.**

● **PMJJBY** is a **one-year life insurance scheme** renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason.

Eligibility:

❖ Persons in the age group of **18-50 years** having an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.

❖ People who join the scheme before completing 50 years of age can continue to have the risk of life covered up to age of 55 years upon payment of regular premium.

Benefits:

❖ Life cover of **Rs. 2 Lakh** in case of death due to any reason against a premium of **Rs. 436/- per annum.**

● **PMSBY** is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year, offering coverage for death or disability due to an accident.

Eligibility:

❖ Persons in the age group of **18-70 years** who have an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.

Benefits:

Accidental death and disability cover of **Rs.2 lakh** (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) for death or disability due to an accident against a premium of Rs.20/- per annum.

The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** was launched to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector.

APY is administered by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** under the overall administrative and institutional architecture of the **National Pension System (NPS).**

Eligibility:

APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of **18 to 40 years** who are not income tax payers and the contributions differ, based on the pension amount chosen.

Benefits:

❖ Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 after the age of 60 years, based on the contributions made by the subscriber after joining the scheme.

➢ A panel formed by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** is recommending, **India ban** the use of **diesel-powered four-wheeler vehicles** by **2027** and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles in cities with more than a million people and polluted towns in order to cut emissions.

● The **Energy Transition Advisory Committee was formed under the chairmanship of former oil secretary Tarun Kapoor.**

● **India has set a target to produce 40% of its electricity** from renewable energy to achieve its **net zero goal by 2070.**

To commemorate **World Thalassemia Day** on **May 8, 2023,** the 3rd phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY) was launched by the Minister of State (MoS) **Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).**

● During the event, he also launched **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana Portal** and released the Standard Treatment Workflow for Sickle Cell Disease, developed by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).

● TBSY is an imitation of MoHFW and is being supported by **Coal India Limited (CIL)** as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

➢ **As India moves towards securing a Net Zero future**, it **needs to construct gas storage reserves and, for this, it may allow foreign companies** to have stakes in these reserves, an energy transition panel has recommended.

Other major recommendations of the panel include raising energy needs met through power flowing from the grid from 18% to 40% by 2035, 10% blending of compressed biogas in natural gas by 2030 and 25% use of electricity for cooking by 2030.

➢ Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the **27th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** for the first time after the announcement of the Budget 2023-24.

● FSDC is an apex-level forum constituted by the Government of India in **December 2010** and is not a statutory body.

Union Health Secretary **Rajesh Bhushan**, has **launched SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management)**, a learning management information system (LMIS) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

● SAKSHAM was developed by the **National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi, Delhi**

The Union Cabinet approved the **LIGO-India (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory in India)** mega science proposal for research on gravitational waves.

LIGO Laboratory is a consortium of the **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)** and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).**

The LIGO-India facility is being constructed in the Hingoli district of **Maharashtra** in collaboration with the LIGO Laboratory in the **United States of America (USA).**

The LIGO project is piloted by the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

The project worth **Rs 2600 crore** is estimated to be built by **2030**.

➢ The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has successfully conducted a trial run of delivery of blood bags by drones** under its **iDrone initiative**.

● The trial run, as part of a pathbreaking validation study, has been undertaken for the first time in the country by the **ICMR; Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC); Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida; and the Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT), Noida.**

● **The project 'i-DRONE'(ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach for North East)** assessed the feasibility of using drones to deliver vaccines and medical supplies.

➢ The **Union Rural Development Ministry** announced that a **task force will be set up for land governance in the North-Eastern states.**

● This decision was taken at National Conference on **"Land Governance in North Eastern States" held in Guwahati, Assam.**

The Centre has allocated **Rs 611 crore** to 165 incubators under **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme,** a flagship initiative of the government of India, intended to catalyse startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in the country,

In April 2021, the government launched the **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) with a corpus of Rs 945 crore,** divided over the next 4 years (till 2025) for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

➢ A decade after the **National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted, the Central government has revised the nutritional standards of meals at schools and Anganwadi.**

● The amendment **has been done on the recommendations of an inter-ministerial committee**, which, in its draft report, also recommended that the serving of eggs as part of government food safety programmes be made mandatory.

● **3 new categories have been created for undernourished children aged between 6 months and 6 years.**

➢ **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade** (IIFT), **New Delhi celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on its 60th Foundation Day on 2nd May 2023**.

● The IIFT **was established in 1963** as an autonomous body **under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry** to contribute to skill building for the external trade sector of India.

The Secretary of the Ministry of Coal chaired a meeting on the integration of the **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)** with the digital systems of the Ministry of Coal.

● It was launched in 2022 as a part of the '**National Logistics Policy (NLP)**'.

➢ The Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) B.B Swain presided over **BizAmp**, an outreach program organized by the **Ministry of MSME** in association with **NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFL)** under its **Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund** at Dimapur Nagaland.

- BizAmp is the **first outreach program** in the Northeast Region of the country that focuses on maximizing capital benefits through NVCFL's SRI Fund.

➢ India has set a deadline of **2035** to establish green hydrogen bunkering and refuelling facilities at all **12 major ports** in its drive to cut its **carbon footprint.**

➢ Union Culture Minister **G Kishan Reddy** stated that **Santiniketan**, the place where Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore built Visva-Bharati over a century ago, has been recommended for **inclusion** in the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage** List by an international advisory body.

This will be formally announced at the **World Heritage Committee meeting** to be held in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** in September 2023.

➢ The central government **invoked Article 355** after the situation worsened in Manipur.

The central government has appointed **Ashutosh Sinha,** additional director general of police, intelligence as the overall operational commander of the law and order situation.

Kuldip Singh, the former DG, CRPF has been appointed as the security advisor to N Biren Singh's government.

According to the **Logistics Performance Index (LPI) Report, 2023**, published by the **World Bank,** India's premier container port, **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** has an impressive **turnaround time** (TAT) of just **22 hours** (equal to 0.9 days), putting India amongst the top performers.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** visited the construction site of **India's 1st International Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Jogighopa, Assam** to review the progress and announced that the construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

In the International Year of Millets-2023, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has taken a momentous decision to introduce **Millets (Shree Anna)** in the meals of personnel of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** and the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).**

Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture **Meenakshi Lekhi** inaugurated the "**Buddham Saranam Gacchami" exhibition** at the National Gallery of Modern Arts, New Delhi with an aim to delve into an exploration about the spirituality of art and its elements related with Buddhism and its journey expressing the universal values of wisdom, compassion, and peace.

- It was organized in the week succeeding Buddha Purnima.

➢ To reflect on India's rich culinary heritage and understand the value and significance of what it can offer to the world in terms of taste, health, traditional knowledge, ingredients and recipes, **MyGov**, in collaboration with **Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa** launched **'YUVA PRATIBHA - Culinary Talent Hunt'** on May 12, 2023.

➢ The Union Ministry of Finance notified changes in the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002,** widening its ambit to include the financial transactions facilitated by the **Chartered Accountants (CA), Company Secretaries (CS),** and **Cost and Works Accountants (CWA).**

➢ The **Finance Ministry** has included **directors** of a company as reporting entities under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** for certain activities carried out in the course of business.

- It has also included trustees of an express trust and nominee shareholders of the company as reporting entities under the PMLA for certain activities.

The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** set up the **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)** to centralise the process of striking off companies from the MCA Register.

- **Harihara Sahoo,** ICLS, has been appointed as first Registrar of the office of C-PACE,

➢ The **Home Ministry** stated that the **comprehensive 'Model Prisons Act, 2023'** has been finalised under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah to focus on skill development of prisoners.

- The Home Ministry had assigned the task of revision of the **Prisons Act, 1894** to the Bureau of Police Research and Development.

➢ Under the **One Station One Product' (OSOP) scheme** of Indian Railways, **728 stations** are covered with 785 OSOP outlets in 21 States and 3 Union Territories across the country so far.

- The Ministry of Railways launched this scheme in **March, 2022** with the objective of promoting the **'Vocal for Local' vision** of the government, providing a market for local or indigenous products and creating additional income opportunities for the marginalized sections of society.

➢ The President of India **Smt Droupadi Murmu,** conferred **37 Gallantry awards,** including **8 Kirti Chakras** and **29 Shaurya Chakras**, during the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) held in New Delhi.

They have been instituted by the Government of India to honor the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the Armed Forces, other lawfully constituted Forces and civilians.

The government will spend around $1.2 billion to modernise the Semi-conductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali, a 30-year-old facility currently capable of producing **8-inch CMOS microchip wafers** mostly used for the country's strategic needs such as the space programme.

The **Union Cabinet approved the modernisation plan in July 2022, which includes an exploration of the possibility of a Joint Venture (JV) of the Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) with one or more commercial fab partners.**

➢ Union Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani**, launched "**Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi**", the flagship programme of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, to strengthen **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The Ministry has allocated **Rs 600 crore** for the training of Anganwadi Workers (AWW) to effectively implement ECCE.

As part of a series of workshops organised under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative, the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD),** under its Capacity Building scheme, organised **36th Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Deep-Dive training programme** with 24 participants from Central Line Ministries and States/UTs at Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

To meet the larger vision of achieving Zero Carbon Emission Goal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy) **Sarbananda Sonowal,** launched **'Harit Sagar Guidelines – 2023', the Green Port Guidelines,** in New Delhi, Delhi.

- **'Sagar Shreshtha Samman Awards 2023'** were also conferred to major ports for their all-time best performance on select operational and financial parameters during FY 2022-23.

Key Highlights :

❖ **Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), Andhra Pradesh received Sagar Shrestha Samman Award 2023 from Sarbananda Sonowal.**

❖ The Best Absolute Performance Award for the year 2022-23 has been awarded to **Deendayal**

Port, Kandla for handling the highest ever cargo of 137.56 MMT.

❖ **Paradip Port** has received the award for Best Performance shield on Ship Berth Day Output.

❖ Best Incremental Performance Award was given to Paradip Port for achieving the highest cargo growth rate of 16.56% last year.

❖ **Kamarajar Port** has been adjudged successful in pre-berthing detention time.

❖ In the incremental category, **Mormugao Port has been given another award for the best Ship Berth Day Output.**

❖ **Cochin Port** received a performance shield in turn-around-time (non-container port).

➢ A **national framework would be set up with the aim of decarbonizing the Indian economy by pricing GreenHouse Gas** (GHG) emissions through the trading of **Carbon Credit Certificates.**

● For this purpose, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are jointly developing a carbon credit trading scheme.

➢ The **6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)** is set to take place on **May 12-13, 2023,** in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, and is being organised by India Foundation in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

Theme: "Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future

● The first edition of the Conference was held in Singapore in **2016**.

➢ The **Indian government** and the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland)** are making progress toward a **new Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** to enhance two-way commerce, investment flows, job creation and economic growth.

➢ According to a **ministry of finance** notification, the Centre has slashed windfall gains tax on domestic production of crude petroleum to **Rs 3,500 per tonne** from Rs 4400 per tonne.

➢ As per a gazette notification released by the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** titled "**Registration of Medical Practitioners and Licence to Practice Medicine Regulations, 2023**", all registered medical practitioners across the country now be covered under a **common National Medical Register** with each of them allotted a **unique identification number (UID).**

It **has replaced the Medical Council of India** (MCI), constituted under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956).

➢ The **Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav** launched a massive campaign programme "Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar" in New Delhi to promote the RRRs (3Rs) of waste management: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

● **On October 20, 2022, the Prime Minister launched Mission LIFE** (Lifestyle for Environment) **at Kevadia, Gujarat**.

The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** launched a new portal named "**UTSAH**", **("Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education"),** to monitor the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in **Higher Education Institutes (HEIs)** & also launched the **Professors of Practice (PoP) portal.**

● The new portal was launched by **Professor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar**, Chairman of UGC.

The Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, **Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 8th All India Pension Adalat in Delhi**.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, **Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated it.**

➢ On the occasion of 67th Foundation Day of Regional News Unit of Akashvani Guwahati, AIR **Director General Dr. Vasudha Gupta** released Souvenir "Akashibarta"

➢ **Gram Vikas Yojana Distribution program** under **Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Shri Manoj Kumar** was organized in Nanpur village of GarhMukteshwar tehsil, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh conducted by the KVIC's Divisional office Meerut.

➢ The Union Cabinet approved the **second edition of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0** for Information Technology (IT) Hardware with an outlay of Rs 17,000 crore.

- It will cover laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs (Personal Computers), servers and ultra small form factor devices.

➢ **The Union government has approved a subsidy of Rs 38,000 crore** for **phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the kharif 2023 season** (April-September) under the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) mechanism.

The subsidy on P&K for the current kharif season is much lower than **about Rs 61,000 spent during last kharif season.**

The Subsidy on P&K fertilizers has been governed by the Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme under the Department of Fertilizers since 2010.

Under the scheme, a fixed rate of subsidy (in Rs per kg basis) is announced for nutrients namely **Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S)** on an **annual basis.**

➢ The **Union Government transferred Kiran Rijiju from the Ministry of Law and Justice to the Ministry of Earth Sciences** & appointed **Arjun Ram Meghwal** as the new law minister **in addition to his existing portfolios.**

- The existing portfolios of Meghwal are those of the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of State for Culture.

India will host the prestigious 2-day Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference (APIC), which will bring together global leaders from the petrochemical sector **to debate key issues related to growth, trade, investment and sustainability.**

The Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturers' Association (CPMA) of India is hosting the **41st edition of APIC 2023 in the national capital**, Delhi.

It is hosted on a rotational basis by the **7-member countries–Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and India.**

➢ In order to realize Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar se Samriddhi" and with the efforts of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, a decision has been taken to form **1100 New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** in Cooperative Sector.

- Under the FPO Scheme, each **FPO gets financial assistance of 33 lakh rupees.**

To mark World Hypertension Day, on May 17, 2023 through primary health care centres in India, the **Union Health Ministry would screen and list 75 million people, diagnosed with hypertension** and **diabetes on standard care by 2025**.

This was announced at the G20 co-branded event "Accelerating the Prevention and Management of Hypertension and Diabetes", organized by the Union Health Ministry and WHO by Dr. V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog .

➢ **The Competition Commission of India** has formally **notified the establishment of its regional offices in 3 cities** in **Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.**

➢ Union Minister **Parshottam Rupala launched the Sagar Parikrama Yatra Phase-V at Karanja** (Raigad Dist), Maharashtra with an aim to facilitate **the economic upliftment of fishermen and stakeholders through various schemes and programs**.

- India is the **3rd largest fish producing country** with about 8% share in global fish production.

➢ In the Union Territory (UT) of **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**, the well-known **Kalari** from

the Udhampur District will be served at the **G20 Summit** being held in **Srinagar**, as a special Dogra culinary item to promote the Kalari on a global scale.

➢ **The Tea Board announced the formation of an 11-member committee to study the reasons behind the deteriorating quality of green tea leaves** and to suggest remedial measures to reverse that.

- Headed by the executive director of the Tea Board's office at Guwahati, the panel will comprise representatives of bought-leaf factories, estate factories and small tea growers.
- The Tea Board of India is a state agency of the Government of India under the control of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, established to promote the cultivation, processing, and domestic trade and export of tea from India.

➢ Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **International Museum Expo 2023** at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- It is being organized as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the **47th International Museum Day** with the theme of 2023 '**Museums, Sustainability and Well Being'.**
- He also unveiled the **Mascot of the International Museum Expo**, the Graphic Novel – A Day at the Seum, the Directory of Indian Museums, the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards.

➢ As per the data from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, for split Room Air-Conditioners (RACs), **the overall energy efficiency improvement is 43% for 1-Star and 61% for the 5-Star level**.

- On the other hand, **the overall energy efficiency improvement for window RACs is 17% for 1-Star and 13% for 5-Star level.**
- On the other hand, **the overall energy efficiency improvement for window RACs is 17% for 1-Star and 13% for 5-Star level.**

➢ Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the 3rd Semicon India Future Design roadshow at IIT Delhi,** with an aim to encourage innovation, facilitate investment, and catalyse the **Startups ecosystem in the semiconductor design and manufacturing space**.

- **PM Modi has also announced Rs 76,000 crores as outlay for semiconductor sector to fulfill the vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat**.

➢ Under Azadi ka Amrit Kaal, **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) celebrates a new milestone of ensuring safe and clean drinking water through taps to more than 12 Crore rural households of the country**.

- As of date, **5 States (Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat and Punjab) and 3 UTs (Puducherry, D&D and D&NH and A&N Islands), have reported 100% coverage**.

➢ Union Minister of the Ministry of Communications (MoC) **Ashwini Vaishnaw,** launched the **Sanchar Saathi portal** – to provide various reforms and services related to mobile connections and telecommunications.

- It has been developed by C-DoT under the **Department of Tele-communications (DoT)**, MoC.

The Ministry **of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Airport Authority of India (AAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry** (FICCI) are organizing Asia's largest commercial, general, and business aviation **event, 'Wings India 2024' from 18th to 21st January 2024 in Hyderabad.**

According to the report by the Ministry **of Statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI), Livestock, fishing and aquaculture saw the highest increase in gross value of output** (GVO) between 2011-12 to 2020-21.

- **Share of GVA of agriculture and allied activities (FY2021): it was 20.3%, and it was the highest in a decade in the country's total GVA**.
- **West Bengal reported the highest output in fruits and vegetables** in all these years (2011-12 to 2020-21).

● The GVO of cereals, at 3.36 trillion, was the highest among all crop groups in 2011-12.

● **Uttar Pradesh (UP) recorded the highest output of cereals** in all the years (2011-12 to 2020-21).

➢ The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** and **World Bank** organised a one of its kind workshop on **School-to-Work Transition** under the **STARS Program** in Mumbai, Maharashtra co-chaired by **Shri Sanjay Kumar**, Secretary, School Education and Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

● It is being implemented in **six identified states** viz. **Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.**

During the last 9 years, India's overall coal production has gone up by **47% to 893.08 Million Tonne (MT)** and supply has touched 877.74 Million tonne, recording 45.37% growth.

Major leap in coal production of **893.08 MT** in FY 2023 is the **highest in the history** of the country.

India is hosting the **44th edition of the coveted annual ISO COPOLCO or Committee on Consumer Policy, Plenary** from 23-26 May 2023 in New Delhi.

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, **Sh. Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the event. Chair, COPOLCO.

➢ **The government has cut the subsidy on electric two-wheelers in an effort to overhaul the financial incentives** given to this growing industry.

● The **heavy industries ministry announced that the subsidy would be reduced to ₹10,000 per kilowatt hour (kWh) effective 1 June from ₹15,000** currently.

● Further, **the cap on incentives for such vehicles has been lowered to 15%** of the ex-factory **price of vehicles from the earlier 40%.**

➢ The **15th Finance Commission** in one of its reports, recommended that a plan to develop **eight new cities** to alleviate population burden on the existing urban centres in the country be under consideration.

➢ The Union Minister of Education **Dharmendra Pradhan** has announced the **discontinuation** of **two Hindi awards** – **'Shiksha Puraskar' (launched in 1992)** and **'Hinditar Bhashi Hindi Lekhak Puraskar'.**

➢ **Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 2-day National Workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA),** organised by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**, New Delhi.**

● NeVA is one of the 44 Mission Mode Projects under the "**Digital India Programme**" of the Government to make the functioning of all the State Legislatures paperless by transforming them into '**Digital House**'.

● The **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs** is the nodal ministry for the implementation of NeVA.

➢ Taking a significant step towards enhancing bilateral cooperation in the railway sector, India and Bangladesh handed over **20 broad gauge locomotives** to Bangladesh.

● **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways virtually flagged off locomotives** to Bangladesh in a handover ceremony held on 23rd May 2023 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

➢ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated in the **3rd in-person Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit** in Hiroshima, Japan along with PM Anthony Albanese of Australia, PM Fumio Kishida of Japan and President Joseph Biden of the United States of America.

● PM Modi invited Quad Leaders to India for the **next Quad Summit in 2024.**

➢ Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management** (CoE-SLM) **at Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in Dehradun** with an aim of

promoting South-South Cooperation and addressing land degradation issues through sustainable land management practices.

● On this occasion, **he also released two publications "Technical Paper on Pathway to achieving LDN in India" and "Compendium of Sustainable Land Management Practices".**

The newly built **Janganana Bhawan inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.**

Other Launches :

● Web portal for birth and death registration, **SRS Mobile Application with Geofencing, web portal for the online sale of Census Publications,** Census compendium from 1981 to the upcoming Census.

➢ The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has announced a large-scale, **nationwide surveillance** operation targeting milk and milk products (e.g. khoa, chenne, paneer, ghee, butter, curd, and ice cream) to combat food adulteration.

● In 2022, a milk survey was conducted by FSSAI in 12 states, in which **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)** was spread in 10 states.

State-run **SECL** is expanding its **Gevra coal mine** in Chhattisgarh to achieve **70 million tonnes** of coal production per annum, which would make it the **largest coal producing mine in Asia**.

● **Recently, the Gevra project of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd** (SECL) **in Chhattisgarh** recently became the **first mine in the country to achieve 50 MT of coal production**.

➢ In a bid to address challenges in the ship design and construction industry, defence PSU **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) launched an innovation nurturing scheme named GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme – 2023 or "GAINS 2023" in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB) to identify and promote innovative solutions for technological advancements in shipbuilding by startups.**

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

Thematic areas of the "GAINS 2023" challenge : Artificial intelligence, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and efficiency enhancement.

The central government formed an **11-member committee headed by Global Tiger Forum Secretary General Dr Rajesh Gopal** to review and monitor the Cheetah translocation project.

● It will also have a **4-member consulting panel of international Cheetah experts**.

➢ To mark the **inauguration of the new Parliament building**, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** released a **special commemorative postage stamp** and a **₹ 75 coin.**

Key Features :

❖ The weight of the coin would be **34.65-35.35 grams.**

❖ The coin will be circular in shape with a diameter of **44 millimetres.**

❖ It will have **200 serrations.**

❖ The face of the coin will have the **Lion Capital** of Ashoka Pillar in the center with 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below it.

❖ The words' **Bharat**' and '**India**' will be written in English (left) and Devanagari script (Right), respectively.

➢ **Union Minister Giriraj Singh, launched a 'Samarth campaign' to promote digital transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats** under Amrit Mahotsav in Lucknow, **Uttar Pradesh (UP).**

➢ The Central Government signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **six States Governments of Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (UP)** to conduct a **digital crop survey**.

● The agreement was signed at a workshop organised by the Union agriculture ministry to

discuss with state governments the implementation plan of the digital crop survey.

- A **manual** for a **web portal** and a mobile application for a Digital crop survey have also been launched on this occasion.
- The digital crop survey is part of the government's Agristack or **India Digital Ecosystem for Agriculture (IDEA).**

The **Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Road**, the **longest sea link in India**, is nearing completion, and **will likely be open to the public by November 2023.**

- The **22-km-long sea link** is the longest in the country and the tenth longest in the world.

➢ Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated** the **new Parliament building** in Delhi with seating for **888 members** in the Lok Sabha and 384 members in the Rajya Sabha.

The new building is **4- storey triangular building whose** premises have the national tree Banyan.

The interiors of Lok Sabha are themed on the **national bird peacock** and Rajya Sabha on the national flower lotus.

The building features the **Ashoka Chakra** on the exterior and inside the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha chambers.

The old parliament house was inaugurated in **January 1927 by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker.**

➢ The **Special Protection Group (SPG),** the force that handles the security of the Prime Minister (PM), will now be handled by an officer not less than the rank of an **Additional Director-General (ADG)** belonging to the **Indian Police Service (IPS)**, while junior officers will be appointed on deputation for an initial period of **6 years.**

These parameters were fixed through a new set of rules issued by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** under the Special Protection Group Act, 1988 (34 of 1988).

➢ The **Centre notified several provisions of the Competition (Amendment) Act 2023**, which received Presidential assent on April 11, 2023.

- However, the Centre has withheld notification of the provisions of the amended law that empowered **the fair trade regulator to impose hefty penalties on erring enterprises for their anti-competitive conduct.**
- **The penalty for false statements/ omissions has been increased from ₹ 1 crore to 5 crore to strengthen CCI's power** in ensuring companies furnish true, full and adequate disclosures in their submissions.

➢ **India's marine fish landing in 2022 registered a 15% increase at 3.49 million tonnes** compared to the figure in 2021 & an **increase of 28% was reported in 2022** compared to the pandemic year in 2020.

- **Tamil Nadu (TN) regained the first place** in fish landings with 7.22 lakh tonnes accounting for 21%, **followed by Karnataka (6.9 5 lakh tonnes) and Kerala (6.87 lakh tonnes).**

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), **India is set to dramatically scale up its super-computing prowess and install an 18-petaflop system over the course of this year.**

- Currently, India's most powerful supercomputers, Pratyush and Mihir, with a combined capacity of **8 petaflops**, are housed at the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** and the **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).**

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** launched **UDAN 5.1** , a new version of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) to enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last-mile connectivity through helicopters

- For the **first time** under RCS-UDAN, this round has been specially designed for helicopter routes.

➢ The Union Ministry of Education (MoE) and national assessment regulator Performance Assessment, **Review and Analysis of**

Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) organised the **first workshop to brainstorm school assessments, examination practices and equivalence of boards across the country.**

- PARAKH is developed to improve the monitoring, measuring and assessing activities in the **Indian school education system.**

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog organised its **8th Governing Council Meeting** on the theme of **'Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Role of Team India' on May 27, 2023,** at the new Convention Centre in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- 8 prominent themes will be discussed during the day-long Meeting including (i) Viksit Bharat@2047, (ii) Thrust on MSMEs, (iii) Infrastructure and Investments, (iv) Minimising Compliances, (v) Women Empowerment, (vi) Health and Nutrition, (vii) Skill Development, and (viii) Gati Shakti for area development and social infrastructure.

➢ The **next census form will only have the option of six distinct religions- Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain**.

➢ According to the new findings by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO), India** has witnessed **573 disasters** related to extreme weather, climate, and water events between 1970 and 2021.

- These disasters resulted in **1.38 lakh people dead** and caused economic losses amounting to USD 18.3 billion.
- The event **aims** to initiate a high-level dialogue on accelerating and scaling-up action to ensure that early warning services reach everyone globally by the end of **2027**.

JUNE MONTH

➢ Prime Minister (PM) **Shri Narendra Modi** virtually flagged off the Northeast region's **first Vande Bharat Express** which will connect Guwahati (Assam) with New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal).

It is the **third Vande Bharat train** in West Bengal.

He also inaugurated **Diesel Electric Multiple Unit** and **Mainline Electric Multiple Unit shed** at Lumding in Assam.

➢ The Government has decided to grant a **waiver of Inter-State Transmission Charges ISTS charges to Off-Shore Wind Projects** and extend the waiver to Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia.

Aim : To facilitate wider execution of offshore wind energy initiatives, to promote the expansion of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia Projects and to encourage the offtake of renewable energy from Energy Storage System Projects.

- As per the notification issued by the **Ministry of Power**, a complete waiver of ISTS charges has been given for off-shore wind power projects commissioned on or before 31st December, 2032 for a period of **25 years** from the date of commissioning of the Project.

➢ The **National Level Steering Committee** (NLSC) **has decided to extend the Atal Bhujal Yojana** (ABY) **for an additional 2 years beyond its original 2025 end date** with the aim of making up for the implementation delays **due to covid-19** and further promoting community behaviour change initiatives.

- The Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) is a scheme initiated by the Government of India to address issues related to groundwater depletion and promote sustainable groundwater management in the country.
- The scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation)** in **December 2019.**

➢ The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released its **'Periodic Labour Force Survey' (PLFS)** quarterly bulletin for January-March 2023. As per this, the **urban unemployment rate declined** to **6.8%** during Q4 FY23 from 7.2% in the previous October-December quarter.

● The unemployment rate was **8.2%** during January-March 2022.
● For all age groups, the **highest unemployment rate** was seen in **Himachal Pradesh (HP)** which stood at **15.2%** during January-March 2023.
● The second-highest unemployment rate was recorded in **Chhattisgarh** at 12.5%. **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** recorded the third-highest unemployment rate at 12.4%.
● The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** for males stood at 73.5% against 73.3% in the previous quarter.

The **Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP),** has been granted **organic certification** for its renowned **Araku coffee** and **black pepper crops** by the **Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has **simplified** the process for the **grant of Heliport License**,license. With this now the applications for NOC/Clearance to 5 external organizations can be routed through a **single tab** in the applicant's eGCA profile.

India's newly inaugurated Parliament building showcases a remarkable piece of scientific artistry suspended from its ceiling - a **Foucault pendulum,** represents the spirit of scientific inquiry and scientific temper that is enshrined in **Article 51A of the Indian Constitution**.

● **Created by the National Council of Science Museum** (NCSM, Kolkata), the pendulum is being dubbed the largest such piece (**22 m in height, and 36 kg in weight) in India.**
● The original Foucault's pendulum, named after 19th century French physicist Leon Foucault, is a simple experiment to demonstrate earth's rotation.
● **The first such pendulum** was installed in 1991 at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune.

➢ The **Union Cabinet** has given its approval to set up an **inter-ministerial committee (IMC)** for the "**world's largest grain storage scheme** in the cooperative sector."
● For this, the government approved **1 lakh crore rupees (Rs 1 trillion)** to increase foodgrain storage capacity by 700 lakh tonne in the cooperative sector from about 1,450 lakh tonne presently to 2,150 lakh tonne in the next 5 years.

➢ **The Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing** (ERSO) Pilot initiative has been **launched by the government** in Bengaluru, Karnataka **to validate certain policy and process changes to make India the Repair Capital of the World.**
● The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change collaborated with industry to implement transformational policy and process changes.
● 5 companies have volunteered for the pilot initiative i.e Flex, Lenovo, CTDI, R-Logic & Aforeserve.

➢ **India-European Union (EU) Connectivity Conference is being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs**, EU Delegation to India and the Asian Confluence is set to take place in **Meghalaya** from June 1 & 2, 2023 with an aim to **promote investments in the Northeastern states of India and expanding connectivity to neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh**.
● The conference will **focus on connectivity through 3 pillars: Digital, Energy and Transport.**
● Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad Sangma** and Union Minister of State for External Affairs **Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh will inaugurate the Conference.**

➢ The **Tele-Law programme** under the **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice** achieved a new milestone with **40 Lakh**

beneficiaries across the country having been empowered with **pre-litigation advice**.

- This program is a kind of **e-interface mechanism through which pre-litigation legal advice and consultation can be obtained.**
- This service was launched by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice in 2017.
- Now it can be availed directly **through Tele Law Mobile App**.

➢ New excavations at **Delhi's Purana Qila** revealed evidence of the city's history since the pre-Mauryan era, such as **Painted Gray Ware pottery shards** dating back to approximately 1200 BC to 600 BC.

- The new excavation found remains of a 900-year-old Vaikuntha Vishnu from the Rajput period, a terracotta plaque of Goddess Gaja Lakshmi from the Gupta period, the structural remains of a 2,500-year-old terracotta ring well from the Mauryan period.
- 136 coins and 35 seals have also been discovered.

Shri Hardeep S. Puri, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and **Petroleum and Natural Gas complimented the Prime Minster Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme on its successful completion of 3 momentous years**.

- PM SVANidhi Scheme launched on **01 June, 2020,** with an aim to restore Swarozgar, Svavlamban, and Swabhimaan (Self Employment, Self-Sustenance, and Self-Confidence) within street vendors has become one of the fastest growing micro-credit schemes of the Government of India and has provided its citizens access to credit and linkages to social security schemes.
- Moreover, a facility for '**Udyam**' **registration and obtaining 'Udyam Assist' certificate for Street Vendors on PM SVANidhi portal was also launched with the help of the Ministry of Small and Medium enterprises,** MSME, to provide easy access to vendors for obtaining Udyam Registration Certificate for promotion of their business.

➢ **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Nagpur** has **become the first of all AIIMS to receive National Accreditation Board forHospitals (NABH) accreditation.**

- The NABH accreditation is a globally recognized standard for **healthcare quality** and assesses the performance of hospitals in various areas including patient care, safety, and organisational efficiency.

➢ In order to strengthen defence cooperation between **India and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), India would launch an initiative on "women in United Nations Peacekeeping (UNPK) operations."**

➢ The Union **government proposes to sell up to 3% stake in state-owned coal India through an offer for sale (OFS).**

OFS is a simpler method of share sale through the exchange platform for listed companies.

The **government will offload about 9.24 crore shares**, which **represents about 1.5% stake through the OFS, and in the case of oversubscription,** an additional 1.5% stake will be under sale.

➢ To expand the Smart Cities Program, the Union cabinet also approved '**City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)**' to 18 more cities which will run for a period of 4 years, from 2023 to 2027.

CITIIS 2.0 is a program conceived by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** in partnership with the **French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** & will run for a period of 4 years, i.e., from 2023 to 2027.

The funding for CITIIS 2.0 would include a loan of **Rs.1760 crore** (EUR 200 million) from AFD and KfW (EUR 100 million each) and a technical assistance grant of Rs.106 cr. (EUR 12 million) from the EU.

➢ According to the latest annual **data released by the labour bureau, the share of women workers in registered factories submitting annual returns working more than the statutorily-mandated maximum limit of 48 hours** in a week **increased to an 11-year high of 33.6%** in 2019,

Factories in Tamil Nadu employed most women in overtime work (3,177), followed by Andhra Pradesh (2,317) and Kerala (1021).

The size of the government's flagship manufacturing sector support programme, **the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**, has touched **Rs 2.05 lakh crore, against the initial commitment of Rs 1.97 lakh crores.**

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) notified regarding the **National Electricity Plan for the period of 2022-32,** states that the National Electricity Plan document includes the review of the last 5 years (2017-22), a detailed plan for the next 5 years (2022-27), and the prospective plan for the next 5 years (2027-32).

● As per **20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) demand** for electricity in all of India peak demand and electrical energy requirement are estimated to be 277.2 GW and 1907.8 BU for 2026-27 and 366.4 GW and 2473.8 BU for 2031-32 respectively.

● The NEP envisages that the share of **non-fossil-based capacity is estimated to be 57.4% by the end of 2026-27 and is expected to increase to 68.4% by 2031-32, from 42.5% by April, 2023**.

● **The domestic coal requirement is estimated to be 866.4 million tonnes for the year 2026-27 and 1025.8 million tonnes for the year 2031-32** and the estimated coal import requirement for plants running on **imported coal is 28.9 MT.**

➢ The **Ministry of Rural Development** announced that approximately **88% of wage payments** to **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) beneficiaries** in May were processed using the **Aadhaar Based Payment Bridge System (ABPS)** until May 2023.

● According to data from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** , the success rate of Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) stands at **99.55% or higher.**

➢ **The Union Government has banned 14 fixed-dose drugs** including combinations such as **Nimesulide Paracetamol dispersible tablets, Amoxicillin Bromhexine and Pholcodine Promethazine etc** as they have been **found to lack therapeutic justification and may pose risks to health.**

● The decision was taken on the basis of the recommendations of an expert committee and the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board.**

● It is necessary to prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of this FDC under **Section 26 A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**

● FDC drugs are medications that contain two or more APIs in a single formulation, to enhance therapeutic outcomes or simplify treatment regimens.

Minister of State for External Affairs, **V. Muraleedharan, underscored the deepening cooperation between India and the Maldives across multiple sectors**.

The Government stated that the **New Cooperation Policy** is expected to be unveiled **July, 2023** after consulting all the stakeholders including State governments, Central Ministries, and National Cooperatives.

● The Chairman of the National Level Committee for drafting the New National Cooperation Policy document **Suresh Prabhu** made a presentation to Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

● The National Level Committee for Drafting New National Cooperation Policy was formed in **September 2022.**

● The current policy on cooperation was formulated in 2002.

On the occasion of World Environment Day (05th June 2023), the **Ministry of Coal** and **Coal PSUs** have organized numerous programs to

encourage employees and local communities to embrace sustainable and Eco- Friendly Lifestyles in line with the **LiFE activities** envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

- The LiFE campaign aims to prioritize individual actions in combating climate change.

➢ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 4-Lane Section between Nagaon Bypass-Teliagaon, and Teliagaon-Rangagara and laid the foundation for Mangaldai Bypass and the 4-lane section between Daboka-Parakhuwa worth 1450 crore rupees in Assam** to enhance accessibility between North Assam and Upper Assam, fueling economic growth and opening new opportunities through video conferencing.

- The 18 Km long 4-Lane section between **Nagaon Bypass-Teliagaon and Teliagaon-Rangagara is worth Rs 403 Crore.**

➢ The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged off the maiden International Cruise Vessel - **MV Empress, India's first international cruise vessel** - from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) at a cost of Rs. 17.21 crores.

- The cruise service will sail to 3 Sri Lankan ports; viz. Hanbantota, Trincomalee, and Kankesanturei.

➢ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the **increase** in the **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for all mandated **Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24** to ensure remunerative prices to growers for their produce and to encourage crop diversification.

➢ The Union cabinet has approved the **3rd revival package for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL)** with a total outlay of **Rs 89,047.82 crore** that includes allotment of 4G/5G spectrum through equity infusion

➢ The **Ministry of Railways** has reported an earning of **Rs 14642 crore** from freight loading in May 2023, a 4% increase compared to last year at Rs 14,084 crore.

- During May 2023, originating freight loading of **134 MT** was achieved against loading of 131.50 MT in May 2022, which is an improvement of approximately 2% over the last year.

➢ **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, kick **started its annual week-long conference - 'Week with Legends, 2023', for its Graduate Insolvency Programme** (GIP) wherein stalwarts of the Insolvency practice are invited to take part in a roundtable discussion with the students of its flagship GIP on various aspects of Insolvency and Bankruptcy regime in India.

- The **conference was inaugurated by Shri Ravi Mittal, Chairperson IBBI with Shri Jayanti Prasad, Whole Time Member, IBBI** at the Campus of IICA, Manesar.

➢ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya,** inaugurated the **CGHS Wellness Centres** in **Chandigarh** and **Panchkula, Haryana** to mitigate the hardships faced by the pensioners living not only in the Chandigarh-Panchkula-Mohali TriCity area but also in the adjoining areas of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

- With this launch, the coverage of CGHS cities has expanded from 25 cities in 2014 to **80** in 2023.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI' - 'Waste to Wealth'** the online dredging monitoring system - in order to accelerate **'Waste to Wealth' initiative of the Ministry.**

- The system is developed by **National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC),** the technological arm of MoPSW, and it replaces the previous Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system.

An Indo – Scandinavian Leadership Conference and Workshop was held by NTPC School of Business at its **Noida campus**,

recognizing that this is essential for coherence and purpose orientation in a world that calls for increasingly high levels of inclusiveness.

Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, **Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** has stated that **India** has moved from 4th largest producer of crude steel to the **2nd largest producer** of crude steel from 2014-15 to 2022-23 standing just behind China which is the largest exporter of crude steel in the world.

- India has reported a hike of **42%** in Crude steel production from 88.98 MT(Metric ton) in 2014-15 to 126.26 MT in 2022-23.
- India is a net exporter of steel, exporting **6.72 MT** of finished steel in 2022-23, while importing 6.02 MT.
- In the financial year 2022-23, India is expected to produce **122.28 MT** of finished steel, showing a growth of 49% as compared to 81.86 MT in 2014-15.
- **World's top 10 steel producers** : People's Republic of China: 95.7 million metric tons (MT, India: 11.4 MT, Japan: 7.5 MT, United States: 6.7 MT, Russia: 6.6 MT, South Korea: 5.8 MT, Türkiye: 3.3 MT. Germany: 2.7 MT, Brazil: 2.7 MT, Iran: 2.2 MT.

➢ **The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs** (IICA) in association **with NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad launched a** first of its kind programme **LL.M in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Laws in New Delhi.**

- The programme was **launched by Shri Manoj Govil, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India**.

➢ The Union Cabinet approved **Metro Connectivity** from **HUDA City Centre to Cyber City** with Spur to Dwarka Expressway, Gurugram covering the distance of **28.50 km** having 27 stations on the route.

➢ The **Ministry of Power (MoP)** and the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** have jointly launched a National Mission named **Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)** to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India.

- The mission has been planned for an initial period of **5 years** from 2023-24 to 2027-28, will follow the technology life cycle approach of Idea to Product.

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister **Giriraj Singh inaugurated a 2-day conference titled 'Evolving India: Re-imagining Rural Development for Shared Prosperity'** in **New Delhi inviting the sharpest minds on rural development to brainstorm and create a roadmap for Rural India during the Amrit Kaal.**

During the meeting of Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah with Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi, the **government decided to allow 2000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJAKs)** across the country.

- The incentive amount for **PMBJAKs** is Rs.5 lakh (15% of monthly purchase or maximum of Rs.15,000 per month)

➢ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved** the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme of **"Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme" with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2980 crore** from **2021-22 to 2025-26** co-terminus **with the 15th Finance Commission cycle.**

- Under this scheme, exploration for Coal and Lignite is conducted in 2 broad stages:

1. Promotional (Regional) Exploration
2. Detailed Exploration in Non-Coal India Limited blocks.

➢ Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Shri Parshottam Rupala** and Minister of Ports Shipping and Waterways **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** have laid the foundation stone for the **project on Modernization and Up-gradation of Cochin**

Fishing Harbour at Thoppumpady, Samudrika Hall, Willingdon Island, Cochin Port Authority, Cochin.

- Shri Parshottam Rupala stated that the Government has approved projects to the tune of more than **Rs 7,500 Crore** for the development of modern fishing harbours and fish landing centres under **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), Sagarmala scheme and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Yojana (PMMSY) Scheme.**

➢ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Shelad to Nandura project costing Rs 816 crores** on Amravati-Chikhali **National Highway 53 at Khamgaon , Buldhana, Maharashtra.**

- National Highway 53 is important as an important trade **link between Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha or states in the country and** it also has good **connectivity for Raipur-Nagpur-Surat or East-West corridor.**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the 2 day 'Start-up Conclave' at Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).**

- The conclave is organised by the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research -Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM),** with an aim of offering an opportunity to explore new avenues for industry as well as entrepreneurs in the region.

The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** (CAG) **Girish Chandra Murmu is hosting** a 3-day **SAI20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency in Goa** which focused on setting priorities on Blue Economy and Responsible AI, encouraging collaboration and sharing knowledge among **Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)** (India's SAI is CAG).

- Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI20) is the Engagement Group of Audit organisations belonging to the G20 countries.
- SAIs of **Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Spain, UAE, Morocco and Poland will participate in the Summit**.

➢ Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **first-ever National Training Conclave** aimed at strengthening the training infrastructure for civil servants across India at an event held at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Pragati Maidan, **New Delhi.**

- The Conclave is being hosted by the **Capacity Building Commission.**

➢ The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the **2nd edition of the Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman, 2023 under which 33 Sammans will be given** out under 3 categories, Print, Television, and Radio in 22 Indian languages and English.

- The **International Day of Yoga** has been celebrated annually on 21 June since 2015.
- The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, during his address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on **27 September 2014.**

The Union Government has released the **3rd instalment** of **tax devolution** to State Governments amounting to **₹1,18,280 crore,** as against the normal monthly devolution of ₹59,140 crore.

State-wise distribution of Net Proceeds of Union Taxes and Duties for June 2023 :

❖ **Andhra Pradesh** received ₹4,787 crore, while Arunachal Pradesh was given ₹2,078 crore. Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Gujarat received ₹3,700 crore, ₹11,897 crore, ₹4,030 crore, and ₹4,114 crore, respectively.

➢ **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting** to review the preparedness of Ministries and Agencies of the Centre as well as Gujarat **to deal with the situation arising out of the impending Cyclone 'Biparjoy'.**

➢ Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the Air India Art Exhibition titled '**Maharaja's Treasure: Select Works of Art from the Famed Air India Collection**' hosted **by the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai,Maharashtra**

➢ **India** expressed its willingness **to host the 2025 IIAS (International Institute of Administrative Sciences) Annual Conference with the theme of Next Generation Administrative Reforms - Empowering the Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile in Kochi, Kerala, in February, 2025**.

The Next Generation Administrative Reforms includes **Secretariat Reforms, Benchmarking of Governance, Redressal of Public Grievances, Improving Service Delivery, Recognizing Meritocracy** and **Replication of good governance practices forms the core of India's good governance model.**

In 2023, **India will host the G-20 Leaders' Summit and the SCO Leaders' Summit.**

➢ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated **Project Gajapati to Gabon** and flagged off **Gabon's 1st Agriculture Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Project & Power Transformers (T&D) Project** from **New Delhi, Delhi.**

➢ For the welfare of the tribal people in India, Centre spends **15,000 crore rupees** under the Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Development Mission in **3 years.**

➢ The overall coal stock position i.e., at Mines, TPPs and transit, **reached 110.58 Million Tonne (MT), indicating a substantial increase of 44.22% as compared to the stock of 76.67 MT last year**.

➢ Union Minister of Jal Shakti, **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,** launched the **Unified Registration Portal** for Biogas/ Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)/ Bio CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) plants under **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) scheme** to promote sustainable economic growth and a circular economy.

- As the nodal department for GOBARdhan, **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti** has developed this portal, which can be accessed at https://gobardhan.co.in.
- Gobardhan aims to generate wealth and energy by converting cattle dung, agricultural residues and other organic waste into biogas, CBG and bio-fertilizers.

➢ **The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**, named after India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, **has been renamed as the Prime Minister's Museum and Library Society** at a special meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) Society presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is the Vice-President of the Society,

➢ Defence Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** chaired a meeting of the **Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence** on 'Self-reliance in Defence Manufacturing' in Bengaluru, Karnataka

➢ **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited** (NVVN), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, **has commissioned its first Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Project at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur, Rajasthan** to meet 15% of IIT's electricity requirements.

- The 1 **MW Grid-connected Solar Project has been implemented by NVVN under the RESCO model,** with a Purchase Agreement duration of 25 years.

As a part of the Global Wind Day 2023 June, 15 2023, Secretary of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MoNRE) **Bhupinder Singh Bhalla,** felicitated **Rajasthan, Gujarat,** and **Tamil Nadu (TN)** for being the **top achiever** during the financial year (FY) 2022- 2023 in New Delhi.

- Rajasthan was felicitated for achieving the **highest wind capacity** addition, Gujarat for achieving the **highest wind capacity** addition

through open access, and Tamil Nadu for **initiating the repowering of wind turbines.**

➢ **India's Animation, Gaming, Visual Effects, and Comics (AVGC)** sector participates for the **first time** in the prestigious **Annecy International Animation Festival (AIAF)** held in **France.**

- The Indian delegation was led by the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting, **Apurva Chandra** along with other personalities from the animation industry.
- He also inaugurated the India Pavilion, which has been designed on the theme of the **Saraswati Yantra.**

➢ The **13th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Eastern Zonal Council** chaired by Chief Secretary of Bihar, Amir Subhani **concluded in Patna.**

- Delegates from **Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal** and other stakeholders, such as Union ministries and departments deliberated several inter-state issues during the meeting.

➢ The Ministry of Education is set to host the **4th and final Education Working Group (EDWG) meeting** in Pune, Maharashtra from 19th to 21nd June, 2023 under the theme of "**Ensuring Foundation Literacy and Numeracy, especially in the context of blended learning**" and culminate with the Education Ministerial meeting on 22nd June 2023.

- The meeting was chaired by G-20 India Chair and Secretary, Department of Higher Education **Shri K. Sanjay Murthy**.
- The International Organisations (IOs) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) presented the education working group report.

➢ Based on the traffic data provided by different **domestic airlines**, **the passenger count reached a milestone of over 636 lakh during January to May 2023**, reflecting an annual growth rate of over **36 per cent compared to corresponding period of last year.**

➢ The Union Minister of Heavy Industries **Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, unveiled the 'Dugdh Sanakalan Sathi Mobile App' or 'Milk Collection Partner Mobile App' at Mussoorie, Uttarakhand for the Indian Dairy Industry.**

This **innovative application, designed and developed by Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited (REIL), Jaipur, a "Mini Ratna"** Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).

➢ The **3rd G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG)** meeting under India's G20 Presidency will be held in **Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu (TN),** from June 19 to 21, 2023.

➢ The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, Child Health** (PMNCH), **Geneva,** Switzerland is organizing a G20 co-branded event **titled 'Health of Youth-Wealth of Nation', at New Delhi** with an aim to highlight the health and well-being needs of 1.8 billion adolescents and youth worldwide and to foster increased attention and investment by G20 nations in the health of adolescents and youth.

➢ The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has launched a **'Knowledge Sharing' platform hosted on the NHAI website** for sharing of knowledge and innovative best practices.

➢ Health and Family Welfare Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a high-level meeting to review the public's health preparedness regarding heat waves across the country.**

➢ **Punjab** has become the **first Indian State** to implement the "**Right to walk**" by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the **National Highways**

Authority of India (NHAI), to provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansion of roads and construction of new ones.

➢ The **Bureau of Indian Standards** (BIS) license **will be mandatory for 24 footwear products** (those made with rubber and polymeric material and other components) **from the 1st July 2023.**

➢ Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 11 flyovers from Delhi to Panipat on the 8-lane National Highway- 44 at a cost of Rs 890 crore with** a total length of 24 km.

➢ **The Road, Transport and Highways Ministry has issued a draft notification** proposing Motor **Third Party Premium and Liability Rules** for the Financial Year 2023-24 in consultation with Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

- In line with **Section 147 of the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, 1988,** MoRTH prescribes the base premium rates for motor third party insurance from time to time.
- As per the notification.

A discount of **15%** has been proposed for educational institution buses.

A discount of **50%** has been proposed for a private car registered as a vintage Car.

A discount of **15%** and **7.5%** has been proposed for Electric vehicles and Hybrid Electric Vehicles, respectively.

➢ **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri,** Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, **Government of India & H.E. Mr. Hayan Abdul Ghani Abdul Zahra Al Sawad,** Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Affairs, and Minister of Oil of the **Republic of Iraq hosted the 18th India - Iraq Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), in New Delhi**.

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a Business Roundtable on 19th June 2023, b**etween the Business Leaders of both countries.

➢ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 4 National Highway projects at Sonepat, Karnal and Ambala in Haryana worth Rs 3,835 crore**.

- He also Inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of **2 NH projects worth Rs 1255 Crore in Ambala, Haryana.**

➢ According to the **Global Leader Approval Ratings** released by a US-based consulting firm, Morning Consult, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** remains the **world's most popular leader** with an approval rating of 75% followed by Swiss President **Alain Berset** & Mexican President **Andrés Manuel López Obrador.**

In the approval rating, US President Joe Biden is placed in the 8th position while UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is in the 13th position among 22 world leaders.

➢ During an event organised by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the **PM-Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature** at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

➢ Hon'ble Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, **Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, will virtually inaugurate from New Delhi, the Silica Reduction Plant at Steel Authority of India Limited's (SAIL) Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli Mines.**

➢ The Central government allocated **₹145 crore** to **Nagaland** for the construction of a Unity Mall in **Dimapur,Nagaland aimed** to raise awareness about the **One District One Product (ODOP)** and PM Gati Shakti initiatives, focusing on promoting local industries and improving logistics.

- The announcement was made during an ODOP Sampark event organized by the **Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** in collaboration

with **Invest India** and the **Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland.**

- The allocation is part of the Union Budget 2023-24, which has earmarked ₹5,000 crore for the establishment of Unity Malls across India.

➢ **India has achieved the milestone of 101 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters** per Day of **gas production**.

➢ The Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers and Health and Family Welfare **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the 8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2023 in Mumbai**, Maharashtra with the theme of '**Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality**' to explore innovative approaches to manufacturing and quality assurance in order to prioritize patient needs and enhance the overall healthcare experience.

➢ Union Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur flagged off "Bharat in Paris" campaign with a short marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi**.

- The campaign has been launched by **Indian Olympic Association** (IOA) to create awareness and promote sports across India ahead of the Paris Olympics games.
- The 2024 Olympics will take place from **26 July to 11 August in Paris, France.**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi flagged off five new** and upgraded versions of **Vande Bharat Express trains** connecting the capitals of Madhya Pradesh (MP), Goa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka at Rani Kamlapati station in Bhopal.

- The Prime Minister first virtually launched **Ranchi-Patna, Dharwad-KSR Bengaluru and Goa (Madgaon)-Mumbai** and then also flagged off two Vande Bharat trains in Madhya Pradesh, **Bhopal-Indore and Bhopal-Jabalpur.**
- With the addition of these 5 new Vande Bharat Express trains, a total of **23** Vande Bharat trains are now operational in the country.

➢ Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala launched the Report Fish Disease(RFD) App at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi** in the presence of Dr L. Murugan, Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and senior Officers from DARE, ICAR and NSPADD.

- **The app has been developed by ICAR-NBFGR under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases** (NSPAAD), **funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana** by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Field Assessment for the 8th edition of the world's largest urban swachhata survey, Swachh Survekshan 2023 – **Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan.**

- Swachh Survekshan was introduced under the aegis of MoHUA in **2016**, with the objective of helping cities achieve the goal of sustainable sanitation and waste management in a fast-track competitive manner.

➢ The **Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for ratification of the Headquarters Agreement** (HQA) between **the Government of India (GoI) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) signed** on 22nd August, 2022.

The **CDRI was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during the United Nations Climate Action Summit** on the 23rd September 2019, at New York.

On 28 August, 2019, the Cabinet approved the setting up of CDRI along with its supporting Secretariat in New Delhi and also gave **approval for the Government of India's financial support of Rs. 480 crores to CDRI over a period of 5 years from 2019-20 to 2023-24.**

➢ The **Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,** approved the **introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 in Parliament** to strengthen the research ecosystem in India.

- The bill, after approval in Parliament, will establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the **National Education Policy (NEP), at a total estimated cost of Rs. 50,000 crores during five years (2023-28).**
- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF which will be governed by a Governing Board** consisting of eminent researchers and professionals across disciplines.
- The bill will also repeal the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by an act of Parliament in 2008** and subsume it into NRF which has an expanded mandate and covers activities over and above those of SERB.

➢ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Fair and Remunerative Price** (FRP) of sugarcane for **sugar season 2023-24 (October - September) at Rs.315/QTL for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%.**

It has also been **approved to provide a premium of Rs.3.07/qtl for each 0.1% increase in recovery over** and above 10.25%, & a reduction in FRP by Rs.3.07/qtl for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.

The cost of production of sugarcane for the sugar season 2023-24 is Rs.157/qtl.

The **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has given a boost to reforms by the States in the power sector by providing financial incentives** in the form of additional borrowing permissions with an aim to encourage and support the States in undertaking reforms to enhance the efficiency and performance of the power sector.

- Under this initiative, **an additional borrowing space of up to 0.5% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** is available to the States annually for a four-year period from 2021-22 to 2024-25.

➢ 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 and industrial community to discuss recent advances** and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain.

The conference is being organized by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**, in partnership with the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Office of Principal Scientific Advisor** to the Government of India.

The Conference held discussions in line with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, a Mission launched by the Government of India to help achieve India's target of **Net Zero** by the year **2070**.

According to the Renewables 2022 Global Status Report by REN21, energy-policy think tank,**India** ranked **4th** in **renewable energy** installed capacity (excluding large hydro), 4th in wind power capacity, and 4th in solar power capacity.

➢ The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'Sagar Samajik Sahayyog' - the new guidelines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** empower ports to undertake CSR activities directly **by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways** in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The new **CSR guidelines unveiled will impact projects and programmes relating to activities specified in Section 70 of the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021**.
- According to each port's individual annual turnover, the CSR budget will be divided as follows : Ports with a revenue between **Rs 100 and 500 crores** will spend **2-3%** on CSR , whereas ports with a turnover of **less than Rs 100 crores** will pay **3-5%,** ports will invest **0.5-2%** if their annual revenue **exceeds Rs 500 crores**.

- To plan and carry out CSR efforts, each significant port will set up a corporate social responsibility committee led by a **deputy chairperson**.

➢ On the occasion of the **International Day of Cooperatives 2023, July 01, 2023** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inaugurated **17th Indian Cooperative Congress (ICC)** on July 1 & 2, 2023 (2 day event) at International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi, Delhi.**

- **National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)** is organizing the event with the theme of **Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India.**
- It will be chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah.**

➢ **The Department of Telecommunications**, a department of the Ministry of Communications, has conducted '**5G & Beyond Hackathon 2023', aimed at shortlisting India-focused cutting-edge ideas that can be converted into workable 5G & beyond products and solutions**.

➢ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office and Innovation Centre** in India at a programme in Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Delhi.

He also unveiled the **Bharat 6G Vision Document** which envisages India as a front-line contributor in design, **development and deployment of 6G technology by 2030** and launched the 6G R&D Test Bed.

He also launched the **'Call before u Dig' App.**

➢ **As per International Energy Agency (IEA) statistics, India will increase its refining capacity 1 million barrels** per day **(mb/d) from 5.2** mb/d **to 6.2 mb/d in the next 5 years 2028.**

- India is **currently the world's 4th largest crude oil refiner.**

JULY MONTH

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi, released India's **first-ever report on "Critical Minerals for India** " which was constituted by the Ministry of Mines & identifies **30 essential minerals crucial** to sectors such as defence, agriculture, energy, pharmaceuticals, and telecom.

The list includes Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, Platinum Group Elements (PGE), Phosphorus, Potash, Rare Earth Elements (REE), Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium, and Cadmium.

Also, the Committee has proposed the establishment of a **Center of Excellence for Critical Minerals (CECM)** within the Ministry of Mines, which will serve as a dedicated institution responsible for updating and maintaining the list of critical minerals specific to India.

➢ The Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has asked the **Indian banks to ensure enhanced and affordable credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to achieve the target of 1 trillion dollar merchandise exports by 2030.**

➢ A **7-km undersea tunnel** will be constructed for the bullet train project at **₹10,000 crore** aimed at conserving nearly 12 hectares of mangroves in the creek.

➢ The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of the Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal to be developed at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh at a cost of ₹46.60 crores,** by the bank of the River Brahmaputra (National Waterways 2) in Dibrugarh, **Assam** and is scheduled to be **completed by February 2024.**

➢ **REC Limited has extended a loan of Rs. 4,785 crores to HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited** (HRRL), for **setting up a green field**

refinery cum petrochemical complex in Barmer district, Rajasthan.

- HRRL is a Joint Venture (JV) 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**.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, is an NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India.

➢ Finance **Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviewed the progress of the implementation of Budget schemes with secretaries of the Finance Ministry and Corporate Affairs Secretary.**

➢ In a bid to bring in more people-friendly initiatives,**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 and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have set an ambitious target to increase their non-oil bilateral trade from the current **USD 48 billion to USD 100 billion (doubling)** by **2030.** The decision was reached during the 1st meeting of the Joint Committee (JC) of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in new Delhi, Delhi

As part of the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, on 1st July 2023, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India launched the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCEM)** and released the guidelines for Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh to eliminate anaemia by **2047**.

- He also kickstarted the distribution of about **3.57 crore Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) cards** in Madhya Pradesh.

➢ 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, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Delhi.**

- The beneficiary or aggregator can be Farmers, rural entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats.

➢ **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** (DPIIT) successfully **organized the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) in New Delhi**.

- **IPRS 2.0, launched on 5th October 2021,** rates industrial parks across 4 pillars: internal infrastructure and utilities, external infrastructure and facilities, business support services, and environmental and safety management.

➢ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd**. (IREDA) held **its 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.**

- Stating that the performance has been outstanding, **the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of IREDA, Shri Pradip Kumar Das 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)

- **Healthy Improvement in Non-Performing Assets (NPA) Ratios :**

3.21% Gross NPA, a significant decrease from 5.21% in FY 22

1.66% Net NPA, showing substantial improvement from 3.12% in FY 22

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

The **App was launched by Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India New Delhi**.

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**.

DAY-NRLM'S strategy is a **360 degree approach** with online marketing initiatives like eSARAS App and Portal and popular on-grounds events like SARAS Melas and Saras Food Festivals and cross- promotion of activities at online and on-ground platforms

➢ The **Startup20 Shikhar summit** organised by the Startup20 Engagement Group under **India's Group of 20 (G20) presidency** began in Gurugram, Haryana.

- During the summit, a startup 20 communique was released, which urged **G20 leaders to raise the joint investment in the global startup ecosystem to 1 trillion US dollars by 2030**.

The Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, **Shri Rohit Kumar Singh** announced a **Tomato Grand Challenge (TGC)** hackathon to invite innovative ideas at various levels of the tomato value chain to ensure the availability of tomato to consumers at affordable prices and help tomato farmers get value for the produce.

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has formulated TGC in collaboration with the **Ministry of Education (Innovation Cell)**.

➢ The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupendra Yadav released the details of new discoveries and new records in Kolkata as per which 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 include 186 taxa that are new to science and 156 taxa that are new distributional records from the country in the year 2022.

The maximum number of **new discoveries has been recorded from Kerala with 14.6% of new species followed by Tamil Nadu (12.6%) and West Bengal (7.6%) came second and third**, respectively.

In **2022**, the highest number of new discoveries recorded in the last 10 years.

➢ The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Sai Hira Global Convention Centre with the theme 'Practice and Inspire' in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh** via video conferencing.

- He underlined that **India has now become one of the top 5 economies in the world and supports the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.**

➢ 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 to** provide direct connectivity from the famous religious place Nathdwara to Udaipur airport.

➢ The **Department of Telecommunications** has established the **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)** to promote

innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology.

- Formation of the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA), a collaborative platform consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and Standards development organizations.
- A grant of **240.51 crores** under the **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)**, has been allocated & it will be used for 2 projects, 6G THz Testbed with Orbital Angular Momentum(OAM), Advance Optical Communication Test Bed

➢ **Mumbai, Maharashtra hosts 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".**

The **RIIG Inception Meeting was held at Kolkata, followed by 4 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** at the newly-built convention centre at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

➢ **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM) scheme with a total outlay of ₹3,70,128.7 crore** for three years **ending March 2025 to** promote the use of nutrient-based, biofertilizers for sustainable agriculture.

The Cabinet approved ₹1,451.84 crore for Market Development Assistance (MDA) for promoting organic fertiliser from Gobardhan Plants and under **the scheme, a subsidy of ₹1,500 per tonne will be provided**.

➢ Union Minister **Smriti Irani** has launched a new scheme to **provide shelter, food** and **legal aid** to **pregnant minor victims** of sexual assault, who have no family support.

Women and Child Development Ministry has approved the proposal for "critical care and support for accessing justice for rape/gang rape survivors and minor girls who get pregnant".

It has been launched with an outlay of Rs 74.10 crore

National crime records Bureau (NCRB) reported **51, 863 cases under the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act in 2021 &** out of total cases, 33,348 cases were reported under sections 3 and 5 of the Act.

➢ 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.**

➢ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will visit **Uttar Pradesh (UP), Chhattisgarh, Telangana,** and **Rajasthan** on July 7 and 8 during which he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of about 50 projects worth around **₹ 50,000 crore**.

➢ The **67th Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) Convention commenced (3 days) in Colombo, Sri Lanka with an aim to strengthen ties between India and Sri Lanka** and serve as a platform to envision a prosperous future for tourism in the region.

- 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 Union Cabinet** cleared the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill**, **introduced in Parliament during the upcoming Monsoon Session, scheduled to begin on July 20** and continue till August 11, 2023.

- **Penalty of up to ₹250 crores could be levied** for each instance of the breach with an **upward revision of ₹500 crores.**

➢ The Union Government has **extended** the **validity** of **coastal regulation zone (CRZ) permission** for infrastructure projects by **3 years, from 7 to 10 years** through an application by the project proponent (any industry/infrastructure project) and with a recommendation for extension by the State Coastal Zone Management Authority.

➢ The **Niti Aayog in India** is creating a framework to set up carbon markets for **renewable energy, green hydrogen, biofuels**, and **clean transportation** with an aim to promote carbon trading between polluting and green sectors and contribute to the funding of environmental and renewable energy projects.

- **According to a report presented at the COP27 climate conference held in Egypt,2022 India had the highest growth rate in carbon emissions** among the major global warming contributors.
- **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%.**

➢ **The Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances** (DAPRG) released **the 3rd edition of the National e-Government Service Delivery Assessment** (NeSDA) 2023 portal **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 Department has successfully released 2 editions of NeSDA study, viz., NeSDA 2019 and NeSDA 2021.

➢ **The Union government has given its nod to sanction Rs 12,911 crore to the Andhra Pradesh (AP) government** to complete the construction works **under phase 1 of the Polavaram project.**

➢ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah** inaugurated a day-long mega conclave "**Strengthening PACS through FPOs**" in New Delhi on July 14, 2023 with an aim of discussing ways to strengthen Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)

The **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is organizing the mega conclave in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Cooperation**.

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development(WCD) has extended the last date of submitting applications for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar till 31st** of August,2023.

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, formerly called the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement, is India's highest civilian honour for children **is given in the fields of Bravery, Sports, Social Service, Science and Technology, Environment, Arts and Culture, and Innovation**, awarded

annually by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

➢ As part of India's G20 presidency, **the third Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting (3 Day event) began in Kevadia, Gujarat.**

➢ The minister of state for external affairs, **V Muraleedharan** addressed the **6th India-Arab collaboration conference** in New Delhi

➢ The **50th GST Council meeting chaired by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** is underway **in New Delhi.**

- **Key Highlights :** Uncooked, unfried & extruded snack palettes brought down from **18 to 5 %**, Fish soluble paste brought down from 18 to 5%, LD slag changed from 18 to 5%, Imitation zari thread brought down from **12% to 5%.**
- The GST Council has decided to **exempt cancer-fighting drugs, medicines for rare diseases,** and **food products** for special medical purposes **from GST tax.**

28% tax will be levied on online gaming, horse racing, and casinos and these will be taxed at full face value.

The Council has also decided to **exempt GST from satellite launch services by private operators.**

- In February, 2023 the **49th GST Council met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman** in New Delhi.

➢ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology **Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated a** 2-day **bankers' awareness workshop at Winter Hall, Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center, Srinagar** 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**.

- The workshop is **organized by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) for officers of the State Bank of India (SBI).**

The **National Statistical Commission (NSC) has constituted 5 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.

- The National Statistical Commission of India is an autonomous body which was formed in June **2005** under the recommendation of the **Rangarajan Commission**.

➢ 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).**

- **Click here to know about state wise details :**

The SDRF has been constituted in each State under **Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.**

The Central Government contributes **75%** to the SDRF in general States and 90% in North-East and Himalayan States.

➢ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Swasthya Chintan Shivir on 14th July, 2023 at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.**

The event was organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.

The sessions will highlight **4 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)**.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari laid the**

foundation stone for 3 NH Projects totalling Rs 2,900 Crore at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

- A total of 87 km of road will be built, with one of those stretching from **Naidupeta to Turpu Kanupur** for 35 km on NH-71, at a cost **Rs 1,399 crore**; another from **Chillakuru Cross to Krishnapatnam Port south** gate via Turpu Kanupur on NH-516W for 36 km at a cost of Rs 909 crore; and from Thamminapatnam to Narikellapalle section, which encompasses the extension of the dedicated port road from **Epuru to Krishnapatnam Port**, on NH-516W and NH-67, stretching up to 16 km and estimated to cost Rs 610 crore.

➢ 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 Dhyanchand National Stadium in New Delhi**.

- He also launched the '**Pass the Ball Trophy Tour' campaign on the occasion.**
- **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, It will be telecasted live on Star Sports, Disney +Hotstar**.

➢ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the National Mega Conclave on Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) in the cooperative sector and released the action plan for the formation of 1100 new FPOs by PACS in New Delhi**.

- The states of **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab have done excellent work in the field of FPOs**.

The **120th anniversary of the India Government Mint has been celebrated in Hyderabad** with **commemorative souvenir coins 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.

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL) Chairman and Managing Director **SK Sinha** released the **commemorative coins.**

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.**
- 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 domestic demand.

➢ The **G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit** in **New Delhi is addressed by** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; **Dr Jitendra Singh.**

- **On the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, July 15, 2023** Education and Skill Development Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan launched AI for India 2.0, a free online training programme on Artificial Intelligence.**
- 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**.
- **Artificial Intelligence Appreciation Day** is celebrated on **July 16 each year** with the aim of honoring artificial intelligence technology's positive contributions to humanity.

➢ 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 1 more month**.

- The **inter-ministerial panel's earlier extended tenure was to end on July 5**.

➢ **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has made history by becoming the **1st Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** in India to **receive certification** for its **Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS)** by the internationally accredited certification body InterCert United States America (USA).

- ONGC was the first organization in India to adopt the Integrity Pact (IP) by Transparency International in **2005**.

➢ The Vice Chairman of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog Suman Bery unveiled the 2nd edition of "**National Multidimensional Poverty Index-A Progress Review 2023, as per this** the **number of persons living in multidimensional poverty in the country has fallen from 24.85% to 14.96%** between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

Its 1st edition was launched in **2021**.

India is on track to achieve SDG Target **1.2** much ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Key Highlights :

❖ 13.5 crores of people have escaped multidimensional poverty in 5 years.

❖ **Uttar Pradesh (UP) 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 rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28% & during the same period, the urban areas saw a reduction in poverty from 8.65% to 5.27%.

❖ NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is based on **3 dimensions** health, education, and standard of living with each having a weightage of one-third in the index.

❖ These dimensions are further based on **12 segments** - nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets, and bank accounts.

Union Defence Minister and Lucknow **MP Rajnath Singh inaugurated and laid the foundation of many development projects i.e. 2 national highway projects worth rupees 3300 crores, Madiaon-IIM Crossing flyover in Lucknow**, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has launched the Curtain Raiser event of Global Maritime India Summit 2023 on 18th July 2023 **at St. Regis, Mumbai, Maharashtra** & the **3rd edition of Global Maritime India Summit** is going to be held on **17-19th October 2023** at Pragati Maidan, **New Delhi.**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **New Integrated Terminal Building of Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair at a cost of around Rs 710 crore via video conferencing to** enhance connectivity infrastructure.

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.

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** celebrated its **95th Foundation Day** on **16 July 2023** 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.
- Starting in **2023**, it has been designated as 'Foundation and Technology Day'

➢ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah will chair the Regional Conference on 'Drugs Smuggling and National Security' in New Delhi**.

- 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 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.

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 with an 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 **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MOSPI) Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES)** set up in **2019** would be replaced by a Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS) **to review All Surveys Conducted Under National Statistical Office (NSO)**.

- **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 move comes after the previous round of household surveys on consumption expenditure and employment was discarded due to concerns about "data quality".

➢ For the first time, India's Union Health Minister **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 in New Delhi** from July 20, 21, 2023.

- This is the first time the summit has been held **outside of Rome, Italy**.
- This summit is an endeavour of the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to create a global platform of food regulators to exchange perspectives on strengthening food safety systems and regulatory framework across the food value chain.
- He released **Food-o-Copoeia**, a collection of food category-wise monographs and a single point reference for all applicable standards for a specific product category detailing quality and food safety standards, labelling and claim requirements, packaging requirements, test methods and any other regulatory provisions as per the Food Safety and Standards Regulations (FSSRs).
- He also launched the common regulators platform **'SaNGRAH' - Safe food for Nations: Global food Regulatory Authorities Handbook.**

➢ **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**.

➢ 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.**

- **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.

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 symposium was aimed at fostering 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

➢ 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, Maharashtra with an aim to** unlock 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).**

- GMIS 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 International Energy Agency (IEA), Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation, in collaboration with the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell** (PPAC) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (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.**

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+.**

➢ **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**.

➢ **Towards revolutionising entrepreneurship across India, Startup20 Engagement Group,** under India's G20 presidency, **collaborated with Jagriti Foundation,** a renowned non-profit organisation to launch Global Yatra, promoting inclusive entrepreneurship across the globe.

- 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.**

➢ 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 **4th Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency.**

- The conference featured in-depth discussions revolving around key themes, such as '**Develop Vibrant EV Ecosystem in States**' and 'the **National Electric Bus Programme.**'

➢ 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**.

➢ **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.**

➢ 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.

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

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.

- **ASCC have 4 componets Communication and Monitoring Centre, Incident Management Centre, Aviation Research Centre, Data Centre.**

➢ 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** with an aim to **enhance the expansion of the UDAN scheme in remote and hilly areas**

- The Summit will be inaugurated **by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel with the theme of "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft"**.

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

- Nursing involves providing healthcare services, monitoring patients, administering treatments, and assisting doctors. Midwifery specifically focuses on providing care to pregnant women before, during, and after childbirth, as well as newborn care. Both roles are critical in healthcare systems.
- He **also introduced The National Dental Commission Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha.**

➢ Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Semicon India 2023'** in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat to showcase **the latest technology related to semiconductors.**

➢ For the skill development of women belonging to minority communities the union government has allocated Rs. 1,251.50 crore since 2019-20 to 2022-23 and **Rs 1,028.81 crore** has been utilized as on March 17, 2023.

- 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 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 at a cost of Rs.650.00 Crore for 5 years with 50% funding from the World Bank**.
- This is the first World Bank-supported programme for minority welfare in this Ministry.

The **Union Government is implementing a Scheme for "Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Power Projects**" in India, under this 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.**

➢ 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 4 years towards the UPU's Development and Technical Assistance** activities through the Asia Pacific Postal Union.
- UPU is a United Nations specialized agency and the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation. It is the second oldest international organization worldwide after the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

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**.

India presently ranks behind China as the world's second-largest manufacturer of textiles and garments.

➢ **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.

➢ On July 24, 2023 Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. **Nirmala Sitharaman presided over the 164th Income Tax Day at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**.

➢ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi inaugurated Gujarat's first Greenfield Airport Hirasar Greenfield International Airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.**

Built over 1500 acres of area for 1,405 crores, the airport has been renamed Rajkot international airport.

➢ The **4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group** (ECSWG) **and Environment and Climate Ministers** meeting began **in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** between July 26 -28, 2023 (3 day event) focused **on 3 key areas - land restoration, circular economy, and blue economy.**

➢ Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel, Shri **Jyotiraditya M Scindia**, **inaugurated the 3 Flight Training Organizations (FTO) in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh** to enhance the potential of the state to be a major contributor to pilots in the aviation industry.

- With the opening of 3 FTOs in Khajuraho, the total number of FTOs in Madhya Pradesh will be 6, 3 at Khajuraho, 1 at Indore, 1 at Sagar, and 1 at Guna.

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 five 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.

➢ 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.

Chhattisgarh-based Coal India subsidiary, South Eastern Coalfields (SECL), **invested Rs. 169 crores on a plantation in its operating States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh** during the next 5 years **from 2023-24 to 2027-28.**

- The **company has recently signed MoU with Chhattisgarh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam (CGRVVN) and Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam** (MPRVVN) for carrying out plantation work in these States.
- As per the **MoU, SECL will spend Rs. 131.52 crore in Chhattisgarh and Rs. 38.11 crore in Madhya Pradesh for plantation work.**

➢ As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah launched a unique initiative 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar'**.

- It is a pan-India initiative of the Ministry of Culture under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping.
- 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, **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 Samriddhi 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)

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023 (02 of 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.**

➢ **Shri Alok Sharma,** Director General Postal Services & Lt Gen **Rajinder Dewan,** Quartermaster General jointly inaugurated **1st Permanent Aadhaar Enrolment Centre (PAEC)** for Army at Central Base Post Office (CBPO), New Delhi on July 25, 2023.

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.

➢ The **Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition** (RECEIC) is **set**

to be launched at a 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.**

➢ The Ministry of Science and Technology organised 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, **Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) , the revamped India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) 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.
- **ITPO** is the nodal agency of the Government of India under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (India) for promoting the country's external trade.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing '**Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (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:

Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)
Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
Support to Tribal Research Institutes
Pre-Matric Scholarship
Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

➢ To boost the trading of **carbon credits in the country, the Ministry of Power has notified the Carbon Credit Market Scheme** 2023 to develop the domestic carbon market as the country aims at decarbonising the economy and has committed to cut emissions by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030.

- 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.

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 3 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.**

➢ **The Centre had announced plans to set up 7 mega textile parks (Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra) under PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel** (PM MITRA) scheme.

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).

➢ 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**, 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.**

➢ The **Lok Sabha passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023** that paves the way for private players to get exploration licences for critical minerals.

The **Bill amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957** which regulates the mining sector.

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.**

➢ 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.**

➢ On the occasion of Global Tiger Day, July 29, 2023, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Ashwini Kumar** released the report. As per this, **India's tiger population** is estimated to be **3,925** with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.

- India currently retains almost **75%** of the world's wild tiger population.
- The largest population of tigers is found to be in **Madhya Pradesh** with 785 tigers, followed by 563 in Karnataka, 560 in Uttarakhand, and 444 in Maharashtra.
- As per the report, the tiger abundance within the Tiger Reserves is the highest with 260 tigers in Corbett followed by 150 in Bandipur and 141 tigers in Nagarhole.

➢ 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** (NIHFW) in Delhi.

➢ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah released the 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' book in Rameshwaram**.

- This book is an English translation of the Tamil book 'Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai'. Written by two people closest to A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, his niece Dr. Nazema Maraikayar and the distinguished ISRO scientist Dr. Y.S. Rajan.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

APRIL MONTH

➢ The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** released the final final report of the **sixth assessment cycle, as per this,** the world is on course to overshoot the **1.5°C global warming threshold**, which will lead to irreversible harm and risks for human and natural climate systems.

➢ **Finland** became the **31st member** of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** on April 4, 2023, when it presented its instrument of accession to the 'North Atlantic

Treaty' (Washington Treaty) with the United States (US) at NATO Headquarters in **Brussels, Belgium.**

➢ The **United States (US) Georgia Assembly** has passed a **resolution condemning Hinduphobia**, making it the **first American state** to take such a legislative measure.

The resolution was introduced by **Representatives Lauren McDonald** and **Todd Jones** from Forsyth County in the suburbs of Atlanta, home to one of the largest Hindu and Indian-American diaspora communities in Georgia

The **United Kingdom (UK)** has signed a **deal** to join a **trade pact** with **11 Asia** and Pacific nations, **3 years** after it officially left the European Union (EU).

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman** has announced the creation of a **new national airline** called **Riyadh Air.**

- Riyadh Air will be Saudi Arabia's **second national carrier** alongside Saudi Arabia.

➢ The **Accession Working Group (AWG)** of the **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)** agreed on the accession of the **United Kingdom (UK)** as the **12th member** of CPTPP.

- With this, the UK became the **first European nation** and the **first non-founding country** to join the CPTPP.

➢ The Union Information and Broadcasting Minister congratulated **Anjali Sharma** of **Kangra district** of **Himachal Pradesh (HP)** for **conquering South Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro** peak wearing a **Gaddi dress (Luanchadi)**.

- Lunachari is a **traditional dress** of **Himachal Pradesh.**
- Mount Kilimanjaro located in Tanzania is **Africa's tallest mountain** and the **world's largest free-standing mountain** (which means it is not part of a mountain range).

➢ **India secured** its position at the elections held for the membership of subsidiary bodies of the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** of the United Nations, which include the **UN Statistical Commission, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,** and the **Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).**

➢ **India** and **Canada** have agreed to make **defence** an **important pillar** of their bilateral relationship.

➢ **Australia** is set to host the **third in-person Quad Leadership Summit** on **May 24, 2023** in **Sydney and t**his will be the **first time** that Australia will host the summit.

The meeting will be attended by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi,** US President **Mr Joe Biden**, Prime Minister **Mr Kishida Fumio** of Japan and Australian Prime Minister **Mr Anthony Albanese.**

This will be the **fourth Quad leaders' summit** and the third held in person, with the most recent in-person meeting hosted by Japan's capital Tokyo in 2022.

QUAD stands for the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** comprising **India, the United States (US), Japan** and **Australia.**

The European Parliament has approved the **Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) regulation,** the **world's first comprehensive set of rules** that aims to bring largely unregulated cryptocurrency markets under government regulation.

The **Chennai (Tamil Nadu) based Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** is set to establish its **first international campus** in **Zanzibar, Tanzania** and plans to start the classes in **October 2023.** This will be the **1st IIT** established in Africa.

India, Japan, and **France** announced a common platform for talks among creditors to address the debt restructuring programme of Sri Lanka, the country that was hit by an unprecedented financial crisis in 2022.

The **Jitgadhi festival** is observed in **Butwal** in the **Rupandehi district of Lumbini Province** to mark the victory over the British government,

then the East India Company, by the Nepal Army.

According to the data of the Ministry of Commerce, the **United States (US)** has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23) at **USD 128.55 billion** followed by **China** in the 2nd position at **USD 113.83 billion**.

- Following China, UAE with US$76.16 billion, was the third largest trading partner of India, Saudi Arabia (US$52.72 billion), and Singapore (US$35.55 billion).

Mongolia's first oil refinery, built and funded with **Indian assistance,** will be completed by **2025**.

- The first stage of Mongol Oil Refinery, built with a **$1.2 billion Indian soft loan**, will be completed at the end of 2023.
- It is being developed by **Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited,** a Hyderabad- based company.

France's Constitutional Council approved an unpopular plan to **raise** the **retirement age** from **62 to 64**, in a victory for President Emmanuel Macron after three months of mass protests over the legislation that has damaged his leadership.

According to the **State of World Population (SOWP) 2023** titled "**8 billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities: the case for Rights and Choices**" published by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), India** overtakes **China** to become the most populous nation in the world, the population of India has grown by **1.56%** in the past year and is estimated to be 142.86 crore.

- The population of China is estimated to be **142.57 crore.**

In a significant **boost** to **reproductive rights, Japan's Health Ministry** has approved the **country's first abortion pill-Mefeego pill pack.** The approval came from the **Health Ministry's Pharmaceutical Board** after it approved the MeFeego Pack abortion pill manufactured by **British pharmaceutical Linepharma.**

Mongolia's first greenfield oil refinery, built in the South Gobi on the outskirts of the capital city - Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by **2025**.

As per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Fact Sheet April 2023 'Trends In World Military Expenditure, 2022', World military expenditure grew for the 8th consecutive year in 2022 by 3.7% in real terms (i.e. when adjusted for inflation) to an all-time high of US$2240 billion.

Top 5 Countries with Highest Military Expenditure in 2022:

Rank	Country	Spending (in US$ billion)
1	United States	877
2	China	292
3	Russia	86.4
4	India	86.4
5	Saudi Arabia	75.0

MAY MONTH

European countries have signed a **declaration** to **transform** the **North Sea** into a **green power plant** during the **second North Sea Summit** held in **Ostend, Belgium** outlines a bold vision that encompasses the generation of a minimum of **120 gigawatts (GW)** of offshore wind power within the North Sea region by the year **2030**.

- **Participant countries:** Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands Norway, and the United Kingdom.
- This declaration is the successor to the Esbjerg declaration, which resulted from the **first summit** in **Denmark** on **May 18, 2022.**

➢ Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister **Shri Devendra Fadnavis** unveiled a **12-feet statue** of **Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** in **Mauritius** to mark the strong bond between the two nations.

➢ According to a **United Nations (UN)** report, some **258 million people** needed **emergency food** aid in 2022 because of conflict, economic shocks and climate disasters, a sharp rise from **193 million** the previous year.

- **More than 40%** of those in serious need of food lived in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Nigeria** and **Yemen.**

➢ As per the report titled "**Global Fintech 2023: Reimagining the Future of Finance**", jointly produced by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and QED Investors, the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region is expected to outpace the United States of America(USA) and become the world's top fintech market by 2030 with a projected **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27%.**

➢ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has **ended** the **global emergency status** of **COVID-19.**

- According to **WHO's Coronavirus Dashboard** which has collated key statistics since early in the pandemic, the cumulative cases worldwide now stand at **765,222,932,** with nearly 7 million deaths: the precise figure currently stands at 6,921,614.
- As of **30 April,2023** a total of more than **13.3 billion vaccine** doses have been administered worldwide.

➢ **Germany** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted** the **Petersberg Climate Dialogue** in Berlin ahead of Conference of the Parties 28 (COP 28).

Ministers from 40 countries attended the conference with the aim of **discussing the way forward towards COP28.**

➢ **WHO (World Health Organisation)** launched a new initiative called **PRET (Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats)** to ensure the world is prepared for future outbreaks like the Covid19 pandemic.

➢ **Pakistan, China** and **Afghanistan** have agreed to forge closer economic ties by extending the **Beijing-backed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan with the aim** of fully exploiting the potential of Afghanistan as a regional connectivity hub.

