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Current Affairs

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Founder : Manohar E. Patil • Author : Sandip E. Patil

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July 2023

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Current Affairs

July 2023

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Index

● Appointments	4
● Awards	16
● Business & Banking	33
● National Events	41
● International Events	54
● Sports Events	67
● Important Days	82
● BANK-SSC-RLY-INS-IBPS-RRB QUIZ	83

The Reliable Publication, Pune

Appointment

Dennis Francis elected 78th UNGA president

▶▶ The 193 UN Member States, elected a veteran diplomat from Trinidad and Tobago, **Dennis Francis** as the President of the **78th session of the UN General Assembly**. Francis, who has had a nearly 40-year-career, will take the helm of the UN's main policy-making body, starting in September. He was elected by acclamation during a ceremony in the iconic General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters in New York. The General Assembly consists of all 193 UN Member States, all of which have an equal vote.



- ▶▶ Its duties include appointing the Secretary-General, on the recommendation of the Security Council, and approving the Organisation's annual budget. Francis said he would prioritise encouraging and facilitating meaningful dialogue.
- ▶▶ The current General Assembly President, Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary, noted that his successor would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the post. With 100 days remaining in his administration, Kőrösi said he will continue to promote the use of science for a sustainability transformation, namely in preparations for the SDG Summit during the High-Level Week of the General Assembly in September.

About the UNGA :

- ▶▶ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), serving as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. The UNGA is responsible for the UN budget, appointing the non-permanent members to the Security Council, appointing the UN secretary-general, receiving reports from other parts of the UN system, and making recommendations through resolutions.
- ▶▶ The UNGA has the power to discuss any issue within the scope of the Charter, and to make recommendations on any such questions to the Security Council, the Members of the United Nations, and to other organs of the United Nations. It may also initiate studies and make recommendations with respect to international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments.
- ▶▶ The UNGA is composed of all the Member States of the United Nations. Each Member State has one vote in the General Assembly. Decisions on important questions, such as those relating to international peace and security, admission of new Members to the United Nations, and the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, require a two-thirds majority

of the members present and voting. Decisions on other questions are made by a simple majority of the members present and voting.

- ▶▶ The UNGA meets in regular sessions from September to December each year. Special sessions may be convened by the Secretary-General at the request of the Security Council or a majority of the Members of the United Nations.
- ▶▶ The UNGA is a powerful body that can make important decisions on a wide range of issues. It is the only organ of the United Nations where all Member States have equal representation. This gives the UNGA a unique role in promoting international cooperation and resolving international disputes.

UAE's Abdulla Al Mandous wins Presidency of World Meteorological Organization

- ▶▶ A meteorologist of United Arab Emirates (UAE) **Dr Abdulla Al Mandous** has been elected as the new President of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** for a four-year term from 2023 to 2027. The WMO is an authoritative body within the UN system that focuses on weather, climate, hydrological, and related environmental fields. He will succeed **Prof Gerhard Adrian** from the German Meteorological Service, who served as WMO President since June 2019.



- ▶▶ Dr. Abdulla Al Mandous emerged as the official candidate of the UAE and secured 95 votes out of the representatives from WMO's 193 member states and territories. The election took place during the 19th session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-19) held in Geneva, Switzerland from 22nd May to 2nd June. Under Dr. Al Mandous' leadership, WMO's upcoming 77th Executive Council Session (EC-77) will be chaired by the UAE in Geneva from 5th to 6th June.
- ▶▶ As President, Dr. Al Mandous aims to enhance the resilience of nations to weather and climate-related hazards, promote knowledge-sharing and capacity building, and strengthen service delivery. He will also prioritize the development of comprehensive early warning systems and scientific research to address the challenges posed by a changing climate.

About the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) -

- ▶▶ The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics. The WMO is made up of 193 countries and territories, and facilitates the "free and unrestricted" exchange of data, information, and research between the respective meteorological and hydrological institutions of its members. It also collaborates with nongovernmental partners and other international organizations on matters related to environmental protection, climate change, resource management, and socioeconomic development. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the WMO is governed by the World Meteorological Congress, composed of member states,

which meets every four years to set policies and priorities.

The WMO has a number of important programs and initiatives, including :

- ▶▶ The World Weather Watch (WWW), which provides a global network of observation stations and data collection systems that are used to monitor and predict weather and climate conditions.
- ▶▶ The Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW), which monitors the chemical composition of the atmosphere and its changes over time.
- ▶▶ The Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP), which provides support for the development and management of water resources.
- ▶▶ The Climate Prediction and Applications Programme (CPAP), which helps countries to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its effects.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **World Meteorological Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;**
- ▶▶ **World Meteorological Organization Founded: 23 March 1950;**
- ▶▶ **World Meteorological Organization Parent organization: United Nations;**
- ▶▶ **World Meteorological Organization Secretary general: Petteri Taalas**

Nirmala Lakshman named as new Chairperson of The Hindu Group

- ▶▶ **Ms. Nirmala Lakshman** has been appointed Chairperson of the Board of Directors of **The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL)** for a term of three years. She succeeds Ms. Malini Parthasarathy, who stepped down as Chairperson at the Board's meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023 upon nearing the completion of her three-year term.
- ▶▶ Ms. Nirmala Lakshman holds a Ph.D. in post-modern literature and brings with her more than four decades of experience as an editor, writer, and strategist for The Hindu's various publications. In her years as Joint Editor of The Hindu, she led the re-launch of several feature sections and the creation of new ones, such as 'The Hindu Literary Review', 'Young World', and 'The Hindu in School'. She is the founder and curator of Lit for Life, The Hindu's literary festival. Ms. Lakshman served as the Chairperson of Kasturi Media Limited (KML), publishers of The Hindu Tamil Thisai.



Nirmala Lakshman

About the Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL)

- ▶▶ The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL) is a media company headquartered in **Chennai, India**. It is the publisher of The Hindu, a national daily newspaper, as well as other publications including Frontline, Sportstar, and Hindu BusinessLine. THGPPL also operates a

number of digital properties, including The Hindu's website and mobile app.

- ▶▶ The company was founded in **1878 by G. SubramaniaIyer**. It was originally known as The Hindu Religious and Public Trust, and its primary focus was on publishing religious and educational material. **In 1905, the trust acquired The Hindu newspaper, and the company's focus shifted to journalism.**
- ▶▶ THGPPL has been praised for its high-quality journalism and its commitment to independent reporting. The company has won numerous awards, including the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism and the Press Club of India Award for Best Newspaper.
- ▶▶ In recent years, THGPPL has made a number of investments in digital media. The company has launched a number of new digital properties, and it has also invested in its existing digital assets. THGPPL is committed to providing its readers with high-quality journalism across all platforms.

Janardan Prasad appointed new Director-General of Geological Survey of India

- ▶▶ **Janardan Prasad** has been appointed as the new Director General of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**. Prasad has taken charge of the 174-year-old institution, succeeding Dr S Raju who has been the Director General since 2020.

About Geological Survey of India (GSI) -

- ▶▶ The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, an attached office to the Ministry of Mines, has its headquarters in the city, with six regional offices in Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong, and Kolkata.



