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Officers
Times[®]**

Current Affairs

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Appointment

Tushar Mehta reappointed as Solicitor General of India

- Tushar Mehta, the incumbent Solicitor General of India, has been reappointed for a three-year term by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC). Mehta's reappointment, along with six other law officers, was announced after their previous terms in the Supreme Court concluded. The ACC's decision reflects the government's trust in their capabilities to handle the extensive legal matters faced by the country.

Extension of Term for Additional Solicitor Generals -

- In addition to Tushar Mehta, six other law officers have been granted extensions as Additional Solicitor Generals (ASGs) in the Supreme Court, however their duration of terms are yet to be issued. These ASGs include Vikramjeet Banerjee, KM Nataraj, Balbir Singh, Suryaprakash V Raju, N Venkatraman, and Aishwarya Bhati. The ACC's decision to extend their terms underscores the importance of their expertise and contributions to the defense of the government's interests in complex legal matters.

Solicitor General's Role

- As the highest law officer in the country after the Attorney General, the Solicitor General plays a crucial role in representing the government's interests in various legal matters. Tushar Mehta has been serving as the Solicitor General since October 2018, and his reappointment demonstrates the government's satisfaction with his performance during his tenure. The office of the Solicitor General handles a significant portion of the central government's litigation across the country, making it a vital position in the legal system.



IMPORTANT

- ✓ **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) was formed on January 26, 1950.**
- ✓ **Union Minister for ACC is Amit Shah.**
- ✓ **Narendra Modi is the Chairperson of ACC.**
- ✓ **Solicitor General is the second-highest law officer of the country.**
- ✓ **R. Venkataramani is the current Attorney General for India.**

President appoints two new judges in Supreme Court

- Telangana Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Kerala Chief Justice S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti have been appointed as judges of the Supreme Court by the President. These appointments were made shortly after the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, recommended their names to the government.

Overview of the news -

- The two new appointments increase the judicial strength of the apex court to 33, leaving only one vacancy. Justice Bhuyan, appointed as a judge of the Gauhati High Court on October 17, 2011, had been serving as the Chief Justice of Telangana since June 28 last year.
- Justice Bhatti was appointed as a judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on April 12, 2013. The Collegium

had explained its choice of Justice Bhatti, saying the High Court of Andhra Pradesh did not have any representation on the Bench of the Supreme Court since August 2022.

- Justice Bhatti was transferred to the High Court of Kerala in March 2019. He had been serving as Chief Justice there since June 1, 2023.
- The Collegium had noted that Justice Bhatti's judgments dealt with a myriad range of issues from multiple branches of law, and "stand testimony to his legal acumen and competence".

Experience of Justice Bhatti

- Justice Bhatti was appointed as a judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on April 12, 2013 and is the senior-most in his parent High Court.
- He was transferred to the Kerala High Court in March 2019 and is presently serving as Chief Justice there since June 1, 2023.

Experience of Justice Bhuyan

- Justice Bhuyan is currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court while Justice Bhatti is the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.
- Justice Bhuyan's parent High Court is the Gauhati High Court.
- He was appointed as a judge of the Gauhati High Court on October 17, 2011.
- He is the senior-most judge of his parent High Court and has been serving as Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court since June 28, 2022.



Aadhav Arjuna was elected as President of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI)

- Aadhav Arjuna, the president of the Tamil Nadu Basketball Association (TNBA), emerged victorious in the election held at Nehru Stadium and secured the position of president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI). Aadhav garnered an impressive 38 out of the 39 votes, defeating the incumbent president, K Govindaraj.
- Kulvinder Singh Gill, a former player and the president of the Madhya Pradesh Basketball Association, was elected as the secretary general.
- Historically, few leaders have been appointed without going through an election process over the past three decades. However, this time, we conducted the election under the supervision of the Supreme Court and emerged triumphant. The reforms implemented under my leadership have significantly elevated the performance of Tamil Nadu's basketball teams, making them the top contenders in India.



The office bearers :

- President: Aadhav Arjuna; Vice presidents: Ajay Ssud, Donald Steven Wahlang, Dr. Lalrinawma Hnamte, Manohara Kumar, Norman Isaac, Fr. Ralin De Souza, Seema Sharma; Secretary General: Kulvinder Singh Gill; Treasurer: T Chengalraya Naidu; Joint secretaries: G Chakravarthi, Munish Sharma, Pradeep Kumar Auddi, Prakash Sandou, Surya Singh.

Executive committee :

RS Bedi, C Sasidharan, Sentiningsang Longkumer, T Brajbidhu Singh.

About the Basketball Federation of India (BFI)

- The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) is the governing body of basketball in India. It was founded in 1950 and is affiliated to FIBA Asia and the Indian Olympic Association.

- The history of basketball in India can be traced back to the early 1900s, when the game was introduced by Christian missionaries and YMCAs. The first national basketball championships were held in 1934, and India became a member of FIBA in 1936.
- The BFI has been responsible for the development and promotion of basketball in India. It organizes national and international tournaments, and provides training and support to players and coaches. The BFI has also played a role in the growth of the Indian basketball league, the Universal Basketball Alliance (UBA).
- The BFI has faced some challenges in recent years, including a lack of funding and a shortage of qualified coaches. However, the federation is committed to growing the game of basketball in India, and it has made some progress in recent years.

Here are some of the key events in the history of the Basketball Federation of India :

- 1934: First national basketball championships are held in New Delhi.
- 1936: India becomes a member of FIBA.
- 1950: Basketball Federation of India is founded.
- 1970: India hosts the FIBA Asia Championship.
- 1982: India hosts the Asian Games.
- 2015: Universal Basketball Alliance (UBA) is founded.
- 2017: UBA folds after four seasons.
- 2022: Elite Pro Basketball League (EPBL) and the developmental Indian National Basketball League (INBL) are launched.
- The Basketball Federation of India is committed to growing the game of basketball in India. It is working to improve the infrastructure for basketball, increase the number of players and coaches, and promote the game at the grassroots level. The BFI is also working to improve India's international ranking, and it hopes to qualify for the 2024 Summer Olympics.

OCA elects Sheikh Talal as new President

- Kuwait's Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been elected as the new President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) following a vote overshadowed by allegations of corruption. Sheikh Talal replaces his older brother Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who led the OCA for 30 years until 2021 when he was forced to step down after being found guilty of forgery in a court in Geneva and sentenced to at least 13 months in prison.
- The 58-year-old Sheikh Talal beat Kuwaiti Husain Al-Musallam, the organisation's director general and President of World Aquatics, at the OCA General Assembly in Bangkok by 24 votes to 20. Sheikh Talal's election means that the House of Sabah retains control of the OCA.



About the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) :

- The OCA was founded in 1982 by his father Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who led it until 1990 when he was killed defending Dasman Palace on the first day of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) is a governing body of sports in Asia, currently with 45 member National Olympic Committees. The current President is Talal Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.
- In 1948, during the 1948 Summer Olympics, Asian National Olympic Committees (NOCs) decided to organize the Asian Games, under the auspices of Asian Games Federation. The following year the Asian Games Federation was organized. Decades later this would be reorganized and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) was established in New Delhi on 16 November 1982. The International Olympic Committee recognized the OCA within the same year.
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) together with the Asian Sports Federation (AESF) announced a new campaign for the upcoming 2022 Asian Games. The campaign, 'Road to Asian Games' will be officially organized by the AESF and aims to bring the Olympic spirit to eSports and introduce an education program for participating eSports athletes.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **Olympic Council of Asia Headquarters: Kuwait City, Kuwait;**
- ✓ **Olympic Council of Asia President: Talal Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah;**
- ✓ **Membership: 45 National Olympic Committees;**
- ✓ **Olympic Council of Asia Founded: 16 November 1982, New Delhi;**
- ✓ **Olympic Council of Asia Motto: Ever Onward.**

Coal India named PM Prasad as chairman and managing director

■ P M Prasad, who currently serves as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), has been appointed as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India Limited (CIL), a Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). Prior to his new role, Prasad successfully led CCL, a subsidiary of Coal India, located in Jharkhand, to achieve its production targets in the fiscal year 2022-23.

■ With over 30 years of experience in the coal mining sector, Prasad holds a post-graduate degree in mining engineering from the Indian School of Mines, IIT Dhanbad. He takes over the position from Pramod Agrawal, who retired upon reaching the age of superannuation on June 30th. Prasad's career in Coal India began in 1984 as a management trainee at Western Coalfields Limited, and he has held various roles across different subsidiaries of Coal India. He also spent three years as the Executive Director (coal mining) at NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation).



History and Formation of Coal India Limited -

■ With dawn of the Indian independence a greater need for coal production was felt in the First Five Year Plan. In 1951 the Working Party for the coal Industry was set up which included representatives of coal industry, labour unions and government which suggested the amalgamation of small and fragmented producing units. Thus the idea for a nationalized unified coal sector was born. Integrated overall planning in coal mining is a post-independence phenomenon. National Coal Development Corporation was formed with 11 collieries with the task of exploring new coalfields and expediting development of new coal mines.

Formation of Coal India Limited

- With the Government's national energy policy the near total national control of coal mines in India took place in two stages in 1970s. The Coking Coal Mines (Emergency Provisions) Act 1971 was promulgated by Government on 16 October 1971 under which except the captive mines of IISCO, TISCO, and DVC, the Government of India took over the management of all 226 coking coal mines and nationalised them on 1 May, 1972. Bharat Coking Coal Limited was thus born. Further by promulgation of Coal Mines (Taking over of Management) Ordinance 1973 on 31 January 1973 the Central Government took over the management of all 711 non-coking coal mines. In the next phase of nationalization these mines were nationalized with effect from 1 May 1973 and a public sector company named Coal Mines Authority Limited (CMAL) was formed to manage these non coking mines.
- A formal holding company in the form of Coal India Limited was formed in November 1975 to manage both the companies.

Neeraja Prabhakar became the chairman of the RAC of ICAR

■ B. Neeraja Prabhakar has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR) located in Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh. This significant appointment, effective from June 13, will see Ms. Prabhakar leading a ten-member committee for a three-year term. With her extensive experience and expertise in the field, Ms. Prabhakar's appointment is expected to contribute to the growth and development of the oil palm industry in India.

Background on Neeraja Prabhakar -

- Ms. B. Neeraja Prabhakar is the Vice-Chancellor of Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University. Her diverse background and in-depth knowledge of the horticulture sector have made her an ideal candidate for the position of Chairperson of the RAC for IIOPR. In addition to her new role, Ms. Prabhakar has previously served as a member of the Telangana Oil Palm Advisory Committee, where she provided valuable insights and recommendations for the cultivation and promotion of oil palm in the state.

The Significance of the Research Advisory Committee -

- The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) plays a crucial role in guiding and advising the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR) on research and development initiatives. As the only dedicated institute in India for oil palm research, IIOPR aims to develop cutting-edge technologies applicable to all oil palm growing states. The RAC, led by Ms. Prabhakar, will provide strategic direction, review research proposals, evaluate ongoing projects, and offer valuable insights to ensure the institute's research activities are aligned with the industry's needs.

Focus on Oil Palm Research in India -

- Oil palm cultivation in India has gained significant importance in recent years due to its economic and nutritional value. Telangana, in particular, has emerged as a leading state in terms of oil extraction from oil palm kernels. With Ms. Prabhakar's involvement in the Telangana Oil Palm Advisory Committee, her appointment as RAC Chairperson brings added expertise and understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities faced by the region. The state aims to expand oil palm cultivation to 20 lakh acres in the near future with a target of reaching at least 10 lakh acres over the next four years.



IMPORTANT

- ✓ Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Director General: Himanshu Pathak
- ✓ Top Producer of Oil Palm in the country: Andhra Pradesh

Cricketer Ajit Agarkar appointed chairman of Senior Men's Selection Committee

- The Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI) has appointed Ajit Agarkar as the chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee. The decision was made by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), consisting of Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjape. After interviewing several applicants for the position the CAC unanimously decided to appoint Ajit Agarkar as the chairman.

Now committee consists

- The Senior Men's Selection Committee now consists of Ajit Agarkar (Chairperson), Shiv Sundar Das, Subroto Banerjee, Salil Ankola, and Sridharan Sharath. The appointment of Ajit Agarkar comes at a crucial juncture as Team India is recovering from the massive defeat in World Test Championship Finals and is preparing for the ICC World Cup 2023 in October-November.
- The former India all-rounder represented the country in 26 Tests, 191 ODIs, and four T20Is, in addition to playing 110 first-class, 270 List A, and 62 T20 matches. As a former fast bowler, he was part of India's victorious squad in the inaugural T20 World Cup held in South Africa in 2007



RBI appoints P Vasudevan as new executive director

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed P. Vasudevan as executive director. His appointment is effective from July 03, 2023. The Reserve Bank in a statement said Vasudevan will look after Department of Currency Management, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department (Areas other than that of Budget & Funds) and Enforcement Department. Prior to being promoted as executive director, Vasudevan was the Chief General Manager-in-charge of the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems.
- The apex bank said Vasudevan has, over a span of nearly 30 years in the Reserve Bank, served in supervision of banks and non-banking financial companies, payment and settlement systems and other areas in the Reserve Bank, including a stint as Member of Faculty in Bankers' Training College.



About the P. Vasudevan -

- Vasudevan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce and is a Fellow of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India. He has a Master's Degree in Finance and Certifications in Information Systems Audit (CISA), Information Security Management (CISM) and Fintech (National University of Singapore). He is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB) and an alumnus of the Wharton School.

Brajendra Navnit to be India's ambassador to WTO for 9 months

- Indian government announced the extension of Brajendra Navnit's tenure as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by nine months. This decision comes ahead of the crucial 13th ministerial conference of the WTO in 2024. Navnit's extended term demonstrates India's commitment to promoting its key priorities on the global trade stage.



Background and Tenure Extension -

- Brajendra Navnit assumed office as India's Ambassador to the WTO in June 2020, with his initial tenure scheduled to end on June 28, 2023. However, the government's recent decision has extended his term until March 31, 2024 which reflects the recognition of his valuable contributions and the need for continuity during critical negotiations. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has also approved the proposal of Department of Commerce for extension in tenure of foreign deputation of Brajendra Navnit.

Other awaited proposals -

1. Extending Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Waiver for Covid-related Products

- India also seeks a decision on extending the waiver for global intellectual property rights concerning Covid therapeutics and diagnostics. Currently, such a waiver is available for Covid vaccines. India believes that expanding this flexibility will enhance global access to affordable and life-saving medical treatments during the ongoing pandemic.

2. Opposition to Selective Carbon Border Measures

- New Delhi has expressed objections to the selective application of carbon border measures, specifically targeting "trade-exposed industries" like steel, aluminum, chemicals, plastics, polymers, and fertilizers. India argues that these measures should not unfairly disadvantage its industries and that the underlying competitiveness concerns must be adequately addressed.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **World Trade Organization** was founded on 1 January 1995 & is headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ **Ngosi Okonjo-Iweala** is the **Director General** of the **World Trade Organisation**.
- ✓ **13th Ministerial Conference** will take place in **Abu Dhabi** in **February 2024**.

Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

- The appointment of Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya as the new chief justice of Bombay High Court has been officially notified by the Central Government, while Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur has been appointed as the chief justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya will succeed the current Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar.

Justice Upadhyaya: From Allahabad to Bombay High Court Chief Justice -

- Justice Upadhyaya had been serving as a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court for the past 11 years. During this tenure, he gained considerable experience in administering justice within the largest high court which comprises a total of 160 judges in the country.
- The Collegium of the Supreme Court found him to be fit and suitable for elevation. His appointment as the new chief justice of Bombay High Court ensures that Allahabad High Court is adequately represented among the chief justices of high courts in the country.

Justice Upadhyaya's Career Milestones -

- Justice Upadhyaya, born on June 16, 1965, completed his law degree from Lucknow University in 1991 and subsequently became a registered advocate on May 11, 1991. He specialized in handling Civil and Constitutional cases at the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. On November 21, 2011, he was elevated as an additional judge and later, on August 6, 2013, he was appointed as a permanent judge.

Justice Thakur's Appointment to Andhra Pradesh High Court -

- Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, a judge on the Bombay High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The vacancy was created when the former Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra was elevated as a judge to the Supreme Court on May 19.
- Justice Thakur was a former judge of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in 2013. He was transferred to the Bombay High Court in June 2022, where he has served with distinction.



IMPORTANT

- ✓ **50th and current Chief Justice of India: Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud**
- ✓ **Minister of Law and Justice in India: Arjun Ram Meghwal**

Tata Steel reappoints TV Narendran as MD and CEO for 5 years

- T V Narendran has been reappointed as the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Tata Steel for a term of five years, starting from September 19, 2023, which will last until September 18, 2028. This decision was made based on the recommendation of the 'Nomination and Remuneration Committee'.

Leadership and Achievements of T V Narendran

- As the CEO and MD of Tata Steel, Narendran is responsible for overseeing the company's both organic and inorganic growth. With a remarkable experience spanning 34 years in the Mining and Metals industry, he has held various significant positions, including being on the Board of Tata Steel Limited, serving as Chairman of Tata Steel Europe and Tata Steel Long Products Ltd., and acting as Chairman of the Board of Governors of XLRI Jamshedpur.
- Narendran also holds the positions of Chairman at Tata Steel Europe, the Supervisory Board of Tata Steel Nederland BV, Tata Steel Long Products Limited, and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited.



About Tata Steel -

- Tata Steel Limited, an Indian multinational steel-making company, is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, and operates from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. As a part of the esteemed Tata Group, it was recognized as one of India's Best Workplaces in Manufacturing by Great Place to Work for the fifth time in 2022. Tata Steel's operations span across 26 countries, with significant presence in India, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **Founder of Tata Group: Jamsetji Tata**

Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai Takes Oath As Chief Justice Of Kerala High Court

- In a formal ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai took the oath as the 38th Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Chief Justice, signifying the commencement of his tenure.

Justice Desai's Judicial Journey -

- He was previously a Judge of the Gujarat High Court and served as the senior-most Judge of that court, also temporarily performing the duties of the office of Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court.
- His appointment as Chief Justice of Kerala High Court was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium on July 6, 2023, following the elevation of the previous Chief Justice SV Bhatt to the Supreme Court.
- The appointment was subsequently notified by the Centre on July 19, 2023.



More about Kerala -

- Kerala is a state located in southwestern India.
- Bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west and Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to the north and east.
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum); Major cities: Kochi, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Kollam.
- Official language: Malayalam; English widely used for official and educational purposes.
- Known for rich cultural heritage, with classical dance forms like Kathakali and Mohiniyattam.
- Celebrates colorful festivals like Onam, Vishu, and Thrissur Pooram.
- Attracts tourists with hill stations like Munnar, Wayanad, and Thekkady.
- High literacy rate and strong emphasis on education.