- Pakistan Foreign Minister **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari**, his Chinese counterpart **Qin Gang** and Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed acting Foreign Minister **Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi** held the **5th China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue.**
- This was the **first foreign ministers' dialogue** between Pakistan, China and Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021.

➢ According to the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO),** India has witnessed **573 disasters** related to extreme weather, climate, and water events between 1970 and 2021.

- These disasters resulted in 1,38,377 deaths and caused economic losses amounting to USD 18.3 billion.

➢ **Germany** announced **2.7 billion euro ($3.0 billion)** of **military aid to Ukraine**, its biggest such package yet since Russia's invasion, and pledged further support for Kyiv for as long as necessary.

The package will include **30 Leopard 1 tanks, 15 Gepard anti-aircraft tanks,** over 200 reconnaissance drones and 4 Iris-T anti-aircraft systems.

➢ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched a **global network** to help **swiftly detect** the threat from **infectious**

diseases, like COVID-19, and share information to prevent their spread.

- The **International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN)** will provide a platform for connecting countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analysing samples.

The decade of the 2080s of Bikram Samvat will be marked as 'the **Visit Nepal decade**' and the year **2025** as the **special year for tourism.**

- This was announced by the President of Nepal Ram Chandra Paudel while presenting the policies and programmes for the fiscal year, 2080/81 at the joint meeting of the federal parliament.

The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** launched a global network named **The International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN)** to help protect people from infectious disease threats like COVID-19 and share the information to prevent their spread through the power of pathogen genomics.

➢ **Ireland** is set to become the first country to introduce **mandatory health warnings on alcohol products with the aim of** raising awareness about the **potential health risks** associated with **alcohol consumption.**

The new regulation has been signed by **Health Minister Stephen Donnelly,** and will take **effect in three years** (May 22, 2026).

➢ After Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue, the bust of **freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar** also known as **Veer Savarkar** will be **unveiled** in the port Luis capital city Mauritius on May 28,2023 **Savarkar's birth anniversary.**

➢ **Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano**, was **erupting**, spewing ash on **Catania, eastern Sicily's largest city**, and forcing a suspension of flights at that city's airport.

➢ **Australian Prime Minister (PM) Mr.Anthony Albanese** announced that **Australia** will now open a **new Consul-General in Bengaluru, Karnataka** in May, 2023 as part of the efforts of the two countries to enhance bilateral ties.

- In May 2023, the opening of the Consulate General in Bengaluru will be the **fifth (5th)** diplomatic mission in India & the others are in **New Delhi (Delhi), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal)**.
- Currently, India has **3 consulates** in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.
- **Brisbane** currently has an **Honorary Consulate of India**.

World's fourth-largest economy and **Europe's largest, Germany,** has entered recession after the **country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** recorded its **second quarterly contraction.**

- The data released by the **Federal Statistical Office** shows **Germany's gross domestic product (GDP), declined** by **0.3%** in the period from January to March, 2023.
- The **inflation rate** in Germany is higher than Europe's average but below that of the **UK's 8.7%.**
- A recession is defined as **two consecutive quarters** of **declining output.**

JUNE MONTH

➢ **Nepal** decided to **allow India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited** to develop a **second hydropower project** in the country.

- Presently, SJVN is developing a **900-MW Arun-III hydroelectric project** which is a run-of-river project located on the **Arun River in Eastern Nepal.**
- Prime Minister (PM) **Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda chaired** a meeting of the **Investment Board Nepal (IBN).**
- This is the **third project** undertaken, all through negotiation windows, on the Arun River after the **900 MW Arun-III** and **695 MW Arun-IV hydroelectricity projects.**

➢ The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** announced that **India** will **host the 22nd annual summit** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** in a virtual format on **July 4, 2023.**

- All the **SCO Member States, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan** have been invited to attend the Summit.
- **Iran, Belarus** and **Mongolia** have been invited as **Observer States.**
- The theme of the Summit is '**Towards a SECURE SCO**' acronym stands for **Security, Economy and Trade, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity and Environment.**

➢ **King of Cambodia, Norodom Sihamoni**, is on his maiden State visit to **India** from the 29th to 31st of May, 2023 & his visit will mark the culmination of the celebrations of the **70th anniversary** of diplomatic relations between India and Cambodia.

- India has extended a grant of **1.5 million dollars** for purchase of demining equipment and has offered a line of credit worth **50 million dollars** for procurement of defence equipment from India.

➢ Iraq's prime minister **Mr Mohammed Shia al-Sudani** announced plans for a **$17 billion regional transportation project** intended to facilitate the flow of goods from Asia to Europe.

The Development Road project will link the Grand Faw Port in Iraq's oil-rich south to Turkey, with plans for **high-speed trains, local industry connections,** and **potentially oil and gas pipelines.**

➢ **India** has joined the **Centralized Laboratory Network (CLN)** which currently has **15 partner facilities** in 13 countries and works to test vaccines that can be used during **pandemic, epidemic disease outbreak.**

CLN is a part of the **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** and the Network is the **largest global group** that has standardised methods and materials for testing.

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has won the bid to **host** the **2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC)** of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).**

- The **2025 WCC** will be held in Abu Dhabi from **October 10-21, 2025.**

➢ **Montana** has become the **first United States (US) state** to **ban** the popular social media app **TikTok** scheduled to take effect **January 1, 2024,**

➢ The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected 5 countries Algeria, Guyana, Sierra Leone, Slovenia** and **South Korea** as **non-permanent members** of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for a **2-year term** starting on January 1, 2024 and serving till December 31, 2025.

- These new members will replace **Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** at present when their 2-year term ends on 31 December 2023.

➢ The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** launched its **3rd cohort** of **4 ocean innovators** to demonstrate the compelling roles of **marine spatial planning (MSP), marine protected areas (MPAs)** and new environmentally and socially sustainable economic activities for a **healthy and resilient ocean.**

- **UNDP's Ocean Innovation Challenge (OIC)** will provide financial, mentoring and incubator support to these 4 ocean innovators, thereby contributing to **Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14 targets 14.2, 14.5 and 14.7).**
- Through its Ocean Promise, UNDP has committed to delivering at least **100 Ocean Innovations by 2030.**

The **Bar Council of India (BCI)** has entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Bar Council of England and Wales and the Law Society of England and Wales for an exchange programme of Lawyers and Law Students for mutual exchange of training and learning** within each other's jurisdiction.

The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has adopted a **draft resolution** introduced by **India** to establish a **memorial**

wall in the UN Headquarters to **honour fallen peacekeepers.**

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador **Ruchira Kamboj** introduced the draft resolution titled '**Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers**' in the UN General Assembly hall.

➢ The **World Bank (WB)** launched its **first dedicated road safety project** in **South Asia** with a **USD 358 million financing agreement** signed in Dhaka with the government of **Bangladesh** to **improve road safety** and **reduce fatalities** and injuries from road crashes in selected cities, high-risk highways, and district roads.

➢ The **Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of India** is the **Chair** of the **Supreme Audit Institutions-20 (SAI20) Engagement Group** under **India's Group of 20 (G20) Presidency.**

- The SAI20 Summit will take place in the state of **Goa** from 12th to 14th June 2023.
- CAG of India **Shri Girish Chandra Murmu** (14th CAG of India) is the **chair** of the SAI20 engagement group under India's G20 presidency.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the supreme audit institution of India, established under **Article 148 of the Constitution of India.**

➢ **India** and **Australia** have decided to expand the negotiations on the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** by including **15 more areas** like agri-tech, critical minerals, space and sports which have never been part of any trade deal that India has been part of.

- For the **first time,** these new segments would become part of a trade pact being negotiated by India.

India, Nepal, and **Bangladesh** have finalised the draft of a **tripartite power trade agreement**, the first of its kind initiative for development to create greater energy connectivity across the neighbourhood.

The **United Nations (UN)** has adopted the **first-ever** legally binding international treaty, **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ treaty),** also known as the "**High Seas Treaty**", to protect the high seas and preserve marine biodiversity in international waters.

- The new treaty is under the **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea**, which came into effect in **1994** before marine biodiversity was a well-established concept.

➢ The **US Green Building Council (USGBC)** and **Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI)** have notified India as a global leader with **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)** Zero green building projects outperforming both the United States and China.

➢ A Kerala-based startup, **Farmers Fresh Zone (FarmersFZ)**, has been selected for the **United Nations (UN) Accelerator Programme** hosted by the **UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).**

➢ **United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Mr Rishi Sunak** has announced that **Britain, UK** will host the **first major global summit** on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) safety.**

- The UK and US are **two of the only three countries** in the world to have a tech industry valued at **more than $1 trillion.**

➢ As per the 2023 World Drug Report released by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2023 (26th June 2023), globally around **296 million people** used drugs in 2021, a 23% increase over the previous decade

➢ **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited** (IFFCO) has **started exporting the world's first Nano urea invented and manufactured indigenously in India, to the US.**

➢ Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi and First Lady of the USA Dr. Jill Biden participated in an event focused on "India**

and USA: Skilling for Future" at the National Science Centre in Washington DC.

- Prime Minister presented 5-point proposals for **energising India-USA collaboration in education and research sector, as follows:**

1. Integrated approach bringing together government, industry and academia
2. Encouraging exchange of Teachers & Students.
3. Organising Hackathons on various subjects between the two countries
4. Mutual recognition of vocational skills qualifications
5. Encouraging visits by people associated with education and research.

➢ **China** and **Pakistan** signed an **agreement** of **$4.8 billion** to set up a **1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant** in **Punjab province.**

- **Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP)** is the **first nuclear power plant** in Pakistan.

➢ **India** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have signed a **Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)** for **Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) with the aim** of promoting **trade facilitation, improving the ease of doing business,** and **encouraging investments**.

- The agreement was formally inked on the sidelines of the **141st/142nd sessions of the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Customs Co-operation Council meeting held** in **Brussels, Belgium.**

➢ The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a United Nations (UN)'s agency for Telecom has approved the **Bharat 6th Generation (6G) vision** framework named "IMT-2030" at its 44th meeting of the ITU-R WP 5D (ITU- Radiocommunication sector Working Party 5D) held in Geneva, Switzerland from June 12 to June 22, 2023.

➢ **India** and **Egypt** elevated their relationship to a '**Strategic Partnership**' as Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** and President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** held wide-ranging talks with a particular focus on **enhancing political** and **security cooperation.**

- This was the **first bilateral visit** by an Indian Prime Minister to Egypt in 26 years.

JULY MONTH

➢ **For the first time since 2010, 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.

➢ 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 fulfill UNESCO dues and arrears, with similar requests anticipated in subsequent years until the total debt of **$619 million** is cleared.

➢ **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, whereas **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.**

➢ **New Zealand** has become the **first country** to **ban** the **thin plastic bags** that supermarket customers use to collect their fruit and vegetables.

➢ **Canada** launched the "**digital nomad strategy**" which will make **temporary arrangements** for **foreigners looking for jobs.**

- The announcement was made during **Collision's technical conference** in **Toronto, Canada.**
- The digital nomad strategy" will allow workers with a foreign employer to stay and work in Canada for up to **6 months.**

For the **first time**, the **26th World Mining Congress (WMC) 2023** was held in **Brisbane, Australia.**

The World Mining Congress (WMC) is a **United Nations (UN)-affiliated independent international organization** promoting the importance of minerals, advancing sustainable mining practices, and contributing to the wellbeing of global society.

➢ **China** launched the country's **first open-source desktop operating system (OS) named OpenKylinm,** an open-source desktop system with the motive to create an independent software system and cut reliance on US technology.

- 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.

The **Taiwanese government** will establish a third **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 '**Quadripartite**' - comprising the **United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** have released the **One Health Priority Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** through a webinar.

- Aim : To guide a variety of stakeholders in generating new evidence to **address antimicrobial resistance,** with a focus on **low- and middle-income countries.**
- Using a mixed-methods approach, global experts identified **5 key pillars** as well as 3 cross-cutting themes, namely gender, vulnerable populations, and sustainability, as follows:Transmission, Integrated surveillance, Interventions, Behavioural insights and change, Economics and policy

➢ **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 **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.**

➢ **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** announced that **India and Tanzania have started trade settlements in local currencies with an aim to promote commerce between both countries**

- India-Tanzania **bilateral trade** has seen very strong growth and stood at **USD 6.4 billion in 2022-23.**
- **18 countries** have opened **special Vostro accounts** with **Indian banks**.

- Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and Canara Bank are operating in Tanzania.

➢ Prime Minister (PM) **Shri Narendra Modi** will be the **chief guest** at the **French Bastille Day Parade in Paris, France**

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

➢ **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).**

- 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.**

➢ According to the United Nations's (UN) **2023 State of Food Security and Nutrition** report, the UN delivered grim news on global food security. **2.4 billion people, approximately 29.6%** of the global population, didn't have constant access to food last year, as many as 783 million faced hunger, and 148 million children suffered from stunted growth.

- 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.

➢ 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.

- 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.

➢ 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.

➢ **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 on 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.
- Black Sea is an **inland sea** between Eastern Europe and Western Asia

➢ **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.

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.

From 2015 to 2021, India lost **33.9 million hectares** of cropped area due to floods and excess rains and 35 million hectares due to drought.

➢ **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.

- 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.

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's 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.
- 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.**

➢ **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.**

➢ **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.
- Recently India has approved the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** with an aim to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in **Quantum Technology (QT).**

➢ **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 with the aim** of bolstering 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.

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 with the aim of** helping power the automotive sector's transition to electric mobility.

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" ie 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.**

➢ **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.

➢ In a significant move, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** announced the launch of the **Unified Payments System (UPI)** in **France** &

with this development, France became the **first European country** to have UPI.

It is to be noted that in 2023, UPI and **Singapore's PayNow** 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.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister for Foreign Trade **Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi** 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 **WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12)** took place from **12 to 17 June 2022** at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

➢ 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.**

STATE NEWS

➢ **The Kerala** Water Resources Minister, **Roshi Augustine, launched a robotic scavenger, Bandicoot, under the Guruvayur Sewerage Project in Thrissur district by the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) to clean sewages in this temple town.**

With this Kerala became the **first state in India** to use robotics to clean all commissioned manholes and drainage.

Bandicoot, developed by Kerala-based **Genrobotics**, had recently bagged **'Kerala Pride' award** at the **Huddle Global 2022 conclave** organised by **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM).**

The **31st edition** of the **New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF)** is being organised by the **National Book Trust (NBT), India,** an autonomous organization under the **Ministry of Education**, Government of India in collaboration with **India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)** from **25th February 2023 to 5th March 2023 (9-day mega fair)** at **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi,** India.

- **France** has been designated as the **Guest of Honor country** at the World Book Fair & **theme** of the 'International Book Fair' is "Elixir of Freedom", to celebrate and remember 75 years of India and its glorious past in honour of the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

➢ Karnataka Chief Minister **Shri Basavaraj Bommai** has confirmed the construction of **India's 1st Marina** which will be constructed at Byndoor in the Udupi district, **Karnataka to promote coastal tourism** in Karnataka.

➢ **For the first time in Indian history, the Irinjadappilly Shree Krishna temple in Kerala's Thrissur district** introduced a **mechanical elephant (Raman)** for performing rituals.

- This was followed by a call taken by the temple to never keep or hire elephants or any other animals for rituals, festivities, or any other purpose, so **People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India** came up with the robotic elephant.
- PETA India is a Mumbai-based **Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)** working to end the abusive treatment of animals.

➢ The Government of **Uttarakhand set** up **India's 1st government 'Mother Milk Bank'**, a facility that will **bring** the **nutrients** of the **mother's milk** to be delivered to the newborn to a greater extent in the state.

- This was announced by the Uttarakhand Health Minister **Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat** during the Amar Ujala's Emerging Leaders of Garhwal

program.

➢ The **Tamil Nadu (TN)** government has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** for implementing **Urban Cooling Programme** in TN to meet the objectives of the **Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change.**

➢ Odisha Steel and Mines Minister **Prafulla Mallick** has informed that **gold mines** have been found at different places in **3 districts of Odisha- Deogarh.**

➢ **Asia's longest-ever cycle race** was flagged off from **Bakshi Stadium** in **Srinagar (J&K)** and will culminate at **Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu (TN).**

- The route for this cycle race will be the longest highway covering the **National Highway-44** of **3651 kilometres** passing through 12 major states, 3 major metropolitan cities and over 20 major cities of the country.

Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched a unique scheme namely **Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana** to enhance **women's economic independence** at **Jamboree Maidan** in **Bhopal, MP.**

- Women from 23 to 60 years of age who have less than 5 acres of land or an annual income of less than **₹2.5 lakhs** are eligible to get the benefits (**Rs 1000 per month**) of Laadli Behna yojana.

➢ The **Group 20 (G20) delegates** visited the **Sultanpur National Park,** formerly known as Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, located in the **Gurgaon district** in **Haryana** which is one of the **75 Ramsar sites** in the country.

➢ Union Minister **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** and 4 Sikkim ministers released a unique cover of the **Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic'** for **Sikkim**.

- This release is a tribute to the rich culture of Sikkim and its contributions to the country's **agriculture sector.**

Odisha Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Naveen Patnaik** unveiled **former CM Biju Patnaik's iconic "Dakota" DC3 (AT-AUI) aircraft** for public display at Biju Patnaik International Airport Bhubaneswar.

'Manipur's version of Holi', **Yaoshang festival, annually** celebrated during the full moon of Lamta (February–March) in the Meitei lunar calendar, began on 7th March 2023 and will continue on 11th Mar 2023 for 5 days in **Manipur**.

Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister (CM) Shri **Yogi Adityanath** has decided to **exempt road tax** and **registration fees** on the **purchase of Electric Vehicles (EVs)** for **3 years** from the 14th of October 2022, to promote **electric vehicles.**

- As per the **Uttar Pradesh Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Mobility Policy 2022, 100**% tax exemption will be given on electric vehicles (EV) sold and registered in Uttar Pradesh from October 14, 2022, to October 13, 2025.

Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** declared **Tehsil Mauganj of Rewa district** as the **53rd district** of MP.

Attukal Pongala also known as the **'Women's Sabarimala'**, arguably the **largest festival of women** in the world, began at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

- The festival made it to the **Guinness Book of World Records** in **2009** for being the largest religious gathering of women on a single day when around **2.5 million** of them participated in its rituals.

➢ The Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) **Shri M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the **Keeladi Museum** in **Sivaganga district,** Madurai, **TN** to showcase the **history of Tamils,** their heritage and culture and the exhibits kept in the facility include earthenware and brick structures.

➢ A **tiger** and **tigress** were reintroduced in the **Madhav National Park (MNP)** in **Madhya Pradesh's (MP) Shivpuri district after 27 years**

in a bid to revive the big cat population in the area.

- The tiger was transferred from **Satpura Tiger Reserve,** and the tigress was shifted from **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** in MP.
- The translocation of the two big cats took place to mark the birth anniversary of former Union Minister **Shri Madhavrao Scindia,** the father of Jyotiraditya Scindia.

➢ In **Maharashtra**, a new initiative called '**beggar-free city**' has been started in **Nagpur**.

- It is a joint venture of the **Nagpur City Police** and the Social Welfare Department of the **Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).**
- According to government data, **West Bengal has the highest number of beggars followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.**

➢ **Uttarakhand Agriculture Minister Ganesh Joshi launched India's first programme to protect sericulturists, Resham Keet Bima" scheme** has become **India's first state** to launch the to protect its **sericulturists**.
With this launch, Uttarakhand became the first Indian state to launch a Silkworm Insurance Scheme under which crop insurance will be provided to all farmers cultivating silkworms to produce silk.

➢ The **Odisha** government has approved **Rs 500 crore** to launch a new scheme **Livelihoods Cluster Development initiative** for **tribal people** under the '**Mukhya Mantri Janajati Jeebika Mission.**'

- The scheme will be implemented in **119 tribal sub-plan (TSP) blocks** of the state through **22 integrated tribal development agencies (ITDAs)** utilising a total outlay of **Rs 500 crore** over a period of **3 years** (2023-24 to 2025-26).
- This new initiative will supplement the Odisha government's vision of improving the lives and livelihoods of the tribal communities in the state by enhancing their **economic power** and **strengthening their sources of livelihood.**

➢ On International Women's Day (Mar 8, 2023), the **Kerala** government unveiled **major schemes** to **support women entrepreneurs** in the State including the raising of the loan limit for women under the **'We-Mission Kerala' initiative** of **Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC)** to **Rs 50 lakh** from Rs 25 lakh with a 5% interest from April 1, 2023.

➢ **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** Governor **Shri Mangubhai Patel** inaugurated the **3rd Divya Kala Mela** at **Bhopal, MP** organised by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, this divine art fair will run till 21 March 2023

- For the **first time,** Divya Kala Mela is being organised in **Madhya Pradesh** after **Delhi** and **Mumbai**.

➢ The **Rajasthan** government approved the setting up of **India's first Behavioural lab** at **Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration (HCM-RIPA), Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.**

➢ The **Bumchu Festival** was celebrated in the **Tashiding Monastery,** located in the state of **Sikkim** on March 07, 2023.

➢ The government of **Uttarakhand** has given approval to the **10% horizontal reservation** to the statehood activists in the **state government job.**
This decision has been taken in the cabinet meeting **chaired** by Chief Minister **Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami** in Bharadisain.

➢ The **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)** is organising a **two-day Group-20 (G20)-themed flower festival** at Central Park, Connaught Place, in the national capital, **New Delhi, Delhi, India**

- The flower festival, themed '**Colour and Vibrancy**', was inaugurated by Union Minister of Labour and Employment **Shri Bhupender Yadav.**

➢ **Rajasthan** Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Ashok Gehlot** has announced the **formation** of **19 new districts** and **3 new divisions** in the state.

- 19 new districts: Apoongarh, Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Dudu, Gangapur City, Kekri, Kotputli-Behror, Jaipur North, Jaipur South, Jaipur East, Jaipur West, Khairthal-Tijara, Neem ka Thana, Phalodi, Slumber, Sanchore and Shahpura.
- The 3 new divisions will be in **Banswara, Pali** and **Sikar.**

Haryana Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Manohar Lal Khattar** launched **Deen Dayal Updadhyay Antyodaya Parivar Suraksha Yojana (DAYALU) scheme** to provide financial assistance in case of death (natural or accidental) or permanent disability in respect of a member of a family having an annual income less than **Rs 1.80 lakh.**

India's first carbon neutral Village is being developed in Bhiwandi Taluka of Thane district, **Maharashtra** to minimize carbon emissions and promote sustainable practices for a cleaner and greener environment.

- Palli village in Jammu has become the **first carbon neutral village** in the country.

➢ The **Delhi** government is likely to announce a **mohalla bus scheme** for last-mile connectivity in the upcoming **Budget 2023-24**, among several new initiatives to **modernise transport infrastructure** in the Capital.

➢ West Bengal (WB) Chief Minister (CM) **Mamata Banerjee** inaugurated the flagship project named '**Pathashree-Rastashree**' in **Singur, WB** to **strengthen road infrastructure** and enhance connectivity to villages by constructing 12,000 km of roads in 22 districts of WB.

- Notably, the project was **announced by** state finance minister **Shri Chandrima Bhattacharya** while presenting the Budget in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on February 15, 2023.

➢ **The Government of Maharashtra** has decided to launch the **second phase** of **Jalyukt Shivar project, a** scheme that targets **drought-prone areas** by Undertaking water conservation measures.

- **Aim:** To make the state drought-free by **removing water scarcity** in **5000 villages per year.**
- In the first phase, planned during **2015 – 2019**, Jalyukta Shivar envisaged making 5,000 villages drought-free, every year.
- The 'Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyaan' was started in **2014**.

➢ The **Government of Tamil Nadu (TN)** will notify **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary,** spread over **80,567 hectares** in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in **Erode district**, as the **18th wildlife sanctuary** in TN.

- It will include 4 reserve forest areas in **Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai and Chennampatti.**
- Tamil Nadu's **17th Wildlife Sanctuary: Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary**

➢ The **Odisha** government has declared the **Gandhamardan hill (Gandhamardan Reserve Forest)**, spanning 18,963.898 hectare over 6,532.098 ha (Balangir) and 12,431.8 ha Bargarh districts, as the **3rd biodiversity heritage site (BHS)** of Odisha by giving it the status of a unique, ecologically fragile ecosystem having rich biodiversity.

A notification issued by the **state forest and environment department** stated the status was accorded as per section 37 of the **Biodiversity Act and Rule 20(2)** of the **Odisha Biodiversity Rules, 2012.**

Gandhamardan Hills has become the 37th biodiversity heritage site of India.

The **Mandasaru gorge** in Kandhamal district was notified as the **1st** such site in Odisha in **2019**, followed by **Mahendragiri hills** in Gajapati district in **2022**.

Biodiversity heritage sites are well-defined areas under the **National Biodiversity Authority** that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems – terrestrial, coastal, and inland waters and, marine having a rich ecosystem.

➢ The **13-day tulip festival** organised by the **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)** was held in **New delhi.**

- About **1.2 lakh tulip bulbs**, nearly double of last year's 65,000 – have been imported from the Netherlands this time and planted in Chanakyapuri and other areas in central Delhi.

➢ **India's 1st PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park** for the **textile industry** was launched at E. Kumaralingapuram in **Virudhunagar district** of **Tamil Nadu.**

- With a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) inked between the State and the Center, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Shri **MK Stalin** and Union Textiles Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal** jointly launched the park.
- The other 6 parks will come up in Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP) under the **Rs 4,445 crore** PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) **scheme**.

The **Indira Gandhi Tulip Garden, Asia's largest tulip garden, opened** to the public, nestled between Dal Lake and the Zabarwan hills in **Srinagar**, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

- The Tulip festival is an **annual Spring festival** to increase tourism of the Government of J&K.
- The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, formerly known as **Siraj Bagh** was inaugurated in **2008** by Jammu and Kashmir's then-chief minister, **Ghulam Nabi Azad.**
- J&K was a state of India until August 2019, which was bifurcated to form two union territories namely Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on 31 August 2019.

➢ Odisha Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Naveen Patnaik** unveiled the **renovated Dakota DC-3 aircraft** of former chief minister **Biju Patnaik** for **public viewing** at the Biju Patnaik International Airport Bhubaneswar.

➢ The Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN), **Shri M.K. Stalin**, released the **Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Plan, 2023,** which lists out **action plans** to undertake in case of various **natural** and **human-made disasters.**

- **Aim:** To develop a new culture of prevention, preparedness and rapid response for the management of disasters.
- The plan lists **detailed action plans** to deal with disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis, floods, urban flooding, industrial and chemical disasters, biological and public health emergencies, nuclear and radiological disasters and fire.

➢ The **Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP)** and **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), Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)** and **PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)** launched the **Uttar Pradesh Gunvatta Sankalp** (Uttar Pradesh Quality Mission) at **Lucknow, UP.**

- This is the **first of its kind initiative** being organised by QCI in India in partnership with a State, focuses on **4 key pillars:**

Quality as a driver of the USD 1 trillion economy
Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
Healthcare services
Education and vocational training

➢ The Principal Bench of the **National Green Tribunal** in New Delhi has slapped a penalty of **₹10 crore** on the **Kerala** government for its **failure** to **check** the **indiscriminate pollution** of the **Vembanad** and **Ashtamudi lakes** (listed as Ramsar sites).

- The Bench was led by its chairperson **Adarsh Kumar Goel.**
- NGT is a special body established under the **National Green Tribunal Act (2010) with an aim** to effectively and expeditiously deal with cases related to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

➢ **Himachal Pradesh (HP)** has become the **1st state** in India to begin the commercial cultivation of **Liquorice (Mulethi) (Glycyrrhiza glabra)** with the distribution of planting material among the farmers by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)- Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT).

➢ The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala launched Nandi - NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System portal New Delhi.**

➢ The Rajasthan assembly had cleared a bill named '**Right to Health**' (which was passed in September 2022), becoming the first state in India.

- The RTH bill gives every resident of the state a right to avail **free Outpatient Department (OPD) services** and **In Patient Department (IPD) services** at all the public healthcare facilities.
- The Bill intends to, "provide protection and fulfilment of rights and equity in health and well-being under **Article 47** (Duty of the state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health) of Constitution of India and to secure the Right to Health as per the expanded definition of **Article 21** (Protection of life and personal liberty)".

➢ The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has approved **capital investment proposals of Rs. 56,415 crores in 16 States in the current financial year. Approval has been given under the scheme entitled 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24'.**

- Under the scheme, special assistance is being provided to **the State Governments in the form of 50-year interest free loan up to an overall sum of Rs. 1.3 lakh crore during the financial year 2023-24.**

➢ 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.

- The initiative, which involves an investment of approximately **Rs 3.6 crore**, was inaugurated by the outgoing Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu

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 with an aim to promote and prioritise quality across various sectors in odisha.

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.

- Aim: 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.**

➢ A team of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** discovered **India's biggest natural arch, formed** 184 million years ago, found during their survey of coal in Kenduadihi block in Odisha's Sundargarh district.

- 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**.

➢ Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** launched **India's first Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) Chatbot to ensure 24X7 services of health counselors** 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.

Tele-MANAS is a **two-tier system.**

Tier 1 comprises **State Tele MANAS cells,** which includes trained counsellors and mental health specialists.

Tier 2 comprises specialists at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation and/or eSanjeevani for audio visual consultation.

The **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** government is planning to **set up micro diaries of Indian cow breeds** to **promote indigenous industries, crops,** and **livestock.**

- Aim: To **increase milk production** and **preserve indigenous cow breeds** such as Sahiwal, Tharparkar, and Gir and raise the income of economically weak cattle herders.
- The government will provide Rs 40,000 for the purchase of indigenous cow breeds under the Nand Baba Milk Mission, which has the mandate to augment dairy production.

➢ 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 with an aim to provide **financial stability to workers**, helping 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.**

➢ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched '**Ama Pokhari' Yojana** to rejuvenate around 2,000 large water bodies in all 115 urban local bodies of the state.

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.

Rs 120 crore has been allocated to the implementation of the initiative.

➢ Tourism Minister **Atishi** inaugurated the **32nd Annual Mango Festival (3-day festival)** at **Dilli Haat, Janakpuri** organised by **Delhi Tourism** in association with **Delhi government.**

The **last mango Festival** in Delhi was held in **2019**.

The Mango Festival is a unique initiative by the Kejriwal 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.

➢ **Odisha Television Limited (OTV)** has introduced India's **& Odisha's first artificial intelligence (AI) news anchor named Lisa** signifies a **new era in television journalism** in a ceremony held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- It is developed by the media house in collaboration with a **Mumbai, Maharashtra based startup**, Lisa has the potential to speak in multiple languages.
- Odisha Television (OTV) is the **first private Electronic Media in Odisha.**

➢ **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.**

The **Gujarat** Government launched the **revamped Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Mukhyamantri Amrutam (PMJAY-MA) scheme**, under which people can avail free medical treatment up to **Rs 10 lakh** instead of the previous limit of Rs 5 lakh.

- PMJAY is popularly known as Ayushman Bharat, MA stands for the state government's Mukhyamantri Amrutam (MA) scheme, which was merged with the central health scheme.

➢ **Odisha** Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, approved the **4,000 crore "Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha (Our Odisha, New Odisha)" scheme** for taking up measures to argument rural infrastructure leading to accelerated growth as well as to Promote, Preserves and Protect Jagannath culture and tradition of Odisha.

➢ The **National Law University (NLU), Delhi** launched **Eklavya – a 'Research Affiliate' programme**, under its new academic initiatives to strengthen NLU Delhi's commitment to collaboration by involving individuals without traditional law degrees and drawing upon their expertise and diverse perspectives.

➢ The Rajasthan cabinet chaired by Chief Minister (CM) Shri **Ashok Gehlot** introduced the **Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023** aimed to provide **social security** to individuals and households of Rajasthan.

- The bill focuses on three main areas: the right to minimum guaranteed income, the right to guaranteed employment, and the right to guaranteed social security pension.

➢ **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.**

➢ A terrifying "**shelf cloud**" **OR** "**Arcus cloud**" a type of **low-lying, horizontal cloud formation** characterized by a clearly defined line of solid clouds appeared in **Uttarakhand's Haridwar.**

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

The Odisha cabinet also approved Inclusion of **Kui language** in the **8th schedule of the Constitution of India** will help in the preservation, promotion, and propagation of the Kui language and culture.

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.

➢ The **Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP)** approved the construction of **2 "Obra D" thermal power projects** in **Sonbhadra's Obra**, each to be rated at **800 megawatt (MW)** and costing Rs 18,000 crore with an aim to provide **cheaper electricity** to the people of UP.

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.**

➢ 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 **Assam** government has decided to **ban packaged drinking water bottles** of **less than one litre** from October 2, 2023 & 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 1 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'.**
- PET is a **type of polyester** that is widely used in the **production of plastic bottles, films,** and other products.

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** called **'Just Ask/Khulke Poochho'** 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 **aged between 15 to 29 years.**

- It features two aspiring role models, **Dhruv,** and **Drishti**, who communicate information in a simple and relatable manner.

➢ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Bhupesh Baghel** launched an ambitious **rural housing scheme** named **Gramin Awas Nyay Yojana with an aim** to **provide affordable** and **quality housing** to the marginalised sections of society in Chhattisgarh.

The eligibility rules are based on **Socio-Economic Survey 2011 (officially called Socio-Economic and Caste Census – SECC 2011).**

He also announced to raise the Dearness Allowance (DA) of around **5 lakh state government employees** by 4%.

➢ 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.

- Customers who bought electric vehicles after October 14 in the state will be eligible for claiming such subsidies.
- 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).**

➢ 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 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%.**

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 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 (Delivery partners** for food aggregators such as Swiggy or Zomato) typically in the service sector as an independent contractor or freelancer.

Delivery partners for food aggregators such as Swiggy or Zomato are gig workers.

➢ **Kerala** got the **country's first Construction Innovation Hub (CIH)** that seeks to **promote affordable** and **sustainable building facilities** 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) (founded in 1976 & functioning in 70 countries),** 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.

➢ **Government of Telangana** and **World Economic Forum (WEF)** launched **'Saagu Baagu' (agriculture advancement)** project phase-I Insights report in Telangana with an aim to provide Artificial Intelligence based agritech services to farmers in Telangana.

WEF reports **Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Innovation (AI4AI)** (is a collaboration initiative between the Government of Telangana and WEF.) which has benefited over 7,000 chilli farmers in Khammam district of Telangana.

The project was initiated in **2022** and is being implemented by Digital Green (in consortium with three agritech startups) with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

➢ The **4th** and **final Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) meeting** under **India's G20 or Group of 20 Presidency** was held in **Goa under the chairmanship of 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.

(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.

➢ 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 with an 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.

➢ **In Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**, the farmers in various districts also received the **14th installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi yojana in their bank accounts**.

➢ 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.**

- Former Sikkim CM **Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling** holds the record of being the **longest-serving Chief Minister** in the country.

➢ 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.**

➢ The **Chhattisgarh government** has signed a **10 year 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.**

➢ In a significant move towards environmental conservation, the State **government of Tamil Nadu (TN)** has signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **United Kingdom (UK)** to establish a botanical garden in Chengalpattu, TN to promote biodiversity, preserve endangered plant species, and enhance public awareness about the importance of ecological conservation.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

APRIL MONTH

➢ **DBS Bank India** has launched an innovative investment solution, '**digiPortfolio**', on its digibank platform, which uses both technology and human expertise to create a set of investment options curated by **Morningstar** that match the risk preferences of different investors.

➢ The capital markets regulator, **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** imposed **restrictions** on placement of bids, price and volume on companies going for **buyback** of securities through **stock exchange route**.

- At present, companies have the provision of both the **stock exchange** and **tender offer** for the **share buyback.**
- Under this, a company could not buy more than **25%** of the average daily trading volume (in value) of its shares or other specified securities in the **10 trading days** preceding purchases.

➢ **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has directed all **investors** to **link** their **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** with their **Aadhaar numbers** by **March 31, 2023** for the continuation of seamless transactions in the securities market.

➢ Walmart-owned fintech company **PhonePe** has launched a new consumer-facing application, **Pincode**, which will be integrated into **India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) framework.**

- Starting with Bengaluru,Karnataka the app Pincode will launch in **6 major categories** including grocery, food, pharma, electronics, home decor and fashion.
- ONDC, is a private **non-profit Section 8 company** established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)** of Government of India to develop open e-commerce.

➢ **Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. (KVB)** has entered into a pact with **SBI Life Insurance** to **market** the **insurance schemes** through its branches.

➢ **HDFC Bank** has launched a **Regalia Gold Credit Card,** a super-premium credit card in its Regalia range of credit cards for travel & lifestyle needs.

- A Regalia Gold credit card will be available to **high-income individuals.**

➢ India's largest lender, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, has once again **extended** the **SBI "WECARE" Senior Citizens' Term Deposit programme** till **30 June 2023.**

The Deposit program was introduced in **May 2020** with an initial maturity date of **September 2020.**

Key Features : **Eligible** - Customers Senior Citizens, **Type of Deposit** - Domestic Term Deposit, **Period of Deposit**- Minimum- 5 years & Maximum- 10 years, **Payment of Interest** - Monthly or yearly interest payments are made on term deposits.

➢ **SBM Bank India**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of foreign lender State Bank of Mauritius (SBM), has **blocked** the **corporate credit cards** it offered in partnership with several fintech players in India following a **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** diktat to update their '**know your customer**' **(KYC) details.**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rejected** all bids received for the **91-day Treasury bill (T-bill)** for the **first time since February 2016.**

T-bills are **short-term, zero coupon debt instruments** issued by the government that are currently issued in **3 tenors - 91-day, 182-day** and **364-day** and pay no interest.

The RBI had auctioned **₹9,000 crore** of the 91-day T-bill, **₹16,000 crore** of the 182-day T-bill, and **₹14,000 crore** of the 364-day T-bill.

➢ **Public sector banks (PSBs)** could recover only **14%** of the **written-off loans** worth **Rs 7.34 lakh crore** in the last 5 years ending March 2022

- Of Rs 7.34 lakh crore written-off loans, state-owned lenders recovered **Rs 1.03 lakh crore.**

➢ **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has increased the upper age limit by 5 years to **70 years**.

- As per the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Redressal of Subscriber Grievance) Regulations 2015, the upper age limit was 65 years.

➢ The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced a donation of **₹48 lakh** for the tree **plantation** of **32,000 tree saplings** at Garden City University, **Bengaluru**, in association with an NGO, That's Eco Foundation, as part of its corporate social responsibility under **Miyawaki Technique.**

➢ The **Union Ministry of Finance** has **increased** the **interest rates** on various **small savings schemes** between **10-70 basis points (bps)** for the first quarter (Q1) of the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) starting from **April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.**

- This is the **third time** in the past 9 months that the interest rates on small savings schemes have been increased.
- The interest rates on small savings schemes range from **4.0%** to **8.2%** for **April-June 2023**.

Small savings schemes Interest rate :

Savings Scheme	Interest rate Oct-Dec	Interest rate Jan-March	Interest rate Apr-June
Post Office Savings Account	4.00%	4%	4%
Post Office Recurring Deposit	5.80%	5.8%	6.2%
Post Office Monthly Income Scheme	6.70%	7.1%	7.4%
Post Office Time Deposit (1 year)	5.50%	6.6%	6.8%
Post Office Time Deposit (2 years)	5.70%	6.8%	6.9%
Post Office Time Deposit (3 years)	5.80%	6.9%	7.0%
Post Office Time Deposit (5 years)	6.70%	7.0%	7.5%
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7% (123 months)	7.2% (123 months)	7.5% (115 months)
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.10%	7.1%	7.1%
Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana	7.60%	7.6%	8.0%
National Savings Certificate	6.80%	7.0%	7.7%

Senior Citizens' Saving Scheme (SCSS)	7.60%	8.00%	8.2%

➢ **Axis Bank,** India's third largest private sector bank and **Shriram Housing Finance Limited (SHFL)**, a leading Affordable Housing Finance Company, announced a strategic partnership under the **co-lending model** through the **Yubi Co.Lend platform.**

- Through this partnership, both lenders will offer secured **MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Loans** and Home Loans to the middle and low-income segment borrowers based in rural and semi-urban regions.

➢ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), under the ownership of the Department of Post, the Ministry of Communications, has partnered with New Delhi-based Bharti Airtel Limited to launch **WhatsApp Banking Services** for **IPPB customers** in **New Delhi**, enabling them to access banking services on their mobile phone.

➢ **India's fiscal deficit** for **FY23** touched **14.54 trillion rupees** in the **11 months** through February - nearly **83%** of annual estimates.

- **Net tax receipts** through February were **17.32 trillion rupees** or 83% of the annual estimate and **17% higher than last year**, per the data.

Ambit Finvest has partnered with **SKALEUP**, the digital technology services arm of **Bajaj Finserv Direct,** to develop a **D2C (direct-to-customer) instant loan application** to give **business loans** to **MSME (Micro Small & Medium Enterprises)** business owners through a completely paperless and automated digital onboarding process.

- SKALEUP is the digital technology services arm of the company, and will enable platform development for Ambit Finvest.

➢ The world's second-largest steelmaker, **ArcelorMittal**, announced that **AMNS Luxembourg Holding SA**, the parent company of **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India)**, has entered into a **$5 billion loan agreement** with a consortium of **Japanese banks** to finance the company's expansion plans in India.

The agreement is with the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), MUFG Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Mizuho Bank** and **Mizuho Bank Europe N.V.**

AM/NS India was the **5th largest producer** of **crude steel** in **India** & it is a **60:40 joint venture** between **ArcelorMittal** and **Nippon Steel Corporation.**

➢ According to the data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) India's current account deficit (CAD),** which is the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange, has narrowed to **$18.2 billion or 2.2%** of **Gross domestic product (GDP)** in the October to December quarter (Q3FY23) from 4.4% of the GDP in the quarter ending September.

➢ Public sector lender Union Bank of India (UBI) became the first Indian Bank to open its 'Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA)' in Malaysia to facilitate transactions between India and Malaysia in the Indian rupee.

- This will be done through the UBI's corresponding bank in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM).
- As per UBI, the total trade between India and Malaysia reached US$19.4 billion in FY22,

Geojit Credits, a subsidiary of **Kochi-based Geojit Financial Services, a non-banking** financial company (NBFC), announced the **launch** of '**Loan Against Mutual Fund' (LAMF).**

Through this, investors can avail of **quick** and **hassle-free loans** starting at **Rs 10,000** in **100% digital mode.**

➢ **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)**, a premier public sector bank in the country, has

inaugurated its **first dedicated Branch** for **start-ups** at **Pune, Maharashtra**, providing all kinds of support to a startup during its growth journey.

➢ The **State Bank of India (SBI),** the country's largest financial institution, announced the launch of its **coffee table book** ' **The Banker to Every Indian,**' which celebrates 75 years of India's independence and SBI's glorious 200-year history.

- The book is a **tribute** to the **spirit of India's independence** and the Bank's contribution to nation-building & it showcases ethics, technological advancements, and transformation with the important initiatives undertaken by the Bank.

➢ **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Ltd (ABHICL)**, a part of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd.'s (ABCL) health insurance joint venture, announced a **bancassurance collaboration** with public sector lender **UCO Bank** for the distribution of **health insurance products** through the bank's branches across India.

This partnership will enable ABHICL to expand its national footprint by leveraging UCO Bank's widely distributed network of 3,164 branches and reaching out to more than 40 million customers across India.

Godrej Capital Limited, the financial services arm of the Godrej Group has signed a strategic **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to strengthen their partnership, where the bank would provide various **financial products** and **offerings.**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) announced that **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (GIC Re),** and **New India Assurance Co** are still considered **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for the financial year 2022-23.

Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, in partnership with **Visa** announced the launch of an app '**Digital Dukaan**', a comprehensive digital offering that will **empower merchants** to accept payments through various digital modes and also enable them to manage their day-to-day business digitally.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the framework for the **acceptance** of **green deposits** by **regulated entities (RE)** to promote and develop a green finance ecosystem in India.

- The framework will come into effect on **June 1, 2023.**
- **Aim** : To **encourage regulated entities (RE)** to "offer green deposits to customers, protect interest of the depositors, aid customers to achieve their sustainability agenda, address greenwashing concerns and help augment the flow of credit to green activities/projects".
- **Applicability** : The framework is applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks, including Small Finance Banks, excluding Regional Rural Banks, Local Area Banks and Payments Banks and all deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), including Housing Finance Companies.
- A green deposit refers to an **interest-bearing deposit** received by an RE (Regulated Entity) for a fixed period, with the proceeds earmarked for allocation towards green finance.

➢ To bring transparency in expenses and curb mis-selling, Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has asked **alternative investment funds (AIFs)** to provide an option of "**direct plan**" for investors and introduced a trail model for distribution commission, will be applicable for onboarding from **May 1, 2023.**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has planned to launch a secured web-based centralized **portal** named **'PRAVAAH' (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And Authorization)** to simplify and streamline application processes.

The portal will show **time limits** for deciding on the applications/approvals sought.

➢ The **State Bank of India (SBI)** is planning to launch new variants of **current account** (with balances of **₹50,000** and **₹50 lakh**) and "**Parivar" (family) savings account** in FY24 to minimise the gap between deposit growth and credit growth to reduce the gap between deposit growth and credit growth.

➢ Multilateral funding agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** proposes to **subscribe non-convertible debentures** worth **₹ 150 crore** of **Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL)**, to enhance Delhi's power distribution through grid enhancements.

- Besides, ADB agreed to provide a **$2 million grant** to partially finance the purchase and integration of a pilot **battery energy storage system (BESS).**
- The grant to finance the BESS is provided by **Goldman Sachs and Bloomberg Philanthropies' Climate Innovation and Development Fund (CIDF)** and administered by ADB.
- The **10-megawatt-hour (MWh) BESS** is **South Asia's first grid-scaled energy storage project** at the distribution transformer level & it will enable electricity to be stored and delivered on demand, reducing grid instability, and providing the flexibility to integrate intermittent solar and wind energy resources.
- In 2022, the power ministry targeted battery storage capacity of 4% of total electricity consumption by 2030 & to reach that goal, India would need a total battery energy storage capacity of **182 gigawatt-hours by 2030.**

➢ India's homegrown payments system, **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, recorded its **highest-ever number** of **transactions** at **8.7 billion, worth Rs 14.05 trillion** in **March 2023.**

- This was the highest number since the **inception** of **UPI**.
- UPI had processed 8 billion transactions for the first time in January, 2023.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has developed a **software application**, known as '**APConnect**' for processing applications related to licencing of **Full-Fledged Money Changers (FFMCs)**, non-bank Authorised Dealers (AD) Category-II, authorisation as **Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) Agent,** renewal of existing licences/authorisations, for seeking approval and submission of various statements/returns.

➢ As part of its ease of banking initiative for customers, **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has launched a **digitised personal loan** for customers in select regions & **enhanced** its **WhatsApp banking** with the addition of "apply for loan" and "loan balance inquiry features"

- The existing customers in **Pune region** (Pune West, Pune City & Pune East), **Bengaluru, Kolkata, Patna** and **Chandigarh** can avail loan up to **₹20 lakhs** through digitised medium.
- To add to the customer delight, the bank came up with features for its **Visa** and **Rupay Debit Cards.**

The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** has emerged as the **second most preferred method** of **repaying digital loans,** coming at **27%,** only after **e-NACH or electronic National Automated Clearing House** which was the preferred route for **36%** of the borrowers.

- **Unforeseen medical** and **monthly expenses** were the top two reasons found for availing of short-term digital credit followed by shopping, home renovation, and education, among others, which reflects the need for unsecured and accessible digital credit products.
- **Bengaluru** led among cities for **credit demand** followed by Hyderabad, Pune, Ghaziabad, and Gurugram. West Bengal, Punjab, Gujarat, Assam, and Kerala were the States from which millennials with the highest bureau scores have availed credit.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that the a leading banking institution in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** "**Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank PJSC" (ADCB)** has been **excluded** from the **Second Schedule** to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.

- The Second Schedule to the Act lists the banks that are eligible to operate in India and outlines their respective regulatory requirements.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India** has **revised** the **regulatory framework** for **urban co-operative banks (UCBs),** prescribing minimum net worth of **₹2 crore** for Tier 1 UCBs and ₹5 crore for all other UCBs (of all tiers)

UCBs that currently do not meet the minimum net worth requirement, as above, shall achieve the minimum net worth of ₹2 crore or ₹5 crore (as applicable) in a phased manner.

Such UCBs shall achieve at least **50%** of the applicable minimum net worth on or before **March 31, 2026** and the entire stipulated minimum net worth on or before March 31, 2028.

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

- The account features **free term life insurance, insta over draft, free personal and air accident insurance coverage, premium cards.**

➢ **South Indian Bank Limited (SIB)** has announced partnership with **Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd (Chola MS)** to offer health and general **insurance products.**

- The key product offerings include: **personal accident cover, home and property insurance, farmer care, EMI insurance, home package** and **retail health.**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released **data** on **India's International Investment Position (IIP)** for the end of December 2022, as per data, non-resident net claims on India fell by **US$ 12.0 billion** between October and December 2022, reaching **US$ 374.5 billion** at the end of December 2022.

As of the end of December 2022, **reserve assets** accounted for **64.3%** of India's international financial assets.

In December 2022, India's international assets covered **70.0%** of its **international liabilities**, up from 72.5% the previous year.

The proportion of debt liabilities in total external liabilities climbed to **50.2%** at the end of December 2022, up from 49.8% the previous quarter and 48.4% the previous year.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary **penalty** of **₹6.77 crore** on **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited** for **non-compliance** with the "Non-Banking Financial Company-Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016".

➢ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) governor **Mr Shaktikanta Das** proposed to **expand scope** of **United Payments Interface (UPI)** by permitting operations of pre-sanctioned credit lines by banks through UPI.

➢ Fairfax-backed, leading Mumbai-based non-banking financial company (NBFC), **IIFL Finance Limited (IIFL)**, has secured **USD 100 million** in long-term funding, jointly, from **Export Development Canada (EDC)** and **Deutsche Bank.**

- The NBFC secured USD 50 million from EDC and USD 50 million from Deutsche Bank, respectively.
- The deal was structured under the aegis of **Deutsche Bank** as mandated lead arranger, bookrunner, and co-financier.

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

- FY23 credit growth is highest since 2011-12, when it was **19.3%**.

➢ **Indian Bank,** a public sector bank, launched a **new retail term deposit** named

"**IND SUPER 400 DAYS**" with **0.05% higher interest rate** to women investors & fixed maturity tenor of **400 days** in the form of FD/MMD (Fixed Deposits/Money Multiplier Deposits)

➢ **NSE Indices Limited**, a subsidiary of National Stock Exchange (NSE), has launched **India's 1st ever Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** called Nifty REITs and InvITs Index comprising 3 listed REITs and 3 listed InvITs (total 6 securities).

Aim : To **track** the **performance** of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded (listed and traded or not listed but permitted to trade) at the NSE.

The Nifty REITs & InvITs Index has a base date of July 1, 2019, and a base value of **1000**.

➢ **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Co. Ltd** (Kotak General Insurance) has partnered with **actyv.ai** to offer bite-sized insurance products to new-age **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) companies.**

- Kotak General Insurance will leverage actyv.ai's **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered platform** to provide insurance solutions to support the business sustainability of small businesses.
- Through this partnership with Kotak General Insurance, enterprises on actyv.ai's platform will now be able to offer group insurance to all of its **distributors, retailers,** and **suppliers.**

As per **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Monetary Policy report** for **April,2023 banks** have kept **savings deposit rates, which are a third of total deposits unchanged** in the current tightening period.

- As per the report, increase in term deposit rates in the current tightening cycle has been greater than increase in lending rates.
- This has helped improve the lenders' **net interest margins (NIM).**
- The net interest margin is the **difference between** the **interest earned by a bank** and the **interest paid by it.**

➢ **ICICI Bank** has introduced an **first of its kind EMI (Equated monthly instalment) facility** for UPI (Unified Payment Interface) payments made by scanning QR code.

- The facility **enhances affordability** of lakhs of the Bank's customers as they can now instantly buy products or services just by scanning the required merchant QR code at a store and making payments in EMIs
- ICICI Bank was the **first bank** to introduce **PayLater facility** in **2018** to enable customers to buy small ticket items immediately in a completely digital and paperless manner.

To ensure a hassle-free purchase of motor insurance policies, **SBI General Insurance** has partnered with **Bajaj Finance** to offer one-of-its-kind **car** and **bike insurance policies**.

➢ **DBS Bank India Limited**, a 100% subsidiary of Singapore headquartered DBS Bank, rolled out its **proprietary credit cards targeted at mass affluent and above (premium segment, including HNIs).**

Currently, DBS Bank India has co-branded credit card with Bajaj Finserv- **Bajaj Finserv DBS Bank SuperCard.**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has authorised private sector lender **Karnataka Bank** to **collect direct** and **indirect taxes** on behalf of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** and the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).**

- The authorisation has been given on the recommendation of the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance (MoF).**

City Union Bank Limited (CUB) has launched **India's first voice biometric authentication** mobile banking app to provide an additional layer of security to customers while logging into their account.

- The voice biometric service was developed by Chennai-based deeptech start-up,

Kaizen Secure Voiz Pvt Ltd, under the guidance of the 5G use case lab of the **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).**

Canara Bank in partnership with **NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL)** has launched cross-border inward bill payment services for **Indians** based in **Oman**.

The country's largest private-sector lender, **HDFC Bank**, is planning to raise up to **Rs 50,000 crore** (about $6 billion) through bonds, including **additional tier (AT) I, tier II,** and infrastructure bonds in the **next 12 months.**

HDFC Bank has signed a "**Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement**" with **Export Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM)** for a **USD 300 million line of credit**.

- The pact was signed by the two entities at GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- This agreement will help HDFC Bank **raise foreign currency funds** which it would extend to Korea-related businesses.

HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) has launched **3 index schemes – HDFC S&P BSE 500 Index Fund, HDFC NIFTY Midcap 150 Index Fund,** and **HDFC NIFTY Small-cap 250 Index Fund,** will offer diversified exposure to **large-, mid- and small-cap segments**

- These schemes opened for public subscription on April 6, 2023 and will close on April 18, 2023.

➢ Capital Market Regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** unveiled its **new logo** retaining its **traditional blue colour palette** on its **35th Foundation Day** at a ceremony conducted at the SEBI Head Office in **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

- **Chairperson of SEBI Madhabi Puri Buch,** formally **unveiled the logo.**

➢ Private sector lender **YES Bank** has become the **first Indian company** to have over **50 lakh shareholders,** according to the shareholding pattern of the bank on March 31, 2023.

- **Tata Power** is at **number 2** in terms of maximum number of shareholders, with a total of 38.5 lakh people investing in its shares & **Reliance Industries** is at number 3 in this list with 33.6 lakh crore shareholders.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **simplified** the **application process** for the registration of **core investment companies (CICs).**

Also, the number of documents to be furnished along with the application form has been **reduced** to **18** from the existing set of 52 documents to make the registration process user-friendly.

Core Investment Companies (CICs) are **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** that acquire shares and securities as their business.

➢ According to provisional data released by the **General Insurance Council (GIC), India's non-life insurers** reported growth in the high teens in fiscal 2023 due to robust performance across segments.

- The gross premium underwritten by non-life insurers in fiscal 2023 stood at **Rs 2.6 crore**, which is **16.4% higher than** the FY22.
- Underwriting is the process through which an **individual or institution** takes on **financial risk** for a fee.

➢ Walmart Inc-owned Indian payments firm **PhonePe** had raised an **additional $100 million (Rs 820 crore)** from **General Atlantic (GA)** from United States (US) based private equity firm and other investors as part of its ongoing $1 billion fundraise to expand into the lucrative lending space.

- With this fresh funding, the Walmart group firm has raised **USD 750 million** till date.

IRB Infrastructure Trust, sponsored by IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd was listed on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** becoming the **first private InvIT** to be listed after the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** listed guidelines on the listing framework for non-listed **infrastructure investment trusts (InVIT).**

Go Digit General Insurance Ltd has refiled its **preliminary IPO (Initial Public Offering) papers** with **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** after making certain changes to its employee stock appreciation rights scheme.

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** notified a **framework** for the **upfront collection of funds** from eligible issuers of debt securities to build the Settlement Guarantee Fund of the **Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC).**

- The new framework will come into force on **May 2023**
- LPCC is an **entity** established to undertake the activity of **clearing** and **settlement** of **repurchase agreement transactions.**

➢ **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched a pilot financing scheme called **Mission 50K-EV4ECO** for better financing terms in the **electric vehicle space (EVS)** and strengthening the whole ecosystem.

➢ **Chennai Metro Rail Ltd** in association with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** (banking partner) launched the **Singara Chennai Card (NCMC – National Common Mobility Card) in order to facilitate seamless transportation for passengers.**

- The technology for the RuPay NCMC cards has been developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**

➢ The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has reintroduced its special fixed deposit scheme, '**Amrit Kalash**', for **retail customers, offers a special tenor of 400 days** and offers an interest rate of **7.1%** for the general customer and a **50 basis point (bps)** higher (7.6%) for senior citizens

- The scheme is available from April 12, 2023 till June 30, 2023.

➢ **Northern Arc Capital**,the technology-enabled diversified financial services platform has structured and arranged **$20 million external commercial borrowings (ECB)** funding from **The Development Bank of Austria, Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank AG (OeEB)** for microfinance institution,**CreditAccess Grameen Limited (CA Grameen)**.

- Northern Arc is a **technology-enabled diversified financial services** platform that provides credit to MSMEs, households, financial institutions and emerging businesses.

HDFC Ltd stated that the market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has cleared a proposal for change in control of **HDFC Capital Advisors Limited (HCAL),** a subsidiary of HDFC Limited and a co-investment portfolio manager subject to certain conditions.

As per the **India Digital Payments Annual Report for 2022** released by global payments player **Worldline India,** the **most preferred medium** for **digital payments** was **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in **2022.**

- A total of **8,792 crore digital payments** were undertaken in 2022 worth **₹149.5 lakh crore**
- According to a Worldline India report on India's digital payments, in 2022, UPI processed over **74 billion transactions,** amounting to Rs 126 trillion.
- While the volume of transactions was up 70% year-on-year (YoY), the value of transactions went up by 54% during the same period.
- In FY23, UPI processed 84 billion transactions, amounting to Rs 139.09 trillion.
- According to the report, the proliferation of QR codes drives UPI transactions – **237 million** in December 2022 compared to 152 million in January 2022.
- As of December 2022, the total number of **Bharat QRs** was **4.96 million**, while UPI QR stood at 237.94 million, registering an increase of 65% compared to December 2021.

Top 5 UPI Apps in terms of volume and value	Top 5 UPI Beneficiary Banks	Top 5 UPI Remitter Banks
PhonePe	Paytm Payments Bank	State Bank of India (SBI)
Google Pay	YES Bank	HDFC Bank
Paytm Payments Bank App	SBI	Bank of Baroda
Amazon Pay	Axis Bank	Union Bank of India (UBI)
Axis Bank	ICICI Bank	ICICI Bank

➢ The **South Indian Bank** has launched **2 flexible saving products** namely, **SIB SEAFARER** and **SIB PULSE** for its **non-resident Indian (NRI) customers** specifically for **mariners** and **healthcare professionals with an aim t**o offer flexibility to NRI customers to either **maintain** the **term deposits** or the prescribed **minimum balance** in the saving account.

➢ **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB),** India's largest small finance bank, has become the **first commercial bank** in **India** to integrate with the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS),** to launch bill payment services through **video banking with an aim** to **promote digital accessibility** and enhance economic capability leading to greater financial inclusion

➢ Private insurer **ACKO General Insurance** in partnership with **Ola Electric** and **Ather Energy** launched the first-of-its-kind "**Extended Battery Warranty" plan,** targeting **electric vehicle (EV) owners.**

- The **policy** safeguards battery life for up to 4 or 5 years and provides performance coverage for up to **60,000 km.**

➢ On the occasion of the **Centenary year** of the **Karnataka Bank,** the bank has launched a **Special campaign "KBL Centenary Mahotsav"** for **Home loan** from 17, April 2023 to 17 July 2023.

➢ The board of the country's biggest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** approved **long term fund raising** of up to **$2 billion (about Rs 16,000 crore)** for **FY24** through bonds.

- Meanwhile, the **Board of Directors** of **Bank of India (BoI)** approved the raising of capital aggregating up to **₹6,500 crore** in FY24 via issue of fresh equity capital and Basel III compliant Tier-2 bonds.

➢ The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has constituted a **4 member working group** on **asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)** which will operate on various issues and take them up with the **IBA**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **union government**.

- The 4-member group comprises

1. **Hari Hara Mishra**, CEO of Asset Reconstruction Companies Association
2. **Purshotam Agarwal**, chief investment officer of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)
3. **Mythili Balasubramanian** Executive Director of Edelweiss
4. **Tarun Kumar,** director of Encore Asset Reconstruction Company.

- An ARC is a **specialised financial institution** that buys the **Non Performing Assets (NPAs) or bad assets** from banks and

financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets.

➢ **Indian Bank** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Tamil Nadu (TN) e-Governance Agency (TNeGA),** a state nodal agency under the Information Technology & Digital Services (IT&DS) Department Government of Tamil Nadu, for integrating **Indian Bank Payment Aggregator** for the e-Governance Applications of various departments in TN.

➢ **RBL Bank** has launched an **innovative Digital Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme** available to **new-to-bank customers.**

- Customers can book the Digital FD within minutes without having to visit a branch or opening a savings account with the Bank.
- With an interest rate of up to **7.8%** for a tenure of **15 months to 725 days**, the digital FD provides investors with an interesting investment option.

➢ **Federal Bank** has entered into a **Banking Correspondent agreement** with **Chennai-based KiVi**, an agri fintech start-up operated by Agrosperity Tech Solutions, with a view to scaling and **expanding** its **agri lending portfolio** in **Tamil Nadu (TN).**

➢ **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)** has launched the **NOCS platform** to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions undertaken on the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network.**

- The ONDC platform was set up to facilitate the **rapid adoption** of **e-commerce,** and boost and strengthen the growth of startups in India by facilitating scalable and cost-effective e-commerce through the open protocol.

➢ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **granted AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) Licence** to act as **Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD-I)** under section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange.

- Separately, Equitas Small Finance Bank also received **Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) License** from the central bank.

➢ According to a report tabled by **Worldline India**, a payment solutions provider, **Bengaluru (Karnataka)** has **topped** the list of cities rampantly using **digital transactions** with a volume of **29 million** and a value of **Rs 6,500 crore** of transactions.

- Bengaluru was followed by **New Delhi, Delhi 19.6 million transactions** worth USD 50 billion, **Mumbai, Maharashtra (18.7 million transactions** worth USD 49.5 billion), **Pune, Maharashtra (15 million transactions** worth USD 32.8 billion), **Chennai, Tamil Nadu** (TN) (**14.3 million transactions** worth USD 35.5 billion) are among the **top 5 cities** with the highest digital transactions.
- The top 10 states & UT with the highest transactions for physical touch points in 2022 for Worldline India were **Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Telangana, Gujarat, West Bengal,** and **Punjab.**
- Whereas the top 10 cities with the highest number of transactions at physical touch points in 2022 for Worldline India were **Bengaluru, New Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur,** and **Coimbatore.**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** accepted bids worth **Rs 5,500 crore** at an auction for conversion and **switching** of **5 government of India (GoI) bonds** against the notified amount of **Rs 11,000 crore.**

The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** signed a host member **agreement** to officially open in **Abu Dhabi** the **Bank's first overseas office**, an Interim Operational Hub (the Hub).

InPrime Finserv, a financial services start-up catering to the informal economy, has obtained a **Certificate of Registration (COR)** from the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).**

- InPrime Finserv is a brand owned by STK Credit Private Limited, a NBFC.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given a **relaxation** of **3 years** for **HDFC Bank** to comply with the **priority sector lending norms (PSL)** following its merger with HDFC Ltd (HDFC).

- However, RBI **refused** to make any **exceptions to the cash reserve ratio (CRR)** and **statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) requirements.**
- CRR is the **percentage of deposits** that a **commercial bank** like HDFC Bank has to park with the central bank for which it **does not earn any interest**, while SLR is a **percentage of deposits** that are **mandated** to be **invested** in **government securities.**

➢ For the **first time, Union Bank of India (UBI)**, secured **1st rank** as per the report on **Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE) Reforms Index** for Q3 FY 2022-23 published by **Indian Banks' Association (IBA).**

- EASE is an initiative by the DFS (GOI) as part of the PSB Reforms Agenda & is currently under its **fifth iteration** which focuses on Enhanced Digital experience, Data – driven, Integrated and Inclusive Banking.
- The performance of PSBs is measured on 5 themes under EASE 5.0, in which, UBI has set the benchmark under the **four themes** i.e., "**Digitally - enabled customer offerings**", '**Big data and analytics**', '**Modern Technology Capabilities**' and "**Employee development and Governance**" **by securing** 1st rank amongst PSBs.

➢ **Canara Bank**, in collaboration with **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, has launched the "**Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H**" as one of customer friendly services adding to our pursuit of "**Customer Delight**".

- **Form 15G (Individual and HUF)** and **Form 15H (Individual-Senior Citizen)** are **self-declaration forms** that an individual submits to the bank requesting not to deduct TDS on interest income as their income is below the basic exemption limit.
- For this, providing **a permanent account number (PAN)** is **compulsory**.

➢ **Mastercard** announced its collaboration with **M1xchange** to offer a digital invoice discounting solution to farmers, farmer producer organizations (FPOs), and agri-**Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** through **Farm Pass**, its cutting-edge agritech platform.

- The solution is the **first of its kind** for the **agriculture sector** & will help lenders underwrite credit offerings through the **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).**

➢ Two of India's largest private lenders, **Axis Bank** and **HDFC Bank**, have signed **definitive agreements** to **acquire** a **9.94% equity stake** each in the **Go Digit Life**, the life insurance business of insurtech unicorn Go Digit, which is set to go public.

- In two installments, the formal agreements for HDFC Bank's investment in Go Digit-Life total **69.90 crore Indian Rupees (INR).**

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with a **procedure** for **vault managers** to seek prior approval from the watchdog in case of a change in control.

- The vault manager is regulated as a SEBI intermediary for providing vaulting services meant for gold deposited to create **electronic gold receipts (EGRs).**

➢ **HDFC Ltd** revealed that the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **granted** its **approval** for the intended transfer of majority ownership in **HDFC Asset Management Company Limited (HDFC AMC) to HDFC Bank**, as a part of the amalgamation plan.

- This deal, valued at approximately **USD 40 billion**, will result in the creation of a formidable financial services giant, as HDFC Bank takes over the largest domestic mortgage lender on **April 4, 2022.**
- Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be **100% owned by public shareholders,** and existing shareholders of HDFC will own **41%** of the bank.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe,** or RBZ, plans to introduce a **gold-backed digital currency** as legal tender in **Zimbabwe**.

- It is believed that the government took this step to stabilizing the local currency after its continuous devaluation in comparison to the **United States (US) dollar.**

➢ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the banking licence of **Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank** to carry on banking business in India under Section 22 read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, with effect from the close of business on April 24, 2023 and has allowed it to function as a **non-banking institution.**

What is the difference between Bank & NBFC?

According to the RBI, the difference between a bank and NBFC is that a **bank** is a **government-authorised entity** that provides banking services to the people, whereas **NBFC** is a **company providing banking services** to the people without holding a bank licence.

➢ Bajaj Finserv's insurance subsidiary, **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company** has entered into a partnership with **actyv.ai**, the **Singapore-headquartered enterprise** under the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**, to **offer insurance products** to **MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium enterprises)** through their technology platform and the partner ecosystem across the Supply chain.

➢ Capital Market Regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with a holistic **regulatory framework** for **ESG disclosures** by **India Inc, investors,** and **rating agencies** to facilitate a balanced approach to ESG.

- In order to **enhance** the **reliability** of ESG disclosures, the **BRSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report) Core** should be introduced, which contains a limited set of **key performance indicators (KPIs).**
- According to SEBI, initially, the **top 150 listed companies** will have to disclose and obtain a reasonable assurance on BRSR Core parameters from FY24 and that will be gradually **extended** to the **top 1,000 listed entities** by FY27.

Emkay Global Financial Services has received **in-principle approval** from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch a **mutual fund business** in **India.**

- Emkay Global Financial Services offers services such as institutional equity, portfolio management services, wealth management, investment banking and global investing.
- At present, there are **44 MF players** with total assets under management of about **₹40 lakh crore** with top 10 players accounting for a lion's share of business.

Nexus Select Trust, the retail-focused real estate investment trust sponsored by private equity firm **Blackstone**, has received the **final observations**, and go ahead from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for its **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) initial public offering (IPO)** of units.

- The **₹4,000-crore** IPO consists of a fresh issue of ₹1,600 crore while the remaining ₹2,400 crore is through an offer of sale from its main sponsor Blackstone and some other smaller holders.

➢ In a bid to expand its portfolio beyond its core banking business, **IndusInd Bank** is planning to foray into **mutual funds, insurance** and **broking sectors.**

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

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has aligned the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** for **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)** set up under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**, with that for other foreign jurisdictions.

- The resident Individuals may also open a **Foreign Currency Account (FCA)** in IFSCs, for making the permissible investments under LRS.
- The condition of repatriating any funds lying idle in the account for a **period** up to **15 days** from the date of its receipt is withdrawn.

➢ The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has come out with **new norms** to retain the **demerged entity** of an index constituent in the respective index.

- A demerged company will remain part of the index, only if the exchange has decided to conduct a **Special Pre-Open session (SPOS)** for the **spun-off entity.**
- The change would be applicable to the scheme of arrangement of all companies involving demerger which may be approved by equity shareholders of respective companies on or after **April 30, 2023.**

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

The insurer has tied up with YES Bank to facilitate the collection of premiums in digital mode using the **bank's e-rupee platform**.

e-rupee is a **digital token,** equivalent to a banknote, and is legal tender or sovereign currency backed by the RBI.

MAY MONTH

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came out with detailed **norms** for outsourcing of IT services by **banks, Non bank financial Companies (NBFCs)** and regulated financial sector entities to ensure that such arrangements do not undermine their responsibilities and obligations to customers.

- With a view to provide REs adequate time to comply with the requirements, the norms will come into effect from **October 1, 2023.**

➢ **ICICI Bank,** has introduced a **new digital and contactless payment facility** for **parking** at the **Mangaluru International Airport,** allows FASTag users of any bank to pay the parking charges digitally and in a contactless manner, resulting in quicker movement of vehicles in the parking zone.

ICICI Bank is the **only bank** to introduce the FASTag facility at the Mangaluru International Airport.

➢ **Chartered accounts (CAs)** who audit public sector banks (PSBs) are worried as the Reserve Bank of India has **left** it to the banks to decide the percentage of their branch business they want audited from FY24.

➢ **Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has partnered with grain commerce platform **Arya.ag** to drive **financial inclusion** for **farmers** and **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** and offer loans through Shivalik Small Finance Bank under Warehouse Receipt Finance.

➢ **State Bank of India (SBI)** collaborates with a startup, **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd (GAPL)** with a view to making **drone technology more accessible** to the agricultural sector while also increasing efficiency in the sector's use of the technology.

➢ **HDFC Bank** introduced a **Digital Distribution Platform (DDP) – 'HDFC Bank Smart Saathi'**, a state-of-the-art solution which is built on a robust and digitally enabled technology architecture that provides a secure and user-friendly experience to all its users.

- This platform will use advanced technology solutions to connect **Business**

Correspondents (BCs) and Business Facilitators (BFs) to the bank.

➢ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has partnered with the **Forum of Industry Academic Knowledge Sharing (FIAKS) platform** to **provide digital literacy** and **spread awareness among postmen (or Gramin Dak Sevaks)** to avoid digital frauds.

- FIAKS, a cross-border platform comprising over 5,000 members, will carry out research, development, and designing of digital content under the programme FIAKS Digital Shiksha Prasaar Abhiyaan along with other partners.

➢ During the meeting of the **Internal Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), India** and **Russia** will explore the possibility of **accepting RuPay (India)** and **Mir cards (Russia)** in each other's country for **hassle-free payments** amid sanctions imposed by the West on Moscow.

- This meeting was chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India **Shri S Jaishankar** and Russia's Deputy Prime Minister **Shri Denis Manturov**.

Pine Labs, a merchant commerce omni channel platform, has announced the acceptance of **Digital Rupee (e Rupee)** on its **PoS (Point of Sale) terminals** in partnership with **ICICI Bank.**

- The technology integration between the two entities will now support e₹ acceptance at Pine Labs' point-of-sale terminals across key retail outlets in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** and **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

➢ **White Oak Asset Management Company (AMC)** has launched its **new fund offer (NFO) White Oak Capital Multi Asset Allocation Fund,** which is an **open-ended scheme** that will invest across multiple asset classes, including equity-related instruments as well as debt and gold instruments, among others.

➢ The **4 public sector general insurance companies - New India Assurance, United India Insurance, Oriental Insurance, and National Insurance Company** have **lost 803 basis points (bps)** in market share in the last **5 years** to their private counterparts, the data from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)** revealed.

➢ **United States (US) regulators** stated that **First Republic Bank** has been **seized** and a deal agreed to sell the bank to **JPMorgan Chase & Co,** in what is the **third major U.S. institution** to **fail** in **2 months.**

- JPMorgan Chase & Co. is the **largest bank** in the **United States (US)** and the world's largest bank by market capitalization.

➢ **Airtel Payments Bank (APB)** has collaborated with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to **roll out Face Authentication** for **AePS (Aadhaar-enabled Payment System)** at its 500,000 banking points.

Airtel Payments Bank is amongst the **first 4 banks** to offer Face Authentication for AePS in the country.

➢ According to the **Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Report 2022, Pakistan** became the **largest recipient** of the ADB-funded programmes/projects, receiving loans of **USD 5.58 billion** out of total loans of **USD 31.8 billion** to **40 countries.**

- Pakistan is facing a deep economic crisis, and it received concessional funding of **USD 2.67 billion** from the bank.

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

Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector Bank and **India Shelter Finance Corporation**

Ltd (India Shelter), a Gurgaon based Housing Finance Company, announced a **strategic partnership** under the **co-lending model**.

- With this partnership, both lenders will be offering **Secured Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) loans** to middle and low income segment borrowers based in the semi-urban regions.

➢ **Dvara SmartGold**, a Fintech company that is building a full stack financial services offering, anchored around gold as an asset class, announced a strategic partnership with **Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB)** to offer **gold loans** with a seamless online and offline experience to customers.

- Initially, this offering is available across **Tamil Nadu, Chattisgarh,** and **Maharashtra region.**

In **Financial Year 2022-23 (FY23), Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** withdrew **Rs 29,921 crore** from the **banking and financial services sector**, making it the **third highest loser** of FPI money after **Information Technology (IT) Services (Rs 51,138 crore)** and **Oil & Gas (Rs 37,674 crore).**

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced the **Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP) program** to **accelerate climate change financing** in the region.

- The announcement was made by Masatsugu Asakawa, President of ADB on the first day of the ADB's 56th Annual Meeting in Incheon, South Korea.
- IF-CAP's initial partners are **Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden,** the **United Kingdom,** and the **United States**.

The **South Indian Bank** has introduced an **e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee) facility** in **partnership** with **National E-Governance Service Limited (NeSL)** for its customers **to** facilitate **API-based paperless issues** of bank guarantees, thereby reducing the need for physical documentation and record maintenance.

NeSL is India's first Information Utility, registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

➢ The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has introduced **Group Post Retirement Medical Benefit Scheme**, a non-linked, non-participating, life, group savings insurance product, for those employing 50 or more persons.

➢ **AU Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has partnered with **RuPay** to introduce the **Business Cashback RuPay credit card,** an innovative solution tailored to meet the **financial requirements** of **self-employed customers.**

➢ In order to promote institutional participation in **Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs),** the capital market regulator, **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed stock exchanges** to **extend direct market access (DMA)** to registered **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** with immediate effect.

This circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market.

- Direct Market Access (DMA) facilitates the clients of a broker to **directly access** the exchange trading system through the broker's infrastructure to place orders without manual intervention by the broker.

Unnati, a fintech-based agritech company, made an announcement regarding its **subsidiary, Ora Finance, becoming** the **first-ever agritech firm** to receive an **non-banking financial company (NBFC) license** to meet the **financial requirements** of those in the **agricultural sector,** like farmers, retailers, traders, brands, and food processors.

India has **extended** a **$1 billion credit line** for **Sri Lanka by one year until March 2024,**

giving the crisis-hit country a backup fund to pay for essential imports.

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

➢ The **All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA),** is the oldest and largest national trade union of bank employees in India plans to set up an **online 'Bank Clinic'** to **assist bank customers with grievance redress**.

➢ **RBL Bank** formerly known as **Ratnakar Bank** has **gone live with 'Direct Tax Collections'** on behalf of the **Government of India (GoI)** through the **new Tax Information Network (TIN2.0) portal.**

- This is the **second such offering** from the Bank, following its empanelment by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an **'Agency Bank'** to conduct banking business for the Central and State Governments.

➢ **Agritech firm Rukart**, which sells **'Subjee Cooler'** to **enhance shelf life** of **fruits and vegetables**, has **tied up** with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to **help potential customers get easy loan options** to buy the product.

Rukart is mentored by the **Powering Livelihoods program**, jointly run by **Council On Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)** and **Villgro Innovations Foundation.**

➢ Indian private sector bank **Federal Bank** has partnered with **National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)** to launch an **electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) facility to replace** the **traditional paper-based process** 'in due course'.

- A bank guarantee is an **assurance a financial institute** like a bank offers to the external party if the borrower is unable to pay the debt.

➢ India's third largest private sector bank, **Axis Bank**, has successfully **enabled linkage** of **RuPay credit cards** with **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

- Customers can now scan UPI QR codes or use the merchant's UPI checkout page to make a purchase using their RuPay credit card.

YES Bank has launched a Solar **Financing Scheme** called "**YES KIRAN**" to provide **financial assistance** to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) manufacturers** who want to install solar panels at their premises.

Central bank of India has launched a **unique Recurring Deposit scheme** with life cover " **Cent SurakshitSamriddhi**" exclusively for earning individual in the age group of **18 - 50 years** with additional benefit of Life insurance coverage of 100 times of principal instalment amount till the maturity of Recurring Deposit.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 1,73,75,000 (Rs 1.73 crore)** on the **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC Ltd)** for the contravention of certain rules under Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006 (CIC Rules).

The Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced the **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system** for **issuers** that have listed or are planning to list **non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments,** and **security receipts.**

- The LEI is a **unique 20-character code** to identify legally distinct entities that engage in financial transactions.
- It is a **unique global identifier** for legal entities participating in financial transactions, is designed to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity, in any jurisdiction, that is party to a financial transaction.

➢ **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has issued the **first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI)**

licence to **Alchemy's Fund** for relocation to **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) City.**

The bank has **re-domiciled** Alchemy India Long Term Fund from Mauritius to India's GIFT City.

FPI involves an investor buying foreign financial assets like fixed deposits, stocks, and mutual funds.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) operates the FPIs.

➢ The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has **received approval** from the markets regulator, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch **rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI crude oil** and natural gas (henry hub) futures contracts in its **commodity derivatives segment.**

- The pact will allow National Stock Exchange (NSE) to list, trade and settle rupee denominated Nymex WTI crude oil and natural gas derivatives contracts for Indian market participants,

Max Life Insurance Company (Max Life), a private life insurer, has entered into a **strategic partnership** with the **Indian Industries Association (IIA),** apex **representative body** of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** to provide **life insurance plans** to the **MSME** sector's workforce in **Uttar Pradesh (UP).**

Under the recently announced **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) State insurance plan,** Max Life aims to enhance accessibility and drive affordable insurance penetration across UP.

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

- Other than the BoB, banks like **HDFC, State Bank of India (SBI), Yes Bank,** and **Federal Banks provide e-BG facilities.**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 2.92 crore** on **Canara Bank** for violation of various norms, including linking interest rates to external benchmarks, and opening savings accounts of ineligible entities.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that certain fees/ charges levied by '**Authorised Persons**' on **International Debit Cards, Store Value Cards**, among others, and payable in India have to be denominated and **settled** in **Rupees only.**

- The instruments also include Charge Cards/Smart Cards or any other instrument that can be used to create a financial liability as 'currency'.
- Authorised Persons include banks authorised to **deal** in **foreign exchange, full-fledged money changers,** etc.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has stated that **fees** and **charges payable** in **India** on forex prepaid cards, store value cards, and travel cards must be denominated and settled in **local currency Rupees only.**

- The use of such cards is limited to **permissible current account transactions.**

HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, and **Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK)**, a not- for-profit organisation under the **Department of ITE&C, Government of Telangana** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **promote employment** of **fresh graduates** and **postgraduates.**

RazorpayX, the business banking platform of Razorpay, launched an **automated ESCROW+ solution,** powered by **Axis Trustee Services Ltd, RBL Bank &ICICI Bank** to **provide automated, compliant**, and **secure money transfer experience** on Escrow accounts to businesses.

Union Bank of India (UBI) will open a separate **wealth management vertical** in the current financial year to attract and retain HNI (high networth individual) and NRI (non-resident Indian) customers by providing them investment management services under one roof.

Card payments company **Visa** launched **cardholder verification value (CVV)** free online transactions for **domestic tokenized credentials** in **India**.

- With the help of this feature, users can carry out **online transactions without entering CVV**, if the card has been tokenized.
- Merchants such as **Zomato** and **Razorpay** are already using the new CVV-free service offered by Visa. T

The **Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN),** the company responsible for processing goods and services tax returns has deferred by **3 months** the imposition of a **7-day time limit** for reporting **old e-invoices** on the e-invoice portals for GST taxpayers with an aggregate turnover of **Rs 100 crore & above.**

GetVantage, India's premier alternative financing fintech platform, has secured a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, becoming the **first and only revenue-based financing** and alternative funding platform in the country to do so.

- GetGrowth Capital, the NBFC arm of GetVantage will manage the lending operations.
- GetVantage, which is backed by investors including Chiratae Ventures, Varanium, InCred, DMI, and Japanese Investors like Sony and DI, will capitalise the NBFC with Rs **50 crore** and aims to raise a cumulative amount of Rs 200 crore to scale its lending operations.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued an **advisory** to **banks** and other **RBI-regulated entities**, emphasising the need to take **steps** to ensure a **complete transition** from the **US$ London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) or** the **Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR) from July 1, 2023.**

- RBI has advised the "**Banks/financial institutions (FIs)** are advised to ensure that no new transactions undertaken by them or their customers rely on or are priced using the **US$ LIBOR or** the **MIFOR.**
- MIFOR is a benchmark rate that **commercial banks use** for **financial contracts** in **India** & it is used for setting prices on forward-rate agreements and derivatives.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced a '**100 Days 100 Pays' campaign** for banks to trace and settle the **top 100 unclaimed deposits** of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days.

- The banks will commence the campaign from **June 1, 2023.**

➢ **EXIM (Export-Import) Bank** is expected to **operationalise** its proposed **GIFT City subsidiary** for **trade finance** by the **third quarter (Q3)** of the **current financial year 2023-24 (FY24).**

➢ **Non-banking financial company (NBFC) Profectus Capital Private Limited backed by Actis,** has received the **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** under the **Factoring Regulations Act, 2011** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to provide factoring services to the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).**

- **Factoring** is a **financial transaction** and a type of debtor finance in which a business *sells* its accounts receivable (i.e., invoices) to a third party (called a factor) at a discount.

➢ The **Board of Executive Directors of World Bank (WB)** approved an **$82 million loan** for **Animal Health System Support for One Health Programme (AHSSOH)** to **support India's Livestock Health and**

Disease Control Programme, which aims to control animal diseases by adopting global best practices for animal health management & to prevent, detect, & respond to **endemic zoonotic, transboundary,** and **emerging infectious diseases.**

- The loan has a **maturity period** of **11.5 years**, including a **grace period** of **4.5 years.**
- Zoonotic diseases refer to **infections or illnesses** that can be **naturally transmitted from animals to humans.**

➢ **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** has launched its all-**new Privy League programme,** an exclusive premium banking programme with unique lifestyle benefits and bespoke financial solutions tailored to **high-net-worth people (HNI).**

- Privy League, was designed to honour their customers' achievements by providing them with unrivalled lifestyle experiences and superior banking services.
- It includes the Signature LED Debit Card, developed for the Privy League Platinum category, is India's first LED card, with perks such as a **75% discount** on Priority Pass.
- It also offers **Premium Metal Debit Card** designed by famous artist **Arunanshu Chowdhury,** allows clients to enjoy premium bargains, complimentary airport lounge access, and many other privileges.