About Janardan Prasad :

- ▶▶ **Janardan Prasad** had previously worked as a geologist in GSI, Gandhinagar in 1988 after earning an MSc in Geology from Patna University.
- ▶▶ Prasad has also worked in Shillong, Patna, Faridabad, Ranchi, and Hyderabad in various capacities.
- ▶▶ Before being appointed as the Director General, **Janardan Prasad** was the Additional Director General and Head of the Department of the southern region.
- ▶▶ Prasad is an experienced metallogeny and mineral exploration specialist who has conducted extensive research on minerals in Saurashtra and other areas of Gujarat such as limestone, gold, base metal, PGE and bauxite.
- ▶▶ Furthermore, **Janardan Prasad** was part of the Justice MB Shah Commission, which investigated illegal mining of iron and manganese in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.

Amarendu Prakash takes charge as SAIL chairman

- ▶▶ **Amarendu Prakash** has taken charge as the new **Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** from May 31. He was previously the Director (In-charge) of SAIL's Bokaro steel plant. Prakash was previously involved in driving business transformation and financial turnaround of SAIL, which resulted in bringing back the company from a three year streak of losses, from FY16 to FY18, to being back in the black in FY19.
- ▶▶ He has been leading the Bokaro Steel Plant as Director In-charge since September 2020 and briefly took on additional charge as Director In-Charge of the Rourkela Steel Plant, IISCO and Durgapur Steel Plant. Under his able leadership, the Bokaro Steel Plant has seen remarkable results, with the plant continuing to break production records, year after year in FY22 and FY23.



History of SAIL -

- ▶▶ The Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) is one of the largest steel-making companies in India. It was established on January 19, 1954, with its headquarters in New Delhi. SAIL was created as a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, with the objective of promoting the development and production of steel in the country.
- ▶▶ The history of SAIL can be traced back to the First Five-Year Plan (1951-1956) of India, where the government recognized the importance of developing a robust steel industry to support industrialization and infrastructure development. As a result, the Hindustan Steel Limited (HSL) was set up in 1954, which later became the flagship company of SAIL.
- ▶▶ Over the years, SAIL played a crucial role in the growth and development of the Indian steel industry. It expanded its operations by setting up integrated steel plants in various parts of the country. The company initially focused on the production of iron and steel at its plants in Bhilai, Rourkela, and Durgapur. These plants became the backbone of the Indian steel industry and played a significant role in meeting the growing demand for steel in the country.

Epson India signs RashmikaMandanna as brand ambassador

- ▶▶ Printer company **Epson India** has signed actor **RashmikaMandanna** as its brand ambassador. The actress will collaborate with the company to promote its products in a multi-media campaign for its 'EcoTank' printers this month. In collaborating with the actress known for her performances across Kannada, Telugu, Hindi and Tamil cinema, the company said in a statement that it hopes to leverage her popularity to reach a wider audience across the country, particularly the younger generation.

Overview of the news :

- ▶▶ Through this campaign we hope to reach a wider audience to spread awareness about the printers

and their benefits. This association will help us communicate how our products deliver purposeful value that enriches lives and helps create a better world.”

- ▶▶ A recent report, ‘Celebrity Brand Valuation’ by corporate investigation and risk consulting firm Kroll, said since 2016, Bollywood has reduced in importance in terms of the valuation split of celebrity endorsements. That year, Bollywood actors constituted 81.7% of the overall brand value for India’s top 20 celebrities, while the remaining 18.3%

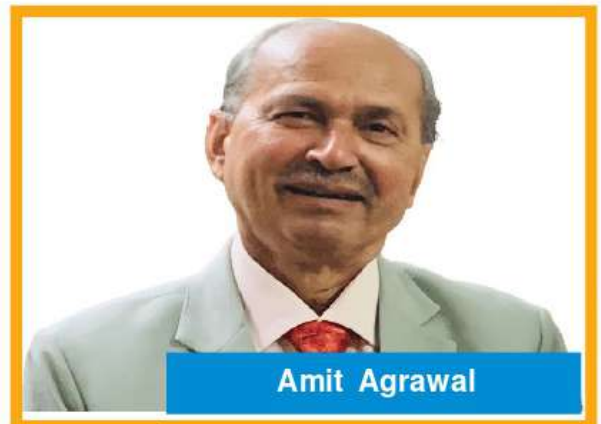
was sports stars. However, in its current analysis, the share of Bollywood stars has fallen to 67.6% in the overall brand value, with 28.9% comprising sports celebrities and the remaining 3.5% belonging to Tollywood stars. On the list are also two south Indian stars, Allu Arjun and RashmikaMandaana, both of whom are new entrants on the list.



President Draupadi Murmu

Amit Agrawal appointed UIDAI CEO, Subodh Kumar Singh named DG NTA

- ▶▶ Senior IAS officers **Amit Agrawal** and **Subodh Kumar Singh** have been appointed as **CEO Unique Identification Authority of India** and director general of the **National Testing Agency**, respectively, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Both Agrawal (1993 batch) and Singh (1997 batch) are Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre. Agrawal, additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has been appointed as the chief



Amit Agrawal

executive officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority in the rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India.

- ▶▶ Agrawal, additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority in the rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India, a Personnel Ministry order said. Singh, who is currently additional secretary in the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has been named as the NTA’s director general, it said.

Swaminathan Janakiraman named as new RBI deputy governor

- ▶▶ **Government of India** has appointed **Swaminathan Janakiraman** as a **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. As per an official notification, Janakiraman's appointment is for a period of three years starting from the date of joining, or until any further orders are issued. He will be succeeding Mahesh Kumar Jain, whose tenure concludes on June 22nd.

Who is Swaminathan Janakiraman?

- ▶▶ Swaminathan Janakiraman currently holds the position of Managing Director at the State Bank of India (SBI), where he oversees the Corporate Banking and Subsidiaries division.
- ▶▶ Previously, he was responsible for the bank's Assurance functions, which included Risk Management, Regulatory Compliance, and Stressed Assets verticals.
- ▶▶ According to his LinkedIn profile, Janakiraman is a seasoned banker with expertise in various areas such as Retail and Corporate Banking, International Banking, Trade Finance, Correspondent Banking & FI products, Digital Banking, and Transaction Banking products.
- ▶▶ He has played a crucial role in the Finance function of SBI, overseeing budgeting and performance monitoring, Capital Planning, and Investor Relations. Additionally, he has been involved in the bank's Digital Transformation journey as the Head of the Digital Banking vertical.
- ▶▶ Janakiraman has also served as a nominee director of SBI on the boards of Yes Bank, Jio Payments Bank, and NPCI. Furthermore, he has represented SBI as a director in Bank of Bhutan, a joint venture of SBI.



IPS officer Ravi Sinha selected as new chief of RAW

- ▶▶ **Ravi Sinha**, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new chief of India's external intelligence agency, **the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)**. Sinha will take over from Samant Kumar Goel, who is completing his four-year term on June 30. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Sinha's appointment as Secretary of RAW for a period of two years.

Who is Ravi Sinha ?

- ▶▶ Ravi Sinha, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1988 batch of the Chhattisgarh cadre, is presently serving as the Special Secretary



in the Cabinet Secretariat. With over two decades of experience, Sinha has been associated with the intelligence agency for a significant period. Prior to his promotion, he held the position of heading the operational wing of RAW. Sinha has gained extensive experience through his work in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast of India, as well as other countries.