Awards

PM Modi conferred with France's highest award Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron. Mr. Modi received the honour at the Elysee Palace here on, July 13, 2023, and joined the ranks of other prominent world leaders such as the former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela, King Charles – the then Prince of Wales, former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations, among others.



■ The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour given by France is another in a series of top international awards and honours bestowed by various countries on Prime Minister Modi. Earlier, the French President and First Lady Brigitte Macron hosted a private dinner for Mr. Modi at the Elysee Palace.

About the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour -

- ✓ Established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, The Legion of Honour is divided into five classes (lower to higher). The colour of the ribbon is red and the badge is five-armed Maltese asterisk hung on an oak and laurel wreath. Although the membership to the award is restricted to French nationals, foreign nationals who serve France or uphold its ideals may also be given a distinction of the Legion.
- ✓ The Legion of Honour is the highest French decoration given to the most deserving citizens in all fields of activity. It has been conferred to prominent personalities for two centuries.



NMDC wins ASSOCHAM Awards for Mineral Development and Employer Brand

■ India's mining major, NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), was honored with two prestigious awards at the ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023 held in Kolkata. The company received the 'Mineral Development Award' and the 'Employer Brand of the Year Award' in recognition of its significant contributions to the mining sector and its exemplary human resources practices. The awards were presented by Anurag Srivastava, IAS, Secretary of the Industry, Commerce, and Enterprise Department, Government of West Bengal, during the Indian Mining and Minerals Conclave 2023.

NMDC's Role in Mineral Development

■ As the largest producer of iron ore in India and the sixth largest in the world, NMDC plays a pivotal role in the country's mineral development. The company is renowned for its state-of-the-art Research and Development (R&D) Centre, which focuses on enhancing productivity, promoting sustainable mining practices, and developing advanced beneficiation technologies. NMDC's commitment to zero-waste mining and continuous

innovation contributes significantly to the growth and advancement of the mining industry.

NMDC's Recognition as an Employer Brand

- Apart from its achievements in the mining sector, NMDC stands out as one of India's most dependable and respected companies due to its exceptional human resources practices. The company's unique HR initiatives contribute to the holistic development of its employees and stakeholders, establishing it as an outstanding employer brand. These practices foster a culture of growth within the organization, ensuring the well-being and professional advancement of its workforce.



IMPORTANT

- ✓ **Chairman & MD of National Mineral Development Corporation: Sumit Deb**
- ✓ **National Mineral Development Corporation is a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise headquartered in: Hyderabad**
- ✓ **National Mineral Development Corporation comes under: Ministry of Steel**

Honorary doctorate to be conferred on Communist leader N. Sankaraiah

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has announced that veteran communist leader N. Sankaraiah will receive an Honorary Doctorate from Madurai Kamaraj University.

What's in News?

- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M K Stalin announced to present an honorary doctorate to the veteran communist leader N. Sankaraiah who dedicated his life to the poor and needy.
- Tamil Nadu government had received demands from various quarters to confer an honorary doctorate on freedom fighter and communist leader N. Sanakaraiah who dedicated his life for the poor and the needy and was a great martyr of the freedom struggle.



About N. Sanakaraiah -

- Sanakaraiah, born on 15 July 1921, is an Indian Communist Party politician and independence activist. On 15th July 2023 Sankaraiah has celebrated his 102nd birthday. He is the last living freedom fighter of India. In 1931 when Sankaraiah was just nine years old attended a rally condemning the execution of Bhagat Singh- his first political activity.
- Sankaraiah studied history at the American College in Madurai. He was the secretary of the Madurai Student Organization, and in that capacity he had invited Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to deliver a lecture. For that he was arrested in 1941, just 15 days before the exams of his undergraduate course.
- After spending 18 months in jail, Sankaraiah was released in June 1942. Following the release, he became a full-time communist party worker. The Tamil Nadu Government had honored N. Sankaraiah with the award of "Thagaisal Thamizhar" in 2021.

What is an honorary doctorate?

- An honorary doctorate degree is one of the most significant awards in post-graduation education. It recognizes a recipient's outstanding achievements despite not attending the awarding university.

Criteria for honorary doctorate :

- The recipient is not a staff member or appointed or elected government official.
- The recipient must accept the degree without receiving payments.
- The recipient may not have conflicts of interest with the universities.
- The recipient has a strong reputation in their field.

Britain gave environmental award to Indian conservationists

- King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom recently presented the prestigious Elephant Family environmental award to Indian conservationists. The award ceremony recognized filmmaker Kartiki Gonsalves, the creative mind behind the Oscar-winning documentary “The Elephant Whisperers,” and the Real Elephant Collective (TREC), a group of 70 Adivasi artists. Both Gonsalves and TREC were acknowledged for their exceptional storytelling, advocacy for coexistence, and dedication to preserving India’s natural world.



Kartiki Gonsalves and the Tara Award

- Kartiki Gonsalves, the debut director of the acclaimed documentary ‘The Elephant Whisperers,’ received the Tara Award from King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The Tara Award, inspired by the sacred bond between elephants and humans, acknowledges outstanding accomplishments in storytelling and advocacy for coexistence. The film highlights the profound connection between humans and elephants through the heartwarming story of Raghu, an orphaned elephant from the same herds depicted in TREC’s sculptures.

TREC and the Mark Shand Award -

- The Real Elephant Collective (TREC) was honored with the Mark Shand Award, named after the late founder of Elephant Family. TREC, an international NGO dedicated to protecting the Asian elephant, has made significant contributions to conservation efforts. Their work has not only garnered recognition but also paved the way for the establishment of the CoExistence Consortium—a collaborative initiative that brings together local experts, ecologists, anthropologists, geographers, and conservationists.

The Elephant Whisperers’ at the Academy Awards -

- The Elephant Whisperers’ was awarded the prestigious Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Film earlier this year. The globally acclaimed film chronicles the inspiring journey of an indigenous couple as they nurture and care for Raghu, forming an unbreakable bond with the elephant. The documentary serves as a testament to the beauty of India’s wilderness, the wisdom of tribal communities, and the empathy shared between humans and animals in their shared space.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **The Elephant Whisperers was launched in : 2022**
- ✓ **Director of The Elephant Whisperers is : Kartiki Gonsalves**

President of India to present the “Bhoomi Samman” 2023

- On July 18, 2023, the President of India will bestow the prestigious “Bhoomi Samman” awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The awards will be presented to 9 State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors, along with their teams, who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in implementing the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) – a crucial component of governance.

Land Records Modernization – Core of Governance :

- The Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) is considered the core of governance.

- Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh, emphasized the significance of the event for Revenue and Registration functionaries.
- For the first time in the last 75 years, they will receive the “Bhoomi Samman” for their outstanding performance.

Centre-State Cooperative Federalism :

- Shri Giriraj Singh praised the “Bhoomi Samman” Scheme as an example of Centre-State cooperative federalism based on trust and partnership.
- The grading system is mainly based on the reports and inputs provided by the States/UTs in computerization and digitization of land records.



Golden Peacock' Environment Management Award 2023 to Adani Transmission Limited

- Adani Transmission Limited has received ‘Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023 (GPEMA) in the ‘Power Transmission Sector’ from ‘Institute of Directors.’

What’s in News?

- Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) has won the ‘Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023’ in the Power Transmission Sector from ‘Institute of Directors.’
- In 2023, an assessment group comprising Environment, Health and safety, Energy and Climate Change experts assesses over 520 applications.



- These applications were approved by Justice M.N. The review was done by an eminent jury committee headed by Venkatachaliah.

Contribution of Adani Transmission Limited :

- The core philosophy of Adani Group is ‘Nation Building’ and ‘Growth with Goodness’.
- They are adding sustainable value globally and contribute to energize the nation.
- While the energy transmitted by them helps support national economic growth and also improves quality of life for millions of people.
- They aim to give back to the society through their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR).
- They aimed at making positive impact on the environment through everything they do.
- Adani Transmission limited ensures that 100% of electrical waste during the time of set-ups gets recycled as per the best practices.
- **Managing Director and CEO of Adani Transmission Limited is Anil Sardana.**

About the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award :

- The award is given for reducing its ecological footprint through programs such as zero waste in landfills, single-use plastic free, water-positive operations, promoting renewable energy integration and implementation of best-in-class environmental management strategies.
- Steel Authority of India (SAIL) has been awarded with the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award in 2021 in the steel sector by the Institute of Directors. SAIL has been the winner of this award for three consecutive years.

Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission bagged SKOCH Award 2023

- The Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood (JKRL) has received the SKOCH Award under the theme “State of Governance India 2047” in Gold category for its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Union Territory.

What’s in News ?

- The Jammu-Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRL) has bagged the SKOCH Award under the theme “State of Governance India 2047” in Gold category.
- JKRL has received this award for its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for the Self-Help Group in the U.T.
- The SKOCH Award marks a significant milestone for JKRLM, being the first award received since the inception of the scheme.
- The award gives recognition to the JKRL for its hard work and dedication of the JKRL team, especially its Mission Director who has been instrumental in driving the Mission’s major goal of creating marketing opportunities from district-level avenues to national-level platforms.



Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRL):

- Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission is being operated in Jammu-Kashmir as a form of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) which was implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- JKRLM aims to reduce poverty in the U.T. by building strong grassroots institutions of the poor, engage them into gainful livelihood interventions and ensure appreciable improvement in their income on a sustainable basis.

Byculla Railway Station gets UNESCO’s Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award

- The prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award was received by Byculla Railway Station located in Mumbai, this award was declared in November 2022, highlighting the station’s significant contribution to cultural heritage conservation. The recognition came after the station underwent extensive restoration work, bringing it back to its original glory.

Initiators of Restoration Work -

- An NGO of BJP politician, namely ‘I Love Mumbai’ and spoke person Shaina NC took up the restoration work of the Byculla railway station, with the help of heritage conservation architect Abha Lamba and Minal Bajaj Trust, which partnered in the conservation work.

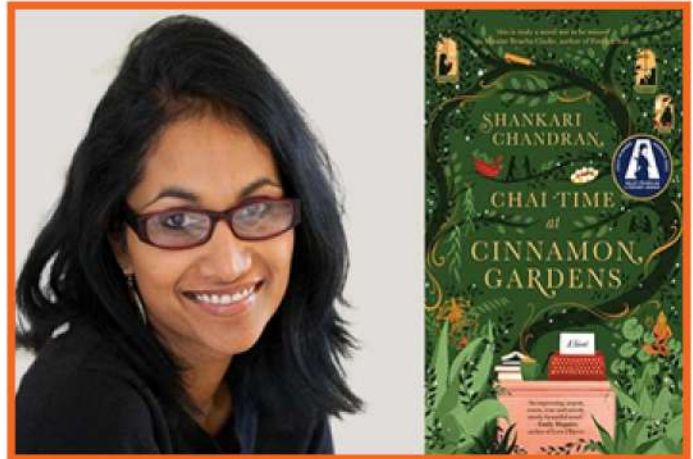


About Byculla Railway Station -

- Byculla Railway Station is railway station on the Central line of the Mumbai Suburban Railway.
- It is considered to be one of the oldest railway station that is still in operation. With a history dating back 169 years, the station stands as a testament to the rich heritage of India’s railway system.

Shankari Chandran Wins Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023

- Ten years ago, Sri Lankan-origin Australian writer Shankari Chandran faced difficulty in getting her debut book published. The reason: publishers thought her novel wasn't "Australian" enough to be successful in their local market. And now, Chandran has been announced as the winner of the 2023 Literary Award for her novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens'.
- Chandran's award-winning novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens' is a story about family, memories, community, race. It is an intergenerational epic that highlights Australia's difficult and complex equation with multiculturalism and the traumas of post-colonialism. It also highlights how our stories shape the people that we are today. This is Chandran's third novel.



About the Miles Franklin Literary Award -

- The Miles Franklin Literary Award is an annual prize given to "a novel which is of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases". This year's judges for the award included: Richard Neville- State Library of NSW Mitchell librarian and Chair; author Bernadette Brennan; translator Mridula Nath Chakraborty; critic James Ley; and poet Elfie Shiosaki.

Gujarat to host 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024

- Gujarat will host the 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024, and a MoU has signed between state government's tourism cooperation and Worldwide Media (WWM) to host the event and promote the state as a film destination.

What's in News ?

- The state government's tourism cooperation of Gujarat has signed a MoU with the entertainment and lifestyle content company Worldwide Media (WWM) on 19th July to host the 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024.



Filmfare Awards 2024

Significance:

- Hosting the prestigious Filmfare Awards in Gujarat would be a significant opportunity for the state to gain widespread recognition and boost its economy through increased tourism and investments in the film industry. The event's allure would attract numerous celebrities, filmmakers and industry professionals, leading to a surge in visitors, benefiting various sectors and promoting Gujarat as a prime film destination.

Impact:

- Filmfare Awards being hosted in Gujarat would have a profound impact on the local economy. With the influx of visitors, there would be surge in tourism, resulting in increased hotel bookings, dining, transportation and overall spending in the state. The event would present Gujarat as an attractive filming location, enticing filmmakers to consider it for their future projects, leading to more investments and film production in the state.

Kartik Aaryan To Be Honoured With The Rising Global Superstar Of Indian Cinema Award

- Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan will be honoured with the Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema award at the annual awards Gala night of the 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne on August 11. The award will be presented by the Governor of Victoria, recognising Kartik's remarkable achievements and his significant impact on the world of Indian cinema. The festival celebrates the diversity and richness of Indian cinema, showcasing the talent and creativity of Indian filmmakers to a global audience.
- Moreover, as part of the celebration, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne will showcase multiple screenings of Kartik's films including his recent success 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' and blockbuster 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', which emerged as the biggest Hindi film of 2022.



About the 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne -

- The 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne will take place from August 11 to August 20, 2023. The festival promises to be a spectacular celebration of Indian cinema and culture, offering over 100 films in 20 languages, discussions, and events for film enthusiasts and the wider community.
- The festival will also feature a number of special events, including Q&As with filmmakers, workshops, and industry panels. There will also be a number of events that celebrate Indian culture, such as dance performances, music concerts, and food festivals.
- The 14th IFFM is a major event in the Australian film calendar, and it is a great opportunity to experience the best of Indian cinema. The festival is open to everyone, and tickets are now on sale.

JKRLM wins SKOCH Gold Award for Marketing Avenues to SHGs

- The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) achieved a significant milestone by receiving the prestigious SKOCH Gold Award under the theme "State of Governance India 2047". This award signifies the organization's dedication in promoting livelihoods and empowering communities, marking their first award since the program's inception.

Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) -

- The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission's goal is to combat poverty by establishing strong grassroots institutions for the underprivileged. The mission aims to enhance their livelihoods, income, and personal growth while promoting confidence and self-belief. It also ensures access to government schemes, enabling a life of contentment, happiness, and dignity.



Initiatives under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM)

AVSAR scheme of Airport Authority of India

- This initiative allocates space to self-help groups at airports, allowing them to display and sell their region's self-made products, including handicrafts and handloom items. It attracts a diverse customer base, including national and international tourists, while also preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and increasing the income of SHG members.

Economic

India Needs Average Annual 7.6% GDP Growth To Become Developed By 2047: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India, in its monthly bulletin, has outlined the significant growth targets India must achieve over the next 25 years to become a developed economy with high per capita income. Currently estimated at \$2,500, India's per capita income needs to surpass \$21,664 by 2047, as per World Bank standards, to be classified as a high-income country. To achieve this ambitious goal, the country must maintain a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.6% in real GDP during 2023-24 to 2047-48.



Targeting High Per Capita GDP -

- For India to become a high-income country by 2047-48, its per capita GDP in nominal terms would require a CAGR of 10.6% (9.1%). Notably, India's historical best over a consecutive 25-year period was a CAGR of 8.1% during 1993-94 to 2017-18. Thus, to achieve the targeted 9.1% growth, India must surpass its previous record of economic growth.

Rebalancing Economic Structure -

- To sustain growth and achieve high per capita income, India needs to focus on rebalancing its economic structure, particularly by strengthening the industrial sector. The industrial sector, with its strong backward and forward linkages, plays a crucial role in providing employment opportunities and meeting the increasing demands of India's growing population. The report suggests that India's industrial sector should increase its share from the current 25.6% to 35% by 2047-48, with manufacturing occupying 25% of total value added. This would necessitate the industrial sector to grow at a nominal CAGR of 13.4%.

Manoj Ahuja launched a new campaign called BHARAT for Banks under Agri Infra Fund

Context :

- Agriculture Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Manoj Ahuja launched a new campaign for banks under Agri Infra Fund name BHARAT (Banks Herald Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation).

What's in News ?

- The campaign will run for a month from 15th July 2023 to 15th August 2023 with a target of raising 7200 crore.
- The launch event took place through a video conferencing, in which more than 100 banking officials including MDs/Chairman, EDs, Regional



Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, NBFCs and selected Co-operative Banks from public and private sector participated.

- Joint Secretary Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Samuel Praveen Kumar highlighted the progress made under the Agri-Infra Fund scheme which has been constructed of over 31,850 agricultural infrastructure projects in the country with a loan amount of 24,750 crore. The total outlay of the scheme is Rs.42,000.
- Participated executives from banks came up with many suggestions to take the AIF to newer heights.
- Manoj Ahuja congratulated the top performing banks in different categories for their laudable effort in contributing to taking this scheme forward and appealed to all the banks to achieve targets considering the vast potential for agri-infra projects in the country.
- The Ministry also advised the banks to assess the impact of the projects created under the scheme at ground level.

About Agriculture Infrastructure Fund :

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has been approved by the Union Cabinet in 2020.
- The scheme aims to provide medium-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects related to post-harvest management infrastructure and community farm assets.
- This scheme provides interest subvention and financial assistance.
- The scheme has been launched for a total of 10 years from FY2020 to FY2032.

Benefits of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund :

- Interest Subvention: Interest Subvention of 3% is available on all loans up to a limit of Rs.2 crore. This rebate is available for a maximum period of 7 years.
- Credit Guarantee Coverage: eligible borrowers can avail credit guarantee coverage under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises Scheme (CGTMSE). This is provided for the loans up to Rs.2 crore and the fee is paid by the government.

RBI Cancels Registration of Four NBFCs, 11 Surrender Certificates

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced the cancellation of registration for four non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and the surrender of licenses by 11 other entities. This move signifies the RBI's efforts to maintain regulatory compliance and ensure the stability of the financial sector.