➢ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2022-23 states that **India's green financing requirement** is estimated to be at least **2.5%** of Gross domestic product (GDP) annually till 2030.

- The RBI's report covers **4 major dimensions** of climate change to assess future challenges to sustainable high growth in India.
- These are

1. unprecedented scale and pace of climate change
2. its macroeconomic effects
3. implications for financial stability
4. policy options to mitigate climate risks.

➢ The **Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)** is organising its **first-ever Greenwashing TechSprint** to **combat greenwashing risks** in financial services.

- GFIN, an **international network** of more than 50 regulatory agencies worldwide working together to support financial innovation in the best interests of consumers.

➢ **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited** launched a new debt fund called **ICICI Pru Constant Maturity Fund**; it is available with the insurer's **Unit-linked insurance plans (ULIP)** offerings, such as **ICICI Pru Signature, ICICI Pru Smart Life** and **ICICI Pru LifeTime Classic.**

- ICICI Pru Constant Maturity Fund is the **first such fund** in the life insurance market.

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** imposed a **penalty** totalling **Rs 1.9 crore** on **4 former officials** of **Karvy Group** for flouting norms in the case pertaining to misappropriation of clients' funds by **Karvy Stock Broking Ltd (KSBL).**

- Accordingly, SEBI has levied a fine of **Rs 1 crore** on Krishna Hari G, **Rs 40 lakhs** on Raju, **Rs 30 lakh** on Gurazada, and **Rs 20 lakhs** on Mahesh.

➢ **India's Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)** has set up a **5-member expert committee chaired by National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) director Pratima Murthy**, to advise it on subjects related to **mental health and insurance.**

➢ Capital markets regulator **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) tweaked** the **rules** about investment in **mutual funds** made in the name of a minor through a guardian.

➢ The **National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE India)** launched **rupee denominated futures contracts** on underlying **New York Mercantile Exchange's (NYMEX) West Texas Intermediate (WTI)**

crude oil and natural gas in its commodity derivatives segment.

➢ The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has **directed all insurers** to comply with the provisions outlined in the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021,** and the **Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Act, 2021.**

- Surrogacy is a **legal** and **regulated arrangement** in which a woman (the surrogate mother) carries a pregnancy and gives birth to a child on behalf of another individual or couple (the intended parents).
- IRDAI has directed all insurers to comply with the 2 Acts with immediate effect and ensure that suitable products are made available.
- **Section 4 (iii)(a)(III) of Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021** states an insurance coverage of such amount and in such manner as may be prescribed in favour of the surrogate mother for a period of thirty-six months covering postpartum delivery complications from an insurance company or an agent recognised by the IRDAI;
- **Rule 5 of Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022** states (1) The intending woman or couple shall purchase a general health insurance coverage in favour of surrogate mother for a period of thirty six months from an insurance company or an agent recognized by the IRDAI for an amount which is sufficient enough to cover all expenses for all complications arising out of pregnancy and also covering post- partum delivery complications.
- **Section 22(1)(b) of ART Act, 2021** states as under: An insurance coverage of such amount as may be prescribed for a period of twelve months in favour of the oocyte donor by the commissioning couple or woman from an insurance company or an agent recognised by the IRDAI.

HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) Limited, investment manager of HDFC mutual fund (HDFC MF) has announced the launch of **India's first mutual fund - HDFC Defence Fund focussed** on **defence sector.**

Regulator for housing finance firms **National Housing Bank (NHB)** has asked **housing finance companies** with asset size of over **Rs 1,000 crore** to **adopt** an **early warning signals (EWS) framework** to **check financial frauds** and also to prevent accounts from turning into non-performing assets.

- Through the **Early Warning Signals (EWS) framework,** HFCs will be encouraged to take into **account fraud risks** in their risk management practices.

➢ Food aggregator platform **Zomato** has partnered with **ICICI Bank** to launch its **own unified payments interface (UPI)** offering called **Zomato UPI,** for some of its users.

➢ The Central Government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) , amended rules under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA),** bringing in **international credit card (ICC)** spends outside India under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).

The spending by international credit cards will also attract a higher rate of Tax Collected at Source (TCS) at **20%,** effective July 1, 2023.

Technically, a TCS levy of 5% will come into effect on such transactions till July 1, 2023 (except for medical and education-linked sectors), which would then increase to 20% after July 1.

A TCS of 5% will be levied on expenses **exceeding ₹7 lakh** towards medical treatment and education, while other expenses including investment in real estate, foreign tours, and travel, will attract 20%.

For those availing loans for overseas education, a lower TCS rate of **0.5%** would be levied above the ₹7-lakh threshold.

➢ Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** proposed **expanding** the **definition of qualified institutional buyer (QIB)** for

investing in debt securities in a bid to increase the **supply of funds** to the issuers of such securities.

- SEBI has proposed to include 10 different categories of entities including multi-State cooperatives with **₹500-crore net worth, Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), housing finance companies, pension funds, small finance banks, reinsurers** and **refinancing agencies** such as **Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency (MUDRA)** under the definition of qualified institutional investors for investment in debt securities and further develop the debt market.

➢ The government has appointed **IDBI Capital, BOB Capital** and **SBI Capital** to **manage** the **initial public offer (IPO)** of the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).**

- IDBI Capital is the **lead banker** for the transaction.
- Separately, **Saraf & Partners** has been appointed as the **legal adviser** for the IPO.

➢ The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, Asia's oldest stock exchange, **relaunched Sensex** and **Bankex derivative contracts** in its bid to **boost derivative trading.**

- In **2000**, BSE had launched **Sensex-30 derivatives** (options and futures) for the **first time**.
- A derivative is a contract between **two or more parties** that can trade on an exchange or **over the counter (OTC).**
- Derivatives are the **type of financial contracts** whose value is dependent on an underlying asset, group of assets, or benchmark.

➢ **IKEA India** joins hands with **HDFC Bank** by launching a **hassle-free** and **convenient consumer financing option** to give customers a **convenient** and **cost-effective method** to buy their favourite home furnishing products.

- The financing option includes a combination of **no-cost (0%)** and **low-cost (up to 10%)** EMI options with terms ranging from **3 months to 30 months** which will accommodate all kinds of home furnishing needs of the customers.

➢ Japanese international payment brand, **JCB International Co** partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to offer **40% cashback to RuPay JCB cardholders** on **in-store purchases** in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Thailand, Malaysia** and **Spain.**

➢ Payments and financial services company **Paytm** has partnered with **SBI Card & National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to launch **Next-Generation Co-branded RuPay Credit Card** named Paytm SBI Card on the RuPay network to further **boost credit inclusion** in India.

In **2023** the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** allowed users to **link RuPay credit cards** to the **United Payments Interface (UPI)**.

➢ **Godrej Agrovet Ltd (GAVL)** has partnered with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to introduce a **first of its kind finance offering** for **oil palm farmers**, will provide **loans** to **farmers** for various purposes such as setting up **micro irrigation systems, establishing protective fencing against cattle grazing**, and improving tube wells on their oil palm farms.

- Godrej Agrovet Limited is an Indian company that operates in the **animal feed** and **agribusiness sectors.**

➢ The Regulator **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)** has **relaxed norms** for '**surety bonds**', a type of insurance policy protecting parties involved in a transaction or contract from potential financial losses due to a breach of contract or other types of non-performance.

- **Aim :**To expand the surety insurance market by **increasing** the **availability** of such products.

- **Relaxations** : The **solvency requirement** applicable for such products has now been reduced to **1.5 times** from 1.875 times previously prescribed.
- This reduction in the solvency requirement allows insurers to have greater flexibility in offering surety bonds.
- A solvency capital requirement (SCR) is the **total amount of funds** that insurance and reinsurance companies in the European Union (EU) are required to **hold**.
- Further, the prevailing **30% exposure limit** applicable to each contract underwritten by an insurer, has also been removed.
- **Surety bonds** are a type of insurance that provides financial protection and assurance to parties involved in a contract or agreement.
- It is a legally binding contract entered into by three parties: the **principal,** the **obligee,** and the **surety.**
- The surety provides a financial guarantee to the obligee (i.e. government) that the principal (business owner) will **fulfill their obligations.**

➢ The Capital Market Regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has released a **consultation paper** on **real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs)** that envisages giving **special rights to unit-holders**, looks at the roles of sponsors, and also proposes the concept of self-sponsored trusts.

- The **eligibility criteria for a self-sponsored trust** would be that it has to be **listed** for **at least 5 years**, should have made **12 distributions** on a continuous basis, has a top credit rating for 5 years, has not breached maximum leverage thresholds in the preceding 5 years and meets the prescribed net worth criteria, among others.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in the exercise of powers conferred on it under **Section 45-IA (6)** of the **RBI Act, 1934**, has **cancelled** the **Certificate of Registration** of **7 Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs).**

List of 7 NBFCs :

1. Coorg Tea Company, Bangalore,Karnataka
2. Trimurthi Finvest, Bilaspur, Chattisgarh
3. East West Finvest India, Bilaspur, Chattisgarh
4. J.V.Modi Securities, Indore, Madhya Pradesh (MP)
5. K K Patel Finance, Gwalior, MP
6. Purvi Finvest, Bilaspur, Chattisgarh
7. Genfin Capital Pvt Ltd, Bangalore,Karnataka

- These companies will not transact the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution, as defined in **clause (a) of Section 45-I** of the **RBI Act, 1934.**
- Also, the 14 NBFCs surrendered their CoR due to the exit from the business, non-requirement of registration, or the loss of their legal status.
- Out of the 14 NBFCs, **7 surrendered their licence due to** the **exit** from the **business** while **2 surrendered** because they did not require registration under criteria prescribed for **unregistered Core Investment Company (CIC).**
- **List of 7 NBFCs surrendered their licence due to the exit from the business :**

1. Lunia Trading & Investment Private Limited, West Bengal
2. Swastik Goods and Suppliers Pvt Ltd, West Bengal
3. Icseva Finance Private Limited, Bihar
4. Gipsy Management Pvt Ltd, West Bengal
5. Shiba Fabspin Pvt Ltd, West Bengal
6. Esar Entrade Ltd, Assam
7. Maba Corporate Services Private Limited, Karnataka.

- **List of 2 two entities that do not require registration under criteria prescribed for unregistered CIC :**

1. L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited, Tamil Nadu
2. Josan Deposits and Advances Limited, West Bengal.

- **List of 5 entities surrendered their licence due to the loss of their legal status :**

Melinex Investment and Finance Private Limited, Punjab
Casablanca Broking & Agency Pvt Ltd, West Bengal
Janpragati Syntex Pvt Ltd, West Bengal
Nalimbur Mercantile Pvt Ltd, West Bengal
Wondermax Mercantile Pvt Ltd, West Bengal

➢ Leading broking firm **Geojit Financial Services Limited** has introduced **FLIP**, its **newest mobile trading platform** in an **aim** to **replace** the current platform **SELFIE** and providing traders and investors a flexible and all-encompassing trading experience supported by a number of cutting-edge features.

➢ The **State Bank of India (SBI)** reported an **83% year-on-year (yoy)** jump in net profit at **₹16,694.51 crore** for the fourth quarter of 2022-23 fiscal on higher interest income and low provisioning.

In the January-March quarter of 2021-22 financial year, SBI's net profit on a standalone basis was **₹9,113.53 crore.**

This is the **bank's highest quarterly net profit** even as its asset quality improved further.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to **withdraw** the **Rs 2000 denomination banknotes** from circulation & asked all to **exchange** these notes by **September 30, 2023.**

Members of the public can exchange ₹2000 banknotes upto to a limit of **₹20,000/-** at a time.

RBI's 19 regional offices and other banks will start taking ₹ 2,000 notes for exchange with lower denomination ones **from May 23, 2023 to on or before Sep 30, 2023 (4 months).**

In pursuance of the '**Clean Note Policy**' of the Reserve Bank of India, it has been decided to withdraw the Rs 2,000 denomination bank notes from circulation

The withdrawal is similar to a previous withdrawal of notes in **2013-2014** (and not the demonetization).

A majority (**89%**) of the ₹2000 denomination notes were issued prior to **March 2017** and are at the end of their **estimated life-span** of **4-5 years.**

The total value of these banknotes in circulation has declined from **Rs 6.73 lakh crore** at its peak as on March 31, 2018 (37.3% of notes in circulation) to Rs 3.62 lakh crore constituting only 10.8% of notes in circulation on March 31, 2023.

The ₹2000 denomination banknote was introduced in **November 2016 under Section 24(1) of RBI Act, 1934.**

Demonetisation is the process through which a **nation's economic unit** of **exchange loses its legally enforceable validity**.

➢ **The 12 Public sector banks' (PSB) cumulative profit crossed** the **Rs 1 lakh crore (Rs 1,04,649 crore)-mark** in the financial year ended March 2023, with market leader **State Bank of India (SBI)** accounting for **nearly half** of the **total earnings.**

- These 12 PSBs witnessed **57% increase** in total profit compared to Rs 66,539.98 crore earned in 2021-22.
- In percentage terms, Pune-based **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** had the **highest net profit growth** with **126%** to Rs 2,602 crore, followed by **UCO** with **100%** rise to Rs 1,862 crore and **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** with **94%** increase to Rs 14,110 crore.
- However, in absolute terms, SBI has reported an annual profit of **Rs 50,232 crore** in 2022-23, showing an increase of 59% over the preceding financial year.
- **Except** for the **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, other PSBs have reported impressive annual increases in their profit after tax.
- In the March 2023 quarter, the PSBs' profit cumulatively increased more than **95%**

to Rs 34,483 crore as compared to Rs 17,666 crore in March 2022.

➢ **RuPay,** a home-grown card network developed by **National Payments Corporations of India (NPCI)** has introduced the **CVV (Card Verification Value) free payment experience** for its **debit, credit** and **prepaid cardholders** who have **tokenized** their cards on the merchant application or web page.

- Tokenization is a simple technology to **secure card transactions without sharing clear or real card details** with merchants.
- Card Verification Value (CVV) is a **three or four-digit number** located on the back of a physical debit or credit card, used as an **additional security measure** to ensure that the person making the transaction is a legitimate cardholder.

➢ **Aditya Birla Capital** through its lending arm, Aditya Birla Finance has started **Udyog Plus**, an one-stop business platform designed for **Indian micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) customers.**

- Udyog Plus", is a **dedicated offering for small businesses**, will be providing finance and an array of other services to MSMEs.

➢ The Regulator **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) proposed** tightening **norms** for **insurance advertisements** by **assigning higher responsibility** to senior management of insurers in designing and approving media campaigns for product promotion.

- **Objective of the amendment :** To **assign higher responsibility** on the senior management while designing and approving the advertisements for the consumption of the customers.

➢ The **International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA),** the regulatory body overseeing **GIFT City's international financial services centre,** is considering **permitting unsponsored depositary receipts (UDRs)** for Indian shares.

- By introducing Indian UDRs, the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gift City **aims** to **boost liquidity, attracting foreign funds** seeking offshore alternatives to the Mumbai stock markets

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

- The IRDAI has constituted a **12-member task force** headed by **IRDAI Chairperson Debashish Panda.**
- Presently, the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) framework** allows insurance companies to identify the customer by using his/her Aadhaar with consent management.

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

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had allowed **linking of RuPay credit cards** to the **UPI platform** in **June 2022.**
- RuPay is an Indian **multinational financial services** and **Payment service system** that was conceived and launched by NPCI in **2014** to fulfil the vision of RBI to establish a **domestic, open** and **multilateral system of payments.**

➢ Payments using **international debit or credit cards up to ₹7 lakh** will **not be part** of the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** and will not attract Tax Collected at Source (TCS), the Finance Ministry clarified.

Meanwhile, transactions through **UPI (Unified Payment Interface) exceeding ₹7 lakhs** by Indians abroad will be treated at par with **international credit or debit cards.**

➢ **Bharti AXA Life Insurance rolled-out** and completed the **first phase** of its '**Project Servottam**' - under which 20 policy servicing journeys were re-considered and the project enabled a **360-degree transformation** of physical services into digital services.

➢ **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** stated in a **set of guidelines** that **Online gaming platforms need not deduct tax** at source on winnings withdrawn by players if the amount is **less than ₹100 a month** and meets certain riders.

- The finance bill has introduced **two new sections - Section 194BA** that pertains to TDS (tax deducted at source) on net winnings from online games and **section 115 BBJ** related to computation of tax on winnings from online games.
- The Bill has removed the minimum threshold of **Rs 10,000** for TDS while also allowing it to be calculated either at the end of the financial year or at the time of user withdrawal, with effect from **July 1, 2023.**

➢ **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, launched **two innovative customer service initiatives** a **Live Video Calling service – bob Video Chat** and a **Live Web Chat facility – bob Live Chat** on its website, to enhance the overall experience for customers and prospective customers.

- Bank of Baroda is the **first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) bank** to offer live video chat and live web chat services to its customers.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced its **economic activity index (EAI)** nowcast, forecasting a strong **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate** of **7.6%** for the first quarter of the **fiscal year 2023-2024 (Q1 FY24).**

- This is against the real GDP growth of **7.8%** projected in the **April 2023 Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement.**

➢ **SBI General Insurance**, the non-life insurance arm of India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)**, has announced the launch of the **General Surety Bond Bima (Conditional & Unconditional) insurance product.**

- The Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insure the contractor as well as the **principal (contract awarding authority).**
- The Surety insurance provides an **assurance** to the **project owner** in the form of a Surety Bond that the contractor will complete the project as per the agreed terms and conditions.

➢ **One97 Communications Limited (OCL)** which owns the brand **Paytm, India's leading payments and financial services company** and the pioneer of QR and mobile payments, announced that it has launched Paytm **UPI SDK which** will allow customers to **pay directly** from their **bank accounts** by entering their UPI PIN without leaving the merchant app.

➢ **Japan's Digital Minister Kono Taro** has expressed keen interest in **joining India's Unified Payments System (UPI)**, referring to the **ongoing digital cooperation** between the two countries to provide mutual recognition of **e-IDs** of both countries and to **expand digital transactions.**

➢ **India** made a funding request of **approximately $55 million** to the **World Bank's Pandemic Fund** in its **first call in May 2023** to **combat pandemics in both humans** and **animals.**

The **Pandemic Fund** was created in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic by the **World Bank** to **strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities** in **low- and middle-income countries.**

➢ **Paytm Money subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited (OCL)** that owns the brand **Paytm**, has launched a **bonds platform** for **retail investors in India.**

- Bonds are a **safe option for investors** who are looking for a steady income and fixed returns on their investments and can diversify their portfolio for good returns & enable investors to **invest in government bonds, corporate bonds**, and **tax-free bonds, all in one place**.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty** of **₹84.50 lakh** on the **Central Bank of India** (the bank) for **non-compliance** with certain provisions of norms related to **fraud classification** and **reporting**.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has sanctioned the **voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank** with **The Cosmos Co-operative Bank.**

- The RBI had placed Maratha Sahakari Bank, which was founded in **1946** and has **7 branches** in Mumbai, under Directions under **Section 35 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949,** on August 31, 2016.

➢ Insurance behemoth **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** posted a **more than 5-fold jump** in consolidated **net profit** to **₹13,191 crore** for the fourth quarter ended March 2023.

➢ **India's Finance Ministry** has notified a total of **21 nations, investments** in **Indian start-ups** will be **exempt from Angel Tax.**

Excluded entities include those registered with **Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as Category-I FPI, Endowment Funds, Pension Funds and broad-based pooled investment vehicles,** which are residents of **21 specified nations,** including the **United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), Australia, Germany** and **Spain, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Italy, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Russia, Norway, New Zealand** and **Sweden.**

Angel tax is levied on **unlisted companies** in **India** that receive investments from angel investors.

➢ The **government capped** the amount of **interest subvention** at **Rs 10 crore per IEC (import-export code) holder** in **one financial year.**

In **March 2022** the RBI extended the **interest equalisation scheme** for pre and post-shipment rupee credit for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) exporters** till **March 2024** with the objective of b**oosting outbound shipments.**

Import Export Code (also known as IEC code) is a **10-digit identification number** that is issued by the **DGFT (Director General of Foreign Trade), Department of Commerce**, Government of India (GoI) & it is an important document required to undertake the business of inbound and outbound shipments.

➢ **Indian Bank** has been **empanelled** as a **Clearing and Settlement Bank** with the **Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd (ICCL).**

- Indian bank can now facilitate banking services to members of BSE for clearing and settlement operations.

Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) has announced its plans to **introduce insurance products** for the **livestock, aquaculture**, and **sericulture sectors,** following the approval and licensing received from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).**

- AIC already has a **50% market share** in the crop insurance market under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme** which is run by the Centre and state governments.
- For the **Kharif season,** farmers contribute **2.5%** of the premium, while during the **rabi season**, they pay only **1.5%.**

➢ **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** cut its holding in **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** to **3.19%** in the **March quarter** from 3.48% in the preceding quarter.

➢ According to reports, the **Union government** has ended the **paper-based**

communication system & introduced a **digital communication mechanism** between **Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) banks** & the **Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)** to **check Loan Defaults.**

- Under this, CEIB will send a report digitally regarding borrowers to the PSU banks for a loan amount of **Rs 50 crore** or higher at pre-approval stage **within 15 days of request.**

➢ **Axis Bank**, one of the largest private sector banks in India, has launched '**Sarathi**', a **first of its kind digital onboarding journey** to **enable Electronic Data Capture (EDC)** or **Point of Sale (POS)** for merchants.

A point-of-sale (POS) terminal is a **hardware system** for **processing** card **payments at retail locations.**

➢ **HDFC Bank** in association with the **Manipal Global Academy of BFSI (Banking, Financial Services & Insurance)** has launched **Future Bankers 2.0,** a **pan-India recruitment programme** to transform young graduates into banking professionals within one year.

➢ The **Annual Report 2022-23 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been published, presenting an overview of the RBI's operations during the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2023 as per the provisions of **Section 53(2) of the RBI Act, 1934,** has been submitted to the Central Government.

- **Key Highlights :**
- Over the past 5 years, India's contribution to global growth has averaged **more than 12%.**
- Growth: As per the second advance estimates (SAE) of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the Indian economy is expected to have achieved a **7.0%** growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY23, compared to 9.1% in FY22.
- Inflation: Overall, headline inflation increased to **6.7%** in 2022--23 from 5.5% in 2021--22.
  - Inflation reached a peak of 7.8% in April 2022 due to sharp increase in global prices of crude oil, food, fertilisers and metals.
- The general government deficit and debt moderated to **9.4%** and **86.5% of GDP**, respectively, in FY23 from the peak levels of 13.1% and 89.4% in FY21, respectively.
- According to the RBI annual report, the total **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows** into India reached a three-year low of **USD 46 billion** in FY23, which is 26% lower than the previous fiscal year (FY22 USD 58.8 billion).
- **Top FDI Recipient Sectors in FY 2023** : Computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest FDI inflows of US$9.39 billion followed by Services sector received significant investments of US$8.70 billion.

Top 5 Investor Countries in FY 2023:

Investor Country	FDI Inflows (USD billions)
Singapore	17.20
Mauritius	6.13
United States	6.04
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	3.35
Netherlands	2.49

Top Indian States Attracting FDI in FY 2023:

Indian States	FDI Inflows (USD billions)
Maharashtra	14.80
Karnataka	10.42
Delhi	7.53
Gujarat	4.71

Sector-wise FDI inflows in 2022-23 :

Sector	FDI Inflows (USD billions)
Manufacturing	11.3
Financial Services	6.8
Computer Services	5.6
Retail & Wholesale Trade	5.3
Communication Services	4.5

- **Merchandise Trade :** India's merchandise exports at **USD 450.4 billion** recorded a growth of 6.7% in FY23 as compared with 44.6% in FY22.
  - India's merchandise imports at USD 714.0 billion recorded a growth of 16.5% in FY23.
- **Bank's Fraud Analysis :** In FY23, as per the assessment of bank group-wise fraud cases over the last three years **private sector banks** reported the **maximum number of frauds**, whereas the public sector banks continued to contribute maximum to the fraud amount.
- **Deposit and lending rates :** Banks' deposit and lending rates increased in FY23 along with a **2.5% points** increase in the policy repo rate.
- **Balance Sheet of RBI in FY23** : In FY23, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) witnessed an increase in the size of its balance sheet by **Rs 1,54,453.97 crore,** which is equivalent to a growth of 2.50%. The balance sheet expanded from Rs 61,90,302.27 crore in FY22 to Rs 63,44,756.24 crore in FY23.
- **DICGC's Deposit Insurance :** To protect the small investors, DICGC offers deposit insurance of **Rs 5 lakh** (including the principal and interest amount) per depositor for each bank (within 90 days) in the event of the bank being unable to fulfil its commitment due to liquidation or cancellation of the banking licence. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), which is constituted under the DICGC Act, 1961 is wholly owned by the RBI.

RBI's Income, Expenditure, and Surplus Statement in FY23:

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

RBI's Income, Expenditure, and Surplus	FY22 (Amount in Rs crore)	FY23 (Amount in Rs crore)
Income (increased by 47.06%)	1,60,112.13	2,35,457.26
Expenditure (increased by 14.05%)	1,29,800.68	1,48,037.04
Surplus payable to the Central Government (increased by 188.43%)	30,307.45	87,416.22

JUNE MONTH

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** became a **net seller** of **US dollars** in fiscal year 2023, after being a net purchaser for **3 consecutive years**.

- The RBI sold **$25.52 billion** in the spot foreign exchange market.

➢ **YES Bank** unveiled its **new logo** as part of its "**refreshed brand identity**", designed to resonate with the evolving needs and aspirations of customers.

➢ **Razorpay** has launched **India's fastest one-step UPI (unified payments interface) payment solution, 'Turbo UPI'** that allows customers of online merchants to make **UPI payments directly** without getting redirected to a third-party UPI app during checkout.

- Razorpay Turbo UPI aims to deliver a **5X faster payment experience.**
- This solution was developed in partnership with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and **Axis Bank.**

➢ **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** announced that **Ikano Bank AB in Sweden** has selected the **TCS BaNCS Global Banking SaaS Platform** for its **pan-Europe core banking transformation** to provide a flexible, digital core that will support the rapid launch of new products and expansion into new markets.

➢ TCS BaNCS is a **core banking software** suite developed by **Tata Consultancy Services** for use by retail banks.

➢ **Draft valuation rules** for **overseas investments into startups** under the '**angel tax' regime** have been announced & issued by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** will be effective from **April 1, 2024.**

Under the rules, **5 new valuation methods** for calculating Angel Tax under a new mechanism for **non-resident investors** in startups have been proposed.

Regulated investor entities from **21 countries** and recognised startups will be immune from the new mechanism.

These 5 new valuation methods will be separate from 2 methods already in use-

Yubi (formerly known as **CredAvenue**), an **online debt marketplace** that connects borrowers and lenders for various credit products, has partnered with **Indian Bank** to **extend digital supply chain financing solutions** to **small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs).**

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has **emerged** as the **best bank** as far as **management of bad loans** is concerned with its **net non-performing assets (NPAs)** falling as low as **0.25%** during the financial year ended March 2023.

- This is the **lowest level among all banks** having total business above **₹3 lakh crore** and not just public sector banks (PSBs).
- Bank of Maharashtra was followed by **HDFC Bank** with net NPA declining to **0.27%** & **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)** stood at the 3rd place with NPAs at **0.37%** of net advances.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

- BoM has the **highest Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)** of 18.14% among PSBs.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has reported a **14.4% increase** in the **number of counterfeit Rs 500 notes** (new design) during the year **2022-23**.

RBI has recognized **91,110 counterfeit Rs 500 notes** worth **Rs. 4.55 crore** during the year 2022-23 while in the year 2021-22, **79,699 counterfeit notes** were detected by RBI.

➢ **Kiwi**, a ground-breaking credit card platform, has launched its **all-inclusive "Credit on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)" customer solution.**

- The solution has been certified by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, making Kiwi the **first app** in India to provide "Credit on UPI" by issuing Rupay Cards in collaboration with banks.

➢ The country's largest public sector lender **State Bank of India (SBI)**, raised **USD 750 million** under its **USD 10 billion Global Medium Note programme** to fund its overseas business growth.

- The fund was raised at **INX's Global Securities Market (GSM), GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** at Gandhinagar from global investors.
- India International Exchange Limited (India Inx) is the country's first international stock exchange backed by the **Finance Ministry** and government.

Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited (SFB) has signed an **agreement** with **IBM Consulting,** professional services and consulting arm of IBM to design and build a **digital banking platform** that delivers a modern and **highly secure experience** to the bank's customers and partners.

The market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **cancelled** the **registration** of brokerage firm **Karvy Stock Broking Ltd (KSBL)** for **mis-utilising clients' funds** and securities for **7 years** through its order issued on **April 28, 2023.**

The **fiscal deficit** of the **Union government decreased** from **6.71%** of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** to 6.4% of GDP in 2022–23.

Dairy technology provider Stellapps' fintech arm **mooPay Private Limited**, in partnership with **IBISA Network, HDFC ERGO** and **Gramcover**, has launched a **unique heat Index-based insurance plan** for **farmers** to provide financial **compensation** to mooMark dairy farmers to offset income loss due to a fall in milk productivity during heat waves in summer.

- With this, mooMark Becomes the first Indian Private Dairy to launch Heat Index Insurance Plan to Farmers

➢ **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** has joined hands with the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park (IITMRP), Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** and **IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC)** to introduce **voice-banking solutions** to eliminate language barriers across India.

➢ **Bajaj Allianz Life**, one of India's leading private life insurers, has launched an first of its kind **exclusive term insurance plan** for **Type 2 diabetic** and **pre-diabetic individuals** called **Bajaj Allianz Life Diabetic Term Plan Sub 8 HbA1c.**

➢ **Karbon Card**, a B2B (Business to Business) payment solution provider, has launched **India's first mobile-based expense management card** called **Card++** to **help thousands of startups** and small businesses

➢ Capital market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed to halve the **time taken** for **listing shares on stock exchanges** after the closure of the **initial public offer (IPO)** to **3 days from 6**.

- The reason behind this proposed reduction in timeline is related to SEBI's introduction of the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** as an **additional payment mechanism** for retail individual investors.

➢ **RBL bank Ltd** introduced a new fixed deposit scheme named '**ACE Fixed Deposit scheme**' with an interest of up to **8.50%** to provide better saving options for its customers.

➢ The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched its **India Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) 2023-2027: Catalyse Robust, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth** to accelerate structural transformation and job creation, **promoting climate-resilient growth,** and **deepening social and economic inclusiveness for next 5 years.**

- Pillar 1 : Accelerate the structural transformation and job creation through the convergence of logistics-industry-urban-skilling programs, along with support for MSMEs.
- Pillar 2 : Promote climate-resilient growth.
- Pillar 3 : Deepen social and economic inclusiveness.

Conversational engagement platform **Gupshup** has introduced **UPI payments** for people using feature phones via a native app called **GSPay**,developed along with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, will use SMS or even IVR based payments system, and do away with the need of data or internet connectivity.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das, launched a **Financial Inclusion Dashboard - ANTARDRIHSTI, Hindi means Insight to provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion** by capturing relevant parameters.

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd launched a non-linked participating individual life insurance savings plan named '**the Smart Wealth Advantage Growth Par Plan**' with 4 income variants.

The **State Bank of India (SBI), Bengaluru (Karnataka) Circle** has launched **Project Kuber,** under which there are **4 Transaction Banking Hubs, and 1 Corporate Salary Package Hub**, in the city to **source, facilitate**, and cater to the various banking needs of customers.

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has **identified SBI Life Insurance Company Limited (SBI Life)** as the **acquirer-insurer** of the business of the beleaguered **Sahara India Life Insurance Co. (SILIC).**

This decision has been taken by IRDAI in exercise of its powers under sub-section (2) of Section 52B of the Insurance Act, **1938**

SBI Life shall take over the policy liabilities of around **2 lakh policies** of SILIC, backed by the policyholders' assets, with immediate effect.

➢ **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL)** in partnership with **Myntra, Indian fashion e-commerce company** has launched its **first-of-its-kind** co-branded digital fashion & lifestyle credit card namely the **Kotak Myntra credit card** to provide trendy and new-age consumers an apt choice for their fashion needs.

➢ Kerala-based Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC), **Manappuram Finance Ltd** has launched a **new digital lending platform** named **Ma-Money** to provide customers all the financial products offered by Manappuram Finance under one umbrella

➢ Public lender **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** becomes the **first public sector bank** to launch an **Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility** for its customers, wherein they can withdraw money from **Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)** using the **United Payment Interface (UPI).**

➢ **HDFC Bank** has introduced a **new credit card - Millennia** offers cashback and **reward points** on Amazon, Flipkart, and other e-commerce platforms.

➢ **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with **guidelines** for transactions in **corporate bonds (CBs)** through the **Request for Quote (RFQ) platform** by **stock brokers (SBs),** to **increase the liquidity** on the RFQ platform of stock

exchanges and **enhance** the **transparency** and disclosure pertaining to trading in the secondary market in corporate bonds.

- This circular is issued in exercise of powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities markets.
- For all the trades in proprietary capacity, stock brokers will have to undertake **at least 10%** of their total secondary market trades by value in corporate bonds in that month by placing quotes through one-to-one or one-to-many mode on the RFQ platform of stock exchanges from July 1,2023 & further, the percentage will increase to **25%** from April, 2024.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** updated its '**Alert List**' for the public on **unauthorised forex trading platforms** by adding **8 more entities** (QFX Markets, WinTrade, Guru Trade7 Limited, Bric Trade, Rubik Trade, Dream Trade, Mini Trade, TrustTrade), taking the total to **56** to **raise awareness** and **protect individuals** from **fraudulent entities** operating in the forex market.

- Earlier on **February 10, 2023** the RBI issued a list of **48** entities in this regard.

➢ **Wipro Limited**, a leading technology services and consulting company, has collaborated with **Microsoft and announced** the launch of the **Wipro Industry Innovation Experience for Financial Services**, featuring a new suite of banking and financial services solutions built on **Microsoft Cloud** to help financial services clients accelerate growth and deepen client relationships.

➢ **Kotak Private Banking**, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, has unveiled **Kotak Réserve**, a Savings Programme curated exclusively for **UHNIs (Ultra High Net Worth Individuals)** and **HNIs (High Net Worth Individuals).**

➢ State-owned **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **HDFC Bank** for providing **financial solutions** to **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).**

➢ **Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME)** has received **in-principal approval** from **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** for designing and structuring a sustainable and scalable **Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) Growth Accelerator Program (NGAP).**

➢ SAMCO **Asset Management Private Limited** has launched **India's first actively managed momentum fund – SAMCO Active Momentum Fund** an open-ended equity scheme following momentum theme with the benchmark **Nifty 500 Index TRI.**

- The SAMCO Active Momentum Fund's new fund offer (NFO) runs from **June 15-29, 2023.**

In a move **aimed** at providing **significant relief to non-government salaried employees,** the central government has announced a **substantial increase** in the limit **Rs 25 lakhs** for tax exemption on leave encashment.

- The maximum limit of **3 lakh rupees** for tax exemption on leave encashment upon retirement of non-government salaried employees was last time fixed in **2002**.

➢ The **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India (HSBC India) or HSBC Bank India,** unveiled its latest **advertising campaignMy Account Starts Today** featuring their new brand influencer, ace cricketer **Virat Kohli.**

➢ **YES SECURITIES Limited (YSL)**, a leading financial services company, is partnered with **WatchYourHealth (WYH),** a tech-driven healthcare platform, to provide investment solutions to healthcare professionals through

the **'Wellth- Where Investments and Health Unite' program.**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **'100 Days 100 Pays' campaign** to trace and settle the **top 100 unclaimed deposits** of **every bank in every district within 100 days**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee** headed by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** in its **second bi-monthly monetary policy meeting of FY24** has kept the **repo rate** unchanged at **6.5%.**

RBI's Policy rates:

Category	Rate
Standing Deposit Facility (SDR) Rate	6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%
Cash reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

The **Federal Bank** has launched a **campaign titled 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me'** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** to celebrate people and their culture by transforming an entire bank branch into a museum of local stories.

- The campaign is a **first-of-its-kind micro-marketing initiative** in the banking industry, that is **aimed** at showcasing the soul of Adyar, including its people's struggles and triumphs that make it special.

➢ According to the ratings agency **ICRA report, Bond issuances by banks** are likely to **fall to Rs 90,000 crore** in the current financial year from an all-time high of **Rs 1.1 lakh crore** in FY23 due to improved liquidity conditions and foreign investors inflows.

- **Stronger foreign institutional investor (FII)/foreign portfolio investment (FPI) inflows,** as seen recently, the derecognition of the **Rs 2,000 note** and an anticipated dividend by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could **ease liquidity conditions** in the interim.

➢ India's insurance regulator, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**, grants a **license** to **conduct life insurance business in India** to **Go Digit Life Insurance Limited.**

The approval for Go Digit will be the **fourth life insurance business licence** issued by IRDAI this year.

With the latest addition, the number of insurers operating in the life insurance segment has gone up to **26**.

➢ The principal financial institution for **Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in India, the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched mission **EVOLVE (Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem)** in association

with **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, World Bank, Korean-World Bank** and **Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF)** to finance MSMEs in the **Electric Vehicles (EV) space.**

Under the initiative, SIDBI will give MSMEs access to **affordable commercial financing** for EV loans including hosting of telematics that could **help reduce financing costs** and **provide data** for other financial services.

ESAF Small Finance Bank, a leading small finance bank in India, has adopted **e-signature** for **micro-loan disbursals.**

- Through the adoption of e-signatures, ESAF Bank has effectively saved reams of paper, which would have been utilised for the purpose of **loan disbursement, documentation** involving **handwritten signatures,** thereby **reducing deforestation.**

➢ According to the data released by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, the governing body of **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** - India's prominent **digital payment network 9 billion transactions** have been made through UPI in **May, 2023.**

- The overall value of the UPI transactions stood at **₹14.89 lakh crore** with an increase of **43%** on a year-over-year basis.
- **8.89 billion UPI Transactions** were recorded in April,2023 while transactions in March,2023 were **8.68 billion.**
- In FY 2022-23, the UPI payment system processed a total of **83 billion transactions,** amounting to a value of 139 lakh crore rupees.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 2.20 crores** on state-owned **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** for non-compliance of income recognition and other deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has become the **first public sector bank** to introduce an **Interactive Voice Response (IVR)-based Unified Payment Interface (UPI) solution - UPI 123PAY,** aligning with the **Digital Payment Vision 2025** towards a cashless and cardless society.

In a **first-of-its-kind** move in the banking sector, **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has launched a **Unique feature** named **'My Account My Name' for Savings Bank (SB) account customers.**

- The account name can be a combination of **7 letters only, or 7 numbers only or 7 alpha numeric** only like **AJIT007, PRADHAN or 2424707** etc.

➢ Chairman of **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) Shreekant M Bhandiwad**, has launched a new deposit scheme named **'Vikas Ashadeep 400 days'.**

- The scheme has a tenure of 400 days with an interest rate of **7.50%** for **senior citizens** and **7%** for the **general public**.
- Under the scheme, a minimum of **₹10,000** and a maximum of **₹2 crore** can be deposited.
- KVGB, is an **Indian Regional Rural Bank** sponsored by **Canara Bank**.

➢ **South Indian Bank (SIB)** has introduced **SIB SWIFTe,** an **innovative and customer-centric digital account opening platform** that eliminates the hassle of paper-based documentation.

- This initiative primarily targets new-to-bank users **above 18 years** of age, who possess a **valid Aadhaar and/or Permanent Account Number (PAN).**

➢ **Reserve Bank Of India's (RBI) Committee for Review of Customer Service Standards** has released its report & as per that, the committee has proposed that the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee (DICGC) Scheme** should be extended to **PPIs (prepaid payment instruments).**

- The formation of the committee was announced in **April 2022** & it was set up in May 2022 under the **chairmanship** of former RBI deputy governor **BP Kanungo.**

➢ Energy transition platform **Amp Energy India** has secured up to **$250 million (about ₹2,061 crore)** from **SMBC Bank of Japan (Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation), ICG (Intermediate Capital Group),** and **AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank).**

➢ **SBM Bank India** unlocked **exclusive, on-invitation access** to the **world of luxury** with the launch of the **SBM World Elite Metal Debit Card.**

- Powered by **Mastercard**, & it is designed and being offered exclusively to SBM Private customers.
- SBM Bank India" is the **first bank** to receive a **universal banking license** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to set up and operate as a **Scheduled Commercial Bank** under **Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS)** mode offering banking services in India.

➢ **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has allowed **mutual funds (MFs)** houses to **conduct repo transactions** on **corporate debt securities, commercial papers (CPs)** and **certificate of deposits (CDs),** in a bid to boost growth of the corporate bond market.

- According to a circular, mutual funds can participate in repo transactions only in "**AA**" and above rated corporate debt securities.
- For the purpose of consideration of credit rating of exposure on repo transactions for various purposes, including for potential risk class matrix, liquidity ratios and risk-o-meter, Sebi stated that the same will be as that of the underlying securities on a look-through basis.
- With regards to transactions where settlement is guaranteed by a clearing corporation, the exposure will not be considered for the purpose of determination of investment limits for single issuer, group issuer and sector level limits.
- A repo transaction, also known as a **repo** or **sale repurchase agreement,** is one where mutual funds use corporate debt instruments as collateral for raising **short-term capital** with a commitment to repurchase it at a later date at the prevailing rate.

➢ **Insurance Regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** came out with **draft guidelines** for '**Bima Vahaks (BV)**', which seeks to set up a **dedicated distribution channel** at the level of **gram panchayats** to **enhance insurance coverage** and create awareness.

➢ The 25th and current governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Shaktikanta Das** was **honoured** with the **title of 'Governor of the Year' for 2023** by **Central Banking Awards 2023** in **London for** recognising his role as the RBI chief in **managing inflation** and skillfully handling India's banking system during crises like **COVID pandemic and global turmoil.**

- With this award, Das became the **second Central Bank governor** to be honoured with the award after **Raghuram Rajan**, who won the title in **2015**.

➢ Mumbai-based **Fino Payments Bank** has entered into a tie-up with Bengaluru based **Sequoia Capital-backed fintech Hubble** to introduce **India's & world's first spending account** to help customers manage their finances, track expenses, and earn rewards on purchases.

➢ **RING**, India's leading digital credit platform has partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to add its newly launched **UPI Plug-in functionality** to RING's pre-existing suite of digital services.

This partnership will help RING offer '**Scan & Pay' options** to its existing customers and acquire new customers who use UPI as a **preferred mode of payment.**

As per the data released by the **microfinance institutions network (MFIN), Microfinance loan portfolio increased** by **22%** to Rs 3.48 lakh crores during 2022-23.

- The microfinance active loan accounts increased by **14.6%** during the past 12 months to 13 crore as on March 31, 2023.

- In terms of regional distribution of gross loan portfolio, **East & Northeast and South** account for **63%** of the total portfolio.
- **Bihar** is the **largest state** in terms of portfolio outstanding followed by **Tamil Nadu (TN)** and **Uttar Pradesh (UP).**
- Non Banking Finance Companies - Microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs) are the **largest provider** of micro-credit with a loan amount outstanding of **Rs 1,38,310 crore,** accounting for **39.7%** to total industry portfolio.
- A microfinance loan is defined as a **collateral-free loan** given to a household having an annual household income of up to **Rs. 3,00,000.**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed **₹20 lakhs monetary penalty** on **Manappuram Finance** for non-compliance with certain provisions of **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).**

This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of **section 58G (1) (b)** read with section 58B (5) (aa) of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.**

A NBFC is a company registered under the **Companies Act, 1956** engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/ securities issued by the Government or local authority or other marketable securities.

➢ **Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company (MOAMC)** has launched **Motilal Oswal Nifty Microcap 250 Index Fund,** India's only passive fund offering exposure to microcap stocks to provide investors an opportunity to participate in the growth potential of microcap stocks.

➢ Indian digital payments and financial services company, **PhonePe** officially launched the **PhonePe Payment Gateway** with a **special limited-period offer** for new **Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) merchants.**

- PhonePe Exclusive Free Plan for Payment Gateway for Merchants, Zero setup fee, Zero annual maintenance fee, Zero hidden charges

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that **Equitas Holdings Ltd** has **surrendered** its **Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence**, and accordingly its registration has been cancelled.

- The RBI, in the exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, has therefore **cancelled** its **CoR (certificate of registration).**

➢ **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** has launched its **ActivMoney feature** which gives customers the benefit of **fixed deposit (FD)**-like interest rates of up to **7% per annum** with no charges on premature withdrawal.

➢ The latest round of consumer surveys conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for May, 2023 has shown an improvement in consumer confidence and easing of inflation expectations.

- The **Consumer Confidence survey** showed improvement in both the **Future Expectations Index (FEI)** and the **Current Situation Index (CSI)** from the previous round.
- The Current Situation Index improved by **1.5 points** from the previous survey round to 88.5.
- **Real gross fixed capital formation (GFCF)** is likely to increase from 6.8% in FY24 to 7.4% in FY25.
- **Merchandise exports** are likely to decrease 2.9% and imports by 4%, in US dollar terms, during FY24.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has opened a **sub-office** at **Kohima**, the capital of Nagaland.

- The Kohima sub-office has **Financial Inclusion and Development Department (FIDD), Consumer Education and Protection Cell (CEPC), Market Intelligence Cell** and **Human Resource Management Department (HRMD).**

➢ The Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India**

(SEBI) restricted online bond platform providers (OBPPs) from offering products other than listed debt securities on their **Online Bond Platform (OBP).**

- The online bond platform provider means **any person operating** or providing such a platform.
- "Online bond platform" means **any electronic system**, other than a recognised stock exchange or an electronic book provider platform, on which the debt securities which are listed or proposed to be listed, are offered and transacted."

Paytm has introduced a **UPI software development kit (SDK)** for customers to make payments to online merchants **without any failure** of the system.

Union Bank of India (UBI) has launched **4 bank account schemes** named **Union Unnati, Union Samriddhi, Union Samman, Union SBCHS** acknowledges the significance of cooperative housing societies, targeting **women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners and cooperative housing societies (CHS)**

NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) unveiled a new and refreshed brand identity for **GIFT Nifty (National Stock Exchange FIFTY)** as a part of the full-scale transition of **SGX Nifty to Gift Nifty** from **July 3, 2023.**

One of the largest private sector banks, **Axis Bank,** launched its latest feature, **'One-View', on Axis Mobile Application** which enables account management across multiple bank accounts, including non-Axis accounts.

- Axis Bank is the **first private sector Bank** to introduce this new-age banking feature leveraging the **Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem** to create a seamless banking experience for its customers.
- Account Aggregator is a **type of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulated framework** that helps an **individual securely** and **digitally access** and share information from one financial institution they have an account with to any other regulated financial institution in the AA network.

➢ The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) introduced modifications** to the **existing 'use and file' procedure** for life insurance products with the aim of facilitating the insurance industry in promoting insurance penetration.

- Key modifications : Individual And Group Unit-Linked Life And Health Insurance Products, Combi Products, Dispensing With Segregated Fund Identification Number (SFIN) Clearance Process.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** conducted a **4-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction** for a notified amount of **Rs 75,000 crore**.

The RBI usually conducts the repo auction to inject liquidity in the **banking system,** when it narrows or turns into deficit mode.

Last time, the RBI carried out the VRR auction on **May 19, 2023.**

➢ **The Union Government dismissed media reports** that gave **details of pensions being proposed by the Centre for the Employees under the National Pension System (NPS).**

- **Committee, set up under the chairmanship of the Finance Secretary** TV Somanathan to review the NPS, is in the midst of its deliberations and in the process of consulting stakeholders.

➢ The **Government of India has introduced two changes: introduction of Time of Day (ToD) Tariff, and rationalization of smart metering provisions, to the prevailing power tariff system, through an amendment to the Electricity** (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020.

Under the ToD Tariff system, Tariffs during solar hours (duration of eight hours in a day as specified by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission) of the day shall be **10%-20% less than** the normal tariff, while the tariff during peak hours will be 10 to 20 percent higher.

ToD tariff would be applicable for Commercial and Industrial consumers having Maximum demand of 10 KW and above, from 1st April, 2024 and for all other **consumers except agricultural consumers, latest from 1st April, 2025**.

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has published IS 18267: 2023 "**Food Serving Utensils Made from Agri By-Products – Specification,**" aimed at reducing plastic pollution and promoting sustainability.

- The implementation of this standard has extensive advantages as using biodegradable agri by-product utensils can contribute to environmental safety, conserve natural resources, and promote a circular economy.

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has launched **Dhan Vriddhi**, a **non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single premium life plan,** provides **financial support** to the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term.

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **$295 million loan** to widen and upgrade around **265 kilometres** of state highways, improving transport connectivity and safety in the state of **Bihar** in India.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **monetary penalty** of **Rs 2.5 crore** on **Jammu & Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank), Rs 1.45 crore** on **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM),** and **Rs 30 lakh** on **Axis Bank** for rule violations.

Manipal Technologies Limited (MTL) has partnered with state-owned **Indian Bank** to **drive financial inclusion** by offering customised banking products.

- **Aim :**To build a sustainable network of **corporate business correspondents (CBCs)** that will enhance the availability, affordability, and accessibility of financial services, particularly in underserved markets and rural areas.

➢ **3 Multilateral Development Banks (MDB)** - the **African Development Bank (AfDB), European Investment Bank (EIB), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB),** have partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to launch the **new Health Impact Investment Platform.**

- **Aim :** To strengthen and invest in climate and crisis-resilient Primary Healthcare Services (PHC) in low- and low-and-middle-income countries (LICs and LMICs).

➢ **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Limited (ABSLI)**, the life insurance arm of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched a new **retirement solution** called **ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan.**

- The ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan is a **non-linked, non-participating individual pension plan.**

➢ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**, a leading financial institution, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM)** to foster the growth of **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** in the state and provide them with vital **financial support.**

➢ **Canara Bank** has become the **first Public Sector Bank (PSB) in India** to introduce the facility of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments** to merchants through **RuPay Credit Card** in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**

- This facility is made available in the popular **'Canara ai1' Banking Super App of the Bank.**
- Presently, **only Merchant Payments** are allowed using this facility, and **Person-to-Person, Card-to-Card, or Cash-Out Transactions** will not be permitted for UPI payments from RuPay Credit Cards.

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the **banking license** of the **Karnataka-based Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank, Dharwad,** and allowed it to function only as a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).**

- A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the **Companies Act, 1956** engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/ securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed monetary penalties on **7 co-operative banks** for contravention of/non-adherence with certain norms issued by the central bank for the co-operative banks.

- These cooperative banks were

1. Textile Traders Co-operative Bank Ltd - **₹4.50 lakhs**
2. Ujjain Nagarik Sahakari Bank Maryadit - **₹1 lakh**
3. Panihati Co-operative Bank - **₹2.50 lakh**
4. The Berhampur Co-operative Urban Bank - **₹1 lakh**
5. Solapur Siddheshwar Sahakari Bank - **₹1.50 lakh**
6. Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Bank Limited - **₹28 lakhs**
7. Uttarpara Co-operative Bank - **₹2.50 lakh**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹30.00 lakh** on **Standard Chartered Bank-India** for non-compliance with certain provisions of the '**Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016**'.

- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under the provisions of **section 47 A (1) (c)** read with section 46 (4) (i) of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**

➢ Kotak Mahindra Bank's subsidiary, **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company** has partnered with **actyv.ai** to offer bite-sized insurance products to new-age **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) companies** in **India.**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **monetary penalty** on **all 4 credit information companies** currently operating in the country for non-compliance with certain provisions of the **Credit Information Companies/CICs (Regulation) Act, 2005, read with the CIC Rules, 2006.**

- **List of 4 credit bureaus :**

1. CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited - **₹25.75 lakh**
2. Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited - **₹24.25 lakh**
3. TransUnion CIBIL Limited - **₹26 lakh**
4. Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited - **₹24.75 lakh.**

JULY MONTH

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**."

➢ 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).**

➢ 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,** 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.

➢ The **World Bank** has approved **USD 1.5 billion (around ₹12,600 crore)** in financing to

accelerate **India's low-carbon energy infrastructure** 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 One97 Communications Ltd, owners of the brand **Paytm**, has partnered with retail non-banking finance company (NBFC) **Shriram Finance Limited, Chennai, Tamil nadu (TN)** to offer **financial services** to its users, including loan products.

➢ 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, under this individual girls or women** can open an account, or a guardian can open one on behalf of a minor girl.

- The MSSC is a **government-guaranteed limited-period small savings scheme** aimed at **empowering women** and fostering their financial inclusion.
- The scheme offers an interest rate of **7.5% per annum, compounded quarterly.**
- Earlier, on June 27, 2023, the **Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance**, issued an e-gazette notification, permitted **all public sector banks** and **eligible private sector banks** to operationalise the **MSSC** scheme at their branches.

➢ **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 to **38 partner countries** and **Canada** will be the **39th country**.
- The ITPS is a **competitive service for transmission** and delivery of packets and has been designed to meet the cross-border shipping requirements of e-commerce exporters including MSMEs, small businesses, merchants, etc to promote exports of their products using local post offices.

➢ London-based **Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC)** has relaunched its **Global private banking (GPB) business** in **India almost 8 years** after it closed the division amid an investigation by India's tax department to serve high-net-worth (HNW) and ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW) professionals, entrepreneurs and their 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.

➢ The **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** unveiled an all-new **RuPay Select Debit card aiming to** provide "**luxury, convenience,** and **security, all in one card.**"

➢ **South Indian Bank (SIB)** has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd (Automobile division)** to provide much-**needed financial support** to M&M's dealers, allowing them to meet their vehicle inventory funding requirements effectively.

➢ **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.**

➢ **UST**, a leading digital transformation solutions company, has announced its role as an Innovation vendor for **Project Rosalind,** an experiment in application programming interface (API) prototypes for central bank digital currencies (CBDC) from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Bank of England (BOE) via the BIS Innovation Hub London Centre.

➢ 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 - Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd **scheme.**

➢ **European Investment Bank (EIB)** is set to support the Indian government's approved **National Green Hydrogen Mission** with a loan of up to **€1 billion** to assist the country's nascent Indian green hydrogen ecosystem and renewable energy projects

➢ **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 onboard loan assets under **Retail, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME)** and **Agriculture segment** with a dedicated team.

➢ 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 aiming** at providing convenience to customers.

This will further fulfill the goal of making the **'YONO for Every Indian' mission a reality."**

➢ 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.**

The number of transactions was higher by **59%** on the year, and the value of transactions was **45%** higher compared with June 2022.

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) which was initiated** in **January 2022**.

- 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.
- NeSL is an **Information Utility (IU)** appointed by the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India ("IBBI"),** 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.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the **27th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR)**, which reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the Indian financial system.

- **Key highlights of the report :** The system-level **capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR)** in March 2024, under baseline, medium and severe stress scenarios, is projected at **16.1%, 14.7%** and **13.3%,** respectively.
- The CRAR and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) rose to historical highs of **17.1%** and **13.9%,** respectively, in March 2023.
- SCBs' **gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio** continued its downtrend and fell to a 10-year low of **3.9%** in March 2023 and the net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio declined to 1.0%..
- As per the report, the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** settled claims of **Rs 751.8 crore** during FY23 & with the present deposit insurance limit of Rs 5 lakh, 98.1% of the deposit accounts (estimated three billion) and 46.3% of

the assessable deposits (Rs 181.14 trillion) were insured.

➢ 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 d**ue to the **failure** to **provide correct disclosures**, including misrepresentation on the company's website.

➢ 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.

- The new consolidated framework has been based on 5 concurrent and continuous functions of cybersecurity, namely: **identify, protect, detect, respond,** and **recover.**
- Under the proposed framework, Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) like stock exchanges and depository participants will be required to conduct a cyber-audit **twice a year** while all other regulated entities will have to do it once each year.

➢ **State Bank of India (SBI),** the country's largest lender, has launched **34 transaction banking hubs** across the top-**21 district centres of India t**o provide **comprehensive solutions** for transactions, payments, and collections.

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.

➢ **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** to cater to the unique needs of women customers.

- Each Maitreyi branch will have a dedicated team of **7-15 women employees** to cater to the needs of customers and offer a range of services including home loans, MSME loans, and so on.

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

➢ 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.**

- Interest rate on UIDF loans has been kept at the **bank rate minus 1.5%** i.e., **5.25%** at present.

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (SFB) will launch its **₹500 crore initial public offering (IPO)** with the price band being set at ₹23-25 & the Minimum Bid Lot is **600 equity shares.**

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 its initial public offering (IPO).

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 recently notified the move, 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.

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.

- Its reliability and security are topnotch, backed by the **PCI-PTS 6 (Payment Card Industry-PIN Transaction Security) certification,** safeguarding both merchant and consumer data.

➢ 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 :

1. Ajit Kumar, MD, and CEO, of the Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA)
2. Hari Hara Mishra, CEO, of the Association of ARCs in India.
3. Mythili Balasubramanian, Executive Director, Edelweiss ARC
4. Dharmendra Pali, senior officials from the State Bank of India
5. Anupama Ranade, senior officials from the ICICI Bank

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.**

- SDR is an **international reserve asset** created by the IMF to supplement the official reserves of its member countries.

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.

➢ 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.

For it to become a self-sponsored AMC, it should have been in the financial services business for over **5 years** and positive net worth in all the immediately preceding 5 years.

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.**

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.**

These changes are part of a list of amendments to the **Government Savings Promotion General Rules**, as notified by the Finance Ministry.

The rules cover various schemes provided under Government Savings Promotion Act, 1873 such as Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Saving Certificate (NSC), Sukanya Samriddhi, Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, Mahila Samman Nidhi Post Office Time Deposits, Kisan Vikas Patra, and Post Office Monthly Income Scheme.

➢ **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.

➢ 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.

➢ According to a survey by the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS),** by **2030, 24 central banks** (**15 retail** and **9 wholesale central bank digital currencies** (**CBDC**)) are expected to have **digital currencies** in **circulation**.

- In total, the share of central banks that said they were engaged in some form of CBDC-related work rose to **93%.**

➢ 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' with the aim to bridge the gap between local & international payment gateways.**

➢ **IDFC FIRST Bank** has collaborated with **Club Vistara** and **Mastercard** to introduce a **travel credit card with the** aim to **enhance travel experience**s for cardholders.

- The card offers coverage 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.**

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.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is planning to **increase Central Bank digital currency (CBDC) transactions** by **introducing QR codes with an 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.
- **13 banks** that have been authorized to handle CBDC have attained partial interoperability.

➢ 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.

- The MoUs were signed by RBI **Governor Shaktikanta Das** and CBUAE Governor **Khaled Mohamed Balama.**
- The first 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 second MoU centers on cooperation between the **payment** and **messaging systems** of the two central banks.

➢ **HDFC Bank, the first bank** in India to launch the **Unified Payments Interface Quick Response Code (UPI QR code)** interoperable with India's sovereign digital currency, **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).**

- HDFC Bank will facilitate payments in Digital Rupee across several cities including **Mumbai, Delhi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneshwar, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Gangtok,** among others.
- 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.**
- 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 CDBC in the wholesale segment & it further rolled out retail testing on **December 1, 2022.**

➢ 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.

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 specified ESG rating activity, as the main object in its **Memorandum of Association (MoA).**
- The promoter of the ESG rating agency shall maintain a minimum shareholding of 26%.
- In the ESG rating provider for a minimum period of 5 years from the date of grant of registration.

➢ **Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited (FSFBL)** has launched its **multilingual Television Commercial campaign 'The Great Indian Fixed Deposit (FD) Fest' with an objective to raise awareness** about the bank's **interest rate** offering for all categories of customers featuring brand ambassador **Viswanathan Anand**

- At present, the bank is offering rates as high as **9.11%** for **senior citizens** and **8.51%** for **general citizens.**

➢ 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.**

➢ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **cancelled** the **licences of two 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.

Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank depositors, which are around **97.82%,** are entitled to receive the money in full from the DICGC.

Google Pay, the second largest Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform in the country has officially added support for **UPI Lite**

payment, which allows users to make small payments without using the pin.

UPI lite payment was first announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) back in **September 2022** and is currently compatible with over 15 major public sector and private banks.

Paytm, PhonePe, and BHIM were the first set of UPI payment apps to introduce UPI lite payments.

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

➢ 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.
- 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.

➢ 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 (Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), Fino Payments Bank, PayTM Payments Bank, NSDL Payments Bank** and **Jio Payments Bank)** had a total number of 741 functioning offices at the end of December 2022.
- Mutual fund penetration is defined as **mutual fund assets** under management as a percentage of GDP.
- Payments banks are allowed a maximum balance of **₹2 lakh per individual customer** at the end of the day.

➢ 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.**

➢ **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 to enhance awareness about **Deposit Insurance.**

- Deposits up to Rs 5 lakh in banks are insured by the DICGC. The scheme covers deposits in commercial banks, local area banks (LABs), payments banks (PBs), small finance banks (SFBs), regional rural banks (RRBs), and co-operative banks.

➢ 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 **incremental credit-deposit (C/D) ratio** of all scheduled banks declined to **63.70%** in the first quarter (Q1) of FY24 against 100.32% in the year-ago quarter on the back of deposit growth outstripping credit growth.

- 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.

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

➢ The **Bank of India (BoI)** inaugurated its **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** in the **International Financial Services Centre at GIFT SEZ area** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- In addition, BoI also inaugurated the **NRI Help Center (NRI HC)** located on the premises of the **Centralised Foreign Exchange Back Office (FEBO)** in the domestic sector of GIFT City.

➢ 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.**

- Nonghyup Bank is an **agricultural bank** headquartered in Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea.
- NongHyup Bank is the **6th Korean bank** in India to enter, as others include **Shinhan Bank (1st South Korean bank** to enter India in 1996), KEB Hana, KB Kookmin, Woori, and Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK).
- Scheduled banks are those banks that are listed under **Schedule II** of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The bank's paid-up capital and raised funds must be at least **Rs. 5 lakh** to qualify as a scheduled bank & these banks are liable for **low interest loans** from the RBI.

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

- Under this initiative, **1 lakh plus employees** of PNB will plant a minimum of two saplings each.

Private lender **HDFC Bank** entered the coveted **$100 billion market-cap** club becoming the **7th largest global lender with a** market capitalization reaching **$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
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

➢ The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **16 candidates** for the position of **executive directors (EDs)** in **public sector banks (PSBs)** for FY24.

- 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.
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) was formed effective from **July 01, 2022** by the Central Government to replace the **Bank Board's Bureau (BBB)** which was declared an incompetent authority.

➢ 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.**

- 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)**

➢ 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 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.

➢ **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 selected as the **investment manager-cum-sponsor** for the CDMDF & SBI currently holds a 62.53% stake in SBIFML.

Public sector banks (PSBs) are expected to step up **one-time settlement (OTS)** in **written-off loans** as the Finance Ministry set a target of recovering up to **40%** of the loan amount.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

In the 5 years that ended on March 31, 2022, the PSBs were able to recover only **14%**, Rs 1.03 trillion, out of the total written-off loans of Rs 7.34 trillion.

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.

➢ 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.

➢ Pension regulator, the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, is seeking bids for its intranet portal - **PINTRA** as part of its 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 deadline for bid submission regarding the selection of an SI for the PINTRA project is **August 16, 2023.**

➢ 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 **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 with the aim of exploring the potential of UPI in facilitating **secure** and **efficient international money transfers.**

- UPU is a **United Nations specialised agency** and the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation & it is the **second oldest international organisation** worldwide.

.

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%** & for the governance pillar, the bank achieved a score of **76%**

➢ In a push to asset monetisation of **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**, the Centre has **empaneled 11 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)** to **provide consultancy services.**

➢ 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.**

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**

- **Investment Criteria :** 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.**

➢ 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.**

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.

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 **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.

Private sector lender, **Karnataka Bank**, an 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank hosted the **first edition of 'KBL - FinOne',** a fintech partnership programme, in **Bengaluru, Karnataka to** Forge collaborations to **develop innovative business models,** provide a seamless banking experience and offer a complete product suite.

- The event is hosted in association with "**The Fintech Meetup**".

India's 7th largest Public Sector Bank, **Indian Bank** launched **Resources Acquisition Centre (RAC) to** strengthen the **retail deposit portfolio**, which encompasses **current deposit, savings bank** and **term deposit accounts.**

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

➢ **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has upgraded its technology platform to **promote digital transactions** and provide most offerings on a self-service platform and appointed **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.

➢ 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.

- 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** will soon receive an **equity infusion of Rs 200 crore** from its **parent Reliance Capital** which is undergoing bankruptcy proceedings.

- Following the infusion, the insurance firm will raise an additional **Rs 400 crore,** mostly through debt, to fund its growth.

➢ **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.

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

➢ 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.

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

➢ 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 "**DEA 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**

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.**
- 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.

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)** for the **treatment of underprivileged cancer patients.**
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**.

Canara Bank topped the list of **public sector banks (PSBs)** with the **highest lending** of **₹187,813 crore** to corporations and public sector undertakings (PSUs) of States and Union Territories (UTs) for the **5th year** in a row.

- 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.

➢ 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.

- As of 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)**

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.

➢ 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 allowing it to disburse only up to Rs 50,000 to depositors in all types of account**

According to RBI, the installation of business limits, however, does not result in the

termination of a banking license, & the bank will continue to conduct banking operations with limits until its financial status improves.

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

➢ 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 focusing on omnichannel experiences, data-driven hyper-personalization,** and an extensive financial services superstore designed for seamless cross-selling and upselling.

➢ **Bajaj Finserv Asset Management** launched its **first equity scheme, the Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund,** an open-ended equity scheme with an 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.**
- The scheme will follow the "**InQuBe**" investment philosophy, a proprietary framework that adds a "layer of behavioural finance to the informational and quantitative edges".

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with a 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.

- 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).**

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has introduced **Jeevan Kiran,** a non-linked and non-participating, individual, savings, life insurance plan that offers life cover with a return of premium.

➢ **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance,** joint venture between **ICICI Bank Limited** and **Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited** 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.

➢ **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 **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.

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

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

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with an exhaustive framework for the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) uner this** 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.**

➢ **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), 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.

➢ **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.**
- BBB' National Ratings denote a moderate level of default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

➢ **Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) fined Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** with **₹10 lakh over investor complaint probe** for **not registering and hearing the complaint** of an investor despite its order in **January 2021.**

- SAT is a statutory body established under the provisions of **Section 15K of the SEBI Act, 1992.**

➢ 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

APRIL MONTH

➢ The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** stated in its "**Global Trade Update (March 2023)**" that, despite deteriorating economic conditions and growing uncertainties, global trade in goods is expected to rise by about **1% (year over year)** in the first quarter (Q1) of 2023 while trade in services is projected to grow by about 3%.

Global trade has reached more than **$32 trillion** in 2022 but turned negative in the last quarter.

In actual terms, the **fiscal deficit** or gap between the expenditure and revenue collection during April-February period stood at **Rs 14.53 lakh crore** in the 11 months through February - nearly 83% of annual estimates.

- As per government data the numbers are **17% higher than** last year.
- The fiscal deficit in the comparable period of 2021-22 was **82.7%** of that year's Revised Estimate (RE) in the Budget.
- Total expenditure incurred by the government was **Rs 34.93 lakh crore** (83.4%of RE 2022-23), out of which Rs 29,03,363 crore was on Revenue Account and Rs 5,90,227 crore was on Capital Account.
- Out of the total revenue expenditure, **Rs 7,98,957 crore** was for interest payments and Rs 4,59,547 crore was on account of major subsidies.

➢ **Nokia has changed its iconic blue colour logo after nearly 60 years** to revamp its brand identity for the first time in the company's history.

- The new logo is made up of **5 different shapes making the word NOKIA.**

The Office of Economic Adviser, **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** in the Commerce and Industry

Ministry releases the **Index of Eight Core Industries, (ICI) increased by 6.0% (provisional) in February 2023** as compared to the Index of February 2022.

- The **Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent** of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP).**

Employees who have contributed more than **₹2.50 lakh** to the **Employees Provident Fund (EPF)** during FY22 or will do so in the subsequent years will be liable to pay tax on interest even in case of death.

- Also, employees who are yet to link their EPF account with PAN or have **invalid PAN** will be subjected to Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) at a higher rate.

➢ **IFC's first investment** in an EV manufacturer in the country and the **first** in electric three-wheelers globally will be in the form of compulsory convertible instruments at a valuation of up to **INR 6,020 crores.**

- The INR 600 crores investment will result in an ownership of between **9.97% to 13.64%** for IFC in NewCo.

➢ According to the "**2023 Global Payments Report**" by global financial technology pioneer FIS, India's e-commerce (e-com) sector is projected to grow from USD 83 billion in 2022 to **USD 150 billion in 2026**.

- The report added that cash use declined from **71%** of Point Of Sale (POS) transaction value in 2019 to just 27% in 2022.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has helped e- commerce account-to-account (A2A) payments grow to **$12 billion**, which is up 53% between 2021 and 2022, and digital wallets have also grown from 5% to 35% of POS value.
- The Global Payments Report also shows that by 2026 A2A transaction value is expected to grow by 195% to $36 billion.

In order to limit the **maximum rate of GST compensation cess on pan masala, cigarettes, the government has made amendments to the Finance Bill.**

- This **rule issued by the government will be implemented from the 1 April 2023**.
- The **maximum GST compensation cess rate for pan masala will be 51%** of the retail sale price per unit, **which is currently levied at 135% ad valorem** [according to the estimated value of the goods being taxed].

➢ The 24th issue of the publication "**Women and Men in India 2022**" was released in Delhi, by the Minister of State (Independent Charge [I/C]) for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) **Rao Inderjit Singh.**

As per this, Women accounted for **35.2%** of bank accounts in Mar '22, up from 30.8% in Mar '19 & the total number of deposit accounts at the end of January 2023 was **225.5 crore**, out of which over 79 crore are owned by women.

➢ **ArcelorMittal** ('the Company') announced that **AMNS Luxembourg Holding S.A.,** the parent company of AM/NS India, the Company's 60/40 steelmaking joint venture with **Nippon Steel Corporation in India**, has entered into a **$5 billion loan agreement** ('JBIC co-financing loan') with the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation ('JBIC'), MUFG Bank, Ltd., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Limited, Mizuho Bank, Ltd., Mizuho Bank Europe N.V**.

➢ According to the "**Trade and Development Report Update: Global Trends and Prospects" (April 2023) report** published by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India's economic growth** is projected to decline to **6%** in 2023 from 6.6% in 2022.

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** lowered India's economic growth projection for **the current fiscal to 5.9% from 6.1% earlier.**

➢ **Jakson Green has won a project from state-run NTPC** to set up a methanol synthesis facility at its **Vindhyachal thermal power plant (TPP) in Madhya Pradesh.**

- The methanol synthesis plant will be a part of NTPC's Vindhyachal TPP with a production capacity of 10 tonnes per day (TPD).
- Methanol is a cleaner alternative fuel that can be used for various purposes including power generation and transportation.
- Further, it will help **India meet its Paris Climate Change Agreement obligation to reduce carbon emissions by 33-35 per cent by 2030.**

➢ As per fresh estimates made by the **WTO revises upwards global trade forecast to 1.7% for 2023 Global trade in goods is likely to grow by 1.7% in 2023, following a 2.7% growth in 2022**, hit by the effects of the long-drawn war in Ukraine, high inflation, tighter monetary policy and financial market uncertainty.

- **Real global GDP growth at market exchange rates is estimated at 2.4 per cent** for 2023 against **2.3 per cent predicted earlier**.

➢ **Paradip Port has handled a record annual traffic of 135.36 million metric tonnes** in 2022-23 against **116.13 million metric tonnes in the last financial year**.

The Pradip **port has recorded the highest-ever growth of 19.2 million metric tonnes** (16.56%) of traffic in a single financial year.

The Port has achieved the highest ever coastal shipping traffic of **58.42 million metric tonnes,** it has also improved its berth productivity to 31,050 MT which is the highest among all the ports of the country.

➢ **Apple has officially announced** its **first-ever flagship retail store in Mumbai called 'Apple BKC'.**

- Apple has revealed the banner of its **first retail store in India at Jio World Drive Mall, Mumbai,** marking the opening of Apple BKC.
- The **store is inspired by the 'Kaali Peeli' taxis art popular in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

➢ **Reliance Industries,** the largest Indian business house, along with telecom arm Jio Infocomm have raised a total of **USD 5 billion** in back-to-back foreign currency loans, the **largest syndicated loan** in India's corporate history.

Reliance raised USD 3 billion from **55 banks** and Reliance Jio Infocomm secured additional credit of USD 2 billion from 18 banks.

According to the data from the National Statistical Office (NSO), **India's annual retail inflation** for March, 2023 eased below the central bank's upper tolerance level for the first time this year, and eased to **5.66% from 6.44%** in February, 2023.

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has announced that the **'Cost Inflation Index (CII)'** in respect of Financial Year 2023-24 (Assessment Year 2024-25) shall be **348**, which has been increased from 331 announced earlier for the last financial year 2022-23.

- The CII is used for calculating **'long term capital gains (LTCG)' under Income Tax.**

Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) status has been accorded to **Solar Energy Corporation of India.**

- A communication to this effect has been issued by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).**
- SECI is committed to achieving the target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030.
- **Till date, more than 56 GW project** capacities have been awarded to SECI.

➢ Truck and bus maker **Ashok Leyland has launched its e-marketplace 'Re-AL' for used commercial trucks to offer customers a range of features to easily find vehicles of their choice**, such as verified vehicle images, validated documents as well as evaluation reports.

➢ The **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) increased** the **guarantee coverage ceiling** under its Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for MSEs from **Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore** per borrower for credit facilities extended by

lending institutions to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

- The changes were effective **April 1,2023** when the loan growth to the MSE segment slowed to 13.2% year-on-year as on February 24, 2023 against 24% y-o-y as on February 25, 2022.
- GTMSE is jointly set up by the Ministry of **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India (GoI)** *and* **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to catalyse flow of institutional credit to MSEs.

➢ According to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **India's imports in Financial Year 2023 (FY23) rose 16.5 per cent to $714 billion as against $613 billion in FY22** while exports saw a **rise of 6% to $447 billion** in FY23, **up from $442 billion** in FY22.

India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) stood at $18.2 billion or 2.2% of GDP in the quarter ended December 2022.

India's exports are largely led by petroleum ($94 billion), followed by electronic goods ($23 billion).

➢ **India's annual Wholesale Price Index** (WPI)-based inflation **declined to a 29-month low of 1.34 per cent** in March 2023 as input prices continued to moderate.

This is the 10th straight month of decline in WPI-based inflation.

The **food index inflation eased to 2.32% in March from 2.76% in February**, 2023.

➢ Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** had stated that **Aadhaar** has brought down the cost of KYC to **₹3** from as high as **₹700**.

- At the same time, the cost of loan processing has been lowered by almost **75%**.

According to the quarterly report on debt management for October-December released **by the finance ministry, the government raised ₹3,51,000 crore through dated securities as against the notified amount of ₹3,18,000 crore** in the borrowing calendar**.**

Repayments stood at ₹85, 377.9 crore.

The net daily average liquidity absorption by RBI under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) including Marginal Standing Facility **and Special Liquidity Facility was at ₹39,604 crore during the quarter.**

➢ The average ticket size of loans under **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY/MUDRA)** has nearly doubled to **₹72,000** in FY23 from ₹38,000 in FY16, according to State Bank of India's economic research department (ERD).

- The **amount of loans disbursed** under MUDRA **increased from ₹1.33 lakh crore in FY16 to ₹4.50 lakh crore in FY23.**
- The number of loans sanctioned stood at **₹6.23 crore** in FY23 against ₹3.48 crore in FY16.
- India's **Social Fabric Index** (SFI) shows 3.2 times jump from 0.813 in FY17 to 2.640 in FY22.
- SFI represents the participation of the **underprivileged** in the formal banking system.
- The SFI is constructed by SBI using principal component analysis & it includes 3 variables i.e. SC, ST, OBCs Mudra Accounts and Disbursements.
- **Mudra Atmanirbhar Quotient (MAQ)** has increased up to **25 times** since FY16.
- MAQ measures the propensity of particular social strata to repay based purely on cash flow generated from business.
- MAQ has increased from **0.81** for ST and SC social groups in FY16 to 2.02 and 2.20 respectively in FY22.

➢ **Private equity (PE)** and **venture capital (VC) inflows** into India crossed **$61 billion** in 2022, down 12% on the year on global headwinds, but its share of investments in the Asia-Pacific region rose to a fifth from less than 15% a year ago.

➢ In its **24-year history** the e-commerce Company **Alibaba** announced that it will split into **6 business groups,** which will each be managed by their respective Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and follow a holding company structure.

- It plans to split its $220 **billion** empire into 6 units that will individually raise funds and explore initial public offerings, the biggest overhaul of China's online commerce leader since its inception more than two decades ago.
- The 6 business groups of Alibaba are Cloud Intelligence Group (cloud computing — think AWS), Taobao Tmall Commerce Group (domestic retail businesses), Local Services Group (on-demand businesses like food delivery), Cainiao Smart Logistics (logistics), Global Digital Commerce Group (overseas retail businesses, including Lazada) and Digital Media and Entertainment Group (including the likes of video streaming).

➢ State-run **Indian Oil Corporation Limited's (IOCL) board of directors** have approved setting up a **petrochemical complex** at **Paradip** in **Odisha** at an estimated cost of **₹61,077 crore**.

The project will be the oil marketing company's (OMC) **largest ever investment** at a single location.

➢ **The National Stock Exchange of India** (NSE) has revised the eligibility criteria for **SMEs looking to switch from its SME platform to the main board** effective from **April 20, 2023.**

- The new guidelines require SMEs to list on the SME platform for at least three years along with a **minimum net worth of Rs 50 crore and at least 1,000 public shareholders on the last day** of the preceding quarter from the date of application before moving to the main board.
- In addition, the company should have positive **PAT (profit after tax) in the immediate financial year** of making the migration application to the exchange.
- Moreover, the paid-up equity capital (amount received by the company from shareholders in exchange for shares of stock) of the applicant should not be less than Rs 10 crores and the **market capitalisation shouldn't be less than Rs 25 crores.**

➢ **WayCool,** a Chennai-based food and agri-tech platform **announced the launch of a wholly-owned subsidiary 'BrandsNext' to exclusively focus on its fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) business**.

➢ **Tata Steel** has been recognised as one of the **2023 Steel Sustainability Champions** by the **World Steel Association** & the announcement was made at the Worldsteel Special General Meeting of the Board of Members held in **Vienna, Austria**.

- Recognised for the **6th consecutive year** this year, Tata Steel has been a champion every year since the programme's launch in **2018**.

➢ **Toyota** launched the **1st -ever online retail sales platform 'Wheels on Web', for customers residing in Bangalore, Karnataka** to create smooth and comfortable transactions just by sitting at their homes as they can look, buy and order their preferred vehicle.

MAY MONTH

The Index of Eight Core Industries increased by 3.6% in March 2023 as against the Index of March 2022.

- In March 2023, **crude oil, power and cement output fell by 2.8%, 1.8% and 0.8% respectively.**
- However, coal, fertilisers, steel, natural gas and refinery products output recorded growth by 12.2%, 9.7%, 8.8%, 2.8% and 1.5%, respectively.
- Government has revised the final growth rate of ICI for December 2022 to 8.3% from its provisional level 7.4%.

➢ **Nissan is focusing on developing growth plans in software and electric vehicles independently from its partner Renault** as both automakers work on finalizing the terms of their alliance

➢ **Bengaluru-based Log9 Materials**, an advanced battery-technology and deep-technology startup, **inaugurated India's 1st commercial lithium-Ion (Li-ion) cell**

manufacturing facility on its campus in Jakkur, Bengaluru.

- **Log9's commercial Li-ion cell manufacturing line** has an **initial capacity of 50 MWh.**

➢ **REC Limited**, a Maharatna power finance company, has listed **its recently issued Green bonds worth $750 million at GIFT IFSC Stock Exchanges,** under its **Global Medium Term Programme of $7 billion**.

- It also marks **the first Green Bond issuance by an Indian company post-India's G20 Presidency.**

➢ **Daikin Airconditioning India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Japan's Daikin Industries,** is now the **second company operating in the cooling space to cross the USD 1 billion** milestone after the **Tata group firm Voltas,** which had reported a **total income of Rs 9,667 crore for FY23.**

- **It expects to double its business in India to $2 bn in the next 3 years, having crossed the milestone of USD 1bn in FY23**
- Daikin India has a turnover **of Rs 8,860 crore for the financial year ended on March 31, 2023.**

➢ **Agritech firm Unnati's subsidiary Ora Finance** has been **awarded a license to operate a non-bank financial company (NBFC).**

Ora Finance can now cater to the financial requirements of the various players in the agriculture ecosystem while **aiming to bridge the gaps in agri-financing currently prevalent.**

The company must have a minimum net owned funds of **Rs. 2 crores** & must have a board of directors with at least one director having at least 10 years of experience in the banking or financial sector.

➢ Businesses with turnover of over **Rs 5 crore** will have to **generate electronic or e-invoice** for business-to-business (B2B) transactions with effect from **August 1, 2023.**

Currently, businesses with a turnover of **Rs 10 crore** and above are required to generate e-invoices for all B2B transactions.

The **e-Invoicing system under Goods and Services Tax (GST) law** was implemented from **October 01, 2020** for taxpayers with an aggregate turnover exceeding **Rs.500 crore.**

➢ **Amazon Web Services (AWS) has announced to invest 12.7 billion dollars** in cloud infrastructure in **India by 2030 aiming to** meet the growing needs of customers of cloud service in India.

- The **total investment of AWS in India will reach Rs 1,36,500 crore (USD 16.4 billion) by 2030**.
- This **investment will contribute Rs 1,94,700 crore (US D 23.3 billion) to India's total gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030**.

➢ **Taiwanese contract manufacturer Foxconn will invest Rs 4,000 crore in a new electronics manufacturing facility** in **Hyderabad** which will lead to the **creation of 25,000 jobs** and will be spread over an area of 200 acres.

➢ The **Nifty derivatives contracts traded on the Singapore Exchange (SGX) have been renamed to GIFT Nifty** & it has obtained approvals from the **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and IFSCA regulators at Singapore and Gift City**, respectively.

➢ According to the latest **World Gold Council** data, In FY23, **India added 34.22 tonnes of gold to its official reserves** & this took the proportion of gold among **India's forex reserves to a 5-year high of 8.06%.**

- According to the RBI data, as of March 2023, India had foreign reserves worth ₹46,06,680 crore of this, **gold reserves amounted to ₹3,71,500 crore**.
- **Turkey added the most gold to its reserves last year** 140.88 tonnes, taking its total reserves to 572 tonnes **followed by China**, which added 120 tonnes and Singapore, which added 68.67 tonnes.

- **India stands 5th among the countries** that added glitter to its reserves last fiscal.
- **As of March 2023,** When it comes to countries with the most official gold reserves, **India ranks 9th.**

➢ **The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has launched the 1st ever India Jewellery Exposition Centre (IJEX) in Dubai** to commemorate the first year of **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement** (CEPA).

- IJEX is a 365-day exhibition and showcasing venue in Dubai located at the new Gold Souk in Deira, Dubai.
- The **CEPA has been a boon to the bilateral trade relations between the two nations, with India-UAE trade** growing by 16% to reach $84 billion in FY23, up from $73 billion in the previous fiscal.

United States (US) US-based Zoom Video Communications (ZVC) has secured a pan-India telecom licence that will enable it to offer telephone services to enterprise customers.