Achievements of Samant Kumar Goel -

- ▶▶ Samant Kumar Goel was appointed as the chief of RAW for a period of two years in June 2019. He was subsequently granted two one-year extensions, first in 2021 and then in June 2022. Goel is recognized as an expert in matters pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir and is believed to have played a crucial role in strategizing the surgical strike that took place in Balakot, Pakistan in February 2019. The surgical strike was carried out in response to the Pulwama terror attack, where a suicide bomber from the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) killed 40 personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). On February 26, 2019, the Indian Air Force executed the strike, targeting a JeM terrorist training camp in Balakot.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) Headquarters: New Delhi;**
- ▶▶ **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) Founded: 21 September 1968;**
- ▶▶ **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) Founders: R. N. Kao, Indira Gandhi.**

IPS officer Ajay Bhatnagar appoints as Special Director in the CBI

- ▶▶ **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the proposals of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for the appointments of these IPS officers in the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. **Ajay Bhatnagar** (IPS) has been appointed as Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Bhatnagar is a 1989-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Jharkhand cadre. He is currently serving as Additional Director in the Cental Govt investigating agency. According to a DoPT order, he has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation on November 20, 2024.



Other appointments -

- ▶▶ **Anurag (IPS)** has been appointed the Additional Director in CBI. Anurag is 1994-batch IPS officer of Tripura cadre. Presently, he is posted as Joint Director in the agency. He has been appointed to the post for a period till July 24, 2023, i.e. completion of his 7 years tenure or until further orders, whichever is earlier. And,
- ▶▶ **Manoj Sashidhar (IPS)** has also been appointed the Additional Director in CBI. Sashidhar is a 1994-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre. Presently he is posted as Joint Director in the same agenc . He has been appointed to the post for a period of three years with effect from the date

July 2023

Govt. Exams

of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

While, **Sharad Agarwal (IPS)**, who is currently serving as Joint Director in CBI, has been given tenure extension for a period of one year. The services of Agarwal as Joint Director of CBI have been extended from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **CBI Founded: 1 April 1963;**
- ▶▶ **CBI Headquarters: New Delhi.**

Alibaba named Eddie Wu as new CEO

- ▶▶ **Alibaba Group Holding**, a Chinese e-commerce company that has been facing challenges in market share and growth recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic, is undergoing leadership changes. **Daniel Zhang**, the chief executive who has been with the company for eight years, will be replaced by **Joseph Tsai**, the executive vice chairman, who will assume the role of **chairman** of the board. **Eddie Wu**, the chairman of Alibaba's core Taobao and Tmall online commerce divisions, will take over as the chief executive of the company, which has a market value of \$240 billion.



Eddie Wu

Overview of the news -

- ▶▶ The unexpected departure of Daniel Zhang from Alibaba follows the company's announcement of a restructuring plan aimed at enhancing growth and establishing independent leaders for various business sectors such as cloud computing, logistics, and international commerce. Zhang had recently outlined his detailed vision for this restructuring. However, the timing coincided with Alibaba reporting its third consecutive quarter of single-digit revenue growth. This reinforced concerns that a rebound in Chinese consumer spending might take longer than initially anticipated.
- ▶▶ Zhang will retain his position as the head of Alibaba's cloud business. He assumed leadership in 2015, having gained recognition as one of the key figures behind Alibaba's "new retail" strategy, which aimed to merge online and physical retail and expand the company's influence into various sectors including malls and supermarkets. As Alibaba's growth soared, Zhang was appointed chairman a few years later, and the company even reached the status of being China's most valuable corporation at one point.
- ▶▶ In 2020, regulatory actions were taken against Jack Ma and his company, Ant Group Co., following disagreements with regulators. Subsequently, the Chinese government initiated a crackdown on the private technology sector, and Alibaba was accused of engaging in monopolistic practices. As a result, the company faced significant scrutiny and was eventually subjected to a record-breaking fine for the alleged violations.

About the Alibaba -

- ▶▶ Alibaba is a prominent Chinese multinational conglomerate specializing in e-commerce, technology, and various other sectors. Founded in **1999 by Jack Ma** and a group of entrepreneurs, Alibaba has grown into one of the world's largest and most influential companies.
- ▶▶ The company operates a range of businesses, including online marketplaces, cloud computing services, digital payment platforms, logistics and supply chain management, entertainment, and media ventures. Its flagship platforms, such as Taobao, Tmall, and Alibaba.com, facilitate online retail transactions between businesses and consumers. These platforms have played a significant role in shaping China's e-commerce landscape and have gained international recognition as well.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Alibaba Headquarters: Hangzhou, China;**
- ▶▶ **Alibaba Founded: 4 April 1999.**

Gopichand Hinduja takes charges as Group chairman

- ▶▶ **Gopichand Hinduja, 83**, has taken over as the Chairman of the Hinduja Group after the recent demise of his brother Srichand P Hinduja. Earlier, Gopichand Hinduja was the co-chairman and was overseeing the diverse global business empire that straddles across sectors such as automotive, IT, media and entertainment, infrastructure, oil and speciality chemicals, power and real estate. Gopichand Hinduja is a strong leader with a wealth of experience. He is well-positioned to lead the Hinduja Group into the future and to continue to build on the group's success.



Gopichand Hinduja

- ▶▶ Gopichand Hinduja is a well-respected businessman and philanthropist. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Trade and Competitiveness and is a trustee of the Hinduja Foundation, which supports a number of charitable causes in India and around the world. Gopichand Hinduja has been associated with the Hinduja Group since its inception in 1914. He has held a number of senior positions within the group, including Co-Chairman and Chairman of the Hinduja Automotive Limited.

About the Hinduja Group -

- ▶▶ The Hinduja Group is a diversified multinational conglomerate with interests in a wide range of industries, including automotive, energy, finance, and healthcare. The group has operations in over 60 countries and employs over 200,000 people. The Hinduja Group was founded in 1914 by Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja, a Sindhi businessman from Shikarpur, India. The group's early focus was on trade and finance, but it soon diversified into other industries, such as manufacturing, energy, and healthcare.

- ▶▶ The Hinduja Group has grown significantly in recent years, and it is now one of the largest privately held companies in the world. The group's success is due to a number of factors, including its strong business acumen, its global reach, and its commitment to innovation. The Hinduja Group is a major player in the global economy, and it plays an important role in the development of many countries. The group is committed to corporate social responsibility, and it supports a number of charitable causes around the world.

Here are some of the key businesses of the Hinduja Group :

- ▶▶ **Hinduja Automotive:** This is the group's flagship business, and it is one of the largest automotive groups in the world. The business has a diversified portfolio of interests, including manufacturing, sales, and distribution of vehicles.
- ▶▶ **Hinduja Energy:** This business is involved in the exploration, production, and marketing of energy resources. The business has operations in a number of countries, including India, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ▶▶ **Hinduja Finance:** This business is involved in a range of financial services, including banking, insurance, and asset management. The business has operations in a number of countries, including India, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ▶▶ **Hinduja Healthcare:** This business is involved in the healthcare sector, and it has interests in a range of businesses, including hospitals, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment. The business has operations in a number of countries, including India, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Rohit Jawa appoints as MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever

- ▶▶ **Rohit Jawa** took charges as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** of FMCG major **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)**. Jawa has replaced **Sanjiv Mehta** who retired on Monday after the company's annual general meeting. Mehta handed over the baton to Jawa, who was appointed as an Additional Director and CEO-Designate from April 1, from the close of business hours on June 26. Mehta was at the helm for almost a decade and was with the company for more than 30 years.