The RBI cancelled the certification of registration for the following NBFCs :

1. Nanma Chits and Financiers Ltd
2. Chidrupi Financial Services Ltd
3. Goldline Financial Services Ltd
4. Kailash Auto Finance Ltd

Surrender of NBFC Licenses :

- The RBI reported that 11 entities have voluntarily surrendered their NBFC licenses. These entities include:
 1. Sanapala Holdings Pvt Ltd
 2. De Lage Landen Financial Services Pvt Ltd
 3. Jamshedpur Securities

Reasons for Surrender :

- Among the 11 NBFCs that surrendered their licenses, the reasons varied :
 1. Exit from NBFC Business: Four entities voluntarily surrendered their licenses due to their decision to exit the NBFC business.
 2. Non-compliance with CIC Criteria: Four entities surrendered their licenses as they did not meet the criteria set for unregistered Core Investment Companies (CIC) that do not require registration.
 3. Changes in Legal Entity Status: The remaining three entities surrendered their licenses because they ceased to exist as legal entities due to reasons such as amalgamation, merger, dissolution, voluntary strike-off, etc.



National

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

- Chandrayaan-3 is India's third lunar mission, following the Chandrayaan-2 mission, with the goal of achieving a soft landing on the lunar surface and deploying a rover.
- Chandrayaan-3 aims to showcase India's capabilities in landing and exploring the Moon's South Pole, a region known for the presence of water molecules.

Launch and Landing :

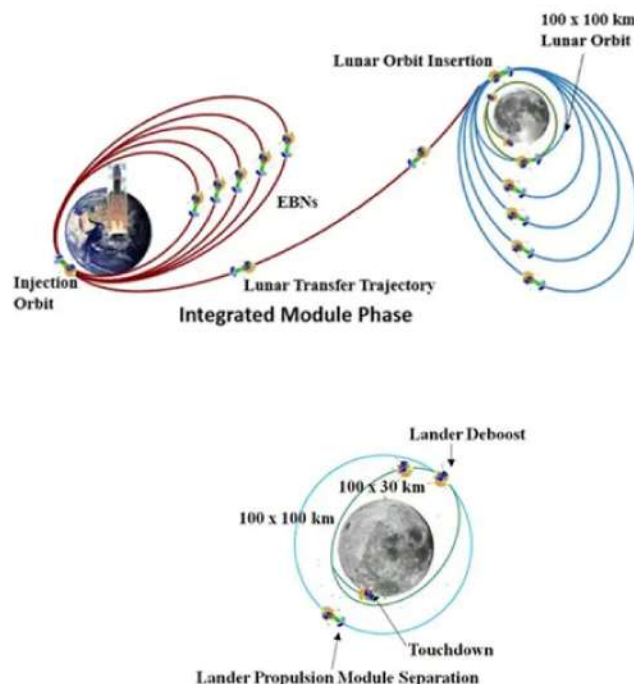
- Chandrayaan-3 was successfully launched on July 14, 2023, from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, using the Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3).
- The spacecraft consists of a lander, a rover, and a propulsion module, collectively weighing 3,900 kg.
- The GSLV Mark 3 heavy-lift launch vehicle, also known as the Bahubali rocket, supports the moon lander Vikram.
- The craft is scheduled to touch down on the Moon's South Pole on August 23, following a journey lasting over 40 days.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission has three main objectives :

1. **Safe and Soft Landing:** The primary objective of Chandrayaan-3 is to achieve a safe and soft landing of the lander on the surface of the Moon. Learning from the previous mission's setback, this mission aims to successfully land the lander module on the lunar surface without any issues.
2. **Demonstration of Rover's Capabilities:** Chandrayaan-3 aims to demonstrate the capabilities of the rover by showcasing its roaming and exploration abilities on the lunar surface. The rover will be deployed after the successful landing of the lander and will perform various scientific experiments and observations.



Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole



INDIA'S THIRD DATE WITH THE MOON

India will launch its third mission, Chandrayaan-3, to the moon in an attempt to land on its surface in 2020-21. The mission will target a soft-landing near the lunar South Pole later this year or early next year

- 1** GSLV Mark-III (left) had to be operationalised for launching Chandrayaan-2 due to its heavy payload. Chandrayaan-3 will be much lighter as no orbiter would be stacked on it. Isro, however, has not specified the rocket type to be used in Chandrayaan-3
- 2** Chandrayaan-3's payload will be similar to Chandrayaan-2 (above). It will have a lander, rover, like its previous iteration. Since it will not carry and orbiter, a propulsion module will be added to the lander. Isro already has a set of backup lander-rover unit that may be used after some modifications
- 3** The orbiter from Chandrayaan-2 that's already in place will be used by the lander-rover to communicate with Earth. The orbiter, which originally had a mission life of one year, has been given an extension in mission life — it will be operational for 7 years
- 4** The lander-rover is expected to land close to the lunar South Pole like Chandrayaan-2. Changes will be made to the sequence of powered descent, during which a velocity loss had caused the Chandrayaan-2's lander-rover to crash. Isro has not yet revealed the details of the lander

MISSION COST

Chandrayaan-2	₹960cr	
Chandrayaan-3	₹250cr (Lander-rover)	₹360cr (Launch rocket)
	₹610cr	

- In-Site Scientific Observations:** The mission seeks to conduct in-site scientific observations and experiments to better understand the composition of the Moon. This includes analyzing the chemical and natural elements, soil, water, and other resources available on the lunar surface. These observations will contribute to expanding our knowledge of the Moon's composition and provide insights into the Moon's history and evolution.

Design:

Chandrayaan-3 consists of three main components :

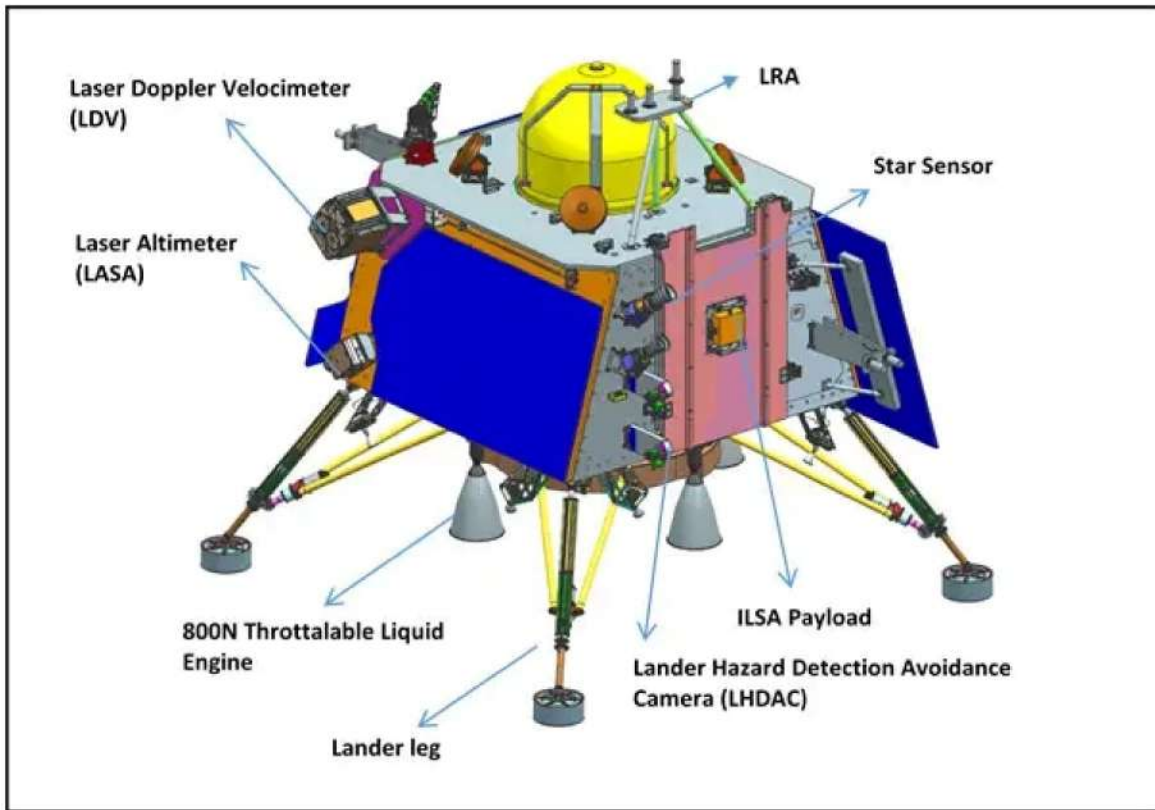
- 1. Propulsion Module:** The propulsion module is responsible for carrying the lander and rover configuration to the lunar orbit of 100 kilometers. It is a box-like structure with a large solar panel and an intermodular adapter cone that acts as a mounting structure for the lander. Additionally, it carries the SHAPE payload, which studies spectral and polarimetric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.
- 2. Lander :** The lander module is designed for a soft landing on the lunar surface. It has a box-shaped structure with four landing legs and four landing thrusters. The lander carries the rover and various scientific instruments for in-site analysis. It has undergone improvements in terms of structural rigidity, impact legs strength, and instrumentation redundancy compared to its predecessor.

The lander carries three payloads :

- Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE): Measures thermal conductivity and temperature of the lunar surface.
 - Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA): Measures seismic activity around the landing site.
 - Langmuir Probe (LP): Estimates plasma density and its variations.
- 3. Rover :** The Chandrayaan-3 rover is a six-wheeled vehicle weighing 26 kilograms. It is equipped with scientific instruments, including cameras, spectrometers, and a drill. The rover has a range of 500 meters and is designed to communicate with the lander and the ground control team in India. Its expected lifespan is one lunar day, equivalent to 14 Earth days.
 - The rover aims to make significant scientific discoveries, including studying the lunar surface composition, detecting the presence of water ice in the lunar soil, investigating lunar impacts' history, and studying the Moon's atmosphere evolution.

Modifications and Precautions :

- Chandrayaan-3 has undergone modifications by ISRO to enhance reliability compared to its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2.



- The lander Vikram has been upgraded and carries additional fuel to ensure a successful landing and stay on the intended path to the lunar surface.
- The craft has undergone rigorous testing and incorporates numerous safety measures to increase the mission's chances of success.

Mission Components :

- The 3,900-kilogram Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft consists of three major modules: the Propulsion module, Lander module, and Rover.
- The lander, named Vikram, and the rover, named Pragyaan, are similar to their counterparts in Chandrayaan-2 but have undergone upgrades for improved reliability.
- The mission's budget is Rs. 615 crore.

India launches Bharat 6G Alliance

- India has taken a significant stride forward in the field of telecommunications, with the acquisition of over 200 patents for 6G technology. The announcement was made by the Communications and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, during the launch of the Bharat 6G Alliance in New Delhi. The alliance, consisting of industry, academia, and the central government, aims to spearhead all 6G-related initiatives in a systematic and methodical manner.

Objectives of Roll Out of 6G -

- To offer enhanced capabilities such as improved reliability, ultra-low latency, and affordable solutions
- To revolutionise communication by providing speeds nearly 100 times faster than 5G
- To open up exciting possibilities for the development of novel communication applications.

Need for Bharat 6G Alliance -

- Recognizing the rapidly evolving nature of the telecom sector and the importance of staying ahead of technological obsolescence, the Department of Telecommunications launched the Bharat 6G Alliance. The primary objective



of this alliance is to go beyond technical requirements and understand the business and societal needs of 6G technology. By fostering consensus and promoting open research and development initiatives, the B6GA aims to drive the design, development, and deployment of 6G technologies in India.

Connecting Rural India -

- Another remarkable achievement in the telecom sector has been the provision of nearly 1,50,000 broadband connections in rural areas over the past nine years. Bridging the digital divide and ensuring that rural communities have access to affordable and reliable internet services has been a priority for the Indian government. These efforts have opened up new avenues for education, healthcare, e-commerce, and overall socio-economic growth in rural India.

Government's Commitment and Reforms -

- The launch of the Bharat 6G Alliance is a testament to the government's commitment to fostering the growth of the telecom sector. This achievement further solidifies India's position as one of the world's top three 5G ecosystems, with an impressive number of 2,70,000 5G sites already prepared across the country.
- Over the past nine years, the government has undertaken significant reforms to position the telecom sector as a sunrise industry. Government has made significant progress in reducing data costs, which have dropped from Rs 300 per GB in 2014 to Rs 10 per GB in 2023. These reforms have not only made data more accessible and affordable for the Indian population but have also positioned India as a leader in technology adoption.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **Union Minister of Ministry of Communications is: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**
- ✓ **South Korea to launch 6G network and services by: 2028**

National Law University Delhi launches 'Eklavya'

- National Law University (NLU), Delhi, has recently introduced a pioneering academic initiative called 'Eklavya' – a Research Affiliate programme. This innovative scheme aims to strengthen NLU Delhi's commitment to collaboration and draw upon the expertise and diverse perspectives of individuals without traditional law degrees. By actively seeking partnerships outside the university, NLU Delhi intends to develop high-quality legal scholarship that encompasses a broader range of experiences and knowledge.



To be eligible for the 'Eklavya' Research Affiliate programme, applicants must meet the following criteria :

- Possess a minimum of three years of demonstrable experience working on issues with a significant interface with the law.
- Completion of an undergraduate degree at least three years prior to the application.
- Full-time or part-time employees require approval from their current organization or institution.
- Self-employed individuals, freelancers, or independent consultants must provide a declaration stating their professional status.

Benefits and Opportunities :

NLU Delhi aims to narrow the divide between legal academia and individuals involved in diverse aspects of the law beyond the University. By participating in the 'Eklavya' Research Affiliate programme, individuals gain access to a range of benefits and opportunities, including :

- **Collaboration :** Engage with NLU Delhi's faculty, researchers, and scholars to foster interdisciplinary research collaborations.
- **Mentorship :** Receive guidance and mentorship from experienced academics and legal experts affiliated with NLU Delhi.
- **Resources :** Access the extensive library resources and research facilities available at NLU Delhi.

- **Networking** : Connect with a diverse community of legal professionals, policymakers, and researchers through seminars, conferences, and workshops.
- **Publication Opportunities**: Contribute to the development of legal scholarship through research papers, articles, and publications.
- **Recognition** : Enhance your professional profile and receive recognition for your research contributions.

IMPORTANT

✓ **Minister of Law & Justice: Arjun Ram Meghwal**

PM Modi inaugurates new integrated terminal building of Port Blair airport

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to virtually inaugurate the new integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair on July 18 at 10:30 am via video conferencing. The event will witness the presence of Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of State for Road, Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, General (Retd.) V K Singh, and other senior officials attending the ceremony in person.



Key Facts About the New Integrated Terminal Building -

- The terminal was built at a cost of approximately Rs 710 crore and is a crucial step in enhancing connectivity for the island union territory.
- Covering a total built-up area of around 40,800 sqm., the terminal has the capacity to handle about 50 lakh passengers annually.
- An Apron capable of accommodating two Boeing-767-400 and two Airbus-321 types of aircraft has also been constructed at Port Blair airport, costing Rs 80 crore.
- The architectural design of the terminal building features a shell-shaped structure, symbolizing the region's deep connection with the sea and islands.

Sustainability Features for a Greener Future -

The new airport terminal building boasts several sustainability features, demonstrating a commitment to environmental responsibility :

- **Double Insulated Roofing System**: This technology reduces heat gain, promoting energy efficiency and comfort within the terminal.
- **Skylights**: Strategically placed skylights maximize the use of natural sunlight during the day, minimizing the need for artificial lighting inside the building.
- **LED Lighting**: Energy-efficient LED lighting has been adopted to reduce overall energy consumption.
- **Low Heat Gain Glazing**: The use of low heat gain glazing helps maintain a comfortable indoor temperature.

Nari Adalats: Women-Only Courts for Alternative Dispute Resolution

- The Indian government is launching a groundbreaking initiative known as Nari Adalats, which are women-only courts established at the village level. These courts serve as alternative dispute resolution forums for issues such as domestic violence, property rights, and challenging the patriarchal system. By providing a platform for resolution outside of the traditional judicial system, the government aims to empower women and promote gender justice.

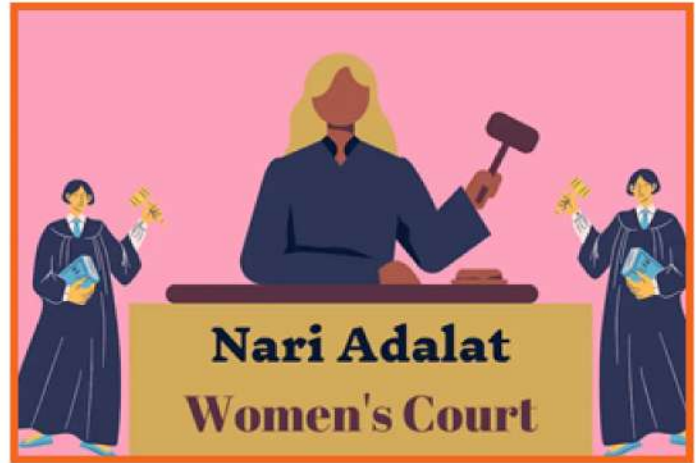
What is Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) ?

- ADR refers to the process of settling disputes without the involvement of the judicial system and formal trials.
- It covers various types of matters, including civil, commercial, industrial, and family disputes.

- A neutral third party assists the parties involved in communication and reaching a mutually satisfactory resolution.
- ADR is non-adversarial and aims to reduce the burden on courts by facilitating cooperative resolutions.

Types of ADR :

1. Arbitration: Disputes are submitted to an arbitral tribunal that makes a binding decision on the matter.
2. Conciliation: A non-binding procedure where an impartial conciliator assists the parties in reaching a mutually agreed settlement.
3. Mediation: An impartial mediator helps parties communicate and work towards a mutually acceptable resolution without making decisions.
4. Negotiation: Parties engage in direct discussions without third-party intervention to arrive at a negotiated settlement.
5. Lok Adalat: Voluntary agencies known as Lok Adalats provide party-based justice through discussion, persuasion, and mutual consent.



What are Lok Adalats ?

- Lok Adalats are part of the Indian legal system and offer affordable and timely justice through cooperation between people and judges.
- They have statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- Lok Adalats have jurisdiction over pending court cases and matters that have not yet been brought before a court (pre-litigation stage).
- The decisions made by Lok Adalats are deemed to be decrees of civil courts, and their awards are final and binding with no appeal process.
- Filing cases in Lok Adalats does not require payment of court fees.

The Nari Adalat Initiative :

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development, under the Sambal sub-scheme of Mission Shakti, will implement the Nari Adalats.
- Initially launched as a pilot project in 50 villages in Assam and Jammu and Kashmir, the initiative will expand to the entire country in the next six months.
- Implementation will be a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Rural Development, and Common Service Centers operated by MeitY.
- The scheme draws inspiration from the Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats (People's Court of Women) previously run by the National Commission for Women.
- The Nari Adalats aim to focus on reconciliation, grievance redressal, and raising awareness of women's rights and entitlements.