- With these licences, the company will be able to offer its cloud-based **private branch exchange (PBX) service 'Zoom Phone'** to multinational corporations (MNCs) and businesses operating in India.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance re-launched the 50-year-old iconic beverage brand Campa Cola in a new contemporary avatar as it looks to ramp up its own consumer goods offering to take on competition from **Adani, ITC and Unilever.**

- In January,2023 Reliance Consumer Products Ltd, the fast-moving consumer goods arm of **Reliance Retail, acquired a 50% stake in Gujarat-based carbonated soft drinks and juice maker Sosyo Hajoori Beverages Pvt Ltd.**
- It had previously acquired the Campa brand from Pure Drinks group for a **reported Rs 22 crore.**

➢ As per a notification by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, the **price of domestic natural gas for May has been set at $8.27 per million British thermal units (mBtu), up from $7.92** for most of April 2023.

- This increase is in line with **the new domestic gas pricing formula introduced in April 2023.**
- In April 2023, **the Union Cabinet approved significant changes in the pricing regime for domestic natural gas** under the ambit of the administered price mechanism (APM).

➢ **Dialog Axiata Plc,**Sri Lanka's largest telecommunications service provider, **Axiata Group Berhadm and Bharti Airtel signed** a binding term sheet **to combine the operations of Bharti Airtel Lanka**.

- The binding is to combine the operations of Bharti Airtel Lanka (Private) Limited, Airtel's wholly-owned subsidiary, with Dialog, a subsidiary of Malaysian multinational telecommunications conglomerate Axiata Group Berhad
- Recently, **Bharti Airtel has partnered with Bridgepointe Technologies under Global Channel Partners Programme.**

➢ In order to implement this non-intrusive means of compliance verification, **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** has rolled out the **Automated Return Scrutiny Module** for GST returns in the ACES-GST backend application for Central Tax Officers.

- This module will enable officers to scrutinise GST returns of selected centrally administered taxpayers based on data analytics and risks identified by the system.

➢ State-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) announced that it has found Crude oil and natural gas in two blocks** ('Amrit' and 'Moonga') **of the Mumbai offshore region**.

- The **largest producer of petroleum in India is Rajasthan followed by Assam and Gujarat.**
- In India, about 71.35% of natural gas is produced from offshore areas.

➢ Daily orders on **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) have crossed the 25,000-mark in the 1st week of May 2023 & the number of retail merchants on board ONDC increases from 800 in January to 35,000** in **May, 2023.**

ONDC's network participants increased from 26 in January 2023 to 46 & **these include PhonePe's Pincode and Airpay, companies such as HUL and ITC.**

➢ **In view of violation of Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the Central Consumer Protection Authority** (CCPA) has issued orders against **5 e-commerce companies, Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal, Shopclues, and Meesho** for selling car seat belt alarm stopper clips on their platforms.

- Approximately **13,118 listings** of car seat belt alarm stopper clips have been delisted from the e-commerce platforms.

➢ The **government is all set to make an equity infusion of Rs 300 crore in Alliance Air.**

- **Alliance Air**, which earlier was a part of Air India, **is currently owned by AI Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL),** a special-purpose vehicle formed by the central government.

➢ The **finance ministry has approved an equity infusion of Rs 300 crore into Alliance Air.**

- Flights under the 'Alliance Air' brand are operated by Airline Allied Services, which changed its name to Alliance Air Aviation Ltd.

➢ According to the data released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO), India's retail inflation** in the month of April, 2023 eased to an **18-month low** of **4.70%** in April 2023 from 5.66% the previous month.

- The retail inflation was below the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit for the 2nd straight month.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected the CPI inflation at 5.2% for FY 2023-24, with 5.1% in **Q1, 5.4% in Q2, 5.4% in Q3, and 5.2% in Q4, and risks evenly balanced.**

➢ The **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi** (GNCTD) announced the **Motor Vehicle Aggregator Scheme 2023, which is aimed at regulating cab aggregators and delivery service providers**.

- A draft of the scheme was approved by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, which will now be sent to the Delhi LG.
- This scheme prioritises the safety of passengers and ensures timely grievance redressal, **while also promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) and reducing pollution levels in the city.**

➢ Korean automobile major **Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL)** has announced that it will invest **₹20,000 crore** over the next 10 years (2023-2032) in **Tamil Nadu (TN)** to modernise vehicle platforms and expand its presence in the electric vehicle space.

- An MoU was exchanged between **Unsoo Kim,** MD and CEO of Hyundai Motor India Limited, and **V. Vishnu**, MD and CEO of Guidance Tamil Nadu.

➢ According to the Commerce & Industry Ministry, **India's goods exports have fallen 12.7% in April 2023 to $34.66 billion**.

- According to quick estimates released by the government on 15 May 2023, **Imports during the month have fallen 14% to $49.9 billion**.
- **Trade deficits have declined to $15.2 billion** in April 2023 **from $18.4 billion in April 2022.**

➢ **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation declined** to **minus 0.92%** in April 2023 & it stood at **1.34%** in March 2023 and **15.38%** in April 2022.

- The WPI inflation has declined into negative for the first time since July 2020.
- **Earlier, Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation declined to an 18-month low level of 4.7% in April.**

➢ The **National Stock Exchange will launch two new cash-settled energy futures contracts on WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas**

to enhance the product offering and draw liquidity from MCX, which already provides trades in similar contracts on its platform.

➢ According to a latest report by the **Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI),** the **gaming industry** emerged as the **biggest violator** of advertising guidelines, followed by education, healthcare and personal care sectors between April 2022 and March 2023.

The real money gaming industry surpassed the education sector to emerge as the most violent sector, moving from **5th to the 1st place** in 2022-23.

Nearly **92%** of gaming advertisements reviewed by ASCI for FY 2022–23 did not adhere to the guidelines for real money gaming and failed to inform consumers about the risks of financial loss and addiction

United States (US) technology giant **Google** has been announced as the inaugural '**platinum consortium**' member of the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras' (IIT Madras)** newly formed **Centre for Responsible Artificial Intelligence (CeRAI)**, focusing on responsible AI research and development marking its commitment with an initial investment of **$1 million**.

Tata Consumer Products will **delist** its **global depository receipts (GDRs)** from the **London Stock Exchange** and **Luxembourg Stock Exchange.**

- **GDRs** is a **foreign currency-denominated negotiable financial instrument** issued by a depositary bank.
- GDRs are certificates issued by a depository bank, which purchases foreign company shares and deposits them in the account.
- **Indian companies can only get their shares listed on foreign exchanges** through **Global Depository Receipts (GDR).**

➢ In a bid to give a fillip to diverse and sustainable sourcing, **Hindustan Unilever (HUL) and Genpact have launched Be.Seen,a program to help scale businesses owned by minority and under-represented groups in India.**

- The program is implemented by Sattva, a social impact research and advisory firm.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced that a consortium, headed by the prominent IT company, **has been awarded an advance purchase order worth more than ₹15,000 crore by the government-owned BSNL** specifically for implementing a nationwide 4G network in India.

- This development takes place amidst **Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel's ongoing efforts to expand their 5G infrastructure throughout the country**.

Flipkart group-owned fashion commerce platform Myntra has rolled out 'MyFashionGPT', a search feature powered by ChatGPT with an aim to help shoppers with better product discovery and drive engagement on the retailer's app.

- **The company also announced the launch of MyStylist, an AI-based stylist expert to provide customers** with expert styling tips and vernacular search in 11 languages on its platform.

➢ **Nvidia Corp breached the $1 trillion in market capitalization**, making it the **first chipmaker to join the trillion-dollar club**.

- The surge added to a more than twofold rise in the stock in 2023 and **was set to increase the chip designer's value by about $190 billion to nearly $945 billion.**
- That makes **Nvidia twice the size of the second-most valuable chip firm, Taiwan's TSMC.**
- **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd is** the **next largest chipmaker globally, valued at about $535 billion.**

➢ According to the **Third Advance Estimates of Production of major crops for agricultural year 2022-23**, released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Foodgrains production in the country in**

2022-23 is estimated at 330.53 million tonnes, the highest ever, and a big jump over 315.61 million tonnes recorded in 2021-22.

- The **government has set wheat production target at 112 million tonnes, the Third Advance Estimates put it at 112.74 million tonnes.**
- Total **rice production** in the 2022-23 agricultural year is estimated at a **record 135.54 million tonnes.**

JUNE MONTH

JSW Steel has become the **first manufacturer** to receive the prestigious **GreenPro ecolabel** for its 'Automotive Steel' products.

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Green Business Centre** developed the GreenPro ecolabel, which recognizes the **highest standards of environmental sustainability** and product performance in the Indian manufacturing sector.
- GreenPro is a Type – 1 Ecolabel which enables the end users in the building sector and manufacturing industries to choose the right products, materials and technologies for reducing the environmental impacts during the construction, operation and maintenance of their buildings and factories.

➢ According to a report by **Google, Temasek, and Bain & Company, India's Internet economy,** from approximately $175 billion of consumption in 2022 to **$1 trillion** by **2030.**

Consequently, **the contribution of the Internet economy to India's technology sector is set to expand, from the present 48% to 62% in 2030**, while its share in **India's GDP will increase from 4-5% to nearly 12-13%.**

In a significant step towards enhancing domestic production of pulses, **the Government has removed the procurement ceilings of 40 percent for tur, urad, and Masur under Price Support Scheme PSS operations for 2023-24.**

- The decision, in effect, assures the procurement of these pulses from farmers at MSP without ceilings.
- **The government has imposed stock limits on tur and urad by invoking the Essential Commodities Act, 1955** in order to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation and also to improve affordability to the consumers.

India achieved all-time high export of seafood both in terms of volume and value (both US$ and Rupee) by shipping 17,35,286 MT of **seafood worth Rs. 63,969.14 crore (US$ 8.09 billion) during FY 2022-23** despite the several challenges in its major export markets like USA.

- During the **FY 2022-23, the export improved in quantity terms by 26.73%, in rupee terms by 11.08%, in US$ terms by 4.31%.**

➢ **The annual rate of inflation based on the All India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is (-) 3.48% (Provisional) for the month of May, 2023** (over May, 2022) against (-) 0.92% recorded in April, 2023.

- The index numbers and inflation rate for the last three months of all

Commodities and WPI components are given below:

Index Numbers & Annual Rate of Inflation (Y-o-Y in %)*							
All Commodities/Major Groups	Weight (%)	Mar-23 (F)		Apr-23 (P)		May-23 (P)	
		Index	Inflation	Index	Inflation	Index	Inflation

All Commodities	100.0	151.0	1.41	150.9	-0.92	149.6	-3.48
I.Primary Articles	22.62	175.2	2.52	177.3	1.60	175.3	-1.79
II.Fuel & Power	13.15	156.4	8.69	152.6	0.93	148.6	-9.17
III.Manufactured Products	64.23	141.3	-0.70	141.2	-2.42	140.7	-2.97
Food Index	24.38	172.1	2.32	173.6	0.17	172.8	-1.59

Note: P: Provisional, F: Final, * Annual rate of WPI inflation calculated over the corresponding month of previous year

➢ **India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in May 2023* is estimated to be USD 60.29 Billion**, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 5.99% over May 2022.

- Overall imports in May 2023 is **estimated to be USD 70.64 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 7.45% over May 2022**.
- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-May 2023 is estimated to exhibit a negative growth of (-) 5.48% over April-May 2022.

➢ According to **the Commerce and Industry Ministry, electronic goods registered 73.96% growth** while other cereals witnessed a significant increase by 67.96%, spices 49.84%, Iron Ore 48.26%, and Ceramic products 17.36%.

➢ **Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24, net collections are at Rs. 3,79,760 crore, compared to Rs. 3,41,568 crore** in the corresponding period of the preceding Financial Year i.e. FY 2022-23, representing an **increase of 11.18%.**

The **Gross collection of Direct Taxes** (before adjusting for refunds) for the FY 2023-24 stands at **Rs. 4,19,338 crore** as compared to Rs. 3,71,982 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, registering a growth of 12.73% over collections of FY 2022-23.

The Advance Tax collections **for the first quarter of the FY 2023-24 stand at Rs. 1,16,776 crore**, against Advance Tax collections of Rs. 1,02,707 crore for the corresponding period of **the immediately preceding Financial Year i.e. 2022-23, showing a growth of 13.70%.**

➢ The All-**India Consumer Price Index Number for Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers for the month of May, 2023 increased by 6 & 5 points** to stand at **1186 and 1197 points respectively**.

Tamilnadu with 1371 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 918 points stood at the bottom.

In case of **Rural Labourers, it recorded an increase of 1 to 17 points in 12 States and a decrease of 1 to 5 points in 7 States while it remained stationary for Kerala.**

Tamilnadu with 1360 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 968 points stood at the bottom.

Employees Provident Fund Organisation, EPFO's provisional payroll revealed that **EPFO has added 17.20 lakh net members in April, 2023 as compared to the net addition of 13.40 lakh members during March, 2023**.

Out of 17.20 lakh members, around 8.47 lakh new members have come under social security coverage of EPFO for the first time.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Among the newly joined members, the age-group of 18-25 years constitutes 54.15% of total new members added during the month.

➢ **American chipmaker Micron will invest 825 million dollars** to build a Chip **Assembly and Testing Facility in Gujarat.**

- The combined **investment by Macron and Centre and the Gujarat government will amount to 2.75 billion dollars.**

➢ In the forex market, **the rupee appreciated nine paise to close at 81 rupees and 95 paise against the US dollar.**

➢ **Fitch Ratings has raised India's GDP forecast to 6.3 percent from 6 percent** for the current fiscal year(2023), primarily because of a stronger out-turn in the first quarter and near-term momentum.

The **rating agency has estimated a growth of 6.5% each for 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.**

The GDP growth of the Indian economy was about 7.2% in FY23 and 9.1% in FY22

➢ **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under **the Union Ministry of Power, has decided to extend financial assistance of Rs. 3,045 crores to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), for the establishment and development of Metro Lines** under the Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro.

➢ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency** (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, **has set up a state-of-the-art Business Centre at NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi.**

- It was inaugurated by **IREDA Chairman & Managing Director, Pradip Kumar Das, in the presence of Chief Financial Officer R. C. Sharma, other senior officials and employees of the company.**

➢ Internet giant **Google** is investing **USD 10 billion** in **India's digitisation fund,** its CEO Sundar Pichai has told Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a step that will recognise India's leadership on fintech and will **support small and large businesses** in India, the US and around the world.

He also announced the opening of Google's global fintech operation centre in the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT)** in Gandhinagar.

On the occasion of **International MSME Day (June 27),** Union Minister **Narayan Rane** announced that to make India as the 3rd largest economy in the world, India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector contributes **30%** to **Gross Domestic Products (GDP)** and nearly 50 % to export at **Udyami Bharat-MSME Day in New Delhi.**

As per RBI's latest data, India's current account deficit narrowed to 1.3 billion US Dollars or 0.2% of GDP in the **January-March quarter of FY 22-23**.

- The sequential decline in CAD in Q4 was mainly on account of a moderation in the **trade deficit to 52.6 billion US Dollars in Q4 from 71.3 billion US Dollars in Q3, coupled with robust services exports**.
- Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by **Indians employed overseas, increased to 28.6 billion US Dollars, up by 20.8% from their level a year ago.**
- The **Net Foreign Direct Investment** at **6.4 billion US Dollars** in this quarter, was higher than 2.0 billion US Dollars in Q3:2022-23.

➢ India's Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has increased its insurance cover for exporters with a credit limit of up to Rs 50 crore to 90% comes into effect on 1 July 2023 and will benefit up to 3,000 exporters.

In 2022, cover under the ECIB **scheme was extended by ECGC Ltd. for the accounts**

with export credit working capital limits up to Rs. 20 crore sanctioned by the banks (excluding Traders and GJD Exporters) with enhanced cover of 90%.

4 banks have so far opted for enhanced cover under Export Credit Insurance for banks (ECIB) i.e. State Bank of India (SBI), **Central Bank of India (CBI), Bank of Maharashtra and Saraswat Bank.**

➢ **The Reserve Bank of India has informed that the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks** (SCB) has fallen **to 10 year low of 3.9% in March 2023 and net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio declined to 1%.**

- As per the report Scheduled commercial banks bolstered their capital base with Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio at a historical high of **17.1% and common equity tier1 capital ratio at 13.9 percent in March 2023.**

JULY MONTH

➢ **The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June 2023 is ₹1,61,497 crores, 12% increase year over year** 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 **4th 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 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%.**

➢ 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.

- The **BSE Sensex dipped 33.01 points or 0.05% 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%** to end at its fresh record high of 19,398.50.

➢ 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 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.**

- 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.

➢ According to a **World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO) report titled 'Trade in development services' India has doubled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4% in 2022 from 2% in 2005**.

- "China has also doubled their share of global commercial services exports from 2005 to 2022, from 3.0% to 5.4%.
- **Key Highlights :**
- As per the report, leading services exporters and importers are **China; Hong Kong; Singapore; India,**
- As per the report, **South Africa** and **Türkiye**, jobs directly linked to cross-border services exports account for more than 10% 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 **Centre will soon notify rules for setting up GST appellate tribunals and appoint members after approval from the GST Council to expand the taxpayer base and do data triangulation with the corporate taxpayers in the income tax regime.**

- As per data, currently, **only 40% 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 was launched six years ago on July 1, 2017.
- Average monthly GST revenue increased from Rs 89,885 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 1.50 lakh crore in 2022-23.

➢ **For the 1st time Tamil Nadu's (TN) electronics exports nearly tripled in one year to $5.37 billion in FY23 from $1.86 billion** in the previous year.

TN is followed by **Uttar Pradesh (UP) in 2nd place with $4.90 billion and Karnataka in 3rd with $4.52 billion**.

Companies like **Tata Electronics and Pegatron** starting production have helped Tamil Nadu overtake 3 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 followed by Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.
- In FY22, **Karnataka** was the top exporter of electronic goods with $3.87 billion; Uttar Pradesh was 2nd with $3.77 billion; Maharashtra was 3rd with $2.08 billion.
- From the **4th spot in FY22, Tamil Nadu moved to the top spot in FY23.**

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.

India's GDP growth forecast for FY23 was estimated at **7.2%** due to higher-than expected agriculture output and strong government spending.

Global GDP growth in 2023 is projected to be 2.7%, the lowest annual rate since the global financial crisis, except for the 2020 pandemic period.

Investment Bank Goldman Sachs has stated that **India is poised to become the world's 2nd-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**.

The **provisional figures of 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 has imposed restrictions on imports of certain gold jewelry and articles.**

- In a notification, the d**irectorate 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.**

The **Index of Industrial Production** (IIP) **grew by 5.2% in May 2023 from 4.2 percent in April 2023.**

- As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released, the **manufacturing sector's output grew 5.5% and Mining output rose by 5.8% for the reported period.**
- The index of manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals, and botanical products gained the most as it climbed 22.6%.
- In May 2022, IIP was at an all time high-growth of 19.6%.

➢ **Retail inflation, based on Consumer Price Index** (CPI), stood at **4.81% in June 2023.**

- According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released, the **Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for the last month rose to 4.49% as compared to 2.91% in May, mainly due to a rise in vegetable prices.**
- Rural inflation stood at 4.72% **in June while urban inflation was at 4.96% for the reported period.**
- CPI for June remained within the RBI's tolerance band of 2-6% for the 4th consecutive month.

➢ 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.

➢ **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.
- **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.

➢ 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.**

- 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.

Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), 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.**

➢ 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**.

➢ **An allocation of Rs. 94679.53 crore has been made under 10% Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the year 2023-24 for North Eastern Region (NER) at Budget Estimate** (BE) stage.

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

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**.

➢ **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%**.

➢ The **Adani Group** is building the **world's largest 20 GW hybrid renewable energy park** spread over 72,000 acres 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.**

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.

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.**

XR Startup Program to mentor and support startups and innovators in emerging technologies including **augmented reality, virtual reality** and **mixed reality.**

➢ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), 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.

- **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.

➢ **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.**

➢ 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%.**

In the current fiscal till June 2023, production was up **8.51%** YoY at 223.36 MT.

There is **no shortage of coal** in the country as of now, with domestic production up during April-June, 2023.

➢ **The Ministry of Mines** stated that **overall Mineral Production has increased by 6.4% in May 2023 as compared to May, 2022.**

- 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%**.

As per the information given by the Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers **Bhagwanth Khuba in the Rajya Sabha,** 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.

- The **Indian Pharmaceutical Industry is the third largest by volume and 13th largest by value in the world**.

➢ The **National Coal Index (NCI)** has shown a significant decline of **33.8%** in May 2023 at **157.7 points** compared to May 2022, where it was at 238.3 points, which indicates a strong

supply of coal in the market, with sufficient availability to meet the growing demands.

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 Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) and initiated the trading on Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation mechanism called AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL), in Mumbai**, Maharashtra.

- 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.
- 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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

APRIL MONTH

NAME OF THE PERSON	APPOINTED AS	KEY POINTS/RESIGNATION
ASSOCHAM President	Mr Ajay Singh	Mr Sumant Sinha
Prof Dr Renu Cheema Vig	Vice Chancellor of Punjab University	-
Ranveer Singh	Star Sports Brand Ambassador	-
Mr Sheikh Khaled	crown prince of Abu Dhabi	-
Mr Praveer Sinha	Tata Power CEO & MD	-
Kaizad Bharucha& Bhavesh Zaveri	HDFC Bank-MD&ED	-
Shreekant M Bhandiwad	chairman -KVGB	Puttaganti Gopi Krishna
Vijay Mehta	28th National President - Association of National Exchanges Members of India	Kamlesh Shah
N Kamakodi	MD, CEO -City Union Bank - 3 years	-
Anant Maheshwari	NASSCOM- Chairperson	Krishnan Ramanujam
Rajesh Kumar Singh	DPIIT Secretary	Anurag Jain
Mohammad Shahabuddin	22nd President -Bangladesh	Md Abdul Hamid
Arun Sinha	Chairman -National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)	-
Virat Kohli	brand influencer - HSBC India	-

Oliver Dowden	United Kingdom's deputy prime minister	Dominic Raab
Aparesh Kumar Singh	8th Chief Justice - Tripura High Court	-
Rishabh Pant	Star Sports- brand ambassador	-
Rohit Sharma	JioCinema - brand ambassador -IPL 2023	-
Mr Amit Kshatriya	Head NASA's - 'Moon to Mars' programme	-
Mr Rajib K Mishra	Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India	-
Sanjay Jasjit Singh	Vice Chief Of The Naval Staff	Mr S N Ghormade
Mr Neeraj Nigam	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)- New Executive Director	-
Mr Ron Malka	Chairman - Adani Group's Haifa Port	-
Sudha Shivakumar	40th National President – FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)	Mr jayanti Dalmia
Mr Kenichi Umeda	Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd-MD	Satoshi Uchida
Mr Pranav Haridasan	Axis Securities- MD and CEO	Mr B Gopakumar
Reza Ameri	United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador	-
Tsutsumu Otani	Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI)- President, CEO & MD	-
Chandra Shekhar Rajan	IL&FS chairman	-
Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo	President - National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)	Raninder Singh
India	United Nations Statistical Commission - 4-year term-2024	-
J P Chalasani	Suzlon Energy-CEO	Ashwani Kumar
K Krithivasan	CEO -Tata Consultancy Services	Rajesh Gopinathan
Apresh Kumar Singh	Chief Justice - Tripura High Court	T Amarnath Goud
Anshuman Singhania& Arnab Banerjee	Chairman& Vice-Chairman - Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)	-
Vishal Anand Kanvaty	National Payments Corporation of India -CTO	-
Sanjay Agarwal	MD&CEO -AU Small Finance Bank	-
Sekhar Rao	Karnataka Bank-MD&CEO	Mahabaleshwara M S

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

MAY MONTH

NAME OF THE PERSON	APPOINTED AS	KEY POINTS/RESIGNATION
Amrendu Prakash	Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)- Chairman	-
Ajay Banga	14th President -World Bank	-
S.V. Bhatti	acting Chief Justice -Kerala	Justice S. Manikumar
Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad	Chairman and Managing Director - Coal India Limited (CIL)	Pramod Agrawal
	Jet Airways (India) Ltd- Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Sanjiv Kapoor
Debadatta Chand	MD and CEO -Bank of Baroda	Sanjiv Chadha
Shantanu Roy	Chairman & Managing Director - BEML Limited	-
Rajneesh Karnatak	MD & CEO - Bank of India	Atanu Kumar Das
A K Mohanty	Atomic Energy Commission chairman & Secretary of Dept of Atomic Energy	K N Vyas
	Chief of Nationalist Congress Party	Sharad Pawar
IAS Vineet Joshi	Chief Secretary -Manipur	Dr Rajesh Kumar
Parminder Chopra	Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) -Chairman & Managing Director	-
Rajiv Dhar	National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIFL)- CEO&MD	-
Alia Bhatt	Indian Global Ambassador -Gucci	-
SN Subrahmanyan& AM Naik	Larsen & Toubro (L&T)- Chairman , Managing Director (CMD)andChairman Emeritus	-
Wesley Simina	10th president - Federated States of Micronesia	David Panuelo
Geeta Rao Gupta	Envoy -Global Women's Issues Office	-
Linda Yaccarino	First female -Twitter CEO	Elon Musk
Praveen Sood	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)- Director	-
Ravneet Kaur	Chairperson -Competition Commission Of India	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Amy Pope	Woman Director General - UN's International Organization for Migration	António Vitorino -Portugal
Dr Manoj Soni	Union Public Service Commission -chairman	-
Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	Deputy Chief - Air Staff	Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari
Anil Kumar Jain	Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board chairman	-
Rajeev Dogra	Raheja QBE General Insurance-MD&CEO	Pankaj Arora
Bhavesh Gupta& Vijay Shekhar Sharma	Paytm- (President and COO);(MD&CEO)	-
Siddaramaiah	Karnataka -CM	-
Ayushmann Khurrana	Indian team headed- Special Olympics in Berlin	-
Andhra Pradesh Chief Justice Mishra & senior advocate KV Viswanathan	Supreme Court collegium	-
Jayakumar S. Pillai	IDBI Bank- Deputy Managing Director (DMD)	-
SP Singh Baghel	Minister of State under Health Ministry	-
Paytm Payments Bank	Vijay Shekhar as part-time chairman	Sanjiv Bajaj
Harsh Jain	chairman - Internet & Mobile Association of India	Sanjay Gupta
Ioannis Sarmas	Greece's -Prime Minister	-
SV Gangapurwala	Chief Justice - Madras High Court	-
Mukesh Ambani	UN advisory committee	-
Narayan Gangadhar	5paisa.com -Chief Executive Officer	-
Mike Young	Vedanta-Foxconn JV- Senior Vice President	-
Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma	Karnataka Bank-MD&CEO	-
Shah Rukh Khan	Realme -New brand ambassador	-

JUNE MONTH

NAME OF THE PERSON	APPOINTED AS	KEY POINTS/RESIGNATION
Ashwani Kumar	MD & CEO - UCO Bank	Soma Sankara Prasad

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Ajay Yadav	Managing Director -Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited	Suman Sharma
Sandeep Batra	ICICI Bank's board- Executive Director	-
Amarendu Prakash	SAIL chairman	Soma Mondal
P Upadhyay	Director General -Naval Armament	-
Recep Tayyip Erdogan	Turkey's president - 3rd time	-
Sachin Tendulkar	'Smile Ambassador' For Oral Hygiene Campaign In Maharashtra	-
Gurdeep Singh	Chairman & Managing Director - North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited	P C Pankaj(retired)
Nirmala Lakshman	Chairperson - The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited	Malini Parthasarathy
Dennis Francis	78th -UNGA president	Csaba Korosi - hungary.
K. Prathapa Reddy	chairman -Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank	K. Praveen Kumar
Janardan Prasad	Director General -Geological Survey of India	Dr. S. Raju
Girish Chandra Murmu	External Auditor -World Health Organisation (WHO)	-
V Anantharaman	TransUnion CIBIL- Chairman	M V Nair
Ritu Kalra	Harvard's VP Finance & CFO	-
Chaman Lal	Birmingham's Lord Mayor	-
Smriti Mandhana	brand ambassador -Wrangler brand	-
Nitin Agarwal	Director General -Border Security Force	Pankaj Kumar Singh(retired)
Argentina's Celeste Saulo	1st female Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization	Prof Petteri Taalas
Sanjay Swarup	Chairman & Managing -Director of CONCOR	-
Rajesh Kumar Anand	Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA)	-
Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador -Tripura Tourism	-
Uttam lal	Director (Personnel) -NHPC	-
Pankaj Agrawal& Chanchal Kumar	Power Secretary & Civil Aviation Secretary	Alok Kumar
Hardik Pandya	Brand ambassador -Exter	-
Amitava Mukherjee	CMD of NMDC & NMDC Steel Limited	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Pieter Elbers	IATA's Board -Governors	Yvonne Manzi Makolo
Sanjay Kumar	Director -marketing in GAIL India	-
Jane Marriott	First Woman Envoy To Pakistan	Dr Christian Turner
N S Vishwanathan	Non-executive & part time chairman	-
Vasudevan P N	MD&CEO -Equitas Small Finance Bank	-
Gopichand Hinduja	Group chairman	-
Romania's Nicolae Ciuca	Justice Minister Catalin Predoiu -interim PM	-
U. Saravanan	chairman & Managing Director	National Fertilizers Limited
Ravi Sinha	Research and Analysis Wing 's Chief	Samant Goel
Swaminathan Janakiraman	RBI Deputy Governor	Mahesh Kumar Jain
Parul Sharma	Reliance Group- President	-
Aalok Kumar	ADB Bank High-level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development	Katsumi Emura
Amit Agrawal	CEO - UIDAI	Saurabh Garg
Petteri Orpo	Finland-PM	Sanna Marin
Hasmukh Adhia	Chairman - GIFT City	Sudhir Mankad
Umesh Kumar	chairperson - Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission	-
Kamal Kishore Chatiwal	managing director - IGL	Sanjay Kumar
Dr Vanessa Kerry	Director-General Special Envoy - Climate Change and Health	-
Eddie Wu& Joseph Tsai	Alibaba-CEO&Chairman	Tasi Suceeds Daniel Zhang
Rajat Verma	DBS Bank India- Managing Director & head of institutional banking	Niraj Mittal
Kyriakos Mitsotakis	Greek PM	-
Aarti Holla-Maini	Director of UN Office -Outer Space Affairs	Simonetta Di Pippo
Harsh Dugar	Federal Bank-ED	-
Haoliang Xu	Associate Administrator -United Nations Development Programme	Usha Rao-Monari
Tribhuwan Adhikari	LIC Housing Finance Limited- Chief Operating Officer (COO)	-
A P Hota	Federal Bank's Part-Time Chairman	-
Ajay Bhatnagar	Director - CBI	-

JULY MONTH

NAME OF THE PERSON	APPOINTED AS	KEY POINTS/RESIGNATION
Shiv Das Meena	49th Chief Secretary - Tamil Nadu	V Irai Anbu

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

China's Qu Dongyu	United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization	-
Ajit Pawar	second Deputy Chief Minister -Maharashtra	-
Debadatta Chand	MD and CEO - Bank of Baroda	-
Gernot Dollner	Audi -CEO	Markus Duesmann
Dr Neerja Gupta	18th & 1st female vice-chancellor of Gujarat University	Himanshu Pandya
Ketan Shivji Vikamsey, Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape, Rajesh Kumar Dubey & Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat	State Bank of India appoints 4 directors	-
Tribhuvaneshwar Saran Singh Deo	Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh	-
IAS officer Anurag Verma	Punjab's 42nd chief secretary	Vijay Kumar Janjua
Kapil Sharma	Ambassador of Gaming platform Zupee	-
Tushar Mehta	Solicitor General of India	-
Nand Lal Sharma	Bhakra Beas Management Board Chief	Sanjay Srivastava
Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti	State Bank of India-Chief Financial Officer	Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra
V Venu	Chief Secretary of Kerala	VP Joy
Brajendra Navnit's	India's ambassador to WTO	-
Rohit Jawa	MD and CEO - Hindustan Unilever Limited	Sanjiv Mehta's
Sunil Samdani	Resigned as Bandhan Bank's -chief financial officer (CFO)	-
MU Nair	Head of the National Cyber Coordination Centre	Dr Rajesh Pant
Aadhav Arjuna	President -Indian Basketball Federation	K Govindaraj

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Pankaj Goel	BharatPe- CTO	Vijay Aggarwal
Jens Stoltenberg	NATO- Secretary General	-
Sreenivasa Reddy	Google -India policy head	Archana Gulati
Atul Anand	Additional Secretary, Department of Military Affairs- Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Anil Puri
	HDFC chairman	Deepak Parekh
Krishna Kumar Thakur	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited- Director of Human Resource	-
Ajit Agarkar	Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI)- Senior Men's Selection Committee	Chetan Sharma
Sudipta Roy	L&T Finance Holdings Ltd- Managing Director and CEO	Dinanath Dubhashi, MD & CEO, L&T Finance Holdings, will superannuate from the Company on April 30, 2024
Govind Kottieth Satish	Russian Oil Giant Rosneft	-
Senior IAS & Telecom Secretary, K Rajaraman	New Chairperson - IFSCA	Injeti Srinivas
Justice S K Singh	National Green Tribunal- Chairperson	Adarsh Kumar Goel
Shraddha Kapoor	Brand ambassador for Asics	-
Latvia's foreign minister Edgars Rinkevics	European Union's first openly gay President	Egils Levits
Isha Ambani & Former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi	Directors On RIL's Financial Services Unit	-
Rajiv Kumar Porwal	Director (System Operation) of Grid India	-
B. Neeraja Prabhakar	Chairperson - ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research Advisory Committee	-
Abhijit Chakravorty	SBI Card -MD & CEO	Rama Mohan Rao Amara

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Irina Ghose	Microsoft India - Managing Director	Anant Maheshwari
Ujjal Bhuyan, S Venkatanarayana Bhatti	Telangana Chief Justice& Kerala Chief Justice	-
Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah	President - Olympic Council of Asia	Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Sabah
Michele Bullock	1st female governor - central bank	Philip Lowe
Pramod Rao	Executive Director - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Sujit Prasad
Rajay Kumar Sinha	SBI Capital Markets Ltd- MD & CEO	Amitava Chatterjee
Rakesh Pal	25th Director General of Indian Coast Guard	-
Sat Pal Bhanoo	Managing Director - Life Insurance Corporation	Siddhartha Mohanty
Manoj Yadava	Director General of Railway Protection Force	Sanjay Chander
Mark Rutte	Dutch Prime Minister	
Indian-origin doctor S. Vincent Rajkumar	chairman of International Myeloma Foundation	Brian G.M. Durie
1.Justice Sunita Agarwal 2.Justice Alok Aradhe 3.Justice Subhasis Talapatra 4.Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai	4 High Courts gets new Chief Justice: 1.Gujarat , 2.Telangana , 3.Orissa, 4.Kerala	The President of India Droupadi Murmu appointed Chief justices of 4 new High Courts
Nivruti Rai	MD And CEO -Invest India	Manmeet K Nanda
Adrian Mardell Richard Molyneux	Jaguar Land Rover – CEO& CFO	-
Neeraj Joshi	Institute Of Cost Accountants Of India's Central Council Member	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Pan Gongsheng	Governor of China's central bank	-
Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya	Chief Justice Of Bombay High Court	-
TV Narendran	Tata Steel - MD and CEO	-
Thuraiya Alhashmi	BRICS' New Development Bank - board member	-
Amitava Mukherjee's	CMD - NMDC Steel	-
N S Vishwanathan	Axis Bank- non-executive chairman	3-year term
Sanjay Kumar Mishra's	Supreme Court extends Enforcement Directorate Director	tenure till September 15, 2023
R Seshasayee	Chairman -Asian Paints	Deepak Satwalekar
Ritesh Chauhan	MD -NAFED	-
Ruchira Kamboj	chairmanship - 62nd Session of UN Commission for Social Development	-
Jim Skea	IPCC- new Chair	-
Justice Alok Aradhe	Chief Justice of Telangana High Court	Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

AWARDS AND HONOURS

APRIL MONTH

Name of the person	Award	Key Points
Maha Metro	Asia Book of Record'	
Key points: The categories for which Nagpur Metro was presented with Asia Book of Records certification are 'Longest Length of Metro Rail Corridor Construction in Shortest Time', 'First Solar PV System in a Metro Rail Project for Integrated Consumption' and 'Heaviest Single Span Double Decker Steel Bridge Truss over Railway tracks in Urban Area', in Asia		
Wicketkeeper-batsman Aasif Sheikh	CMJ Spirit of Cricket Award	
Key points: He was also awarded the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award for his actions in January of this year.		
Aaliya Mir	Wildlife Conservation Award	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key points: She has rescued Asiatic black bears, Himalayan brown bears, birds, leopards and other mammals.		
Assam NGO	Children's Champion Award 2023	
Key points: The award has been presented by Justice S. Muralidhar, Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court to Kumud Kalita, founder-President of Tapoban		
Volodymyr Zelensky	White Eagle award	
Key points: The Order of the White Eagle is Poland's oldest and highest decoration.		
Indian-American mathematician C R Rao	International Prize in Statistics- Nobel Prize	
Key points: It was established in 2016 and is awarded once every two years to an individual or team "for major achievements using statistics to advance science, technology and human welfare.		
Bharat Biotech	Best Production /Process Development' award	
Key points: Bharat Biotech is the world's first producer of intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc.		
Kumar Mangalam Birla	AIMA's 'Business Leader of the Decade' award	
Key points: Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of Aditya Birla Group, won the prestigious 'Business Leader of the Decade' award at All India Management Association's (AIMA) 13th Managing India Awards ceremony.		
social activist Appasaheb Dharmadhikari	Maharashtra Bhushan Award	
Key points: It is the highest civilian award conferred by the government of Maharashtra. Maharashtra Bhushan Award by Union Home Minister Amit Shah		
Utsa Patnaik	Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023	
Key points: Utsa Patnaik is a renowned economist of national and international repute		
Indian-American CEO Raj Subramaniam	Pravasi Bharatiya Samman	
Key points: Raj Subramaniam, the Indian-American CEO of global transportation giant FedEx, has been presented with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest civilian award given by India to persons of Indian origin and Indian diaspora.		

MAY MONTH

Name of the person	Award	Key Points

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Niloofar Hamedi, Elaheh Mohammadi and Narges Mohammadi	UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize	
Key points: Unesco has awarded the prize to coincide with World Press Freedom Day on May 3 since 1997.		
Socialist Ramkishan	Shatabdi Purush (Man of the Century)	
Key points: He had mobilised farmers and farm labourers in Rajasthan's Bharatpur-Banswara region during 1958-60 at the request of socialist icon Dr Ram Manohar Lohia.		
India's -Changlang , Arunachal Pradesh	PM excellence award	
Key points: On the occasion of Civil Services Day 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conferred the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi		
RINL (Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd)	Ispat Rajbhasha Samman's 1st prize	
Key points: CMD, RINL Shri Atul Bhatt received this prestigious award from the Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste.		
Chennai Metro Rail Limited	Green World Award 2023	
Key points: VEDANTA won the Gold in the Environmental Policy & Management category. Green Organisation recognises, honours, and promotes best practices for the environment all over the world.		
Best Actor (Male): Rajkummar Rao for Badhaai Do Best Actor (Female): Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi Best Actor (Critics'): Sanjay Mishra for Vadh Best Actress (Critics'): Bhumi Pednekar for Badhaai Do and Tabu for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 Best Film: Gangubai Kathiawadi Best Film (Critics'): Badhaai Do Best Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi.	68th Filmfare Awards	The 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards was held at Jio Convention Centre, BKC, Mumbai. Gangubai Kathiawadi won 10 trophies including some of the biggest awards.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Associated Press	two Pulitzer Prizes& public service award	
Key points: The Associated Press won two Pulitzer Prizes, including the distinguished public service award, for its coverage of the war in Ukraine, while the New York Times earned the international reporting honour for its stories about the Russian invasion		
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Nadia, West Bengal	24th National Youth Parliament Competition, 2022-23	
Key points: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been organising Youth Parliament Competitions in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas for the past 26 years.		
Lionel Messi Other winners of awards: World Team of the Year Award: Argentina Men's Football Team World Comeback of the Year Award: Christian Eriksen World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award: Catherine Debrunner World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award: Eileen Gu Laureus Sport for Good Award: TeamUp	Laureus Sportsmen of the Year 2023 award	
Key points: Lionel Messi also received another award as part of Team of the year for the victory of Argentina at the FIFA World Cup last year.		
UP CM Yogi Adityanath	Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award	
Key points: The award has been given by former president of India Ram Nath Kovind for creating a "fear-free Uttar Pradesh". Film actors Prem Chopra, Udit Narayan and Rajpal Yadav among other dignitaries were also honoured with the 13th Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award on the occasion		
Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar	Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award	The award was announced at the 41st meeting of the ASI held at IIT Indore.
5,000-year-old 'Great Grandfather'	oldest tree in the world.	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key points: Great Grandfather is located on the edge of a ravine in a forest in the southern Los Ríos region, 800 kilometres (500 mi) south of the capital Santiago. It is the largest tree species in South America, which is also known as the Patagonian cypress.		
Sweden's Loreen	Eurovision 2023	
Key points: Sweden's Loreen won Eurovision 2023 with the song "Tattoo" in Liverpool, northern England, becoming the first woman to triumph for a second time in the contest		
N. Chandrasekaran	Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur	
Key points: The Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur is the highest civilian award given by the French government.		
Three Indian peacekeepers	U.N.'s Dag Hammarskjold medal	
Key points: The three Indians include Border Security Force (BSF) personnel Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Samwali Ram Vishnoi. The three Indians also include Shaber Taher Ali.		
Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Chandigarh	Skoch SILVER Award 2023	The SKOCH Award was established in 2003.

JUNE MONTH

Name of the person	Award	Key Points

Honorary Palme d'Or - Michael Douglas and Harrison Ford. Ruben Ostlund - jury president. Jonathan Glazer's The Zone of Interest -Grand Prix award. Japanese actor Koji Yakusho -best actor -Wim Wenders's Perfect Days. Turkish actress Merve Dizdar -Best Actress -Nuri Bilge Ceylan's About Dry Grasses. Other winners are given in the next table. Best director - Tran Anh Hung for "The Pot-au-Feu" L'Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary - Jointly won by Kaouther Ben Hania's Four Daughters and The Mother of All Lies by Asmae El Moudir.	76th Cannes Film Festival	Justine Triet's Anatomy of a Fall won the Palme d'Or, which is the highest prize awarded at the Cannes Film Festival.

Hrithik Roshan - Vikram Vedhan Alia Bhatt- Gangubai Kathiawadi Best Playback Singer (Female) - Shreya Ghoshal, Best Playback Singer (Male) - Arijit Singh and Best Supporting Actor (Female) - Mouni Roy Best Picture - Drishyam 2. Best Director - R Madhavan (Rocketry: The Nambi Effect). Best Actor (Male) - Hrithik Roshan (Vikram Vedha). Best Actor (Female) - Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi). Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema - Kamal Haasan	IIFA 2023	-
RINL	Greentech Safety Award 2023	
Key points: The award has been received by Shri A K Bagchi - Director (Projects) and Additional Charge Director (Operations) on behalf of RINL. The award was presented at the 21st Annual Greentech Awards function in New Delhi.		
Goan writer Damodar Maujo	Jnanpith Award	
Key points: Goa state governor P S Sreedharan Pillai honoured Goan writer Damodar Maujo with the 57th Jnanpith Award, the country's highest literary honour. 25 books of Maujo have been published in Konkani and one in English.		
President Droupadi Murmu	Suriname's highest civilian award	
Key points: Murmu received the award from the President of the Republic of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi.		
Guwahati Railway Station	Eat Right Station	
Key points: The station has been able to qualify for the guidelines established by FSSAI and becomes the first railway station in NF Railway to get this status.		
NTPC Barauni	4th National Water Awards	
Key points: The award was presented by the Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar to CMD, NTPC Gurdeep Singh and Head of Project, NTPC Barauni, Rajeev Khanna in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, at an event held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi		

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar	National Water Awards	
Key points: Madhya Pradesh was awarded the first prize in the best State category. In the best district category, the award was given to the Ganjam District of Odisha.		
Gita Press, Gorakhpur	Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021	
Key points: The past awardees include organizations such as ISRO, Ramakrishna Mission, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Akshaya Patra, Bengaluru, Ekal Abhiyan Trust, India and Sulabh International, New Delhi.		
President Droupadi Murmu	National Florence Nightingale Awards 2022-2023	
Key points: India has set a target of eradicating TB by 2025. The special mission to eliminate sickle cell anaemia by 2047 was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24.		
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award-TANNA 2022	
Key points: The Awards are presented to the winners along with Arjuna Awards by the Government of India.		
PM Narendra Modi	Egypt's highest civilian honour 'Order of The Nile'	
Key points: Over the last 9 years, PM Modi has received many international awards and this is the 13th highest state honour conferred upon PM Modi.		
Renowned musician-singer & Padmashree Awardee Shankar Mahadevan	Honorary Doctorate from Birmingham City University	
Key points: He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Professor Philip Plowden, Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham City University during a ceremony held in Birmingham.		

JULY MONTH

Name of the person	Award	Key Points
Boxing champion Mary Kom	Global Indian Icon at UK-India Awards	
Key points: Honoured with the Global Indian Icon of the Year award at the annual UK-India Awards in Windsor, south-eastern England.		
Prime Minister Narendra Modi	prestigious Lokmanya Tilak Award	
Key points: 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		

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Director (HR), NTPC, Shri Dilip Kumar Patel	Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023	
Key points: 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".		
Shri Anurag Thakur	8th and 9th Community Radio Awards	
Key points: 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.		

RANKING AND INDEXES

APRIL MONTH

Index Name	Released by	India's Rank	Top Three/Key Points
Global Rich list's top 10	Hurun	Mukesh Ambani-1st Gautam Adani-2nd Cyrus Poonawalla-3rd Shiv Nadar-4th	-
Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Report 2021-22	-	Agriculture sector employs the highest female workers-63%	-
TIME Magazine's 50 Greatest Places In The World 2023	TIME's	Mayurbhanj district of Odisha-1st Ladakh-2nd	-
QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023	-	IIT Delhi-48 IITBombay IIT-Kharagpur	-
Passport Index 2023	Arton Capital	India-144th	
Key points: UAE-1st Sweden-2nd Germany-3rd			
Most Followed Twitter User	Twitter	-	
Key points: Elon Musk-1st Barack Obama-2nd Justin Bieber-3rd			
Fifth Highest Number Of Female Billionaires In The World	-	India-5th	United States-1st China-2nd Germany-3rd

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

National Workshop on e-Procurement Award	-	Tripura	-
Best public transport in the world	Time Out	Mumbai, Maharashtra's -19th	
Key points: Berlin, Germany, Prague, Czech Republic,Tokyo, Japan, Copenhagen, Denmark, Stockholm, Sweden			
strongest tyre brand in the world'	Brand Finance	MRF Tyres in the world -2nd MRF Tyres in India-13th rank &Apollo Tyres-15th	French company
Most wealthiest CM in India	-	Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy	West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee
TIME magazine's 100th edition of the list	TIME	Shah Rukh Khan -1st Lionel Messi-2nd Prince Harry-3rd	
world's busiest airport in 2022	Airports Council International (ACI)	Delhi airport-9th	
Key points: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport-1st, Dubai Airport -5th spot			
Tap water connections under Har Ghar Nal Yojana'	-	Bihar-1st Maharashtra-2nd Uttar Pradesh-3rd Gujarat-4th Tamil Nadu-5th	-
Global biz environment rankings	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	India's rank-46th from 52	
Key points: Top Five-Singapore,Canada,Denmark, United States Switzerland			
AI Index report	Stanford University's	India-5th	
Key points: US,China,UK ,Israel			
The top destinations for Indian exports in FY 2022-23	-	-	
Key points: Russia -4th The top destinations: US, ,UAE,,Netherlands,Singapore			
world's "most criminal countries	World of Statistics	India -77 spots	
Key points: Venezuela-1st,Papua New Guinea -2nd, Afghanistan -3rd South Africa-4th, USA-55th, UK-65th			

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

India's largest trading partner in FY23	-	-	
Key points: US-1st, UAE-3rd, Saudi Arabia& Singapore			
top in digital payment transactions	Wordline India	Bengaluru-1st New Delhi-2nd Mumbai-3rd Pune -4th Chennai-5th	-
military spender in the world	SIPRI	India-4th	
Key points: Top 3: 1.United States, 2.China , 3.Russia. Saudi Arabia -5th			
Logistic Performance Index 2023	World Bank	India's-38 from 44	Singapore Finland
LinkedIn's 2023 Top Companies India list showcasing best places to work	LinkedIn	Tata Consultancy Services-1st Amazon -2nd and Morgan Stanley-3rd	-
world's wealthiest cities 2023	London-based consultancy Henley & Partners	Mumbai 21st, Delhi 36th, Bengaluru 60th, Kolkata 63rd and Hyderabad 65th	New York –top Japan's Tokyo-2nd and Silicon Valley's Bay Area-3rd
unicorn hub: Hurun report	Hurun	India-3rd	US -1st China-2nd
world's most populous country by mid-2023	U.N	India -1st	China-2nd US-3rd

MAY MONTH

Index Name	**Released by**	**India's Rank**	**Top Three/Key Points**
Future of Jobs Report 2023	World Economic Forum (WEF)	22%- India	Total-25%
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders (RSF)	India-161	
Key points: Top 3: Norway,Ireland and Denmark Bottom 3: Vietnam, China and North Korea			

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS)	-	Karnataka Telangana Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Haryana	-
Swachh Bharat Mission's ODF Plus rankings	-	Wayanad, Kerala-1st Anupur,Madya Pradesh -2nd Mancheriyal district ,Telangana-3rd	-
world's most punctual airport	Cirium	GMR Hyderabad International Airport	-
global maternal deaths, stillbirths, newborn deaths:	UN	India -top	
Key points: Followed by Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and China			
Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)	NITI Aayog	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) -2nd	-
World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2023	The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)	Indian Economy is expected to grow by 5.8% in 2023 and 6.7% in 2024	-
exporting platform in India	-	India's 3rd largest export destination-the Netherlands	US -1st UAE-2nd
'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2023'	Knight Frank	Mumbai - 6th Bengaluru-16th New Delhi-22nd	Dubai-top
Knight Frank the number of ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNWIs)	-	India is expected to rise 58.4 per cent in the next five years	United Arab Emirates (UAE)-top
Born too Soon: Decade of Action on Pre-term Birth	World Health Organization	-	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key points: Top 5: India, Pakistan, Nigeria, China and Ethiopia Leds list: Bangladesh, Malawi and Pakistan			
Hanke's Annual Misery Index (HAMI) 2022	-	India -103	
Key points: Top 5: Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan			
Health index	NITI Aayog	Top 3: Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana	
Key points: Worst performer: Bihar -19 UP -18 MP-17 Top 3 larger states Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Odisha. Top 3 smaller states: Tripura Sikkim and Goa. Bottom three positions: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur Among the UTs: Lakshadweep -top Delhi -bottom.			

JUNE MONTH

Index Name	Released by	India's Rank	Top Three/Key Points
The Joint Malnutrition Estimates (JME) report	UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank	-	
Key points: India continues to show a reduction in stunting and recorded 1.6 crore fewer stunted children under the age of five in 2022 than in 2012.			
National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking for the year 2023	-	IIT Madras-1st IISc Bangalore-2nd IIT-Delhi-3rd	In the category of top ten Universities in the country, IISc, Bangalore -First position and JNU - second position.
largest export destination by 2030	Standard Chartered	-	
Key points: India is set to remain the United Arab Emirates (UAE) largest export destination by 2030			

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings, 2023	Ministry of Human Resource Development	AIIMS Delhi-1st PGIMER, Chandigarh-2nd CMC, Vellore-3rd	-
National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for the year 2023	-	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-1st Tamil Nadu Agricultural University-5th	
Key points: ICAR– National Dairy Research Institute in Karnal, Haryana-2nd Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana –3rd Banaras Hindu University –4th			
5th State Food Safety Index	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	Large State category : Kerala, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu, Small States category: Goa,Manipur, and Sikkim Union Territories category : Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, and Delhi.	Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya released the fifth State Food Safety Index in New Delhi.
Most Expensive Indian City For Expats	-	Mumbai-1st New Delhi -2nd Bengaluru-3rd	-
In Mercer's 2023 Cost of Living survey	Mercer	-	
Key points: Mumbai -147 New Delhi - 169, Chennai -184, Bengaluru -189 Hyderabad -202, Kolkata -211, and Pune-213			
The Global 2000" List of top companies	-	NTPC Limited-433rd	-
India's most 'attractive employer brand',	-	Tata Power Amazon Tata Steel	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key points: IT major : TCS-4TH-Microsoft, Samsung India, Infosys, Tata Motors, IBM and Reliance Industries			
QS World University Rankings	-	IIT Bombay-1ST in India, 149th in the world	-
Global liveability index 2023	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).	India's 5 cities-Bengaluru,-148 Ahmedabad-147 Chennai-144 (New Delhi and Mumbai-141)	
Key points: Austria's capital Vienna, Denmark's Copenhagen -2nd, Australia's, Melbourne -3rd &Sydney -4th, Damascus -least livable city in the world. Kyiv -bottom 10			

JULY MONTH

Index Name	**Released by**	**India's Rank**	**Top Three/Key Points**
Metabolic Noncommunicable Health Report	ICMR-INDIAB National Cross-sectional Study	-	
Key points: 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			
UNCTAD Report	-	-	
Key points: Five economies: China, Singapore, Hong Kong (China), India and the United Arab Emirates			
rich households in India	study by the think tank People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE)	1. Maharashtra 2. Tamil Nadu	-
Performance Grading Index (PGI)	Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education (MoE)	Chandigarh &Punjab	-
2023 Forbes' 100 Richest self-made Women list	Forbes'	Four Indian-origin women, including Jayshree Ullal and Indra Nooyi	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

3rd edition of 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022	NITI Aayog	Tamil Nadu	Maharashtra -2nd Karnataka-3rd
Global Peace Index	Institute for Economics and Peace	India-126	Iceland Denmark Ireland

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

APRIL MONTH

➢ In a big boost to rural employment, the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 19 Captive Employers and provide them the target to train and provide gainful employment to 31,067 rural poor youths under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) with minimum salary of 10000/per month for the minimum period of 6 months.

- 'Captive Employers' refer to companies or industries that select rural youths, skill them, and deploy them in one of their own establishments, sister concerns or subsidiaries.

➢ **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd,** a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Green Energy Limited, **has signed Term Sheet with Green ko ZeroC Pvt Ltd (A Greenko Group Company) to Supply 1300 MW Round the Clock RE Power for powering Greenko's upcoming Green Ammonia Plant at Kakinada, India.**

- The Term Sheet was signed by **Rajiv Gupta**, Chief General Manager, NTPC Renewable Energy and **Mahesh Kolli**, Founder and Joint MD, Greenko Group at the NTPC office in New Delhi.
- The agreement between the two companies is one of the **world's single largest contracts** for supply of round-the-clock renewable supply for an industrial client.

➢ **Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited** (HZL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) **with the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) for the development of the world's 3rd largest cricket stadium named "Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium in the village Chonp in Jaipur, Rajasthan.**

- This project involves an investment of **INR 300 crore,** making it one of the largest corporate investments in India's sports infrastructure.
- The MoU was signed by **Bhawani Shankar Samota,** Honorary Secretary of the Rajasthan Cricket Association, and **Arun Misra**, CEO of Hindustan Zinc.

The **Indian Navy** has partnered with the Bengaluru-based **Raman Research Institute (RRI)** to develop **secure maritime communications using quantum technology.**

- The MoU between RRI, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and the **Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE)**, the R&D establishment of the Indian Navy, was signed for a period of **5 years**.
- The MoU was signed between RRI director professor **Tarun Souradeep,** and vice-admiral **Sandeep Naithani**, chief of materiel, Indian Navy.

The Union Minister for Jal Shakti, **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** presided over the **Namami Gange: Universities Connect event** where an agreement was signed with **49 universities** to foster awareness among the

youth on water conservation in general and river rejuvenation in particular.

- The aim of the MoU is to bring students at the forefront of the mass movement for creating a sustainable ecosystem of rivers.

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (Credai) **has partnered with the Indian Green Building Council** (IGBC) **to build over 1,000 certified green projects across India in the next 2 years,** and **4,000 projects by 2030.**

The partnership with IGBC will allow Credai to strengthen its capabilities and knowledge, with the aim of **reducing carbon footprint** by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

This initiative aligns with India's vision of reaching **net-zero by 2070**.

To facilitate seamless and efficient entry process for vehicles entering into the forest area, **Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL)** a company incorporated by **NHAI** to carry out Electronic Tolling, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve** spread across the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with an aim to provide FASTag based payment system at Forest entry points and will extend the benefit of collection of Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) fee via FASTag at various entrance points of the Tiger reserve.

Indian Oil Corporation is planning to set up a **joint venture with US-based clean energy technology company LanzaJet Inc** and multiple domestic airlines for production of **sustainable aviation fuel** (SAF).

This will be **India's first Green Aviation Fuel Firm.**

The agreement was signed by Mr. Santanu Gupta, Executive Director (Alternate Energy & Sustainable Development) and Mr. Jimmy Samartzis, CEO LanzaJet during India Energy Week in Bengaluru, India.

The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, Government of India signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP)** paving the way for sending **10,000 metric tonnes (the fifth tranche) of wheat** for the people of Afghanistan.

- To address the current humanitarian situation, the Indian side announced its partnership with **UNWFP (UN World Food Programme)** for the delivery of 20,000 MTs of wheat for Afghan people through the Chabahar Port.

➢ The **Tamil Nadu government signed a memorandum of understanding** with a well-known **footwear maker for an investment of ₹2,302 crore in the state**.

- The **MoU was signed with High Glory Footwear, a subsidiary of Taiwan-based Pou Chen Corporation,** the world's largest branded footwear manufacturer.

➢ **Godrej Agrovet** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **with the state government on the sidelines of the Andhra Pradesh Global Investors Summit (APGIS) 2023.**

- As a part of the MoU, **Godrej Agrovet's oil palm business will be making an estimated investment of Rs 100 crore to set up a manufacturing facility** for edible oil refinery and solvent extractio
- The proposed new plant will have a **projected refining capacity of 400 tonnes per day and will be set up in Seethanagaram, Eluru District in AP** & this is the company's 1st downstream project for value-added products in oil and fats.

➢ I**ndian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) entered into a partnership with the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar,** an Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institute for the commercial development of **vaccines against Hemorrhagic Septicemia, also called Aeromonas Septicemia, Ulcer Disease or Red-Sore Disease in freshwater fish**.

- **IIL is the first in India to get fish vaccines**.
- **India is the 3rd largest fish producer** in the global sphere and more than 65% of India's fish is through Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture.

➢ **NTPC Ltd,** the largest power-generating utility in India, and **Chempolis India, a Fortum group associate company and a Finnish bio-refining technology provider**, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **to explore the feasibility of setting up a bamboo-based bio-refinery in Assam's Bongaigaon.**

➢ **Bharti Airtel (Airtel) has partnered with Secure Meters for deploying narrow band (NB-IoT) services** that will **power 1.3 million homes in Bihar through a smart meter solution.**

This deployment will be **India's first NB-IoT solution on a narrow band with a fall-back option** that will work on 2G and 4G and ensure real-time connectivity and uninterrupted transfer of critical data.

➢ **Air India announced** a new multi-year global distribution services **partnership with US-based Sabre Corporation to enable travel agents and corporations around the world to access Air India fares and seats through Sabre's extensive global travel marketplace**.

➢ **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) and the National Science and Technology Centre for Disaster Reduction** (NCDR), Taiwan have signed an agreement with an aim **to develop technology solutions to natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, floods, debris flow, and compound disasters.**

- **India's first Earthquake Early Warning System (EEWS),** namely **Uttarakhand Earthquake Early Warning System (UEEWS),** is established at the IIT Roorkee & at present, the alert system is active only within Uttarakhand, India.

➢ **The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), a Navaratna NOC** inked an umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **to pursue technological partnership in select domains across the Energy value chain.**

- The MoU was signed by **Dr. N Kalaiselvi, DG,** CSIR & Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and **Dr. Ranjit Rath**, CMD, OIL.

➢ **Mitsubishi Electric India has signed an agreement with Mahindra Industrial Park Chennai Ltd**, a joint venture between Mahindra World City Developers and Japan's Sumitomo Corporation, **to set up an air-conditioners and compressors manufacturing plant at Origins by Mahindra, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).**

- The electric and electronic equipment manufacturing company will invest around $222 million (about ₹1,819 crore) in the facility spread over 52 acres.

➢ **India and Thailand have agreed to explore mutual recognition/ cooperation arrangements** (MRAs) in nursing, accounting, audio-visual and medical tourism, in a meeting of the **India Thailand Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in New Delhi**.

- Thailand is India's important trading partner in the **10-member ASEAN with total trade of $16.89 billion in 2022-23 & it accounts for 13.6% of India's total trade with the ASEAN**..

MAY MONTH

➢ **MakeMyTrip has tied up with Microsoft** to make travel planning more inclusive and accessible by **introducing voice-assisted booking in Indian languages.**

- This new platform is powered by **Microsoft Azure OpenAI** and **Azure Cognitive Services** & will enable user interactions and offer personalised travel recommendations based on their preferences.

➢ **Reliance Industries Limited-controlled Viacom18** has signed a **3-year deal with Warner Bros**.

- Discovery will allow the broadcaster t o stream popular HBO Originals, **HBO as well as Warner Bros. content on JioCinema starting next month.**
- The **deal is pegged at ₹900-1,000 crore and will help JioCinema** attract premium English content-consuming audiences, which so far hadn't seen value in the platform.

➢ **Tesla Power USA** has inked an **agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to sell and service batteries at over 36,000** IOCL petrol pumps across India.

- This will be the first national-level tie-up with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd for battery distribution.

➢ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** under the Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) and **Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D)**, Ministry of Defense of the State of Israel, signed a **Multi-Sectoral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation focusing on several key technology areas includes aerospace, Electronics Instrumentation, Civil, Infrastructure and Engineering, Environment, Mining, Chemicals, and Petrochemicals and Agriculture.

➢ The **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** (MoHUA) has signed a memorandum of understanding **(MoU) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Railways for the "Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail" (Project-SMART).**

- The MoU was inked for **4 High Speed Rail Stations- Sabarmati, Surat in Gujarat** and **Virar** and **Thane** in Maharashtra; out of 12 stations in-route.
- Surat, Virar and Thane are Green fields while Sabarmati is a Brown field development.

➢ **India Post signed an MoU with the Confederation of All India Traders** (CAIT) and **Tripta Technologies to benefit small and medium traders as they will be able to use India Post as a logistics service provider across the country.**

- The **MoU facilitates the operationalization of a portal called 'Bharat EMart'**, which will provide the facility of pick-up of consignments from the premises of traders and will ensure delivery at the doorsteps of the consignees across the country.

➢ **PTC India Limited (formerly Power Trading Corporation of India Limited) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brookfield Renewables for the purchase of 100 megawatts** (MW) solar power on a long-term basis.

- Brookfield Renewables, one of the world's largest investors with around 24,000 MW of generating capacity globally, **is developing a 400 MW solar power project at the Bikaner solar park in Rajasthan.**

➢ **Tata Technologies announced a partnership with Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation" (TiHAN)** India's first Autonomous Navigation facility inaugurated at the campus of IIT Hyderabad to **collaborate in the areas of Software Defined Vehicles** (SDV) and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS).Tata

- Technologies and TiHAN will collaborate towards solutions that address these specific challenges being faced by companies in developing SDVs that incorporate the latest technologies.

➢ **SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) has entered into an MoU with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) to explore potential of application of 5G/ IT/ Telecom** and **other wireless communication technologies in SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant including SAIL's Mines & Collieries**, Central Coal Supply

Organization and the SAIL Refractory Unit **in Jharkhand**.

- SAIL-BSL has taken this initiative of becoming the 1st PSU in the country to take initiative for setting up a dedicated 5G network with the help of TCIL which will pave the way for application of 5G/ IT / Telecom technologies in Steel manufacturing.

➢ Apex body of Indian Exporters, **Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO),** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Business Russia,** to promote trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) between the two countries.

- The MoU was inked during a visit of a **50-member delegation** of the agro and food processing sector to Moscow, Russia.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Ministry of AYUSH have **signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** to enhance **collaboration and cooperation in health research in the field of Integrated Medicine**.

In an innovative partnership, the **Indian Institute of Management-Kozhikode's (IIM-K) Centre for Digital Innovation and Transformation (CDiT)** and the **Kerala Police Cyberdome Project** have inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to collaborate on a wide array of cyber and information technology projects for augmenting cyber security and policing.

- The MoU was signed between Lt. Col M Julius George, Chief Administrative Officer, IIMK and P Prakash, Inspector General of Police & Nodal Officer Kerala Police Cyberdome.

➢ The **Union Cabinet approved the signing of a memorandum** of understanding **between Competition Commission of India** (CCI) and **Egyptian Competition Authority** (ECA).The MoU envisages **the promotion and strengthening of cooperation in competition law and policy through exchange of information, sharing of best practices as well as through various capacity building initiatives.**

➢ The **Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi**, was apprised of **signing of Project Collaboration Agreement between the Department of Health Research (DHR) and the World Health Organization (WHO)** for promoting access **to high quality affordable assistive technology mainly through fostering research, innovation, and capacity building.**

➢ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the **signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Chartered Accountants of the Maldives (CA Maldives).**

➢ **The Government of Goa and the Government of Uttarakhand** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **to collaborate towards enhancing the tourism landscape of both Goa and Uttarakhand.**

The signing of the MoU was held in the presence of Shri Rohan Khaunte, the Honorable Minister for Tourism, IT, E&C, Printing and Stationary, Government of Goa, and Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Hon. Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

➢ **Agritech firm Arya.ag has joined forces with Bayer CropScience in a strategic collaboration** aimed at **promoting sustainable agriculture with an aim** to scale up a sustainable crop production model that optimizes resource utilization and delivers definable and economic benefits to all farmers.

➢ **Toonz Animation Studios through its education services arm Vizdem has announced that it is collaborating with the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune** to offer animation and visual effects courses.

Toonz and FTII signed an MoU to this effect, which **aims to bridge the gap between industry requirements and academia by**

developing relevant skill-based courses in the media and entertainment industry.

JUNE MONTH

➢ **Tamil Nadu and Japanese companies signed 6 MoUs** to bring **an investment of ₹818.9 crores in Tokyo in the fields of automotive spares, construction engineering, metals used in space and defense, and construction.**

- The companies in Japan that signed the MoUs included KyoKuto Satrac, Mitsuba, Shimizu Corporation, Kohyei, Sato-Shoji Metal Works, and Tofle.

➢ **NTPC Green Energy Limited** (NGEL) and **Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited** (UPRVUNL) signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Lucknow with an aim **to collaborate in the development of Renewable Energy Parks and Projects and to facilitate in Government of India's efforts towards energy transition.**

- At present UPRVUNL is having four Thermal Power Stations within Uttar Pradesh with an **installed capacity of 5820 MW** and one Thermal Power Station with **installed capacity of 1320 MW under JV with NTPC**.

➢ **NHPC Limited** (A Govt. of India Enterprise) and **Vidhyut Utpadan Company Limited (VUCL), Nepal signed an MoU** (Memorandum of Understanding) **in New Delhi for the development of Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project (480MW) in Nepal with average annual generation of about 2448 GWh.**

- NHPC Limited, a Schedule 'A' Enterprise of the Government of India with 'MINI RATNA' status, is a premier PSU in India for the development of hydropower and Vidhyut Utpadan Company Limited (VUCL), Nepal is responsible to develop, build, own and operate large-scale hydropower projects in public-private partnership model in Nepal.

➢ Ride-hailing giant **Uber** has partnered with the public procurement **portal GeM** (government e-marketplace) to provide **cab services** to personnel from government ministries, departments, agencies and public sector units (PSUs).

- Unlike others, The company would provide the service at a fixed price with zero cancellation charges and no surge pricing.
- The **power ministry** procured goods and services worth **INR 30,572.9 crore** followed by the defence ministry (INR 28,741.2 crore), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (INR 28,157.2 crore), steel ministry (INR 12,527.3 crore), and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (INR 7,158.3 crore).
- **South Korea's KONEPS** is the largest such platform in the world & currently, GeM stands at the 3rd position after Singapore's GeBIZ.

➢ A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between **NHPC Limited and the Department of Energy, Government of Maharashtra for the development of Pumped Storage schemes and other Renewable Energy Source projects in the state of Maharashtra.**

- The MoU envisages development of **four Pumped Storage Projects aggregating to a total capacity of 7,350 MW, namely Kalu – 1,150 MW, Savitri – 2,250 MW, Jalond – 2,400 MW and Kengadi -1,550 MW.**
- The MoU entails harnessing the Pump Storage Projects as Energy Storage Solutions to help achieve the national objective of Energy Transition, i.e., **installed capacity of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and Net Zero by 2070.**

➢ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU).to synergise the professional capabilities of IICA and RRU towards capacity building, education, research and consulting in the domain of Internal Security, Financial Crimes, Law Enforcement, Corporate Frauds and other**

subject matters common to their mandate and objectives.

➢ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was **signed between Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence and M/s Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company** Limited in New Delhi to bring the corporate companies and Ex-Servicemen on a common platform to generate employment opportunities for the esteemed Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Services.

➢ **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi signed a MoU with Amazon Kisan to combine strengths and create synergy** between the two organizations for guiding the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income.

On the behalf of ICAR, Dr US Gautam, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) and Mr. Sidhrtha Tata, Senior Product Leader from Amazon Fresh Supply Chain & Kisan signed the MoU.

➢ **India and Nepal signed 7 agreements** in various fields in June 2023 including in the **fields of trade and commerce, cross-border petroleum pipelines, development of Integrated Check Posts and hydroelectric projects and payment mechanisms**.

1. Renewal of the India-Nepal Transit Treaty, 1992 - Nepal can use new rail routes as well as inland waterways under the revised agreement.
2. MOU for the development of ICP at Dodhara-Chandani
3. MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Petroleum Infrastructure.
4. A MoU was signed between the Institute of Foreign Affairs and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service in the field of education.
5. MOU for the Development of Phukot-Karnali 480 MW (Mega Watt) Hydro-electricity Project
6. Project development agreement for the 669 MW Lower Arun Hydro Project
7. MoU between National Clearing House Limited Nepal (NCHL) and National Payment Company India Limited (NPCIL) for faster cross-border payments that will benefit businesses, students and tourists of both Nepal and India.

➢ The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission** (DAY-NULM) entered into a **collaborative partnership aimed at empowering women to make well-informed career choices in the field of entrepreneurship.**

➢ **In a powerful initiative aimed at promoting tribal artisans and their remarkable artistry, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd.(TRIFED) has collaborated with the Ministry of Ayush to supply 34,000 yoga mats.**

- This collaborative effort, set to coincide with the upcoming **International Yoga Day (21st June)**, highlights the government's commitment to uplift tribal communities and celebrate India's rich cultural heritage.

US aerospace major, GE Aerospace, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with Indian aerospace company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force (IAF).**

- This major decision has come at a time when **Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on an official visit to the United States.**
- According to the agreement, **GE Aerospace's F414 engines will be co-produced in the country to power the Indian Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft Mk2.**

➢ The **Indian Railways (IR)** and the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID),** an independent agency of the United States (US) federal government, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**

(MoU) to **combat climate change** and achieve Indian Railways' target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

- The MoU was signed by Shri Naveen Gulati, Member (Traction and Rolling Stock), Railway Board, Indian Railways and Ms. Isabel Coleman, Deputy Administrator, USAID
- To achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission, the expected requirement of renewable capacity by 2029-30 would be about **30,000 MW.**

➢ **NHPC Limited**, the largest hydropower development organization in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **GRIDCO Odisha, Government of Odisha, for "Development of Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) and Renewable Energy in the State of Odisha".**

- **The MoU envisages setting up Self-identified Pumped Storage Projects of at least 2,000 MW and Renewable Energy Projects** (Ground-Mounted Solar Projects / Floating Solar Projects) of at least 1,000 MW in the state.
- The MoU was signed by Executive Director (Strategy Business Development and Consultancy), NHPC, Rajat Gupta and Managing Director, GRIDCO Limited, Trilochan Panda.

➢ **The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare signed an MOU with Pixxel Space India Pvt. Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka to develop various geospatial solutions on a pro bono basis for the Indian Agriculture Ecosystem using Pixxel's hyperspectral dataset.**

The **project focuses on leveraging sample hyperspectral data from Pixxel's pathfinder satellites to develop analytics models** focused on the crop mapping, crop stage discrimination, crop health monitoring, and soil organic carbon assessments.

India and Belgium have signed Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) in criminal matters which obligates both the countries **to execute each other's search warrants and summons against fugitives wanted by individual investigating agencies.**

The MHA is the nodal ministry for executing court orders under the MLATs Till 2019, India had entered into MLATs in criminal matters with 42 countries.

➢ **Directorate General Resettlement** (DGR) under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, **Ministry of Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IBM to engage ex-servicemen and to facilitate their seamless integration into the civilian workforce**.

- Through this MoU, **DGR will collaborate with IBM to tap into the rich talent pool of ex-servicemen for relevant job opportunities** that may continue to arise at the company and its affiliates.

➢ The **Gujarat government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with computer storage chip maker Micron for setting up a USD 2.75 billion** (around Rs 22,540 crore) **semiconductor** assembly and test facility at **Sanand in Ahmedabad district.**

- Micron's plant has been approved under the Union government's 'Modified Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) Scheme'.

JULY MONTH

➢ **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 (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 Delhi** with an **aim to increase Regional Cooperation in anti-doping in sport**.

- Doping" refers to the use of banned substances in competitive sports.

➢ 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 **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.**
- During the EU-India Aviation Summit held in New Delhi DGCA had signed a **letter of intent (LoI)** on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility with the EASA.

➢ **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 foundation stone for the NMHC project was laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in **March 2019**.

➢ 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.**

➢ 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** 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 **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 with an aim to introduce students to the latest manufacturing techniques and technologies used in industry.**

➢ 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.**

- As per the Landscape of Green Finance report published by CPI in 2022, total tracked climate investments are of the order of **$40 to $50 billion per year** for FY2018 to FY2020, of which approximately 85% were through domestic sources.

➢ In a significant step towards promoting the use of millets and healthy eating practices among the armed forces and ensure availability

of safe and nutritious food, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) **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.

➢ **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 (UP)** with an aim 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.

➢ **International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and Pilani Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (PIEDS), Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, have signed a MoU at BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator, Pilani Campus** in Rajasthan with an aim 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**.

➢ **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.

➢ **An MoU has been signed between the Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank for the disbursal 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 & an amount of Rs. 26.00 crore has been allocated in B.E. for the year 2023-24.

➢ **India Chamber of Business and Commerce referred to as the India Chamber and the Indian Council of Medical Research (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.

➢ In a significant move aimed at enhancing customer experience, **Indian Bank** has entered into a strategic partnership with **TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited)** and **TMTL (TAFE Motors and Tractors Limited)**, two of the leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of tractors in India for **tractor financing.**

- The tie-up would allow farmers and individuals to avail t tractor loans at affordable interest rates, with the benefit of hassle-free loan processing,

➢ An **MoU has been signed by the Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy** with an **aim to revive the "ancient stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)".**

➢ **India and Argentina have agreed to a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups**, particularly in the **field of Biotechnology and Agriculture** 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.

➢ **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, Karnataka and Lam Research India** at the ongoing SemiconIndia in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat with an aim to develop a customised course offering for Indian universities, dedicated to teaching semiconductor fabrication technology. This will utilise Lam Research's cutting-edge Semiverse Solutions virtual fabrication software, SEMulator3D.**

- The **first stage is expected to be completed by December 2023, with the second stage anticipated to be concluded by June 2024.**

➢ **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.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

APRIL MONTH

➢ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has released **images** of **Earth** captured by the **Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-6) satellite.** The images are a mosaic generated by the **ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).**NRSC/ISRO has generated a global **False Colour Composite (FCC)** mosaic from the images captured by the **Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM)** payload on board EOS-06.

➢ **Nokia** has announced **plans** to launch a **4G mobile network** on the **moon**. This initiative is in collaboration with the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),** and the **4G mobile network** will be launched in a SpaceX rocket near the end of 2023 to improve communication capabilities and provide relief to astronauts during their missions while also enhancing lunar discoveries.

➢ The **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has successfully conducted a **field firing test** of its latest **3rd generation man-portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Amogha-III.**

- This indigenous missile has been developed under **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).**

➢ Hyderabad-based **Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL)** entered into a partnership with the **Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar**, an **Indian Council of**

Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institute for the **commercial development** of **vaccines** against **Hemorrhagic Septicemia**, also called **Aeromonas Septicemia, Ulcer Disease or Red-Sore Disease** in **freshwater fish.**

➢ **Amazon.com** plans to launch its **first internet satellites** into **space** in the first half of **2024** as it prepares to vie with Elon Musk's SpaceX and others to provide broadband internet globally. Amazon's satellite internet unit, **Project Kuiper**, will begin mass-producing the satellites later 2023.

➢ The private space vehicle company **Skyroot Aerospace** has **test-fired** its **3D-printed Dhawan II engine** for a duration of **200 seconds** in **Telangana** at Solar Industries propulsion test facility in **Nagpur, Maharashtra** using Skyroot's indigenously developed mobile cryogenic engine test pad.

➢ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully carried out the landing experiment of the **Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD) programme** at the Aeronautical Test Range in **Challakere, Karnataka.**

- The RLV took off by a **Chinook Helicopter** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** as an underslung load and flew to a height of **4.5 km** (above Mean sea level MSL).
- ISRO conducted the **first experimental mission** of its **Reusable Launch Vehicle - Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD)** on **May 23, 2016,** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.**

➢ The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and the **Canadian Space Agency (CSA)** announced the **4 astronauts** crew for the **Artemis II mission** which includes **3 American nationals** and **1 Canadian astronaut.**

- Artemis II mission is a mission to **explore** more **areas** of the **moon**.
- The **10-day Artemis II mission** will test the agency's powerful Space Launch System rocket as well as the life-support systems aboard the Orion spacecraft. Artemis II is expected to reach a point more than **230,000 miles (370,000 km)** away from the Earth.
- It will be launched from the **Kennedy Space Center** in **Florida** using the **SLS rocket.**
- **Artemis I mission** was successfully completed in **December 2022.**

➢ The **Kenya Space Agency (KSA)** is set to launch its **first operational Earth observation satellite "Taifa-1" or "Nation-1" in Swahili**, on April 10, 2023.

- The launch is in partnership with SpaceX & the satellite will be on board its **Falcon 9 rocket** from **Vandenberg Base** in **California** in the **United States of America (USA).**

➢ The Chinese space startup '**Space Pioneer** (also known as **Beijing Tianbing Technology Company Limited**)successfully launched '**Tianlong-2 rocket (TL-2)** into orbit from **China's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre located** in the Gobi Desert, Inner Mongolia.

- This is the **first time** that a **liquid-fueled rocket** was launched into orbit by a Chinese aerospace company.

➢ The **classic blue bird logo** of the social media giant **Twitter**, has been **replaced** with the "**doge**" meme. The 'doge' meme has the face of a **Shiba Inu.**

➢ **Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)** has successfully tested a homemade long-range, high-precision kamikaze drone named **Meraj-532,** equipped with a **50-kg warhead.**

It is a **kamikaze drone** equipped with a piston engine. It has a range of **450 km.** It is capable of flying at a maximum altitude of **12,000 feet** for three straight hours.

The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-**

Bombay), to develop a **touchless biometric capture system** for easier use, anytime and anywhere.

- The NCETIS is a joint initiative by **IIT Bombay** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, under its flagship Digital India Programme.

➢ Chennai-based drone startup **Garuda Aerospace Private Limited** has become the **first company** to receive the **government's agri-drone subsidy** for agricultural drones.

- Garuda Kisan Drones were given to **8 farmers** under the Agri-drone subsidy at an event held in **Pune, Maharashtra.**

➢ The **European Space Agency (ESA)** is all set to launch the **Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer, or Juice, mission** from its spaceport in **French Guiana** on an **Ariane 5 launcher.**

- ESA's Juice mission will make detailed observations of gas giant Jupiter and its **3 large ocean-bearing moons - Ganymede, Callisto** and **Europa**.

➢ **Elena Geo Systems,** a Bengaluru-based space technology company, launched **Indigenous Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) chip** at the Defence Space Symposium, to reduce dependence on the **American Global Positioning System (GPS).**

➢ The **Russian defence ministry** has conducted the **successful test launch** of an **"advanced" intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)**.

- The missile was launched from the **Kapustin Yar test site** in **Russia's southern Astrakhan region.**
- To **test advanced combat equipment** of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

➢ **Kenya** successfully launched its **first operational earth observation satellite, 'Taifa-1 satellite,'** into orbit took place on a **SpaceX rocket Falcon-9** from the **Vandenberg Base** in **California, United States (US).**

➢ **NASA's asteroid-hunting spacecraft, Lucy**, captured its **first views** of **four Jupiter Trojan asteroids** that are thought to be leftover from the formation of the solar system.

- It was launched by NASA from the **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station** in **Florida** in **2021.**
- It is a **12-year mission** which will take close observations of nine of Jupiter's Trojans and two main belt asteroids along with that.
- It is the **first spacecraft** sent to study the Trojan asteroids, which orbit the Sun in the same path that the planet Jupiter takes.

➢ Turkish President Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan unveiled **Türkiye's largest warship** and the **world's first unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) carrier, TCG Anadolu**, which has been delivered to the country's navy.

➢ To show off its strength against the United States of America (USA) and South Korea's giant military exercise, **North Korea** tested its **second nuclear-capable underwater attack drone "Haeil-2" test.** The Haeil-2" test was carried out in **Kajin Port, Kumya Country, South Hamgyong Province.**

➢ The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore** in collaboration with **NASA-Caltech from the United States (US)** and **Sweden's University of Gothenburg** has developed a **low-cost camera** setup which can provide multispectral imaging of 4 chemical species in a flame using a **single DSLR camera.**

- The low-cost DSLR camera device named "**CL-Flam**" has been developed after 3 years' research.

➢ The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and the **US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** have jointly developed the **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite.**

- The forthcoming satellite will **map** the **most earthquake-prone regions** in the Himalayas with unprecedented regularity.
- The cost of the NISAR satellite is expected to be around **$900 million** (with ISRO contributing about one-tenth).

- It will use **two frequency bands: L-band** and **S-band** to photograph the seismically active Himalayan region, creating a "**deformation map" every 12 days.**

➢ The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) scientists** have successfully **extracted oxygen** from **simulated lunar soil.** Lunar soil refers to the **fine-grained material** covering the **Moon's surface.**

➢ **Japanese start-up, ispace inc**, is preparing to land its **Hakuto-R Mission 1 (M1) spacecraft** on the **moon** in what would be the **world's first lunar landing** by a private company if it succeeds.

The M1 lander is set to touch down after taking off from **Cape Canaveral, Florida**, on a SpaceX rocket in December.

➢ The **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO)** successfully **launched** the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C55 (PSLV-C55) mission** carrying **2 Singaporean satellites TeLEOS-2** and **Lumelite-4** from **Satish Dhawan Space Center** at **Sriharikota** in **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** into a low-earth orbit.

- At the end of a 22.5-hour countdown, the **44.4 metre tall rocket** lifted off majestically from the first launch pad at the pre-fixed at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**, located about 135 km from Chennai.
- PSLV-C55 is a dedicated commercial PSLV mission of **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, which is the commercial arm of ISRO, for an international satellite customer.
- It is the **57th flight** of **PSLV**, and the **16th mission** of the **PSLV Core Alone configuration (PSLV-CA) variant.**
- This is the **lightest version** of **PSLV.**

➢ **SpaceX's Starship Spacecraft** created history, as the most powerful & biggest **rocket ever built** lifted off on its **first test flight**. It was blasted off from **Starbase**, the SpaceX spaceport in **Boca Chica, Texas**.