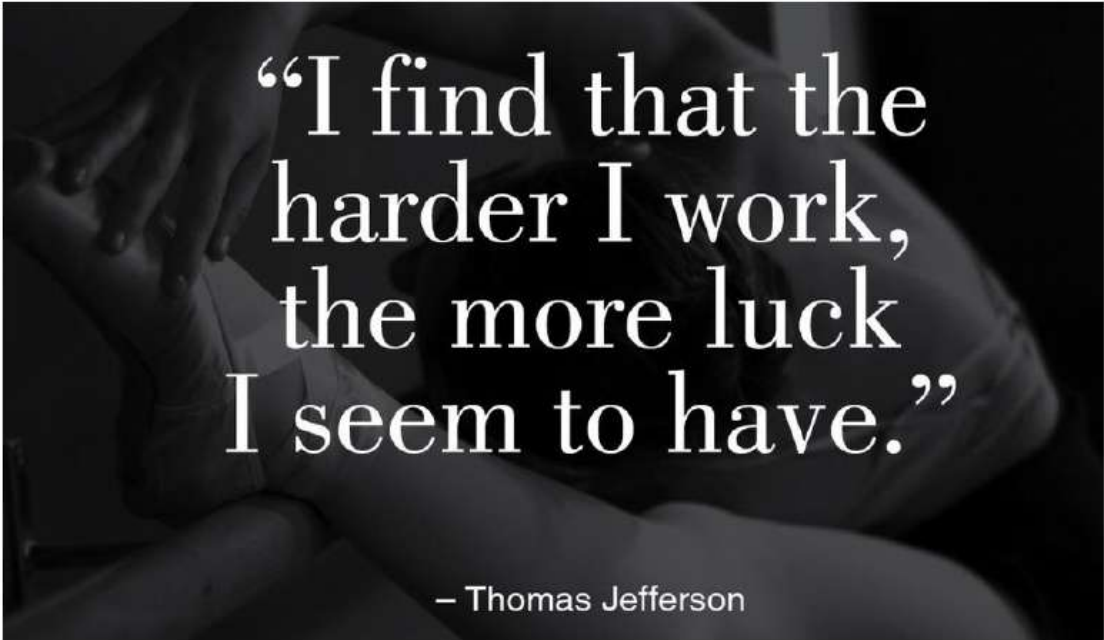
- ▶▶ Prior to this role, Jawa was the Chief of Transformation for Unilever in London. He had started his career with HUL as a management trainee in 1988 and has a proven track record of sustained business results across India, South East Asia, and North Asia. Mehta had taken over as the MD & CEO of HUL in October 2013.

About the Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) -

- ▶▶ Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) is a British-owned Indian consumer goods company headquartered in Mumbai. It is a subsidiary of the British company Unilever. Its products include foods, beverages, cleaning agents, personal care products, water purifiers and other fast-moving

consumer goods (FMCGs).

- ▶▶ HUL was established in 1931 as Hindustan Vanaspati Manufacturing Co. Following a merger of constituent groups in 1956, it was renamed Hindustan Lever Limited. The company was renamed again in June 2007 as Hindustan Unilever Limited.
- ▶▶ Hindustan Unilever has been at the helm of a lot of controversies, such as dumping highly toxic mercury-contaminated waste in regular dumps, contaminating the land and water of Kodaikanal. (See: Kodaikanal mercury poisoning). The British company also faced major flak for an advertising campaign attacking the Hindu pilgrimage site at Kumbh Mela, calling it a “place where old people get abandoned,” a move that was termed racist and insensitive.



“I find that the
harder I work,
the more luck
I seem to have.”

– Thomas Jefferson

July 2023

Govt. Exams

Awards

RBI Chief Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor Of The Year' At London's Central Banking Awards

▶▶ **Shaktikanta Das**, the Governor of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, was honored with the esteemed Governor of the Year Award for 2023. In his remarks, Das highlighted the evolving role of central banks in the monetary and financial systems, emphasizing that they are now tasked with significant responsibilities that go beyond their traditional mandates. The award was presented by Central Banking, a prominent organization that thoroughly covers and examines matters concerning central banks and financial regulators globally, during its summer meetings held in London.



▶▶ The Central Banking Awards 2023 awards winners were announced in late March this year. Two top prizes went to the **National Bank of Ukraine**, the 2023 Central Bank of the Year, and the Reserve Bank of India's Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Year.

Shaktikanta Das Education -

- ▶▶ Shaktikanta Das, the current governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is a graduate in history. He holds a bachelor's degree (BA) and a master's degree (MA) in history from St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi. He also holds a diploma in financial management from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B).
- ▶▶ Das's educational background has been praised by some for giving him a strong foundation in economic and financial matters. However, others have criticized his lack of formal training in economics, arguing that it makes him ill-equipped to lead the RBI.

Here is a more detailed look at Das's educational background -

- ▶▶ St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi: Bachelor's degree (BA) and Master's degree (MA) in history
- ▶▶ Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B): Diploma in financial management
- ▶▶ Das has also received honorary doctorates from several universities, including Utkal University, the University of Madras, and the University of Mysore.

Shaktikanta Das Salary -

- ▶▶ The RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das, receives a monthly salary of **Rs 250,000**. In addition to the salary, there is a range of allowances and benefits provided. These include Dearness Allowance,

List of governors of the Reserve Bank of India

No.	Governor	Term	Length of tenure
1	Sir Osborne Smith	1 April 1935—30 June 1937	2 years, 90 days
2	Sir James Braid Taylor	1 July 1937—17 February 1943	5 years, 231 days
3	Sir C. D. Deshmukh	11 August 1943—30 June 1949	5 years, 323 days
4	Sir Benegal Rama Rau	1 July 1949—14 January 1957	7 years, 197 days
5	K. G. Ambegaonkar	14 January 1957—28 February 1957	45 days
6	H. V. R. Iengar	1 March 1957—28 February 1962	4 years, 364 days
7	P. C. Bhattacharya	1 March 1962—30 June 1967	5 years, 121 days
8	Lakshmi Kant Jha	1 July 1967—3 May 1970	2 years, 306 days
9	B. N. Adarkar	4 May 1970—15 June 1970	42 days
10	Sarukkai Jagannathan	16 June 1970—19 May 1975	4 years, 337 days
11	N. C. Sen Gupta	19 May 1975—19 August 1975	92 days
12	K. R. Puri	20 August 1975—2 May 1977	1 year, 255 days
13	M. Narasimham	3 May 1977—30 November 1977	211 days
14	I. G. Patel	1 December 1977—15 September 1982	4 years, 288 days
15	Manmohan Singh	16 September 1982—14 January 1985	2 years, 120 days
16	Amitav Ghosh	15 January 1985—4 February 1985	20 days
17	R. N. Malhotra	4 February 1985—22 December 1990	5 years, 321 days
18	S. Venkitaramanan	22 December 1990—21 December 1992	1 year, 365 days
19	C. Rangarajan	22 December 1992—21 November 1997	4 years, 334 days
20	Bimal Jalan	22 November 1997—6 September 2003	5 years, 288 days
21	Y. Venugopal Reddy	6 September 2003—5 September 2008	4 years, 365 days
22	D. Subbarao	5 September 2008—4 September 2013	4 years, 364 days
23	Raghuram Rajan	4 September 2013—4 September 2016	3 years, 0 days
24	Urjit Patel	4 September 2016—10 December 2018	2 years, 98 days
25	Shaktikanta Das	12 December 2018—Incumbent	4 years, 181 days

Grade Allowance, and reimbursements for expenses such as education, household, telephone, and medical expenses. The comprehensive salary package reflects the significant responsibilities associated with the position, including the authority to grant or revoke bank licenses in cases of violation.