Structure of Nari Adalats :

- Each Nari Adalat in a village will consist of 7-9 members or Nyaya Sakhis (legal friends).
- Half of the members will be elected members of the gram panchayat, while the other half will be women with social standing, such as teachers, doctors, and social workers, nominated by villagers.
- The Nyaya Sakhis will select a Mukhya Nyaya Sakhi (chief legal friend) to head the Nari Adalat for a typical six-month term.
- Although Nari Adalats do not hold legal status, their primary focus is on reconciliation, grievance redressal, and promoting awareness of rights and entitlements.

Amit Shah lays foundation stone of the first cooperative-run Sainik School

- The foundation stone-laying ceremony of Shri Motibhai R. Chaudhary Sagar Sainik School in Boriyavi village of Mehsana, Gujarat marked a significant milestone in the education sector. This groundbreaking project, inaugurated virtually by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is set to become the first Sainik School in India to

be operated by a cooperative organization. With an estimated cost of Rs 75 crore and spread across 11 acres of land, the school is being managed by Dudh Sagar Research and Development Association (DURDA), an entity of Dudh Sagar Dair

Increasing Opportunities -

- The academic year 2022-2023 witnessed the enrollment of 50 students, comprising 46 boys and 4 girls, in the prestigious Sagar Sainik School. Building upon this success, the school has expanded its capacity for the academic year 2023-2024. The number of seats has been increased to 80, with a significant step toward inclusivity being the introduction of a 10 percent reservation for girls. This move not only promotes gender equality but also opens doors for more aspiring young women to receive military training and academic excellence.



Collaborative Government -

- The foundation stone-laying ceremony also showcased the unified efforts of the state government. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Health Minister Rishikesh Patel, Industries Minister Balwant Singh Rajput, and Cooperation Minister Jagdish Panchal were present at the ceremony, emphasizing the government's commitment to providing quality education and fostering the growth of young individuals in Gujarat. Their presence and support demonstrate the collaborative approach taken to ensure the success of Shri Motibhai R. Chaudhary Sagar Sainik School.

India's First Indigenous 700 MW Nuclear Reactor Starts Commercial Operation in Gujarat

- India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat has successfully commenced commercial operations, marking a significant milestone in the country's nuclear energy sector. The reactor, known as KAPP-3, began operating at 90 percent of its total power capacity on June 30, 2023, as confirmed by a senior official from KAPP.



Commissioning Progress at KAPP 4 -

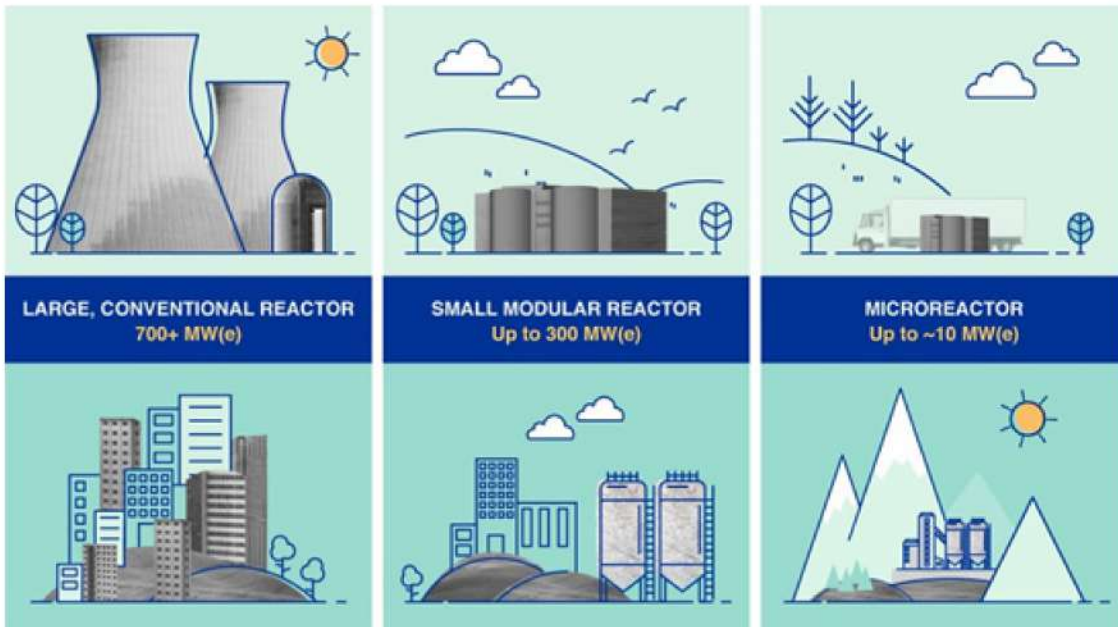
- Alongside the successful launch of KAPP-3, various commissioning activities are currently underway at KAPP 4, another domestically built 700 MW pressurized heavy water reactor (PHWR) at the Kakrapar site. Officials report that KAPP 4 has achieved a remarkable progress rate of 96.92 percent as of May.

Expanding Nuclear Energy Infrastructure

- The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is spearheading the development of two 700 MW PHWRs at Kakrapar, which is already home to two 220 MW power plants. The NPCIL has ambitious plans to construct a total of sixteen 700 MW PHWRs across the country and has received financial and administrative sanction for the initiative. Construction work is currently underway at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan (RAPS 7 and 8) and Gorakhpur in Haryana (GHAVP 1 and 2) to establish 700 MW nuclear power plants.

Fleet Mode Development of PHWRs -

- In a significant boost to India's nuclear power capabilities, the government has sanctioned the construction of ten indigenously developed PHWRs in fleet mode. These reactors will be built at four different locations: Gorakhpur in Haryana, Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan, and Kaiga in Karnataka. This fleet mode approach aims to expedite the establishment of nuclear power plants and enhance India's energy capacity.



India's First Indigenous 700 MW Nuclear Reactor Starts Commercial Operation in Gujarat

India, US to work on MDBs, climate action, inclusion

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- India and the United States have recently agreed to enhance cooperation on various fronts, including strengthening multilateral development banks, promoting climate action, and facilitating energy transition. The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, met with US Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, during a G20 event to discuss their bilateral interests and explore new investment opportunities in renewable energy. The collaboration between the two nations spans economic, commercial, and technological issues, with a focus on supply chain strengthening and catalyzing clean energy transition.



Key Collaborative Efforts -

- Promotion of Climate Action:** India and the US have pledged to work together in promoting climate action and facilitating the clean energy transition. An investment platform is being considered to deliver a lower cost of capital and increase private investment to expedite India's energy transition.
- Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs):** India's leadership in advancing the evolution of MDBs is appreciated by the US. The two countries are actively engaged in improving the multilateral debt restructuring process as part of the G20 efforts.
- Global Tax Deal:** India and the US are close to reaching an agreement on the two-pillar global tax deal. This mechanism involves increasing the authority of nations to tax multinational corporations and implementing a global minimum tax on these corporations.
- World Trade Organization (WTO) Disputes:** India and the US have settled six of their WTO disputes, fostering better trade relations between the two nations.
- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF):** India and the US are in talks to de-risk their supply chains from China under the IPEF, enhancing economic ties and resilience.

Prosperous and Equitable Future -

- The collaboration between India and the US is seen as a catalyst for positive change worldwide. The partnership aims to create a prosperous and equitable future by leveraging each other's expertise and resources. The focus on economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development underscores the commitment of both nations to drive

India Joins Champions Group of Global Crisis Response Group

- India has joined the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General. The GCRG was established in March 2022 to address urgent global issues in food security, energy, and finance, and to coordinate a global response.

IMPORTANT

Invitation from the UN Secretary-General :

- India received an invitation from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to join the Champions Group of the GCRG.
- This invitation highlights India's increasing global leadership and commitment to addressing contemporary global challenges.
- Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been designated as Sherpa to the GCRG process.
- The Sherpas, including Verma, will hold a virtual meeting to discuss the agenda.

Composition of the Champions Group :

- The Champions Group currently includes heads of governments/states from Bangladesh, Barbados, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia, and Senegal.
- India's inclusion in the group will strengthen the collective efforts of the United Nations in finding result-oriented solutions, particularly for developing countries.

Goals and Focus of GCRG :

- The GCRG was established to address interlinked crises in food security, energy, and finance.
- Its primary objective is to coordinate a global response and develop strategies to help countries tackle these crises effectively.
- GCRG aims to mobilize solutions and assist decision-makers in addressing the interconnected challenges faced by the world.

UCC Uniform Civil Code: Full Form, History

- Uniform Civil Code in India:** The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is a proposed legislation in India that aims to establish uniform personal laws applicable to all individuals, irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation. Currently, personal laws are governed by religious texts specific to different communities.

UCC Full Form -

- UCC stands for Uniform Civil Code (India). UCC is a set of laws that governs all the transactions

Uniform Civil Code In India History -

- The British government's 1835 report on colonial India, which emphasized the need for uniformity in the codification of Indian law with regard to crimes, evidence, and contracts and specifically suggested that personal laws of Hindus and Muslims be kept outside of such codification, is where the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) first emerged.
- The government was forced to create the B N Rau Committee in 1941 to codify Hindu law due to an increase in legislation addressing personal concerns at the end of British rule. Examining the issue of whether common Hindu laws are necessary was the Hindu Law Committee's responsibility.
- According to the committee's recommendation, which was based on the scriptures, women would have equal rights under a codified version of Hindu law. The 1937 Act was reviewed, and the committee suggested establishing a civil code for Hindu marriage and succession.



Why is Uniform Civil Code is Proposed in Rajya Sabha?

- The BJP member Kirodi Lal Meena submitted a bill in the upper house that would create a commission to draught a Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The Bill was introduced by Meena with the intention of being implemented nationwide. The bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha because it mentioned creating a national inspection and investigation commission to create a uniform civil code.

Uniform Civil Code: Why Muslims and other conservative groups are against it?

- Muslim organisations, and other conservative religious groups and sects continue to debate the Uniform Civil Code, surrounding secularism in Indian politics in defence of sharia and religious practises. Personal laws govern marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and maintenance. They are distinct from public laws.

Uniform Civil Code in India: What are the main arguments?

- The primary argument against a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is that it infringes on the right of citizens to practise the religion of their choice, which enables religious communities to adhere to their own local laws. For instance, Article 25 guarantees the autonomy of every religious organization. They are entitled to maintain their unique culture under Article 29.
- The fundamental rights subcommittee of the Indian Constituent Assembly purposefully omitted the inclusion of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as a fundamental right. Tribal organizations have expressed a similar worry, such as the Rashtriya Adivasi Ekta Parishad, which petitioned the Supreme Court in 2016 to request protection for its members' traditions and religious beliefs from a future Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Customary rules already in place take precedence over federal laws in Nagaland's tribal districts when it comes to private matters like marriage, property ownership, etc.
- Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is stated that "one nation, one law" cannot be applied to the unique personal laws of different communities if codified civil laws and criminal laws like the CrPC and IPC do not adhere to this principle. For instance, the governments of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu altered the federal Indian Evidence Act of 1872. Be aware that several states have various legal drinking ages when it comes to criminal law.
- After all, personal laws were included in the Concurrent List as entry number 5, providing both the Parliament and State Assemblies the authority to enact personal laws. If the Constitution's creators had wanted personal laws to be uniform, they would have included them on the union list and given Parliament full legislative authority over them.
- Finally, it is claimed that a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will impose a Hinduized code on all communities. A UCC might, for instance, have clauses that, while conforming to Hindu tradition in matters like marriage, will legally obligate members of other communities to do the same.

What is the purpose of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India for UPSC Exam?

- The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India aims to safeguard vulnerable communities, including women and religious minorities, as envisioned by Ambedkar, while simultaneously fostering nationalistic fervor via unity.
- When put into effect, the code will aim to make laws that are currently divided based on religious views, such as the Hindu code bill, Sharia law, and others, simpler. The code will make the complicated regulations governing marriage ceremonies, succession, inheritance, and adoptions simpler and more universal. All citizens will then be subject to the same civil law, regardless of their religious affiliation.

Uniform Civil Code in India: What does the Indian Constitution say ?

- Meanwhile, Articles 25-28 of the Indian Constitution, meanwhile, guarantee religious freedom to Indian citizens and permit religious organizations to conduct their own affairs. Article 44 of the Constitution requires the Indian state to apply directive principles and common law for all Indian citizens while establishing a nation's policies.
- Due to the fact that Uniform Civil Code in India does not make distinctions based on gender or sexual orientation, this draught also inspires hope for the LGBTQIA+ population in India. No applicable law in India up to this point has acknowledged same-sex marriages as legal.

Uniform Civil Code in India: When were the personal laws drafted ?

- For primarily Hindu and Muslim populations, personal laws were originally drafted during the British Raj. British officials decided against interfering more in this domestic matter out of concern for the community leaders' resistance.
- Goa, a state in India, was expelled from the country Due to colonial rule in the formerly Portuguese Goa and Daman, the Indian state of Goa was cut off from the rest of India but kept its common family law, known as the Goa civil code, making it the only state in India to this day with a unified civil code.
- Hindu code bills were introduced after India gained its independence and largely codified and reformatted personal laws in different sects of Indian religions like Buddhists, Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs while exempting Christians, Jews, Muslims, and Parsis because they were recognized as separate communities from Hindus.

Uniform Civil Code and Shah Bano Case -

- Following the Shah Bano case in 1985, Uniform Civil Code (UCC) became an important subject of discussion in Indian politics. The issue of applying some laws to all citizens without hurting their fundamental right to freedom of religion gave rise to the discussion.
- The discussion then turned to Muslim Personal Law, which allows for unilateral divorce and polygamy and is considered one of the legal ways that Sharia law is applied. Uniform Civil Code (UCC) was again suggested, in November 2019 and March 2020, however each time it was quickly removed without being introduced in parliament.

Uniform Civil Code: What is the Hindu Code Bill ?

- After the Indian Constitution was adopted in 1951, a select committee headed by B. R. Ambedkar was convened, and they were given the Rau Committee report's draft to review. The Hindu Code Bill was discussed for a while before it expired and was resubmitted in 1952.
- The Hindu Succession Act was subsequently passed in 1956 to reform and codify the legislation governing intestate or unwilled succession among Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs. The Act updated Hindu personal law and increased property rights and ownership opportunities for women. Their father's inheritance, it granted women property rights.
- The Act of 1956's general rules of succession state that, in the case of an intestate male death, Class I heirs succeed before Class II heirs. The Act was amended in 2005 to add more descendants, elevating women to Class I heirs. The daughter receives the exact same portion as a son.

Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023 approved by the Cabinet

- The Union Government has granted approval for the draft Digital Personal Data Bill, which is expected to be presented before Parliament during the upcoming monsoon session.
- The Union Government approved the draft Digital Personal Data Bill and come before Parliament in the monsoon season. Sources in the government said the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology received and considered 21,666 suggestions to the draft bill that have been circulated for comments in November, 2022.



Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023 approved by the Cabinet

- Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill approved by the Union government and it's paving the way to be introduced in the monsoon season of the Parliament.
- Six years after the Supreme Court declared privacy as a fundamental right, the law will become India's core data governance framework.
- Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDP Bill) in one of the four proposed legislations in the IT and Telecom sectors to provide the framework for the rapidly growing digital ecosystem.
- This bill empowers the Data Protection Board (DPB) to levy a penalty of up to Rs.250 crore on the organizations found to be in breach.
- The penalty levied on organization that are in breach can be increased up to Rs.500 crore with cabinet approval and there is no requirement of any amendment in the law to increase the penalty.
- In Digital Personal Data Protection bill, there is a provision to form a Data Protection Board to monitor the provisions of the Act.
- All online and offline data will fall under the legal domains of this bill.
- The drafted bill aims to provide consent based data collection technique.

History of Digital Personal Data Protection Bill -

- In 2019: Centre revised draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill with the recommendation from Sri Krishna Committee Report.
- In December, 2019: Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for review from both the houses.
- In December, 2021: The Joint Parliamentary Committee, after 2 years shared its report with a new version of the – Data Protection Bill, 2021.

THE JOURNEY OF THE BILL



Aug 2017: Privacy as a fundamental right reaffirmed in Justice KS Puttaswamy vs Union of India by SC

Justice Srikrishna Committee constituted to examine data protection issues

Jul 2018: Committee releases draft of Personal Data Protection Bill (PDPB) and report

Dec 2021: JPC releases its report and a new version of law as the Data Protection Bill (DPB)

Dec 2019: Revised draft bill sent to joint parliamentary committee (JPC) for both Houses to review

5 July 2023
Union Cabinet approves the draft DPDP Bill, 2023

Aug 2022: Draft DPB withdrawn

Nov 2022: Meity releases draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDPB) for public consultation

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- In August 2022: Minister of Communication and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, granted permission to withdraw the draft DPB (Data Protection Bill), 2021.
- In November 2022: Meity releases the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 for public consultations.
- July 5, 2023: Cabinet approves DPDP Bill to be tables in Monsoon Season (July 20-August 11) of Parliament.

PM unveils 29 projects in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently unveiled a series of development projects worth Rs 12,100 crores in his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi. These initiatives, spanning various sectors, reflect the government's focus on transforming the city and fostering growth in key areas such as infrastructure, education, and more. PM Modi emphasized the need for schemes that address ground realities and expressed satisfaction in engaging with the beneficiaries to gather feedback and ensure the effectiveness of the initiatives.



Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction-Son Nagar railway line -

- One of the significant projects inaugurated by PM Modi was the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction-Son Nagar railway line, a crucial part of the Dedicated Freight Corridor. Built at a cost of over Rs 6,760 crore, this new railway line will enable faster and more efficient movement of goods, thereby bolstering economic growth in the region. The development of transportation infrastructure is crucial for facilitating trade and commerce, and this project is expected to have a positive impact on the local economy.

Vande Bharat Express trains

- Earlier PM Modi inaugurated two new Vande Bharat Express trains in Gorakhpur showcasing the government's efforts to enhance rail connectivity and improve passenger experience. Vande Bharat Express trains are known

for their speed, comfort, and advanced features, and their introduction in Gorakhpur will provide the residents with a reliable and efficient mode of transportation. The inauguration was made in a closing ceremony of the centenary celebrations of Gita Press in Gorakhpur. Gita Press, known for its significant contribution to the dissemination of Hindu religious literature, holds immense historical and cultural significance.