- The Starship capsule had been scheduled to separate from the **first-stage rocket booster** 3 minutes into the flight but separation failed to occur and the rocket blew up.
- The US space agency **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has picked Starship to **ferry astronauts** to the **Moon** in late **2025** for the **first time** since the Apollo programme ended in **1972**. Starship comprises a **164-ft tall craft** for **crew** and **cargo,** placed on top of a 230-ft-tall first-stage Super Heavy booster rocket.

➢ Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)** developed a device called '**ARTSENS**' to **assess** the **health** and **age of blood vessels** and thereby provide **early screening** for **cardiovascular diseases.**

➢ **Solar Industries India Limited, Nagpur, Maharashtra** had bagged an order to supply the **400 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) 'Nagastra'-I** to the Indian Army, beating competitors from Israel and Poland.

- With government's initiative to bring Atmanirbharta into ammunition and defence systems, the **first indigenous Loiter Munition (LM)**, Nagastra–1, has been designed and developed by **Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL)**, a 100% subsidiary of Solar Industries Nagpur, in association with **Z-Motion, Bangalore.**

➢ **China** successfully launched **Fengyun-3G** into **space**, its first satellite dedicated to **measuring precipitation,** especially **heavy rainfalls** during catastrophic weather in global regions of low- and mid-latitude, which could provide a powerful tool for monitoring and forecasting global meteorological disasters.

- It was launched by **China's Long March 4B rocket** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in **Northwest China's Gansu Province.**
- It is **one of only three such satellites** in the world.

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is preparing to launch a **Singaporean Earth Observation satellite** named **TeLEOS-2** on April 22, 2023.

- The satellite will be launched aboard ISRO's **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV),** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- This launch will be the **PSLV's 55th mission.**
- ISRO launched TeLEOS-1 in **2015**. TeLEOS-1 was the **first Singapore commercial Earth Observation Satellite**.
- TeLEOS-2 is a **750kg earth observation satellite** that has synthetic aperture radar capable of providing data in 1-metre resolution.
- It was launched into a **low Earth orbit** for remote sensing applications. It features synthetic aperture radar which can provide data in **1-metre resolution.**
- ISRO has till now launched **9 satellites** from Singapore.
- The PSLV-C55 is **ISRO's 3rd launch** this year.

➢ **Biofire Technologies**, a Colorado-based company, has launched the **world's first-ever biometric handgun,** the **Biofire Smart Gun**.

- The Biofire Smart Gun is the **first** and **only biometric firearm** on the market.
- It is a **9mm handgun** that uses fingerprint and **facial recognition biometrics** to ensure only authorised users can fire it.

MAY MONTH

Dubai-based airline Emirates has unveiled the **world's first robotic check-in assistant** named **Sara**.

The system is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store that is set to launch in **Dubai's financial district.**

➢ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted a **trial** of **design validation** of a state-of-the-art underground ammunition storage facility.

- The **Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)**, a **Delhi-based laboratory** of the DRDO, has designed and developed the vertical shaft-based underground storage facility.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) researchers have developed a Machine Learning-based computational tool Named **'GBMDriver' (GlioBlastoma Mutiforme Drivers)** for better **detection** of **cancer-causing tumours** in the brain and spinal cord. **Prof. M. Michael Gromiha** of the IIT Madras Department of Biotechnology functioned as the project's **lead researcher.**

Delhi-based green hydrogen and **solar developer, Uneecops Technologies Ltd,** has announced that it will set up the **First Green Hydrogen Microgrid Project** in **Leh Region** for one of India's major hydro-power companies.

- The company will help in the **engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC)** for setting up a green hydrogen-based fuel cell **microgrid 25kWe** for the guest house at **Power Station, Alchi, Leh**.

➢ **CoRover**, a Bengaluru-based startup, has collaborated with the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** to launch the **conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot LIC Mitra** and take the country's largest insurance company's digital transformation to another level.

- CoRover.ai has developed LIC Mitra, which is available on LIC's website and mobile app. It is powered by technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning(ML),** and **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** to understand and respond to users' queries in multiple languages.

➢ Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based **Log9 Materials**, an advanced battery-technology and deep-technology startup, inaugurated **India's first commercial lithium-Ion (Li-ion) cell manufacturing facility** on its campus in **Jakkur, Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

The facility will produce batteries for **electric vehicles.**

➢ The Elon Musk-owned **SpaceX's Starship, the world's biggest rocket, exploded** during its **first test flight** to space from **Boca Chica** in **Texas**.

- The test was the first for the spacecraft manufacturer's Starship spacecraft (the carrier) and **Super Heavy rocket** (the booster), collectively referred to as **Starship**.
- The Starship Rocket is the **world's most powerful rocket** ever built. The project comprises a rocket called **Super Heavy Rocket** and a **spacecraft** attached to its top called the Starship.

➢ **Scientists** from the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **researchers** from the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** have teamed up to create a cutting-edge **Piezoelectric MEMS (Micro Electro Mechanical System) technology sensor** for underwater communications.

➢ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched a **new introductory-level online training programme** called **Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)** for **post-graduate** and **final-year undergraduate students** of physical sciences and technology.

- Academic institutions can submit applications for the programme through the Jigyasa portal by **May 20, 2023**.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud launched '**E-filing 2.0**' and told lawyers that the facility for **filing cases electronically** will be now available round the clock.

The chief justice, who has been advocating for e-courts and e-filing of cases across the country, also inaugurated an '**e-Sewa Kendra**' on the apex court's premises.

The facilities will be available to **all lawyers 24X7.**

Tech major **International Business Machines (IBM)** has partnered with the US space agency **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** to **design** a **new geospatial foundation model** to **track climate change on Earth.**

The new geospatial foundation model, which is part of **IBM's Space Act Agreement** with NASA, converts the space agency's satellite observations into **customized maps** of **natural disasters** and other environmental changes.

➢ **Angamaly-based CML Biotech Ltd.**, one of the largest manufacturers of blood collection tubes in India, has installed the **world's first integrated machine 'Husky – Ichor', for manufacturing blood collection tubes.**

- The machine is manufactured by **Canada-based Husky Technologies**, a global leader in injection moulds and moulding machines. The machine, set up at a cost of **₹12 crore**, is capable of manufacturing 8 lakh blood collection tubes per day.
- The company currently has a manufacturing capacity of around **120 million vacuum blood collection tubes** and **100 million non-vacuum blood collection tubes per annum.**

➢ The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Scientific Balloon Program** has launched a **2nd football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift super pressure balloon (SPB)** from **Wānaka Airport, New Zealand**, on a technology mission aimed for **100 days or more** of flight in the **Earth's upper atmosphere.**

- To test and qualify the super pressure balloon technology for flight.

This balloon launch is the **second** and **final** for NASA's 2023 New Zealand balloon launch campaign. The first balloon launched on **16th April 2023.**

➢ The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has partnered with United States (US) technology giant **Google** to establish the **Centre for Responsible Artificial Intelligence (CeRAI),** an interdisciplinary

research centre, to ensure ethical and responsible development of **AI-based solutions** in the real world.

- Google has become the **first platinum member** of this consortium and has contributed **US$ 1 Million** to this Centre.

➢ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** incubated **ePlane Company,** a developer of **Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) aircrafts** has become **India's first electric aircraft company** to receive the **Design Organisation Approval (DOA)** from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).**

- The DOA is an important first milestone in the aircraft certification process.

Microsoft has unveiled a **new generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven multilingual chatbot** called '**Jugalbandi**', designed for **farmers** and other users living in rural India.

The chatbot is being developed in collaboration with **Microsoft Research** and the government-backed **AI4Bharat** - an open-source language AI centre based at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** - and **OpenNyAI**.

The main **objective** of the collaboration is to **break language barriers** and provide technology-driven solutions through the **Bhashini initiative.**

➢ IT major **Infosys Ltd** launched a platform called '**Infosys Topaz**' for **generative artificial intelligence (AI).**

- It helps amplify the **potential of humans, enterprises**, and **communities** to tap into the next generation of opportunities to create value from unprecedented innovations, connected ecosystems, and pervasive efficiencies.

➢ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is collaborating with the **Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, Karnataka** to build the **X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** that is scheduled to be launched later 2023.XPoSat will **study various dynamics** of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions.

It has been billed as **India's first,** and **only the world's second polarimetry mission** that is meant to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions.

➢ **South Korea** successfully **launched Next Generation Small Satellite-2 (NEXTSAT-2), the first commercial-grade satellite aboard the Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle.**

- **Two (KSLV-II),** nicknamed "**Nuri,"rocket lifted off from** the **Naro Space Center** in **Goheung, South Korea.**
- The domestically built three-stage Nuri rocket lifted off from a launch facility on a southern island with a payload of **8 satellites,** including a main commercial-grade satellite whose mission is to **verify radar imaging technology** and **observe cosmic radiation in a near-Earth orbit.**
- This launch would mark the **third test** for the country's commercial-grade satellite.
- NEXTSAT-2, the **180-kilogram satellite** designed and developed by the **Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)** will demonstrate X-band radar technology and measure space radiation on a dawn-dusk orbit for the next two years.

JUNE MONTH

North Korea's attempt to put its **first spy satellite Malligyong-1 satellite** into space **failed** in a setback to leader **Kim Jong** Un's push to boost his military capabilities as tensions with the United States and South Korea rise.

- The newly developed **Chollima-1 rocket** was launched at the **North's Sohae Satellite Launching Ground** in the northwest, carrying the Malligyong-1 satellite.
- The rocket crashed off the **Korean Peninsula's western coast** after it lost thrust following the separation of its first and second stages

➢ An international team of scientists led by **Professor Abhijit Chakraborty** of the **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)** in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat** has discovered an **alien planet**, which is **13 times bigger** in size than Jupiter.

- It has been identified as a planet and designated as **TOI 4603b or HD 245134b**. It is the **third exoplanet** identified by PRL scientists. The findings of the study were published in the **journal Astronomy and Astrophysics Letters.**

➢ **SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corporation)** has launched **Falcon 9 rocket** topped with the **52 Starlink spacecraft** lifted off from **California's Vandenberg Space Force Base, United States of America (USA).**

- It was the **14th launch** and landing for this particular booster. According to astrophysicist and satellite tracker Jonathan McDowell, SpaceX has now launched more than **4,500 Starlink satellites**, more than 4,100 of which are currently active.
- SpaceX already has permission to send **12,000 Starlink satellites** to orbit, and it has applied for approval to launch another 30,000 on top of that.

➢ The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** will set up its **first International campus** in **Zanzibar, Tanzania.**

- The institute is planning to start classes by **October 2023** with a batch of 50 undergraduate and 20 postgraduate students. The establishment of IIT in Zanzibar is a significant step towards strengthening the ties between India and Africa.
- The IIT campus in Tanzania will **promote research** and **innovation** in the **African continent.**

➢ **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket** successfully launched **22 second-generation Starlink satellites, also known as 'V2 Mini'** to low-Earth orbit (LEO) from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, **United States of America (USA).**

- This launch marked the **3rd successful launch** and landing for the Falcon 9 first-stage booster.
- Previously, the booster had been utilized for the **Crew-6** and **SES O3b mPOWER missions,** demonstrating the reliability and reusability of the powerful rocket technology.

➢ The **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran** has unveiled its **first-ever Indigenously made hypersonic ballistic missile**, called **Fattah**, or "**Conqueror**" (in Farsi language).

- The missile can move at a speed of up to **Mach 15** (5,145 metres or 16,880 feet per second), has a range of **1,400km (870 miles)** and features a moveable secondary nozzle and employs solid propellants that allow for high manoeuvrability.

➢ An **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras, Tamil Nadu (TN)** -incubated space-tech startup, **GalaxEye**, is building the **world's first multi-sensor earth observation satellite** named **Drishti**. It will launch its **first satellite 'Drishti Mission'** in **2024**.

It is being built with the help of a **visible spectrum camera** providing synchronised imaging that can take multiple images at the same time.

'Drishti 'becomes **India's first** and the **world's highest resolution multi-sensor imaging satellite.**

➢ The **New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' or Agni-P** was successfully flight-tested by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** from Dr **APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.** This was the **first pre-induction night launch** conducted by the users after 3 successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the **accuracy** and **reliability** of the system.

Agni-P is a **two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile** with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.

➢ **China** has completed the **construction** of the **most powerful largest & fastest wind tunnel** in the world, called **JF-22** located in the mountainous Huairou district of **northern Beijing, China.**

- The wind tunnel has a diameter of **4 metres (13 feet)** and can **generate incredibly high airflow speeds** of up to **10 kilometres (6.2 miles) per second.**
- This makes it capable of simulating hypersonic flight conditions up to **Mach 30,** which is **30 times** the **speed of sound.**

➢ Gujarat-based aerospace firm **Azista BST Aerospace (ABA)** launched its **maiden satellite Azista BST Aerospace First Runner (AFR)**, also called **ABA First Runner.** The satellite was launched as part of the **SpaceX Transporter-8 mission**, atop a **Falcon 9 rocket, from Space Launch Complex 4E, Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, the United States of America (USA).**

- This was SpaceX's **40th mission** of 2023, and the firm's 200th successful recovery to date.

➢ In a **first of its kind, India-based Kiya.ai,** which is into Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technology-based solutions services, showcased its version of the metaverse called **Bharatmeta** at the **VivaTech 2023** event held in Paris expo Porte de Versailles, **Paris, France.**

- Bharatmeta aims to **bridge the gap between** physical and virtual realms.
- The Bharatmeta has been showcased at the **India Pavilion.** VivaTech 2023 is the **7th edition** of Europe's biggest annual technology and startup event.

➢ The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR)** has developed an **indigenous innovative rapid haemoglobin detection test kit** called **'SenzHb'.**

- It is a **paper-based kit** that gives results in **just 30 seconds** & costs just Rs 10 for a test."Also, this kit incorporates a **QR code** that provides detailed instructions for conducting the test in **8 languages.**

India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine for the **Omicron variant, GEMCOVAC-OM,** developed by **Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd,** was approved under emergency use guidelines by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).**

- The vaccine has been developed by **Gennova Biopharmaceuticals** in collaboration with the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** under the **'Mission COVID Suraksha'.**

➢ The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has successfully conducted a **test flight** for **cloud seeding**.

- The project was initiated at IIT Kanpur a few years ago and is headed by **Prof. Manindra Agrawal** from the **Computer Science and Engineering Department.**
- The experiment was conducted with due approval from the **DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation).**

➢ **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited** successfully conducted the **flight qualification test** of the **Raman-I engine,** intended for roll attitude control in the **Vikram-I rocket**.

- The Raman-I engine underwent a test fire at the **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** in **Bangalore, Karnataka.**
- Skyroot Aerospace, a **start-up based** in Telangana, made history by becoming the **first Indian private company** to launch a rocket with Vikram-S.
- The indigenous Vikram-S was launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Center** in **Sriharikota, marking India's entry into commercial space exploration.**

➢ The **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) launched 47 Starlink internet satellites** by **Falcon 9 rocket** lifted off from **California's Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, United States of America (USA).**

- The Falcon 9's first stage returned to Earth as planned about 8 minutes and 45 seconds after launch.
- It performed a pinpoint touchdown on the Space**X droneship Of Course I Still Love You**, which was stationed in the Pacific Ocean.

➢ In a significant advancement towards a sustainable and renewable fuel-based transport system, researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** have successfully developed **India's first 100% Dimethyl Ether (DME)-fuelled tractor/vehicle** with a **mechanical fuel injection system** for both on- and off-road applications.

- The research is supported by the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB),** an attached institution of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST).**

JULY MONTH

➢ 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.

➢ **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.

➢ 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.**

- 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.

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.**

➢ 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.**

➢ The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released** a new image of a small star-forming region captured by the **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.

➢ **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.

➢ 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.

➢ 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.**
- 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 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.

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.**

DEFENCE NEWS

APRIL MONTH

Name of the Exercise/NS/Event	Partakers/Organisation	Venue	Edition	Key Points
SLINEX-2023	India – Sri Lanka	Colombo, Sri Lanka	10th	
Key Points: The exercise is being conducted in two phases: the Harbour Phase from 03-05 April 2023, Colombo, Sri Lanka followed by a Sea Phase from 06-08 April 2023, Colombo.				

Cope India'	India & U.S	Kalaikunda airbase in West Bengal	-	
Key Points: The IAF is set to field its frontline fighters SU-30MKI, Rafale and the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft along with force multipliers, while the U.S. Air Force is expected to bring in F-15 fighter jets.				
(Indian – IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)	Ministry of Defence signs 3 defence contracts with Indian Army & Navy	-	-	
Key Points: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed 3 contracts at a total cost of nearly 5400 crore for Indian Army (IA) & Indian Navy (IN) under Buy (Indian – IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) category to bolster the defence capabilities of India.				
Regional Search and Rescue SAR exercise	-	Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh	-	
Key Points: To simulate a real time maritime distress scenario and highlight the functioning of SAR organisation for a mass rescue operation				
13 Lynx-U2 Fire	Defence Ministry with Bharat Electronics Limited	Bangalore, Karnataka	-	-
Prashthan'	Indian Navy	Mumbai, Maharashtra	-	
Key Points: The current exercise was conducted on the Greatdrill Chaaya platform about 30 nm South West of Mumbai harbour.				
KAVACH'	Andaman & Nicobar Command	-	-	
Key Points: The exercise was previously conducted from 21-25 Jan 2021 in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as AMPHEX-21.				
aircraft carrier & eyes drone capabilities	Turkey	-	-	
Key Points: The amphibious assault ship was built in Istanbul's Sedef Shipyard by a Turkish-Spanish consortium, based on the design of Spanish light aircraft carrier Juan Carlos I.				
Dornier-228	Ministry of Defence (MoD)& Indian Air Force (IAF)	-	-	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key Points: The aircraft was used by IAF for Route Transport Role and communication duties • The aircraft is ideally suited for short haul operations from semi-prepared/short runways of the North East and island chains of India.				
Extended Range Anti Submarine Rocket (ER-ASR) INS Chennai	DRDO Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).	-	-	
Key Points: The rocket has been designed to replace the existing Russian-origin Rocket Guided Bombs (RGBs).				
LCA Tejas (MK1A)	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL)	Nashik in Maharashtra	-	
Key Points: The new production line will enable the company to enhance production of LCA Tejas (MK1A) from its current capacity of 16 jets to 24 aircraft per year.				
'Operation Joint Sword'	China	Taiwan	-	
Key Points: The Chinese military successfully held three days of military drills dubbed Operation Joint Sword, around Taiwan Island.				
Cope India 23	Indian Air Force & United States Air Force	West Bengal	-	
Key Points: The exercise will witness participation of B1B bombers of the United States Air Force (USAF). F-15 fighter aircraft of the USAF will also join the exercise subsequently.				
secure maritime communications	Raman Research Institute & Indian Navy	-	Bengaluru, Karnataka	
Key Points: The Indian Navy is set to collaborate with the Bengaluru, Karnataka based Raman Research Institute (RRI) to develop secure maritime communications using quantum technology.				
Prasthan	Indian Navy	Mumbai, Maharashtra	-	
Key Points: The previous edition of the exercise was held in October 2022 in the Krishna Godavari Basin Offshore Development Area (ODA) under the aegis of headquarters, Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).				
Orion	Indian Air Force& France	-	-	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key Points: The exercise will be conducted from 17 April 2023 to 05 May 2023, with the IAF Contingent comprising 4 Rafale, 2 C-17, 2 ll-78 aircraft and 165 air warriors.				
MH 60 'Romeo' helicopters	Indian Navy& United States of America (USA).	-	-	
Key Points: The deal to procure the MH 60 choppers was signed on February 24, 2020, at an estimated cost of USD 2 billion (over Rs 16,300 crore).				

MAY MONTH

Name of the Exercise/NS/Event	Partakers/Organisation	Venue	Edition	Key Points
AJEYA WARRIOR-23	India & United Kingdom	Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom	7th	
Key Points: To build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking company-level sub-conventional operations in urban and semi-urban environments under UN mandate.				
'Buland Bharat'	Indian Army	-	-	
Key Points: It is an integrated surveillance and firepower training exercise conducted by the Indian Army				
Naval Anti-Drone System (NADS)	Defence Research and Development Organisation	-	-	-
Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China & the other two in "challenging locations" near the frontier with Pakistan	Indian Army (5 women Army officers)	-	-	-
ADC-150' from IL-38SD	Indian Navy & DRDO	coast of Goa	-	
Key Points: 3 DRDO laboratories - Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam; Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra and Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru - have been involved in the development of ADC-150 container.				
AIME-2023	Maiden ASEAN-India	Singapore	-	
Key Points: The week-long drills (May 2-8, 2023) aimed at "enhancing interoperability and exchange of best practices among participating navies" is expected to be inaugurated by Indian Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar.				

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Fast Patrol Vessel & a Landing Craft Assault ship	India- Maldives	Indian Ocean Region	-	
Key Points: He described the handing over of the two Made in India platforms as a symbol of the shared commitment of India and the Maldives towards peace and security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).				
INS Magar	Indian Navy	Kochi, Kerala	-	
Key Points: The chief guest for the event was Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande				
C295 medium transport aircraft	Indian Air Force's	Seville, Spain	-	
Key Points: Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus Defence and Space are jointly executing the programme.				
Indo-Thai coordinated patrol	Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy	Andaman Sea	35th	
Key Points: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari and His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Saiburi along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the CORPAT.				
TATA ALS 50	Indian Air Force (IAF)	-	-	
Key Points: The ALS 50, also known as the "suicide drone," is a unique Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) weapon that can operate in any terrain, including high-altitude areas, to take down targets at a range of over 50 km. It is developed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)				
India's 1st Indian Air Force Heritage Centre	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh	Chandigarh	-	
Key Points: This initiative will help in preserving the rich heritage of the IAF and also inspire the youth to join the armed forces				
INS Hansa	Goa-based Indian Naval Ship	South-Asia Pacific region	-	
Key Points: The RNP approach will reduce dependency for navigation on ground-based equipment such as Very-High Frequency Omnidirectional Radio (VOR) and Instrument Landing System (ILS).				
Samudra Shakti-23	India-Indonesia	Batam, Indonesia	4th	
Key Points: To enhance interoperability, jointness and mutual cooperation between both the navies.				
INS Mormugao warship	Indian Navy	Mumbai, Maharashtra	-	
Key Points: BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd, is a joint-venture (JV) between the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya, who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace.				

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

INS Delhi and INS Satpura	Indian Naval Ships	Sihanoukville, Cambodia.	-	
Key Points: INS Delhi is India's first indigenously built guided missile Destroyer INS Satpura is an indigenous multi-purpose stealth Frigate.				
Vaghsheer'	Indian Navy.	-	6th	
Key Points: The submarine was launched on 20 Apr 22 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).				
India's Defence production	-	-	-	
Key Points: To promote domestic defence manufacturing and has set a target of achieving a turnover of USD 25 billion (Rs 1.75 lakh crore) in defence manufacturing by 2024-25, including an export target of USD 5 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) worth of military hardware.				
Maiden Afloat Training of Saudi Cadets.	Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force	Kochi,Kerala	-	
Key Points: 55 cadets from the King Fahd Naval Academy, Saudi Arabia arrived in Kochi,Kerala, the headquarters of India's Southern Naval Command, as part of their first-ever training with the Indian Navy.				
AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023	India & Saudi Arabia	-	2nd	
Key Points: The first edition of this exercise was successfully conducted in August 2021, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kochi, the flagship destroyer of the Western Naval Fleet, arrived at the Port-al-Jubail, Saudi Arabia representing India.				
Kheibar ballistic missile	Iran	-	-	
Key Points: It was developed by the Aerospace Industries Organisation (AIO). The missile also is called Kheibar, after a Jewish fortress conquered by the Muslims in the 7th century in what is now Saudi Arabia.				
Sudarshan Shakti	Indian Army	Rajasthan and Punjab.	-	
Key Points: To start the transformation of the forces into a modern, lean, and agile fighting combination capable of leveraging new-age technologies. The exercise involved coordinated application of combat power, combat support and logistic support under all enemy threat zones including grey zone warfare.				

JUNE MONTH

Name of the Exercise/Event	Partakers/Organisation	Venue	Edition	Key Points
MH-60R 'Romeo'	Indian Navy	-	-	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key Points: It is the world's most advanced maritime helicopter and is the most capable naval helicopter available today designed to operate from frigates, destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers. It is manufactured by US defence major Lockheed Martin.				
INS Vikrant MiG-29K	Indian Navy	Arabian Sea	-	
Key Points: This achievement of the Navy is a big step towards the growing power of self-reliant India."				
Agni-1	India	APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha	-	
Key Points: The missile is a proven system, capable of striking targets with a very high degree of precision				
ekatha'	India -Maldives	maldives	6th	
Key Points: The Indian Navy's Marine Commandos (MARCOS) and divers went to participate in the 6th edition of Exercise with the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).				
INS Tarkash& French Ship Surcouf UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft	India, France, UAE	Gulf of Oman	-	
Key Points: To enhance trilateral cooperation between the three navies and pave the way for adopting measures towards addressing traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime environment				
'Tiger Shark 40	Bangladesh-US	Chattogram	-	
Key Points: To increase strategic capabilities of both the countries and to acquire mutual technical and procedural knowledge.				
Varunastra'	Indian Navy and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	-	-	
Key Points: It showcases India's commitment to future proof combat readiness through aatmanirbharta.				
31 MQ-9 Reaper armed drones	Ministry of Defence from United States of America (USA)	-	-	
Key Points: The MQ-9B drone is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper" which was used to launch a modified version of the Hellfire missile that eliminated al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul				

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

INS Subhadra Tapas Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)	DRDO & Indian Navy	-	-	
Key Points: The demonstration involved commanding the UAV from a distant ground station to the onboard Indian Naval Ship (INS) Subhadra, a warship situated 148 kilometres away from the Karwar naval base. The Tapas UAV, developed by DRDO, is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV capable of operating at altitudes of up to 28,000 feet with an endurance of over 18 hours.				
Ex Khaan Quest 2023	Indian Army	Mongolia	-	
Key Points: To enhance interoperability of the participating nations, for sharing experience and to train uniformed personnel for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO).				
Corvette INS Kirpan'	India- Vietnam	New Delhi	-	
Key Points: Both the countries will also collaborate in defence industry cooperation, maritime security and multinational cooperation. He held bilateral talks with Vietnamese Defence Minister Mr General Phan Van Gang in New Delhi, Delhi.				
INDUS X	India-United States	Washington DC, USA	-	
Key Points: The INDUS X event was co-organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Ministry of Defence, and US Department of Defence (DoD) and hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC).				
Dhruv'	Indian Navy	Kochi	-	
Key Points: The ISC 'Dhruv' hosts modern state-of-the-art indigenously-built simulators which will significantly enhance practical training in the Indian Navy				
Ocean Ring Of Yoga'	Indian Navy	Indian Ocean Region	-	
Key Points: In support of the IDY-23 initiative, Indian Navy ships deployed in the Indian Ocean Region are visiting various ports of friendly foreign countries and spreading the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which is also the theme for IDY 23.				
Agneyastra 1	Indian Army	eastern Ladakh	-	
Key Points: Anti-tank missiles and Carl Gustav rocket launchers (RLs) were also used in the exercise				
Ranvijay	IAF	Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh (UP)	-	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key Points: Focus on integrated operations				
INS Anjadip	Indian Navy	Kattupalli Port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	-	
Key Points: It is an anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft vessel built for the Indian Navy.				
Sanshodhak	Indian Navy	Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	-	
Key Points: Built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T)/ Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) The ship named 'Sanshodhak', meaning 'Researcher', signifies the primary role of the ship as a Survey Vessel				

JULY MONTH

Name of the Exercise/Event	Partakers/Organisation	Venue	Edition	Key Points
'Tarang Shakti'	Indian Air Force	India	-	
Key Points: 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				
Indian Naval Ship Shankush submarine	Ministry of Defence& Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)	-	-	
Key Points: The project, known as Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC), aims to upgrade the submarine's combat capabilities.				
Rana & INS Sumedha and FS Surcouf	Indian Naval Ship& French Navy ship	Bay of Bengal Vishagapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)	-	
Key Points: 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				
Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas	Indian Air Force	-	-	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key Points: 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				
Dornier Aircraft	Ministry of Defence & Hindustan Aeronautics Limited signs Rs 458 crores	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	-	
NCC Integrated Software for Cadets	Ministry of Defence	New Delhi	-	
Key Points: 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'.				
P75-India submarine	Spain's Navantia and L&T	Madrid, Spain	-	
Key Points: Bid for a ₹43,000-crore (4.8 billion euros) project to build 6 advanced submarines for the Indian Navy				
Salvor	United States Navy ship and L&T Kattupalli shipyard	Kattupalli near Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)	-	
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) regional office.	Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	-	Malaysia is home to the second largest members of the Persons of Indian Origin and has a significant presence of the NRI community.
Key Points: Malaysia is home to the second largest members of the Persons of Indian Origin and has a significant presence of the NRI community.				
26 Rafale-Marine jets & 3 Scorpene submarines	Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) to Indian Navy	-	-	
INS Sunayana Operation Southern Readiness	Combined Maritime Forces(CMF).	Seychelles	-	

Key Points: 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.				
Nomadic Elephant – 2023	India-Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	15th edition	
Key Points: To focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate.				
'Make in India	Indian Army Signs Tata Advanced Systems Limited	-	-	
Key Points: The compact, modular and ruggedized networking device would provide faster switching capability and thus strengthen the tactical communication capability of the Indian Army				
INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata	Indian Naval ships& Indonesian Navy	Jakarta,Indonesia	-	
Key Points: 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 Kirpan	Indian Naval Ship to Vietnam	Cam Ranh, Vietnam	-	
Key Points: INS Kirpan is an indigenously-built in-service missile Corvette.				
JIMEX 23	Japan-India	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)	7th edition	
INS SHANKUSH	ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders	-	-	
Key Points: 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				

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

APRIL MONTH

➢ **Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC)** has increased its shareholding in **Bata India** from **4.497% to 6.532%** (from **57,48,071 to 64,36,692 Equity Shares).**

➢ The **National Company Law Tribunal** has approved the **acquisition** of **Karaikal Port (KPPL)** located in Puducherry, for Rs 1,485 crore **($181.2 million)** by the **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)**, the largest transport utility in India.

- Earlier, APSEZ was declared as the successful resolution applicant under the **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)** of KPPL.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved share-swap for the acquisition of the **C-Flex India Entities** by SBP from C-Flex, in consideration for which C-Flex will be

issued certain shareholding in SBP.

- The proposed combination relates to:
- Acquisition of entire shareholding of Constantia Flexibles Sales B.V. (**C-Flex/Seller**) in Parikh Packaging Private Limited (**Parikh Packaging**); Creative Polypack Private Limited (Creative Polypack); Aparna Paper Processing Industry Private Limited (**Aparna Paper**); Vibgyor Printing and Packaging Private Limited (**Vibgyor**); and Parikh Flexibles Private Limited (**Parikh Flexibles**) by S.B. Packagings Private Limited.

➢ Fair-trade regulator CCI has approved the acquisition of **SREI Infrastructure Finance by National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd** and **India Debt Resolution Company Ltd** under the green channel route.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed combination involving demerger of FMCG business of **Haldiram Snacks and Haldiram Foods into Haldiram Snacks Food** and acquisition of 56% and 44% shareholding in Haldiram Snacks Food by existing shareholders of Haldiram Snacks and Haldiram Foods.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the **acquisition** of certain shareholding of **BTS Investment 1 Pte. Ltd. (BTS Investment) & Bodhi Tree Systems VCC (BTS VCC) (Targets)** by **NBC Universal Media, LLC** (NBC Universal) (Acquirer) a wholly-owned subsidiary of Comcast Corporation under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the **acquisition** of **5.51%** of the **equity share capital** in **Mukand Sumi Special Steel Limited (MSSSL)** by **Jamnalal Sons Private Limited (JSPL) (Acquirer)** from **Mukand Limited (Mukand).**

- JSPL has acquired **25,71,150 equity shares** having a face value of Rs 10 each fully paid up by MSSSL from Mukand.

➢ **HDFC Bank** stated that the **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) , the central bank and financial regulatory authority of Singapore, has** given approval for the **merger** of **HDFC Investments Limited** and **HDFC Holdings Limited** with parent **HDFC Ltd.**

- MAS has also approved the acquisition of a 20% or more stake in Griha Pte. Limited by HDFC Bank

➢ **Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL)** will acquire the FMCG business of **Raymond Consumer Care Limited (RCCL)** for **₹2,825 crore.**

- Both the brands—**Park Avenue** and **KamaSutra** are under Raymond Consumer Care, which is a step-down unit of the Singhania-family-owned Raymond, known for its shirting and lifestyle business.

➢ **Hinduja Group,** Promoters of **India's IndusInd Bank** have received **in-principal approval** from the country's central bank **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to **increase** their **stake** in IndusInd Bank.

- IndusInd International Holdings Ltd, an entity belonging to promoters Hinduja Group, have a **12.57% stake** in the lender, while IndusInd Ltd has a 3.93% stake

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has granted its **approval** for the **stake acquisition** in climate technologies' business of **Emerson Electric Co** by **BCP Emerald Aggregator LP.** The deal has been cleared under the **green channel route.**

- The CCI has also approved the proposed investment by **Stamford Bridge Investment Pte Ltd, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** of GIC (Ventures) and Platinum Falcon B 2018 RSC Ltd (Platinum), in BCP Emerald Aggregator LP.

MAY MONTH

➢ **Canada's Brookfield Asset Management** has acquired a **51%** stake in **Rostrum Realty,** a real estate joint venture firm in which **Sunil Mittal's Bharti Enterprises** will hold the balance 49%.

➢ India's leading name in fintech, **BharatPe** has **acquired** a **51% majority stake**

in **Trillion Loans,** a Mumbai, **Maharashtra-based NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company).**

- Trillion Loans is a fast-growing NBFC that claims to offer a range of secured and unsecured loans to SMEs, including small business loans as well as working capital loans & additionally it offers a range of products for consumers, such as education loans, auto and gold.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition by **Mr. Sanjay Chamria (SC)** of certain equity shares of **Jaguar Advisory Services Private Limited (Jaguar)**, resulting in an indirect acquisition of certain equity shares of Magma HDI General Insurance Company Limited (Magma HDI) by SC.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the **acquisition** of shareholding of **Tower Vision India Private Limited** by Ascend Telecom Infrastructure Private Limited and GIP EM Ascend 2 Pte. Ltd.

➢ Fair-trade regulator **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has cleared **Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors (EAAA)** and **ESOF III Investment Fund's (Acquirers) subscription** to certain compulsorily convertible debentures of **Biocon Biologics Ltd (BBL) (Target)** under the **green channel route.**

➢ **Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global** has increased its stake in Bajaj Electricals by **1.73% (20 lakh shares)** through bulk deals, bringing its total shareholding in the electrical appliances company up to **3.03%.**

➢ **SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML)** has received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval** to increase stake in **HDFC Bank to 9.99%** in 6 months i.e. by **November 15, 2023.**

➢ Fair-trade regulator **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed **merger** of **Credit Suisse Group AG** with **UBS Group AG by way of an absorption merger with UBS being the surviving legal entity.**

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the proposed merger of **Credit Suisse Group AG** with **UBS Group AG** by way of an absorption merger with UBS being the surviving legal entity (Proposed Combination).

➢

➢ **JSW Steel** announced that its **wholly-owned subsidiary JSW Steel Coated Products Limited (JSWSCPL)** will complete the **acquisition** of **National Steel and Agro Industries (NSAIL)** for a total consideration of **₹621 crore.**

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the **acquisition** of **additional Series E compulsorily convertible preference shares** of **Acko Technology & Services Private Limited** by **Multiples Private Equity Fund III** and **CPP Investment Board Private Holdings (4) Inc (CPHI-4)**.

- The Proposed Transaction is an acquisition of shares and falls under Section 5(a)(i)(A) of the Competition Act, 2002
- The proposed transaction relates to the subscription of additional CCPS of Acko Technology & Services Private Limited by Multiples Fund III and CPHI-4.

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of up to **76.10%** of the voting share capital of **Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited (Target) by Berhyanda Limited (Acquirer)** by way of a share purchase agreement dated 26 December 2022 and pursuant to the mandatory open offer in compliance with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011.**

➢ **DSM** and **Firmenich** announced that they have entered into a **business combination agreement** (the "BCA") to establish the leading creation and innovation partner in nutrition, beauty and well-being ("**DSM-Firmenich**").

JUNE MONTH

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has given its approval for **General Atlantic Singapore ACK Pte. Ltd. (GASACK)** to acquire an **additional 4.04% shareholding** in **Acko Technology and Services Private Limited (Acko Tech).**

- The CCI's approval of this proposed combination is subject to compliance with the modifications jointly furnished by GASACK and GAP Bermuda, L.P. under **Regulation 19(2)** of the Competition Commission of India (Procedure in regard to the transaction of business relating to combinations) Regulations, 2011.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has cleared the **proposed deal** involving **Manipal Health Enterprises Private Ltd (MHEPL)** and **Manipal Education and Medical Group India Private Ltd (MEMG India).**

- The proposed combination entails the: (a) acquisition of equity shares capital of the Manipal Health Enterprises Private Limited (MHEPL/ Target) by Kangto Investments Pte. Ltd. (Kangto), Kabru Investments Pte. Ltd. (Kabru), Manipal Research & Management Services International (MRMSI), Manipal Global Health Services (MGHS), MEMG International India Private Limited (MEMGIIPL) and TPG SG Magazine Pte. Ltd. (TPG SG); and (b) acquisition of optionally convertible debentures of MEMG India by MEMGIIPL from National Investment and Infrastructure Fund – II (Proposed Combination).

➢ **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has **raised** its **stake** in state-owned steel production firm **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** by about **8.26 crore shares or 2.001% of equity capital** at an average price of **Rs 66.18 per unit.**

➢ Fair-trade regulator **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the **minority stake acquisition** in **Lenskart Solutions** by **Dove Investments, Defati Investments Holding BV and Infinity Partners** under the green channel route.

➢ The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** gave its approval to **SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF),** along with its group entities, to acquire up to **10% stake** in **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited (ICICI Lombard).**

➢ Leading stock exchange **BSE** divested a **4.54% stake** in **Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL)** for **Rs 468 crores** through an open market transaction.

Under the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations,** a stock exchange cannot have more than a **24%** stake in a depository.

➢ **Max Life Insurance Company Limited (Max Life)**, a subsidiary of Max Financial Services, has picked a **2.99% equity stake** in India's first small finance bank**, Capital Small Finance Bank (CSFB)** for a consideration of **₹49.50 crores.**

- Towards this investment, as many as **10,57,700 equity shares** of CSFB of ₹10 each at a premium of **₹458 per equity share** have been allotted to Max Life.

➢ **Private equity major, TPG India Investments II Inc sold** its **entire 2.65% stake, or 99.2 lakh shares**, in **Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) Shriram Finance Limited** for **Rs 1390 crore** through open market transactions.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of certain shareholding in **Ambit Private Limited (Target)** by **Daiwa International Holdings Inc (Acquirer)** through a combination of primary subscription of shares and secondary share purchases from existing shareholders.

➢ **Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd (HDFC)** has sold **90%** of its total stake in its subsidiary **HDFC Credila Financial Services Ltd** to a consortium of **Baring PE (BPEA)** and **ChrysCapital** for **Rs 9,060 crores.**

➢ **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has

reduced its **stake** in **iron ore producer NMDC formerly National Mineral Development Corporation** to **9.62%** by selling a little over 2% stake for about **Rs 649 crore**.LIC sold over **6.06 crore shares or 2.07% stake** in NMDC between March 14 and June 20, 2023 at an average price of Rs 107.59 a share via open market sale.

- Currently the LIC's shareholding in NMDC has decreased from 11.69% to 9.62%

➢ **Piramal Enterprises sold** its entire stake of **8.34%** in **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) major Shriram Finance** through a block deal.

- Investment banking firm **Morgan Stanley** will be the sole broker for the block deal.
- Shriram Finance was created after the merger of **Shriram Transport Finance Co**, the largest financier of commercial vehicles, and **Shriram City Union Finance,** the largest financier of two-wheelers and a pioneer in financing to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME).

JULY MONTH

➢ **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.**

- After merging HDFC Bank became the **world's 4th largest bank** in terms of market capitalization & **2nd biggest company in India.**

➢ 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%).**

➢ **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.

➢ 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.

➢ **HDFC Bank will sell a 2 per cent stake** in the **initial public offering (IPO) of the National Securities Depository (NSDL).**

- The **lender holds an 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 6 shareholders.

➢ **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.

➢ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** granted **approval to the proposed combination** involving the **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.

➢ 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%.**

SPORTS NEWS

APRIL MONTH

➢ **Germany's World Cup-winning midfielder Mesut Ozil** announced his **retirement from football at the age of 34.**

➢ Krishna **Prakash set another record by swimming from the Gateway of India** (located on Chhatrapati Shivaji Marg in South Mumbai) **to the famous Elephanta Caves** (located at the Elephanta Island in Mumbai Harbour).

- He swam in the opposite direction of the famed swimming route from Elephanta Caves to the Gateway of India, **covering 16.20 kilometres in five hours and 26 minutes.**
- This **achievement earned Prakash the title of 'Iron Man' and earned him a mention in the World Book of Records.**

➢ **Street Child United,** in partnership with **Shree Dayaa Foundation,** is delighted to announce that the **Street Child Cricket World Cup** will take place from **September 20 to 30, 2023 Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), India.**

- This is the **second edition** of the Street Child Cricket World Cup.

➢ The two-time Olympic medallist and former World Badminton Champion **P.V. Sindhu lost** to **Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung** in the summit clash of the **Madrid Spain Masters, 2023,** a part of the Spain Masters championship, held in Centro Deportivo Municipal Gallur, Madrid, Spain from 28th March to 2nd April 2023.

- This also marks Gregoria M Tunjung's first Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour title.
- In Men's singles, **Kenta Nishimoto** won the final.

Royal Enfield has partnered with the Indian women's Ice Hockey team to strengthen its Olympic ambitions.

Royal Enfield along with the Ice Hockey Association of India unveiled the new jersey for Team India.

The Indian women's Ice Hockey team is participating in the 2023 **IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia and Oceania Championship from April 30 to May 7, 2023, in Thailand.**

➢ **Sony Sports Network has extended its collaboration with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA),** the governing body of football in Europe. This gives the broadcaster exclusive media rights for all the **UEFA National Team competitions scheduled between 2022-2028 and will showcase the UEFA EURO 2024 and 2028,** along with its European Qualifiers and Friendly Matches.

➢ **Teenage Indian Grandmaster** Gukesh Dommaraju(Gukesh D) (16 year old) stunned former **world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan** in the final to **win the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania** held in Berlin, Germany from 3rd to

9th April 2023.

- It was the 2nd regional tournament of the Armageddon Championship Series 2022-2023 which is organised by World Chess Events Limited in cooperation with World Chess Europe GmbH.

Peru was pulled out of hosting the men's Under-17 World Cup after FIFA stated that the country is **not ready to hold the tournament later this year**.

- The decision comes one week after **FIFA took the men's Under-20 World Cup from Indonesia because it did not want to host Israel at its tournament in May.**

➢ **New Zealand's Kim Cotton** became the **1st woman on-field umpire** in a full-member men's T20I during New Zealand's second match against Sri Lanka in Dunedin.

- Previously, **Claire Polosak** was the **first female umpire** to stand in a **men's international cricket** in 2019 between Oman and Namibia.

➢ **Legendary 5 Indian cricketers** (3 men and 2 women) **MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Mithali Raj, Suresh Raina and Jhulan Goswami** have received the **Honorary Life Membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)** based at the Lord's Cricket Ground (since 1814) in London, the United Kingdom(UK).

- **Starring in the honoured MCC list, former India skipper Dhoni, legendary all-rounder Yuvraj and ex-India batter Raina** have also received life **membership of the club**.
- 8 of the 12 Test Playing countries are represented on the **2023 Cohort of new Honorary Life Memberships.**

➢ **Indian men's football team** jumped to the **101st position in the latest ranking released by football's world governing body Fédération Internationale de football association (FIFA).**

- Argentina continues to hold the top spot as the world champions, followed by France, Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, and Spain in the top 10 positions.
- Among **46 Asian nations, India is placed 19th** & Japan is top-ranked among all the Asian nations.

➢ At the **36th edition of the Asian Wrestling Championships held in Astana, Kazakhstan** from April 9 to 14, 2023, a total of **7 medals have been won by Indian women wrestlers including 2 silver and 5 bronze medals.**

- With this, **India has secured the 3rd position** in the women's team rankings.
- **Japan ranked 1st** and **China ranked 2nd in** the women's team rankings.
- In the U-17 category, India's **Parveen** bagged gold in the women's wrestling 43 kg weight category while Khelo India star **Neha** triumphed in the women's 57 kg.
- **Kajal** bagged the 3rd gold by winning the women's 73 kg weight category while another Khelo India athlete, **Shiksha** claimed gold in the women's wrestling 65kg, India's **Saurabh** won silver in the freestyle 80 kg weight category while Khelo India grappler **Narendar** bagged bronze in 71 kg freestyle.
- **Sourabh** won the other bronze medal finishing 3rd in the men's freestyle 65 kg weight category.

➢ The **160th edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2023,** the **cricket reference book** published annually in the United Kingdom(UK), has announced the **5 Wisden Cricketers** of the Year **2023** ie **Tom Blundell (New Zealand), Ben Foakes (England), Harmanpreet Kaur (India), Daryl Mitchell(New Zealand) and Matthew Potts (England).**

- Indian Women's cricket team Captain Harmanpreet Kaur becomes the 1st India Women's cricketer to be named a "Wisden Cricketer of the Year".
- **Suryakumar** won the honour of **Wisden Almanack's leading T20I cricketer** while **Harmanpreet Kaur** became the **first Indian**

woman to win the Cricketer of the Year award.

- England captain **Ben Stokes** has been named **Wisden's leading cricketer in the world.**
- Australia batter **Beth Mooney** was named the world's top women's cricketer.

➢ The **Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023** is a **men's field hockey tournament** being held in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) India** from August 3 to 12, 2023 hosted by **Hockey India.**

- India is hosting the event for the first time & it is the **7th edition** of the **Asian Champions Trophy.**
- Chennai last hosted an international hockey event in **2007**.

➢ **Spain's Carlos Alcaraz defeated Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas** and won the **Barcelona Open** title.

- **Alcaraz** won his third **ATP Tour title of the year and the 9th overall.** Alcaraz won the Barcelona Open for the second consecutive year.
- It was Tsitsipas's **4th consecutive loss** to Alcaraz, who was defeated by Jannik Sinner in the semi-finals of the Miami Open.
- The 2023 Barcelona Open was a men's tennis tournament played **in Barcelona, Spain**, from 17 to 23 April 2023 & it was the **70th edition of the Barcelona Open**.

MAY MONTH

➢ **Odisha FC** defeated **Bengaluru FC 2-1** in the **Hero Super Cup 2023 final** to lift their 1st-ever trophy at the **EMS Stadium in Kozhikode, Kerala.**

- While Brazilian Diego Mauricio struck both goals for the winners in the first half, Sunil Chhetri scored from a penalty in the 84th minute to set up a nervy finish for the Bhubaneswar side.

❖ **Player of the Tournament**: Diego Maurício (OFC)

❖ **Top Goalscorer of the Tournament**: Wilmar Jordan Gil (NEUFC) - 7 goals

❖ **Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament**: Amrinder Singh (OFC).

➢ Belgium's **Luca Brecel has won his first-ever world title after beating Mark Selby** 18-15 in an enthralling **World Championship finale at the Crucible**.

➢ The **Odisha government** decided to further **extend** its **sponsorship** for **both the Men and Women's Indian Hockey Teams** (senior and junior) for another **10 years from 2023 to 2033.**

- Odisha has been the official sponsor of both the Men and Women's National Hockey Teams.
- **Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) has now committed to sponsor both teams till January 31, 2033,** and a **total amount of ₹434.12 crores** (excluding applicable taxes) will be released by OMC to Hockey India during this period.

➢ Chinese chess grandmaster **Ding Liren** has become **17th world chess champion & the first from China** defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi at the FIDE World Chess Championship 2023 in **Astana, Kazakhstan.**

- **Now China holds both the men's and women's world titles as Ju Wenjun**, the current women's champion, is set to defend her title against compatriot Lei Tingjie in July.

Global Chess League (GCL), a joint venture between FIDE and Tech Mahindra, announced **Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as the venue for the inaugural of the GCL edition which is set to be held from **21st June to 2nd July 2023.**

➢ **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** achieved a historic milestone by becoming the **first Indian men's doubles pair to win a gold medal at the 2023 Badminton Asia Championships (BAC),** held at the Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Indoor Hall in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 25th to 30th April 2023 **defeating Malaysian pair Teo Ee Yi and Ong Yew Sin.**

- This also marks **India's 2nd ever title** at the BAC after **Dinesh Khanna,** who won **India's 1st gold, in men's singles**, at BAC in 1965.
- The **2023 championships were the 40th edition** of the Badminton Asia Championships.

Winners of 2023 Badminton Asia Championship :

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's singles	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting(Indonesia)	Loh Kean Yew(Singapore)
Men's doubles	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy Chirag Shetty (India)	Teo Ee Yi Ong Yew Sin(Malaysia)
Women's singles	Tai Tzu-Ying(Chinese Taipei)	An Se-young(South Korea)

➢ **The FIFA Council has announced Argentina** as the **official host of the upcoming FIFA U-20 World Cup 2023.**

- **Indonesia was the original tournament host** but **FIFA removed them after a new bid submitted by the Argentinian Football Association (AFA).** The hosting agreement has been signed by the AFA.

➢ **Cristiano Ronaldo became the world's highest-paid athlete** after **he signed a contract worth more than 200 million euros ($219.98 million) with Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr.**

- Ronaldo earned **$136 million-$46 million on-field** and **$90 million off-field** & his annual playing salary has increased by $75 million.
- **Lionel Messi** is in the **2nd spot** with $130 million while **Kylian Mbappe** is in the **3rd spot** with $120 million.
- LeBron James ($119.5 million) and Canelo Alvarez ($110 million) are in the 4th and 5th spots respectively.

➢ **Pakistan skipper Babar Azam** has become **the fastest player to reach 5000 runs in the ODI format.** During the fourth match against New Zealand in Karachi, **Pakistan captain Babar Azam became the fastest batsman to complete 5,000 One Day International (ODI) runs**.

- He **broke South Africa's Hashim Amla's record**.

In Weightlifting, **India's Bindyarani Devi has clinched a silver medal in the women's 55kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championships** 2023 in **Jinju, South Korea**.

- Sorokhaibam Bindyarani Devi registered a combined lift of 194 kg to finish second on the podium.
- **China's Chen Guan Ling won the gold medal** with a combined lift of 204 kg.
- Meanwhile, in the **men's 61 kg category Group B, Shubham Todkar lifted a combined weight of 263 kg** to finish sixth among nine competitors.

➢ **Red Bull's Sergio Perez** (Mexican racing driver) won the **Azerbaijan Grand Prix (GP) Title** at the Formula One (F1) 2023 Azerbaijan Grand Prix held from April 28-30, 2023 at the Baku City Circuit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen**, secured **2nd position** on the podium and **Ferrari's Charles Leclerc,** secured **3rd position** claiming his team's first podium appearance of the year.

➢ **Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur and Uttar Pradesh**

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Logo, jersey, mascot, torch and anthem of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2022 in Lucknow.

- The **3rd edition of the Khelo India University Games will take place from May 23 to June 3, 2023**.
- The **game's mascot Jitu the Barasingha, the exotic vibrant state animal who embodies "Garv se Gaurav"** was then unveiled by the Chief Minister.
- The **official logo of the Khelo India University Games 2022 Uttar Pradesh represents the rich heritage of Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state**.

➢ The **All India Football Federation has decided to observe 23 June as the 'AIFF Grassroots Day'** in honour of **Indian football icon Pradip Kumar Banerjee**.

- He was honoured with the FIFA Order of Merit, the highest honour awarded by FIFA.
- He died on 20 March 2020 due to age-related issues in Kolkata.

➢ **Indian boxers Deepak Kumar, Mohammed Hussamuddin and Nishant Dev made the country proud by winning bronze medals** at the **IBA Men's World Boxing Championship 2023 held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.**

With this, **India concluded the tournament with three medals and ranked joint 4th in the medals tally.**

India scripted history when Deepak Bhoria in 51kg, Mohammad Hussamuddin in 57kg, and Nishant Dev in 71kg won their respective quarterfinal bouts**.**

➢ **Yuzvendra Chahal**, the spinner for both India and the Rajasthan Royals cricket team, made history as he became the **first Indian bowler** to take 300 wickets in T20 cricket.

Indian bowlers with most T20 wickets :

S.no	Bowlers	Wickets
1	Yuzvendra Chahal	303
2	Ravichandran Ashwin	288
3	Piyush Chawla	276
4	Amit Mishra	272
5	Bhuvneshwar Kumar	256

Bowlers with most T20 wickets :

S.No	Bowlers	Wickets
1	Dwayne Bravo	615
2	Rashid Khan	530
3	Sunil Narine	479
4	Imran Tahir	469
5	Shakib Al Hasan	451

➢ In the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol**

2023 held in Baku, Azerbaijan, India finished 2nd in the overall **4 medals.**

- **China** topped the medal tally with 7 medals (4 Gold; 1 Silver and 2 Bronze) while the **Islamic Republic of Iran** finished 3rd with 2 medals (1 Gold and 1 Silver).
- **Indian Winners of ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol 2023 :**

❖ The Indian pair **Sarabjot Singh & Divya TS won** the gold medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team.

This was the second ISSF World Cup gold for Sarabjot, who won the individual air pistol in Bhopal in March 2023.

Divya has won the first senior medal at the international level.

❖ **Hriday Hazarika** won the silver medal in the Men's 10m air rifle.

❖ **Nancy Mandhotra** won the silver medal in the Women's 10m air rifle with a score of 253.3.

❖ **Rhythm Sangwan** has won a bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol.

At the **13th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2023**, the **Hockey Haryana team was declared the winner.**

- In the finals, **Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Uttar Pradesh came in the 2nd and 3rd positions** at **Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, Odisha**.

McDonald's, the fast food chain, **has signed a new contract with FIFA to remain as a World Cup sponsor until the 2026 edition in the United States, Canada and Mexico.**

- The renewal gives **McDonald's the title of 'Official Restaurant' sponsor of this year's Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand and the men's edition 3 years later.**

➢ **Indian Olympic Association (IOA) approved** the inclusion of Punjab's traditional martial art, **Gatka, in the 37th National Games-2023.**

The **37th national game is scheduled to be held in Goa in October 2023**.

➢ **V.Prraneeth (16 years)** became **Telangana's 6th and India's 82nd Grandmaster** by defeating **GM Hans Niemann** from United States of America (USA) in the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023, from May 4-12, in Baku Crystal Hall, Baku, Azerbaijan.

- **Sayantan Das** became **India's 81st Grandmaster** after his victory at the **International Festival des Jeux in Cannes, France.**

➢ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest** at the **inaugural function of the 3rd edition of the Khelo India University games** in Lucknow.

- The **KIUG 2022 Games will be held in Varanasi, Noida, Lucknow and Gorakhpur**.
- The mascot of the University Games is **Jitu Barasingha** & '**Shakti**' is the official torch of Khelo India University Games, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is being organised by the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** and **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** in association with the Association of Indian Universities, the Indian Olympic Association and the National Sports Federation.
- The 1st edition of the Khelo India University Games was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **2020**.

➢ The **Emilia Romagna Grand Prix has been cancelled due to adverse weather in the region.**

- The next race of the 2023 F1 season is now the Monaco Grand Prix, taking place over the weekend of 26-28 May, 2023.

JUNE MONTH

➢ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni led Chennai Super Kings won their 5th Indian Premier League (IPL) title** by **defeating defending champions Gujarat Titans led by Hardik Pandya** by 5 wickets at the **Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.**

- The 2023 Indian Premier League was the **16th edition of the IPL**.
- With this win, CSK equaled the Mumbai

Indians (MI) record of most trophies & CSK team won 5 titles in 14 editions breaking the record of MI which has won 5 titles in 16 editions.

- **Awards:**

❖ The Player of the Match was given to Devon Conway and Player of the Series was given to Shubman Gill.

❖ Purple cap - Mohammed Shami (28 wickets).

❖ Orange cap - Shubman Gill (890 runs).

❖ Emerging player of the season - Yashasvi Jaiswal.

❖ Catch of the Season - Rashid Khan.

❖ Most Valuable Player - Shubman Gill.

❖ Fair Play Award - Delhi Capitals.

➢ **India** has **won the NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup** title.NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup **was held in Kathmandu**.

- **India defeated Kazakhstan** in the final at the National Sports Council's Covered Hall in Tripureshwor, Kathmandu on 28 May 2023 and won the title.
- **8 nations participated** in it, **Kazakhstan became the runner-up,** Nepal came 3rd, Uzbekistan came 4th, Sri Lanka came 5th. Kyrgyzstan, Maldives and Bangladesh came 6th,7th, and 8th,respectively.

➢ **Tamil Nadu** is set to host **Khelo India Games 2023,** an annual national-level multidisciplinary grassroot games in India.

➢ **Max Verstappen won** the **2023 Monaco Grand Prix (GP)** held at Circuit de Monaco in Monaco.

- This mark's his 2nd ever Monaco GP title, he previously won the title in **2021**.
- **Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso (Spain)** finished 2nd and **Alpine's Esteban Ocon (France)** finished 3rd.

➢ **Top Indian sprinter Amlan Borgohain bagged two gold medals**, one each in the **men's 100 and 200-meter races at the Flanders Cup 2023 athletics meet,** known as the **International Antwerp Athletics Gala, in Merksem, Belgium**.

He holds the 100-meter national record of 10.25 seconds.

In the 200 meter, the 25-year-old Borgohain clocked 20.96 seconds to emerge winner ahead of Hofman 21.42 and Jamaica's Samuel Rowe 21.88.

Meanwhile, Sapna Kumari finished behind Belgium's Amber Vanden Bosch in the women's 100m hurdles after clocking 14.10, in what was a two-woman field.

Indian shooters Abhinav Shaw and Gautami Bhanot have given **India their second gold** at the **ISSF World Cup Junior**, Suhl, Germany after winning the final of **10 meter Air Rifle Mixed Team event in Suhl, Germany.**

India now has 2 gold medals, 1 silver and 1 bronze from the World Cup after two days of competition.

➢ **India started their 2023 Asian Under 20 Athletics Championships campaign** by **winning three medals, including two gold**, on the opening day **in Yecheon, South Korea.**

Rezoana Mallick Heena and Bharatpreet Singh kicked off their campaigns by clinching **gold medals in women's 400-meter race and men's discus throw respectively.**

➢ **Indian grapplers** have signed off with **3 medals in the UWW Ranking Series event in Bishkek**, with **Manisha grabbing Gold**, **Reetika** finishing second-best and **Sarita Mor** getting her hand so on the Bronze Improvising with the small sized-draws, **Manisha bagged Gold in the 65 kg weight category**, while **India's tally in the series is 4 medals including 1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze.**

- **Earlier, Manjeet won a bronze in the men's Greco Roman 55kg category**.

➢ **Dhanush Srikanth won the Men's 10 metre Air Rifle** on Day 3 of the ongoing **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Junior**, giving **India their third gold of the competition**.

- **India also bagged a bronze in the**

Skeet Mixed Team competition, when **Harmehar Lally and Sanjana Sood** defeated the Swedish pair of David Jonsson and Felicia Ros.

➢ **India's Siddharth Choudhary clinched gold in men's shot put** with a personal best throw of 19.52 metres in **the Under 20 Asian Athletics Championships in Yecheon, South Korea**.

- Further, **3 other players Sharuk Khan (3000-metre steeplechase), Shivam Lohakare (Javelin), and Susmita (Long Jump) claimed silver medals in their respective events.**
- **Shakeel** (800 metre) and the mixed relay team concluded the day by **winning the bronze medal.**
- **Finally, India** won **6 medals**.

➢ **India finished on top of the International Shooting Sport Federation Junior World Cup with 15 medals**, including **6 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze medals,** at Suhl, **Germany.**

➢ **French Open tennis 2023,**(127th edition of the French Open) was held from 22nd May to 11th June 2023 at Court PhilippeChatrier in Stade Roland Garros, Paris, France.

Winners of **French Open tennis 2023 :**

Category	Winners	Runners
Men's singles	Novak Djokovic(Serbia)	Casper Ruud (Norway)
Women's singles	Iga Świątek(Poland) (**3rd French title** in just 5 years.)	Karolína Muchová (Czech Republic)
Men's doubles	Ivan Dodig (Croatia) & Austin Krajicek (USA)	Sander Gillé & Joran Vliegen (Belgium)
Women's doubles	Hsieh Suwei(Taiwan) & Wang Xinyu (China)	Leylah Fernandez(Canada) & Taylor Townsend (USA)
Mixed doubles	Miyu Kato (Japan) & Tim Pütz (Germany)	Bianca Andreescu (Canada) & Michael Venus (New Zealand)

➢ In Tennis, **Serbian Novak Djokovic created history by becoming the first man to reach the coveted 23 grand slam title** mark with his straight **sets win over Casper Ruud in the men's singles final of the French Open 2023 in Paris.**

- This was the **Serb's 3rd title on Parisian clay as he goes past rival Rafael Nadal as the man with the most number of major honours** in the history of the game.

➢ **In Hockey, India beat Argentina 2-1 in its final FIH Pro League** 2022-23 match in Eindhoven, **the Netherlands**.

- **Akashdeep Singh and Sukhjeet Singh** scored goals for India while Lucas Toscani netted the only goal for Argentina.
- **Argentina are 5th** with 13 points from 14 matches.
- **India defeated four-time champions South Korea** 2-1 to win their **first Women's Junior Hockey Asia Cup in Kakamigahara, Japan.**

➢ **Ace Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar secured a credible third place in the Paris Diamond League with a jump of 8.09m**, in his maiden podium finish in the prestigious one-day meeting series in **Paris.**

Sreeshankar also became the only 3rd Indian to finish in the top three of a Diamond League after Olympic champion javelin **thrower Neeraj Chopra and former discus thrower Vikas Gowda.**

➢ The **Indian team comprising 280 members** including 198 athletes has **left for Berlin, Germany to compete at the Special Olympics Summer Games held from 17th to 25th June, 2023.**

➢ **In wrestling, India wrapped up their campaign in the U-17 Asian Wrestling Championships** 2023 with **one gold, three silver and three bronze medals on the final day in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Ankush won India's only gold medal** of the day in the **freestyle 55kg** weight category, defeating Iran's Amirreza Ali Teymorizad.

➢ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) **Mission Olympic Cell** (MOC) in the recent meeting **approved the foreign training camp for Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) athletes Mirabai Chanu and Bindyarani Devi's proposal to train in St. Louis, USA.**

- During their 65 days foreign training camp, the duo **will be accompanied by Indian Chief Coach Vijay Sharma and their physiotherapist Tesneem Zayyad.**

Indian cyclist Esow Alben won the **bronze medal** in the **Elite Men's Keirin** event at the UCI Class 1 Event-Finale Bahnen-Tourne 2023 cycling competition in Dudenhofen, Germany.

- In 2022, **the 22-year-old was the first cyclist from India to participate in the UCI Champions League**.
- He is the 1st Indian to win a medal at the 2018 UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships.

Winners of Indonesia Open 2023:

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)

➢ **Egypt** has retained the **World Squash Championship,** after beating Malaysia 2-1 in the final in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- The 3rd place was shared jointly by hosts India and Japan.

➢ 33 year old Indian archer **Abhishek Verma** clinched the **gold medal** in the **men's compound individual final** at the **Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Medellin, Colombia**.

- He **defeated James Lutz of the USA 148-146, adding the second gold to the Indian medal tally.**
- **So far**, the **Indian contingent,** which has won **2 gold and 3 bronze medals.**

➢ Chief Minister of Goa Dr **Pramod Sawant launched the mascot for the upcoming 37th National Games**. The **launch ceremony was held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Taleigao.**

- It was organized by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Sports Authority of Goa and held on the occasion of the Goa Revolution Day, 18 June 2023.

➢ **India's shuttler duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** defeated reigning world champions **Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia to clinch the Indonesia Open 2023 Men's Double Title, in Jakarta.**

- Satwik and Chirag, who are ranked 6th in the world, won their first Super 1000 title with a straight-set victory of 21-17, 21-18. **India's first-ever doubles pair to win the prestigious tournament.**

Women's Singles	Chen Yufei (China)	Carolina Marin (Spain)
Men's Doubles	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (India)	Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik (Malaysia)
Women's Doubles	Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee (South Korea)	Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota (Japan)
Mixed Doubles	Zheng Si wei and Huang Ya Qiong (China)	Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Japan)

Indian men's senior football team captained by Sunil Chhetri clinched the **3rd edition of Intercontinental Cup** with a 2-0 victory **over Lebanon in the final at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneshwar**, Odisha.

- This is India's 2nd title in the tournament, following their win in the inaugural edition in 2018. Korea won in 2019.
- This is **Chhetri's 87th international goal in 137 appearances.**

➢ **Olympian C. A. Bhavani Devi** has created history by defeating reigning World Champion Misaki Emura in the **Asian Fencing Championship quarterfinal** and securing **India its first-ever medal at the event.**

➢ The **Taipei Open Badminton tournament has started in Taipei, Taiwan.**

- **HS Prannoy will lead India's challenge** at the tournament.
- The other Indians in the **Men's singles are Meiraba Luwang Maisnam, Kiran George, Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, Mithun Manjunath and S. Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian.**

➢ **28-year-old India's top shot putter, Tajinderpal Singh Toor** has **set a new Asian shot put record at the Inter-State Championships in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.**

➢ He **representing Punjab**, shattered his own previous Asian record with a massive throw of 21.77 metres.

➢ In the run-up to the **International Day of Yoga, 2023** (IDY-2023), the Department of Youth Affairs, **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized "Yoga Mahotsav" at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi**, Delhi.

➢ **At the Special Olympics World Games 2023 in Berlin, Germany, India added 21 medals to their overnight tally to take it to 76 (26 gold, 30 silver, 20 bronze)** by the end of the action.

- In **Judo, Suhalia Parveen won silver, to notch India's first medal in the event at the Games.**
- **Ranveer Saini, Rahul Agarwal and Ankush Saha, who claimed a gold medal in the Level 1 Golf event**.
- In the tournament, **the men's team, composed of Kamal Chawla, Brijesh Damani, and Sparsh Pherwani,** secured a gold medal.
- In the individual segment, **Rayaan Razmi claimed a bronze medal.** In the tournament, the men's team, composed of Kamal Chawla, Brijesh Damani, and Sparsh Pherwani, secured a gold medal.
- In the individual segment, Rayaan Razmi claimed a bronze medal.

➢ The **Indian women's doubles pair of Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee won the World Table Tennis** (WTT) Contender tournament in **Tunis,** after **beating the Japanese pair of Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto.**

- The **pair also became the first Indians to win a Contender title this year**.

➢ **Wanindu Hasaranga of Sri Lanka** has achieved a **remarkable feat in cricket by**

becoming the first spinner and second overall player in history to take three consecutive **5-wicket hauls in the One Day Internationals (ODIs).**
He has placed himself equal to the legendary Pakistani bowler Waqar Younis.

➢ In a significant milestone for **women's Kabaddi, Dubai hosted the world's first international Women's Kabaddi final, featuring the Punjab Panthers vs Uma Kolkata.**

- The intense **match concluded with the Uma Kolkata team emerging as champions, securing a grand prize of ₹10,000,000**.
- The Punjab team demonstrated commendable skills and earned the second position, receiving a prize of **₹5,000,000.**
- The event was successfully organized by the **Women's Kabaddi League** who played a crucial role in bringing the tournament to fruition.

JULY MONTH

➢ The **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).**
Olympic medalist **Bajrang Punia** will head out to Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan for a 36 days training camp.

➢ **India beat Iran** 42-32 in the **final of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 in Busan, South Korea.**
This is **India's 8th title in 9 editions.**
Indian captain Pawan Sehrawat led from the front with a super 10.
6 teams - India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong - participated in the Championships.
India won all 5 matches in the league stage and topped the points table & Iran came 2nd, only losing to India in the league stage, and made it to the final.

➢ 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**.
- 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.

➢ Star Indian **javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinched the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 title** with the **best throw of 87.66 meters**. **Neeraj's golden arm did its magic on the fifth attempt and achieved a throw of 87.66 meters**.
Germany's Julian Webber secured 2nd place with a best throw of 87.03 meters while Jakub Vadlech of the Czech Republic got 3rd place with an 86.13-meter throw.

➢ **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**, 2023.
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 **Trophy tour of the 132nd edition of the Durand Cup commenced from the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi**.

- The tournament will be **held in Kolkata from 3rd August to 3rd September 2023.**
- The tour was flagged off by the **Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.**
- In this edition, 24 teams will participate in the tournament & the **teams of Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh are also taking part in the tournament after a gap of 27 years**.

➢ 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 **73 kg category** at the upcoming continental games, scheduled in Hangzhou, China from 23rd September 23 to 8th October 2023.

Bindyarani Devi, will participate in the 55kg women's division in Hangzhou.

Reigning National Games champion **N Ajith** will also be in the Indian team **compete in the 73 kg category**

➢ **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**, Karnataka.

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh again turned out as the hero for the Indian side, saving the final kick from the Kuwaiti captain.

To end his 16-year international career in cricket, **One Day International (ODI) captain of Bangladesh, Tamim Iqbal** (34 years old) announced **his retirement from international cricket.**

- **Tamim declared in Chattogram that the match he played against Afghanistan** was the final match of his career.

➢ **Himachal Pradesh (HP) born** 18 years old **Sakshi Kochhar** has become the '**Youngest Commercial Pilot of India**', breaking the previous record of another female pilot from India, **Maitri Patel,** who held the record at 19-years of age.

➢ **Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix,** held on 2 July 2023 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria to take another step towards a third successive world title.

- **Charles Leclerc**, the previous year's winner at this circuit, finished in **2nd place,** crossing the finish line 5.2 seconds after Verstappen.
- Meanwhile, **Sergio Perez** secured the **3rd position**, finishing 17.2 seconds behind the leader.

➢ 26-year-**old** Indian football team midfielder **Lallianzuala Chhangte** was named the **AIFF Men's Footballer** of the Year for 2022-23 while **Manisha Kalyan** won her **2nd consecutive Women's Footballer** of the Year award.

- **AIFF Player of the Year Award winners for 2022-23:**

❖ AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Lallianzuala Chhangte

❖ AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Manisha Kalyan

❖ AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Akash Mishra

❖ AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Shilji Shaji

➢ In the **2023 World Archery Youth Championships** held from July 03-09, 2023 in **Limerick, Ireland, India** has secured the **2nd position** with an impressive haul of **11 medals**, including 6 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze.

South korea topped the medal tally with 10 medals (6 Gold, 4 Silver)

Indian medal winners in U-21 event :

Archer	Event	Medal
Priyansh	Compound Men's Individual	Gold

Priyansh and Avneet Kaur	Compound Mixed Team	Gold
➢ Parth Salunkhe	Recurve men's individual	Gold
Avneet Kaur, Praneet Kaur & Pragati	Compound Women's team	Gold
Parth Salunkhe and Ridhi	Recurve women's individual	Bronze
Bhajan Kaur	Recurve mixed team	Bronze

Parth Salunkhe has become the **first male archer** to win a gold medal in the 'recurve category'.

Indian medal winners in U-18 event :

Archer	**Event**	**Medal**
Manav Jadhav and Aishwarya Sharma	Compound Mixed team	Bronze
Aishwarya Sharma, Aditi Swami and Ekta Rani	Compound Women's team	Gold
Aditi Gopichand Swami	Compound Women Individual	Gold
Manav Ganeshrao Jadhao, Pawan Gat & Ganesh Mani Ratnam	Compound Men's Team	Silver
Ujjwal Dhama, Goldi Mishra & Agastay Singh	Recurve men's team	Bronz

➢ **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.**

- This is the first BWF World Tour title of Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen after almost a year.

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 2nd in front of a 160 000-strong home crowd at Silverstone**, with fellow Briton and **7-time world champion Lewis Hamilton 3rd for Mercedes.**

➢ **Minnu Mani** creates history **as the first woman cricketer from Kerala** to **represent the Indian senior team**.

- 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**.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

➢ **India's Nishad Kumar has clinched a silver medal in the High Jump** T47 Event, in the ongoing Para Athletics **World Championships 2023** from 8 to 17 July at **the Charlety Stadium, Paris.**

- **Nishad has become the second athlete at this event to grab a medal**.
- The top-4 ranked athletes at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships in each individual medal event qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games, also to be held in Paris.

➢ **India topped the medals tally in the 34th International Biology Olympiad** (IBO), held in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 3 July to 11 July 2023, by securing **4 gold me**dals.

India has for the **1st time turned in an all-gold performance and topped the medal tally in IBO & it is also the 1st time that India has topped the medals tally at the Olympiad**

The students this year were:

❖ **Dhruv Advani (GOLD)** from Bengaluru, Karnataka

❖ **Ishan Pednekar (GOLD)** from Kota, Rajasthan

❖ **Megh Chhabda (GOLD)** from Jalna, Maharashtra

❖ **Rohit Panda (GOLD)** from Risali, Chattisgarh

- **Singapore** was the only other country to secure four gold medals.

India's top table tennis league Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) tournament is being **organized** at the **Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune,Maharashtra** 2023 under the aegis of the **Table Tennis Federation of India after a gap of 4 years**.

- The **league round-robin will be held between the 13th and the 27th of July**, 2023.
- 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, 2023 in South Korea.

➢ **So far, India** has won **3 gold medals** 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**.
- **India is hosting the tournament for the second time**, having successfully organized it in Pune in 2015.

So far, India has taken home 3 gold and 3 bronze medals from the ongoing **Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok, Thailand**.

India's Jyothi Yarraji had 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.

Tejaswin Shankar won the **bronze medal** in long jump 400m events and the other two bronze medalists are **Abhishek Pal** and **Aishwarya Kailash Mishra** in **men's 10000m** and **women's 400m,** respectively.

India fell behind China and Japan in the medal standings.

➢ The **6-member Indian team** at the **64th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2023** held at Chiba, Japan from July 2-13, 2023 secured **2 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals** and finished **9th** out of 112 countries.

- This is the **4th time** India secured a position in the top 10 (India finished 7th in 1998 and in 2001, and 9th in 2002).
- **Gold Medal winners are:** Mr. Atul Shatavart Nadig (Bengaluru, Karnataka),Mr. Arjun Gupta (New Delhi).
- **Silver Medal winners are:** Mr. Ananda Bhaduri (Guwahati, Assam), Mr. Siddharth Choppara (Pune, Maharashtra)
- **Bronze Medal winner are:** Mr. Adhitya Mangudi Venkata Ganesh (pune, Maharashtra), Mr. Archit Manas (Hyderabad).

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 3rd seed Daniil Medvedev while Djokovic defeated Italian eighth seed Jannik Sinner in the semi-finals in straight sets.

➢ 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**.

➢ **Indian athletes** won a total of **27 medals - 6 gold, 12 silver and 9 bronze** & finished 3rd in the overall medal tally at the **25th edition of Asian Athletics Championships (AAC) 2023,** which was held at the Supachalasai National Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand, from July 12 to 16, 2023

Top 5 countries :

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Japan	16	11	10	37
2	China	8	8	6	22
3	India	6	12	9	27
4	Sri Lanka	3	2	3	8
5	Qatar	2	1	1	4

- **Asian Athletics Championships 2023: India's medal winners :**

S.No	Athlete	Event	Medal
1	Jyothi Yarraji	Women's 100m hurdles	Gold
2	Abdulla Aboobacker	Men's triple jump	Gold
3	Parul Chaudhary	Women's 3000m steeplechase	Gold
4	Ajay Kumar Saroj	Men's 1500m	Gold
5	Tajinderpal Singh Toor	Men's shot put	Gold
6	Rajesh Ramesh, Aishwarya Mishra, Amoj Jacob, Subha Venkatesan	Mixed 4x400m relay team	Gold
7	Shaili Singh	Women's long jump	Silver

8	Anil Sarvesh Kushare	Men's high jump	Silver
9	Murali Sreeshankar	Men's long jump	Silver
10	Swapna Barman	Heptathlon	Silver
11	Priyanka Goswami	Women's 20km race walk	Silver
12	Chanda	Women's 800m	Silver
13	Parul Chaudhary	Women's 5000m	Silver
14	Krishan Kumar	Men's 800m	Silver
15	Abha Khatua	Women's shot put	Silver
16	DP Manu	Men's javelin throw	Silver
17	Jyothi Yarraji	Women's 200m	Silver
18	Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal, Mijo Chacko Kurian, Rajesh Ramesh	Men's 4x400m relay	Silver
19	Abhishek Pal	Men's 10000m	Bronze
20	Aishwarya Mishra	Women's 400m	Bronze
21	Tejaswin Shankar	Men's decathlon	Bronze
22	Santhosh Kumar	Men's 400m hurdles	Bronze
23	Vikash Singh	Men's 20km race walk	Bronze
24	Ankita	Women's 5000m	Bronze
25	Manpreet Kaur	Women's shot put	Bronze
26	Gulveer Singh	Men's 5000m	Bronze
27	Rezoana Mallick Heena, Aishwarya Mishra, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Subha Venkatesan	Women's 4x400m relay	Bronze

➢ 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**.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

- **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.
- **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 8th 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**.

➢ 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** at the Centre Court in London.

Complete List of Winners in Different Categories :

S.No	Category	Winner	Runnerup
1	Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic
2	Women's Singles	Marketa Vondrousova	Ons Jabeur
3	Men's Doubles	WesleyKoolhof & NealSkupski	HoracioZeballos & MarcelGranollers
4	Women's Doubles	Barbora Strýcová & Hsieh Su-wei	Elise Mertens & Storm Sanders
5	Mixed Doubles	Mate Pavić & Lyudmy laKichenok	XuYi fan & Joran Vliegen

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 4 years.

Indian badminton player **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy,** popularly known as Satwik, smashed the **Guinness World Record for the fastest hit** by a male player in the sport during the Korea Open, where Satwik recorded a mind-boggling speed of 565 km/h with his smash.

- 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.

➢ **The Indian Surf Team won the bronze medal at the Asian Surfing Championship**, held at **Thulisdhoo Island in Maldives**.

- 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, 2023.

➢ The **ISSF Junior World Championships 2023** was held from July 16 to 24, 2023 at Changwon Shooting Range, Republic of Korea, in which **India** secured **2nd spot** in the overall medal tally, finishing with **17 medals** (6 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze).

- China topped the medal tally with 28 medals (12 gold, 9 silver, 7 bronze).
- Click here to know about complete list of ISSF Junior World Championships 2023

An **18-year-old open water swimmer from Navi Mumbai, Anshuman Jhingran,** became the **youngest person** to cross the **North Channel** (located between **Scotland and Northern Ireland).**

- 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.

➢ Team India batter **Virat Kohli created history, becoming the first cricketer to score a 100 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 **4th 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.

➢ **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 men's doubles final Korea Open 2023 title in **Yeosu, Korea**.

- It was **Satwik and Chirag's first win over the Chinese pair following two earlier defeats.**

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 2 gold medals each, while Sainyam secured 3 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.

❖ Click here to know about the complete list of ISSF Junior World Championships 2023 :

➢ **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** (1800-119-919) for the athletes and athlete support personnel to provide information about Anti-Doping rules and guidelines.

➢ The Union Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2023** in **Greater Noida being held in India for the first time**.

The Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships will conclude on the **5th of August, 2023.**

➢ India won **26 medals** - 11 gold, five silver and 10 bronze - at the **FISU World University Games 2023** in Chengdu, China to finish **7th** on the World University Games 2023 medals table.

- **China topped** the table with 178 medals, including 103 gold.
- 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**.
- **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.
- **Click here to know about complete list of FISU World University Games 2023 :**

➢ In **Athletics, Indian athletes won 4 medals with 3 gold and 1 silver** on the 2nd 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.

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

APRIL MONTH

Books Name	Author / Released by	Publication / Key Points
'Azaad'	Ghulam Nabi Azad's	Rupa Publications India
Phoolange, Fruits of the Barren Tree	Lekhnath Chhetri	Penguin Random House India (PRHI) announced, the English version of Nepali novel "Phoolange"
The Great Bank Robbery	V Pattabhi Ram and Sabyasachee Dash.	Rupa Publications India
'Transforming the Steel Frame: Promise and Paradox of Civil Service Reform	Vinod Rai	Rupa Publication
Gandhi: Siasat aur Sampradayikata'	Piyush Babel-Hindhi	Genuine Publications & Media Private Limited
'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change'	Bureaucrat Ashish Kundra's	

MAY MONTH

Books Name	Author / Released by	Publication / Key Points
'Sachin@50 - Celebrating a Maestro	Boria Majumdar	
Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih'	PM Modi	

"Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise	Amitabh Kant	Rupa Publications India
"Crosscourt"	Jaideep Mukherjee, co-authored by Papri Sen Sri Raman	Vitasta
12 Books (English and Malayalam)	Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai	
, 'Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration,'	Dr Manoj Kumar's	Legal Matrix Publication
Foreword	Shri R. Venkataramani	
Just Aspire"	Ajai Chowdhry	Harper Business

JUNE MONTH

Books Name	Author / Released by	Publication / Key Points
'A Political Biography NTR'	senior Editor K. Ramachandra Murthy / Released by Justice Sudarshan Reddy	HarperCollins India
Amrutkaal ki Ore'	Jagat Prakash Nadda	Achievements of the Narendra Modi Government

OBITUARIES

APRIL MONTH

Name of the Person	Field	Native, Country
Girish Bapat	Veteran BJP MP & member of LS Leader	-
Sarah Thomas	Malayalam Novelist and short story writer	Trivandrum, Travancore
Ryuichi Sakamoto	Oscar-winning Japanese pop pioneer	Tokyo, Japan
Salim Durani	Former Indian Cricket	Kabul, Afghanistan
Lance Reddick	American actor, and musician	Baltimore, Maryland,United States (US)
Jagarnath Mahto	Jharkhand Education Minister	Alargo, Bokaro, Jharkhand
Naresh Gupta	Former Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer	Uttar Pradesh
Keshub Mahindra	Former Mahindra Group chairman	-
Jalabala Vaidya	actress &theatre artist	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Uttara Baokar	Renowned National Award-Winning actress	-
Dr Zafrullah Chowdhur	Bangladesh Freedom fighter & public health pioneer	Bangladesh
Craig Breen	Ireland's top rally driver	-
Trilochan Kanungo	Veteran politician	Cuttack, Odisha
Himangshu Mohan Choudhury	Tripura's first Padma Awardee	Tripura
Parkash Singh Badal	5-Time Punjab Chief Minister	Abul Khurana, near Malout, Punjab
Tarek Fatah	Pakistani-Canadian journalist	Karachi, Pakistan

MAY MONTH

Name of the Person	Field	Native, Country
Ranajit Guha	Noted Indian historian	Bangladesh
Arun Manilal Gandhi	Indian-American author and socio-political activist	Durban,South Africa
Antonio Félix	Legendary Mexican goalkeeper	Mexico City
Robert E. Lucas Jr	American economist & nobel laureate	-
Kalyani Kazi	Eminent singer	-
Ambala Rattan Lal Kataria	BJP MP	-
SP Hinduja	Indian-born British billionaire & Hinduja Group chairman	-
Martin Amis	Renowned British novelist	UK
Tina Turner	Legendary Rock & Soul Singer	-

JUNE MONTH

Name of the Person	Field	Native, Country
Vellayani Arjunan	Eminent scholar, linguist, academician and write	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Karumuttu T Kannan	Industrialist & philanthropist	-
Balubhau Dhanorkar	Lok Sabha member	-
Ved Kumari Ghai	Sanskrit scholar	-
Aamir Raza Hussain	Noted theater actor & director	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Sulochana Latkar	Veteran Hindi & Marathi film Actress	Belgaum, Karnataka

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Manoj Misra	Renowned environmental activist	Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
Mele Siu'ilikutapu	Tonga's Princess	Tonga
Katakam Sudarshan	Senior most Maoist leader	Andhra Pradesh
Gufi Paintal	Mahabharat Actor	-
Gitanjali Aiyar	Prominent Doordarshan News Anchor	-
P.V. Valsala Govindan Kutty	Retired bureaucrat	-
' Havildar Alby D'Cruz	Kerala's 1st 'Ashoka Chakra	Kerala
Kollam Sudhi	Malayalam actor and mimicry artist	Kollam, Kerala
Sharda Rajan Iyengar	Veteran singer	Tamil Nadu
Alevoor Sundar Sherigar	Renowned saxophonist	-
Glenda Jackson	Oscar-winning UK actress & ex MP	Oscar-winning UK actress & ex MP
Poojappura Ravi	Legendary Malayalam actor	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Navroze Contractor	Noted cinematographer	Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Daniel Ellsberg	Pentagon Papers whistleblower	Chicago, Illinois, United States
Imtiaz Ahmad	Renowned sociologist, author	-
Sylvester daCunha	Creator Of Iconic 'Amul Girl' Campaign	-
John Goodenough	Co-Inventor Of Rechargeable Li-ion Battery Inventor & Oldest Winner Of Nobel Prize	-
Raj Karan	Veteran Congress leader & former Sultanpur MP	Uttar Pradesh
Hardwar Dubey	BJP Rajya Sabha MP & former Uttar Pradesh minister	Uttar Pradesh

JULY MONTH

Name of the Person	Field	Native, Country
Alan Arkin	actor	-
Bir Devinder Singh	Punjab Assembly deputy speaker	Punjab
Namboothiri	artist, illustrator and sculptor	Kerala, India
McCray-Penson	Basketball star and Two-time Olympic champion	Collierville, Tennessee, United States (US)
Luis Suarez	Ballon d'Or winning player	Spain

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Dr Mangala J. Narlikar	Renowned mathematician	-
Oommen Chandy	Former Kerala chief minister	Kottayam, Kerala
Brian Taber	Ex-Australian wicket keeper	Australia
Kevin Mitnick	Computer hackers	-
Bishnu Pada Roy	West Bengal MLA	West Bengal
Shirish Kanekar	Marathi Journalist-author	Maharashtra
Milan Kundera	Czech-born French writer & author	France

August 1 to 15 Current Affairs

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Observed as	Theme/ Aim / Key Points
August 1	World Wide Web Day	
August 1 to 7	World Breastfeeding Week	
Key Points: Enabling breastfeeding: making a difference for working parents."		
August 6	Hiroshima Day	
August 7	National Handloom Day	
August 8	Quit India Movement	
Key Points: This day is also known as August Kranti Din.		
August 9	Nagasaki Day	
August 9	International Day of World's Indigenous People	
Key Points: Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination		
August 10	World Biofuel Day	
August 12	World Elephant Day	
Key Points: The first world elephant day was held on 12 August 2012.		
August 12	International Youth Day	

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Key Points: 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World'		
August 13	International Lefthanders Day	Left Handers in Sports
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	
Key Points: Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae		

NATIONAL NEWS

According to the information given by the **Minister of State for Civil Aviation General (Dr.) V. K. Singh, the union government has granted** in principal **approval to import 470 aircraft to Air India Limited and 500 aircraft to Interglobe Aviation Limited** (Indigo).
The aircraft is **proposed to be imported by 2035**.