Here is the tabular representation of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das's salary structure and allowances :

Name Of Post	Governor Of Reserve Bank Of India
Monthly Salary	Rs 2,50,000
Allowances	Rs 1,60,000 (basic pay) along with various allowances such as dearness allowance, grade allowance, educational allowance, educational allowance for children, fuel expenses, medical expenses, etc.

Child rights advocate Lalitha Natarajan wins 2023 Iqbal Masih Award

▶▶ Chennai-based lawyer and activist **Lalitha Natarajan** has won US Department of Labor's **2023 Iqbal Masih Award** for the Elimination of Child Labour. Natarajan was presented the award by Consul General Judith Ravin at a ceremony in the US Consulate General in Chennai on May 30.



Harmanpreet Kaur

▶▶ As a leader in the fight to end exploitative child labor in southern India, Natarajan identifies child victims of trafficking, specifically bonded labor, assisting in their reintegration into society, the US consulate in Chennai. In her role as a member of the Child Welfare Committee (North Zone), under the Department of Social Defence, Tamil Nadu, Natarajan ensures victims receive compensation under the Child Labor Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Besides working on child labour issues, Lalitha also provides legal and counseling support to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

About the Iqbal Masih Award :

- ▶▶ The Iqbal Masih Award is a non-monetary award presented annually by the U.S. Secretary of Labor and administered by ILAB's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. It was established by the U.S. Congress in 2008 to honor extraordinary contributions to combat child labor.
- ▶▶ The award is named after Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani child who was sold into slavery at the age of four and forced to work in a carpet factory. He escaped at the age of ten and became an outspoken advocate for the rights of child laborers. He was assassinated in 1995 at the age of twelve.

President Droupadi Murmu Honoured with Suriname's highest civilian award

- ▶▶ President **Droupadi Murmu** became the first Indian to be honoured with the **Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star**, the highest civilian award in Suriname. She was presented with this award by Chandrikapersad Santokhi, the President of the Republic of Suriname. President Murmu dedicated the award to the future generations of the Indian-Surinamese community.
- ▶▶ During her state visit to Serbia and Suriname, President Murmu arrived in Paramaribo, Suriname on June 4. Several significant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between India and Suriname in the areas of health, agriculture, and capacity building. These agreements were finalized after fruitful discussions between President Murmu and President Santokhi, who both led their respective delegations.



Droupadi Murmu

About The Grand Order Of The Chain Of The Yellow Star -

- ▶▶ The Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star (Dutch: Grootlint in de Orde van de GeleSter) is the highest civilian award in Suriname. It was established on 25 November 1975, the day Suriname became independent from the Netherlands. The award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Suriname, either in Suriname or abroad.
- ▶▶ The award consists of a yellow star with a gold border, suspended from a yellow ribbon with green edges. The star is surrounded by a wreath of green leaves. The award is worn on the left chest.

The Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star has been awarded to a number of notable individuals, including :

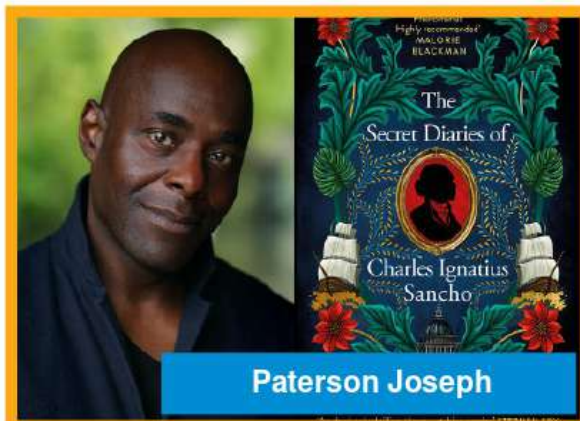
- ▶▶ Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands
- ▶▶ Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa
- ▶▶ Desmond Tutu, South African Anglican bishop and theologian
- ▶▶ Jimmy Carter, 39th president of the United States
- ▶▶ Kofi Annan, former secretary-general of the United Nations
- ▶▶ Ban Ki-moon, Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations
- ▶▶ The award is a highly prestigious honor in Suriname. It is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the country, both in the past and in the present.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Suriname Capital : Paramaribo;**
- ▶▶ **Suriname Currency : Suriname Dollar;**
- ▶▶ **President of Suriname : Chan Santokhi.**

Paterson Joseph won the RSL Christopher Bland Prize 2023

- ▶▶ Actor-author **Paterson Joseph** has won the **RSL Christopher Bland Prize 2023** for his debut novel 'The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho'
- ▶▶ This is the **5th** year of this award
- ▶▶ **About the award -**
- ▶▶ RSL Christopher Bland Prize is an annual award which honours a debut writer for their work of fiction or non-fiction, published **at the age of 50 or over.**
- ▶▶ The award carries a cash prize of **10,000 Pound sterling** or approx 10 lakh rupees
- ▶▶ The Prize was launched in 2018 in memory of British Politician Sir Christopher Bland



Paterson Joseph

- ▶▶ **About the book**
- ▶▶ The book is a historical fiction about **Charles Ignatius Sancho**, who was the **first** Black man to vote in England.

About Paterson Joseph -

- ▶▶ Paterson D. Joseph is an English actor and author born in London, England
- ▶▶ Recently, he has been officially installed as Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University
- ▶▶ His first film was '**In the Name of the Father**'

Indian film 'When Climate Change Turns Violent' wins WHO award

- ▶▶ A documentary titled '**When Climate Change Turns Violent**' has won a special prize in the '**Health for All**' category at the 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival held at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva. The documentary has been directed by Vandita Saharia of Rajasthan. She was the only Indian among the winners.
- ▶▶ The festival, attended in person and online by actors, producers and public figures, saw winning films announced for seven different categories, while four films received special mention by the jury. The films were judged by a panel of distinguished professionals, artistes and activists, including noted actors like Sharon Stone and Alfonso Herrera; choreographer Sherrie Silver; climate activist Sophia Kianni and media personality Adelle Onyango. The distinguished panel was joined by senior United Nations officials and WHO staff.