- The unveiling of these projects and the government's commitment to development demonstrate the BJP's dedication to the progress of Varanasi and the surrounding districts. The initiatives in sectors such as infrastructure and education are crucial for driving economic growth, creating job opportunities, and improving the overall quality of life for the people in these regions.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **The first Vande Bharat train was flagged off on: February 15, 2019**
- ✓ **The route of first Vande Bharat train : New Delhi to Varanasi**

India launched international Big Cat Alliance for conserving 7 big cats

- India has recently launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with the aim of conserving seven major big cat species on Earth. Inspired by the success of Project Tiger, which has contributed to India being home to 70% of the world's tigers, the IBCA will focus on protecting and conserving key big cat species, including Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.
- The idea for the alliance originated in July 2019, when Prime Minister Modi called for a coalition of global leaders to join forces against poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Asia on Global Tiger Day. The establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance is a testament to the commitment to this initiative's principles. According to Modi, the alliance will play a vital role in mobilizing financial and technical resources to support the entire ecosystem associated with big cats, thereby ensuring their conservation and protection.



Aim of IBCA -

- The alliance aims to reach out to 97 range countries covering the natural habitats. IBCA would further strengthen global cooperation and efforts to conserve the wild denizens, especially the big cats.

Significance of big cats alliance :

- The alliance seeks to bring together countries, conservationists, and experts from around the world to collaborate on conservation efforts for these seven big cat species.
- Through IBCA, India hopes to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices in conserving these species with other countries that have significant big cat populations, such as Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa.

PFC becomes first member from India to join Asia Transition Finance Study Group

- Power Finance Corporation Ltd(PFC) has achieved a milestone by becoming the first Indian participant in the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG), an initiative spearheaded by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to promote sustainable transition finance in Asian countries. By becoming a part of this initiative, PFC will not only contribute India's perspective but also collaborate on devising policy considerations to facilitate efficient energy transition financing.

Bilateral Ministerial Meeting at G20 Summit in Goa -

- This significant step was taken in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy,

Mr. R. K. Singh, and His Excellency Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan during the Bilateral Ministerial Meeting held on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Goa. The collaboration is aimed at fostering cooperation among Asian countries to advance financing for Energy Transition and Net Zero objectives.



Asia Transition Finance Study Group(ATFSG)-

- ATFSG was launched in October 2021, by private financial institutions, with the clear aim of presenting and disseminating the concept of Asian transition finance, building upon the principles outlined in the Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI). Japan's Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI) has been launched to help countries in the Asia-Pacific region achieve net-zero emissions.

About Power Finance Corporation -

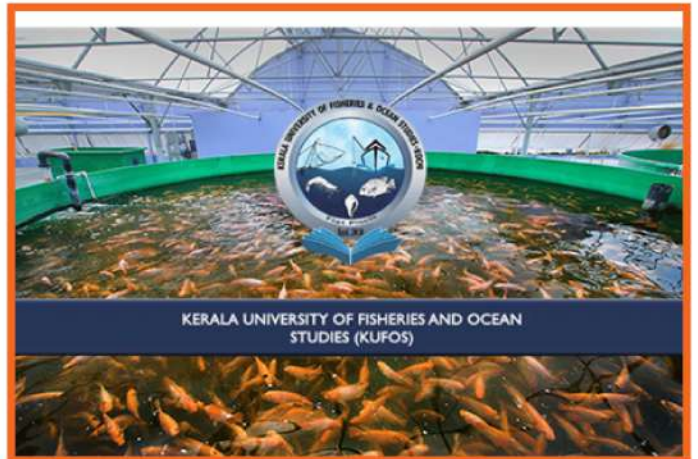
- Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) is an Indian central public sector undertaking owned by the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It was established in 1986 and serves as the crucial financial pillar of the Indian power sector.

Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre

- Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) received a grant of Rs.10 crore from NITI Aayog in order to set up India's first Atal Incubation Centre in fisheries.

What's in News?

- NITI Aayog provided grant of Rs.10 crore to Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) to set up India's first Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) in fisheries which will be dedicated to promoting research, technological advancement and entrepreneurship in fisheries and allied sectors.



Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre -

- Fisheries Atal Incubation centre will act as a focal point to foster innovation and inspire young individuals to create technologies and solutions that will address the challenges faced by our marine ecosystem and fishing communities.

Objective :

- The primary objective behind setting up of Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre is to promote progress in the fisheries industry by providing a supportive and encouraging environment for start-ups and innovative initiatives within the fisheries sector.

Significance :

- Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre will play a significant role in employment generation, providing a supportive environment for start-ups and entrepreneurs to flourish.
- Atal Incubation Centre will promote collaboration between academic, industry and government and also encourage knowledge transfer and commercialization of research results.

About Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies -

- The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies is an autonomous public funded institution. The University was established for the development of manpower in fisheries and ocean sciences and for ensuring proper teaching, training, research and extension in the State of Kerala.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ Establishment: 20th November 2010
- ✓ Headquarter: Panangad, 12km away from Kochi city
- ✓ Vice Chancellor: T. Pradeepkumar

PM inaugurates International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre – ‘Bharat Mandapam’

- On a recent occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly revamped Pragati Maidan complex in Delhi, unveiling the impressive International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), also known as ‘Bharat Mandapam.’ The IECC is set to become the largest conference and exhibition site in India and will be the venue for the upcoming G-20 Summit in September.
- Developed at a cost of approximately Rs 2,700 crore, the project was designed by renowned international firm Aedas, known for their work on the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, along with Indian firm Arcop, which played a role in the design of IGI Airport Terminal 3.



PM inaugurates International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre – ‘Bharat Mandapam’



Impressive Features of IECC -

- ✓ Spans over an area of 53,399 sq m with a cost of around Rs 2,700 crore.
- ✓ Accommodates 7,000 people in its multi-purpose and plenary halls combined.
- ✓ Larger seating capacity than the iconic Sydney Opera House, accommodating around 5,900 people.
- ✓ Designed by Aedas, the architect of Marina Bay Sands, and Indian firm Arcop, involved in IGI Airport Terminal 3.

Inspired Architectural Design

- ✓ The building’s elliptical shape draws inspiration from the shankha or conch shell.
- ✓ Integration of traditional art elements on walls and facades.
- ✓ Magnificent amphitheater with a seating capacity of 3,000 individuals, comparable to 3 PVR theaters combined.

Rajya Sabha Chairman nominated four women parliamentarians to panel of vice-chairpersons

- The nomination of four women to panel of Vice-Chairpersons created a history as it is for the first time that equal representation has been given to women in the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.

Overview of the News :

- Four women MPs have been appointed by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankar.
- The MPs appointed are PT Usha who was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 2022 and is a member of the Committee on Defence, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Committee on Ethics; Phangnon Konyak, Fauziya Khan who belongs to the NCP and Sulata Deo is from Biju Janta Dal.



- This is the first time in the history of the Upper house that equal representation has been given to women in panel of Vice-Chairpersons.

Significance :

- The appointment of four women in the panel of vice-chairpersons is a significant step to give equal representation to female in panel of Vice-Chairpersons and remove gender inequality. This created a history as it is for the time that women appointed to panel of vice-chairpersons.
- The appointment represents a diverse range of perspectives and interests as the panel now includes members from different political parties.

Panel of Vice-Chairpersons :

- The panel of vice-chairpersons is a group of members nominated to assist the chairman or the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha in conducting its business efficiently.

Functions :

- The main function of panel of vice-chairpersons is to assist the chairman or the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha in conducting its functions efficiently.
- In the absence of chairman of Rajya Sabha, one of the vice-chairpersons mainly Deputy Chairman presides over the sessions and exercises the powers and functions of the Chairman.
- Vice-Chairpersons may be appointed to chair various parliamentary committees.

Significance :

- The panel of vice-chairpersons plays a crucial role in ensuring that the Rajya Sabha functions efficiently and effectively during its sessions. By assisting in the management of debates and discussions, the vice-chairpersons help maintain decorum and order in the upper house.

Ground water law implemented in 21 states and union territories

- On July 20, 2023, the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti revealed that 21 states and union territories in India have successfully implemented the Ground Water Act. This legislation includes a crucial provision for rainwater harvesting, aimed at promoting sustainable water management. In response to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Bishweshwar Tudu, informed that the ministry has prepared a model bill to assist all states and union territories in enacting suitable groundwater laws.



States Embracing the Rainwater Harvesting Model -

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti confirmed that 21 states and union territories have already implemented groundwater laws based on the Model Bill.
- These states and UTs include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.

Significant Progress in Water Accessibility for Rural SC Households -

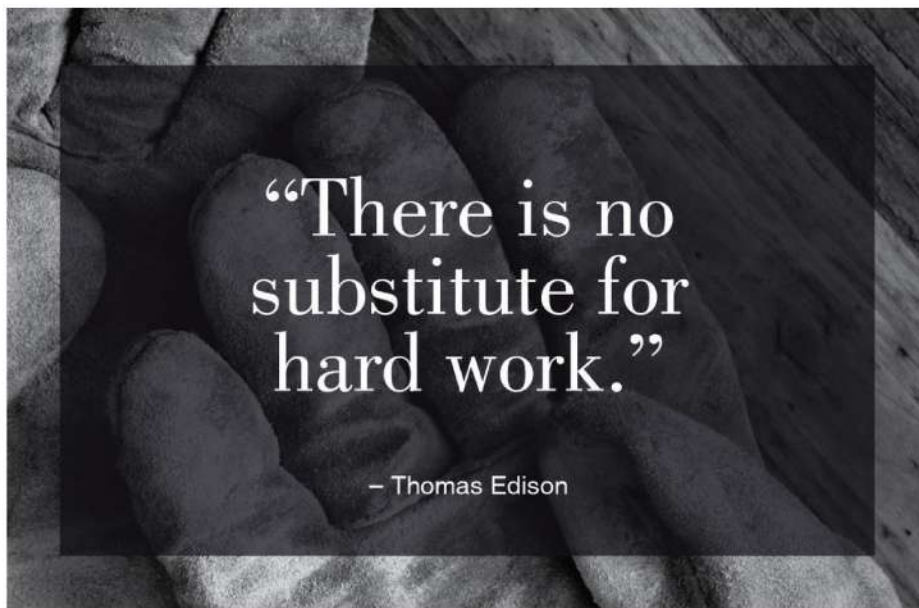
- As part of the Ground Water Act's implementation, tap water has been provided to 60 percent of rural households in areas predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Caste (SC) communities.
- Out of a total of 2,18,06,280 rural households in SC-concentrated/dominated areas, 1,32,64,760 households now have access to tap water connections.

Agriculture's Heavy Reliance on Groundwater -

- Groundwater serves as the primary source of irrigation in India, playing a critical role in sustaining agricultural practices.
- It is estimated that around 70% of the country's food production relies on tube wells and other groundwater sources.
- However, this extensive use of groundwater in agriculture has led to a growing groundwater crisis, necessitating a comprehensive action plan for conservation.

India's Global Water Consumption Status -

- In 2018, the 'World Water Development Report' published by UNESCO identified India as the world's largest groundwater user.
- The country's heavy dependence on groundwater for various purposes underscores the urgency to implement effective water conservation measures and sustainable management practices.



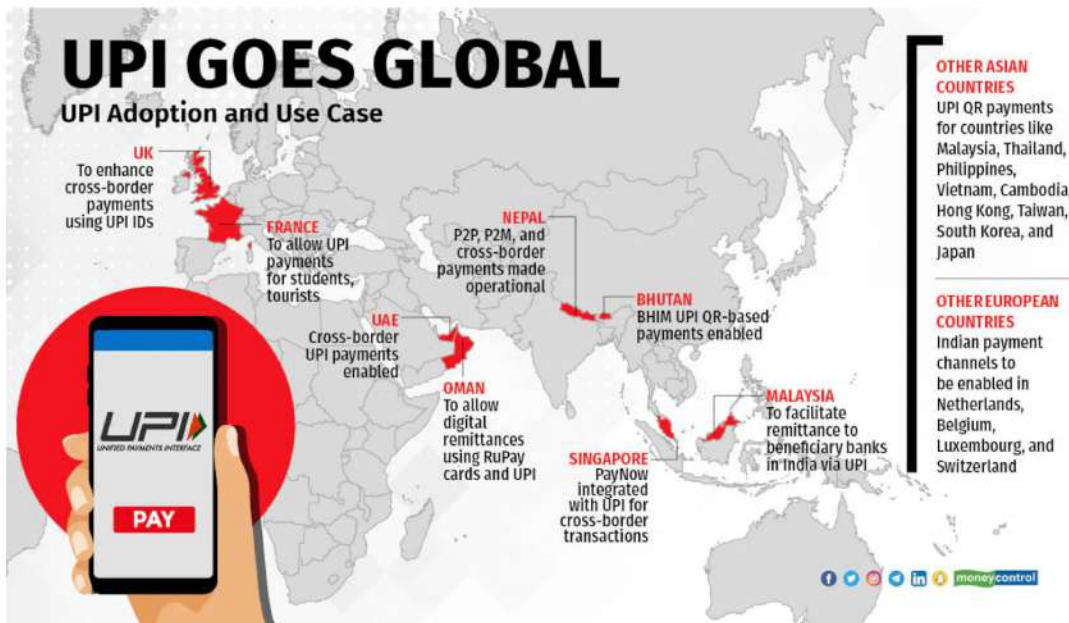
International

India Extends UPI Payments to France, Empowering Indian Tourists

- On July 13, 2023, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to France, India and France signed a groundbreaking agreement that allows Indian tourists to use India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions in rupees.
- This partnership marks a significant milestone as it brings UPI, a popular mobile-based payment system, to Europe for the first time after its successful implementation in Singapore. The move is set to revolutionize the payment experience for Indian tourists in France, eliminating the need to carry foreign currency and offering convenience and flexibility.



UPI's Global Expansion : A Journey Across the Globe



India Extends UPI Payments to France, Empowering Indian Tourists -

- Since its inception, UPI has steadily expanded its reach globally through strategic partnerships. France is the latest addition to the list of countries that have embraced the UPI system for cross-border transactions. Prior to this agreement, UPI had already established itself in countries like Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, and the UAE.
- Countries that have adopted different forms of Indian payment systems include France, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Singapore, Maldives, Bhutan, and Oman. This means that Indian users can now use UPI, RuPay, and other digital payment channels in these countries, making transactions easier and more convenient.

NIPL : Forging Global Partnerships -

- The NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), established as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in April 2020, is actively forging partnerships with different countries to create a widespread acceptance network for RuPay and UPI. This network enables Indian travelers to make payments using these digital payment channels in their destination countries.

Empowering Indian Tourists with Effortless Transactions -

- With the implementation of UPI in France, Indian tourists can now transact in rupees with ease. They can use local QR codes or UPI IDs to make payments, eliminating the hassles of carrying and exchanging foreign currency. This newfound convenience allows tourists to spend according to their needs rather than being restricted to fixed amounts of foreign exchange.

PM Modi to be guest of honour for French Military Parade

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited as the guest of honour for France’s Bastille Day celebrations, which will take place on July 14. The Bastille Day military parade will witness the participation of Indian forces, emphasizing the strengthening strategic alliance between France and India



The Significance of Bastille Day -

- Bastille Day, celebrated annually on July 14, holds historical significance for France. It commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison by revolutionary insurgents in 1789, a pivotal event in the French Revolution. The assault on the medieval fortress marked the beginning of the revolution and symbolized the fight for freedom, equality, and democracy. Today, Bastille Day is a national holiday in France, known locally as “Fête de la Fédération,” and serves as a celebration of French unity and the ideals of the revolution.

Modi-Macron Meeting: Strengthening Strategic Partnerships -

- The upcoming meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Emmanuel Macron in Paris is expected to further enhance the strategic partnership between India and France. The two countries have already collaborated in various sectors, including defense, with India procuring French-made Rafale fighter jets to modernize its armed forces. Given the tensions along India’s northern border with China, New Delhi’s urgency to bolster its defense capabilities has increased. The meeting aims to explore new avenues of cooperation, setting objectives for strategic, cultural, scientific, academic, and economic collaboration across a wide range of industrial sectors.

A New Phase in the France-India Strategic Partnership -

- President Macron’s invitation to Modi as the guest of honour for the Bastille Day celebrations symbolizes the beginning of a new phase in the strategic partnership between France and India. The red carpet welcome and participation of Indian forces in the military parade underline the significance of this relationship. Both countries share common values and interests, including the promotion of democracy, multilateralism, and a rules-based international order. Strengthening their ties not only benefits the bilateral relationship but also contributes to regional and global stability.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **Prime Minister of France: Élisabeth Borne**
- ✓ **President of France: Emmanuel Macron**

North Korea tested its latest Hwasong-18

- North Korea recently tested its latest intercontinental ballistic missile (IBM) – Hwasong-18.

About Hwasong-18 :

- Hwasong-18 is a three stage solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile (IBM) developed by North Korea.
- It is North Korea’s first ICBM to use solid fuels which allows for faster launch.
- It was first unveiled in the February 2023 parade commemorating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People’s Army.

- The Hwasong-18's 74 minutes flight time was the longest ever for a North Korean missile test.
- Hwasong-18 allows faster development of missiles during a year.
- It has the potential to greatly enhance the effectiveness of their nuclear retaliatory posture and influence their offensive military strategy.
- Solid-fueled ICBMs such as the Hwasong-18 can be prepared for launch more quickly than their liquid-fueled counterparts as they do not require time-consuming fueling procedures.



Solid-fueled Missiles:

- Solid-fueled missiles use a solid propellant composed of fuel and oxidizer that is tightly packed into the rocket's motor. This mixture is stable and can be stored for long periods without significant degradation. Solid-fueled ICBMs have shorter launch preparation times because the propellant is already inside the missile, making them more responsive to sudden launch orders. They are typically more mobile as they can be easily transported on vehicles without the need of additional fueling equipment.

Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) :

- An intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a ballistic missile with a range greater than 5,500 km primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery. They differ from other forms of ballistic missile by their much greater range and payload capacity.
- The first ICBMs were developed by the Soviet Union in 1958; the United States followed the next year and China some 20 years later.

Three stage ICBM -

- A three stage ICBM is a type of ICBM that has three stages which are used to propel the missile to its target.
1. The first stage is the boost stage which is responsible for lifting the missile off the ground and accelerating it to a high velocity.
 2. The Second stage guides the missile towards its target, using a combination of internal guidance systems and external tracking systems.
 3. The Final stage is the terminal stage which is responsible for ensuring that the missile reaches the target with precision.