Observer Research Foundation (ORF), as **the Think20 Secretariat under India's G20 Presidency, will host the Think20 Summit in Mysore, Karnatakafrom July 31 to August 2, 2023.**

Think20 is the G20's official engagement group that **serves as an 'ideas bank' for the multilateral grouping by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss policy issues relevant to the G20.**

The 3-day conference will be a gathering of distinguished members of the 7 Think20 Task Forces and policy experts from around the world.
The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has extended the date i.e. **August 30, 2023** for accepting applications under the **production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme 2.0** for IT hardware.

PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware was notified on May 29, 2023, with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 17,000 crore to broaden and deepen the IT hardware manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

Union Minister for Women and Child Development, **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani** inaugurated the **G20 EMPOWER Summit which is set to take place on August 1, 2023, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar,** Gujarat.

The summit organised around the **theme- "Women-Led Development: ensuring a Sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth"**.

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for EMPOWER** which is the G20 Alliance for Empowerment and Progress of Women's Economic Progression.

India Post will sell the **National Flag** through its **1.60 lakh post offices** to celebrate Har Ghar Tiranga between 13 to 15 August 2023.

The **Department of Posts (DoP)** took this campaign to the last mile and ensured the availability of the national flag in the remotest corner of the country.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced that a **'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign** will be launched in the run up to Independence Day to honour the **martyred bravehearts** and programmes will be organised across India in memory of those who laid down their lives for the country.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Under this campaign, '**Amrit Kalash Yatra' will also be organised across the country.**"
Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's 1st Indigenously developed, Affordable, lightweight, Ultrafast, High Field (1.5 Tesla), Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi.**

On the 3rd anniversary of NEP 2020, the Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, introduced the **logo, slogan-Jan Jan Sakshar &**launched the mobile application ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society): Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram (or ULLAS app) **at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi** to **provide widespread access to basic literacy and critical life skills** by leveraging technology.

The 50th meeting of the Executive Committee of the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was held under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG, Shri G. Asok Kumar where 7 projects worth around Rs. 692 crores** were approved.

Out of the 7 projects, **4 pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.**
NMCG has so far sanctioned a total of 452 projects worth around Rs. 38,126 crore out of which 254 have been completed.

The **Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment under the G20 Indian Presidency,** chaired by Union Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt. **Smriti Zubin Irani is set to take place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 2nd to 4th August 2023** with the theme of**Women-Led Inclusive Development at the Cusp of Inter-Generational Transformation'.**

The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi flagged off metro trains marking the inauguration of completed sections of Pune Metro**.

He laid the foundation stones for various development projects worth Rs. 15,000 crores after receiving **Lokmanya Tilak National Award** at an event in Maharashtra's Pune.
With this award, PM Modi became the **41st recipient** of the award.

The Award was constituted by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in **1983**, to honour the legacy of Lokmanya Tilak.

The former recipients include luminaries such as **Tessy Thomas (2022)** Shankar Dayal Sharma, Pranab Mukherjee, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Indira Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, NR Narayana Murthy, and E Sreedharan, among others.

He also handed over more than 1280 houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana by **Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)** and more than 2650 PMAY houses constructed by Pune Municipal Corporation to the beneficiaries.

He laid the foundation stone for around 1190 PMAY houses to be constructed by PCMC and over 6400 houses constructed by Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority.

He **also inaugurated a Waste to Energy Plant** under **PCMC developed at a cost of about Rs 300 crores.**

The **Union Government will launch the e-CARe (e-Clearance for Afterlife Remains) portal** to facilitate the **swift transfer of mortal remains of Indians whodie abroad**.

The portal is being introduced to avoid delays during the transportation of the deceased human remains across international borders.

The President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh'** – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts **with the purpose of celebrating inclusivity and cultural diversity at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**

These festivals, organized by the **Sahitya Akademi** and **Sangeet Natak Akademi,** respectively
This will be the 2nd edition of 'Unmesha' & the first event was held in June 2022 in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (HP).**

The Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Union External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar jointly launched Study in India (SII) Portal to provide an integrated one-stop solution for student registration and visa application process in New Delhi**.

The website portal will present information about the **academic facilities, research support,** and related information.

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes a significant stride towards improving the highway user experience** with the **launch of 'Rajmargyatra,' a citizen-centric unified mobile application.**

This user-friendly empowering travellers with comprehensive information on Indian National Highways while also offering an efficient complaint redressal system & the app currently **available in Hindi and English.**

Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** unveiled the new logo of the Navratna Public Sector Enterprise, **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC),** India's largest iron ore producer, in New Delhi, Delhi.

NMDC's new logo represents how India's largest producer of iron ore is all set for mining at a global scale in a sustainable and green environment.
According to Smart City Mission officials, the government land worth about **Rs 2,000 crore** will also become **garbage-freeunder Smart City Mission in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country through video conferencing in New Delhi, Delhi.
The **stations will be redeveloped under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at a cost of over 24 ,470 crore rupees** under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

these 508 stations are spread across 27 states and union territories, including 55 each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, 49 in Bihar, 44 in Maharashtra, 37 in West Bengal, 34 in Madhya Pradesh, 32 in Assam, 25 in Odisha, 22 in Punjab, 21 each in Gujarat and Telangana, 20 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, 15 in Haryana, 13 in Karnataka among others.

For providing last mile optical fibre-based connectivity to homes in all villages of India, the **government** has allocated **Rs 1,39, 500 crores to extend Bharat Net in 6,40,000 villages**.
Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), an arm of state-controlled BSNL, in partnership with **village level entrepreneur (VLE)** will provide the last-mile connectivity.

The **National Health Authority (NHA) has announced the extension of its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the**

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission till the 31st of December, 2023.
The DHIS was launched with effect from **1st January, 2023** as part of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Under DHIS, incentives are provided to hospitals and diagnostic labs and to the providers of digital health solutions such as **Hospital/ Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Laboratory Management Information System (LMIS)** for adopting and enabling transformative digitization under ABDM.

As on date, 1205 health facilities have registered under this scheme with 567 public and 638 private hospitals/ clinics/ diagnostic labs.

Union Minister for State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics, and IT **Rajeev Chandrasekhar will be taking part in the 'Digital India RISC-V' (RISC' stands for Reduced Instruction Set Computer' and 'V' stands for the 5th generation) Symposium, being organised by IIT Madras and IIT-M Pravartak Technologies Foundation in Chennai**.

The **President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated** the '**Festival of Libraries**' **in New Delhi.**
This **Festival is being organised by the Ministry of Culture to promote the development and digitization of Libraries and cultivate the culture of reading.**

Union Minister of Law and Justice **Arjun Ram Meghwal** inaugurated the **2nd edition** of the **Inter-Ministry Bar & Bench Badminton Championship** at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi.

The tournament was organised by the **Ministry of Law and Justice** in association with the **Fit India Mission.**

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** participated in the **9th National Handloom Day celebration** at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Delhi.

During the programme, Prime Minister will also launch the **e-portal of "भारतीय वस्त्र एवं शिल्प कोष" - a Repository of Textiles & Crafts** that has been developed by National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

The government started celebrating the National Handloom Day, with the first such celebration being held on **7th August, 2015.**
The date was specifically chosen as an ode to the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on **7th August, 1905.**

The **President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a conference on 'Aspiring for Supermind in the City of Evolving Consciousness' at Auroville**.
Earlier, **she also visited the Matrimandir and a city exhibition at Auroville**.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued its recommendations **on 'Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider Authorization under Unified License (UL)'.**
National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP-2018) emphasizes digital infrastructure stating that "**Digital infrastructure and services are increasingly emerging as key enablers and critical determinants of a country's growth and well-being".**
The 3rd and final meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) under India's Presidency will be held from 9 to 11 August 2023 **in Kolkata.**

It will be followed by the **G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting** on 12th August 2023,

which will **be chaired by** Dr **Jitendra Singh,** Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Space of Government of India.
This will be the 2nd-ever Ministerial meeting of G20 ACWG and the first in-person ACWG Ministerial meeting.
The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), established by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** at the **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi celebrated its 6th anniversary** and released the Sixth Anniversary issue of CTIL Magazine in New Delhi.
The **event marked 6 years of the foundation of CTIL.**

The 21 day **nationwide Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign will be launched** to **pay tribute to the Bravehearts who laid down their lives for the country.**
The campaign will feature programmes like the establishment of memorial plaques or Shilaphalakams dedicated to freedom fighters and security forces, as well as initiatives like Panch Pran Pledge, Vasudha Vandan, Veeron ka Vandan which venerates the gallant sacrifices of bravehearts.

A **Parliamentary Committee has recommended bringing legislation to make it mandatory for Supreme Court and High Court judges** to declare their property returns on an annual basis.
The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, in its report '**Judicial Processes And Their Reforms', said that as a general practice, all constitutional functionaries and government servants must file annual returns of their assets and liabilities.**

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr P.K. Mishrachaired the 7th meeting of the Coordination Committee on India's G20 Presidency at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, **New Delhi.**
The meeting covered the **Summit preparedness in substantive as well as logistical aspects.**

A discussion was held on **the Indian Presidency's priorities including Green Development, accelerating Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), strong sustainable balanced, inclusive growth, digital public infrastructure, gender equality and reform of multilateral institutions.

The Union Government has stated that a valid License for imports of laptops, tablets, and personal computers will be required **from the 1st of November, 2023**.
In a notification, **the Directorate General of Foreign Trade** stated that import **consignments can be cleared till the 31st of October** 2023 without a license for restricted imports.

There is no ban **on the import of IT Hardware like tablets and laptops as such devices can be imported after obtaining a valid license by companies or traders.**
The **National Investigation Agency (NIA) has intensified its crackdown on the Popular Front of India (PFI) for its alleged anti-national activities**.

The **Valedictory Ceremony, on the second day of the first-ever 'Festival of Libraries 2023',** witnessed the gracious **presence of the Vice-President of India, Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar.**
The festival, organised by the Union Ministry of Culture, was **inaugurated by** the President of India, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu.**

He launched the **Modernization Project of Delhi Public Library, Directory of Libraries in Delhi, Library Ranking Framework and Biblio-on-Demand service.**
He also received the first copy of the Proscribed Literature Coffee Table book from Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakashi Lekhi.
The **Lok Sabha secretariat restored Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's membership in the Lower House.**

The **Ministry of Tourism has identified 'Prayagraj' and 'Naimisharanya' in Uttar Pradesh (UP) as destinations for development under 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0** (SD2.0) to **develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations.**
The government launched the 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme' (SDS) in the year 2014-15 for the integrated development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country and there are 08 projects of identified thematic circuits in UP.
The **G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat** from 2nd to 4th August 2023, with **participation by Women and Gender Equality Ministers** from **across the G20 and Guest countries.**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development as the Nodal Officer for G20 Empower and W20 organized seven international meetings including the Ministerial Conference for Women Empowerment.
The Conference had a total participation of over 138 International delegates from 15 G20 Countries namely **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and USA and 5 Guest Countries namely Bangladesh, Mauritius, Netherlands, Singapore and UAE. There have been over 60 speakers at the Conference.**

A meeting was held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh as part of a visit by **the Executive Directors of the World Bank** to understand the **transformational impact of the Bank's projects in the country.**
Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga **(NMCG) Mr. G. Asok Kumar gave a detailed presentation on Namami Gange to the Executive Directors** of the World Bank from around the world.
Mr. Auguste Kouame, Country Director, **World Bank, India was also present on the occasion.**
A tour of the **iconic Taj Mahal** was also organised.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Hyderabad and Kathmandu University (KU) have agreed to offer a **Joint Doctoral Programme (JDP) at the PhD level** in all areas of research.
This association is aimed at developing successful academic and research collaborations in the areas of common interest and complementary capabilities.

Parliament has approved the **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill,** 2023, **which seeks to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, of 1969 which provides for the regulation and registration of births and deaths.**

Rajya Sabha passed the bill while Lok Sabha cleared it on the 1st of this month.
The Act provides for the appointment of a Registrar-General, India who may issue directions for registration of births and deaths.
Under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)'s Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative , National e-Governance Division (NeGD), organised the 39th Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Deep-Dive training programme** from August 7th-11th 2023 with 25 participants from

Central Line Ministries at the Indian Institute of Public Administration in New Delhi.

Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative of MeitY was conceptualised with the mission to spread awareness about cyber-crime and **build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials**, across all government departments, for ensuring adequate safety measures to combat the growing menace – Organisations need to defend their digital infrastructures and become future-ready in tackling cyber-attacks.

Parliament has passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023 to empower the centre to make rules for Delhi with Rajya Sabha approving it.

The **Rajya Sabha cleared it by voting 131 MPs in favour of the bill, while 102 MPs were against the bill.**

The **Bill seeks to amend the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 1991&** it empowers the Central Government to make rules in connection with the affairs of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi including the functions, terms and other conditions of service of officers and employees.

The **government has disbursed 2,900 crore rupees till March 2023** under the **Production Linked Incentive** (PLI) scheme.

Secretary in the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**(DPIIT) Rajesh Kumar Singh said that the government is expected to disburse about **13,000 crore rupees to eligible firms seeking benefits under the scheme** and this regard an exercise is going on to tweak the scheme for those sectors which have not yet picked up well.

The **scheme was announced in 2021 for 14 sectors** including telecommunication, white goods, textiles, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles, drones and Pharma with an outlay of 1.97 lakh crore rupees.

The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone** and dedicated to the nation, **development projects in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.**

The projects include laying the foundation stone of **Sant Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial** to be constructed at a cost of more than **Rs 100 crores**, two road projects to be developed at a cost of more than **Rs 1580 crores** and dedicating to the nation doubling of Kota-Bina rail route to the nation developed at a cost of more than **Rs 2475 crores.**

In a significant step towards promoting the indigenous crafts and artisans of India, 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 collaboration with the **Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi.**

This strategic collaboration was unveiled with the inauguration of the ODOP Wall at Sale of Articles of Rural Artisian Society (SARAS) Aajeevika Store by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Shri Charanjit Singh and Director, DPIIT, Smt. Supriya Devasthali yesterday.

SARAS Aajeevika is an initiative by Deendayal Antyodaya (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah performed the Bhumi Pujan and laid the foundation stone of the IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid) Plant at Gandhidham, Gujarat.**

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi has set a target of making 15 crore farmers of the country prosperous with the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhi' by forming the Ministry of Cooperation**.

In order to realize **Prime Minister Modi's vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi", the Ministry**

of Cooperation has formed three multi-state cooperative societies and these three societies will fulfil these three goals.

Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, **Smt MeenakashiLekhi**, **inaugurated the exhibition titled Women In Focus: Visualizing Feminine Constructs in Indian Art at** the National Museum, Delhi.

This exhibition focuses on examining the multifaceted traditional notions of Power, Patronage, and Piety through the lens of femininity.

The **inauguration ceremony of the exhibition titled 'Women in Focus' also coincided with the book release of two additional publications brought out by the National Museum.**

To bolster the participation of both industries and young individuals in apprenticeship training on a nationwide scale**, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan,** Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship &the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), **launched Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS).**

An amount of approx Rs. 15 crores was disbursed to one lakh apprentices by the Minister marking the **launch of DBT in NAPS**.

The MSDE also organized the **Chintan Shivir on "Enhancing Apprenticeship Engagement"** to elevate the uptake of apprenticeship programs among all stakeholders.

The Chintan Shivir was divided in 3 breakout sessions themed on Stakeholder Convergences to Make Apprenticeship Aspirational, Strategies and Practices to promote Quality Apprenticeship, and Creating a Diverse and Inclusive Apprenticeship Ecosystem, respectively.

In a step towards financial literacy,**Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) CEO Ms. Anita Shah Akella & and Common Service Centre (CSC)** launched **two Investor Awareness Vans titled "Niveshak Sarathi", from IEPFA's headquarters** as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, aligning with the **theme "From Unawareness to Financial Independence."**

This **strategic initiative aims to disseminate crucial financial education and raise awareness against fraudulent schemes across the Delhi NCR region**.

These specially equipped vans are equipped with a TV screen running "Hisab Ki Kitab," a series of investor awareness movies meticulously developed by IEPFA.

Recognising the pivotal role of its sales force, **the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) is proud to introduce the pilot program for "Direct Incentive Disbursement for Sales Force: A Transformational Step" in the Delhi and Uttarakhand Circles.**

Through the "Direct Incentive Disbursement" feature, agents will experience the seamless transfer of their hard-earned commissions from the previous month directly to their Post Office Savings Bank Accounts.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, **Shri Piyush Goyal attended the 13th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting held under the BRICS Presidency of South Africa virtually.**

The **theme of BRICS this year is "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism".**

The Union Electronics and IT Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has stated that **the personal data of every citizen will be protected in the digital domain by the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill.**

The **Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, has released **Additional Guidelines for celebrities, influencers and virtual influencers in the field of health and wellness.**
These guidelines are an important extension to the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022 released on 9th June 2022, and instead of the **"Endorsement Know-hows!" guide booklet released on 20th January 2023.**

The Additional Influencer Guidelines for Health and Wellness Celebrities, Influencers and Virtual Influencers have been developed after detailed discussions with all stakeholders including **the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ayush, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).**

Union minister of ministry of health and family welfare **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated the **2nd phase** of the **annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)** in New Delhi, Delhi.
India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of **the global target through mission mode, multi-partner, multi-sector targeted drive.**

The second phase, commencing on August 10, 2023, will cover 81 districts **in 9 endemic States (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh).**
Parliament **passed the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Integrated Goods and Services Tax** (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to amend the Central Goods and Services Tax Act 2017 while, **the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to amend the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act 2017.**
The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to define the expressions of online gaming, online money gaming and virtual digital assets.
According to the provisions of the Bill, online gaming means an offering of a game on the internet or an electronic network and includes money gaming.
Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **inaugurated the National Conference on Electronic Resources in Medicine (ERMED) Consortium: Empowering Libraries for Digital Health Transformation at National Media Library**.

ERMED stands for collaborative excellence and transformative impact within the medical landscape of India and for its unwavering commitment to cater to the diverse information needs of the medical fraternity.
ERMED consortium access facility has been **extended to 74 selected government institutes including 14 AIIMS and even AYUSH Research Colleges/ Extend it to institutions as well.**

The **Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power has informed that the "Technology and Innovation Report 2023"** brought **out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**, has ranked **India at 46th position in its "Frontier Technologies Readiness Index".**
The 53rd National Planning Group (NPG) was held in New Delhi, under the chairpersonship of Special Secretary, Logistics, **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Smt. Sumita Dawra**.

During the meeting, 6 projects, 3 M/o Railways projects and 3 M/o **Road Transport and**

Highways projects with a total project cost of Rs. 28,875.16 Cr. were evaluated.
This Railway alignment connects the major mines of **Sundargarh** and **Keonjhar districts** of Odisha State and **Paschimi Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.**
To ensure massive outreach of the **Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and ensure high Jan Bhagidari, a Tiranga Bike Rally with Members of Parliament and Ministers is being organized at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi**.

Under the aegis of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) "Har Ghar Tiranga" will be celebrated across the Nation from 13th August 2023 – 15th August** 2023 wherein **people will be encouraged to hoist flags on their premises**.
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary **Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launched the indigenous Technology of Hybrid Green Energy Microgrid for Electrical energy requirements of the Rural communities developed by** the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, **as part of National Mission on Power Electronics Technology (NaMPET) Program**, at Elephant Rehabilitation Centre (ERC), **Kottoor, Thiruvananthapuram.**

BANKING AND ECONOMY

The **Government of India (GoI)** 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 loan agreement was signed between, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs **Vumlunmang Vualnam,** and the Country Director of Asian Development Bank, India Resident Mission, **Takeo Konishi.**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has mandated the **submission of legal entity identifier (LEI) details** for all non-individual foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) with an aim to improve the transparency and traceability of FPI investments in India.
Presently, FPIs are required to provide their **LEI details in the Common Application Form ("CAF")**, used for registration, Know Your Customer (KYC) and account opening of FPIs on a voluntary basis.
LEI is a unique **20-character code** used globally to identify distinct financial entities.
The Reserve Bank of India's **Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)**, a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, **rose to 395.57 in March 2023** from **377.46 in September 2022** and **349.30 in March 2022**.

The RBI-DPI was first introduced in March 2018 (with a base index 100) as a composite index to gauge the level of digitization of payments across India.
The RBI-DPI (Reserve Bank of India Digital Payments Index) is constructed based on 5 key parameters
Payment Enablers (25%)
Payment Infrastructure Demand-Side Factors (10%)
Payment Infrastructure Supply-Side Factors (15%)
Payment Performance (45%)
Consumer Centricity (5%
One97 Communications Limited (OCL), the parent company of **Paytm**, India's prominent payments and financial services company, launched **2 payment devices – Paytm Pocket Soundbox** and **Paytm Music Sound Box** to provide **enhanced payment experiences** for merchants while being non-promotional.
The Paytm Pocket Soundbox is a **first-of-its-kind Made in India portable device,** as small

as a debit card, that conveniently fits in the pocket of merchants on the move.

As per RBI's data on sectoral deployment of credit, **Bank credit** registered a robust growth of **16.3% year-on-year (y-o-y)** in June 2023 as compared with 15% a year ago on the back of strong demand for credit from sectors such as services, retail and agriculture, and allied activities.
Credit growth to the services sector accelerated to **26.7%** (y-o-y) in June 2023 from 12.8% a year ago, primarily due to the improved credit offtake to 'non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)' and 'trade'.
Personal loans registered a growth of **20.9%** (y-o-y) in June 2023 vis-à-vis 18.1% a year ago, mainly supported by 'housing' and 'vehicle' loans.
Credit to agriculture and allied activities improved to **19.7%** (y-o-y) in June 2023 from 12.9% a year ago.
Credit to the industry sector decelerated to **8.1%** (y-o-y) in June 2023 as compared with 9.5% in June 2022.
Size-wise, credit to large industries rose by **6.4%** (3.2% a year ago).
Growth in credit to medium industries as well as micro and small industries declined to **13.2%** (47.8%) and **13%** (29.2%), respectively.

India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has raised **₹10,000 crore** after issuing **15-year infrastructure bonds** at the coupon rate of **7.54%.**
This is the **first issuance** of a long-term bond of this tenor by any bank in the current financial year.
According to the **State Bank of India's (SBI) Economic Research Department (ERD), per capita women deposits** increased by**₹4,618** in the last 5 years from ₹37,885 in FY19 to ₹42,503 in FY23.
As per ERD's "Ecowrap" report, which is based on RBI data, the maximum increase of **₹9,758** has been registered in the urban areas, where per capita women deposits moved up from ₹51,980 to ₹61,738.

Jana Small Finance Bank has filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) **for an initial public offering (IPO). will comprise a fresh share issue worth up to ₹575 crore and an offer for sale of up to 40.52 lakh shares by existing shareholders.**

Axis Capital, ICICI Securities and **SBI Capital Markets** are the book-running lead managers to the issue, while KFin Technologies has been appointed as the registrar.
Based on its assets under management (AUM) deposit size, a Fitch report classified the **Jana Small Finance Bank** as the 4th largest small finance bank as of March 2023.
Foodtech giant **Swiggy** has launched a **co-branded credit card** in partnership with **HDFC Bank** to lure customers and get an upper hand over its rival Zomato.
With this move, Swiggy has joined the likes of **Flipkart, Myntra** and **Paytm** in terms of providing co-branded credit cards.
Swiggy's competitor Zomato also used to offer co-branded credit cards with **RBLBank.**

Payments and banking platform for businesses **Razorpay launched a MoneySaver Export Account** specifically for **small and mid-size exporters allowing exporters to receive international bank transfers from 160 countries.**
This will be **India's first smart account** to offer **50% savings on international bank transfers** for exporters, and help save them from high transfer costs, chargebacks and payment failures
With this product, Indian exporters will now **open a smart account** in any country of their choice and **receive payments locally via bank transfers** on the Razorpay platform.

Russia's largest lender **Sberbank's** branch in India has received permission from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to establish an **information technology (IT) unit** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka** where it plans to employ up to 200 IT specialists.
Bengaluru is **India's third biggest city** and the country's leading scientific and industrial centre, specializing, amongst other things, in aerospace, engineering and electronics industries and development of IT products.

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country, announced its partnership with the **Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's (IIM-A)** startup incubator **Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (CIIE)** to set up a SIDBI Accelerator Fund at the incubator to promote deep technologies and science-led innovation by enabling seed funding to startups in exchange for equity.
The MoU signed between the two organisations laid the foundation for the fund with a total corpus of **₹40 crore**, equally contributed by both SIDBI and CIIE.CO.

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Max Life) has been appointed as the "**Lead Insurer**" for the State of **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).**
Max Life has also been appointed as the lead insurer for **Arunachal Pradesh** and aims to expand its presence within the state in a phased manner.

Bengaluru based Fintech firm CRED in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI),** introduced **RuPay credit card-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments** for its members.
CRED supports RuPay credit cards issued by banks including **HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, Axis Bank, BOB Financial Solutions, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank,** and **Union Bank.**

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has raised India's **GDP growth forecast** for the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) by **20 basis points to 6.1%** from earlier 5.9% after the country's stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022.
The IMF has also revised the upward growth forecast for the global economy by 20 basis points for 2023 to 3%.
India's economic growth increased by **6.1%** in the March quarter of FY23.

The board of Fino Payments Bank Limited has approved a proposal to **transition** into a **small finance bank (SFB).**
With this, Fino has become the **first such entity** to move towards becoming a small finance bank (SFB) since the Reserve Bank of India in **2019** allowed payments banks to apply for conversion into SFB after 5 years of operations.
The Finance Ministry has reported to a Parliamentary Committee that frauds reported for ATMs and others have seen over 65% growth in 2022 from 2021, while the amount involved has nearly doubled.

According to the **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), 2000 customers** are, on average, impacted every month due to cyber fraud.
Parliamentary committee's report on '**Cyber security and rising incidence of cyber/white collar crimes**' was recently tabled in Parliament by its Chairman Jayant Sinha.
Indian non-banking financial services company, **Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL)** has partnered with **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** along with other partners to provide **car** and **two-**

wheeler insurance plans on the platform Bajaj Finance Insurance Mall.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in July 2023 have grown **44% to ₹15.34-lakh crore and reached** a record **high level** both in terms of volume and value.
It has grown 4% month over month (m-o-m) and 44% year on year (y-o-y).

According to **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data,** the number was higher by **6.6%** from the previous month and 58% compared to July 2022.
Private sector health insurance provider **Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd** has signed a "**strategic corporate bancassurance**" with **Standard Chartered Bank** to provide its **insurance products to customers**.
The partnership is to provide health insurance solutions across 100 branches of the private bank present in 42 cities across the country.
Customers now require comprehensive policies that cater to their medical requirements, encompassing benefits such as **OPD Care, Hospi Cash,** and **Critical Illness covers.**

According to the **Standard Chartered's Wealth Expectancy Report for 2022** revealing that over **54%** of respondents in India have prioritised health and wellness post the pandemic."
The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed **late submission fees (LSF)** of **₹2,000 crore** on **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd,** and **Oil India Ltd** for delayed reporting of their overseas investments.
RBI has imposed a late submission fee of ₹500 crore each on them for delayed reporting of their overseas investments.

State Bank of India (SBI) is the **authorised dealer bank** for the foreign transactions of these PSUs.

Payments giant **Mastercard** announced the introduction of **Cardholder Verification Value (CVV)-less online transactions** for its **debit and credit cardholders** who have tokenized their cards on merchant platforms with an aim to **reduce** the **checkout time** and make virtual transactions **hassle-free** and **more secure.**
CVV is the **3-digit number** printed on the back of debit and credit cards.

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)** and initiated the trading on **Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) mechanism** called **AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL)**, in Mumbai, Maharashtra to deepen the functioning of the **corporate debt markets.**

CDMDF is a backstop facility for **specified debt funds** during market dislocations & it is intended to **provide liquidity support** in the event of a financial crisis.
The fund has **Rs 33,000-crore backstop facility** for Mutual Funds, of the Rs 33,000 crore, Rs 30,000 crore will come from the **government**, while the balance Rs 3,000 crore will be contributed by the **Asset Management Companies (AMCs).**

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned **Rs 1,974.07 crore** to the **Rajasthan government** under the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24.**
Rs 930.44 crore has been sanctioned for 3 rural drinking water supply projects in Ajmer, Jalore, and Kota districts.
Rs 926.48 crore are sanctioned for the construction of 676 rural roads in the desert and tribal areas of Rajasthan.
The lining of **450 km** of earthen canals in Kota and Bundi districts is under construction following a **Rs 623.38-crore** assistance under

NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance.
As per the RBI provisional data, **₹14-lakh crore worth Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** were written off by **Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)** between FY15 and FY23 (9 years).
Out of these, nearly half (**₹7,40,968 crore/ ₹7.40 lakh crore**) were related to **large industries and services.**

The Finance Ministry informed Rajya Sabha that **scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) wrote off over ₹10.5-lakh crores** in the 5 years ending March 31, 2023.
The Ministry added that the top 10 wilful defaulters owe over **₹43,000 crore** to the banks.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked the **top 15 insurance companies** to adopt the **new Indian Accounting Standard (IND-AS)** accounting framework from 01 April 2024 (FY25).
This is the **first such partial roll-out** of accounting standards for the insurance industry in many decades, and the move is aimed at bringing Indian accounting practices closer to global standards.
Some of these companies are **ICICI Prudential Life, ICICI Lombard General, TATA AIG General, Niva Bupa Health, HDFC Life,** and **HDFC Ergo General.**
State-run insurance companies, including **LIC** have been **excluded** from the adoption of the new accounting rules for now.

IndusInd Bank and **Tiger Fintech Private Limited**, a Bajaj Capital Group company, announced the launch of the **IndusInd Bank Tiger Credit Card,** a co-branded credit card powered by **Visa**& with this, customers will get access to **best-in-class credit cards** to meet their lifestyle needs.
The credit card comes with benefits including the '**Magnificent Rewards Program**' where customers earn up-to 6X accelerated rewards.

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI),** allowed **Offer For Sale (OFS)** for units of **private listed Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvlTs)** through a stock exchange mechanism.
This circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act,1992** to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of and to regulate the securities market.

Electronica Finance Limited (EFL), a leading Pune based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) specialising in **financing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** with a focus on financial inclusion and energy efficient machine financing, has signed a **US$15 million deal** from **Global Climate Partnership Fund (GCPF),** managed by responsAbility Investments AG to promote green financing in India as part of its sustainability goal.
Electronica Finance Limited will use the funding for financing **energy-efficient machines** and promote rooftop solar installation.

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** and **Association of Portfolio Managers in India (APMI)** will jointly set standards for performance audit of **portfolio management services (PMS)** players effective from **October 01, 2023.**
In order to have uniformity, it has been decided that APMI, in consultation with SEBI, shall specify standardised **Terms of Reference ('ToR')** for aforesaid audit of firm-level performance data.

The Union Finance Minister **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired a meeting with **Chairpersons** and senior officials of **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** from **Southern Region,** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN),** India.
State Bank of India's (SBI) first quarter (Q1FY24) standalone net profit soared **178%**

year-on-year (yoy) in the first quarter to **₹16,884 crore**, buoyed by a **5-fold increase** in other income, robust net interest income, and a decline in loan loss provisions **&& Net interest income rises 25%.**

The Q1FY24 net profit is SBI's **highest ever net profit** for the fourth quarter in succession.
Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has allowed **insurance companies'** bond holdings in erstwhile **Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC)** to be treated as **'housing and infrastructure' investments till maturity.**
Till its merger, HDFC was the largest issuer in the bond market, raising around **₹64,000 crore** each in FY22 and FY23, accounting for **10%** of the total funds raised via **EBP (electronic bidding platforms).**

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) halved the timeline for listing of shares on stock exchanges after the closure of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to 3 days from 6 days at present**.

The **new listing timeframe will be voluntary for all public issues opening on or after September 1, 2023,** and mandatory for all the issues which come after December 1, 2023.
Axis Bank stated that to raise its stake in Max Life Insurance Company Limited to 16.22% from 9.99% by infusing Rs 1,612 crore through a preferential allotment of shares.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced to **increase** the **transaction payment limit from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500** for **UPI Lite**in offline mode to promote digital transactions.
Presently, a limit of Rs 200 per transaction and an overall limit of Rs 2,000 per payment instrument has been prescribed by the Reserve Bank for small value digital payments in offline mode, including for **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** and **UPI Lite.**
To increase the speed of small-value transactions on UPI, an on-device wallet called 'UPI-Lite' was launched in **September 2022** to optimize processing resources for banks, thereby reducing transaction failures.

The **National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) Kolkata bench** has approved **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited's (NARCL) resolution plan** for **2 Srei group companies.**
NARCL emerged as the winning bidder for the 2 Srei group firms -- **Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd (SIFL)** and **Srei Equipment Finance Ltd (SEFL)** through an insolvency resolution process in February, 2023.
India's only profitable multi-segment fintech operating at scale with a banking license, **Airtel Payments Bank**, becomes the **1st Indian Bank** to launch **eco-friendly debit cards** for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account.

The debit cards will come in **recycle-Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material**, a certified eco-friendly material.
Airtel Payments Bank is coming up with **2 cards** under Classic variant – **Personalised Classic Card** and **Insta Classic Card.**

The cards come with rewards including e-commerce benefits of up to **INR 10,000,** and free One Dines across major cities of India.
Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company (Kotak Life) stated that its corporate agency **ties–up** with **ESAF Small Finance Bank (ESAF Bank)** to offer life insurance to customers.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The **World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region** announced that **Bhutan** and **Timor-Leste** have successfully

eliminated rubella, a highly contagious viral infection that can cause severe illness and irreversible birth defects in newborns when contracted during pregnancy.

Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar virtually addressed the 1st India-Japan Skill Connect conference, held in Tokyo at the Indian Embassy**.

He emphasized **the strong partnership between India and Japan, which has expanded beyond traditional areas like security, trade, and economics to include technology and talent.**

The conference was attended by various **Japanese government ministers**, officials, and representatives from Japanese companies, along with the **Indian Ambassador Sibi George and a delegationfrom the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**

In a significant stride towards bolstering **Sri Lanka's digital transformation, India has provided financial assistance of 45 crore rupees to support the island nation's unique digital identity project.**

The step is likely to play a pivotal role in the successful **implementation of Sri Lanka's digitisation programme and will be propelled under the framework of Indian grant assistance.**

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, observed a moment of silence during a ceremony marking the 78th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing at the **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan**.

On August 6, **1945**, during World War II, a U.S. B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "**Little Boy**" on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 1,40,000 deaths.

The **5th meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission** (JTSC) was held in **New Delhi &**the **meeting was co-chaired** by the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, **Shri Rajesh Agrawal from the Indian side and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ms Phan Thi Thang from the Vietnam side.**

This meeting was held after a gap of more than 4 years since the 4th JTSC meeting held in January 2019, on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.

Vietnam is the 23rd largest global trade partner of India and the 5th largest among ASEAN countries with bilateral trade of USD 14.70 Bn during 2022-23.

In a major boost to fruits exports prospects, **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA),** which works under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has facilitated the export of the **1st trial shipment of fresh pomegranate** to the USA through air route.

It was initiated by **APEDA in collaboration with the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of India, the US's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service** (US-APHIS), **Maharashtra** State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), ICAR-National Research Centre on Pomegranate, Solapur (NRC-Solapur) and others.

India ranks **7th** in production of **pomegranate** in the **world** and the total area under cultivation is around 2,75,500 hectares.

In India, the major pomegranate producing states are **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan** and **Andhra Pradesh (AP).**

In Nepal, the construction work of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre has begun in Lumbini, Nepal after the Bhumi Pujan ceremony with special recitation by Buddhist monks.

The 1.60 billion rupee heritage Centre is expected to be lotus shaped which will be built in zero-net technology and may be completed in one and a half years.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then **Prime Minister of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba,** had jointly laid the **foundation stone during Mr Modi's Lumbini visit in 2022.**
In a major push to Indian students and alumni, **France has announced new initiatives to bolster academic excellence, cultural understanding, and long-lasting friendship between the two nations.**
This comes as **Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited France as Chief Guest on the country's Bastille Day, July 14, 2023.**
President Emmanuel Macron announced France's goal to welcome 30,000 students from India by 2030.

Pakistan President **Arif Alvi has approved the premature dissolution of the National Assembly at outgoing** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif advice.
The **elected government in Pakistan has completed its five-year constitutionalterm.**
Now **the general elections will have to be held within 90 days**.

The bilateral trade between **India** and **Angola** has shown a healthy growth trend during the last 3 years and has increased from US$ 2.14 billion during 2020-21 to **US$ 4.22 billion** in 2022-23.
India is the **3rd largest trading partner of Angola** sharing about 10% of Angola's external trade.

During the 1st **Indian-Angola Inaugural Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Luanda** two sides carried out a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral relations.
US President Joe Biden has signed an executive order banning American investments in key technology industries that **could be used to enhance China's military capabilities.**
The order will ban venture capital and private equity firms from investing money into Chinese efforts to make semiconductors and other microelectronics, quantum computers and certain artificial intelligence applications.
Amid rising threats from Belarus and Wagner fighters, **Poland has started sending troops to the border to reinforce its control and curb the entry of illegal migrants**.
Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio was **killed during a rally in the capital Quito.**
Current President Guillermo Lasso has confirmed the incident.

STATE NEWS

The **Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (AP-Genco)** and **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC)** will soon be floating a **Joint Venture (JV)** for implementing **Pumped Storage Hydropower Projects (PSPHs)** with a total generation capacity of **6,000 Megawatt (MW)** in Andhra Pradesh (AP).
Of these, a **1,350 MW (9x150 MW)** PSHP at **upper Sileru in GK Veedhi mandal** of **Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR)** district will be prioritised as the **first project** under the aegis of the JV.
Overall, AP-Genco aims to generate 33 GW with 29 PSP projects in the coming years.
Moreover, the PSPHs with a total capacity of **11 GW** are being handed over to private companies, and the remaining will be undertaken by AP-Genco and some by NTPC.
In a significant move to support the agricultural community and boost productivity, the **Odisha State Cooperation Department** announced the implementation of the **State Sector Scheme "Interest Subsidy-Subvention."**
For this, the State Cabinet has approved a provision of **Rs 5700 crore** with an **aim** to

ensure adequate credit flow in agriculture at an affordable rate of interest to farmers in the State over **5 years** from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

The beautiful Indian state of **Goa has been chosen to host the world's biggest and most prestigious national pageant for men, the Rubaru Mr India competition**.

The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** (CAG) **is hosting** a 3-day **SAI20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency in Goa**.

The second summit of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the G20 countries will begin in Panaji, the Capital of Goa.

Nagaland has been officially declared as a **Lumpy Skin Disease Positive Stat**e.

The declaration is made following the detection of Lumpy skin disease in four districts of the state, **under The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.**

The Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services will enforce all necessary preventive measures with the concerned state department as per the advisory and guidelines issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

To reach out to **5,000 children,** the **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** government decided to **expand** the **'Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana' to all 75 districts with an aim** to **educate child labour.**

It is currently being implemented in 20 districts and benefitting 2,000 children.

Selected Children of the age group of **8 to 18 years** involved in agriculture, self-employment, home-based establishments, domestic work, and other forms of labour will get financial assistance.

Jharkhand Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Hemant Soren** launched **Jharkhand elephant tracker,** a mobile application-based elephant movement tracking system on the **74th Van Mahotsav** in Ranchi to reduce human-elephant conflicts in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

The mobile app will help villagers and departments to **track elephant movements** so that precautionary measures could be taken in advance.

The union minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power has informed that under Green Energy Corridor Phase-II, a project has been approved for setting up of **624 km of transmission lines and 2200 MVA capacity substations by FY 2025-26, for evacuation of renewable energy power of approx. 4000 MW capacity in the state of Tamil Nadu.**

The project has been approved by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, **at an estimated cost of Rs. 719.76 crore with a central government grant of Rs. 237.52crore at 33% of the project cost**.

The **Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power** has informed that under **Green Energy Corridor Phase-II,** a project has been approved for setting up of 624 ckm of transmission lines and **2200 MVA** capacity substations by FY 2025-26, for evacuation of renewable energy power of approx. **4000 MW capacity in Tamil Nadu.**

The project has been approved by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, at an estimated cost of Rs. 719.76 crore with central government grant of Rs. 237.52 crore at 33% of the project cost.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah will launch the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) office in Pune, Maharashtra.**

This launch is on the lines with Prime **Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar se Samridhi".**

A **'Hackathon' competition** was also organized to invite youth participation and ideas in building the newly developed Central Registrar Office portal dashboard.

The **new portal will also incorporate the recently passed amendments to the MSCS Act, 2002 and its rules**.

The 132nd edition of the **Durand Cup (Asia's oldest and the world's third oldest football tournament)** kicked off in **Kokrajhar, Assam**, Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh graced the opening ceremony,** which marked the grand beginning of the annual football competition for the first time in the Assamese city.
The tournament is organised by the Armed Forces and supported by the Government of Assam.
The tournament is named after its founder **Sir Henry Mortimer Durand.**

A special two-month-long art exhibition dedicated titled Together We Art, to G-20 member countries commenced **in the Bihar Museum, Patna**, Bihar and it will conclude on 7th October 2023.
The exhibition will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
29 countries including India are participating in the exhibition which is organized by the Union Art and Culture Ministry as part of India's presidency of G-20 countries.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the **redevelopment of 508 railway stations** at a cost of over **24,470 crore rupees** under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme** across the country through video conferencing.

In Mumbai, **Central Railways organised events at Parel, Vikhroli, and Kanjurmarg stations**.
Governor of Maharashtra Ramesh Bais stated while addressing the gathering, that 126 stations in Maharashtra are planned to be developed as world-class railway stations.

The Government of Gujarat has implemented the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme with a grant of 58 crores rupees to promote its indigenous products at the international level.
The **Gujarat State Handicrafts and Handicrafts Development Corporation (GSHHDC) has started the implementation of this scheme**.
The lands required for NLC India are acquired by the District Administration as per the Land Acquisition Act prevailing at the **time of acquisition.**
Currently, the lands are acquired as per the "**Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Industrial Purposes Act, 1997**", with the provisions relating to the determination of compensation as specified in **the First Schedule, rehabilitation and resettlement as specified in the Second Schedule and infrastructure amenities as specified in the Third Schedule of RFCTLARR Act, 2013.**
17 new districts (Apoongarh, Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana- Kuchaman, Dudu, Gangapur City, Jaipur (Rural), Kekri, Jodhpur (Rural), Kotputli- Behror, Khairthal- Tijara, Neem ka Thana, Phalodi, Slumber, Sanchore and Shahpura) and 3 new divisions (Banswara, Pali and Sikar) have come **into existence in Rajasthan**.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated new districts and divisions through video conference in a program organized at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur.
The central probe agency **Enforcement Directorate** (ED) has **summoned the Chief Minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren in the alleged land scam case.**
The ED has asked the Chief Minister to appear before its Ranchi office on 14th August.
Earlier, the ED had summoned the Chief Minister in November 2022, the agency questioned Mr Soren for more than 10 long hours in connection with the illegal mining case on November 18, 2022.

Director General of Border Security Forces (BSF), Nitin Agrawal visited the **International Border in the Samba district of Jammu division&** briefed about the alertness of the troops to thwart drone and smuggling activities from Pakistan.

In Ladakh, the State Tourism Department is organising an Awareness-cum-Cleanliness Drive under Mission Travel for Life and Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign at Holiyal Drass in **collaboration with Roots Ladakh, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RD&PRD), WildLife Department, Education Department and local women Self Help Groups** focuses on the importance of wildlife, forests and promotion of eco-friendly tourism.

The **Haryana Government has extended the temporary suspension of mobile Internet services in Nuh district till 11th August**, 2023, **to stop the spread of disinformation and rumours through various social media platforms, such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, etc. on mobile phones and SMS.**

To prevent a repeat of the July floods caused by the Yamuna in Delhi and in adjoining areas of the river in Haryana, the **Haryana** government is planning to build a **dam** at a cost of **Rs 6,134 crore.**

It will have a **14-km-long reservoir** and will be built 4.5 km upstream from the Hathnikund Barrage in Yamunanagar district.

Once the project is completed, the state will have greater availability of irrigation water, groundwater recharge, and aquaculture, **apart from the generation of 250 MW of electricity**.

APPOINTMENT & RESIGNATIONS

NAME OF THE PERSON	APPOINTED AS	KEY POINTS/RESIGNATION
Lokesh M	CEO - Noida authority	
Ashish Desai	Chief Justice -Kerala High Court	S V Bhatti
Nisha Biswal	Deputy Chief Executive Officer of US DFC	
Prof Ganesan Kannabiran	National Assessment and Accreditation Council	
Shivendra Nath	Chairman & Managing Director of Engineering Projects India Ltd	
Indian American Shohini Sinha	FBI's Special Agent In Charge Salt Lake City	
Udaya Kumar Hebbar& Manoj Nambiar	Chairperson& Vice-Chairperson	Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN)

Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Home Secretary	one-year extension till Aug 22, 2024
Dr Hun Manet	Prime Minister -Cambodia	
Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja	Tesla - CFO	Zachary Kirkhorn
S Paramesh	Additional Director General Coast Guard	
Justice Subhasis Talapatra	33rd Chief Justice of Orissa High Court	Dr S Muralidhar

AWARDS

Name of the person	Award	Key Points
Individuals from Industry Research & Academia	National Metallurgist Awards	
Key Points: metallurgical field, covering Operations, Research & Development, Waste Management and Energy Conservation		
Amit Shah	National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) -NCRB for winning the Gold Award	
Key Points: NAFIS has created a central database of fingerprints of criminals, which can be accessed by users from all States, Union Territories, and Central Agencies.		

BUSINESS NEWS

The **combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 8.2% (provisional) in June 2023** as **compared to** the **Index of June 2022.**

ICI measures the combined and individual performance of the production of eight core industries viz. **Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity**.

The **Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production** (IIP).

The **gross GST revenue collected in the month of July 2023 is ₹1,65,105 crore of which CGST is ₹29,773 crore, SGST is ₹37,623 crore, IGST is ₹85,930 crore** (including ₹ 41,239 crores collected on import of goods) and **cess is**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

₹11,779 crore (including ₹ 840 crores collected on import of goods).

The government has settled ₹39,785 crore to CGST and ₹33,188 crore to SGST from IGST.
The total revenue of the Centre and the States in the month of July 2023 after regular settlement is ₹69,558 crore for CGST and ₹70,811 crore for SGST.
The revenues for the **month of July 2023 are 11% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.**
During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are **15% higher than** the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.
It is for the **5th time,** the gross GST collection has crossed Rs. 1.60 lakh crore mark.

The Ministry of Coal has achieved a substantial surge in overall coal production during the month of July 23, reaching 68.75 Million tonnes (MT), surpassing 60.25 MT of the month of July 22, **representing an increase of 14.11%.**
The **production of Coal India Limited (CIL) has increased to 53.63 MT in the month of July 23** as compared to 47.29 MT on July 22 with a growth of 13.41%.
The **cumulative coal production (up to July 23) has seen a quantum jump of 292.12 MT (Provisional) in FY 23-24** as compared to 265.94 MT during the same period in FY 22-23 **with a growth of 9.84%.**

MOIL Limited, the largest producer of manganese ore in India, **has recorded its best-ever performance for the month of July since its inception.**
The company produced 1.20 lakh tonnes of manganese ore in July 2023, registering a **remarkable growth of 71% compared to the same period last year**.
This is the **highest-ever July production** achieved by MOIL in its history.
After addressing **the 51st GST Council Meeting in New Delhi,** Finance Minister Smt. **Nirmala Sitharaman** has stated that **28% GST on online gaming & casinos will be effective from October 1, 2023.**
During **the current year till June 2023, domestic coal production has increased by over 8.51% compared to the same period of last year**.

In the year 2022-23, **coal production increased by 14.77% over the previous year**.
The **Technology Development Board signed the second agreement** under the initiative "**Technology intervention towards 'Garbage Free Cities'".**
TDB signed an **agreement with M/s Alchemy Rrecyclers Private Limited, Gujarat,** for the **development of an Integrated Plant for the Recovery of Precious Metals** from E-waste, Jewellers Waste, and Automobile Catalyst Waste'.
The **board has agreed to provide support of ₹1.14 Crores out of the total project cost of ₹1.90 crores.**
The Technology intervention call is aimed at encouraging proposals that will not only eliminate waste from Indian cities but also utilize technological interventions to generate wealth from waste.

The **Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy has provided the details of State/UT-wise power generation in the country from Renewable and Non-Renewable sources**, during the years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and the current year 2023-24 (up to June 2023).
This information has been given by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy **Shri R. K. Singh**.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Year	Power Generation from Renewable Energy Sources in the Country		
	Hydro (Large) (MUs)	Other Renewable Energy Sources (MUs)	TOTAL (MUs)
2020-21	150,299.52	147,247.51	**297,547.03**
2021-22	151,627.33	170,912.30	**322,539.63**
2022-23	162,098.77	203,552.17	**365,650.94**

The **Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy has informed that the electricity generated by coal-based power plantsGrows by 10% between 2021-22 and 2022-23** in the country during the last two years 2021-22 and 2022-23 is as given below.

Year	Generation (in MUs)
2021-22	1041487.43
2022-23	1145907.58

There **is no decline in coal-based electricity generation in the year 2022-23 over the year 2021-22.**

The gross direct tax collection has registered a growth of around 16% to 6 lakh 53 thousand crore rupees compared to the corresponding period last year.

Net direct tax collection, after adjusting refunds, stands at 5 lakh 84 thousandcrore rupees, which is over 17% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period last year.

This collection is over 32% of the total Budget estimates of Direct Taxes for 2023-24.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, **has achieved a remarkable milestone with an all-time high Quarterly Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 295 crores and Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 440 crores in the 1st Quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24.**

This achievement marks a notable growth of 30% and 29% respectively, compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year 2022-23.

IREDA has also demonstrated a significant reduction in **Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**, bringing them down to **1.61%** in Q1, FY 2023-24 from 2.92% in Q1, FY 2022-23, representing a remarkable 45% reduction (in percentage terms) on a year-on-year basis.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILI) , a joint venture between the Generali Group, and the Future Group tied up with **JM Financial Services**, a prominent financial services group with an aim to **elevate** its **insurance product offerings** and extend its market presence across India.

Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest automaker, has announced a significant strategic move to **acquire Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG)** from its Japanese parent company, Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC).

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The board of Maruti Suzuki approved this acquisition on July 31, 2023 & set to be completed before March 31, 2024.
Currently, Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) owns a **100% stake** in Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG) which supplies its entire production to Maruti Suzuki.

The **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) approves the proposed combination involving the **acquisition of 90% of the shareholding and voting rights of HDFC Credila Financial Services Limited by Kopvoorn B.V., Moss Investments Limited, Infinity Partners and Defati Investments Holding B.V.**
HDFC Credila Financial Services Limited (HDFC Credila) is a public limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, of 1956.
The Competition Commission of India (CCI) CCI approves the merger of Tata Cleantech Capital Limited (TCCL) and **Tata Capital Financial Services Limited (TCFSL) into Tata Capital Limited** (TCL).

DEFENCE

Name of the Exercise	Partakers	Venue	Edition	Key Points
Falcon Shield-2023	China & UAE	China's Xinjiang		
'Zayed Talwar	INS Visakhapatnam & INS Trikand	Dubai		
Key Points: The exercise, which will be held from August 8 to 11, aims to share best practices and increase synergies between the two navies.				
INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata	MALABAR 2023	Sydney, Australia		

RANKING

Index Name	Released by	India's Rank	Top Three/Key Points
Niti Aayog's Delta ranking	Aspirational Districts Programme	Haryana's Nuh(district)-30 to 2nd	30th position to the second position in Niti Aayog's Delta ranking.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

On the occasion of the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 and the 3rd anniversary of the National Education Policy, the **Ministry of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** signed **106 MoUs** with various esteemed organizations and institutions**to foster innovation, research, and knowledge exchange in multiple domains,** ushering in a new era of

collaboration in education and industry-academia linkages in **New Delhi.**

The **Directorate General of Training** (DGT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), **is collaborating with Amazon Web Services (AWS) India to upskill students in cloud computing, data annotation, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML), to boost their capabilities and employability.**

This initiative will benefit students enrolled in the institutions under the DGT, an apex organisation responsible for implementing long-term institutional skill training through an extensive network of about 15,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and **33 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)**, across India.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) signed a "Memorandum of Understanding"** (MOU) to establish the **mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in telecommunications**.

The MoU has **been signed by Shri Anil Kumar Bhar dwaj**, DG (TRAI CSR) and **Shri Rajeev Kumar**, Registrar, C-DoT in the presence of Secretary DoT, Secretary TRAI, CEO C-DoT and other senior officials of TRAI and C-DoT.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **to initiate the technical assessment of the AIIMS New Delhi campus for converting it into one which is powered by solar energy.**

The **MoU was signed at AIIMS, New Delhi, by Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA, Shri Pradip Kumar Das and AIIMS Director Dr. M Srinivas**, in the presence of senior officials of both organisations.

Bureau of Indian Standards, the National Standards Body of India signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) **with 35 prestigious institutions across the country for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment.**

NHPC Limited and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have **signed a Memorandum of Understanding**, under which NHPC will provide CSR support for the distribution of aids and **assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and Northeastern states.**

The **MoU was signed at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad, under the CSR initiative of NHPC.**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Navars Edutech successfully launched the **National Space Innovation Challenge 2023** (NSIC 2023) on August 11 for all school students across the country.

Students of classes 5 to 12 have been given an open platform till 20th September.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bengaluru-based space startup **Pixxel** secured a **multi-crore rupee** grant from the **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** under the **Ministry of Defence** (MoD) to manufacture **miniaturised multi-payload satellites** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF).**

Aim : To develop technologies addressing every stage of a space mission, right from **mission planning and manufacturing** to **satellite data analytics and more**.

The grant is part of the SPARKS initiative, which falls under Mission DefSpace, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2022.
The SPARK grants - offered to startups selected through the iDEX (Prime) & DISC initiatives - are aimed at **catalysing innovation** enabling **Indian innovators and entrepreneurs** to deliver **technologically advanced solutions** as well as **propel deep-tech innovations in India.**
Hughes Network Systems, an EchoStar (Nasdaq: SATS) company, announced its **JUPITER 3 ultra high-density satellite** has successfully launched on a **SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket** from historic **Kennedy Space Center Launch Pad 39A in Florida, United States of America (USA).**
This will mark the **7th launch** for SpaceX's triple-booster rocket, which debuted to much fanfare back in **2018**.
JUPITER 3 is the highest capacity, highest performing satellite ever launched.
NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has introduced an **on-demand streaming platform, name NASA+.**
NASA's new platform will provide **live coverage of space events, original content, and documentaries**, which will be available exclusively on the platform where content will be ad-free and without any charge.

The **United States (US)** will **help Australia** to **produce guided multiple-launch rocket systems** by **2025.**
Austin and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken are in the Australian state of Queensland for the annual Australia-US ministerial dialogue (AUSMIN), with their Australian counterparts Defence Minister Richard Marles and Foreign Minister Penny Wong.
It is the **first time** Australia has hosted a high-level meeting since 2019 due to the COVID-19 disruption.

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** completed the **Lunar-Orbit Insertion (LOI)** to successfully put the **Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft** into the moon's orbit.
The LOI manoeuvre was performed from ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru.
The spacecraft to the **moon has covered about two-thirds of the distance to the moon.**
Notably, on **August 1, a crucial slingshot manoeuvre was successfully employed to propel the craft from Earth's orbit towards the Moon**.

The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully carried out the lunar-orbit reduction manoeuvre of India's 3rd moon mission Chandrayaan-3, a day after bringing it into lunar orbit.
The **spacecraft successfully underwent a planned orbit reduction manoeuvre which brought it closer to the Moon's surface now to 170 km x 4313 km orbit** means the spacecraft's farthest point from the moon is 4313 km and the closest point is 170 km only.
New Space India Limited NSIL has collaborated with Tata Play and launched the GSAT-24 satellite in June 2022 aligned with the Make in India vision of the Government.

Tata Play commenced the use of this satellite, now in its orbital position, starting.
GSAT-24, a 4-tonne class communication satellite built by ISRO for providing DTH services is fully operational at its maximum satellite capacity, following exhaustive in-orbit testing.
In a bid to be the first nation to make a soft landing on the lunar south pole, a region believed to hold coveted pockets of water ice, Russia launched its first moon-landing spacecraft **Luna-25 mission onboard the Soyuz 2.1 rocket to the moon blasted off**

from the Vostochny cosmodrome, 3,450 miles (5,550 km) east of Moscow, in 47 years.

The **launch is the first mission of Moscow's new lunar** programme since 1976.
India **has developed a manned scientific submersible MATSYA6000, can carry 3 humans for a period of 12 hours up to a depth of 60,000 metres** in the **ocean for deep sea mining and manned submersible**.
Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** informed that the government has approved the establishment of a **new spaceport** in **Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu** for carrying out the launches of the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
He stated that, **the Indian Space Policy – 2023 has been approved and released in the public domain &**the **Policy opens up the sector for enhanced participation of Non-Government Entities (NGEs) across** the entire value chain of the space economy while delineating the roles of various **stakeholders viz. IN-SPACe, ISRO, NSIL and DOS.**
Government has set up the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) as a single-window agency for the promotion and authorization of space activities. **The budget allocations for IN-SPACe:**
2021-22 Rs. 10 Cr
2022-23 Rs. 33 Cr
2023-24 Rs. 95 Cr
He also informed that the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory – **India (LIGO-India) project has been approved by the Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 2600 Crore**, with the Department of Atomic Energy as the Lead Agency.

SPORTS NEWS

In **Hockey, the Indian women's team won the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament in Terrassa**, with a 3-0 victory over hosts Spain.
Indian shooters and archers bagged six medals including four golds at the World University Games in Chengdu, **China.India has won 17 medals, nine gold, three silver and five bronze, and is second** in the tournament. **Hosts China lead the standings with a haul of 21 medals.**
A Norwegian woman named Kristin Harila, 37 and her guide, Nepal's Tenjen (Lama) Sherpa, 35, have bagged the record as the fastest climbers to ascend all 14 highest peaks in the world.
In hockey, the 7th Men's Asian Champions Trophy will **begin in Chennai.** Six teams - **India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, China, and Malaysia** will vie for glory in the prestigious 10-day tournament.
Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society sign an MoU with AIFF to promote football at the grassroots level

Aditi Swami created history by becoming the **first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final in Berlin**.
Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games-bound athletes to motivate them for the Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.

Prarthana Thombare has clinched the doubles title at the women's tennis hardcourt event **in Barcelona, Spain**.
World No. 1 men's doubles pair of Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category in the **Four Nations Para-Badminton International-2023 in Sheffield, England**, defeating compatriots Deep Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar 21-17 21-17.

World Badminton Championships 2023 will begin Copenhagen in Denmark on the 21st of August,2023.

World Athletics Championships 2023, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will lead the Indian contingent. **Championships are beginning in Budapest** on August 19th.

The Indian hockey team on 12 August defeated Malaysia 4-3 to win for the fourth time at the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium **in Chennai.**

OBITUARIES

Name of the Person	Field	Native, Country
Nitin Chandrakant Desai	Noted Bollywood production designer & renowned art	Mulund, Bombay, Maharashtra
Siddique	Filmmaker	Kerala,Kochi

August 15 to September 08 Current Affairs

IMPORTANT DAYS :

Date	Observed as	Theme/ Aim / Key Points
August 14	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, also known as Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas	To commemorate the victims and sufferings of people during the 1947 partition of India
August 15	Independence Day in India	Nation First, Always First"
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	-
August 19	World Photography Day	The 1st World Photography Day was held on August 19, 2010.
August 20	Sadbhavana Diwas	The birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi is observed as "Sadbhavana Diwas"
August 20	World Mosquito Day	The Day was first established in 1897 by Sir Ronald Ross who

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		discovered that female mosquitoes transmit malaria to humans.
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Abolition	The day is observed to commemorate the uprising on August 23, 1791, in Santo Domingo, Haiti, which played a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.
August 26	Women's Equality Day	#EmbraceEquity
August 29	National Sports Day or Rashtriya Khel Divas	This day is celebrated on Dhyan Chand's birthday to honour the hockey legend.
August 30	Small Industry Day	-

September

Date	Observed as	Theme/ Aim / Key Points
September 1 to September 7	National Nutrition Week	The theme of National Nutrition Week 2023 is "Healthy Diet Gawing Affordable for All".
September 2	World Coconut Day	In 1998, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community declared World Coconut Day
5th of September	International Day of Charity	This day was constructed by a Hungarian civil society with the support of the Hungarian government
5th of September	National Teachers Day	In India, the President, Dr. Sarevepalli Radhakrishnan's birthday is celebrated as Teacher's

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		Day.
8th of September	World Physical Therapy Day	In India, physiotherapy was first started in the year of 1952. The first physiotherapy centre was started in Mumbai.
8th of September	World Literacy Day or International Literacy Day	The theme of World Literacy Day 2023 is "Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies".

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND ECONOMY

August

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** unanimously decided to keep the **repo rate unchanged at 6.5%** for the 3rd time in a row.

Category	Ra
Repo Rate	6.5
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35
Standing Deposit Facility	**6.2**
Marginal standing facility	6.7
GDP growth projection	6.5
C Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflati	5.4
Bank Rate	6.7
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.5
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 40.5 million loan** for integrated **early childhood development (ECD)** and **maternal mental health** in **Meghalaya.**

The Meghalaya government is also contributing **USD 15.27 million** to the project.

A **USD 2-million technical assistance grant** from the **Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific** will help develop guidelines and training curricula for AWC staff and ECD educators.

Canara Bank has introduced a **specialised savings bank account named "Canara Jeevan Dhara"** aimed at catering to the unique financial needs of pensioners and prospective pensioners, including those who have retired on a voluntary basis or through normal retirement.

The interest rate on Canara Jeevan Dhara savings account mirrors the regular savings account rate, ranging from **2.90% to 4%** based on the account balance.

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** plans to open **300 new branches across India** in the current financial year.
It currently operates 22,405 branches across the country & it has 235 foreign branches and offices.

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** and the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** have collaborated to provide **National Pension System (NPS) subscribers** with an enhanced and consolidated view of their personal investments in the securities market, including updated mark-to-market values under a single **consolidated account statement (CAS).**
Currently, Consolidated Account Statement (CAS), provided by **National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL)** and **Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL),** furnishes a consolidated and updated investment view in the securities market.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the **3rd edition** of the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Safety Awareness Campaign, "UPI Chalega"** with an aim to promote UPI's brand awareness, amplify understanding of its features, and encourage wider adoption among new users.
The campaign was launched in 2020 under the Financial Literacy Advisory Committee (FLAC) guidance.
UPI Chalega Campaign 1.0 and 2.0 played a crucial role in expanding UPI's outreach, educating users about its safety, and enhancing its ease of use for various transactions, making it the preferred payment choice.

In a step towards enhancing India's financial landscape, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the launch of the **Pilot Project for Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit** by **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.
This move, unveiled in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies on August 10, 2023.
During the pilot, the platform will focus on products such as Kisan Credit Card loans up to ₹1.6 lakh per borrower, Dairy Loans, MSME loans (without collateral), **Personal loans** and Home loans through participating banks.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched a centralised web portal to help citizens search for their unclaimed deposits, known as **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to access information).**
The portal has been developed by the central bank for the public to help them search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.
Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and participating banks have collaborated on developing the portal.
Earlier, the RBI had announced the development of the centralised web portal on **April 6, 2023.**

Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India has launched **2 lending**

products Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and **unsecured Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) loans** powered by the **Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC),** introduced by the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Credit card default rose to **Rs 4,072 crore or 1.94%** at the end of March 2023.
As per the inputs received from RBI, in respect of defaults in credit cards, the **gross non-performing assets (GNPAs)** in credit cards was Rs 3,122 crore in March-2022 and **Rs 4,072 crore** in March-2023, while credit card outstanding in March-2022 and March-2023 was Rs 1.64 lakh crore and Rs 2.10 lakh crore, respectively.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on **4 cooperative banks Mangal Co-operative Bank (Rs 1 lakh), The Mahabaleshwar Urban Co-operative Bank (Rs 2 lakh), The Islampur Urban Co-operative Bank (Rs 2 lakh)** and **The Tapindu Urban Co-operative Bank (Rs 1 lakh)** for violating rules.

IIITD Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC), a section 8 company promoted by the **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD),** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Yes bank** with an aim aim to enable enterprise banking, personal banking and beyond banking solutions required by the Startups.

Through this partnership, YES BANK will offer best-in-class banking facilities to Startups that are in a developmental phase at IIITD-IC under the Bank's YES HeadStartup programme, a dedicated programme for Startups that aims to cater to this segment with a dynamic and agile bouquet of offerings.
YES BANK is also one of the first banks in the country to adopt the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS),** which will help these budding entities to scale up and go ahead in their journey of ideas to IPOs.

Samir Arora-promoted **Helios Capital Management** has received **final approval** from capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch a **mutual fund (MF)** business.
Once launched, Helios Mutual Fund will become the **46th entity** to enter this most buzzing industry with an asset under management of ₹46-lakh crore.

The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has constituted a **sectoral committee** for member banks operating within the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
IBA has constituted the Sectoral Committee to address the **unique regulatory landscape** and **challenges** faced by banks operating within GIFT City.
GIFT City currently accommodates **26 banks.**

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the **top performer** among public sector lenders in loan and deposit growth of **25%** in

percentage terms during the first quarter of the current financial year.
The deposit and advances of the Pune-based lender are the **highest by any public sector bank (PSB)** during the April-June quarter.
With a growth rate of **24.98%**, the gross domestic advances of the bank rose to **Rs 1,75,676 crore** at the end of June 2023
It was followed by **UCO Bank** with **20.70% growth**, while **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** with **16.80%** and **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** with 16.21% growth were at 3rd and 4th spot respectively.
State Bank of India (SBI) stood at the **5th spot** with 15.08% rise in domestic advances growth.

Finance Minister **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman** introduced the **Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC),** a small savings scheme for women and girls in August 2023.
Currently **5 Banks** offering Mahila Samman Savings Certificate include **Bank of Baroda (BoB), Union Bank of India, Canara Bank and Bank of India (BoI), Punjab National Bank (PNB).**
The MSSC is a **government-guaranteed limited-period small savings scheme** aimed at empowering women and fostering their financial inclusion.
MSSC is a **2-year deposit scheme,** which offers an interest rate of **7.5% per annum.**
It is a one-time program that runs from **April 2023 to March 2025.**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has selected global consultancy firms **McKinsey and Company India LLP** and **Accenture Solutions Private Limited India** to develop systems using **artificial intelligence (AI)** and **machine learning** for its supervisory functions.
RBI had shortlisted **7 applicants** were **Accenture Solutions Private Limited; Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd; Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP; Ernst and Young LLP; KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP; McKinsey and Company;** and **PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd**. to participate in the request for proposal process (RFP) for the selection of consultant(s).

India's largest public sector lender, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, remained the **front runner** in the **Debit cards market,** holding a whopping **28%** share in June 2023, revealed latest data by **1 Lattice (Previously PGA Labs).**
Top banks followed the list like **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** which held about 9% market share, followed by **Bank of India (BoI), Canara Bank, Union Bank and HDFC Bank** with approximately 5% market share each.
ICICI Bank registered the highest degrowth of **11%**, followed by **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** with a **10% degrowth.**

India's leading private lender **Bandhan Bank** has announced its **strategic partnership** with the **Odisha Government** to enhance payment solutions for **Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) Limited.**

A new technology developed by the **Institute for Development and Research**

in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is now all set to be deployed to **increase last-mile connectivity** of **banking services** in **remote areas.**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has instructed regulated entities, including **banks** and **Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs),** to offer **personal loan borrowers** the choice to switch from a **floating interest rate to a fixed rate** when resetting interest rates.
RBI has set a deadline for banks and lenders to implement these personal loan instructions by **December 31, 2023.**
What are Floating Interest Rates ? A floating interest rate is an interest rate that changes **periodically**.
The rate of interest moves up and down, or "floats," reflecting economic or financial market conditions.
Floating Interest Rate = Base Rate + Spread

Private lender **YES Bank** introduced its state-of-the-art mobile banking application named '**iris**' with an aim to **redefine digital banking** for its customers.
'Iris' is a **comprehensive financial platform** co-created with valued customer feedback.

India's banking system liquidity has slipped into **deficit** for the **1st time** this financial year(2023) after the Reserve Bank of India's temporary liquidity withdrawal move and tax outflows.

As of August 21, 2023, the liquidity of the Indian banking system was reported at **Rs 236 billion ($2.84 billion)**, according to data provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
Liquidity in the banking system refers to **readily available cash** that banks need to meet **short-term business** and **financial needs.**

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) announced that it has acquired 6.660% shareholding in **Jio Financial Services, the** demerged financial entity of Reliance Industries that made its stock debut.

Total banking transactions at GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) here reached **USD 508 billion till July 2023**.
GIFT IFSC Executive Director Dipesh Shah stated that till July 2023, the total banking asset size at GIFT IFSC stood at USD 41.20 billion, and cumulative derivative transactions booked by banks were worth USD 632 billion.

Cashfree Payments, India's leading provider of payments and API banking solutions, introduced '**Vendor Payments,**' a comprehensive platform that enables businesses to optimize and manage their purchase-to-pay cycle, increasing efficiency and lowering processing time.

A Committee of Directors on Raising Capital Funds approved the raising of funds for an amount **not exceeding Rs 5,000 crores** through the issue of equity shares through **Qualified Institutions Placement**

(QIP), **Union Bank** stated in a regulatory filing.

On **World Senior Citizens Day (Aug 21, 2023), Punjab National Bank (PNB),** the nation's leading public sector bank, has introduced the "**Pensioner's Lounge**", a dedicated space within the branch that serves pensioners and senior citizens with all their banking needs with an aim to provide a **specialised and comfortable space** for pensioners and senior citizens, offering comprehensive banking services.

SBI Life Insurance, one of the most trusted private life insurance companies in the country, launched its dedicated **24X7 inbound contact centre** through **toll-free number 18002679090** to address before and after purchase queries related to comprehensive insurance solutions provided by the company.
SBI Life, thus, becomes the **first private life insurance company** in the country to have such extensive customer care support.
This number is set to see a positive rise going forwards, given the goal of '**Insurance for all by 2047**' set by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI).**

International Finance Corporation (IFC),a member of the World Bank Group is set to invest up to **$100 million** in **IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL),** a leading housing finance company, in a move **aimed** at increasing access to housing finance for **economically weaker sections (EWS)** and **low-income groups (LIG),** including women borrowers in India.

The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has reconstituted the New Delhi headquartered **Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)** to **address fraudulent activities** in the banking and financial sectors.
Suresh N Patel, former Central Vigilance Commissioner, will be the Chairman of the reconstituted ABBFF.
In addition to the Chairman, the ABBFF will also have 4 members, including **Ravikant, Rajnikant Mishra, David Rasquinha,** and **Partha Pratim Sengupta.**
The term of the Chairman and Members of ABBFF will be for **2 years**, effective from August 21, 2023.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has focused initiatives in place for each dimension of the ESG framework under the Environment (Transitioning towards Green and Sustainable Operations), Social (Empowering Employees, Adopting Customer Centricity, and Helping Communities) and Governance (Enabling Robust Governance Structure and Effectively Managing Risks) pillars.
As a result of these initiatives, **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance received an ESG Risk Rating of 16.9 and was assessed by Sustainalytics to be at Low risk of experiencing material financial impact arising from ESG factors**.
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has received a rating of A (on a scale of AAA-CCC) in the MSCI ESG Ratings assessment.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

CAMSfinserv, one of the **first RBI-licensed Account Aggregators (AA)** in India, has onboarded all **17 Asset Management Companies** serviced by CAMS as financial information providers on the AA platform, making it the 1st in the industry to provide access to mutual fund data.
An Account Aggregator is a **non-banking financial company** engaged in the business of providing, under a contract, the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer.

Cleartrip, a subsidiary of Flipkart, has joined forces with **Axis Bank**, a prominent private sector bank in India, to introduce an **innovative travel proposition** for Axis Bank credit cardholders with an aim to provide a range of **travel benefits** to both **existing** and **new cardholders** who book through Cleartrip.

Bank of Baroda (BoB), a state-owned bank, has launched the '**Video Re-KYC**' service to simplify the periodic update of **customer identity documents.**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **merger** of **Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank Limited,** located in Akola, Maharashtra, with The **Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank Limited,** situated in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.
This strategic move was authorized by the RBI under Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A along with Section 56 of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

As a part of the Reserve Bank of India's ongoing **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) initiative, Axis Bank** has launched a **new UPI interoperability functionality** on its '**Axis Mobile Digital Rupee App**' to enhance the use of Digital Rupee among its customers.
CBDC, e₹ or Digital Rupee, is a **legal tender** issued by the Reserve Bank of India initiative.
On **1 November, 2022,** the apex bank started a pilot on CDBC in the wholesale segment, and rolled out retail testing on 1 December, 2022.

HDFC Bank has become the **1st bank in India** to launch the '**Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card',** India's first co-branded hotel credit card in partnership with Marriott Bonvoy, Marriott International's award-winning travel programme with an aim to enhance the travel experiences of our valued cardholders by offering exclusive benefits, rewards, and seamless access to Marriott International's award-winning travel program.

State Bank of India (SBI) launched its **non-callable term deposits** called **SBI 'Sarvottam'** for deposits above **Rs 15 lakh.**

Non-callable deposit is a **term deposit product** wherein premature withdrawal is not allowed during the tenure of the deposit.
Under the "Sarvottam" term deposits, the bank is providing depositors with a rate of interest of **7.40%** for a two-year period.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The deposit rate is **7.10%** for a one-year term

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced an association, with **Mastercard** becoming a **Global Partner** for the **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023** to be held in India between **5 October and 19 November 2023.**
The 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will be the **13th edition of the Cricket World Cup,** a quadrennial One Day International (ODI) cricket tournament contested by men's national teams and organised by the ICC.
It will be the **first men's Cricket World Cup** to be hosted solely by India.
The final is scheduled to be played at the **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on 19 November 2023.**

To celebrate the **8th foundation day, Bandhan Bank** opened its branch in the **Leh district** of Union Territory (UT), **Ladakh**, marking its presence in 35 of the 36 states and UTs of India.
Bandhan Bank also opened another branch in **Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).**

Airtel Payments Bank, a prominent player in the digital banking space, has introduced a **Fastag-based parking payments,** streamlined solution for parking payments at Jayprakash Narayan International Airport in Patna.

India in partnership with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is set to open a **climate change and health hub** in New Delhi.

Airtel Payments Bank, in collaboration with **Mastercard Center** and **Frontier Markets,** has introduced a **first-of-its-kind**, transformative initiative named **She Leads Bharat: Udyam,** an initiative to elevate 100,000 women-owned small businesses.
What is meant by frontier markets?
Frontier Markets is a **social enterprise** that focuses on bringing products and services to rural and underserved communities in India.
The organization is dedicated to providing **rural households,** particularly women, with access to clean energy products, such as solar products, efficient cookstoves, and other household essentials.

IDFC First Bank has secured the title rights to the **home international series** of the **Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI)** for a duration of **3 years.**
The bank acquired these rights at a cost of **Rs 4.2 crore per international match.**

Yes Bank in collaboration with spend management platform **Zaggle** launched a co-branded Corporate Credit Card named **Yes Bank Zaggle Corporate Credit Card** to empower businesses to reimagine their payment processes, streamline reconciliation, and efficiently manage company expenditures.

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner)** an Independent Power Producer (IPP) signed a long-term loan of

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

up to **1.2 billion Indian rupees (about $14.7 million)** to construct and operate a **25-megawatt solar photovoltaic-based power plant** to increase clean and low-cost energy supply to commercial and industrial customers.
This is ADB's **1st direct financing** to a renewable energy plant.

Axis Bank has unveiled the '**Infinity Savings Account**,' a revolutionary offering for digitally savvy customers.
This account **eliminates domestic transaction fees, minimum balance requirements** etc.

In a significant move, **Bandhan Bank** has received **authorization** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to serve as an **authorised pension disbursement bank.**
This authority is granted on behalf of the **Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO)** of the Ministry of Finance, with a specific focus on civil pensioners.
Notably, this scheme **excludes pensioners** from the **railways, posts,** and **defence sectors.**
The scope of beneficiaries extends to **retired judges of high courts** and the Supreme Court, All India Service Officers, former Members of Parliament, as well as former Presidents and Vice Presidents of India.

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced new **disclosure norms** for **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs),** which are set to be implemented from **November 1, 2023 with an aim to** enhance transparency, prevent concentration of holdings, and ensure better oversight of FPI activities.
Click here for official circular

DBS Bank Limited, in collaboration with **Singapore's commodities trader Maptrasco (Khaitan International Pte Limited-KIPL),** has achieved a significant breakthrough by successfully executing the **1st "live" electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) transaction** for shipments between Singapore and India.
Objective : To facilitate digital trade finance for real-time shipments of goods between these two countries.
The transaction was implemented under the TradeTrust framework, an initiative by the **Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)** and supported by **Enterprise Singapore**.

September

Bad Bank chairman Karnam Sekar resigns over disagreements in merger with IDRCL
What is a Bad Bank? A bad bank is a **financial entity** set up to **buy Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), or Bad Loans,** from banks.
Karnam Sekar, the chairman of the **National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL),** commonly referred to as the **Bad Bank,** has **resigned** due to differences in the structure and functioning of the institution

ADB approves Rs.3.32 crores for safe public transport projects in Hyderabad

Asian Development Bank's grant of **US$3.99 lakh (₹3.32 crore)** to develop **Technologies for Urban Transit to Enhance Mobility and Safe Accessibility (TUTEM)**

IIT Bombay partners with HSBC to support innovation-led green hydrogen initiatives

The **Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B)** has partnered with **Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC)** to pursue technological advancements towards making **green hydrogen production more efficient, cost-effective,** and **scalable**

IIT Bombay receives a donation of USD 18.6 million from alumni towards the establishment of the Green Energy & Sustainability Research Hub

The focused areas include **evaluating climate risks** and **developing effective mitigation strategies, climate change adaptation,** and **comprehensive environmental monitoring.**

Savart Launched 'The Ad Astra Fund': The World's First Fully Automated Investment Fund

The Ad Astra Fund -World's First Fully Automated Investment Fund, in Hyderabad, Telangana. On the day of its launch, The Ad Astra Fund secured investment commitments worth **INR 31 crores**, indicating strong initial investor interest

AI research system **APART (Advanced Process Automation & Research Technology)**, which comprises **3 engines (Quant, Iris, Synapse).**

Shriram Housing Finance Collaborates with IFC to Advance Environmentally Friendly Affordable Housing Finance in India

The project will deploy **IFC's Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiency (EDGE) certification tool** for the affordable self-construction segment **customers and impact monitoring tool (CAFI)** for reporting of green affordable housing.

Muthoot Fincorp Limited Launches Muthoot FinCorp ONE

Muthoot Fincorp Limited (MFL), a kerala based flagship entity of Muthoot Pappachan Group (Muthoot Blue), has introduced "**Muthoot FinCorp ONE,**" a cutting-edge digital platform to offer an integrated range of financial solutions

The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) liberalised remittance scheme (LRS)** has displayed remarkable growth, with a **50.64% surge in outward remittances**

According to **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data, Maharashtra** remained the **top destination** with equity flows of **$4.5 billion** in the June quarter, as against $5.2 billion, marking a decline of 13.5%.

Market Regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced a set of **fresh guidelines**

Market infrastructure institutions are required to conduct a comprehensive cyber audit a **minimum of 2 times** during each

financial year.

The Capital Market Regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has reconstituted its **Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee**
Now, the committee has been expanded to include **25 members**, up from its previous count of 20.**Chairperson & Members of the Committee :** The committee is Chaired by Infosys co-founder **N R Narayana Murthy.**

Fitch Maintains BBB- Rating with Stable Outlook for SBI and 5 Other Public Sector Banks
Fitch Ratings has reaffirmed the **credit ratings** of 6 major public sector banks in India including **State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Canara Bank, Bank of India (BoI), and Union Bank of India (UBI),** have all received a BBB- rating with a stable outlook.

Walmart-backed payments giant **PhonePe** has introduced its **stock broking platform, named Share(dot)Market,** as part of its efforts to diversify its financial services.
The Share (dot) Market app elevates discount broking by **providing market intelligence** and **quantitative research-based Wealth Baskets**, a scalable technology platform.

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has instructed **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)** to establish and operate a **unified Online Dispute Resolution Portal (ODR Portal).** MIIs, including **stock exchanges, depositories,** and **clearing corporations**, are tasked with collaborating to develop and operationalize the ODR Platform.