List of films awarded :

- ▶▶ **UHC “Grand Prix”:** **”Jonathan’s Miracle Feet”** – Sierra Leone / Disability, clubfoot
- ▶▶ Directed by MamihasinaRaminosoa and NantenainaRakotondranivo from Madagascar for the NGO Miracle Feet / Documentary – Duration 3’ 19”
- ▶▶ **Health Emergencies “Grand Prix”:** **”Nurses facing Covid / Na Lihna de Frente”** – Brazil / COVID-19 and access to care Directed by Klimt Publicidade and the institution Conselho Federal de Enfermagem – Cofen – From Brazil / Documentary – Duration 8’
- ▶▶ **Better Health and Well-being “Grand Prix”:** **”One in 36 Million: Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh”** – Environmental health Directed by Mitali Das and Arifur Rahman (Bangladesh) for the NGO Pure Earth Bangladesh Documentary – Duration 6’ 32”
- ▶▶ **Special Prize Climate Change and Health Film:** **”When climate change turns violent”** – Global / Gender based violence and climate change Directed by VanditaSariya (India) / Documentary – Duration 4’ 32”
- ▶▶ **Special Prize Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Film:** **”Vulvo and Dynia”** – Israel / Vulvodynia Directed by Dina Stescovich (Israel) / Fiction – Duration 4’ 13”
- ▶▶ **Student Film Prize:** **”Gasping for life”** – Germany / Mental health, screens addiction, anxiety, depression Directed by Su Hyun Hong (Germany) / Animation – Duration 8’
- ▶▶ **Special Prize Very Short Film:** **”Mirrors”** – Sweden / Mental health, depression Directed by Paul Jerndal (Sweden) / Fiction – Duration 3’

President of India presents National Florence Nightingale Awards for 2022 and 2023

- ▶▶ On June 22, 2023, the President of India, **Smt. DroupadiMurmu**, bestowed the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the years 2022 and 2023 to nursing professionals during a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. These prestigious awards were established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in 1973 to honor the exceptional contributions made by nurses and nursing professionals to society.



Brief history of the National Florence Nightingale Awards

- ▶▶ **Establishment:** The National Florence Nightingale Awards were instituted in the year **1973** by the Indian government.
- ▶▶ **Aim:** The primary objective of these awards is to acknowledge and appreciate the remarkable work of nurses across India. The awards encourage and motivate nurses to continue their dedicated service and strive for excellence in patient care.
- ▶▶ **Recognition:** The National Florence Nightingale Awards are considered one of the highest honors in the nursing profession in India. They highlight the significant role nurses play in the healthcare

National Florence Nightingale Awards for 2022

S.No.	Category	State	Name
1	ANM	Assam	Ms. Namita Kalita
2	ANM	Maharashtra	Ms. Sujata Peter Tuscano
3	ANM	Manipur	Ms. Dimkhanman Hangshing
4	ANM	Telangana	Ms. Tejavath Susheela
5	ANM	West Bengal	Ms. Rita Mondal
6	LHV	Meghalaya	Ms. Reliance Pyrngap
7	Nurse	Arunachal Pradesh	Ms. Athodo Linggi
8	Nurse	Delhi	Ms. Anita Nakra
9	Nurse	Delhi	Maj Gen Smita Devrani, VSM
10	Nurse	Karnataka	Dr. Poreddi Vijayalakshmi
11	Nurse	Lakshadweep	Ms. Hindumbi K.
12	Nurse	Odisha	Ms. Sebati Sahoo
13	Nurse	Rajasthan	Mr. Neeraj Tamboliya
14	Nurse	Tamil Nadu	Ms. Ganapathy Santhi
15	Nurse	Uttarakhand	Ms. Manju Kaira

ANM= Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife, LHV= Lady health visitors

system and recognize their selfless commitment to saving lives and promoting well-being.

- ▶▶ **Selection Process:** The selection of awardees is a rigorous and competitive process. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, invites nominations from various healthcare institutions, including hospitals, nursing schools, and medical colleges. The nominations are evaluated by a committee comprising eminent healthcare professionals.
- ▶▶ **Award Ceremony:** The ceremony is typically held in New Delhi and is attended by dignitaries, government officials, nursing professionals, and other stakeholders in the healthcare sector.
- ▶▶ **Award Categories:** The National Florence Nightingale Awards are presented in different categories to recognize various aspects of nursing excellence. These categories may include Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife, Lady health visitors and Nurse.
- ▶▶ The award carries a cash prize of **Rs 50000/-**, a certificate and a medal.

National Florence Nightingale Awards for 2023

S.No.	Category	State	Name
1	ANM	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Ms. Suchitra Mistry
2	ANM	Bihar	Ms. Gaytri Kumari
3	ANM	Karnataka	Ms. Nagarathna T
4	ANM	Odisha	Ms. Manjulata Maharana
5	ANM	Tamil Nadu	Ms. Suganthi K
6	LHV	Sikkim	Ms. Ambika Pradhan
7	Nurse	Jammu & Kashmir	Ms. Firdousa Jan
8	Nurse	Kerala	Ms. Geetha A R
9	Nurse	Maharashtra	Brig Amita Devrani
10	Nurse	Maharashtra	Ms. Pushpa Shrawan Podey
11	Nurse	Manipur	Ms. Irom Chandrabala Devi
12	Nurse	Mizoram	Ms. C Zopari
13	Nurse	Puducherry	Ms. Sathiyakani Thangaraj
14	Nurse	Punjab	Ms. Madhavi Rane Chikhale
15	Nurse	West Bengal	Ms. Abishmita Ghosh

PM Narendra Modi receives Egypt's highest honour 'Order of the Nile'

- ▶▶ During his official visit to Egypt, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was bestowed with the highest state honor of Egypt, known as the **'Order of the Nile.'** This recognition marks the 13th international award received by Prime Minister Modi. The prestigious award was presented to him by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, making it a significant moment as Prime Minister Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Egypt since 1997.



What is the 'Order of the Nile'?

- ▶▶ According to the official website of the Egyptian Presidency, the **'Order of the Nile'** is bestowed upon heads of states, crown princes, vice presidents, as well as individuals, both Egyptian and foreign, who have rendered exceptional services to the country or humanity. It is also worth noting that recipients of this honor are commemorated upon their passing.

- ▶▶ The award itself is a collar made entirely of pure gold and consists of three square gold units, each adorned with pharaonic symbols. The first unit represents the protection of the state against malevolence, while the second unit symbolizes the prosperity and happiness brought forth by the Nile. The third unit signifies wealth and resilience, as stated on the website.
- ▶▶ Connecting the three units is a circular gold flower ornamented with turquoise and ruby. Suspended from the collar is a hexagonal pendant decorated with pharaonic-style flowers and adorned with turquoise and ruby gems. At the center of the pendant, there is a prominent symbol representing the Nile, which unites the North (depicted by the Papyrus) and the South (represented by the Lotus).
- ▶▶ This is the 13th international award conferred upon the prime minister since he took over in 2014. Here is the full list of honours:
- ▶▶ Companion of the Order of Logohu: Papua New Guinea conferred the highest civilian award for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global South. – May 2023
- ▶▶ Companion of the Order of Fiji: Highest honour of Fiji in recognition of PM Modi's global leadership – May 2023
- ▶▶ Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau: During his visit to Papua New Guinea, PM Modi was conferred with Ebakl Award by the President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. of the Republic of Palau – May 2023
- ▶▶ Order of the DrukGyalpo: Bhutan has honoured PM Modi with the highest civilian decoration, Order of the DrukGyalpo in December 2021
- ▶▶ Legion of Merit by the US Government (award of the United States Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements)– 2020
- ▶▶ King Hamad Order of the Renaissance (this Bahrain Order – First Class is a top honour by the gulf country) –2019
- ▶▶ Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin (highest honour of the Maldives awarded to foreign dignitaries) –2019
- ▶▶ Order of St. Andrew award (highest civilian honor of Russia) –2019
- ▶▶ Order of Zayed Award (highest civilian honor of the United Arab Emirates) –2019
- ▶▶ Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award (highest honor of Palestine awarded to foreign dignitaries) –2018
- ▶▶ State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan (highest civilian honor of Afghanistan) –2016
- ▶▶ Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud (highest honor of Saudi Arabia awarded to non-muslim dignitaries) –2016

Awards conferred by organisations/foundations :

- ▶▶ Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award by the Cambridge Energy Research Associates CERA (award recognizes the commitment of leadership towards the future of global energy and environment) –2021
- ▶▶ Global Goalkeeper' Award by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan –2019

- ▶▶ Champions of The Earth Award (UN's highest environmental honor) –2018
- ▶▶ Seoul Peace Prize (awarded biennially to those individuals by Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation who have made their mark through contributions to the harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and to world peace) –2018.