China launched world's first methane-fuelled space rocket

- A private Chinese company launched the World's first methane-fuelled space rocket into orbit named "Zhuque-2".
- The Zhuque-2 carrier rocket blasted off at 9:00A.M. (01:00 GMT) on 12th July from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous region and completed the flight mission according to the procedure.
- China's Zhuque-2 has become the World's first methane propelled rocket to successfully fly into orbit.
- This was Landscape's second attempt after a launch failed in December.
- This landmark achievement signifies a paradigm shift in the race towards cleaner, safe and reusable space travel technology.
- Zhuque-2 achieved the expected trajectory and completed its flight according to plan.
- The launch indicated significant progress in the development of the reusable rockets, as methane engines offers excellent performance with lower operational costs.
- Landscape also became the second private Chinese company to launch a liquid-propellant rocket.



About the Zhueque-2 :

- The Zhueque-2 is a Chinese orbital class launching vehicle developed by Landscape.
- It is liquid-fuelled rocket powered by liquid oxygen and liquid methane (methalox).
- It is first methane-fuelled rocket to reach orbit.
- Zhueque-2 has a liftoff weight of 216 metric tons and uses 4 TQ-12 methalox engines in the first stage with a thrust of 67 metric tonnes.
- The second stage utilizes one optimized TQ-12 with a thrust of 80 metric tonnes in combination with an 8 metric tonnes thrust TQ-11 engine which acts as a vernier thruster.
- Zhueque-2 has a capability of lifting 6,000 kg of payload into a 200 km low Earth orbit and 4,000 kg of payload into a 500 km Sun-synchronous orbit.
- Zhueque-2 has also been launched on 14 December 2022 but it was a failure.

Saudi Arabia becomes 51st country to sign ASEAN’s TAC

- Jakarta, Indonesia - On the sidelines of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta, Saudi Arabia has officially become the 51st country to accede to the TAC.
- Jakarta, Indonesia – On the sidelines of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta, Saudi Arabia has officially become the 51st country to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC). The accession signing ceremony took place on July 12, and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, on behalf of ASEAN, expressed her appreciation to Saudi Arabia for joining the treaty.



Saudi Arabia’s Commitment to ASEAN Values and Principles

- With the signing of the TAC, Saudi Arabia demonstrates a strong commitment to adhere to the values and principles of ASEAN as embodied in the treaty. The TAC calls for cooperation, collaboration, and upholding international law to promote peace and stability in Southeast Asia and beyond. In the context of current geopolitical dynamics, these values and principles are increasingly vital.

Welcoming Saudi Arabia to the ASEAN Family

- Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi warmly welcomed Saudi Arabia to the ASEAN family, emphasizing the need for all member countries to be a positive force for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. The accession ceremony was witnessed by ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the ASEAN Secretary General.

Expanding the Reach of the TAC

- The signing of the TAC by Saudi Arabia marks a significant milestone in expanding the reach and influence of the treaty beyond ASEAN’s member countries. Prior to Saudi Arabia, Ukraine was the last country to accede to the TAC in 2022. Notably, Papua New Guinea was the first country outside of ASEAN to accede to the TAC in 1989.
- Saudi Arabia’s commitment to the TAC is expected to foster stronger ties between the Kingdom and ASEAN nations, contributing to regional peace, stability, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific area.

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Saudi Arabia becomes 51st country to sign ASEAN’s TAC

New Zealand becomes first country to ban plastic produce bags

- New Zealand has taken a momentous step towards reducing plastic waste by becoming the first country to implement a complete ban on thin plastic bags commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases. Moreover, this move will extend beyond bags, as it also includes banning of plastic straws and silverware. This significant move aligns with the government's ongoing campaign against single-use plastics, which began in 2019 with the prohibition of thicker plastic shopping bags.



New Zealand's Fight Against Plastic -

- Since 2019, New Zealand has been actively promoting sustainable practices and combatting plastic pollution. The initial ban on thicker plastic shopping bags was a significant step towards reducing plastic waste and encouraging the use of reusable alternatives. Building upon this success, the government has now expanded the campaign to target additional single-use plastics, including thin plastic bags, straws and silverware.

Progress made up until now -

- New Zealand always had a significant problem regarding the excessive generation of plastic waste, which requires urgent attention and effective solutions. The 2019 bag ban alone prevented over 1 billion plastic bags from being used in the country. With the addition of the ban on thin bags, an estimated reduction of 150 million bags per year is expected. The focus of government is to reduce all forms of single-use packaging and to encourage people to bring their own bags while supermarkets are selling reusable produce bags.

Impact on Environment -

- Lightweight bags, typically used to collect fruits and vegetables at supermarkets, have detrimental effects on the environment. It contributes to the escalating problem of plastic pollution worldwide. By banning their production and distribution, New Zealand has become the first country to outlaw the use of plastic bags. The country aims to significantly curb plastic waste and promote sustainable alternatives.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **Prime Minister of New Zealand is Chris Hipkins**
- ✓ **Rachel Brooking is the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries of New Zealand**

Iran Becomes Full Member of SCO: Key Highlights from the India-Hosted Summit

- Iran has officially become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) during an India-hosted virtual summit of the influential grouping. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the people of Iran on this significant occasion.

Prime Minister Modi's Congratulations :

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the people of Iran on Iran's full membership in the SCO. He also welcomed Belarus' SCO membership, as indicated by the signing of the Memorandum of Obligations.



The Significance of SCO Membership :

- PM Modi highlighted the growing interest of other countries in joining the SCO, emphasizing the organization's importance. The interest shown by nations to become part of the SCO demonstrates the organization's relevance and influence on regional and global affairs.

India's Role as the Summit Host :

- As the current chair of the SCO, India hosted the summit. Prime Minister Modi chaired the virtual meeting, which included the participation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and other leaders from SCO member states.

President Raisi's Vision for SCO Membership :

- President Raisi expressed his hopes that Iran's inclusion in the SCO would serve as a platform for achieving collective security, sustainable development, and fostering unity among member countries.

Historical Significance of Iran's Admission :

- A declaration issued at the conclusion of the summit highlighted the historical significance of Iran's admission as a full member state of the SCO. This acknowledgment underscores Iran's strategic importance and its contributions to the organization's goals and objectives.

Belarus' Membership Advancement :

- The declaration also noted the importance of the signing of the Memorandum of Obligations by Belarus to achieve the status of an SCO member state. Belarus is taking steps towards becoming a full member, further expanding the SCO's influence and reach.

IMPORTANT

1. Establishment: The SCO was founded in 2001 at a summit in Shanghai, China, by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
2. Membership Expansion: India and Pakistan became permanent members of the SCO in 2017, further expanding the organization's reach and influence.
3. Iran's Full Membership: During an India-hosted virtual summit, Iran officially became a full member of the SCO. This move highlights Iran's strategic importance and its commitment to cooperation within the organization.
4. Belarus' Membership Progress: The summit also acknowledged the signing of the Memorandum of Obligations by Belarus, a step towards achieving full membership in the SCO. Belarus' potential accession further strengthens the organization.
5. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS): RATS is a specialized body within the SCO that coordinates and facilitates intelligence sharing and counter-terrorism operations among member states.

China has launched its computer operating system, named OpenKylin

- China launched country's first open-source desktop operating system (OS) named as OpenKylin 1.0 with the motive to create an independent software system and cut reliance on US technology.

What in News ?

- China recently launched its first open-source desktop operating system (OS) named as OpenKylin 1.0 to reduce its dependency on US technology and to create China's independent software system.
- The launch of OpenKylin, an open-source desktop system marked the country's latest effort in developing homegrown software which reduces reliance on Western Technologies.



- The OpenKylin system has been developed with the contribution from various companies and organizations.
- Several Chinese Companies are currently working on creating operating system that can replace Microsoft's Windows and Apple MacOS. One of these companies is Union Tech Software Technology Co. Ltd. is in the process of developing its own operating system called 'Unity'.
- The main supporter in launching this open-source desktop system OpenKylin is the China Industrial Control System Emergency Response Team, which is overseen by the industry and Information Technology Ministry and additional more than ten software companies.

About the OpenKylines :

- OpenKylines 1.0 is an open-source desktop software developed by group of Chinese companies which is mainly headed by China Electronic Corp.
- OpenKylin 1.0 is a Linux operating system created by a community of about 4,000 developers.
- OpenKylin users have access to the software's line of code and can easily modify them as they wish, unlike Microsoft and Apple which keeps the working of windows and MacOS secret.
- The launch of the OpenKylin is considered to be the latest effort in the development of homgrown software. Homegrown software are considered key to serving as a pillar for driving construction of new infrastructure and boosting development of the digital economy.

Bangladesh and India Launch Trade Transactions in Rupees to Reduce Dollar Dependence

- Bangladesh and India have initiated trade transactions in rupees, aiming to reduce reliance on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade.
- This bilateral trade agreement marks a significant milestone for Bangladesh, moving beyond the US dollar for trade settlement with a foreign country.

Trade Settlement in Rupees : A Historic Step :

Bangladesh and India Launch Trade Transactions in Rupees to Reduce Dollar Dependence

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder describes the launch of trade settlement in rupees as the "first step in a great journey."
- The move signifies the growth and economic cooperation between India and Bangladesh, fostering mutual benefits.

Reduced Transaction Costs and Dual Currency Card :

- The introduction of the Taka-Rupee dual currency card, expected to be launched from September, will further facilitate trade between the two countries.
- The dual currency card will help reduce transaction costs during trade with India, enhancing convenience for traders and strengthening economic ties.

Formalizing Trade in Rupees :

- While frontier trading has existed between Bangladesh and India in certain areas called "border huts," formal trade will now be conducted in rupees.
- Initially, the trade will be transacted in rupees, with a gradual shift towards using the Bangladeshi currency, Taka, as the trade gap decreases.



UAE becomes first Arab country to get observer status on Asian-Pacific Money Laundering

- UAE or United Arab Emirates is participating with observer status in the plenary of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), a Financial Action Task Force-Style regional body (FSRB), taking place this

week in Vancouver, Canada. The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted observer status at the APG. The UAE has placed international cooperation at the heart of its strategy and plans for countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Observer status at FSRB events is granted to countries that demonstrate an active and collaborative approach to fighting financial crime, which the UAE has displayed through its participation in MENAFATF and other multilateral organisations.

- The UAE delegation to the plenary is led by Hamid Al Zaabi, Director-General of the Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (EO AML/CTF), and includes representatives from the UAE Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and other governmental authorities.



UAE’s AML/CFT Collaboration: Sharing Knowledge and Driving Innovation -

- The Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering is the largest FSRB globally and provides a truly unique forum for cross-border cooperation and information exchange. The UAE has invested considerably in its AML/CFT system in recent years, and we will be sharing knowledge and best practices with our partners from over 40 countries. We will also be listening and learning and looking to bring back new insights that can ensure we are at the cutting edge of anti-financial crime strategies and tactics. I look forward to a busy and productive plenary.

Russia bans sex change and transgender marriages

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a new legislation that deals a significant blow to the LGBTQ+ community in the country. The act, passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, strictly prohibits individuals from officially or medically changing their gender, further marginalizing Russia’s embattled LGBTQ+ population.



Comprehensive Ban on Gender Changes and More -

- The new legislation imposes a comprehensive ban on various aspects related to gender changes.
- It prohibits any medical interventions aimed at altering a person’s sex and also bars individuals from changing their gender in official documents or public records.
- Only medical intervention to treat congenital anomalies will be allowed under the new law.
- Furthermore, the legislation goes beyond restricting gender changes and extends its impact to marriages and family planning.
- It annuls marriages in which one of the partners has undergone a gender change, and it outright prevents transgender individuals from becoming foster or adoptive parents.

Preserving “Traditional Values” and Combating “Western Ideology” -

- The ban on gender changes and the wider crackdown on LGBTQ+ rights in Russia are rooted in the Kremlin’s pursuit of preserving what it deems as the nation’s “traditional values.”
- Lawmakers argue that the legislation is essential to protect Russia against what they view as “western anti-family ideology.”
- Some legislators have even labeled gender transitioning as “pure satanism,” highlighting the extent of the conservative stance taken by the government.

Italy Honours Indian Army contribution in Second World War

- “The “V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial” was jointly unveiled by the Commune of Monotone in Italy and Italian military historians at Montone, Perugia, Italy. This memorial stands as a tribute to the valor and sacrifices of the Indian troops who fought in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War.
- The memorial is dedicated in honor of Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, a recipient of the Victoria Cross, who bravely fought and laid down his life during the intense battles in the heights of Upper Tiber Valley.



Memorial’s motto -

- The memorial’s motto is “Omines Sub Eodem Sole” which means “We all live under the same sun” in English.

Indian Soldiers’ Heroic Contributions and Sacrifices in the Italian Campaign of World War II

- During the Second World War, the Italian Campaign witnessed a significant contribution from Indian Soldiers, with over 50,000 serving in the 4th, 8th, and 10th Divisions. Their remarkable efforts led to the awarding of 20 Victoria Crosses, with six of these prestigious honors earned by Indian soldiers.
- However, this bravery came at a cost, as 23,722 Indian soldiers were casualties, including 5,782 who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their memory is honored and preserved in the 40 Commonwealth War Graves scattered throughout Italy.”



Strengthening the Historical Bond between India and Italy

- The unveiling of the Yeshwant Ghadge sundial memorial will strengthen the special historical bond between India and Italy. As part of the ceremony, a commemorative postcard was also launched, and the event was honored by the presence of distinguished guests from the Italian government, military, military historians, and citizens.

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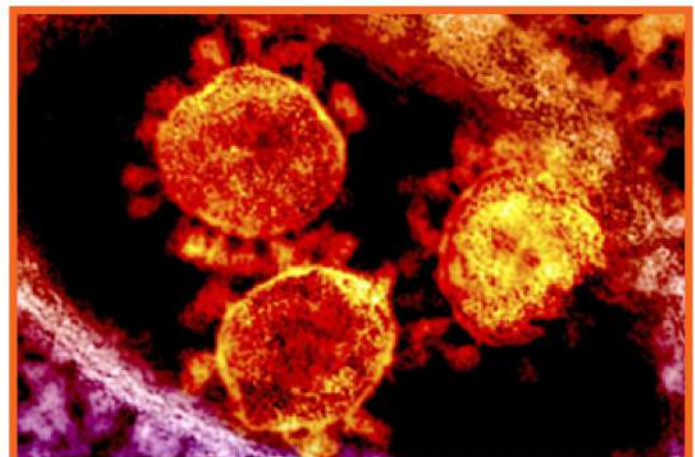
- ✓ **Chief of the Defence Staff of Italy: Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone**
- ✓ **Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces: General Anil Chauhan**

WHO identifies first case of MERS-CoV in UAE this year

- According to WHO, a first case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-COV) has been identified in a 28-year old male from United Arab Emirates (UAE).

What’s in News ?

- WHO has identified the first case of MERS-CoV in 28-year old male from United Arab Emirates (UAE). WHO stated that the patient is a resident of AI Ain city in Abu Dhabi. He had no travel history and had not come in direct or indirect contact with dromedaries (camels), goats or sheep.
- The first case of MERS-CoV was reported in UAE



in 2013. Till date, UAE has reported 94 confirmed cases and 12 deaths. Globally, the total number of cases of MERS-CoV since 2012 is 2,605 including 936 associated deaths.

MERS-CoV

- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome caused by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) that was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.
- MERS-CoV is a zoonotic virus, which is transmitted between animals and people. MERS-CoV has been identified and linked to human infections in dromedary camels in several Member States in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. Human-to-Human transmission is possible and has occurred predominately among close contacts and in health-care settings. Outside the health-care settings, there has been limited human-to-human transmission.

Symptoms -

- MERS symptoms can range from mild to severe. People with mild MERS infection may not receive a correct diagnosis. The common symptoms of MERS infection are :
 - Fever
 - Shortness of breath
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Muscle and stomach pain and soreness
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea

The Bank of Israel joins the International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR)

- On 13th July, the World Bank issued an official approval for the Bank of Israel to join the International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR), consists of worldwide committees on credit reporting.

Background -

- In November 2022, at the winter meeting of the International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR), it was decided to approve the Bank of Israel's accession as a member of the organization by a unanimous voting.
- Since November, the World Bank has taken internal steps to approve the Bank of Israel's membership and following the convening of the spring session of the ICCR committee in June, the World Bank issued an official approval for the Bank of Israel's membership in ICCR.



About ICCR -

- ICCR has been established by the World Bank in 2009 with the support of Bank for International Standards (BIS).
- The chairperson of ICCR is Jean Pesme.
- The main aim of ICCR is to create international credit reporting standards.
- ICCR includes representatives of central banks around the world and private financial regulators.
- The ICCR supports a broad, forward-looking approach to issues in the world of credit reporting, achieving consensus regarding policy aspects that affect the public interests.

Responsibilities of ICCR :

- To further develop the international agreed framework in its general principles.
- To identify areas of further consideration
- To dedicate resources to the elaboration of papers, reports, guidelines and other relevant materials that will effectively support the adequate implementation of the general policies.

About the Bank of Israel -

- Central Bank of Israel.
- Establishment: 1954
- Headquarter: Kiryat HaMemshala in Jerusalem with a branch in Tel Aviv.
- Current Governor: Amir Yaron
- Director General: Shulamit Geri

Sports

Indian contingent won 27 medals at 25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023

- India achieved a historic milestone at the recently concluded 25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Championship took place from July 12 to 16. With an impressive tally of 27 medals, including six gold, 12 silver, and nine bronze, India secured the third position overall, following China and Japan. This remarkable achievement surpasses India's previous record set in 2017 at Bhubaneswar, where they secured nine gold, six silver, and 12 bronze medals.



Medal Winners at the Championship

- India garnered an impressive collection of 27 medals, comprising six gold, 12 silver, and nine bronze, highlighting their exceptional performance.

Here is the list of Gold Medal Winners

Sr. No.	Name	Event	Medal Won
1	Jyothi Yarraji	100 m hurdles	Gold
2	Parul Chaudhary	3000 m steeplechase	Gold
3	Tajinderpal Singh Toor	Shot Put	Gold
4	Abdulla Aboobacker	Triple Jump	Gold
5	Ajay Kumar Saroj	1500 m	Gold
6	*Mixed Relay Team	4 x 400 m	Gold

Prithviraj Tondaiman wins bronze in trap in Shotgun World Cup

- India's lone medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy came from Prithviraj Tondaiman, who clinched the bronze medal in the trap event. In the final round, Prithviraj secured the third position with a total of 34 points which marked his second individual ISSF World Cup medal, as he had previously won a bronze in Doha back in March. Nathan Hales from Britain claimed the gold medal with 49 points, followed by Qi Ying from China who earned the silver medal with 48 points. The men's trap final included a total of six qualified shooters.



Indian Shooters in Men's Trap Event -

- During the qualifying round, Prithviraj secured the third position with a total of 122 points. Across the five-round qualification series, he achieved scores of 23, 25, 24, 25, and 25. Unfortunately, Paris 2024 Olympics quota

winners Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Zoravar Singh Sandhu were unable to advance beyond the qualification stage in the men's trap event. Bhowneesh Mendiratta finished in 16th place with 120 points, while Zoravar Sandhu secured the 66th position with 115 points.