The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has introduced '**Falcon**,' an open-source project designed to simplify the management and utilization of block chains based on '**Hyperledger Fabric**' and supported on Kubernetes clusters.
What is Hyperledger? Hyperledger Fabric was initiated by **Digital Asset** and **IBM**, as per Investopedia. Hyperledger fabric is an **enterprise-level permission blockchain network.**

Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, has introduced an **ALT ID (Alternate Identifier) solution** for **guest checkout transactions.**
The **primary purpose** of this solution is to **enhance online payment security** for both merchants and consumers.

As per **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) data on sectoral deployment of credit, Bank credit** registered a robust growth of **16.3% year-on-year (y-o-y)** in June 2023 as compared with 15% in 2022 on the back of strong demand for credit from sectors such as services, retail and agriculture, and allied activities
RBI Permits Scheduled Commercial Banks to Offer Credit Lines via UPI
The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)** (excluding Payment Banks, Small Finance Banks, and Regional Rural Banks) are now allowed to facilitate payments using

pre-sanctioned credit lines for individuals with their prior consent through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system.**

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has introduced **UPI interoperability** with its **Digital Rupee (eRupee)**, also known as **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** to enhance customer convenience.
This feature is accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application, enabling SBI CBDC users to **scan merchant UPI QR codes** for swift and secure transactions.

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with a proposal to set up a **Performance Validation Agency (PVA)** to validate any claims of performance by registered intermediaries including investment **advisers, research analysts** and **portfolio managers.**
The **primary purpose** of the PVA would be to facilitate intermediaries in marketing their products based on validated performance data.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has been awarded an **'A+' rating** in the **Global Finance Central Bank Report Card 2023**
The grades in the report are based on a scale from **'A' to 'F'** and evaluate central bank governors' performance in areas such as inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability, and interest rate management. An 'A' grade signifies **excellent performance**, while 'F' indicates **outright failure.**

Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance Limited (BACFL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Auto has received a **certificate of registration** from **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to carry out operations as a non-deposit taking **non-banking financial company (NBFC).**

State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has launched the **PNB GST Sahay App,** a mobile application based on the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Sahay scheme,** an end–to-end digital product under which lending can be done using GST invoices.
PNB has become the **1st public sector bank** to enable seamless credit flow to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by integrating GST invoices into the lending process.

India and **Singapore** piloted the **first live paperless transaction** using the Trade Trust platform, marking a milestone in the digital connection between India and Singapore.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and briefed him about the outcomes of the inaugural session of the **India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR).**

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 40 lakh on NTPC Limited** for the offence of gun jumping.
Gun jumping occurs when parties involved in a combination fail to notify CCI before consummating the transaction.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a new feature that allows customers to **enrol** in social security schemes by providing their **Aadhaar card.**
SBI Chairman **Dinesh Khara** unveiled the new feature which will be available at the bank's **Customer Service Points (CSPs)** that aims to make the process of enrolling in various social security schemes simpler.

Paytm has introduced the **Paytm Card Soundbox,** a device designed to facilitate mobile and card payments, including Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and RuPay. Paytm was the **1st company** to launch **audio-based confirmations** with Paytm Soundbox, transforming in-store payments in the country.

Federal Bank has introduced a **WhatsApp Lending Platform** to facilitate the application process for **pre-approved personal loans.** The platform's inauguration was conducted by Federal Bank's Chairman, **AP Hota.**

Indian Bank has partnered **OneCard** to introduce **mobile-first, contactless** and **metal-co-branded credit cards.** The card comes with a mobile app that allows cardholders to control their interactions.

Shivalik Small Finance Bank, headquartered in North India, has entered into a partnership with **Falcon**, a fintech company for developing financial products like **instant Digital Fixed Deposits (FDs)** and **savings accounts**.
It will reduce the **cost** and **time required** for launching new financial products. The platform comes with several pre-equipped features, including **no-code mobile** and **web applications.**

Manipal Cigna Health Insurance has been appointed as the **lead health insurer** by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** for the **State Insurance Awareness Plan** in **Karnataka.**
Manipal Cigna has introduced a new Kannada tagline, "**Health Insurance Avashyaka" (Health Insurance is a Necessity),** to emphasize the essential role of health insurance in ensuring both health and financial well-being.

SBI Card, the largest credit card issuer in India, has introduced new features for its super premium card named '**AURUM** targeted at **C-suite executives** and **high net-worth individuals.**
'AURUM' is a by-invitation-only card, initially launched in **February 2021** and now extends enhanced benefits to its users, ranging from introduction of new annual spends-based milestones up to **₹2 lakh annually**, based on their spending.

Indian Bank became the **1st Public Sector Bank (PSB)** to extend the facility of execution of on-line locker agreement through **Digital Document Execution (DDE) Platform** of **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).**
DDE is a fully automated contract execution platform with **paperless e-stamp** and **electronic signature (e-Sign) facility.** The

facility of e-Sign includes **Aadhar based (OTP/Biometric)** and **dongle-based digital signature.**

Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI),** plans to introduce **one-hour trade settlements** in India by the end of the fiscal year, **March 2024.**
SEBI has adopted a **roadmap** to transition from the current settlement cycle to **one-hour settlements**, with the ultimate goal of achieving instantaneous settlements in the securities market.

State Bank of India, the country's largest bank, has introduced the '**Nation First Transit Card**' with the primary goal of enhancing commuting experiences and **promoting digital payment adoption.**
The 'Nation First Transit Card' can also be utilized for **retail and e-commerce transactions,** providing users with a convenient and versatile payment solution.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has enabled the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-Automated Teller Machine (ATM) facility** at its ATMs nationwide.
BoB is recognized as the **first Public Sector Bank** to launch UPI ATMs in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and powered by **NCR Corporation.**

Axis Bank, a prominent private sector bank in India, has unveiled its credit card campaign titled '**Open Experiences.**'
This campaign recognizes a notable shift in the concept of 'experience' in contemporary times.

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** released its **2023 Trade Finance Gaps, Growth, and Jobs Survey,** revealing that the **global trade finance gap** expanded to an unprecedented **$2.5 trillion** in 2022, compared to $1.7 trillion two years earlier.

HDFC Bank has partnered with a fintech **ShopSe** to offer end-to-end digital consumer loans - **'Cardless EasyEMI' Customers can easily convert their** purchases into **Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) by scanning a QR code** at participating ShopSe or bank merchant locations.

Union Bank of India (UBI) has introduced **two new debit card variants** - a Metal Card tailored for **Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs)** and another card with specialized benefits aimed at **women**.
The launch of these two debit cards took place at the **Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has introduced a new insurance product called "**Bharti AXA Life Income Laabh**" with the goal of **simplifying insurance and providing maximum protection to customers.**

Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Executive Director Ajay Kumar Choudhary announced that the RBI is likely to **launch the pilot of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for transactions.**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Participating Banks: **Nine banks were selected by RBI** for the wholesale CBDC pilot project, including **State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, YES Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC**.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has **urged fintech entities** to establish a **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO).**
The RBI will issue a letter of recognition to suitable entities. FinTech, short for financial technology, encompasses software, mobile applications, and various technologies designed to enhance and automate traditional financial services for both businesses and consumers.

Axis Bank will adopt electronic methods for sending and receiving auditors' **Balance Confirmation Certificates (BCC)**. This shift **eliminates** the need for paper-based processes.

Hitachi Payment Services, a 100% subsidiary of Japan-based Hitachi Limited, has launched **India's first Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-Automated Teller Machine (ATM)** in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
This UPI-ATM operates as a **White Label ATM (WLA),** a type of ATM operated by non-banking entities.

The **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI),** has established a net worth requirement of **Rs 1 crore** for **direct plan distributors** interested in registering with them as **execution-only platforms (EOPs).**
They can achieve this by registering either with **exchanges (EOP Category 2) or with AMFI (EOP Category 1).**

PSB Alliance Private Limited, a company established by public sector banks (PSBs), plans to expand to **6,800 centres** across India by **June 2024.**
PSB Alliance is jointly owned by 12 public sector banks, with each bank holding an **8.33% stake** in the company.

According to the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI),** the **United Payments Interface (UPI) crossed 10 billion** in the volume of transactions in August 2023.
As of August 30, 2023, the monthly transaction count on UPI had reached 10.24 billion, with a net transaction value totaling **₹15.18 trillion.**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has launched several new digital payment products including **Credit Line on UPI, UPI LITE X, Tap & Pay, Hello! UPI,** and **Conversational Bill Payments** by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
To create an **inclusive, resilient,** and **sustainable digital payments ecosystem** in India. The goal is to help UPI (Unified Payments Interface) achieve a target of processing **100 billion transactions per month.**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** is preparing to disburse the **first tranche of loans** for ongoing projects in **tier-2** and **tier-3 cities** under the **Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF).**

Mastercard has strategically partnered with **KredX (Minions Ventures Private Limited),** India's largest supply chain finance platform, to **transform Business to Business (B2B) digital payments**, benefitting both enterprises and vendors.

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has stated that payments to the **SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF) account** can now be made only through online mode.

Asset management company **Groww Mutual Fund** has received approval from the market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch its **first index fund** named **Groww Nifty Total Market Index Fund**.
Zerodha Tax Saver (ELSS) Nifty Large Midcap 250 Index Fund and the Zerodha Nifty Large Midcap 250 Index Fund (ZN250), in accordance with its mandate to establish passive schemes.

India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, **SBI Cards & Payment Services Limited (SBI Card)** has launched '**Simply SAVE Merchant SBI Card**' for **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**, with the offer of short-term credit options and other exclusive benefits.

AU Small Finance Bank Limited has launched the '**Zenith + Super Premium Metal Credit Card**' as an addition to its range of banking solutions.
The card includes a welcome package with either Premium Brand vouchers or Reward Points valued at **Rs 5000,** offering immediate benefits to new cardholders.

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) and **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** have announced a **strategic partnership** to provide a wide range of life insurance products to AU Small Finance Bank's diverse customer base, addressing their financial security needs.
AU Small Finance Bank **aims** to leverage technology-based solutions to enhance the customer experience by offering a variety of life insurance products from Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited has launched a new savings plan called "**Bajaj Allianz Life ACE.**" Bajaj Allianz Life ACE is a **non-linked, participating early-income life insurance plan.**

IDEMIA, a global identity technologies and biometric solutions provider, has formed a partnership with **Airtel Payments Bank** (a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel) and **HMD Global** (the manufacturer of Nokia Phones) to introduce an **offline system** for **enabling digital rupee payments** on feature phones.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

PhonePe has launched a **first-of-its-kind celebrity voice feature** on its **SmartSpeakers** in collaboration with the iconic Indian actor **Amitabh Bachchan.** This industry-first celebrity voice feature is currently available in **Hindi** and **English**, with plans to roll this out for other languages in the future.

State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has launched **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** with **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) interoperability feature** in its digital rupee mobile application.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to phase out the **incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR).**
RBI has scheduled the release of I-CRR funds in **3 phases: 25%** on September 9, another **25%** on September 23, 2023, and the remaining **50%** on October 7, 2023.

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India or HSBC Bank India has launched 'Open **Network for Digital Commerce ('ONDC) in a Box'.** With this launch, HSBC India became the **1st foreign bank** in India to offer an ONDC-enabled proposition.

Money, a subsidiary of DiGiSPICE Technologies is a fintech building 'nano preneurs' for emerging India, has partnered with **Wimbo**, a company under PayU, to introduce '**Spice Pay,**' an innovative UPI (Unified Payments Interface) solution aimed at **empowering rural India.**

ICICI Bank has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to make **I-Process Services (India) Private Limited (I-Process)** its wholly-owned subsidiary, subject to certain conditions, as per the bank's latest regulatory filing.
The total cost for acquiring I-Process is estimated at **Rs. 15.40 crore.** This amount is subject to finalization of pricing in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and on receipt of necessary approvals.

India's leading exchange, the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has received approval from the **Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to introduce Options on Futures for **NYMEX WTI Crude Oil** and Natural Gas futures contracts within its commodity derivatives segment.
SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF),** GoI.

Thomas Cook (India) Limited witnessed a **5% surge** in its shares following the announcement of its partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to launch a **RuPay prepaid forex card** for Indian travelers heading to the UAE.
NPCI's global card payment network to provide international payment solutions, aligning with India's "**Made in India**" **initiative,** for Indian travellers travelling abroad.

NATIONAL NEWS :

August

Shri Saurabh Garg, Secretary, D/o SJ&E, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and the President of GC, **NISD chaired the meeting of the General Council of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) in the presence of other senior officials.**
The **main purpose of the meeting was to review the structure, functions and status of programs of NISD.**

A first-of-its-kind global summit on Traditional Medicine, organised by the **World Health Organization (WHO) and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, is set to take place on August 17-18, 2023, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
The esteemed Director-General of WHO, **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, inaugurated the event.
The Global Summit will be co-hosted by WHO and the Government of India, which holds the presidency of the G20 in 2023.
The 2– day Global Summit for Traditional Medicine, with the theme "**Towards Health and Well-being for All**" explored the role of traditional complementary and integrative medicine in addressing pressing health challenges and driving progress in global health and sustainable development.
India assumed the presidency of the G20 on **1 December, 2022** and is currently part of the G20 Troika comprising Indonesia, India and Brazil.
India's G20 Presidency marked the first time that the troika consisted of three developing and emerging economies.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary **Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at a function in Maker Village Kochi, Kerala.**
The program shall be implemented by Digital University Kerala with joint funding from the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), the Government of India and the Government of Kerala and Industry partners, with **a total budget outlay of Rs 94.85 Crore**, wherein, Carborundum Pvt Limited joined as one of the main industry partners.

Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, and Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** launched **2 books** namely "**Kuwi Primer**" and "**Desia Primer** in Kuwi & Desia languages at Bhubaneswar, Odisha to simplify primary education for tribal children in Odisha.
The step to introduce primers in local languages and dialects is a generational one & will also further enrich Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi's vision of '**Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'.**

The **Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC)**, Shri Kushvinder Vohra launched the mobile application, "**FloodWatch**" with the aim of using mobile phones to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.
FloodWatch launched by the Central Water Commission (CWC),is a user-friendly app has readable and audio broadcast

Key features of the app include real-time flood monitoring where users can check up-to-date flood situations throughout the country.
The app has a map of India with coloured circles at water stations across the country indicating the current risk of flooding.
Colour Coding – A 'green' circle indicates 'normal'; yellow, above normal; orange, 'severe' and red, 'extreme'.

The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy **Shri R. K. Singh will dedicate to the nation a 660 MW unit of NTPC's Barh Super Thermal Power Project in Barh, Bihar.**
He will also lay the foundation stone for the extension of POWERGRID's 400/132 kV Lakhisarai Sub-station, later in the day on 18th August 2023.
This sub-station has been **built by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.**

The **Ministry of Tourism** in association with the different State Governments / UTs is organizing the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Food Festival** in the capital from 18th – 20th August 2023 with an aim to celebrate the rich culinary diversity of India.
The Food Festival is being held with the enthusiastic participation of **23 States and UTs The festival will be organised in State Sadans/Bhawans of the participating States in New Delhi.**

Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala has unveiled the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme along with an Infertility Camp, in the State of Gujarat.**
The **'A-HELP' programme aims to empower women by engaging them** as trained agents who contribute significantly to disease control, artificial insemination **under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), animal tagging, and livestock insurance**.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah hoisted the Tiranga atop his residence in New Delhi, under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.**
He also shared a Certificate of Appreciation received for taking part in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a bus scheme "**PM-eBus Sewa**" for augmenting city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses on PPP model.
The Scheme would have an estimated cost of **Rs.57,613 crore,** out of which support of Rs.20,000 crore will be provided by the Central government.
The Scheme will support bus operations for **10 years till 2037.**
The Scheme has two segments:
Segment A – Augmenting the City bus services:(169 cities)
Segment B– Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI): (181 cities).

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi,** approved the expansion of the **Digital India programme** with an outlay of **Rs ₹14,903 crores.**
This would enable the following:
6.25 lakh IT professionals will be re-skilled and up-skilled under the **FutureSkills Prime Programme**;
2.65 lakh persons will be trained in information security under the **Information Security & Education Awareness Phase (ISEA) Programme;**
Modernisation of the National Knowledge Network (NKN) which connects 1,787 educational institutions;
New initiatives in the area of cyber security including development of tools and integration of more than 200 sites with **National Cyber Coordination Centre**

The **Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the signing and ratification of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement** (MRA) **between the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Government of India** and the Department of Home Affairs incorporating the Australian Border Force, **Australian Government.**
The arrangement is aimed at providing reciprocal benefits to accredited and trusted exporters of both the signatories in the clearance of goods by the Customs authorities of the importing country.
Mutual Recognition of the Australian Trusted Trader Program in Australia and the Authorized Economic Operator Program in India shall enter into force from the date of signing by the authorized representatives of both the countries.

The **Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) **on Cooperation in Sports between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports of the Republic of India and the Department of Health and Aged Care of the Government of Australia.**
Bilateral exchange programmes in the field of sports between India and Australia will help in expanding knowledge and expertise in the area of sports sciences, technologies and infrastructure; athlete and coach training and development; sports governance and integrity; grassroots participation in sport; major sporting events; diversity and inclusion in sport which would result in improvement in performance of our sportspersons in international tournaments and strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Australia.

The **Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) signed between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Suriname on cooperation in the field of Medical Product Regulation.**
The purpose of this MoU is to facilitate a constructive dialogue on the laws and

regulations pertinent to medical products as well as other relevant matters.

Click here to know about main areas of cooperation :

The **Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) signed between the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission** (IPC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Health, **Government of the Republic of Suriname for Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) in Suriname**. This **was signed during the visit of the President of India to Suriname.**
The **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) is officially recognized by five (5) countries: Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Mauritius and the Republic of Suriname**.

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi approved **7 projects** of the Ministry of Railways with estimated cost of around Rs.32,500 Crore, with 100% funding from Central Government.
The projects covering 35 Districts in 9 States i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by 2339 Kms. and will provide employment of 7.06 crore man-days to the people of the states.
The projects include :

S.No	Name of the Project	Nature of the Project
1	Gorakhpur-Cantt-Valmiki Nagar	Doubling of existing line
2	Son Nagar-Andal Multi tracking Project	Multi Tracking
3	Nergundi-Barang and Khurda Road-Vizianagaram	3rd Line
4	Mudkhed-Medchal and Mahbubnagar-Dhone	Doubling of the existing line
5	Guntur-Bibinagar	Doubling of the existing line
6	Chopan-Chunar	Doubling of existing line
7	Samakhiali-Gandhidham	Quadrupling

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** during his Independence Day speech at Red Fort said that **the government has plans to increase the number of 'Jan Aushadhi Kendras' from 10,000 to 25,000.**
Through Jan Aushadhi Kendras, the medicines that cost Rs 100, we are giving at Rs 10 to Rs 15.
The Government will launch the Vishwakarma scheme with an allocation

of ₹13,000 to 15,000 crore in the next month for those with traditional skills.

G20 Film Festival to begin in New Delhi with a screening of Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali.

The festival aims to celebrate and showcase a vibrant and collaborative partnership existing amongst the G20 and invited countries in the field of cinema.

The **festival is organised by the India International Centre (IIC) and the G20 Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs**.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, welcomed the **Director General of the World Health Organisation, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who arrived in India to attend the WHO-global Summit.**

Dr Tedros will take part in **WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine to be held from the 17th to the 18th, August at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today approved a new Central Sector Scheme "PM Vishwakarma" with a financial outlay of Rs.13,000 crore for a period of five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).

Under PM Vishwakarma scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, **Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%. The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.**

The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban areas across India. **18 traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma**.

Click here to know about 18 traditional trades

India Presents PM Gatishakti National Master Plan at Asian Development Bank's 2023 Regional Cooperation and Integration Conference in Georgia

India showcased **PM Gatishakti National Master Plan** at the '**2023 Regional Cooperation and Integration Conference: Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration through Economic Corridor Development (ECD)'**, organised by Asian Development Bank (ADB) at Tbilisi, **Georgia**.

REC Limited conducted its **54th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** via video conferencing.

The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released the Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System** (CPGRAMS) 12th monthly report for States for July 2023.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

A total of 69,523 Grievances were redressed by States and Union Territories in July 2023.

The top 3 performers among States/UTs across 4 categories are as shown below :

S. No.	Group	States/UTs	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
1	Group A	North-Eastern States	Sikkim	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh
2	Group B	Union Territories	Lakshadweep	Andaman & Nicobar	Ladakh
3	Group C	States with grievances >= 20000	Uttar Pradesh	Jharkhand	Rajasthan
4	Group D	States with grievances < 20000	Telangana	Chhattisgarh	Kerala

NHAI has set up a Design Division that will formulate policy and guidelines **for planning, designing, construction and maintenance of bridges, structures, tunnels and RE walls on National Highways across the country.**

The Group of Twenty (G20) Trade and Investment Ministers' meeting (TIMM) was held under the India's G20 Presidency at Jaipur, fondly called the Pink City of India is a significant event **focusing on global trade and investment discussions among representatives from G20 nations and beyond**.

The meeting was led by Sh. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles.

The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), in partnership with the National Council of Applied Economic Research** (NCAER), successfully **conducted a significant webinar under the theme 'Investor Protection Framework in India: Challenges and Road Ahead'.**

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India (GoI) organized National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Conclave at Town Hall, Gumla, Jharkhand on 18 th August 2023 to promote entrepreneurship culture and spread awareness of the NSSH Scheme and other Schemes of the Ministry.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The G20 Pandemic Fund has sanctioned a $25 million proposal from the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) in India. The proposal centres on "**Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response**."
The Pandemic Fund received an overwhelming response, with approximately 350 Expressions of Interest (EoI) and 180 complete proposals in its initial call for funding.
However, the requested grant amounts exceeded the fund's initial allocation of $338 million, reaching over $2.5 billion.

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Shri Nitin Gadkari, will unveil the much-anticipated Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) with an aim** to offer car customers a tool to assess and compare the crash safety of various motor vehicles available in the market.
This initiative marks a significant stride in the **Indian Government's commitment to enhancing road safety by elevating the safety standards of motor vehicles weighing up to 3.5 tonnes.**
Under this programme, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars tested as per **Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.**

Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India, in close collaboration with Panchayati Raj & Rural Development Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, is organizing the National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Gram Panchayats through Adopting Thematic Approaches on **Theme 8: Panchayat with Good Governance during 21-23 August 2023 in Srinagar J&K.**
The **Union Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Giriraj Singh will inaugurate the 3-day Workshop.**

Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Minister (CM), Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, joined hands to lay the **foundation stone for Datia Airport in the state**.
This upcoming airport comes with a price tag of approximately Rs. 50 crore and is projected to be operational by February 2024.

Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, inaugurated the 'Three-day National Thematic Workshop on Localization of **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) in Panchayats' in **Srinagar**, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
During the workshop, the Minister unveiled the 'Meri Panchayat Mobile App,' developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Additionally, the Operating Guidelines of NCBF (National Community Based Forest Management and Livelihoods), Service-level Benchmarks, Self-Assessment mechanisms, and a Model Contract were also released.
Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) has

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

released the **5th edition of 'National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) – Way Forward Monthly Report for States/UTs'**, which provides a detailed overview of the status of e-service delivery across States/UTs.
The Government of **Gujarat has developed G-Shala (Gujarat Students' Holistic Adaptive Learning App) which is a Learning Management System (LMS) with e-Content for Grade I-XII**
The Government of **Madhya Pradesh is the first State in the country to have used an online and centralized system for allotment of 100% seats through their Right to Education (RTE) portal**
The Government of **Nagaland** has established a Common Scholarship portal, serving as a centralized platform for all State ScholarshipsThe Government of **Himachal Pradesh** has initiated online admission-related processes for Polytechnic as well as ITI candidates through their Himachal Pradesh Takniki Shiksha (HPTech) Board portal
The Government of **Karnataka** has digitized the whole examination process in the state through their Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board portal.

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India** (TRAI) has issued recommendations **concerning License fees and Policy Matters for Direct-to-Home (DTH) Services.**
These recommendations by TRAI aim to bring about changes in the License Fee structure for DTH services, fostering an environment that encourages growth and development within the sector while aligning with the nation's broader digital broadcasting goals.
DTH Licensees are advised to pay an annual license fee equivalent **to 3 percent of their Adjusted Gross Revenue** (AGR) .

A **Defence Acquisition Council** (DAC) meeting, held **under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately Rs 7,800 crores**.
To enhance the efficiency of the Indian Air Force, the DAC has granted AoN for procurement and installation of Electronic Warfare (EW) **Suite on Mi-17 V5 Helicopters** under the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category which will enhance better survivability of Helicopters.

The **National Health Authority (NHA) announced 100 microsite projects for accelerated adoption of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** (ABDM) across the country.
Mizoram becomes the first state in India to operationalize an ABDM Microsite in its capital city Aizawl.
Besides **Mizoram, other states including Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh** have also made significant progress regarding the implementation of ABDM Microsites.

The **4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting** will begin **in Varanasi** culminating in the Culture Ministers' Meeting (CMM).

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate **Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna (Chief Minister's Learn-Earn scheme) has facilitated on-the-job training along the lines of learn and earn along with skill development**. It has been started for the **youth in the age group of 18 to 29 years**.

According to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **the G20 Pandemic Fund has approved India's USD 25-million proposal for strengthening animal health security in the country for pandemic preparedness and response.**

The **project will be implemented in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as the lead implementing entity with The World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).**

The Pandemic fund was established in **September 2022**, and formally launched under Indonesia's G20 Presidency at the G20 meetings in Bali, Indonesia in November,2022 the Pandemic Fund is the first multilateral financing mechanism dedicated to providing multi year grants to help low- and middle-income countries become better prepared for future pandemics.

The Fund, which is hosted by the World Bank, has already raised $2 billion in seed capital from 25 sovereign and philanthropic contributors.

India and the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (ASEAN) countries **agreed to review their free trade pact for goods by 2025.**

A Joint Committee of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) created a roadmap for the review of the pact and to finalize the terms of reference for the fresh negotiations.

ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement was signed and entered into force on **January 1, 2010.**

ASEAN and India signed the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods (TIG) Agreement in 2009.

Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), a leading Major Port on the West Coast of India in Gujarat, **is signing a concession agreement for the development, operation and maintenance of a new mega container terminal at Tuna-Tekra, Gujarat** (near Kandla) with DP World, a multinational logistics company based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The concession agreement will be signed between Deendayal Port Authority and DP World.

The project involves the construction of a mega-container terminal at Tuna-Tekra near Kandla, at a cost of Rs 4,243.64 crore through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

The Union Government will launch Tele-Law - 2.0 which Integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App to ensure access to **Justice in New Delhi**.

This will enable the common citizen to access legal advice, legal assistance and legal representation through a single registration and single gateway of Tele-

Law.

The **26th National Conference on e-Governance began in Indore to deliberate on providing better facilities to the citizens**.
The conference was **inaugurated by MP Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Science & Technology Minister Om Prakash Sakhalecha.**
The 2-day conference is being organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
The conference is being brainstormed on **the topic 'Developing India: Empowering Citizens'**.

The Business 20 (**B20) Summit India 2023, an official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community was held in New Delhi**.
The Summit is based on **the theme of B20 India R.A.I.S.E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses**.
The B20 India Communique includes 54 recommendations and 172 policy actions for submission to G20.

The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, in collaboration with the Australian Government**, successfully **hosted** a roundtable on "**Enhancing Health Workforce Training and Skill Pathways" in New Delhi**.

The **MoU is aimed at powering PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to boost India's Act East Policy**.
This **MoU is aimed at fulfilling the 'Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for Northeast' by enabling inland waterways transportation via NW2 and IBPR**, unveiling a new chapter of EXIM trade for the Northeast region.

The **Government of India, in association with State Governments**, is launching an **'Invoice incentive Scheme' by the name 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar' to encourage the culture of customers asking for invoices/bills for all purchases**.
The objective of **the scheme is to bring a cultural and behavioural change in the general public to 'Ask for a Bill' as their right and entitlement**.

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is committed to ensure a safe and secure nation** by **strengthening all aspects of national security mechanisms.**
In pursuance of this, **Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2023, in New Delhi.**

The **Third International Conference on Structural Integrity (ICONS 2023) was inaugurated at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu virtually by Dr. N Kailaiselvi**, Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research & Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.
ICONS 2023 is jointly organized by the

Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and the Society for Failure Analysis, in association with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Indian Society for Non-destructive Testing, Kalpakkam Chapter, Indian Institute of Metals Kalpakkam Chapter and Indian Structural Integrity Society.

PUNE-based College of Military Engineering (CME) **with the commissioning of a 5-megawatt (MW) solar power plant** taking its solar power generation **capacity to 7 MW has become India's first carbon-negative garrison or military formation.**

The CME, which was established in 1948 as a premier institute of the armed forces, trains all ranks of **the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, including those from friendly foreign countries in various technical and tactical aspects with changing character of warfare**.

A **plethora of projects have been undertaken** in the recent past at **CME by the Military Engineering Services (MES) through the office of Garrison Engineer (CME), Khadki**, in order to reduce the institute's carbon footprint.

Union Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia released a coffee table book on traditional and local architecture of various terminal buildings** at **AAI airports.**

The book showcases the facade of terminal buildings at 19 Senior civil aviation ministry officials and heads of AAI, DGCA, and BCAS, among others were present at the launch of the book titled "**Traditional & Local Architecture on Elevation & Design of Upcoming New Terminal Buildings**" in Delhi.

The Income Tax Department has revamped its National website www.incometaxindia.gov.in with a user-friendly interface, value-added features, and new modules.

The **newly revamped website was launched by Shri. Nitin Gupta, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)), at the 'Chintan Shivir', organised by the Directorate of Income Tax (Systems) at Udaipur**.

The Union Government has proposed to start a Tribal University in the Parvatipuram Manyam district of the northern region of **Andhra Pradesh**.

The **Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan** laid the **foundation stone for the Central Tribal University at Saluru.**

The **Embassy of India in Bahrain hosted an open house session** under the guidance **of Ambassador Designate Vinod Kurian Jacob**.

The event marked the int**roduction of the novel mobile application, EoIBh-Connect,** designed to **facilitate online appointment booking for a spectrum of consular and visa services, accessible** through both the Indian Embassy at Manama, Bahrain.

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah chaired the 26th meeting of the Western Zonal Council**

at Gandhinagar, in Gujarat.

The **meeting was organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat** under the Ministry of Home Affairs in **collaboration with the Government of Gujarat**.

Union Minister **Amit Shah inaugurated an e-resource web portal of the Inter-State Council Secretariat.**

The **digital portal can be used by Central Ministries and departments as well as State governments and UTs for policy intervention**.

During the meetings of Zonal Councils held between 2014 and 2023, **1143 issues** were resolved, which is more than **90%** of the total issues, which shows the importance of Zonal Councils.

The **2nd G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meeting began in Gandhinagar**.

The meeting began with the opening remarks by **Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood.**

There will be a total of Four sessions on **themes such as 'Opportunities in One Health, Synergizing Global Efforts to expand the Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge'**, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Science & Technology and Institutional Mechanism for Inclusive Global S&T Policy Dialogue.

India has handed over the B20 presidency to Brazil to **host G20 in 2024**.

B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran said that India's B20 Presidency under its G20 Presidency worked **under the theme of Vasaudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future).**

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) is organizing a conference on "Review of PLI-Auto Scheme - Excellence through Aatmanirbharta" at India Habitat Centre.

The **conference will be chaired by Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey**, Union Minister for Heavy Industries.

Road Transport and Highways Minister **Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the world's first 100% Ethanol-fueled car** in **New Delhi**, **Delhi.**

Mr. Gadkari termed this day as historic saying that the **world's first BS-VI (Stage-II), electrified flex-fuel vehicle** has been launched which can function fully on **ethanol-based fuel.**

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Anurag Singh Thakur** inaugurated many infrastructure projects worth **Rs. 13 Crores**, which included state-of-the-art Weightlifting Hall, Fitness centre, modern hostels and Guest House at Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Textile and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution of India and **Hon Damien O'Connor,** Minister for Trade and Export Growth of New Zealand, had a **bilateral meeting** at **New Delhi**.

President Droupadi Murmu released the **commemorative coin on NT Rama Rao, a former chief minister of Andhra**

Pradesh (AP) & a legendary Indian actor on his centenary year at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, **New Delhi, Delhi.**

The government has launched a mobile app namely '**Khanan Prahari**' and a web app **Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS)** for reporting unauthorized coal mining activities so that monitoring and taking suitable action on it can be done by concerned Law and Order enforcing authority.

September

Minister of Civil Aviation, **Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia** along with Gen. Vijay Kumar Singh (Rtd.) MoS, Ministry of Civil Aviation **inaugurated Utkela Airport** and a **direct flight between Utkela** and **Bhubaneshwar.**

President Draupadi Murmu launched the state-level **program of "Year of Positive Change"** at Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya in Raipur**, Chhattisgarh.**

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** will be organizing the **Global India AI 2023**, scheduled for **October 2023.**
Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar chairs the **conference's steering committee** which is entrusted with the task of shaping the contours of the **Global India AI 2023.**

The **addition of 6 new members** to the **BRICS grouping** will see it **controlling 46%** of the **world's population** and **30% of** its economic output.
The new members will become part of BRICS effective **January 1, 2024**.The acronym BRICS was originally coined in **2001** by Goldman Sachs economists led by **Jim O'Neill.**

The **Union Cabinet** has given the green light to the **National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation** in the **Pharma-MedTech Sector.**
The National Policy focuses on **3 key areas:** strengthening the regulatory framework, incentivizing investment in innovation, and enabling an ecosystem for innovation and research.

The Sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah begins and the Government is celebrating it **through out September this year**.

The **Archeological Survey of India** (ASI) **has 3696 monuments under protection,** which are spread throughout the country. **ASI will be launching the "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" programme** at Samvet Auditorium, IGNCA, **New Delhi**. The programme is a revamped version of the **earlier scheme launched in 2017** and clearly defines the amenities sought for different monuments as per **AMASR Act 1958.**

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted its 5th regional meeting in Kigali, Rwanda** supported by the

Government of Rwanda, with 36 countries and Ministers of 15 countries participating.
Shri R. K. Singh, who joined the meeting virtually from New Delhi, **inaugurated a total of nine solar power demonstration projects** in the Republic of **Uganda**, the Union of **Comoros** and the **Republic of Mali. Four** of these projects are in **Uganda, two** in **Comoros** and **three in Mali.**

The **combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 8.0 per cent (provisional) in July** 2023 as compared to the Index of July 2022.
The **Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items** included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP).**

Reliance-backed **Viacom18 has bagged BCCI TV** and digital rights, in a **five-year deal worth ₹5,963 crore.** This further cements **Viacom's OTT bid**, eroding **Disney Star's digital supremacy** on the counter.

Good performance of agriculture and financial sectors helped the **Indian economy to grow by 7.8 per cent** in the **April-June quarter of fiscal year 2023-24** (Q1FY24), Statistics office reported.
Economic growth based on **GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth rate was 13.1 per cent** during **April-June quarter** 2022-23 and **6.1 per cent** during **January-March quarter** of previous fiscal (**FY23).**

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah,** launched the **Amrit Kalash Yatra under the 'Meri Mati-Mera Desh' campaign** in **New Delhi**.
Amrit Vatika will be built near the **National War Memorial**, symbolizing a commitment to Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala will chair** a **one-day "National Conference on KCC** for Fisheries" at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre **in Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Shri Parshottam Rupala laid the **Foundation Stone** for the establishment of **Multi-Purpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu**. This begins a new chapter and is seen as a key **strategic initiative to boost the seaweed sector in India.**

Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Steel, inaugurated the '**International Aerospace Conference.**
Moving Towards Inclusive Global Value Chains'. It was jointly **organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Confederation of Indian Industry** (CII) on 1st and 2nd September 2023 in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**.

The three-day **G20 technical workshop** on **Climate Resilient Agriculture** was inaugurated by the union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ms Shoba Karandlaje at Shamshad **in Hyderabad**.
The Minister said several initiatives were

launched by the country in climate change like the **Network Project on Climate Change** (NPCC), **National Action Plan on Climate Change** (NAPCC) with long-term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change.

Minister of State for Culture **Meenakshi Lekhi** launched **Adopt a Heritage 2.0** programme **in New Delhi** to **enhance the visitor experience at the Heritage Site**.
The programme is envisioned by the **Archaeological Survey of India** to **collaborate** with the **private sector companies, trusts and NGOs.**

Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Amrita Patel Centre of Public Health in Anand in Gujarat.** The Government is stressing holistic health to **strengthen the health infrastructure in the country.**

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 3-year partnership "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a Generation of Students, Educators and Entrepreneurs".**

The **National eGovernance Division** (NeGD) will integrate **Personalised Adaptive Learning** (PAL) into the **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing** (DIKSHA) platform.

The **government** has **granted deemed university** status to the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).**
This announcement was made by **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** while attending the **63rd Foundation Day Celebration Programme of NCERT in New Delhi**.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be on a two-day **visit to Indonesia** to attend the **20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit.** The two Summits will be **hosted in Jakarta by Indonesia, the current Chair of ASEAN.**

In the run-up to the **18th G20 Summit**, a day-long conference on "**Green Hydrogen Pilots in India" was held in New Delhi.**
National Green Hydrogen Mission are **the pilot projects**, which have been allocated **Rs. 1,466 crores**.

The **Jal Jeevan Mission** (JJM) achieved another milestone of providing tap water connections to 13 Crore rural households.
The Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2019 as the country celebrated its 73rd Independence Day.

The **world's tallest Nataraja statue** has been **installed at Bharat Mandapam**, the venue of the **G20 summit in Delhi**.
It has been **installed at Bharat Mandapam**, the venue of the **G20 summit in Delhi**. The **28-foot-tall statue** weighing **20 tonnes** was made in a record time of seven months by sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapathy and his team at Swamimalai in

Thanjavur District of **Tamil Nadu.**
The **statue was built in Ashtadhatu** (8 metals) using the traditional casting method.

Average processing time of Income Tax Returns (ITR) has been **reduced to ten days** in the Assessment Year **2023-24.** The average processing time of ITR was **82 days in the Assessment Year 2019-20,** and **16 days** in Assessment **Year 2022-23.**

India has built the world's first disaster hospital that can be airlifted, packed in **72 cubes** It has been named as '**Aarogya Maitri Cube'.**
What is Aarogya Maitri Cube? Aarogya Maitri Cube is the world's first disaster hospital that can be airlifted. It has been developed indigenously **under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri).**

The **latest/sixth edition of** the **Minor Irrigation Census** (MIC) finds that **electricity** is the dominant source (3/4th) of power to **extract water, over diesel, windmills, and solar pumps**.
UP had the largest number of MI schemes in the country (17.2%) followed by **Maharashtra (15.4%) and MP (9.9%).**

The Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble **PM Shri Narendra Modi** has approved an amount of **Rs. 1164.53 cr**. for the **Industrial Development Scheme** (IDS), 2017 for **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.**

The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister **approves the Scheme for Viability Gap Funding** (VGF) for the **development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).** The approved scheme envisages **development of 4,000 MWh of BESS projects** by **2030-31.**

NTPC Limited, a state-owned power producer, is set to commission **India's 1st inaugural Green Hydrogen fueling station** in **Ladakh** within the coming month. **Green Hydrogen Production and Usage :** The project is designed to generate **80 kilograms per day** of exceptionally pure Hydrogen, measuring at 99.97% purity.

The Ministry of Tourism will **launch a national competition** on '**Tourism for Tomorrow**' to identify best practices and case studies aligned with **five priorities** of the **G20 Goa roadmap.** The competition will be launched on **World Tourism Day on the 27th of September.**

The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** (FSSAI) has recently recognised **Mithun, a semi domesticated bovine animal** as a food animal paving the **way for the promotion** of its consumption and commercial rearing on the hills of Northeast.

The Union government has released draft guidelines to curb "**dark patterns" used by online platforms.** The **Department of Consumer Affairs** (DoCA) conducted an interactive stakeholder consultation on **'Dark Patterns' in June 2023.**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Around **56 per cent** of **total new internet users** will be from rural **India by 2025**, according to a **report by TransUnion CIBIL,** which said that currently, **36% of digital payment** users hail from rural parts of the country.

The Union government has further **tightened rules** for the **ultimate beneficiary and fine tuned** the definition of reporting entity under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).**
The **Finance Ministry** has notified **changes in the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005**. Accordingly, a person having ownership of more than 10% of the capital or profits of a partnership will be brought within the ambit of the sub rule 3 as a 'beneficial owner'.

India announced the launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance and urged **G-20 nations** to join the initiative with a plea to take **ethanol blending with petrol** globally to **20%.**
U.S. President Joe Biden, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and **Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni** on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. Besides India, the initiating members include **Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, the UAE and the U.S.,** while Canada and Singapore are observer countries.

PM Modi addressed the **20th ASEAN-India summit at Jakarta** in Indonesia. He presented a **12-point proposal to strengthen India-ASEAN cooperation.** He informed us that the **India-ASEAN partnership** has reached the **fourth decade.** He informed me it is an honour for him to **co-chair the Summit**. PM Modi informed ASEAN is the central pillar of India's Act East policy.

New Delhi Leaders' Declaration adopted at the **G20 summit 2023**.G20 leaders have given **100% consensus on all 83 paras of the Declaration**.
As per **India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant**, every single country has come together to focus on green development. The European Commission urged G20 countries to agree to global targets on tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling **energy efficiency by 2030..**

The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the **eCourts Project Phase III** as a Central Sector Scheme spanning four years (2023 onwards) with a **financial outlay of Rs.7210 crore**.
As a part of the **National eGovernance Plan**, the e-Courts Project has been under implementation since 2007 for ICT enablement of the Indian Judiciary Phase II which will conclude in 2023.

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi approved the **FDI proposal for foreign investment** of up to **Rs.9589 crore in M/s Suven**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Pharmaceuticals Limited by M/s Berhyanda Limited, Cyprus.
The aggregate foreign investment may **increase up to 90.1% in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited.** The proposal has been evaluated by **SEBI, RBI, CCI** and other relevant agencies.

Both G2G and B2B bilateral Cooperation in the field of **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) will be enhanced.** The activities contemplated in this MoU would be financed through their administration's regular operating allocations.

Cabinet approves signing of an MoU between India and Antigua & Barbuda on cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the **extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** (PMUY) for the release of **75 lakh LPG connections** over three years from **Financial Year 2023-24** to **2025-26.**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL August

In the year 2023, **Dubai has taken the lead in kick-starting the Indian Independence Day festivities,** uniting its diverse population and the thriving Indian expatriate community in a grand celebration.

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE) has secured the top spot as the leading employer of Indian expatriates, with an impressive figure of 3.554 million Indians currently working within its borders, V Muraleedharan**, the Minister of State for External Affairs, disclosed this in the Lok Sabha.
The Minister also revealed that in the previous year, **the UAE hosted 3.419 million Indians, indicating a steady upward trajectory in overseas employment**.
Within the Gulf region, **the UAE's prominence is complemented by 4 other nations - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman - in descending order of Indian workforce numbers**.

The **77th Independence Day of India was celebrated by the High Commission of India in Bangladesh** on 15th August 2023.

The **19th round of the India- China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point** on the **Indian side** on the 13th and 14th of August.

United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Rishi Sunak participated in the recitation of the Indian epic 'Ramayan'.
The **Programme was led by spiritual leader Morari Bapu at the Cambridge University event.**

The United States (US) has approved the transfer of F-16 fighter jets from Denmark and the **Netherlands to Ukraine**.

Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and IT, **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar** held bilateral meetings with the ministerial delegations and other senior representatives from Bangladesh, South Korea, France and Türkiye at the **Fourth Meeting of G20 Digital Economy Working Group.**
The discussion focused on potential collaborations around India Stack, Cyber Security and Skilling.

Indian Navy (IN) and **United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy** to conduct bilateral exercise '**Zayed Talwar 2023** from 8th to 11 August 2023.
Two ships of the Indian Navy, **INS Visakhapatnam,** and **INS Trikand** under the command of Rear Admiral Vineet McCarty, **Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF)** arrived at Port Rashid in Dubai.
The two ships will be commanded by Captain Ashok Rao and Captain Pramod G Thomas respectively.
Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry represented India in the **20th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' meeting held on 21st August 2023 in Semarang, Indonesia** and co-chaired the meeting with Dr. Zulkifli Hasan, Minister of Trade, Indonesia.
The Economic Ministers or their representatives from all the **10 ASEAN** countries viz. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the meeting. **Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste also joined the Meeting as an observer.**
He also interacted with the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) and took note of the activities undertaken by AIBC in 2023, including the **5th ASEAN-India Business Summit held on 6th March 2023 in Kuala Lumpur**.
India and ASEAN registered a bilateral trade of USD 131.5 billion in 2022-23.
The trade with ASEAN accounted for 11.3% of India's global trade in 2022-23.

The **United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved **Abrysvo (Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine),** the **first vaccine** approved for use in pregnant individuals to **prevent lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD)** and severe LRTD caused by **respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** in infants from birth through **6 months of age.**
Pfizer has developed this respiratory syncytial virus vaccine.
With this, the **United States (US)** became the **1st country** to approve a vaccine for pregnant women that prevents severe disease caused by RSV in their babies.

Pakistan President Arif Alvi denied signing the Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 and Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 into law due to his strong disagreement with the legislation.

The Saudi Environment Ministry has **launched a program to combat desertification using artificial intelligence (AI).**
The forthcoming Saudi Green Initiative

(SGI) Forum, to be held in Riyadh on 23-24 October,2023.

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **prestigious Grand Cross of the Order of Honour** by **Greek President Katerina N Sakellaropoulou,** a special honour reflecting the strength of the India-Greece partnership.
Shri Narendra Modi became the **first foreign Head of Government** to receive the Grand Cross of the Order of Honor.
The Grand Cross of the Order of Honor, an award established in **1975** to honour individuals for their contributions to Greece.
The Star of the Order features the head of the goddess Athena and the inscription "**ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS SHOULD BE HONOURED,**" representing the values of honour and righteousness.

The **15th BRICS summit** was held from the **22nd to 24th August,2023** at the Sandton Convention Centre in **South Africa.**
A major outcome of the BRICS Summit was the decision of the BRICS leaders to expand its membership to include 6 new members. These countries are - **Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt,** and **Ethiopia** were set to enter BRICS from **Jan. 1, 2024,** joining current members **Brazil, Russia, India, China** and **South Africa** to make an **11-nation bloc**.
The 15th BRICS summit was hosted by **South Africa with the Theme** - BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism.

The **Indian Navy submarine, INS Vagir,** a Kalvari-class submarine, **has embarked on an extended-range deployment that began in June 2023 & it is scheduled to reach Fremantle, Australia.**
INS Vagir, the fifth submarine of the Kalvari class, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2023

During a conference commemorating Defence Industry Day, **Iran's Defence Ministry** unveiled its **new domestically built drone** named **Mohajer-10** , resembling America's armed MQ-9 Reaper.
"Mohajer" means "**immigrant**" in Farsi and has been a drone line manufactured by the Islamic Republic since 1985.

China and **Bhutan** held their **first meeting of the Joint Technical Team** on the Delimitation of the China-Bhutan Boundary in Beijing.

In a major boost to indigenisation, the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract with **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)** for the acquisition of **5 indigenously built Fleet Support Ships (FSS)** for the **Indian Navy** at an overall cost of around **Rs 19,000 crore.**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** took part in the **BRICS (encompasses Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue** in **Johannesburg,South Africa.**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD), **Shri Parshottam Rupala chaired the 2nd National Advisory Committee meeting for Animal Husbandry and Dairying formed** under the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, inaugurated the 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers' initiative in New Delhi to educate grassroots workers and enable them to raise awareness about sickle cell anaemia, particularly in tribal regions.
The Government declared a **Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia** by 2047 in the budget of 2023-24.
The Mission was formally launched by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, on 1st July 2023 in the Shahdol District of **Madhya Pradesh.**

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the **3rd edition** of the **Fit India Quiz,** among other initiatives, at an event at the JLN Stadium.

The **Centre** has **extended** the **mixed route of wage payment** including the **National Automated Clearing House and Aadhaar Based Payment System**-ABPS route till the **31st of December, 2023.**.

The **government** will provide a **grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh** for startups and individuals **to promote innovation** in the **niche technical textiles segment**.

The **Indian government** has **extended** the **deadline** for the **production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme** for the **automobile and auto component industry** by another year, until **2027-28.**
The scheme, originally set to run from 2022-23 to 2026-27, **aims** to **promote local manufacturing of advanced automotive technology (AAT) products,** including electric vehicles, through subsidies.
Currently, tests are conducted at the **Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)** and the **International Centre for Automotive Technology (iCAT),** but the addition of the **Global Automotive Research Centre (GARC), Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** and the **National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX)**, Madhya Pradesh (MP) will help facilitate faster testing.
Under the Automotive PLI scheme, incentives are applicable for **determined sales of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products** (vehicles and components) manufactured in India from April 1, 2022, onwards for a period of 5 consecutive years.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited ("BPCL"), a prominent 'Maharatna' and Fortune Global 500 Company, unveiled its **ambitious roadmap** for the **next 5 years** at the **70th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held**.
The company has planned a capex outlay of around **Rs. 1.5 Lakh Crore** in the next 5 years.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The **first tropical storm to hit Los Angeles in more than 80 years unleashed floods across parts of Southern California.**

September

The **Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival**, spanning 3 days, concluded in **Lalitpur, Nepal**. The festival was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, **NP Saud.**

Indonesia has introduced a '**golden visa**' **program** aimed at attracting foreign individuals and corporate investors to stimulate its national economy.
The golden visa offers an extended residence permit for a duration of **5 to 10 years,** providing a long-term stay option for eligible applicants.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed for India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) at G20 Summit
The **IMEC project is part of the PGII (P**artnership for Global Infrastructure Investment), which is a **Western-led initiative** aimed at **funding infrastructure projects worldwide.** It is considered a response to **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).**

The **United Kingdom (UK) government** has officially announced its decision to **rejoin Horizon Europe, the European Union's research funding program with a budget of €95 billion**.
In addition to Horizon Europe, the UK will also rejoin the European Union's Earth observation program, known as Copernicus.

Group of Twenty (G20) leaders have unanimously endorsed the "**Goa Roadmap for Tourism**" as a significant step toward achieving **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
The "Goa Roadmap" is an outcome of India's G20 Tourism Track and serves as a blueprint for promoting sustainable global tourism.

STATE NEWS

August

The government of **Telangana**, in collaboration with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** and the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** launched **India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) & Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF)** in Hyderabad, Telangana.
Developed as a digital public infrastructure (DPI) for the agriculture sector, ADeX is an open-source, open-standard, and interoperable public good.
In Phase-I, the ADeX Platform is currently deployed in the Khammam district of Telangana and over a period, will be expanded to the entire state.

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways inaugurated a **multi-level flyover built** at Chandni Chowk in Maharashtra's Pune will address traffic congestion in the city.

Arunachal Pradesh Government has allotted the 12 'stalled' hydropower

projects to three Central Public Sector Undertakings by signing a Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) with them.
The total operational capacity of these 12 projects, withdrawn from the private players, will be to the tune of 11,523 MW. The 3 CPSUs are National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO).

Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister (CM) **Yogi Adityanath** and Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** jointly **inaugurated the Youth 20 Summit -2023 at Rudraksha International Cooperation and Convention Centre at Varanasi, UP.**
The **Youth 20 (Y20) Summit has been organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the framework of India's G20 Presidency**.

The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi has called India's first 3D printed Post Office at Cambridge Layout, Bengaluru**, a testament to our nation's innovation and progress.
3D printing technology is a fast-emerging way of constructing structures, using computer-aided design to create three-dimensional objects through a layering method.

The Union Minister for Roads Transport and Highways**, Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the quadranglement of the Nandura to Chikhli section of 45 km length on National Highway 53 worth Rs.800 crore at Malkapur in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.**

States have taken efforts **to achieve the District level target of 75 Amrit Sarovar in each of the districts of the State with an exception in the case of West Bengal, Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Bihar and Rajasthan wherein some of the districts are yet to achieve the target of 75 Amrit Sarovars per district**.
Mission Amrit Sarovar has been launched by the Prime Minister on **24th April 2022** with an objective to provide sustainable water sources wherein every district is expected to construct/ rejuvenate a minimum of 75 Amrit Sarovar.

NLC India Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal has entered into a Long **Term Power Usage Agreement with Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited for the supply of 300 MW Solar Power under the CPSU Scheme at Rajasthan.**
NLCIL presently has 1,421 MW of Renewable Energy Capacity.
As per the Corporate Plan of the company, **it contemplates establishing 6,031 MW capacity by 2030.**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah, planted the 4 Crore tree under the All-India Tree Plantation Campaign of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the CRPF Group Center in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

He also inaugurated 15 newly constructed buildings, built for Rs. 165 crores, across 8 different campuses of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal to chair the 19th meeting of the Maritime State Development Council** (MSDC) scheduled on 18th and 19th August **at Kevadia in Gujarat**.
The MSDC meeting aims to address key issues and progress of India's maritime sector.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has commenced the construction of the **world's highest motorable road, the Likaru-Migla-Fukche road close to Hanle in Eastern Ladakh**.
The **64-km long road will connect Likaru to Fukche** which **is situated three kilometres away from the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.**

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal attended the roadshow organised by Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMPK) for the ensuing Global Maritime India Summit, 2023 (GMIS) in Kolkata.**
In a bid to transform the maritime sector in West Bengal, he announced that West Bengal has an investment opportunity of **Rs 1 lakh crore (1 trillion)** in the port and logistics sector, adding that this investment will make the state a maritime hub of the country.

The Telangana government has announced a farm loan waiver of up to 99999 rupees & it will be **cleared within the next 45 days.**
It will fulfil the electoral commitment made by **Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to waive farm loans of up to one lakh rupees.**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde launched **a mobile app and WhatsApp helpline for the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund** for patients who have successfully overcome chronic and serious diseases.
A helpline number 8650567567 has been started for patients and their relatives.
On this occasion, **the 5th edition of the medical aid manual and the book 'Rokhthok' based on the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray was launched.**

The **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** unveiled a pioneering initiative called **CarbonLite Metro Travel** to **educate passengers** about their significant contribution towards **reducing carbon emissions** by choosing metro trains.
It is a new initiative of the DMRC to help people understand their contribution to reducing CO_2 emissions by opting for metro rail services.
Shri Manoj Kumar, Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), **inaugurated multiple Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) initiatives during his visit to Tamil Nadu.**
West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee**, after holding a meeting with

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Durga Puja committees announced an increase of **₹70,000 grant** to puja committees in the state.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami chaired a meeting with officials of his advisory group constituted with an aim to provide guidance for the upcoming **Global Investors Summit, 2023.**

Former President of India **Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) school** at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The Tamilnadu Government began the breakfast Scheme in 31,000 schools.

To ensure transparency, **the Gujarat government launched a new software that will make online payment compulsory for Panchayati Raj institutions in the state, ending the practice of cheque payment to contractors and vendors.**

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel **launched the Panchayati Raj Accounting Information System Automation, or PRAISA, at a state-level programme of 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' in Gandhinagar**, Gujarat.

The **Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government** introduced the '**Manav Sampada Portal**' with the objective of **instilling transparency** and **accountability** in the functioning of officers and employees across all 74 departments in the state.

To oversee these operations and manage the portal, a new division (**Section-5**) will be established within the Personnel Department, with the **Project Management Unit (PMU)** operating at the **National Informatics Centre (NIC) level.**

The **Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the Government of Telangana** has joined hands with **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** to implement the **UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** by signing a Letter of Intent to drive efforts and action.

UNESCO produced the first-ever global standard on AI ethics – the 'Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence' in **November 2021.**

Sri Lanka hosted its **very first Karnataka cultural festival** organized by the **International Cultural Council of India** in collaboration with **Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre** and **M.E Global Peace Foundation with an aim** to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Karnataka and acknowledge the shared cultural heritage between India and Sri Lanka.

The **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** government has **increased** the **financial assistance** provided to women under the **Ladli Behna scheme** from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month to offer economic support and empowerment to women in MP.

September

Uttar Pradesh (UP) has emerged with the **highest adoption rate of electric**

vehicles in the country, with **1,70,269 electric vehicles** registered in the state. According to data from Vahan, which tracks vehicle registrations, there has been a **4.9% increase** in the overall number of electric vehicles registered in India.

Delhi Environment and Forest Minister Gopal Rai launched a **portal evanlekh.eforest.delhi.gov.in** to enhance public awareness about the forest and wildlife sanctuary areas that need protection.
Also, users can generate **KML (formerly known as Keyhole Markup Language) files** on the portal. KML is an **XML (eXtensible Markup Language)** based file format for displaying information in a **geographic context** in an Earth browser such as Google Earth.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **M.K. Stalin**, has initiated a series of podcasts titled "**Speaking for India**" as part of his campaign against the BJP-led Union government.
These podcasts will be made available in **multiple languages,** including English and various Indian languages, through translations. The audio series aims to shed light on how the BJP-led government, which is expected to conclude in **2024**, has impacted India.

Kerala Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Pinarayi Vijayan** has launched the statewide membership card of **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) 'LEAP (Launch,Empower,Accelerate, Prosper) Coworks'**
The **primary goal** is to provide an environment conducive to innovation and collaboration, fostering a successful startup ecosystem.

The **Assam** government has established a **3 -member committee** to draft a law aimed at **ending polygamy within Assam.**
The newly formed committee has been tasked with preparing the draft for an anti-polygamy Bill within a stipulated period of **45 days.**

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** launched the **Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL)** from Nadaun in district Hamirpur, HP.
Approximately 400 schools across Hamirpur, Solan, and Shimla districts are included in this scheme.

The **Jharkhand** Cabinet, led by Chief Minister (CM) Hemant Soren, has approved the **inclusion** of the **transgender community** in the state's universal pension scheme, known as "**Mukhyamantri Rajya Samajik Suraksha Pension Yojana.**"
Under this scheme, transgender individuals will receive a monthly pension of **Rs 1,000.**

The **Salem Starch** and **Sago Manufacturers Service Industrial Co-operative Society Limited,** commonly known as Sago Serve, has been conferred with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** for **Salem Sago.**

The District Collector, **S Karmegam,** officially presented the GI certificate to Lalithaditya Neelam, the Administrator of Sago Serve, during an official program.

Nagaland has become the **1st State** in the **North Eastern Region to initiate Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration (ALBR).**
This innovative initiative integrates Aadhaar enrollment for children in the age group of **0 to 5 years** within the birth registration process.

N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and former Chief Minister (CM) of Andhra Pradesh, has been **arrested** on charges of corruption.
The AP State Skill Development Corporation was established to provide skill training to youth during the TDP regime, which governed Andhra Pradesh from **2014 to 2019.**

Union Home Minister **Shri Amit Shah** chaired the **26th Western Zonal Council meeting held** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

The **Gujarat government** has announced that **Ahmedabad** has become the **2nd city in India** to adopt an **Emission Trading Scheme (ETS).**
The ETS in Ahmedabad specifically targets particulate matter (PM) emissions and is the **world's 1st ETS dedicated to PM emissions**.

Odisha's 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice,' renowned for its unique aroma and nutritional value, has been officially recognized with **Geographical Indications (GI) status.**
With the support of the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and the **Odisha government's department of agriculture and farmers empowerment,** the farmers' organisation received the GI tag for 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice.'

The **Maharashtra cabinet** has decided to implement a **cyber-security project worth Rs 837 crore** due to increasing cases of cybercrime in Maharashtra.
The project encompasses critical components like a **Command and Control Centre, Technology Assisted Investigation capabilities, a Center of Excellence, a Cloud-Based Data Centre,** and a **Security Operation Centre**, collectively enhancing the state's cybersecurity capabilities.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS

August

Indian telecommunications major, **Reliance Jio has completed the work related to connecting Maldives with a High-Speed Optic Fibre cable.**
A ceremony was held in Hulhumale in Maldives to land the **Ocean Connect Maldives-India Asia Express (OCM-IAX) Submarine Cable System.**

The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers is (-) 1.36% (Provisional) for the month of July 2023 (over July 2022) against **(-) 4.12% recorded in June 2023**.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Decline in the rate of inflation in July, 2023 is primarily contributed by fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemical & chemical products, textiles and food products.

India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in July 2023* are estimated to be USD 59.43 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 5.06% **over July 2022.**
Overall imports in July 2023 are estimated to be USD 67.77 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 12.92 per cent **over July 2022**.
According to depositories data, **foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** put in a net sum of 8,394 crore rupees in the Indian equities and 4,646 crore rupees in the debt market, taking the net investment in the Indian capital markets to **13,040 crore rupees** during the August 1 and August 18 period.
The **Employees' Provident Fund Organization** (EPFO) recorded an impressive **growth of 17.89 lakh net members in June 2023**.
Notably, there was an addition of 9.71% net members compared to the previous month of May 2023.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has secured an order worth ₹2,500 crore for the fabrication and supply of pipe rack modules for a 2.3-MMTPA **urea plant for Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilizers Pty in Australia.**

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has decided to **decrease** the **minimum capital requirement** for **Foreign Reinsurance Businesses (FRBs)** from Rs 100 crores to **Rs 50 crores** with an aim to attract more foreign reinsurers to operate in India and participate in the Indian insurance market.

September

State-owned **ONGC plans to invest** around **₹2 trillion** towards its **energy transition efforts until 2038.**
The company had **announced its plans to invest ₹1 trillion over the next 7 years** on energy transition initiatives.

Coal Production in the country **grew by 12.85 percent to 67.65 Million Tonnes** in the month of **August** this year as **compared to 59.95 Million Tonnes** in the same month of last year.
The cumulative coal production till August 2023 has also seen a quantum jump to around **349 million Tonnes** during the current fiscal as compared to over 316 Million Tonnes during the same period of the previous year.

Up-front tax devolutions and higher expenditure pushed the **Centre's fiscal deficit to Rs 6.1 lakh crore or 34 percent** of the budget estimate during the **April-July period of the current fiscal** (2023-24).
This is nearly **78 percent higher than last fiscal.**The deficit during the corresponding period of the **last fiscal was ₹3.4 lakh crore or 20.5 percent** of the budget estimate.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Indian Oil Corporation (**IOC**) plans to **spend about ₹2.4 lakh crore** to achieve its **net-zero operational emissions target by 2046**
The expansion includes a **new 9-million tonnes-per-annum oil refinery** at Nagapattinam in **Tamil Nadu.** In **LPG**, it has l**aunched** a unique **QR code-based** '**Track N Trace**' pilot initiative.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has expanded its long-standing **partnership with Athora Netherlands** (formerly VIVAT)
To help the **Dutch life insurance and pension provider** with a **better IT operating model to enhance customer experience, operational resilience and business agility.**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has **imposed a penalty** of **Rs 1 crore on Bharti Airtel** for **failure to comply with the provisions of Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002.**

Amazon has announced a $15-million allocation for nature-based solutions in the **Asia-Pacific (APAC) region**.
The fund will invest an **initial $3 million** into projects in India, beginning with a **first project** in the Western Ghats to plant 300,000 trees.

Digital payments provider **Pine Labs has launched Mini**, a cheaper variant of its **point-of-sale (PoS) device**, which will allow merchants to **accept both quick response (QR)-based and card-based payments.**

Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) **opened for subscription** which will remain open for buying till 15th September. This is the **second Series of SGB** schemes in the **2023-24 fiscal**.
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the price of the gold bonds will be **5,923 rupees per gram**.

Market share of PSU general insurers reached for the **first time below a third of industry's premium.**
PSU insurers' market share declined to less than a **third at 32.5% from 33.4%.Premium income** of **PSUs declined from ₹37,100 crore to ₹34,203 crore**.

Retail inflation, based on the **Consumer Price Index (CPI), slipped to 6.83 per cent in August** this year.
The **Consumer Food Price Index** (CFPI) for August stood **at 9.94**% falling from 11.51 percent in July.
The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has **granted approval** for the **re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** of India's 2nd largest private sector bank, **ICICI Bank.**
Sandeep Bakhshi's re-appointment is for a **duration of 3 years,** effective from **October 4, 2023, until October 3, 2026.**This marks his 2nd tenure extension. Previously, in 2021, **he was reappointed for a period of 2 years.**

The **index of industrial production** jumped to a 5-month high. As per the

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, **IIP grew by 5.7% in July** this year as compared to **3.7% in June 2023**.

Appointments & Resignations

August

Name of the Person	Appointed as	Key Points/Resignations
R Doraiswamy	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) - managing director (MD)	Ipe Mini
Kamlesh Chandra Varshney and Amarjeet Singh	SEBI - full-time directors	-
Neelkanth Mishra	Part-time chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	-
Nilesh Shah & Mausam	Part-time members of the UIDAI board	-
Dinesh Khara	State Bank of India- chairman	-
K Balasubramanian	Citigroup - head of banking, capital markets and advisory (BCMA) for South Asia and India	Ravi Kapoor
Srettha Thavisin of Pheu Thai Party (PTP)	Thailand - 30th Prime Minister	Prayuth Chan-Ocha
Rafael Nadal	Infosys - ambassador	-
Shubman Gill	Tata Capital - Brand ambassador	-
Justice Prakash Shrivastava	National Green Tribunal (NGT) - Chairperson	Sheo Kumar Singh
Kartik Aaryan	Dabur India Limited -	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

	Brand Ambassador	
Shiney Prasad	Guardian Life Insurance of America -Country Head - India	-
Umesh Revankar	Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) - Chairman	-
Kamlesh Gandhi & K V Srinivasan	FIDC-co-chairmen	-
Emmerson Mnangagwa (second and final 5-year term)	Zimbabwe - President	-
Dr Sonali Ghosh	Kaziranga National Park in Assam - 1st woman field director	Jatindra Sarma

September

Geetika Srivastava	India's 1st Woman diplomat to head mission	Suresh Kumar
N. V. Ramana	Member of Singapore's International Mediator Panel	-
Sanjeev Kapoor	Brand ambassador for its Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand	-
Jaya Varma Sinha	1st Woman Chairperson & CEO of Railway Board	Anil Kumar Lahoti
Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema	Commander-in-Chief of the Gabonese Republican Guard	-
Atul Verma	Director-General (DG) - Competition Commission of India (CCI)	3-month extension
Tharman	9th President of	Halimah Yacob,

Shanmugaratnam	Singapore.	Singapore's 1st female president
Dipak Gupta	MD and CEO - Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited	Uday Kotak
Manish Desai	Principal Director General - PIB	Rajesh Malhotra
Actor R Madhavan	President of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)	Shekhar Kapur
Rajesh Nambiar	Chairperson of the Nasscom	Anant Maheshwari
Sato Kilman	Prime Minister - Vanuatu	Alatoi Ishmael Kalsakau'
Sudarshan Venu	Member-trustee - Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trust board.	-
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	new brand ambassador - Swaraj Tractors	-
Mahavir Lunawat	Chairman - Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI)	-

Awards & Honors

August

Name of the Person	Award	Key Points
Veeyapuram Chundan (Snake Boat), rowed by the Pallathuruthy Boat Club	69th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race	This is the fourth straight win for the Club, which lifted the trophy in 2018, 2019 and 2022.
IG Manoj Vasant Baadkar, TM	President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service)	The award was presented for their act of conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty and

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		distinguished/meritorious service on the occasion of Independence Day 2023.
Comdt (JG) Anurag Shukla Sultan Singh	Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)	-
DIG Manoj Bhatia DIG KR Deepak Kumar Deobrat Kumar Mishra	Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)	-
Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel	76 Gallantry awards (include four Kirti Chakra (posthumous), 11 Shaurya Chakras, including five posthumous, two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).	-
Veteran entrepreneur Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata	Maharashtra Government's inaugural 'Udyog Ratna' award	'Udyog Ratna Award recognizes outstanding contributions in the industry sector.
954 Police personnel	Police Medals	President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been awarded to 01 CRPF personnel, Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 229, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		(PPM) awarded to 82 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service has (PM) has been awarded to 642.
Best feature film award - Rocketry: The Nambi Effect Best Non-Feature Film - Ek Tha Gaon directed by Srishti Lakhera.	69th National Film Awards	Click here to know about complete list of 69th National Film Awards
SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj	National Award for e-Governance 2023 (GOLD)	-

September

Assam-based oncologist Ravi Kannan	Ramon Magsaysay Award	India's fourth-highest civilian award Padma Shri and the director of Assam's Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC), has been named one of the four winners of the 2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel prize.
Vijayawada Railway Station	'Green Railway Station'	The highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) is part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and was formed in the year 2001.
Open AI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sam Altman	Indonesian golden visa	He is the first person to get an Indonesian golden visa as Southeast Asia's largest economy seeks to draw foreign investors.
Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General of CSIR. (This year 12 scientists will get the awards in seven categories)	Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Awards	This award was announced after a gap of two years

RANKING & INDEX

August

Index Name	Released by	India's Rank	Top Three/Key Points
Brand Finance Food and Drink Report 2023	United Kingdom (UK)-based Brand Finance	Amul - world's strongest dairy brand	-
4th edition of the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC)	-	Madhya Pradesh (Indore) emerged as the top performing state	Among states, 1.Madhya Pradesh (Indore) 2.Tamil Nadu 3.Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Among cities, 1.Indore 2.Surat 3.Agra.
6th census on	Ministry of Jal	Uttar Pradesh -	1.Uttar Pradesh

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

minor irrigation schemes	Shakti	largest number of minor irrigation (MI) schemes	2.Maharashtra 3.Madhya Pradesh (MP)

September

Fortune India Rich List	-	1. Mukesh Ambani, the founder of Reliance Industries (RIL) With a wealth of $99.7 billion. 2. Gautam Adani, the chairman of the Adani Group With a wealth of $63.71 billion	-

CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

Name of the Exercise/INS/ Events	Partakers/Organisation	Venue	Edition/hosted by	Key Points
'INS Vindhyagiri'	President Droupadi Murmu	Kolkata, West Bengal (WB)	-	It is named after the mountain range in Karnataka, the advanced stealth frigate INS Vindhyagiri is the 6th ship of the Project 17A Frigates.
INS Visakhapatna	-	Al-Shuwaikh Port in Kuwait	-	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

m				
2023 edition of Defence Correspondents Course (DCC) (3 week course)	-	Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Visakhapatnam, Andhra pradesh (AP)	-	-
'Tarang Shakti'	Indian Air Force (IAF)	-	2024 (Year)	Participating Nations : Air forces from countries such as France, the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, the United States (US), and Japan are expected to be part of the exercise.
Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 (biennial multilateral tri-service exercise)	-	Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt	-	This is for the 1st time that Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Ex BRIGHT STAR-23.
AUSINDEX-2023	Indian Navy & the Royal Australian Navy (RAN)	Sydney, Australia	5th	Participants - Indian Navy: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri and INS Kolkata were the

				participating ships from the Indian side. Royal Australian Navy: HMAS Choules and HMAS Brisbane were the participating ships from the Australian side. The exercise first initiated in 2015

September

Warship 'Mahendragiri'	Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar along with his wife Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar	Mumbai, Maharashtra	M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)	'Mahendragiri' is the 7th stealth frigate under Project 17A of the Indian Navy, and the 4th constructed by MDL. It is named after a mountain peak in Eastern Ghats located in the state of Orissa.
"Trishul"	Indian Air Force (IAF) & Western Air	From September 4 to 14, 2023.	-	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

	Command (WAC)			
DSC A 20' (Yard 325)	-	Onto the Hooghly River(WB)	-	It measure approximately 30 metres in length. Their displacement is estimated to be around 300 tons.
Varuna 2023	Indian-French bilateral naval exercise	Arabian Sea	-	The 1st phase of the Varuna exercise occurred off India's Western Seaboard from January 16 to January 20, 2023.
GRIHA-IV (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment)	Indian Army	The building will be ready by May-June 2025	-	GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), derives its name from the Sanskrit word meaning 'Abode.'
'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023'.	Indian Air Force (IAF) & Drone Federation of India	-	Indian drone industry.	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOUS AND AGREEMENT

August

India and Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sharing of 'India Stack', a collection of open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and Digital Public Goods(DPGs) that aim to facilitate identity, data, and payment services on a large scale.
Both sides have agreed to cooperate in the areas of digital transformation by means of capacity building, training programmes, exchange of best practices, exchange of public officials and experts, development of pilot or demo solutions, among others.

The National Health Authority (NHA) and IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) **jointly organized an exclusive three-day Accelerator Workshop to help insurance companies complete their ABDM integration and to facilitate the adoption of Health Claims Exchange** (HCX) specifications and e-Claim standards for insurance companies and Third-Party Administrators (TPAs).

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are among 14 States and Union Territories which are yet to sign a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Education Ministry, which mandates the implementation of the National Education Policy to avail funds **worth almost ₹13,000 crore for the next three years,** under the Centre's flagship scheme for State-run higher education.

The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency** (IREDA), categorized as a Mini Ratna (Category – I) enterprise under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, **has entered into a performance-based Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.
It lays **out strategic targets that IREDA aims to accomplish during the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.**
In line with the MoU, the Government of India has set ambitious Revenue from Operations targets for IREDA: **₹4,350 crores** for the financial year 2023-24 and ₹5,220 crores for 2024-25.
Notably, the company had achieved a Revenue from Operations figure of **₹ 3,482 crores** in the preceding fiscal year, against a target of ₹ 3,361 crores.

NHPC Limited, India's leading hydropower company, has entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RITES**, a Miniratna Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Undertaking **under the Ministry of Railways**.
The **MoU focuses on the construction of a railway siding at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, to support NHPC's 2,880 MW Dibang MultiPurpose Project.**

In a significant step towards bolstering the bilateral cooperation between India and the Philippines, **the Indian Coast Guard has**

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on enhanced maritime cooperation.
The **MoU inked seeks to enhance the professional linkage between the two Coast Guards in the domain of Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE), Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) and Marine Pollution Response (MPR)**.

The **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) **and the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region** signed an MoU **formalising the collaboration**
The UNDP has committed to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) **to speed up India's sustainable development goals (SDGs).**

NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (APGENCO) Limited (an undertaking of the Government of Andhra Pradesh) **for the implementation of Pumped Hydro Storage Projects and Renewable Energy Projects in the state of Andhra Pradesh (AP).**

India and **Greece** have reached an agreement to **increase bilateral trade by 2030** and enhance their partnership to a strategic level.

IIT Bombay has partnered with HSBC to pursue technological advancements towards making green hydrogen production more efficient, cost-effective, and scalable
This **partnership will help boost the government's National Green Hydrogen Mission focused on providing policy support** towards achieving global leadership in the green hydrogen transition.

Deendayal Port Authority and DP World have signed **a concession agreement** in the presence of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal in New Delhi.**
The **project involves the construction of a mega-container terminal at Tuna-Tekra near the existing Deendayal Port, at a cost of over 4,243 crores rupees through a Public Private Partnership.**

NITI Aayog and UNDP India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a period of **5 years to formalise a framework of cooperation** on a range of areas, including **SDG localisation, data-driven monitoring, Aspirational Districts and Blocks,** among others.

The **Government of India** and the **Government of New Zealand** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to **boost cooperation** in **civil aviation**.
This will cover the scheduling of new routes, code share services, traffic rights and capacity entitlement.

September

The MoU between DGR and Corporates endeavors to bring the **corporate**

companies and **Ex-Servicemen on a common platform** to generate employment opportunities for the esteemed **Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Services**.

MoU signed between Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation
This strategic partnership **aims to enhance the socio-economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis, Manual Scavengers, Waste Pickers** and their dependents.

India and Kenya agreed to enhance cooperation in **maritime security** in the **Indian Ocean region** and **joint training** in **counter-insurgency.**

NTPC Limited and **Oil India Limited** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding **to explore collaboration** in the areas of **renewable energy, green hydrogen and its derivatives, and decarbonization** initiatives including through **use of geothermal energy.**

NCDEX, one of India's leading future exchanges, will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Maharashtra** government **to subsidize turmeric growers to take part in options trading.**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) **with the Union Bank of India (UBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB)**.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL), **to finance renewable energy projects**.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in collaboration with the **United Nations World Tourism Organization** (UNWTO), unveiled the **G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard.**
It showcases best practices, case studies, and insights from G20 countries, all modelled for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).

The Department of Posts, as part of its ongoing initiatives to create an export **ecosystem** for **e-commerce** in the country, entered into an agreement with **Bigfoot Retail Solution Pvt Ltd (Shiprocket).**
The collaboration aims to enhance e-commerce exports by leveraging India Post's extensive presence and reliable shipping solutions.

The **Union Ministry of Education** signed an agreement with global software major **Adobe** to help children develop **creative expression in classrooms using the application Adobe Express**.
Training and certification in creativity and digital literacy will be provided to about 20 million students and 5,00,000 teachers by

2027 using Adobe Express-based curriculum.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and **Jaguar Land Rover** (JLR) have announced a strategic partnership to **transform JLR's digital estate** and build a new, **future-ready digital core**.
The partnership is **valued at £800 million** over the **next five years.**

India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on **cooperation in the field of energy**.
The MoU will develop a stronger partnership between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of energy.

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of India's leading integrated power producer NTPC Limited, and **Nayara Energy.**
To **explore opportunities in the Green Hydrogen and Green Energy space.** The MoU envisages collaboration to produce Green Hydrogen for Nayara Energy's captive usage, accelerate decarbonization and catalyze reduction in carbon footprint.

REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has signed a **Foreign Currency Term Loan Agreement for USD 100 Million,** with the **Export-Import Bank of India** (EXIM Bank)
The funds will be raised as part of **REC's Market Borrowing Programme of Rs. 1.20 lakh crore** for the year **2023-24.**This is the first term loan being extended by EXIM Bank to REC.

United States (US)-based chipmaker **NVIDIA** has formed strategic partnerships with two of India's largest conglomerates, **Reliance Industries** and **Tata Group,** to **establish artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure** in India and enhance the skill set of the country's workforce.
NVIDIA will provide AI supercomputing services and technologies as part of this initiative.

A **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) to explore **collaboration opportunities** on **6G wireless technologies** in India and other parts of the world was signed **between Bharat 6G Alliance and Next G Alliance**, an Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) initiative.
The MoU will facilitate aligning research and development priorities that support a common 6G vision and creating secure and trusted telecommunications as well as resilient supply chains.

Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and **Airbus** have entered into a collaboration to strengthen the **Indian aviation sector** through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).**

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), organized a workshop on **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting** (BRSR) in collaboration with **UNICEF** and the **National Stock Exchange** at the NSE premises **in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The workshop was attended by above 50 Sustainability, **CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), ESG (Environment, Social and Governance)** and BHR (Business Human Rights) professionals from key corporate houses.

The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **leading private job portals**, companies/employers and **skill providers** to integrate with the National Career Service (NCS) portal of the Ministry here.
The objective of MoUs is **to enhance employment opportunities and services for jobseekers on the NCS portal.**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

August

HDFC Capital Advisors and the House of Abhinandan Lodha (HoABL) have formed an alliance to set up a joint venture platform with investments of over **Rs 1,500 crore** to undertake land projects including plotted developments and low-rise projects across key property markets in India.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Mumbai-headquartered **Saraswat Cooperative Bank** have entered into a partnership under which the bank will sell the insurance major's products.

September

SoftBank Reduces Investment in India's Zomato via $115 Million Transaction
SoftBank Vision Growth Fund has divested a **1.17% stake** in **Zomato**, a notable food delivery firm, as part of a transaction valued at **₹947 crore ($114.7 million).**

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of Tata SIA Airlines Limited** (TSAL) into Air India Limited (AIL)
The acquisition of certain **shareholding by Singapore Airlines in Air India subject to compliance of voluntary commitments offered by the parties**.

LIC Mutual Fund (LIC MF) has completed the takeover of schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund.
It increased its Assets under Management (AUM) to establish itself as a prominent fund house in India.

American investment firm **GQG Partners** completed the acquisition of more than **5 crore shares from V Vaidyanathan**, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **IDFC First Bank.**
The **exchange took place at a price of Rs 94.5 per share**, based on available data.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

August

The Indian Space Research Organisation - ISRO successfully conducted a fresh orbit reduction manoeuvre of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft, bringing it closer to the Moon's surface.

The Technology Development Board (TDB), operating under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), is thrilled **to announce its strategic partnership with M/s Chemlife Innovations Pvt. Ltd., headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
This collaboration marks a significant stride in advancing the **project titled "Commercialization and Manufacturing of Bio-Trace Minerals Used in Feed for Animals,"** a visionary endeavour that harmonizes seamlessly with TDB's commitment to fostering impactful scientific innovation.

The **final and fifth Lunar bound orbit manoeuvre for the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was performed successfully**.
The spacecraft is now revolving in **an orbit of 153 km x 163 km, as intended.**

The first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun - Aditya-L1, is getting ready for its launch in September 2023.
The satellite**, developed at U R Rao Satellite Centre Bengaluru, has arrived at its spaceport in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.**
The spacecraft is expected to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point - L1 of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.

The **Chandrayaan 3 mission by ISRO has assumed a near-circular orbit**.
The spacecraft that was moving around the moon in an elliptical orbit of 174 km into 1437 km was moved closer to the M moon by retrofitting onboard engines last night to take a nearly circular orbit of 151 km into 179 km.
The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO-A) spacecraft** made its **first Earth flyby** nearly 17 years after its launch.
The pair of STEREO spacecraft were launched on **October 25, 2006,** from **Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.**
The two spacecraft were situated in the Sun's orbit, **STEREO-A ("Ahead")** and **STEREO-B ("Behind").**
Russia's Moon mission ended in failure after its spacecraft**, Luna-25 spun out of control and crashed into the moon.**
ISRO Chairman Dr S. Somnath met Atomic Energy and Space Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and apprised him **about the status and readiness of Chandrayaan-3 for the moon landing.**
India has created **history** as it **became the 1st country to land on the South Pole of the lunar surface.**
The Vikram lander successfully touched down as planned on 23 August 2023.
India (4th country) joins an elite club of countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon**, after the US, the former Soviet Union and China.**
Project Director of Chandrayaan 3: **P Veeramuthu Vel.**
Project Cost: **Rs. 615 crores.**

China has successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite Gaofen-12 04

into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

The launch marks the 484th flight mission of the Long March series carrier rocket.

Next-Generation Photonic Analog-to-Digital Converters (NG-PADC) was developed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras with support from the IMPRINT programme, which is equipped with a time-stretched photonic ADC.

Analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) are **critical components** for developing the next generation of advanced digital receivers.

September

The **Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)** instrument onboard '**Pragyan' rover** of **Chandrayaan-3** has "unambiguously confirmed" the **presence of sulphur** on the **lunar surface near the South Pole**, through first-ever in-situ measurements.

Apart from sulphur, the LIBS instrument has also detected various other elements as anticipated, including **aluminium (Al), sulphur (S), calcium (Ca), iron (Fe), chromium (Cr), and titanium (Ti) on the lunar surface.**

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** released a **graph** of the **temperature variation** between the moon's surface and a point around 8 cm below as measured by an instrument named **ChaSTE probe.**

The **Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE)** stands as a temperature probe. It's equipped with **10 sensors** and can be mechanically driven into the moon's surface using a motor, reaching depths of up to 10 cm.

Japan prepares to launch a **dual-purpose mission** from one rocket, deploying **SLIM or Smart Lander to investigate the Moon** to showcase precise moon landing techniques and XRISM for enhanced celestial analysis.

The X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) is a joint mission of the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** and the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),** involving contributions from the European Space Agency (ESA) and Canadian Space Agency as well.

A government engineering firm, **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** manufactured **India's 1st set of Catalysts for Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR)** for **limiting Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) emissions** from thermal power plants.

The first set of indigenously manufactured SCR catalysts for the **5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station** in Telangana, were flagged off by Renuka Gera, Director (Industrial Systems & Products).

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched the **Aditya-L1 (Lagrange Point 1) orbiter, India's first solar mission**, using the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C57) rocket.**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

To study solar winds, which can cause disruptions on Earth, including phenomena like auroras.Aditya-L1 is the **25th mission** using the PSLV-XL configuration. ISRO Aditya L1 Mission Budget is **Rs 400 Crore.**

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s PSLV-C56 rocket successfully** launched Singapore's **DS-SAR satellite** and 6 co-passenger payloads from **the first launch-pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.**
This mission, PSLV-C56 / DS-SAR, is a dedicated commercial mission conducted by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for ST Engineering, Singapore. This is the 58th flight of PSLV and 17th flight of PSLV in Core Alone configuration.