Gita Press, Gorakhpur awarded Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021

- ▶▶ **The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021** will be conferred on **Gita Press, Gorakhpur**, in recognition of its "outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods", the ministry of culture announced. The decision to confer the award on Gita Press was taken by a jury headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

About the Gandhi Peace Prize -

- ▶▶ Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by Government of India in 1995, on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.
- ▶▶ The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item. The past awardees include organisations such as ISRO and Ramakrishna Mission.
- ▶▶ The past awardees include organisations such as ISRO, Ramakrishna Mission, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Akshaya Patra, Bengaluru, Ekal Abhiyan Trust, India and Sulabh International, New Delhi among others.
- ▶▶ The prestigious award has also been awarded to luminaries like Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa and Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania among many other personalities. Some recent awardees include Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Oman (2019) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (2020), Bangladesh.

Gita Press -

- ▶▶ Established in 1923, Gita Press is one of the world's largest publishers, having published 41.7 crore books in 14 languages, including 16.21 crore Shrimad Bhagvad Gita. The institution has never relied on advertisement in its publications, for revenue generation.



IOC awards Olympic Order to WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus

- ▶▶ The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** awarded **Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus**, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), with the Olympic Order. This recognition

was given to Dr. Tedros for his inspiring efforts in making the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 happen, even amidst the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The presentation of the Olympic Order took place at the Olympic House and was done by the President of the IOC, Thomas Bach.



- ▶▶ In addition, President Bach extended an invitation to Dr. Tedros to be a distinguished guest of honor at the Olympic Games Paris 2024. This invitation signifies the high regard and respect the IOC has for Dr. Tedros and his significant contributions.

Overview of the news -

- ▶▶ Dr. Tedros received this prestigious honor for his valuable support in fostering cooperation between the IOC and the WHO. Their cooperation agreement, signed in 2020, played a significant role in ensuring the successful organization of the Olympic Games. The Olympic Order serves as a token of appreciation for Dr. Tedros' instrumental role and dedication in making the Tokyo 2020 Olympics a reality despite the difficult circumstances posed by the pandemic.
- ▶▶ In addition, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the World Health Organization (WHO) with the Olympic Cup for 2021. This honor was given to recognize the collaborative efforts between the IOC and WHO in promoting healthier communities through sport. The IOC and WHO have worked together on various joint initiatives and programs, and their latest collaboration is the Let's Move campaign for this year's Olympic Day.

About the Let's Move campaign -

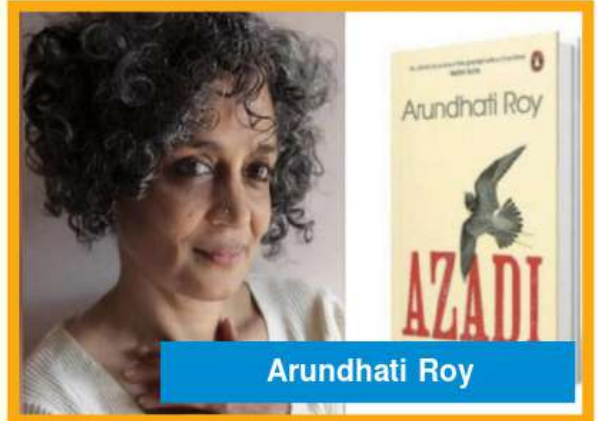
- ▶▶ The Let's Move campaign focuses on the importance of being physically active and highlights the benefits of regular exercise. It aligns with the IOC's Olympism365 strategy, which aims to increase access to sports opportunities and bring the health and societal advantages of physical activity to communities worldwide.
- ▶▶ By presenting the Olympic Cup to the WHO, the IOC acknowledges and appreciates their partnership in promoting well-being through sport. This recognition underscores the shared commitment to fostering healthier lifestyles and spreading the positive impact of physical activity to people in all corners of the globe.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **International Olympic Committee Headquarters : Lausanne, Switzerland;**
- ▶▶ **International Olympic Committee President : Thomas Bach;**
- ▶▶ **International Olympic Committee Founded : 23 June 1894, Paris, France;**
- ▶▶ **International Olympic Committee Director General : Christophe De Kepper;**
- ▶▶ **International Olympic Committee Founders : Pierre de Coubertin, D. Bikélas.**

Arundhati Roy wins 45th European Essay Prize for 'Azadi'

▶▶ Writer and activist **Arundhati Roy** has been awarded the **45th European Essay Prize** for lifetime achievement on the occasion of the French translation of her latest essay, '**Azadi**'. The French translation 'Liberte, fascisme, fiction' appeared in Gallimard, a leading French publishing group. At a function to be held on September 11 at the European Essay Prize 2023 Round Table, in partnership with the University of Lausanne (Unil), Theatre de Vidy, Lausanne, Arundhati Roy will discuss citizenship and identity, environment and globalisation, caste and language.



Arundhati Roy

▶▶ The award ceremony will take place the next day (September 12) at the Lausanne Palace, where she will give a lecture. In this series of electrifying essays, Arundhati Roy challenges us to reflect on the meaning of freedom in a world of growing authoritarianism, it noted. The essays include meditations on language, public as well as private, and on the role of fiction and alternative imaginations in these disturbing times.

An Overview of the News

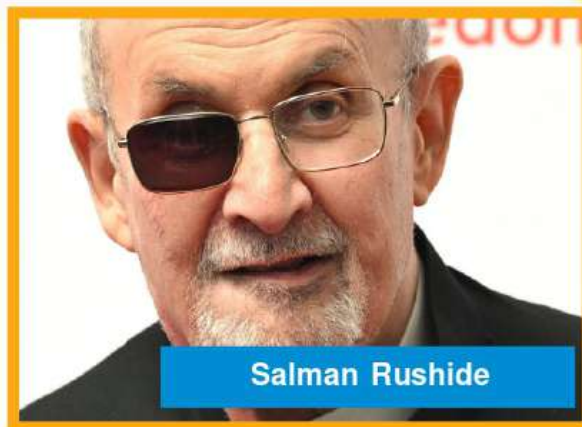
- ▶▶ Arundhati Roy's book of essays, 'Azadi' (2021), especially the French translation, received acclaim.
- ▶▶ 'Azaadi' explores the concept of freedom in an increasingly totalitarian world, with an emphasis on fiction and alternative imaginations.
- ▶▶ Roy is known for his notable works, including the Booker Prize-winning novel The God of Small Things.
- ▶▶ The award ceremony will be held on September 12 in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- ▶▶ Past recipients of the European Essay Prize include Alexander Zinoviev, Amin Malouf and Siri Hustvedt.