Indian Participants in Women's Trap Event -

- In the women's trap event, the Indian participants were unable to advance beyond the qualification round. Shreyasi Singh, the 2018 Commonwealth Games champion, concluded in 36th place with a score of 111 points. Manisha Keer secured the 39th position with 111 points, while Rajeshwari Kumari finished in 58th place with 106 points.

Indian Shooters' Performance in Skeet Events -

- In the men's skeet event, Mairaj Ahmad Khan, a two-time Olympian, concluded the qualifying round in 116th place with a score of 112 points. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa secured the 74th position with 117 points. Anant Jeet Singh Naruka finished 55th with 119 points, while Gurjoat Khangura finished 82nd with 116 points.
- Moving on to the women's individual skeet event, both Ganemat Sekhon and Darshna Rathore were unable to qualify for the finals. Ganemat Sekhon narrowly missed the medal round, finishing in ninth place with 120 points. Darshna Rathore finished 65th with 104 points. Maheshwari Chauhan secured the 36th position with 114 points.
- Overall, India finished ninth in the medals tally 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 Olympics.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **The first ISSF Shotgun World Cup was held in Mexico City in: 1986**

Ajeet Singh clinches Gold Medal in Para Athletics Championships in Paris

- The Charlety Stadium in Paris hosted the Para Athletics World Championships from 8 to 17 July, attracting a diverse participation of more than 1200 athletes from 107 nations. Ajeet Singh displayed his exceptional prowess in the finals of the Men's javelin throw F46 category, emerging as the champion and claiming the gold medal. With a remarkable throw measuring 65.41 meters, he secured the top spot in the competition. Ajeet Singh's outstanding performance not only earned him the championship title but also resulted in the breaking of the previous record held by Chunliang Guo of China, whose throw measured 61.89 meters.



Indian Athletes at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships in Paris -

- India concluded its participation in the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships held in Paris with an exceptional achievement, breaking records and securing an impressive medal count. They garnered three gold medals, four silver medals, and three bronze medals, setting a new benchmark.
- In the Men's Javelin Throw F64 category, Sumit Antil clinched India's first gold medal. Notably, he surpassed his own World Record with a remarkable throw of 70.83 meters, earning him a coveted spot in the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. Adding to India's triumph, Sachin Sarjerao Khilari secured the second gold medal in the Men's Shot Put F46 category, also securing his place in the 2024 Paris Paralympics.
- Completing India's gold medal haul, Ajeet Singh triumphed in the Men's Javelin Throw F46 Final. Sunder Singh Gurjar showcased an impressive performance as well, finishing fourth in the same event and securing qualification for the 2024 Paris Paralympics.
- This outstanding performance by the Indian contingent marks their best-ever achievement in the competition, surpassing their previous record of nine medals in the 2019 edition held in Dubai.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ Ajeet Singh hails from: Uttar Pradesh, India
- ✓ Total medal won by India in the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships: 10

India wins 34th International Biology Olympiad

■ In a remarkable achievement, India has emerged as the overall winner at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) held in Al Ain, UAE from 2-11 July. The Indian student team clinched an unprecedented all-gold performance, securing the top position on the medals tally for the first time.



Intensive Six-Part Examination Series -

■ Throughout the competition, the participants underwent a comprehensive series of six tests. The initial two tests, conducted on computers, focused on theoretical knowledge. These tests covered a wide range of subjects such as anatomy, animal and plant physiology, cell science, microbiology, molecular biology, genetics, ecology, behavior, and biosystems. The remaining four examinations involved practical experiments, specifically in the fields of biochemistry, plant molecular biology, bioinformatics, and ecology, along with an ethical component.

Unparalleled Success -

■ The Indian team's outstanding performance at the IBO 2023 reflects their exceptional knowledge, skills, and hard work. With a total of four gold medals, India stood at the pinnacle of success. This resounding triumph marks the first time that India has achieved an all-gold performance at the IBO.

List of winners and the state they belong from

Sr. No.	Name	Medal	State
1	Dhruv Advani	Gold	Bengaluru, Karnataka
2	Ishan Pednekar	Gold	Rajasthan
3	Megh Chhabda	Gold	Jalna, Maharashtra
4	Rohit Panda	Gold	Risali, Chattisgarh

■ India and Singapore emerged as the leading nations, securing an impressive total of four gold medals each. China, Chinese Taipei, and the future Olympic delegation claimed the second position with three gold medals. Notably, the UAE celebrated its inaugural triumph in the International Biology Olympiad, as Reem Rashid Alnaqbi, an Emirati student, earned a well-deserved bronze medal.

Global Participation -

■ The IBO 2023 witnessed the participation of 293 students from 76 countries, making it a truly global event. Despite the stiff competition, India emerged as the frontrunner, showcasing the country's remarkable talent pool in the field of biology. Singapore was the only other country to secure four gold medals, highlighting India's exceptional performance.

India bags 11 medals in World Archery Youth Championships, 2023

■ India has secured the second position with an impressive haul of 11 medals, including six gold, one silver, and four bronze in the recently concluded biannual event, 2023 World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland. Parth Salunkhe, a rising Indian archer created history by becoming the first Indian male archer to win the Youth World Championship in the recurve category. A grand total of 518 archers (comprising 277 men and 241 women) from 58 different countries participated in both individual and team events.

Parth Salunkhe Clinches Gold in Recurve Under-21 Men's Individual Category -

- Parth Salunkhe's exceptional performance captivated the archery world as he triumphed in the recurve under-21 men's individual category. In an intense final, Salunkhe overcame a strong challenge from Korean archer Song In Jun, securing a 7-3 victory. Demonstrating his precision and composure, Salunkhe hit the bull's eye twice to clinch the world title, making history as the first Indian male archer to achieve this feat. Salunkhe's journey to the top was filled with remarkable victories, including wins over archers from the Czech Republic, Turkey, Chinese Taipei, and Germany.



Bhajan Kaur's Bronze Medal Triumph in Women's Under-21 Individual Category -

- Bhajan Kaur of India achieved a bronze medal in the Under-21 women's recurve individual event by defeating Su Hsien-yu from Chinese Taipei. India's success extended to the women's under-21 individual category, where Bhajan Kaur showcased her skills and determination. Kaur faced Chinese Taipei's Su Hsin-yu in the bronze medal match and emerged victorious with a resounding 7-1 win.

Wimbledon 2023 Final: Carlos Alcaraz beats Novak Djokovic

- Wimbledon 2023 men's singles final in which Carlos Alcaraz beat four-time defending champion Novak Djokovic 1-6, 7-6(6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 to win his maiden title at The Championships. The action as it unfolded on Centre Court at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, England.

On women's singles -

- Marketa Vondrousova becomes Wimbledon champion, the first unseeded player to do so in the Open Era. She beats last year's runner-up Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-4 in the final. Marketa Vondrousova is the first unseeded player to do so in the Open Era.



Here is the Complete List of Winners in Different Categories :

Sr. No.	Category	Winner	Runner up
1	Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic
2	Women's Singles	Marketa Vondrousova	Ons Jabeur
3	Men's Doubles	Wesley Koolhof & Neal Skupski	Elise Mertens & Storm Sanders
4	Women's Doubles	Barbora Strycova & Hsieh Su-wei	Elise Mertens & Storm Sanders
5	Mixed Doubles	Mate Pavic & Lyudmyla Lakychenko	Xn Yi fan & Joran Vliegen

Wimbledon Championships 2023 -

- The Wimbledon Championships 2023 is a Grand Slam tennis tournament that takes place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom. The tournament will be played on grass courts, with all main draw matches to be played from Jun 26-Jul 16, 2023, at the All England lawn tennis and croquet club, Wimbledon. The 2023 Championships is the 136th edition, the 129th staging of the Ladies' Singles Championship event, the 55th in the Open Era and the third Grand Slam tournament of the year.

Wimbledon 2023 Prize Money -

Men's and Women's Doubles prize money Total amounts for each team in £= Pound

- Winner – £600,000
- Runner-up – £300,000

Lakshya Sen wins 58th Canada Open 2023

- Lakshya Sen clinched the men's singles title at the 58th Canada Open 2023. In an exhilarating final match, Sen defeated Li Shi Feng, the reigning All England champion, in straight games. This remarkable victory marks Sen's second BWF World Tour title and adds another prestigious accolade to his growing list of accomplishments. Sen displayed immense talent and ability to excel under pressure and outclassed his opponent, Li Shi Feng, with a score of 21-18 and 22-20.

Second BWF World Tour Title -

- The victory at the Canada Open 2023 represents Lakshya Sen's second BWF Super 500 title. His previous triumph came at the India Open in January 2022, further establishing his reputation as one of India's most promising badminton players. Ranked 19th in the world currently, Sen's consistent performance and determination have propelled him to achieve significant milestones in his career.

Road to the Final -

- Sen's path to the Canada Open final was filled with tough challenges. In the Round of 32, he faced Kunlavut Vitidsarn, the fourth-ranked player in the world, whom he defeated to progress further in the tournament. In the semifinals, Sen secured a dominant victory over Kento Nishimoto from Japan, currently ranked 11th in the world. These impressive wins propelled him to his second Super 500 final and his first BWF summit clash in over a year.

Dominant Performance in the Final

- Sen's exceptional display of skill and composure was evident as he overcame Li Shi Feng, the reigning All England champion. The match was filled with extraordinary rallies, characterized by fast-paced exchanges at the net. Sen's tight control and ability to maintain pressure allowed him to secure a 21-18, 22-20 victory, claiming his fifth win in seven meetings against the Chinese player. Notably, Sen saved four game points in the second game before clinching the championship point with a decisive smash, prompting a jubilant celebration on the court.



IMPORTANT

- ✓ **President of Badminton World Federation: Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen**
- ✓ **Headquarters of Badminton World Federation: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

SAFF Championship 2023 Final : India wins 9th title

- The Indian men's football team emerged victorious in a thrilling penalty shootout against Kuwait 5-4 in a thrilling penalty shootout, securing the SAFF Championship 2023 title at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Ranked 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, India triumphed in their ninth SAFF Championship out of 14 editions. This victory marked their second consecutive triumph after winning the Intercontinental Cup the previous month.
- India, serving as the hosts, remained undefeated throughout the SAFF Championship 2023. They defeated Pakistan and Nepal while drawing against Kuwait in the group stage. In the semifinals, they



overcame Lebanon in a penalty shootout and replicated the same feat against Kuwait in a nail-biting final. In addition to the medals, the team was awarded a cash prize of USD 50,000, equivalent to INR 41 lakh.

- Kuwait football team received the award for finishing runners-up in the SAFF Championship 2023. While all the players received medals, the team also got a cheque of US Dollar 25,000 which is around 20 lakh and about 50 thousands in Indian currency.

Awardees of the tournament

Award	Recipient
Fairplay Award	Nepal football team
Best Goalkeeper	Anisur Rahman Zico
Highest Goal-Scorer	Sunil Chhetri (6 Goals)
Most Valuable Player (MVP)	Sunil Chhetri
Runners-up	Kuwait football team

About the SAFF Football Championship -

- The SAFF Football Championship, also known as the South Asian Football Federation Championship, is a biennial international football tournament contested by the national teams of South Asian countries. The championship aims to promote and develop football in the region. Here is a brief history of the SAFF Football Championship:

Max Verstappen Claims Victory at British Grand Prix 2023

- Max Verstappen reeled off his sixth straight wins British Grand Prix with Lando Norris for McLaren in second. Mercedes’ Lewis Hamilton completed the Silverstone podium. Verstappen’s first-ever British Grand Prix win drew Red Bull level with McLaren’s record run of 11 consecutive race victories in 1988. McLaren’s Lando Norris started and finished in second place, while Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) stood on his home podium for a 14th time by finishing third. 2023 is the 74th season of the F1 world championship.



Previous race’s winners list :

Race	Winner
Canadian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen
Spanish Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Monaco Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Bahrain Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Saudi Arabia Grand Prix 2023	Sergio Perez
Azerbaijan Prix 2023	Sergio Perez

India ranked second at ISSF Junior World Championship in South Korea 2023

- The ISSF Junior World Championships 2023 took place at Changwon Shooting Range, South Korea from July 16 to 24. In its third edition this year, the event featured 90 skilled Indian shooters participating in pistol, rifle, and shotgun disciplines within the under-21 age category, all striving to secure medals.

India Shines at ISSF Junior World Championships 2023 with 17 Medals and a Dominant Contingent of 90 Shooters -

- The 2023 junior world championships saw India sending the largest contingent of 90 shooters, followed by Korea with 66 participants and the USA with 43. A total of over 550 shooters from 44 countries competed in the championships.
- India's impressive performance led to a total of 17 medals, including six gold, six silver, and five bronze at the ISSF Junior World Championships 2023. Remarkably, seven Indian shooters managed to secure more than one medal during the competition.



Medal winners from India at the ISSF Junior World Championships 2023

Shooter	Event	Medal
Shubham Bisla	10m air pistol men	Gold
Sainyam	10m air pistol women	Gold
Abhinav Shaw and Gautami Bhanot	10m air rifle mixed team	Gold
Abhinav Shaw, Srikanth Dhanush,	10m air rifle men's team	Gold
Parth Rakesh Mane Kamaljeet	50m pistol men	Gold
Yashita Shokeen, Veerpal Kaur, and Tiwana	50m pistol women's team	Gold
Kamaljeet, Ankait Tomar, and Sandeep Bishnoi	50m pistol men's team	Gold
Shubham Bisla, Amit Sharma, and Abhinav Choudhary	10m air pistol men's team	Silver
Uttam Sonam Maskar, Gautami Bhanot, and Swati Chowdhury	10m air rifle women's team	Silver
Raiza Dhillon	Women's skeet	Silver
Harmehar Singh Lally and Sanjana Sood	Mixed team skeet	Silver
Sameer, Mahesh Anandakumar, and Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu	25m rapid fire pistol men's team	Silver
Bakhtyaruddin Malek, Shardul Vihan, and Arya Vansh Tyagi	Trap men team	Silver
Abhinav Chaudhary and Sainyam	10m air pistol mixed team	Bronze
Sainyam, Urva Chaudhary, and Anjali Chaudhary	10m air pistol women's team	Bronze
Umamahesh Maddineni	10m air rifle men	Bronze
Unish Holinder, Randeep Singh, and Akshay Kumar	25m standard pistol men's team	Bronze
Yashita Shokeen, Prarthana Khanna, and Tiwana	25m standard pistol women's team	Bronze

Top 10 countries with the highest number of medals won at the ISSF Junior World Championships 2023:

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	12	9	7	28
2	India	6	6	5	17
3	Ukraine	5	3	2	10
4	Kazakhstan	4	4	2	10
5	Italy	4	3	4	11
6	USA	4	1	8	13
7	Korea	3	6	8	17
8	France	2	2	1	5
8	Switzerland	2	2	1	5
10	Norway	2	1	3	6

IMPORTANT

- ✓ President of International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF): Luciano Rossi

India's first online gaming academy in MP

- Madhya Pradesh is set to launch its first online gaming industry named “MP State Esports Academy” to provide the young esports player an opportunity and platform to advance to a professional level.
- The academy focuses on training aspiring gaming and esports professionals. An esports tournament will be held, selecting the top players for admission. 80% of the seats are reserved for gamers from Madhya Pradesh, while the remaining seats are open to gamers from all over the country. Anyone can participate in the tournament to compete for a spot at the academy.



MP Junior Esports Championship: A 10-day Talent Search Tournament for Young Enthusiasts

- The state-wide MP Junior Esports Championship is scheduled to take place between July 27 and August 7, specifically focusing on esports enthusiasts aged between 12 and 17 years. The sports department will be responsible for organizing the 10-day tournament, providing a platform for young participants to engage and showcase their skills in the games.

MP's Esports Academy: Fostering Traditional and Advanced Sports for Youth Development -

- The Esports Academy is established with the primary goal of promoting sports that are represented in the Asian Games and Olympics. Additionally, it seeks to blend traditional and modern sports. The Esports Academy in MP will be one of the nation's pioneering academies, providing young individuals with a chance to develop their skills in these emerging sports alongside traditional sports. The selected esports athletes will receive 12 months of intensive coaching and top-quality esports education, entirely free of charge, from the government.

Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster at Biel Chess Festival

- Aditya Samant, hailing from Maharashtra, achieved the title of India's 83rd Grandmaster by obtaining his third GM norm during the Master Tournament (MTO) at the Biel International Chess Festival. His journey began with his first GM norm earned at the Abu Dhabi Masters in August 2022, followed by securing his second GM norm at the 3rd El Llobregat Open in December of the same year.

Samant's Quest for GM Norm at BielChess MTO 2023 Tournament -

- Drawing his eighth-round game against Bu Xiangzhi, Samant needs to play just one more round, irrespective of the result, to achieve the GM norm. As he enters the ninth round, his live rating stands at 2525.4. Samant faced Aryan Chopra in the ninth-round match at the BielChess MTO 2023 tournament held in Switzerland.



Grandmaster (GM): The Highest Title in Chess Awarded by FIDE -

- The title of Grandmaster (GM) is bestowed upon chess players by the world chess organization FIDE. It is the highest title attainable for a chess player, second only to the World Champion title. To be awarded the Grandmaster title, a player must achieve a 2500 FIDE classical (or 'standard') rating and obtain three GM norms, as currently prescribed by FIDE.

The Biel Chess Festival 2023 -

- From 17th to 27th July, the Biel Chess Festival 2023 took place in Biel, Switzerland, showcasing a 10-round Swiss tournament format. Competing players had 100 minutes for their initial 40 moves, followed by 15 minutes for the remaining part of the game, alongside a 30-second increment for each move right from the beginning. **Lê Quang Liêm** emerged victorious as the champion, while Indian player Aryan Chopra secured an impressive third position in the tournament.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **2023 FIDE World Champion: Ding Liren**

Virat Kohli becomes 5th highest run-scorer in international cricket

- Star India batter Virat Kohli has surpassed South Africa's Jacques Kallis to become the fifth-highest run-scorer in international cricket history. Kohli achieved this upward movement in the batting charts during India's second Test against West Indies at Port of Spain. On the first day of the match, which is also his 500th international game.
- The right-handed batter who made his debut for Team India on August 18, 2008, against Sri Lanka in Dambulla surpassed legendary South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis tally of 25,534 runs, which he managed to score in 519 matches played across formats during his 19-year-long career at the highest level. Virat needed 74 runs to break Kallis' tally before the start of the game, which he successfully managed to do during the third session of play.
- As of now, Virat has 25,548 runs to his name, which he has managed to score in 559 innings of 500 matches played so far. He has a batting average of 53.67 and has scored 75 centuries and 132 fifties. The legendary Sachin Tendulkar, who has played in the highest number of 664 matches in international cricket, leads the rungetters chart as well. He amassed a total of 34,357 runs, and the 'Master Blaster' is followed by Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara (28,016 runs in 594 matches), Australia's two-time ODI World Cup winning skipper Ricky Ponting (27,483 runs in 560 matches), and Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene (25,957 runs in 652 matches).