Hyderabad-based company **Grene Robotics** has initiated the demonstration of its weapons platform '**Indrajaal**,'the world's only autonomous wide area anti-drone, **Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS),** in Hyderabad.
This anti-drone system is capable of safeguarding against various drone classifications, including **micro, mini, small, large, and extra-large drones,** enhancing security measures for the future.

'**Nabhmitra**', a device developed by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)-Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad, Gujarat)** for the safety of fishermen, was successfully tested at **Neendakara**,a coastal area in Kollam city, Kerala.
The device is designed to communicate weather and cyclone warnings to fishermen in their **local language**, enhancing their understanding and safety.

Japan launched a rocket carrying a lunar lander and an **X-ray telescope** as part of a mission known as "**Moon Sniper**."
The Moon Sniper mission is **Japan's 3rd Moon mission** & the budget of the entire mission is $100 million. The rocket, named **HII-A,** was launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan.

China is set to launch the **Wide Field Survey Telescope (WFST)**, the largest time-domain survey facility in the Northern Hemisphere, in September, 2023.
2.5-meter primary mirror and a prime-focus camera with a large field of view, is currently undergoing engineering debugging and pilot observation processes.

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully tested the **efficacy** and **foolproof functioning** of the **Military Combat Parachute System** which is indigenously designed and developed by **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE).**

North Korea has launched its **1st tactical nuclear attack submarine**, submarine **No 841 named the Hero Kim Kun Ok**
Which was unveiled ahead of the country's **75th anniversary of its founding day** (September 09, 1948).North Korean leader Kim Jong-un personally oversaw the official launch of the nuclear-powered submarine.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS NEWS

August

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) is funding the

participation of the Indian contingent for the upcoming ISSF World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan where a total of **34 Indian shooters, including 17 men and 17 women would be participating.**

Indian men's hockey team has jumped to the 3rd spot with 2771.35 points **in FIH Men's Hockey** World Rankings following their **Asian Champions Trophy title win in Chennai**, Tamil Nadu (TN).
The rankings are **topped by three-time World Champions Netherlands with 3095.90 points. Belgium is in the second position with 2917.87 points**.

Under the framework of G20 Presidency of India, the **Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** is organizing **Youth 20 Summit-2023** from 17th to 20 August 2023 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
Around 150 delegates from G20 countries, Guest countries and International Organizations would be discussing the 5 identified themes of Y20 including Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills, Peace building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life, Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance, Health, Wellbeing and Sports: Agenda for Youth.
Youth20 is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20.

Former England pacer Steven Finn has announced retirement from all forms of Cricket following a chronic knee injury.

The **Indian national shooting squad begins its campaign in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championships starting** in Baku, **Azerbaijan.**
Among **the 53-member Indian contingent, 34 shooters will be participating in the 15 Olympic events while 19 will compete in non-Olympic events**.

Indian wrestler Mohit Kumar has won the Under 20 World Championship in men's 61 Kg Freestyle category at Amman City **in Jordan**.
Mohit defeated Russia's Eldar Akhmadudinov by 9-8 in the final to become the fourth Indian Freestyle Wrestler to win a Junior World Championship.
Mohit is the 4th male wrestler from India to earn a gold medal in the U20 World Championships, following Palwinder Cheema in 2001, Ramesh Kumar in 2001, and Deepak Punia in 2019.

In the **ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings** released, **star batter Suryakumar Yadav has retained the top spot while Shubman Gill has risen by 43 spots to reach the 25th rank.**
While **Suryakumar tops the list** with 907 points, way above **Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan who is occupying the 2nd spot with 811 points**.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Pakistan skipper **Babar Azam is at the 3rd spot** with 756 points while South African cricketer Aiden Markram is at the 4th spot with 748 points.

In cricket, England all-rounder Ben Stokes reversed his decision to retire from One Day Internationals ahead of the ICC ODI World Cup scheduled for October in India.

Indian grappler Priya Malik won a Gold medal at the 2023 **U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan.**
Priya became just the second woman wrestler from India to be crowned the U20 world champion.
Antim Panghal had been the 1t woman from India to win a junior world title in wrestling at last year's edition.

India won gold medals in both men's and women's team compound events at **Archery World Cup Stage 4 in Paris.**
The **men's team defeated the American team** 236-232, while the women's team beat Mexico with a score of 234-233.
Jyothi Vennam won bronze in the women's compound event, after losing to Ella Gibson in the semifinal.
Vennam secured bronze by shooting closest to the centre in a tiebreaker against Sara Lopez.

The **International Cricket Council** (ICC) **unveiled the mascots for the upcoming ODI World Cup at an event in Gurugram, Haryana.**
The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently introduced **mascots for the upcoming ODI World Cup**, reflecting its commitment **to gender equality and diversity.**

Indian shooters Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal clinched the gold medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Championship held **in Baku, Azerbaijan.**

Indian wrestler Priya Malik achieved a remarkable feat by bagging the gold medal at the ongoing U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan.
List of Indian medal winners in U20 World Wrestling Championships 2023:
Gold Medals:
Mohit Kumar - Achieved gold in Men's freestyle 61 kg category.
Priya Malik - Secured gold in the Women's 76 kg category.
Antim Panghal - Earned gold in Women's 53 kg category.
Savita - Clinched gold in the Women's 62 kg category.
Silver Medals:
Sagar Jaglan - Attained silver in the Men's freestyle 79 kg category.
Antim - Secured silver in Women's 65 kg category.
Sumit-Secured silver in men's Greco Roman 60 kg category.
Bronze Medals:
Jaideep - secured a bronze medal in the Men's freestyle 74 kg category.
Deepak Chahal - Earned a bronze medal in the Men's freestyle 97 kg category.
Rajat Ruhal - Achieved a bronze medal in Men's freestyle 125 kg category.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Arju - Clinched a bronze medal in the Women's 68 kg category.
Reena - Attained a bronze medal in the Women's 57 kg category.
Harshita Mor - secured a bronze medal in the Women's 72 kg category.
Deepak Punia - secured a bronze medal in men's Greco Roman 77 kg category.
The **Indian Men's Cricket team for the Asia Cup 2023 has been announced with Rohit Sharma as captain and Hardik Pandya as Vice Captain.**
R Praggnanandhaa first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the semifinals of the FIDE World Cup

In **Football, Spain made history by defeating England** 1-Nil to lift the FIFA **Women's World Cup title in Sydney for** the first time.
Captain Olga Carmona's wonderful strike in the 29th minute proved to be the winner.

India's Anahat Singh clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, held in **Dalian, China** from August 16-20.
The 15-year-old Anahat defeated Hong Kong's Ena Kwong 3-1 in the final on 20th August 2023 to win the gold medal.

Lionel Messi, After leading his country to its **third FIFA World Cup title last year, Lionel Messi shone again for Inter Miami**, finding the net in a tense **penalty shootout against Nashville SC and helping his team clinch their maiden Leagues Cup title.**

The **India Junior Men's Hockey team secured a resounding victory over England**, emerging triumphant with a scoreline of 4-0 in the four-nation Tournament **held in Dusseldorf, Germany**.

The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Sh. Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated 33 Khelo India Centres in the State of Rajasthan this morning at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.**
The Union Minister announced that a **National Center of Excellence with a dedicated Sports Science Centre will be set up in Rajasthan** along with an additional **18 Khelo India centres, thus taking the total number of Khelo India centres in the State to 51.**

Bharat Ratna Awardee, **Legendary Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has been declared the National Icon of the Election Commission of India** (ECI) to create awareness among voters and encourage their participation **in the electoral process.**
Indian powerlifters Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjiya created history as they made an extraordinary start to the Dubai 2023 World Para Powerlifting Championships by clinching the **gold and silver medals** respectively.
Dabbas clinched the nation's first-ever gold with lifts of 132 kg and then 135 kg displaying amazing grit, determination, and strength.
Meanwhile, **Jograjiya followed his**

compatriot to secure the silver medal with a final lift of 132kg in the fiercely contested men's -72 kg junior weight category.
India's only medal at a World Championships has been claimed by Parmjeet Kumar (men's -49kg) at the Tbilisi 2021 World Championships.

The Arunachal Pradesh League has been **launched in New Delhi** with an **aim to replicate the cheers of the fans in the North East, from the football fields to the cricket pitch.**

The **United World Wrestling (UWW) has suspended the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with immediate effect** for **failing to conduct elections on time.**

Indian shooter Amanpreet Singh won the gold medal in Men's 25-metre standard **pistol shooting event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.**

The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as the Asmita Women's League.**
ASMITA refers to Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action.

In **shooting, Rajeshwari Kumari has secured another shooting spot for India in the Paris 2024 Olympics**.
She finished fifth in the women's trap final at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and **won India's first spot in the women's trap** event.
Praggnanandhaa had become the 1st Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the final and was a victory away from joining the Indian legend at the top.

Indian women's visually impaired team won the T-20 final of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games at **Birmingham.**
The Indian team defeated Australia by nine wickets in the rain-interrupted match.

The **fourth and final Grand Slam of the season, the US Open tennis tournament will kick off in New York**.
In **women's singles, world No. 1 Iga Swiatek of Poland looked to defend their 2022 wins.**
Spain's Spanish Carlos Alcaraz, who beat Djokovic in the final of the 2023 Wimbledon, is the top seed at the competition.

September

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won India's first-ever gold at the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest, Hungary.
In the men's javelin final, **Neeraj Chopra won the Gold medal with a throw of 88.17 metres.**
Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem clinched Silver with a throw of 87.82 metres.
Czech player Jakub Vadlejch got bronze Kishore Jena finished 5th and DP Manu at 6th in the javelin throw event.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

In hockey, India defeated Thailand 5-4 at the **Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier in Salalah, Oman.**

In badminton, **India's ace shuttler HS Prannoy had to settle for a bronze medal as he registered a loss to Kunlavut Vitidsarn** in **the semifinals of the ongoing Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2023**.
This is India's 14th medal at the World Championships.
This includes one gold, 4 silvers and 9 bronze medals.
China is the most successful team in the tournament's history, with 196 medals, including 69 gold, 48 silver and 79 silvers.
The BWF World Championships 2023 are being held from August 21 to 27 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In Cricket, the **Indian men's visually impaired team settled for a silver medal after a defeat against Pakistan** in the final of the men's T20 cricket event at the **International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023 at Edgbaston, Birmingham.**

The Sri **Lanka Football Federation (FFSL)** is **no longer prohibited** by the **world's football governing body FIFA**.

Neeraj Chopra finishes second in men's javelin event in Zurich Diamond League
Newly-crowned world champion **Neeraj Chopra finished second with a final round throw of 85.71 m** in the **men's javelin** event of the **Diamond League Meeting at Zurich.**
The 25-year-old Chopra, also the reigning Olympic champion, produced three legal throws of 80.79m, 85.22m and 85.71m

Teenager Grandmaster D. Gukesh has **replaced** the legendary **Viswanathan Anand** as **India's top chess player** after more than three decades.
Anand has been India's No.1 since July 1986.
The **17-year-old Chennai Grandmaster**, who recently lost in the quarterfinals of the FIDE World Cup in Baku to Magnus Carlsen, moved ahead of Anand to be **ranked No.8 in the world**.

India was **crowned Asian Hockey 5s champions after beating Pakistan** 6-4 after penalty shootouts in the final.
This is the first time in three meetings **that India has beaten Pakistan in the Hockey 5s format.**

Danielle McGahey, **29,** is set to become the **first transgender woman player** to play in **international cricket**.
The **right-hand batter from Australia**, who moved **to Canada** in 2020, had fulfilled the eligibility criteria for **male-to-female (MTF)** transition, per ICC.

Mohun Bagan clinched the Durand Cup 2023 trophy **beating East Bengal** 1-0 at the Salt Lake Stadium **in Kolkata.**
Mohun Bagan won the **132nd Durand Cup** for the first time in 23 years. Registering this victory, Mohun Bagan SG has become the first team in the history of the Durand

Cup to win 17 titles.

Climate Football Cup 2023, the first-ever professional **football tournament** in the **Union Territory of Ladakh,** began.
The seven-day event will be held at the **Open Astroturf Stadium in Spithuk, Leh**.

Thailand spinner **Nattaya Boochatham** created history with a **three-wicket haul** during the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier** game against **Kuwait.**
He is the first player, both from men's and women's from an Associate nation to get to the landmark in T20Is.

Amul will be the Official Sponsor of the **Indian Contingent** for the **XIX Asian Games 2022** to be held in **Hangzhou, China** from September 23 to October 8 2023.
Amul has partnered with an Indian sports person through the Indian Olympic Association since the London 2012 Olympics for all Indian contingents to the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and we are pleased to further strengthen our decade-long relationship.

IndusInd Bank has agreed to a multi-year **sponsorship deal** with the **International Cricket Council** (ICC), beginning with the **men's Cricket World Cup in India.**
The multi-year deal is **valued at $20-$24 million** (about Rs 160-200 crore).**BharatPe and Byju** have joined other tech startups **like Unacademy, MPL, and Paytm** that have cut down on their sponsorship investments amid a decline in private equity funding and focus on profitability.

In **Table Tennis**, the **Indian men's team** finished with **a bronze medal** at the **Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023** following a semi-final defeat to Chinese Taipei in **Pyeongchang, the Republic of Korea**.
The Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023 was also a qualifier for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Prasar Bharati, the country's public broadcaster, has rebranded **DD Sports as DD Sports HD.**
DD Sports has formed partnerships with leading sports organizations like the **NBA (National Basketball Association) and PGTA (Professional Golf Tour of India)** to bring fresh and exciting content to the channel.

In **US Open Tennis**, **Novak Djokovic** created history winning **the 24th Grand Slam title**.
Serbian star Djokovic **defeated Daniil Medvedev** of Russia 63, 76, 63 to win the US Open 2023 Men's Singles final at the **Arthur Ashe Stadium, New York City.**

In **US Open tennis**, American teenage tennis sensation **Coco Gauff** secured her maiden **Women's Singles title, defeating Aryna Sabalenka** in the title clash in **New York.**
Gauff produced a gutsy performance on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court to win 26, 63, 62.

Max Verstappen and Red Bull created history at the **Italian Grand Prix 2023**, as the Dutch sensation secured his **10th consecutive Formula 1 victory**.

The **62nd edition** of the **Subroto Cup International Football Tournament** will be held from 19th September this year.
A total of 109 teams from 27 States and Union Territories will participate in the tournament.

India batter **Virat Kohli** became the fastest to **reach 13,000 ODI runs** during the **Asia Cup Super-4 clash against arch-rival Pakistan** at the R. Premadasa Stadium **in Colombo**.
Kohli has now scored four consecutive 100s at this stadium, the joint-most highest centuries at a single venue alongside South African great Hashim Amla.

Obituaries :

August

Name of the Person	Field	Native, Country
Kandlakunta Alaha Singaracharyulu	writer, scholar and academician	-
Bindeshwar Pathak	Sulabh International's founder and social activist	Bihar
Bikash Sinha	Nuclear physicist & the recipient of Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan awardee	West Bengal
Manchanahalli Rangaswamy Satyanarayana Rao	Indian scientist and Padma Shri awardee	Karnataka
Heath Streak	Zimbabwean cricket icon	Zimbabwe
Raju Punjabi	Singer	-
Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao	Indian-American mathematician and statistician	Karnataka In 2023, he was awarded the International Prize in Statistics, often referred to as the "statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize."

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Dev Kohli	lyricist and poet	Pakistan
Yevgeny Prigozhin	Wagner chief	-
Jayanta Mahapatra (1st Indian poet to win a Sahitya Akademi (the 4th highest civilian honour in India) award)	Poet	Odisha

September

Jimmy Buffett	American singer-songwriter	"Margaritaville" lifestyle brand
Vakkom Purushothaman	Former Kerala speaker and senior Congress leader	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
N Valarmathi	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist known for her voice during rocket launch countdowns	She is the 1st person to receive the Abdul Kalam Award, instituted in 2015.
Heath Streak	Former Zimbabwe's great cricketer captain	Zimbabwe
John Thomas Devitt	Australian former swimming champion	He won his only individual Olympic gold medal in the 100-metre freestyle at Rome.
Arun Kumar Sinha	Director of Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India,	Arun Kumar Sinha was an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 1987 Kerala cadre.
Ajit Ninan	Political cartoonist	He is best known for drawing the Centre stage series of cartoons in 'India Today' magazine and

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		Ninan World in 'The Times of India.'

September 16 to September 30 Current Affairs

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	OBSERVED AS	THEME/AIM/KEY POINTS
14th September	Hindi Diwas or Hindi day.	The reason for celebrating Hindi Day on September 14 is that A Noble and Famous Hindi Literature Vyahar Rajendra Singha was born on 14th September.
15th September.	International Day of Democracy	The first International Day of Democracy was observed in the year of 2008.
15th September	National Engineers Day	In the year of 1968, the Government of India announced that Sir M. Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary was celebrated as Engineers Day in India.
16th September	World Ozone Day	The World Ozone Day Theme 2023 is 'Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change'.
Third Saturday of September	International Red Panda Day	The Red Pandas were first described in the year 1825. In 2010, International Red Panda Day (IRPD) was launched by the Red Panda Network (RPN). The first International Red Panda Day was observed on 18th September 2010.
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	The World Patient Safety Day Theme in 2023 is "Engaging patients for patient safety", to recognize the crucial role patients, families, and caregivers play in the safety of health care.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

18th September	World Bamboo Day	World Bamboo Day was recognized by the World Bamboo Organization in the year of 2009.
21st September	International Day of Peace	This year's theme is Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals
21st September	World Alzheimer's Day	World Alzheimers Day 2023 Theme is "Never too early, never too late". Alzheimer's disease was first diagnosed in an old German lady in 1901 by Alois Alzheimer, a German Psychiatrist.
22nd September	World Rose Day	This day is observed in order to remember a 12-year-old girl, Melinda Rose.
23rd September	International Day of Sign Languages	The day was first celebrated in the year of 2018.
25th September	Antyodaya Diwas	To commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated annually in India to mark the birth anniversary of Indian leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
27th September	World Tourism Day	Theme - Tourism and Green Investments
26th September	World Environmental Health Day	Theme - Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

27th September, 2023	Google's 25th birthday	-
28th September	World Maritime Day	Theme is "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on".
28th September	Eid Milad-un-Nabi	The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the last messenger of Allah.
28th September	World Rabies Day	Theme is "All for 1, One Health for All".
29th September	World Heart Day	Theme - Use Heart, Know Heart
28th September	116th birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh	-
29th September	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	Theme - Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems"

BANKING & FINANCE

Cashfree Payments, a prominent player in the payments and API banking solutions sector has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce 'AutoPay on QR.'
Cashfree Payments' 'AutoPay on QR' enables subscription businesses to enhance their **return on investment (ROI)** on advertising expenditures by simplifying the mandate creation process in two clicks.

Mastercard has partnered with **Invest India** and the **Ministry of Tourism** to launch the **Priceless India program.**
The relaunch of 'priceless.com' in India is part of Mastercard's global effort to provide unique and unforgettable experiences to its cardholders.

Banks and NBFCs have been **directed by RBI** to release **property documents within 30 days of settlement of loan accounts.**
They have also been asked to remove charges registered with any registry within a **period of 30 days** after full repayment/settlement of the loan account.

Bank of Baroda announced the start of the "**BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang**" **holiday campaign,** which would last through **December 31, 2023**.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The Bank launched four new savings accounts, **LITE Savings Account** – a lifetime **no minimum balance account**;
BRO Savings Account – a zero balance savings account for students (16 to 25 years);
Parivar Account – a family savings account designed to meet the needs of the entire family and
The NRI PowerPack Account.

SEBI has imposed a penalty of ₹15 lakh on **Reliance Home Finance**.
A penalty **of ₹2 lakh, ₹2.5 lakh and ₹2 lakh have been levied on Chief executive Ravindra Sharad Sudhalkar,** company secretary and compliance officer Parul Jain and CFO Pinkesh Shah, respectively.

The World Bank has released findings included in its G20 document saying **India** has achieved **financial inclusion targets in just 6 years** which would otherwise have taken at least 47 long years.

Yes Bank has partnered with **Juspay to launch HyperUPI - NPCI's plug-in service** - that allows merchant **apps to build in-app UPI payments.**
Juspay was the first fintech player to build the **UPI PSP** on the cloud, which has recorded an uptime of over 99.99% and the highest transactions per second (TPS) of 5,000.

IndusInd Bank introduced the 'Virtual Commercial Card', for cross-border transactions for corporations and travel agents.

The '**Virtual Commercial Credit Card**' meets the needs of businesses that conduct multiple bookings in various foreign currencies.

The **Reserve Bank of India** released a list of **fifteen NBFCs figuring in the 'upper layer'** under the scale-based regulation for these **lenders for the financial year 2024. LIC Housing Finance Limited ranked first on the list**, followed by **Bajaj Finance Limited in second and Shriram Finance Limited (formerly Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited) in third**.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed **monetary penalties on 4 cooperative banks** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
List of 4 cooperative banks :
The **Becharaji Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited**., located in Mehsana, Gujarat, has been penalised ₹2.00 lakh.
The **Waghodia Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd**., located in Vadodara, Gujarat, faces a penalty of ₹5.00 lakh.
The **Viramgam Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd**., situated in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, is also penalised ₹5.00 lakh.
The **Baramati Sahakari Bank Ltd.**, based in Baramati, Pune,Maharashtra has received a penalty of ₹2.00 lakh.

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** presented a dividend cheque of **Rs 1,831.09 crore** to Finance Minister (FM) **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman.**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

MobiKwik, a digital banking platform, has introduced a **new feature** called "**Lens**" to assist users with their financial wellness.

GoBrisk Technologies Private Limited (BriskPe), a cross-border payments FinTech company, and **YES BANK** have entered into a partnership to introduce **BriskPe Account to Account (A2A)** , a cutting-edge suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importers.
The product is built on **YES BANK's Online Payment Gateway Service Providers (OPGSP) Export APIs** and offers features such as real-time transaction processing and instant **eFIRA (Electronic Foreign Inward Remittance Advice) generation.**

Indian Bank has launched a **financial inclusion** solution called "**IB SAATHI**" **(Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion).**
The initiative focuses on providing basic banking services to stakeholders through the **business correspondent (BC) channel.**
The bank plans to offer basic banking services at all its branches for a minimum of **4 hours per day.**

Public sector **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has introduced an **online allotment of safe deposit locker facility** for its customers and non-customers.

Maruti Suzuki India Limited has entered into a partnership with **Indian Bank** to offer **financing solutions** to its dealers.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is piloting a "**Frictionless Credit Initiative**" that has resulted in a substantial **70% reduction** in customer acquisition costs for lenders, on the other hand, borrowers are saving 6% of the loan amount.
The pilot started with an **all-digital KCC (kisan credit card) lending**, developed by the RBI Innovation Hub on the public tech platform, in **Tamil Nadu (TN)** and **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** this April, 2023.

Max Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has entered the **health and wellness segment** by launching a new insurance plan called "**Secure Earnings & Wellness Advantage" (SEWA).**
The SEWA plan is available in two variants - "**Elite**" and "**Lite**."
Coverage: The SEWA plan covers various aspects, including hospitalisation, ICU stays, surgeries, critical illness, disability, and life insurance.

Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited has introduced a **UPI (Unified Payments Interface) QR code-based payment option** for policy purchases and renewals.
Customers can make payments within seconds by scanning the **customized QR code, ensuring a hassle-free, error-free,** and **efficient payment experience.**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has signed a

significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **with Bank of Maharashtra** (BoM). This collaboration aims **to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication** for a diverse spectrum of **Renewable Energy projects** across the nation.

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has formed a **standing committee on cyber security.**
To conduct **regular reviews** of the threats associated with existing or emerging technologies in the insurance industry.
The standing committee comprises **10 members** chaired by **PS Jagannatham.**

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB), a leading small finance bank, has introduced the **Maxima Savings Account** and **Business Maxima Current Account** for the premium customer segment.
The annual interest rate on the Maxima Savings Account is up to **7.5%** and customers can open the account with **Rs 1 lakh.**

Gullak, a prominent fintech app, has become the **first** to **implement Juspay's UPI plugin** SDK called "**HyperUPI**."
The implementation of HyperUPI **eliminates** the need for **Gullak's customers** to switch to another UPI payment app when making payments during the checkout process.

SIDBI has planned to raise ₹10,000 crore from the rights issue next **fiscal to expand its capital base**.
SIDBI, which refinances SME loans, plans to conduct the rights issue in **two tranches of ₹5,000 crore each next fiscal**.
SIDBI expects to increase its assets to **₹5 lakh crore by March 2024 from about ₹4 lakh crore in March 2023**.

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or e-rupee worth ₹16.39 crores is in circulation.
The data showed that out of **total e-rupee circulation, ₹10.69 crore** was wholesale **CBDC and ₹5.70 crore was retail CBDC.**
The circulation was highest for ₹500 CBDC notes at ₹2.71 crore.
This was followed by ₹200 notes at 1.16%.

SEBI notified the framework that allows **unitholders of real estate investment trusts and infrastructure investment** trusts to nominate representatives on the boards.

The **RBI issued revised norms** for the **classification, valuation, and operation of investment portfolios of commercial banks**, aligning them with global standards and best practices.
The revised '**Reserve Bank of India** (Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio of Commercial Banks) **Directions, 2023' will apply from April 1, 2024, to all Commercial Banks excluding Regional Rural Banks.**

ACKO has launched its health insurance product – ACKO Platinum Health Plan.
As per the company, the plan has features including **100% bill payment, no room**

rent capping, and zero waiting period, among others.

The **Ministry of Finance approved** a series of **welfare measures for the benefit of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) agents** and employees.
The welfare measures are related to the amendments to LIC (Agents) Regulations, 2017, **Enhancement of Gratuity Limit, and Uniform Rate of Family Pension among others.**

The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) pared its **growth forecast for India's economy to 6.3% for this year, from 6.4% estimated earlier**, citing the impact of falling exports and erratic rainfall patterns that could hit farm output.
The Bank's economists also raised their **inflation forecast for the year to 5.5% from 5% estimated in April and retained their real GDP growth projection** for **2024-25 at 6.7%,** influenced by expectations that private investment and industrial output will rise.
Additionally, **ADB revised its inflation projection for India for FY24 to 5.5 per cent, up from the previous 5 per cent.**

Terming India's economic outlook for the current fiscal remains "bright", the **finance ministry** stated the baseline estimate for **GDP growth** in FY24 is **6.5%.**
The Indian economy grew by **7.2 percent** last fiscal but growth is expected to slow down in the current fiscal due to the global slowdown.
Gross domestic product (GDP) is **a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period by a country or countries.**

Axis Bank announces the launch of '**NEO for Business**', a distinctive Transaction Banking platform specially curated for **Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).**
This is a first-of-its-kind comprehensive digital proposition that caters to the real, current, and emerging Transaction Banking needs of MSMEs.

In a development that could help India attract **$21 billion (Rs 1.7 lakh crore)** worth of investments from the next fiscal, global financial firm JP Morgan stated that it plans to include Indian **government bonds (IGBs) or government securities** (G-Secs) into its benchmark Emerging Market index.
This is the **first time** Indian G-Secs have been added to a major global bond index.
The inclusion of the IGBs will be staggered over a 10-month period from June 28, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced norms on the **Basel III capital framework**, fundraising, exposure guidelines, and norms on the classification and valuation of investment portfolios for **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)**, which will come into effect from **April 2024.**
India has **5 AIFIs** that are regulated by the RBI.
These institutions are the **Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank),** the **National**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), the National Housing Bank (NHB),** and the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).**

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced several **relaxations** for **Large Corporates (LCs)** to facilitate their financing needs from the debt market.
Initially, SEBI had mandated that LCs must raise **25%** of their financing requirements from the debt market.
This requirement **aimed** to promote the growth of the corporate bond market in India.

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** successfully raised **₹10,000 crore** through the issuance of infrastructure bonds at an interest rate of **7.49%**.
This marks SBI's **4th infrastructure bond issuance**, demonstrating the bank's continued efforts to raise funds for infrastructure development.
The infrastructure bonds have a **15-year maturity period** and offer a yield of 7.49%.
Infrastructure bonds are **financial instruments** issued by governments or private companies to raise funds specifically dedicated to financing various infrastructure projects.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a "**Draft Master Direction**" that focuses on the treatment of wilful defaulters and large defaulters in the banking and financial sector.
RBI has invited comments and feedback on this draft Master Direction, and stakeholders have the opportunity to provide input until **October 31, 2023.**
The proposed rules are intended to apply to a diverse range of regulated entities, including **banks, non-bank lenders** (including housing finance companies), **cooperative banks, regional rural banks, local area banks, and All India Financial Institutions (AIFI).**

PhonePe, a Bengaluru-based digital payments company, has introduced its own app store platform called the "**Indus Appstore Developer Platform** to attract Android developers in India.

TruCap Finance Limited (TRU), a non-banking finance company specializing in gold and business loans, and **HDFC Bank** have entered into a **co-lending partnership.**
TRU will utilize its **Lending-as-a-Service (L-a-a-S) model** as part of this partnership to deliver quality credit solutions to underserved borrowers.

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has introduced a **digital facility for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** to effortlessly open **Non-Residential External (NRE) and Non- Resident Ordinary (NRO) accounts** (both savings and current accounts) through its **mobile app YONO.**
This service is designed for **NTB or 'new to bank' customers**, providing them with

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

ease and efficiency in the account opening process.
An Non-Residential External (NRE) account is a **bank account opened** in **India** in the name of an NRI, to park his **foreign earnings;** whereas, an Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) account is opened in India in the name of an NRI, to manage the income earned by him/her in India.

As of March 2023, data from the **Reserve Bank of India's Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy for FY23** indicates that the **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC),** also known as the **e-rupee,** was in circulation with a total worth of **Rs 16.39 crore**.
Out of the total e-rupee circulation, **Rs 10.69 crore** constituted wholesale CBDC, while Rs 5.70 crore comprised retail CBDC.

According to the data from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** indicates that **household savings in India** have reached their **lowest levels** in decades.
In Financial Year 2023 (FY23), household savings accounted for **5.1%** of the gross domestic product (GDP).
It has highlighted that household savings have shown a **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 9.2%** between 2013-14 and 2021-22.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** directed **credit information companies (CICs)** to establish a **common Data Quality Index (DQI)** for both commercial and microfinance segments.

RBI mandated that CICs should provide the DQIs for Commercial and Microfinance segments to all Credit Institutions (CIs) by **March 31, 2024.**
CICs in India are regulated by the RBI and governed by the **Credit Information Companies Regulation Act, 2005 (CICRA)** and other RBI rules and regulations.
As per **Section 15** of the CICRA, every Credit Institution (like banks) is required to be a member of at least one CIC.
At present, **4 credit information companies** are given certificates of registration by the RBI.
These companies are **Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL), Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited, Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited and CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited.**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled license of The **Kapol Co-operative Bank** over inadequate capital and earning prospects.
On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of **Rs 5 lakh** from **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** subject to the provisions of DICGC Act, 1961, release stated.

Afghanistan's currency has emerged as the **world's best-performing unit** in the September quarter, rallying 9 percent during the three-month period and 14

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

percent so far this year amid foreign aid flows and the US releasing funds to the war-torn country.

The **Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI)** and the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** have signed an **agreement** to collaborate to boost digital adoption in lending and develop policies to protect consumer interest.
The MoU envisages collaboration between DLAI and SIDBI to develop standard protocols to expedite the adoption of digital lending partnerships, including alliances between **banks** and **lending service providers (LSPs), co-lending collaborations**, and **developing model partnership agreements**.

State-owned **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** and **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** have entered into an **initial pact** to finance renewable energy projects in India.
The collaboration **aims** to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of renewable energy projects across the nation.

REC Limited has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** to jointly explore the possibility of funding projects in the Power Sector and Infrastructure & Logistics Sector under a **consortium arrangement.**
REC and PNB will associate with each other to co-finance loans amounting to **Rs. 55,000 crores** over the next 3 years.

Executive Director (Infra & Logistics), REC, **Shri T.S.C Bosh,** and CGM (Corporate Credit Division), PNB, **Shri Rajeeva** signed the MoU in Gurugram, Haryana.

Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (formerly known as Magma Fincorp), a Cyrus Poonawalla group- promoted **Non Banking Finance Company (NBFC)**, has received **Reserve Bank of India's approval** to issue co-branded credit cards with **IndusInd Bank.**
Co-branded credit cards are the product of a **mutual partnership** between a particular merchant and a credit card issuer.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a **directive requiring banks** to publicly display information about borrowers who are linked to the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalties on **3 cooperative banks - Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited,Mumbai,**

Maharashtra - ₹23 lakh, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Limited,Vasai, Maharashtra - **₹25 lakh** and **Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited - ₹13 lakh** due to deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalties on 3 banks viz, **State Bank of India - ₹1.30 Crore, Indian**

Bank - ₹1.62 crore and **Punjab & Sind Bank - ₹1.00 crore** in exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under the provisions of **Section 47A(1)(c) read with Sections 46(4)(i) and 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**

Worldline, a global leader in payment services, has released its **India Digital Payments Report** for the first half of 2023 (January to June 2023), offering insights into significant trends in the digital payments landscape.
The **top 10 states and Union Territories** with the highest number of transactions at physical touchpoints in 2022 for Worldline India were **Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Delhi, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh,** and **West Bengal.**
3 UPI apps are dominant in terms of volume and value; **PhonePe, Google Pay,** and **Paytm.**
The **top 5 issuers of credit cards** are **HDFC, SBI, ICICI, Axis** and **Kotak** respectively and the **top 5 issuers of debit cards** are **SBI, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC and Bank of India.**

HDFC Securities Limited has introduced a **discount broking all-in-one mobile app** called "**HDFC SKY,** designed to cater to investors and traders of all experience levels, **aiming** to provide a seamless experience for individuals looking to participate in the financial markets and achieve their financial objectives.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set the **limit** for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the government for the second half (Oct-Mar) of the financial year 2023-24 at **₹50,000 crore**.

NATIONAL NEWS

In **Chhattisgarh**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will **dedicate important rail sector projects to the nation**.
These projects include **Chhattisgarh East Rail Project Phase-I,** 3rd rail line between Champa to Jamga, **3rd rail line** between Pendra Road to Anuppur and the Merry-Go-Round system connecting **Talaipalli Coal Mine** to **NTPC Lara Super Thermal Power Station.**

The **3rd All India Official Language Conference** will be held on the 14th and the 15th of September **in Pune.**
Ms. Arya announced Pune is a popular city and has a historical tradition, hence, Pune has been chosen for the **third All India Official Language Conference.**
The Conference will be attended by learned **speakers and scholars** of the **Hindi language.**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, laid the foundation stone of Downstream Petrochemical Complex and Refinery Expansion Project, at **BPCL's Bina Refinery in Bina, Madhya Pradesh**.
This state-of-the-art refinery, which will be developed at a **cost of about Rs. 49,000 crore,** will produce about **1200 KTPA** (Kilo-Tonnes Per Annum) of ethylene and propylene, which are a vital component for various sectors like textiles, packaging, pharma, among others.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi approved** the **FDI** proposal for foreign investment of up to **Rs.9589 crore in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited by M/s Berhyanda Limited, Cyprus.**

Under the **National Digital Education Architecture** (NDEAR), the Ministry of Education is pushing States to **open Vidya Samiksha Kendras** (VSKs).
The control rooms of these Kendras will collect data to track key performance indicators as well as analyze data collated from **govt schemes** '**using AI & machine-learning.**'

The **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy** (MNRE) has **relaxed the domestic content requirement (DCR) norms** for solar cells under Component C of the **PM KUSUM scheme till March 2024.**

Coal India Limited (CIL) has planned a **capital investment of about Rs. 24,750 crore in the next few years on 61 First Mile Connectivity** (FMC) projects.
35 FMC projects under the first phase having 414.5 MTPA capacity account for Rs. 10,750 crore.
The **second and third phase projects account for 9 and 17 respectively**.

India has become the 13th country in the world that can **issue Internationally Accepted OIML (International Organisation of Legal Metrology) Certificates**.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions **Dr Jitendra Singh has launched a Special Campaign 3.0 portal** at a function in **New Delhi**.
The Government has announced to conduct **Special Campaign 3.0 from the 2nd to the 31st of October this year** with a focus on Swachhata **and reducing pendency in Government Offices with a saturation approach.**

The **Fourth G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion** (GPFI) Meeting is being held **in Mumbai.**
More than 50 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries and **International Organisations** are participating in the meeting.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated Second Edition of ICAR-CIBA's** (ICAR-Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture) Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at the Navsari Agricultural University Campus **in Gujarat.**
Shri Parshottam Rupala conveyed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for approving the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadan Yojana** with the financial **outlay of Rs. 20,050 crores** for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The **Centre launched a unified portal for agricultural statistics** and named it as **UPAg (Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics**) and termed it as a

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

groundbreaking move to address the **complex governance challenges** India's farm sector is facing now.

According to a **government notification**, **all reported births and deaths** in the country will be **digitally registered** on the **Centre's portal from October 1**.
It will be compulsory for States to register births and deaths on the **Centre's Civil Registration System (CRS) portal** and share data with the **Registrar General of India** (RGI).

The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC) began at **Vashi in Navi Mumbai.**
The **theme** of the WSC 2023 is **VISION 2030: S-P-I-C-E-S, which stands for sustainability, productivity, innovation, collaboration, excellence and safety.**

I**ndia has at least 150 elephant corridors spanning** 15 range-states across four elephant-bearing regions, with **West Bengal topping the list** with 26 such land strips, according to a new **Union Environment Ministry report.**
The latest **report, titled "Elephant Corridors of India",** also highlights that the intensity of elephant use has increased in 59 of these corridors, remained stable in 29 and decreased in 29 others.
West Bengal leads with the highest number of elephant corridors in India, accounting for over 17 per cent of the total such land patches in the country.

With the inauguration of '**Udaan Bhawan**,' an Integrated Office Complex at **Delhi's Safdarjung Airport** which was inaugurated by **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel**

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan a**nd Speaker, Lok Sabha, **Shri Om Birla launched 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with NSDC and IndusInd Bank** with a flagging off ceremony.

The **government has introduced** the **Women's Reservation Bill** in the Lok Sabha.
The Bill has been **named Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**.
Union Law Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal** introduced the **128th Amendment Bill**, 2023 in this regard.
The **old Parliament House** has been **renamed as Samvidhan Sadan**.

The **10th meeting** of the **India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee** on **Defence Science, Technology** and Industry Cooperation was held in **New Delhi**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **PM Vishwakarma scheme** in New Delhi on the occasion of **Vishwakarma Jayanti**.
The scheme will provide **government support to workers engaged** in **traditional crafts and skills.**
It is a new scheme with an **outlay of Rs 13,000 crore** and is fully funded by the Central government.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

During the **45th session of the World Heritage Committee**, the decision to **include Santiniketan** in the list was taken.
The 45th session of the World Heritage Committee is currently underway in **Saudi Arabia.**
Shantiniketan has become the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India.
It **has become the third UNESCO World Heritage Site in West Bengal** after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways.

The **government will launch a series of transformative initiatives**, aimed at **revolutionizing agriculture** in the country in New Delhi.

Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel, along with Shri **Pema Khandu**, Chief Minister of **Arunachal Pradesh** will **inaugurate t**he newly developed **infrastructure of Tezu Airport.**
The airport is developed on 212 acres of land and is capable of handling operations for **ATR 72 type of aircraft**.
The **works undertaken for Rs. 170 Cr**. include the extension of the runway (1500m x 30m) and the construction of a new apron for 02 nos.

India has won the bid to h**ost the** prestigious **International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement (ICCC) in New Delhi in 2027.**
India's leading research and academic institutes, the **National Council for Cement and Building Materials** (NCCBM), and **IIT Delhi** successfully presented India's bid before the Steering Committee members of the Conference during the ongoing 16th **ICCC at Bangkok, Thailand**.
Besides India, other bidders were from **Switzerland and the UAE.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi to inaugurate **16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas built across Uttar Pradesh.**
He will also lay the **foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit **Varanasi to inaugurate 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas built across Uttar Pradesh**.
He will also lay the foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi.
The cricket stadium, to be built in **Ganjari, Rajatalab, Varanasi will be developed in a more than 30-acre area, at a cost of about 450 crore rupees**.

India's leading airline, **IndiGo, has announced new direct flights connecting Hyderabad and Colombo from November** this year.
The development marks a significant milestone as IndiGo becomes the first Indian carrier to establish direct connectivity between the two vibrant cities.

India has **temporarily suspended visa** services in **Canada including E-visa due to the incitement of violence and inaction of Canadian authority and**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

creating an environment that disrupts the functions of the Indian High Commission and Consulates in Canada.

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reduced the cut-off percentile for Postgraduate courses (Medical/ Dental) for NEET PG** Counselling 2023.
Now, the qualifying percentile has been **reduced to 'zero'** across all categories.
This was announced in a notification issued by the **Medical Counselling Committee (MCC).**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the '**International Lawyers' Conference 2023'** at Vigyan Bhawan, **New Delhi**.
International Lawyer's Conference 2023 is being organised by the Bar Council of India on the **theme 'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System'** .

Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) launched the **mobile application and the web portal for GCES (General Crop Estimation Survey).**
This revolutionary portal and mobile application have been designed to transform agricultural practices across the nation.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, **Government of India launched an AI Chatbot for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme** in New Delhi.

The **AI Chatbot launch marks** a significant step towards **enhancing the efficiency and reach of the PM-KISAN scheme, and also providing farmers prompt, clear, and accurate responses to their queries.**

The **14th edition** of the Global Skills Summit has begun **in Delhi**.
The theme of the two-day Summit is **building skills, empowering youth, and creating a future.**
The Summit aims to focus on creating a road map for a high-quality industry-led skilling ecosystem in India

The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in India has unveiled an AI Chatbot for the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme**, marking a significant milestone in enhancing the scheme's efficiency and reach.
The **AI Chatbot** will provide farmers with quick, accurate, and clear responses to their queries, offering a user-friendly interface to engage with the program effectively.
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN) is an initiative by the government of India that gives farmers up to **₹6,000** per year as minimum income support.
The initiative was announced by Piyush Goyal during the **2019** Interim Union Budget of India on 1 February 2019.
The scheme was first conceived and implemented by government of **Telangana** as the **Rythu Bandhu scheme**, where a certain amount is given directly to eligible farmers.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Taking the issue of **one nation one election** forward, the high level committee headed by former President **Ramnath Kovind** held in New Delhi.
The government had notified the **8-member committee on September 2** to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections at all levels.

The first C-295 MW transport aircraft formally inducted in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Indian Air Force airbase in Hindan, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
India has formalized the acquisition of **56 Airbus C-295 aircraft** to replace the Indian Air Force AVRO fleet.
The Indian Air Force received the **first C-295 MW transport aircraft at Seville in Spain** on the 13th of September which was attended by Air Chief Marshal VR Choudhari.

Tamil Nadu has become one of the **largest manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (EV) sold** this year, data from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Vahan Dashboard stated.
Out of the **10 lakh EVs sold in India** this year (2023), over **4 lakh** were manufactured in Tamil Nadu.
Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh today inaugurated the **'India Energy Summit 2023' at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi**.
Two-day Summit aims to focus on the development of an **enabling Green Hydrogen ecosystem** in the country.

Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh today inaugurated the **'India Energy Summit 2023' at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi**.
Two-day Summit aims to focus on the development of an **enabling Green Hydrogen ecosystem** in the country.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched a **first-of-its-kind Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus** from India Gate in New Delhi.
Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Rameswar Teli** stated that these buses are a positive step towards India's aim to reach **net zero carbon emission by 2070**.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** discussed India's G20 Presidency as well as the situation in **Afghanistan, Myanmar**, and other global challenges during their meeting in **New York**.

In Punjab, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah** will preside over the **31st meeting of the Northern Zonal Council** in **Amritsar**.
Northern Zonal Council comprises the states of **Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Chandigarh**.

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is organizing the two-day **India Smart Cities Conclave 2023 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
President Droupadi Murmu will be felicitating the winners of the **4th edition**

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

of the **India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) 2022**.
The India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) is organized under the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

The **Home Ministry** has modified rules pertaining to filing of annual returns by Non-Government Organisations NGOs registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act FCRA asking them to provide details of moveable and immovable assets created by them using foreign funds every year.
The Ministry in a gazette notification stated that in exercise of the powers conferred by **section 48 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**, the Central Government hereby makes the rules further to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011.
The **Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act, 2010** is an act of the Parliament of India, by the 42nd Act of 2010.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India will launch the National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in **Pharma-MedTech Sector in India.**
The policy will help India grow the Pharma-MedTech Sector to **USD 120-130 Billion** over the next decade, which will further increase its contribution to the GDP by about 100 basis points.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has celebrated the **68th Foundation Day** on the campus grounds, which was attended by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Professor S P Singh Baghel.
On this occasion, Prof. S P Singh Baghel visited the AIIM's exhibition organized on the theme "**AIIMS: Leading India's Health Care Security".** After this, Dr. V K Paul delivered the Diamond Jubilee Oration on the occasion.

While addressing the 20th Indo-US Economic Summit in New Delhi, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highway, **Nitin Gadkari** has stated that electric buses are very popular and the government is planning to make an **electric highway from Delhi to Jaipur.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for projects worth over **5200 crore** rupees at Chhota Udepur in **Gujarat**.
These projects include the school infrastructure projects worth over 4500 crore rupees under the programme '**Mission Schools of Excellence**'.

India's First Lighthouse Festival began in **Goa**.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 1st edition of the 'Bharatiya Prakash Sthamb Utsav' or Indian Lighthouse Festival at Goa's iconic Fort Aguada.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to singing legend **Lata Mangeshkar on her 94th birth anniversary.**

The **4th edition** of **Indo-Latin American Cultural Festival** organised by the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations** (ICCR) began in **New Delhi**.
Total **34 artists** from three countries - **Colombia, Ecuador and Chile** are participating in the two-day festival.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks in the country called **Sankalp Saptaah** in **New Delhi**.
Sankalp Saptaah is **linked** to the effective implementation of **Aspirational Blocks Programme ABP**.
The nationwide programme was launched by the Prime Minister on **7th January** this year (2023) to improve governance at the block level and enhance the quality of life of citizens.

India is set to implement a **28 per cent** Goods and Service Tax on online gaming from **October 1**, 2023.
The announcement was made by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs chairperson **Sanjay Agarwal**.
The amendments are related to the insertion of provision in the third schedule of **CGST Act, 2017** to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in the **casinos, horse racing and online gaming.**

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will organise the **4th Edition** of the **Indo-Latin American Cultural Festival** on the 28th and the 29th of September in New Delhi.
The festival is being organised in association with the **Embassies of Colombia, Ecuador, and Chile**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a two-day International Lawyers Conference **in New Delhi**.
The theme of the Conference is **Emerging Challenges in the Justice Delivery System**.
This conference is being organized for the first time by the Bar **Council of India**.

The **Indian Army** has inducted 600 indigenously manufactured self-neutralizing anti-tank mines known as "**Vibhav**."
Vibhav is a **self-neutralizing anti-tank mine**, meaning it has the capability to deactivate itself after a certain period.
These anti-tank mines were designed and developed entirely within India through a collaboration with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
Vibhav" is equipped with an **electronic anti-handling and anti-lift device (EAHALD),** which remains active for 120 days after arming.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Italian Prime Minister Mr Giorgia Meloni reportedly discussed Italy's intention to withdraw from the Belt and Road Initiative

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

(BRI) with the Chinese Premier during a private meeting at the G20 Summit in 2023. The BRI is often referred to as the "**21st Century Silk Road**" due to its aim of enhancing connectivity and trade routes.

The **G20 Leaders' Summit** took place in **New Delhi** on **September 9 and 10, 2023.** The G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to achieving **global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions** or carbon neutrality by or around mid-century.

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** announced the establishment of the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA).**
The GBA has garnered support from **19 countries,** including G20 members and non-member nations.
A total of 19 countries and **12 international organisations** have so far agreed to join the alliance, including both G20 members and non-member countries.

The Prime Minister of India **Shri Narendra Modi** has announced the commencement of the **India-Middle East-Europe Mega Economic Corridor (IMEC).**
The IMEC project involves several countries, including India, the **UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany,** and the **United States.**

The **12th Round of Ministerial India-United Kingdom (UK) Economic and Financial Dialogue** took place in New Delhi.

The **African Union** has officially become a **member of the G20 group**, and this inclusion was made at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who was hosting the G20 Summit.
The **theme** of India's G20 presidency is "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future.**"

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** have signed a **5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).**
To co-create data-driven digital public goods, including **DiCRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture),** with a focus on building sustainable agricultural practices and securing livelihoods, especially for small farmholders, including women.

The **United Kingdom (UK)** has pledged **$2 billion** to the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** in the wake of G20 leaders' commitment to addressing climate change and ensuring developed nations contribute to climate funds for developing countries.
The commitment follows the UK Prime Minister's announcement at **Conference of the Parties (COP27)** that the UK would triple its funding for climate adaptation.
The GCF was established by **194 countries** following the Copenhagen Accord at COP15.

Southeast Asian leaders decided that **Myanmar** would **not chair** the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2026 meeting** due to military seizure of power in the country.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

ASEAN Summit is the **highest policy-making body** in ASEAN comprising the Heads of State of ASEAN Member States.

The **10th session** of the **Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** is being held in **Bonn, Germany,** from August 28 to 2 September, 2023.
The IPBES is an **independent inter-governmental body** established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has published its **1st guidance on the use of Generative AI (GenAI)** in education, emphasising the importance of regulating this technology.
This includes measures to **protect data privacy** and the **implementation of an age limit for users.**
The guidance highlights the emergence of GenAI chatbots like **ChatGPT**, launched by Microsoft-backed OpenAI in November.

The **World Bank** and the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** conducted an assessment called "**Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty According to International Poverty Lines.**"
The report highlights that **every second person living** in extreme poverty globally is a child.
The assessment indicates that the majority of poor children are concentrated in **two regions: sub-Saharan Africa** and **South Asia.**
Among children, the highest poverty rate is observed in the **0-5 year age group.**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has **projected Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to be 6.5 per cent** in the **fiscal year 2024,** compared to an estimated growth of **6 percent in fiscal 2023.**

Pakistan's election commission announced that the general elections in the country will take place in the **last week of January 2024.**
General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan **within 90 days** after the dissolution of the National Assembly, which was prematurely dissolved on August 9, 2023.

Singapore has dethroned **Hong Kong** to become the world's freest economy, according to a report released by **Canadian think tank Fraser Institute.**
For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong slipped to second place from the number one spot and its score is about to drop even further.

The foreign ministers of Quad group -- **which includes India, Australia, Japan and the United States**—met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in **New York**.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Indian Prime Minister (PM) **Shri Narendra Modi** has extended an invitation to United States (US) President **Joe Biden** to be the **Chief Guest for India's Republic Day celebrations** on January 26, 2024.
If President Biden accepts the invitation, he will become the **second US President** to serve as the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations.
The first US President to attend this event was **Barack Obama** in 2015.
In the 2022 Republic Day celebrations, the Chief Guest was **Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.**

Rishi Sunak, the British Prime Minister (PM), has announced a delay of **5 years** in the **ban on petrol and diesel cars** until 2035.
The delay is attributed to a cost-of-living crisis in the UK, and Sunak characterized it as a shift toward a more "**pragmatic, proportionate, and realistic path.**"
Despite the delay, the UK remains committed to its goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by **2050**.
'Net zero emissions' refers to achieving an **overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) production** and **greenhouse gas emissions** to the atmosphere.

In a significant move towards harnessing the power of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in the media landscape, the **UAE Ministry of Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications,** in collaboration with the Dubai Media Council, has officially launched a groundbreaking guide titled '**100 Practical Use Cases of Generative AI in Media.**

India-US 2 plus 2 Intersessional Dialogue was held in Washington.
The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary in External Affairs Ministry **Vani Rao** and Joint Secretary in the Defence Ministry **Vishwesh Negi.**
The American side was led by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs **Dr. Ely Ratner** and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs **Donald Lu.**

Israel, India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the **United States** have jointly announced a new space venture during the **78th United Nations General Assembly session in New York.**
These countries are members of the I2U2 group, also known as the **West Asia Quad.**

According to a study conducted by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR),** the **average daily salt consumption** among Indians is **8 grams,** which exceeds the **World Health Organization (WHO) standard by 3%.**

The **SDG Summit 2023** was a significant international event held in **New York.**
The summit marked the beginning of a new phase focused on accelerating progress toward achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
The **primary aim** of the SDGs is to **promote global prosperity, address inequalities,** and **protect the**

environment while pursuing sustainable development.

Indian Navy's indigenously built warship **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri, mission** deployed in Indo-Pacific, participated in the **maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise** with the ships and aircraft from the **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)** and **Indonesian Navy .**
INS Sahyadri, the **third ship** of the indigenously designed and built Project-17 class multirole stealth frigates was built at Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai, Maharashtra and is commanded by **Capt Rajan Kapoor.**

Indian cricket legend **Virat Kohli** is poised to receive a prestigious honor as he is set to be immortalized with a **wax statue at the Madame Tussauds Museum in Singapore.**
This remarkable achievement comes as no surprise, considering that the former captain of the Indian cricket team already boasts a wax replica at the **Madame Tussauds in Delhi**, which was unveiled in **2018**.
Other sporting legends such as **Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, Lionel Messi, and Usain Bolt** also grace the halls of Madame Tussauds with their wax counterparts.

Elon Musk's biography by American author-journalist **Walter Isaacson**, saw strong sales during its first week after launch, with a total of 92,560 copies being sold, according to data compiled by the book tracking platform Circana BookScan.

STATE NEWS

Karnataka is the **second state after Rajasthan** to launch an **insurance scheme for gig workers.**
The **state government** rolled out an **insurance scheme with a cover of Rs 4 lakh for gig workers** across the state.

The Odisha government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) **with six public sector banks for providing banking services** in all unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) of the **state through customer service point (CSP) Plus banking outlets.**
These banks were the **State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, UCO Bank, Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.**

Assam Governor **Shri Gulab Chand Kataria** launched the **'Sarpanch Samvad' mobile app** at Raj Bhavan in Guwahati, **Assam**.
The 'Sarpanch Samvad' app has been developed by the **Quality Council of India (QCI).**

Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) **Shri MK Stalin** has inaugurated the **'Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam' (Kalaignar Women's Rights Assistance Scheme),** which provides a monthly assistance of **Rs. 1,000** to **women** in TN.
The choice of the launch date holds historical significance, as it marks the birth anniversary of C N Annadurai, the **first Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** and a prominent Dravidian leader.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

The **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** Government has introduced a **special Gift Deed Scheme.** The Yogi Adityanath Government launched this scheme with the aim of promoting harmony and **resolving property-related family disputes.**

The **Griha Adhar scheme** has been launched to **empower the homemakers of Goa.**

Haryana Chief Minister **Shri Manohar Lal Khattar** launched the **e-Bhoomi portal** with an aim to simplify the **land purchase process** for government projects with the consent of landowners.
The offer of land on the new portal would be valid for **6 months.**
A minimum offer of **10 acres** has been made mandatory for voluntary offers made by aggregators.

The **indefinite Rail-Roko movement** called by the **Kurmi community** began **in Jharkhand**.
The members of the Kurmi community are demanding their **inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe list.**
After the Calcutta High Court banned the movement in **West Bengal, the Kurmi community withdrew the movement in West Bengal.**

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the **first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show in India Expo Centre** and Mart in **Greater Noida from September 21 to 25**.

Under **India's G-20 presidency**, a two-day, **fourth meeting of the G-20 Infrastructure Working Group began at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh**.
This is the last meeting of the **Infrastructure Working Group under the Indian G20 Presidency.**
The meeting is **being hosted and chaired** by the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India** along with **Australia and Brazil as co-chairs**.

The **4th Nadi Utsav** will commence at the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi.**
The three-day event will feature a wide range of programs including Cultural Performances, a book fair, a documentary film festival, and a puppet show.

Biswanath Ghat in Assam has been selected as the **Best Tourism Village of India 2023** by the Ministry of Tourism, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
The Ghat is also popularly known as "**Gupta Kashi**' in comparison with Kashi during the golden rule of the **Guptas**.

The Chief Minister (CM) of Madhya Pradesh (MP) **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** unveiled the **108-foot-tall 'Statue of Oneness'** depicting Adi Shankaracharya as a 12-year-old child.
The statue is located in **Omkareshwar**.

The **Madhya Pradesh (MP) Government** has declared the creation of the "**Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve,**" which becomes the **7th tiger reserve** in MP.

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Existing Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh: Madhya Pradesh is already renowned for its 6 existing tiger reserves, namely **Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Pench, Sanjay Dubri,** and **Satpura.**
With this addition, India now has a total of **54 tiger reserves** across the country.

Himachal Pradesh (HP) Chief Minister (CM) **Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** launched the **Integrated Electricity Consumer Portal of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL).**
Aim : To usher in a paperless work culture within the organization, which is expected to streamline administrative processes and expedite services.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) **Pema Khandu** has announced the rollout of a new scheme titled '**Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana**' for the welfare of the labour force of the state.
Under this scheme, the maternity benefit for families of workers has been increased from 1,000 rupees to **6,000 rupees.**

Tamil Nadu plans to develop a large-format **100-acre theme park** along the lines of those run by Disney and Universal Studios on the outskirts of **Chennai** through private sector participation, according to its new tourism policy.
The state government's tourism department released its tourism policy, under which it has outlined **12 priority tourism segments -- Adventure Tourism, Recreation Tourism, Caravan Tourism, Rural and Plantation Tourism, Coastal Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Religious Tourism, Eco Tourism, MICE Tourism, Heritage Tourism** and **Film Tourism.**

Karma Puja was celebrated in **Jharkhand**, which is one of the most popular festivals related to **harvest**, worship of nature, bond between brother and sister, and homage to the Karam tree.

The **Bihar government** is launching the '**Mukhyamantri Alpsankhyak Udyami Yojana**' for **unemployed youths** from the minority community.
Under the scheme, eligible unemployed individuals from the minority community will receive **Rs 10 lakh** to establish a new industry.
The new scheme will be implemented similarly to existing schemes such as **Mukhyamantri SC/ST/EBC Udyami Yojana, Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojna (MMUY),** and the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana (MYUY).**

Magic Bus India Foundation, a non-profit organization focusing on education and skilling, has collaborated with the **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** government to launch "**Project Saksham,**" a life skills education program in government schools.

Rahul Gandhi, a Congress leader, is set to launch the "**Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Nyay Yojna (MGANY)" rural housing scheme** in Bilaspur district, **Chhattisgarh**.
The primary goal of MGANY is to offer financial assistance to individuals who are

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

homeless or have kutcha houses in rural areas.

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** inducted its **first C-295 transport aircraft** at **Hindon Air Force Station in Uttar Pradesh (UP).**

The aircraft will be assigned to IAF Squadron No. 11, known as "**The Rhinos.**" The C-295 transport aircraft will replace the **HS-748 Avro aircraft**, enhancing the IAF's medium-lift tactical capability.

AWARDS & HONORS

NAME OF THE PERSON	AWARD NAME	KEY POINTS
The Nobel Foundation	Winners of this year's Nobel Prizes will get an extra one million crowns.	This means that the 2023 laureates will receive a total financial reward of 11 million Swedish crowns which is equivalent to around 986,000 dollars (8.1 crore rupees).
84 artists	Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards	Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to 84 artists from varied fields of performing arts.
Odisha scientist Dr Swati Nayak	Norman E. Borlaug Award	For field research and application for her work in the field of food and nutrition
Actress Waheeda Rehman	Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award	Dadasaheb Phalke, known as the 'Father of Indian Cinema,' directed 27 short films and over 90 full-length movies during his nearly two-decade-long filmmaking

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		career.
Reliance Foundation chairperson Nita Ambani	'Citizen of Mumbai' Award 2023-24	Awarded by the Rotary Club of Bombay for her contributions to healthcare, education, sports, arts, and culture.
Nikhil Mukund Wagh	Promising PR Person of the Year" award	-
2018 - Everyone is a Hero - Malayalam Movie	India's official entry for the 96th Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars	The film was Directed by the talented filmmaker Jude Anthany Joseph.

BUSINESS NEWS

The European Commission has designated **six technology giants – Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, ByteDance, Meta, and Microsoft** – as gatekeepers under the **Digital Markets Act** (DMA). In total, **22 core platform services** provided by **gatekeepers** have been designated.

The **NSE Nifty 50 recently** managed to **cross the 20,000 mark** for the first time.

GST assessees with turnover of at least ₹100 crore will now have **up to 30 days** to disclose invoices on the **e-invoice portal.** This time limit is applicable for taxpayers with **Aggregate Annual Turnover (AATO) greater than or equal to ₹100 crore.**

Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL), the lending arm of Aditya Birla Capital (ABCL), has **joined the public financing platform Open Credit Enablement Network** (OCEN) by launching **instant Purchase Order (PO) financing for MSMEs** registered on **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Sahay platform**.

Fixed return investment platform **Stable Money** has launched the **country's first fixed deposit (FD) marketplace for retail investors.**

The **global debt burden retreated for the second year in a row,** even though it remains above its already-high pre-pandemic level, according to the latest update of the **IMF Global Debt Database**. The **total debt stood at 238 per cent** of global gross domestic product last year, 9 percentage points higher than in 2019.

REC Limited has sanctioned Rs. 6,075 Crore loan to renewable energy company **Greenko** for setting up a **1,440 MW Standalone Pumped Storage Project.**
The National Electricity Plan of the Central Electricity Authority estimates an overall **Renewable installed capacity growth** of around **4 times** between **FY 2022 and FY 2032** (~7 times under Solar, ~5.5 times under Pumped Storage Project, ~3 times under Wind).

IT major **Infosys has signed a contract worth $1.5 billion** with a global company for a **period of 15 years** to leverage the company's platforms and **artificial intelligence (AI) solutions**.
This is the **fifth mega-deal for Infosys this financial year**.

Gross **Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24**, as of the 16th of September, have registered a **growth of 18.2 per cent**.

India's direct tax collection recorded over **eight lakh 65 thousand crore rupees** (till mid-September of this financial year) which is **23.51 per cent** higher than the corresponding period of last year.

India's goods exports decreased 6.8% in August to **$34.48 billion.** India's goods exports **declined** for the **seventh consecutive month in August** 2023 (year-on-year).

EPFO's provisional payroll data released highlights that **EPFO has added 18.75 lakh net members in the month of July 2023.**
The addition during the month is the highest since the first publishing of EPFO payroll data from April 2018 covering the period of September 2017 onwards.

Emcure Pharmaceuticals is planning to raise $400-500 million from initial public offering (IPO) in **2024**.
The company has hired investment banks **JP Morgan, Jefferies and Kotak** for the IPO and the sources stated that it is targeting a valuation of about $3 billion.

Aditya Birla Finance Limited, a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, is **to raise** up to **₹2,000 crore through its maiden public issue of non-convertible debentures (NCDs).**
NCDs are fixed-income securities listed with major stock exchanges (BSE and NSE) in India.
NCDs cannot be converted into shares or equities.
Types of Non-Convertible Debentures: Secured and Unsecured
Secured NCDs are those NCDs that are backed by the issuer company's assets. When the NCDs are based only on the creditworthiness of the issuer and not

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

backed by assets, they are called unsecured NCDs.

E-commerce platform **Zepto**, which has turned unicorn recently, has emerged as the **top startup** in India in terms of professionals' preferred workplace, according to a list by a top recruiting platform.
Startups that followed the e-grocery app in the ranking include **EV cab aggregator BluSmart, fintech company Ditto Insurance, audio OTT platform Pocket FM and Skyroot Aerospace**, respectively.

Aditya Birla Fashion Retail Ltd (ABFRL) has completed the acquisition of a **51 percent** stake in **TCNS Clothing** to become a promoter of the women's apparel brand.

Byju's has decided to **rebrand** its wholly-owned subsidiary **WhiteHat Jr,** while fully integrating the company's assets into other business verticals including its holding entity Think & Learn Pvt, a move aimed at reducing costs to tide over an immediate liquidity crunch.

Vedanta Ltd, controlled by metal and mining mogul **Anil Agarwal**, is reportedly closing a deal to **demerge** its businesses into several listed entities.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) continues to be **India's most valuable brand** at **$43 billion**, according to **Kantar BrandZ** Top 75 most valuable Indian brands report.

India's top 75 brands have a combined brand value of $379 billion, a decline of **4 percent** from **2022**.

TCS and Infosys recorded a drop of **6 percent and 17 percent**, respectively in **2023**.

HDFC Bank, Infosys and Airtel also retained the top four spots, while **State Bank of India (SBI)** entered the list, Kantar stated in a report.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

PERSON NAME	APPOINTED AS	KEY POINTS/ RESIGNATIONS
Srinivasan K Swamy	Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC)	-
Rahul Navin	in-charge director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)	Sanjay Kumar Mishra
Rajnish Kumar	Chairman of Mastercard India	-
Katrina Kaif	brand ambassador	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Santosh Jha	High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.	Gopal Baglay
Sanjiv Kapoor	new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Flyadeal Airlines	Con Korfiatis
Vivek Bhasin	14th Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).	Ajit Kumar Mohanty
Bhargav Dasgupta	Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Vice President	-
Suresh Gopi	President of the Kolkata-based Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI)	-
Parag Ved	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a Director of Liberty General Insurance	Roopam Asthana
M Rajeshwar Rao	Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Governor	-
Sashidhar Jagdishan	managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank	Aditya Puri
Arjun Mohan	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BYJU'S	Mrinal Mohit
KN Madhusoodanan	Part-time chairman of Dhanlaxmi Bank	-
Piyush Goyal	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)	-

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Razorpay, a fintech platform based in Bengaluru, has acquired **BillMe**, a Mumbai-based digital invoicing and customer engagement startup.
To **enable businesses** to enhance their engagement with end consumers through a hybrid model.
This acquisition marks the **8th acquisition** by Razorpay.

The **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) has approved the acquisition of approximately **24.16% of the total equity shareholding in Quality Care India Limited by Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited**.
The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of approximately 24.16% of the total equity shareholding in **Quality Care India Limited (QCIL) by Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited.**
The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of **approximately 72.49% stake in Quality Care India by BCP** Asia II.
The Proposed Combination envisages the **acquisition of ~72.49% of the total equity shareholding of Quality Care India Limited** (Target), on a fully diluted basis, by **BCP Asia II Topco IV Pte. Ltd** (BCP Asia II/Acquirer) from Touch Healthcare Private Limited.

The **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) has approved the proposed **acquisition of an additional unit holding in Highways Infrastructure Trust** by 2452991 **Ontario Limited and the acquisition of an equity stake** in **Highway Concessions One Private Limited by 2743298 Ontario Limited.**

The **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) has approved the proposed **acquisition of certain shareholding in TVS Credit Services Limited by PI Opportunities Fund-I Scheme-II** along with certain Individuals.
The PI Opportunities Fund-I Scheme-II, is a trust established under the laws of India and registered as a Category II **Alternative Investment Fund** (AIF) with **the Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI).

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **Scheme of Amalgamation of The Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-operative Bank,** which is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra, with **The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited,** based in Pune, Maharashtra.
The approval for this amalgamation is granted by the RBI in accordance with its powers conferred under **Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, and in conjunction with Section 56 of the same Act.

Eutelsat Communications SA and **OneWeb** completed an all-share merger after getting approval from shareholders.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Bharat Electronics Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding to

develop an indigenous Communication Based Train Control system.
The **Communication-Based Train Control System** will optimize train operations, increase frequency, and enhance passenger services while efficiently utilizing rail infrastructure.
The prototype i-**CBTC Product** will be **deployed** soon on a test track.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) India has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre** (IN-SPACe) to **support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.**
The three organisations will also collaborate on a new initiative **to train students and educators in cloud computing, AI, ML, analytics, and security by leveraging AWS education programs.**

In a significant development, **15 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Switzerland, signed the UN Convention** on the International Effects of **Judicial Sales of Ships**.
Maritime transport plays a leading role in international trade, and **it is estimated that more than 90 per cent of global traded goods are transported by sea**.
This makes the ship a vital asset.

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd has partnered **with Indian Bank to provide financing solutions to its dealers.**
The two parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), **which will empower over 4,000 Maruti Suzuki dealerships across the country with** comprehensive inventory funding options for their working capital requirements.

As part of its effort to expand its global network, **Air India** has entered into an interline **partnership with Bangkok Airways** in order to **provide greater connectivity within Thailand** and other countries in Southeast Asia.
The agreement comprises seamless connections via Air India's Bangkok, Hong Kong and Singapore gateways to and from **10 destinations in Thailand**, Laos and Cambodia on Bangkok Airways' route network as well as complimentary lounge access at available airports regardless of cabin class.

Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India** (SIDBI) to provide accessible financing options to **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) looking to adopt solar solutions.**

REC Limited has **sanctioned debt funding** of more than **Rs. 3,081 Crore** to renewable energy company **Serentica Renewables for its 560 MW peak** greenfield solar-wind hybrid project in Gadag district of **Karnataka**.
With a resolute vision and unwavering commitment, REC is on a trajectory to

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

achieve a **green finance loan book of Rs. 3 lakh Crore** by the **fiscal year 2030**.

National Highways Logistics Management Ltd (NHLML), a 100% owned company of NHAI signed an agreement for the development of **Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Bengaluru** proposed to be developed under the **Public Private Partnership** (DBFOT) **model at an estimated cost of Rs 1,770 crore, the agreement** has been signed between Government SPV, Bengaluru MMLP Pvt. Ltd. & Concessionaire SPV M/s. PATH Bengaluru Logistics Park Pvt. Ltd.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** inked **3 separate MoUs,** and laid the foundation stone of '**Modern Khadi of New India**' in the Amritkal of Independent India.

The **Odisha government signed** an MoU with **Gopalpur Port** for further development and expansion of the **facility in Ganjam district**.
The Odisha government handed over more than 119 acres of land to Gopalpur Port after the signing of the Mou.

National Highways network, NHAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation** (DMRC) for **review of designs of various bridges/ structures, safety aspects of NHAI projects** and capacity building of NHAI officials.

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the **Department of Telecommunications** (DoT) and CSIR-**National Physical Laboratory** (NPL) signed an agreement for the '**Development of NavIC-based IST traceable Primary Reference Time Clock (PRTC) for Telecom Sector'.**
The agreement is **signed under the Telecom Technology Development Fund** (TTDF) scheme of the **DoT for providing funding support to domestic companies and institutions** involved in technology design, development, and commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.
The project focuses on the development of a device which shall provide direct **Indian Standard Time (IST)** traceability to all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and **Internet Service Providers** (ISPs) **within ± 20 ns.**

India Global Forum and **World Governments Summit** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to **develop an Emerging Economies Programme**.
The partnership will also **focus on cultivating and fostering thought leadership, producing research** on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities that pertain to the Global South.
The **World Governments Summit Organization is a global, neutral, non-**

profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has forged a strategic partnership with BankID BankAxept AS, the linchpin of Norway's financial infrastructure, to establish and manage an operations command center in Oslo, Norway.
The deal aims to enhance the resilience, security, and availability of the country's critical financial infrastructure.

State-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation** (ONGC) has signed an initial agreement with **NTPC Green Energy** Ltd to explore setting up green hydrogen and offshore wind projects.
The MoU was signed by ONGC executive director **Debdulal Adhikari** and NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) CEO **Mohit Bhargava** in the presence of ONGC chairman and CEO **Arun Kumar Singh** and NTPC chairman and managing director **Gurdeep Singh**.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd has inked the **Crude Oil Sales Agreement** (COSA) with **Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd** (MRPL) for the sale and purchase of crude oil.
The current agreement between ONGC and MRPL will be applicable till **March 31, 2024**.

Brookfield Asset Management has entered into a joint venture with Hyderabad-based **Axis Energy Ventures India** to set up a renewable energy development platform, with the investment management company investing up to **$845 million**.

HP, a well-known brand for computers and printers, has teamed up with Google to make **Chromebooks** right here in India, supporting the '**Make in India**' initiative.
These Chromebook devices will be created at the **Flex Facility near Chennai**, where HP has been making laptops and desktops since **August 2020**.

DEFENCE NEWS

NAME OF THE EXERCISE	LAUNCHED BY	VENUE	BUILT BY	KEY POINTS
world's highest fighter airfield	BRO	-	-	The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is set to construct the world's highest fighter airfield in the Nyoma region

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

				of Ladakh.The airfield will be situated at an elevation of 13,700 feet, making it one of the highest airfields globally for fighter jets.
19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM)	Indian Coast Guard (ICG)	September 5 to September 8, 2023, in Istanbul, Turkey.	-	A 4-member ICG delegation was led by DG Rakesh Pal, Director General of the ICG. HACGAM includes 23 member Coast Guard agencies and 2 associate members
first C-295MW transport aircraft	Indian Air Force (IAF)	Spain	-	The IAF has ordered a total of 56 C-295MW aircraft under a project valued at ₹21,935 crores. The C-295MW is a transport aircraft with a capacity of 5-10 tonnes.
Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)	Rajnath Singh	-	-	9 acquisition proposals totalling Rs 45,000 crore for the Indian Armed forces , including procurement of 12 Su-30MKIs for the Indian Air Force (IAF)

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Exercise Bright Star-23	Indian Navy Ship (INS) Sumedha	-	Goa Shipyard Limited	INS Sumedha exercised with navies of Egypt, Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Qatar.
90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), w	Rajnath Singh	Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).	-	The 422.9-meter long Class 70 RCC Devak bridge is strategically significant, enhancing the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and fostering socio-economic development in the region.
13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference	Indian Army and US Army Pacific.	-	-	The two-day conference will be attended by army chiefs of the 30 Indo-Pacific region to discuss security cooperation, and collective strategies in the Indo-Pacific region.
two new B-360 types of aircraft	Airports Authority of India	-	-	The induction ceremony took place in the presence of Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

				Scindia, and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh at the Safdarjung Airport.
10th meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee	Defence Science, Technology and Industry Cooperation	New Delhi	-	The existing defence research and industry cooperation between the two countries was reviewed and discussions were held on issues of mutual interest during the meeting.
Sahel security pact	Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger signed a mutual defence pact.	Bamako, Mali.	-	The Liptako-Gourma Charter established the Alliance of Sahel States (AES). Its main objective is to establish an architecture of collective defence and mutual assistance.
SIMBEX 2023	Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy	-	-	Ranvijay, Kavaratti, and Sindhukesari, Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I participated in the

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

				exercise.
Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference	Indian Army and the United States Army	25th to the 27th of September 2023., New Delhi	-	Theme : Together for Peace: Sustaining Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region."
19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS"	-	September 25 to October 8, 2023, in Fort Wainwright, Alaska,United States of America (USA)	-	The theme of the Exercise is 'Employment of an Integrated Battle Group in Mountain/ Extreme Climatic Conditions' under Chapter VII of the United Nations mandate. Indian Army Contingent: The Indian Army contingent participating in this edition comprises 350 personnel. Lead Battalion: The lead battalion from the Indian side is affiliated with the MARATHA Light Infantry Regiment. US Army : The 1-24 Infantry Battalion of the 1st Brigade Combat

				Team will participate from the US side.

RANKING AND INDEX

INDEX NAME	TOP IN THE LIST	KEY POINTS
Global Crypto Adoption Index.	India	India has been ranked first in grassroots crypto adoption, even amid a tough regulatory environment, according to Chainalysis' 2023 Global Crypto Adoption Index.
U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Countries rankings.	Switzerland	This marks Switzerland's second consecutive year at the pinnacle and its sixth time overall as the No. 1 nation on the list. According to the 8th edition of US News & World Report's Best Countries 2023, India was ranked 30th.
Top 100 list of the World's Best Companies	Infosys	IT major Infosys is the only Indian company to feature in the top 100 list of the World's Best Companies of 2023 released by TIME Magazine and online data platform Statista. Microsoft, Apple, and Alphabet (Google owner) are top 3 in the list while India's Infosys was ranked

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		64th with an overall score of 88.38 out of 100.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Sahasra Electronic Solutions, based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP) is part of the Sahasra Group and is gearing up to introduce the **first Made-in-India computer motherboard to the market in November, 2023.**

The motherboard, which will be designed around the latest Intel 13th generation chipset, is currently undergoing trials.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Lucy spacecraft has captured its **first images** of the main belt asteroid **Dinkinesh**, marking the beginning of a 12-year voyage.

It is classified as a **slow rotator** with a moderately large light-curve amplitude.

Dinkinesh is categorised as an **S-type asteroid,** indicating a composition primarily composed of silicates and some metal.

The images of Dinkinesh were captured using Lucy's high-resolution camera, known as the **Lucy Long Range Reconnaissance Imager (L'LORRI instrument).**

Scientists at the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** have achieved a significant breakthrough by decoding the entire **genome** of the **Indian oil sardine (Sardinella longiceps)**, a popular food fish in India.

Indian oil sardine belongs to the genus **Sardinella** and is a ray-finned fish species.

It is a crucial fisheries resource in the Indian subcontinent and contributes significantly, approximately **10%, to India's total marine fisheries industry.**

The **World's largest flower - the Rafflesia** - is nearing extinction. New research indicates that the Rafflesia, best known for its speckled red petals and "**dead flesh**" smell, may not exist a few years down the line.

In a tribute to '**Missile Man' Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**, researchers from the Marine Biology department of Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) named a

new species of **marine tardigrade** that they discovered after the former President. Named '**Batillipes kalami**', the new species of tardigrades was found by researchers in the intertidal beach sediments of Mandapam coast, close to Kalam's birth place in **Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu**.
Tardigrades, often referred to as **water bears**, are eight-legged micro-animals found in the water.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully retrieved its **first asteroid samples** from deep space, with the capsule parachuting into the Utah desert.
The asteroid-hunting spacecraft **OSIRIS-REx** was responsible for collecting and delivering the pristine asteroid material.
OSIRIS-REx stands for **Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer**.

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen inaugurated the island's **first domestically manufactured submarine** named "**Hai Kun**" during its testing phase at a port in **Kaohsiung city, Taiwan**.
The submarine received its official name, "Hai Kun," which is derived from a **mythological fish of gigantic proportions** known for its ability to transform into an equally enormous bird.
The submarine's English name is "**Narwhal**," inspired by the narwhal, a single-tusked whale featured in National Geographic's list of the world's weirdest creatures.

SPORTS NEWS

Indian javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra finished second** in the **men's event** at the **Diamond League Final in Eugene, Oregon, USA**.
The Indian's best throw of 83.80 meters came in his second attempt.
However, **the Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch**, won his **third title** with a best throw of 84.24 meters.

Germany has won their first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup title by **beating** undermanned **Serbia** 83-77 in a slugfest of the two European powerhouses **in Manila.**
Germany became the first team to win a FIBA World Cup crown in their final debut since Spain in 2006.

Indian shooter **Elavenil Valarivan has won the gold medal** in the **women's 10 metre air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup** 2023 in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**.
A total of eight shooters qualified for the final.
This was **Elavenil Valarivan's second individual ISSF World Cup medal.**
The ongoing event in the Brazilian city will be followed by the fi**nals in Doha, Qatar,** scheduled from November 18 to 27. India have sent a 16-member squad for the ISSF World Cup.

In Cricket, **India demolished hosts Sri Lanka** by registering a 10-wicket win in the final to **lift the Asia Cup in Colombo**.

The International Cricket Council released the offi**cial Anthem for the**

Men's Cricket World Cup beginning on the 5th of next month.
The **theme of the anthem** is **Dil Jashn Bole** and it features Bollywood superstar **Ranveer Singh** and other popular social media influencers.

Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj has grabbed the **top spot in the latest ICC bowler's rankings.**
Jasprit Bumrah, who has come back after a long injury break, **climbed up two places to the 27th position.**
Hardik Pandya rose eight spots to the 50th rank.

The **Indian men's hockey team skipper and the Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist** will lead the contingent at the opening ceremony.
Men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and Tokyo Olympics **bronze medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain** will be India's flag-bearers at the **opening** ceremony of the **19th Asian Games** that kicks off.

SBI Life has joined hands with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as one of the official partners for the **BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-2026.**
SBI Life has signed a 3-year deal with the BCCI and their partnership will begin with the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, starting September 22, 2023.
SBI Life is a top-tier life insurance provider in India, and the BCCI is one of the most potent and significant sporting organizations in the world.

Young **Indian wrestler Antim Panghal** secured a **bronze medal in the women's 53 kg category** at the ongoing **World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.**
He also secured the **Paris Olympics 2024** quota for India.
Antim has captured **India's 23rd medal in the World Championships** till date, which includes **one gold, five silver and 17 bronze medals.**

Pakistan skipper **Babar Azam** clinched his third ICC Player of the Month award this year as he won the award for the month of **August 2023**.

India's overall tally stands at 11 medals- **two gold, three silver and six bronze** in the Asian Games at Hangzhou, China so far.

Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** clinched an easy win at the **Japanese Grand Prix** to move a step closer to earning his third back-to-back Formula One championship.

Indian sailor **Neha Thakur** grabbed **a silver** in girl's dinghy ILCA-4 event to open the country's medal count in the sport of the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.

India will take on hosts Nepal in the semifinal of the **SAFF Under-19 Football** Championship in **Kathmandu**.
On the other hand, Nepal claimed the second spot in Group A, following Pakistan.
The **2023 SAFF U-19 Championship** is the **5th edition** of the SAFF U-19

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

Championship, an international football competition for men's under-19 national teams organized by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
It takes place from 21–30 September 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

India's **Sift Kaur Samra** won gold in the women's **50m Rifle** 3-P individual event at the Asian Games 2023 to give India its **fifth gold** at **Hangzhou**.
In women's 25m pistol shooting event, Indian team composed of **Manu Bhaker**, **Rhythm Sangwan** and **Esha Singh** also claimed the gold medal.
Meanwhile, **Esha Singh** in an individual women's 25m pistol event won **Silver**, behind China's Rui Liu.
In a 50m rifle team event Indian trio of **Sift Samra Kaur**, **Ashi Chouksey** and **Manini Kaushik** clinched **silver** while **Ashi Chouksey** in an individual event of 50m rifles bagged **bronze** medal.

The highly-talented **Roshibina Devi** bagged the silver **medal in** the **60 kg** of the Wushu competition in the ongoing Asian Games 2023.

The Indian shooting contingent continues to dominate at the ongoing Asian Games in Hangzhou as the men's trio of **Swapnil Kusal, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Akhil Sheoran** clinched a **gold** medal at the 50 m rifle men's 3P event.

With a score of 1769 points, Team **India secured the gold**.

The silver medal was won by **China** with 1763 points and the **bronze medal** went to **South Korea** with 1748 points.

Nepal's **Kushal Malla** shattered multiple all-time batting records in **T20Is** as he scored a sensational century in the first match of Group A in the ongoing Asian Games men's cricket competition against **Mongolia** on September 27.
Meanwhile, his teammate **Dipendra Singh Airee** reached his **half-century** in just nine balls and broke **Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball 50 record**.

The Indian contingent once again looks gritty to showcase a stellar performance in the 19th edition of the event which is currently going on in Hangzhou, China.

OBITUARIES

NAME OF THE PERSON	FIELD	NATIVITY/KEY POINTS
Mircea Snegur	First president of Moldova	He served as the first president of Moldova from 1990 to 1997, making significant contributions during this pivotal period

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package

		in the country's history.
Malini Rajurkar	Hindustani classical vocalist	Malini Rajurkar received the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her significant contributions to Indian classical music in 2001.
Actor Akhil Mishra	Actor	-
Giorgio Napolitano	Former Italian president	He held the office of the President of Italy for over 9 years and 4 months, making him the longest-serving president in the history of the Italian Republic.
Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, or MS Swaminathan	Renowned Agriculturist & Father of India's iconic Green Revolution	In 1987, he was awarded the first World Food Prize after which Swaminathan set up the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai's Taramani by using the $200,000 prize money.
Saroja Vaidyanathan	Indian choreographer, guru and a notable exponent of Bharatanatyam	Karnataka
Michael Gambon	British-Irish actor	Ireland

Click Here For Bundle PDF Course Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package