"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

-B.B. King

Passing Exams Quotes

BANK-SSC-RLY-INS-IBPS-RRB QUIZ

1. Jens Stoltenberg has been elected as the head of which grouping for third time in a row?
[A] ASEAN [B] BIMSTEC [C] NATO [D] G-7
2. Which country is organising the UNSC's first ever meeting on threats of Artificial Intelligence?
[A] India [B] Australia [C] UK [D] Germany
3. What is the expansion of DPD Bill, which was cleared by the Cabinet recently?
[A] Digital Personal Data Protection Bill [B] Dual Personal Data Protection Bill
[C] Direct Personal Data Protection Bill [D] Diplomatic Personal Data Protection Bill
4. Zanzibar, where the first IIT Global Campus is to be set up, is located in which country?
[A] Egypt [B] Tanzania [C] Kenya [D] South Africa
5. Which city is the host of the 'Meeting of Space Economy Leaders under India's G20 presidency'?
[A] Bengaluru [B] Chennai [C] Pune [D] Mysuru
6. Which institution released the 'World Investment Report 2023'?
[A] UNCTAD [B] UNDP [C] FAO [D] UNEP
7. Which technology company has launched 'Threads' app?
[A] Amazon [B] Meta [C] Google [D] Microsoft
8. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States'?
[A] Ministry of Home Affairs [B] Ministry of Defence
[C] Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports [D] Ministry of Family and Health Affairs
9. As per a recent report, how many children and adolescents lose their lives due to infectious diseases annually?
[A] Three Million [B] Five Million [C] Ten Million [D] Fifteen Million
10. When was the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act" enacted in India?
[A] 2000 [B] 2005 [C] 2010 [D] 2013
11. Which freedom fighter launched the Rampa Rebellion against the British in 1922?
[A] Mahatma Gandhi [B] Alluri Sitarama Raju [C] Pottu Sriramalu [D] Velu Nachiyar
12. Which state/ UT launched the 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana'?
[A] West Bengal [B] Odisha [C] Jharkhand [D] Karnataka

1-C 2-C 3-B 4-B 5-A 6-A 7-B 8-A 9-A 10-D
11-B 12-B

13. Bogibeel, where the foundation stone for the Inland Waterways Transport Terminal was laid, is in which state?
[A] West Bengal [B] Assam [C] Uttarakhand [D] Gujarat
14. Which country recorded the highest global prevalence of childhood diabetes cases and fatalities in 2019?
[A] China [B] India [C] USA [D] Indonesia
15. Which African country has proposed 'National Health Insurance Fund Regulations (NHIF), 2023'?
[A] Kenya [B] Egypt [C] South Africa [D] Nigeria
16. Which country has reached a USD 3 Billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with IMF?
[A] Afghanistan [B] Pakistan [C] Iran [D] Thailand
17. Which city is the host of 'United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF)'?
[A] New Delhi [B] New York [C] Paris [D] Rome
18. Which city hosted the 'Startup20 Shikhar Summit'?
[A] Mumbai [B] Varanasi [C] Gandhi Nagar [D] Gurgaon
19. Which public sector bank along with NeSL has launched e-BG (electronic bank guarantee) services under Project WAVE?
[A] Indian Bank [B] State Bank of India
[C] Punjab National Bank [D] Canara Bank
20. France has collaborated with which country to fast-track transition to clean energy?
[A] UAE [B] Italy [C] Germany [D] UK
21. Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) is being constructed in which state/UT?
[A] Gujarat [B] West Bengal [C] Odisha [D] Jharkhand
22. Ministry of Defence entered into a contract with which company for Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC) of INS-Shankush?
[A] Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders [B] Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
[C] Bharat Electronics Limited [D] Defence Research and Development Organisation
23. 'National Space Mission for Earth Observation' is associated with which country?
[A] India [B] Australia [C] USA [D] Russia
24. 'Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project' has been built in which states?
[A] Arunachal Pradesh and Assam [B] Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
[C] Gujarat and Rajasthan [D] Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
25. Which organisation has released the 'Ozone-UV bulletin'?
[A] FAO [B] UNEP [C] WMO [D] NASA

13-B 14-B 15-A 16-B 17-B 18-D 19-A 20-A 21-A 22-A
23-B 24-A 25-C

26. Which state/UT is associated with 'EKAMRA project'?
- [A] West Bengal [B] Odisha [C] Bihar [D] Gujarat
27. Which institution is set to release a consultation paper on 'Finfluencers'?
- [A] RBI [B] NITI Aayog [C] SEBI [D] NPCI
28. What is the name of the type of electricity tariff which includes lower tariff during daytime and higher rates during peak hours?
- [A] Differential time-based tariff [B] Dynamic Electricity tariff
[C] Static Electricity Tariff [D] Peak power Tariff
29. Gustav Klimt, who is renowned for 'The Kiss' painting, is from which country?
- [A] Austria [B] France [C] Greece [D] Russia
30. Which Indian Armed Force is the host of 'Tarang Shakti' multinational air exercise?
- [A] Indian Army [B] Indian Navy [C] Indian Air Force [D] Indian Coast Guard
31. Which city is the host of 'International Conference on Green Hydrogen'?
- [A] Mysuru [B] Bengaluru [C] New Delhi [D] Pune
32. Which Union Ministry presented the inaugural report on "Critical Minerals for India"?
- [A] Ministry of Mines [B] Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
[C] Ministry of Home Affairs [D] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
33. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Report Fish Disease(RFD)' App?
- [A] Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
[B] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
[C] Ministry of Science and Technology
[D] Ministry of Defence
34. Which state/UT hosted the 'Vitasta' program to spread its art culture and literature?
- [A] Odisha [B] West Bengal
[C] Jammu and Kashmir [D] Jharkhand
35. Which institution approved the '6G Vision Framework'?
- [A] NASSCOM [B] NITI Aayog [C] ITU [D] IMF
36. When is the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' observed?
- [A] June 21 [B] June 26 [C] July 1 [D] July 5
37. Which institution is set to deploy 10 million brushless direct current motor (BLDC) fans across the country from September?
- [A] BIS [B] EESL [C] NITI Aayog [D] NASSCOM

26-B 27-C 28-A 29-A 30-C 31-C 32-A 33-A 34-C 35-C
36-B 37-B

38. Which company is set to buy the Danske Bank's IT centre in India?
 [A] HDFC Bank [B] Infosys
 [C] Axis Bank [D] Tata Consultancy Services
39. Which country amended its Election Act to limit the disqualification of lawmakers to five years with retrospective effect?
 [A] Sri Lanka [B] India [C] Pakistan [D] Myanmar
40. Which institution leads the 'Trans-Asia Railway (TAR) network'?
 [A] World Bank [B] UN [C] WEF [D] IMF
41. Kyriakos Mitsotaki has been elected as the Prime Minister of which country?
 [A] France [B] Greece [C] South Korea [D] Japan
42. What is the rank of India in 'WCC's Global Competitiveness Index'?
 [A] 12 [B] 25 [C] 40 [D] 56
43. Which bloc has conducted a joint military drill named 'Solidarity Exercise'?
 [A] EU [B] G-20 [C] ASEAN [D] BIMSTEC
44. Which organisation approved USD 255.5 million loan for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in India?
 [A] ADB [B] AIIB [C] World Bank [D] IMF
45. Utah Mountains, which were seen in the news for Watermelon Snow, is situated in which country?
 [A] Russia [B] Ukraine [C] USA [D] Indonesia
46. Bastille Day is the National Day of which country?
 [A] Bhutan [B] Bangladesh [C] France [D] USA
47. Who is the head of the RBI's working group on internationalisation of the rupee?
 [A] D Subbarao [B] Sakthikanta Das
 [C] Urjit Patel [D] Radha Shyam Ratho
48. Where was the "AI for Good global summit" held?
 [A] Geneva [B] New Delhi [C] Los Angeles [D] Perth
49. Which Department has planned to introduce compulsory quality control and safety standards for various household electrical appliances?
 [A] Department of Atomic Energy
 [B] Department of Science and Technology
 [C] Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
 [D] Department of Administrative Reforms and Grievance

38-B 39-C 40-B 41-B 42-C 43-C 44-C 45-C 46-C 47-D
 48-A 49-C

50. What is Leqembi, which is in news recently?
 [A] Medication for Alzheimer's disease [B] COVID 19 variant
 [C] Plant based nutrient [D] Bio Ethanol variant
51. Which Union Ministry published the report of 'Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D)'?
 [A] Ministry of Education [B] Ministry of Home Affairs
 [C] Ministry of MSME [D] Ministry of External Affairs
52. Compton-Belkovich is a volcanic complex on the far side of which celestial body?
 [A] Earth [B] Moon [C] Sun [D] Venus
53. The remains of 'Wilson's little Penguin' have been discovered in which country?
 [A] India [B] China [C] New Zealand [D] Philippines
54. Which space agency has identified the farthest active supermassive black hole in a galaxy named CEERS 1019?
 [A] ESA [B] NASA [C] ISRO [D] JAXA
55. Scientists have discovered the formation of phosphine in which planet?
 [A] Mercury [B] Venus [C] Saturn [D] Mars
56. What is the growth forecast of India for the current fiscal, as per the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?
 [A] 6.1 % [B] 6.4 % [C] 7.2 % [D] 7.5 %
57. Which country has recently passed the 'Illegal Migration Bill'?
 [A] India [B] USA [C] UK [D] Sri Lanka
58. Which technology company has unveiled a generative artificial intelligence (AI) model called "CM3leon"?
 [A] Google [B] Samsung [C] Microsoft [D] Meta
59. Which country/ies is/are hosting the FIFA Women's Football World Cup 2023?
 [A] Brazil [B] USA and Canada [C] Australia and New Zealand [D] Argentina
60. Which country hosted the Asian Surfing Championship 2023?
 [A] India [B] Maldives [C] Mauritius [D] Bangladesh
61. Which Indian city is set to host the 'Festival of Libraries 2023'?
 [A] Mumbai [B] Chennai [C] New Delhi [D] Mysuru
62. 'Tankai method', which was seen in the news, is associated with which process?
 [A] Afforestation [B] Ship building [C] Map making [D] Painting

50-A 51-A 52-B 53-C 54-B 55-B 56-B 57-C 58-D 59-C
 60-B 61-C 62-B

63. Who has been designated as the 25th Director General of Indian Coast Guard?
 [A] Ranjan Gogoi [B] DG Rakesh Pal [C] Anil Chauhan [D] Manoj Pande
64. Which Indian state hosted the 'International Symposium on Sustainable Livestock Transformation'?
 [A] Gujarat [B] Karnataka [C] Tamil Nadu [D] Bihar
65. Which state/Ut signed the Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023?
 [A] Rajasthan [B] Kerala [C] West Bengal [D] Odisha
66. After late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the UAE?
 [A] Atal Behari Vajpayee [B] Manmohan Singh
 [C] V P Singh [D] Narendra Modi
67. Which institution released the 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index'?
 [A] RBI [B] NSO [C] NITI Aayog [D] NABARD
68. Synchro, which was seen in the news, is associated with which sports?
 [A] Shooting [B] Swimming [C] Archery [D] Cricket
69. Which state has announced to establish 'CM Rise' schools?
 [A] Gujarat [B] Madhya Pradesh [C] Maharashtra [D] Assam
70. What is the brand name of the subsidized chana dal sold by the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs?
 [A] India Dhal [B] Bharat Dhal [C] Janata Dhal [D] Antyodaya Dhal
71. Which Union Ministry launched the 'YES-TECH Manual and WINDS portal'?
 [A] Ministry of Defence [B] Ministry of MSME
 [C] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare [D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
72. 'National IPR Policy' is associated with which Union Ministry?
 [A] Ministry of Commerce and Industry [B] Ministry of MSME
 [C] Ministry of Science and Technology [D] Ministry of External Affairs
73. Which city hosted the 'National Conference On Rural WASH Partners' Forum'?
 [A] Mumbai [B] New Delhi [C] Pune [D] Varanasi
74. Which Indian state is set to inaugurate the largest office space in a single project globally?
 [A] Maharashtra [B] Gujarat [C] Telangana [D] Tamil Nadu
75. Gyanvapi mosque, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?
 [A] Gujarat [B] Uttar Pradesh [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Maharashtra

63-B 64-A 65-A 66-D 67-C 68-B 69-B 70-B 71-C 72-A
 73-B 74-B 75-B

76. “Namda”, a type of rug, is associated with which state/UT?
 [A] Puducherry [B] Goa [C] Andaman & Nicobar [D] Jammu & Kashmir
77. Advance Authorization Scheme, is implemented and administered by which institution?
 [A] SBI [B] SEBI [C] DGFT [D] ISRO
78. Which Union Ministry launched the CRCS Sahara Portal?
 [A] Union Commerce and Industry Ministry [B] Union Finance Ministry
 [C] Union Cooperation Ministry [D] Union Defence Ministry
79. Which country is hosting the Global Food Regulators Summit 2023?
 [A] India [B] Japan [C] USA [D] New Zealand
80. The International Energy Agency (IEA) in association with which institution has released the “IEA Oil 2023 – Supply and demand dynamics to 2028” report?
 [A] Indian Oil Limited [B] BARC
 [C] Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell [D] GAIL India Limited
81. Nomadic Elephant is a military exercise between India and which country?
 [A] Bangladesh [B] Mongolia [C] Sri Lanka [D] France
82. Where was the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting held?
 [A] New Delhi [B] Gujarat [C] Tamil Nadu [D] Maharashtra
83. Where was the Regional Conference on ‘Drugs Smuggling and National Security’ held?
 [A] Mumbai [B] Vishakhapatnam [C] Bangalore [D] New Delhi
84. Bhoomi Samman Awards is associated with implementation of which scheme?
 [A] Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme [B] Swachh Bharat Mission
 [C] PM KISAN Yojana [D] PM Fasal Bima Yojana
85. Which company has launched ChatGPT rival Bard in European Union, Brazil and other nations?
 [A] Google [B] Microsoft [C] Apple [D] Nokia
86. Which country is the host of ‘ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines’?
 [A] Thailand [B] India [C] Sri Lanka [D] Myanmar
87. Which country organized the ‘Op Southern Readiness 2023’ exercise?
 [A] India [B] Sri Lanka [C] Seychelles [D] Maldives
88. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement 26 Rafale Marine aircraft from which country?
 [A] Germany [B] France [C] Israel [D] Russia

76-D 77-C 78-C 79-A 80-C 81-B 82-B 83-D 84-B 85-A
 86-B 87-C 88-B

89. Which institution has developed the book titled 'Healthy Recipes for Defence'?
- [A] NABARD [B] FCI [C] FAO [D] FSSAI
90. Kaas Plateau, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?
- [A] Kerala [B] Karnataka [C] Maharashtra [D] Goa
91. Which state/UT approved a proposal to start Teacher Interface for Excellence (TIE) programme?
- [A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Rajasthan [C] West Bengal [D] Assam
92. India recently launched the trade transaction in rupees with which country?
- [A] Sri Lanka [B] Nepal [C] Bangladesh [D] Myanmar
93. What is the Net direct tax collections till July, in this financial year?
- [A] Rs 2.75 lakh crore [B] Rs 4.75 lakh crore
[C] Rs 6.75 lakh crore [D] Rs 8.75 lakh crore
94. Vilnius, which hosted the NATO Summit, is in which country?
- [A] UK [B] Germany [C] Lithuania [D] Philippines
95. As per the UN data, India lifted how many people out of poverty in the last 15 years?
- [A] 11.5 crore [B] 21.5 crore [C] 41.5 crore [D] 61.5 crore
96. Which state/UT launched the upgraded version of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Mukhyamantri Amrutam (PMJAY-MA) scheme?
- [A] Karnataka [B] Maharashtra [C] Gujarat [D] Assam
97. Which institution released the '2023 Employment Outlook' report?
- [A] World Bank [B] ILO [C] OECD [D] IMF
98. 'Ker Puja' festival is celebrated in which state/UT?
- [A] Tripura [B] West Bengal [C] Odisha [D] Kerala
99. Which department issued Quality Control Orders for 'Potable water bottles' and 'Flame-Producing Lighter'?
- [A] Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) [B] Department of Commerce
[C] Department of Economic Affairs [D] Department of Revenue
100. Louvre Museum, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?
- [A] Russia [B] Ukraine [C] France [D] Germany

89-D 90-C 91-B 92-C 93-B 94-C 95-C 96-C 97-C 98-A
99-A 100-C



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Diwakar Jha
GK - GS
(GST Inspector)



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Maths



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GK - GS
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History
(Delhi)



Madhav Jha
Ethics,
Science & Technology
(Delhi)



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Polity, IR,
Governance
(Delhi)



Harun Rashid
Polity
(Delhi)



Abhinav Sir
Economics
(Delhi)



Shakar Jha
Geography, Env,
Disaster Mgmt.
(Delhi)



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EPFO SSA



Akshay Paikrao
LIC Asst.



Kanchan Ghuge
State Bank of India



Sumit Geroia
Canara Bank - Probationary Officer (PO)



Sumedh Bajhiyo
State Bank of India



VIKAS MEENA
BANK OF INDIA Clerk



ASHISH TAMBE
Syndicate Bank - Probationary Officer (PO)



YOGESH DAS
OP Parsi Bank - Jr. Officer / PNB-NY



KALYAN PATIL
CIDCO - Account Clerk



Bhumit Shah
Bank of India Clerk



Anisha Tondo
CIDCO - Account Clerk



Kinaya Kathade
ICICI Bank PO



Puspita Gupta
Saraswat Bank - Deputy Manager



Sonu Singh
Axis Bank - Assistant Manager



Gaurav Meena
Canara Bank - Clerk



Bhumit Shah
Bank Of India - Clerk



Nitesh Vekhande
Punjab Maharashtra Bank Mang. Tr.



Ravi Pankhade
DNS Bank Asst. Manager



Shankar Rathod
Jr. Electric Supervisor



Nitesh Ghodake
Sr. Section Engg. Railway



Manish Kumar Singh
PNB - Clerk



Nandu Babu
Union Bank of India - Clerk



Mohan Kumbhare
CIDCO 1st in Maharashtra



Prestesh Saini
Bank of India - Clerk



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