Salman Rushdie wins prestigious German peace prize 2023

▶▶ **The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023** has been awarded to British-American author **Salman Rushdie**, "for his indomitable spirit, for his affirmation of life and for enriching our world with his love of storytelling,". Rushdie was born on June 19, 1947, in Bombay (now Mumbai), Ahmed Salman Rushdie's name is best known worldwide for his 1988 novel The Satanic Verses, which caused widespread uproar in the Muslim world for its story inspired by the life of Islamic Prophet Muhammad. It also prompted Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to declare a fatwa against the author.

List of Famous Salman Rushdie Book -

- Midnight's Children
- Shame
- Satanic Verses
- Haroun and the Sea of Stories
- Moor's Last Sigh book by Salman Rushdie
- Ground Beneath Her Feet
- Fury
- Shalimar the Clown
- Enchantress of Florence
- Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights
- Golden House
- Quichotte book
- Victory City



Salman Rushdie

About the prestigious awards -

- ▶▶ The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, endowed with •25,000 (\$27,300), will be handed out in a ceremony in October during the Frankfurt Book Fair. The prize, created in 1950, recognizes a personality committed to serving international understanding between nations and cultures through their work. Last year, the award went to Ukrainian author Serhiy Zhadan. Previous recipients include, among others, Margaret Atwood, Orhan Pamuk, Susan Sontag, Amos Oz, Vaclav Havel

World Bank President Ajay Banga Named In 2023 List Of Great Immigrants

- ▶▶ **Ajay Banga**, the President of the World Bank, has been recognised on the Carnegie Corporation of New York's annual "Great Immigrants" list. He is lauded for his contributions and efforts in enriching America and its democracy. With over 30 years of experience in key positions, 63-year-old Banga is expected to usher in transformative policies at the World Bank to combat poverty and address climate change, opening opportunities for people around the globe.



Ajay Banga

This year's honourees include -

- ▶▶ Vietnamese-born Academy Award-winning actor **Ke Huy Quan**,
- ▶▶ Chilean-born actor **Pedro Pascal**,
- ▶▶ Director-General of World Trade Organization Nigerian-born **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**,
- ▶▶ US Congressman **Ted Lieu** who was born in Taiwan,

- ▶▶ Grammy Award-Winning Singer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador **Angélique Kidjo** who was born in Benin
- ▶▶ Polish-born Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Cornell University and Nobel Laureate **Roald Hoffmann**
- ▶▶ **Guido Imbens**, born in the Netherlands and Professor of Economics, Stanford University, and Nobel Laureate.

What is the Great Immigrant list ?

- ▶▶ Every Fourth of July, which is celebrated as America’s Independence Day, the Carnegie Corporation of New York honours a group of “remarkable” Americans, all naturalised citizens “who have enriched and strengthened our nation and our democracy through their contributions and actions”.
- ▶▶ This year, the corporation honours 35 individuals from 33 countries and a wide range of backgrounds. Among the honourees are individuals who have fostered opportunities for others through their work as educators, mentors, philanthropists, job creators, public servants, storytellers, and advocates.
- ▶▶ Carnegie Corporation of New York is a leading philanthropic foundation established by Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie and is now led by Irish immigrant Dame Louise Richardson. It celebrates the crucial role of naturalised citizens in making America a land of opportunity for all.

Career of Ajay Banga -

- ▶▶ Mr. Banga started his career in India, spending 13 years at Nestle India and two at PepsiCo. In 1996, he joined Citigroup, eventually leading the Asia-Pacific region as CEO.
- ▶▶ Later moving to the U.S., Mr. Banga served as president and CEO of Mastercard for 12 years before being named executive chairman. Under his leadership, Mastercard launched the Center for Inclusive Growth, which advances equitable and sustainable economic growth and financial inclusion around the world, the statement said.
- ▶▶ Prior to his appointment to the World Bank, Mr. Banga was the vice-chairman at General Atlantic. He is also a co-founder of the Cyber Readiness Institute and served as vice-chair of the Economic Club of New York.
- ▶▶ Among numerous honours, he was awarded the Foreign Policy Association Medal, the Padma Shri Award by the President of India, and the Ellis Island Medal of Honour.

Singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan receives honorary doctorate in UK

- ▶▶ Renowned singer-composer **Shankar Mahadevan** has been granted an honorary doctorate by **Birmingham City University (BCU) in England**. The prestigious recognition is a tribute to his significant contributions to the field of music and the arts. Shankar Mahadevan, 56 years old, is a prominent member of the highly accomplished music composing trio known as Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy. The honorary doctorate was presented to him by Professor Philip Plowden, the Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham City University, during a ceremony held in Birmingham.

Overview of the news :

- ▶▶ Following an organized visit by Mahadevan to Birmingham City University’s state-of-the-art campus, which boasts cutting-edge facilities for the creative industry, including the renowned Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC), a doctoral ceremony was conducted. This ceremony was a result of the BCU India and West Midlands India Partnership initiative. The university’s campus, valued at GBP 400 million, provided a fitting backdrop for the visit and ceremony.
- ▶▶ Earlier this year, the renowned Bollywood actor visited the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC) alongside fellow musicians, including Zakir Hussain. During the visit, they had the opportunity to engage with students, staff, and partners of the conservatoire. The purpose of the visit was to establish connections and explore potential collaborations between the Shankar Mahadevan Academy, based in Bangalore, and the RBC.
- ▶▶ Shankar Mahadevan, who originally pursued a career in engineering before becoming a successful musician, possesses a diverse repertoire that spans across various genres. His musical contributions encompass Indipop, film music, folk and spiritual compositions, Indian classical music, jazz, and world music. Recognizing his remarkable achievements in the field of arts, he was honored with the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019.



Shankar Mahadevan

Priya A.S. received Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 for children’s literature

- ▶▶ Priya AS, a talented writer, has been honored with the prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023** in the Malayalam language for her novel ”PerumazhayatheKunjithalukal” (**The Children Who Never Withered**). This recognition adds to her previous achievement of winning the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children’s Literature in 2020 for the same novel.
- ▶▶ With the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023, Priya A S’s talent and creativity in children’s literature have been acknowledged once again. Her writings resonate with readers, captivating their imaginations and leaving a lasting impact. As she continues her literary journey, Priya’s works are anticipated to inspire and engage young minds, fostering a love for reading and storytelling among children.



Priya A. S.

Recognition for “PerumazhayatheKunjithalukal” -

- ▶▶ Priya AS’s novel “PerumazhayatheKunjithalukal,” published in 2018, has garnered significant acclaim. The book marked the beginning of the children’s literature section in the Malayalam news portal, IE Malayalam, a division of The Indian Express. It was featured as part of the

Sammanapothi series by Poorna Books, introducing young readers to captivating narratives.

- ▶▶ Priya drew inspiration for “PerumazhayatheKunjithalukal” from the devastating Kerala floods that occurred in 2018. Working at the relief camps set up by the instrumentation department of Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) in Kochi, Priya witnessed the resilience and unity displayed by children from diverse backgrounds in the face of the calamity. These experiences formed the backdrop of her novel, providing a unique perspective on the events.

About The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar

- ▶▶ **The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar**, awarded by the **Sahitya Akademi**, carries a cash prize of **Rs 50,000** and an engraved copper plaque. The winners in each language are selected by panels of three members. Dr. Paul Manalil, B S Rajeev, and MundoorSethumadhavan served as the jury members for Malayalam. Priya’s novel emerged as the winner among the ten recommended books considered for the award.

Previous Accolades and Achievements

- ▶▶ Priya AS’s literary prowess has earned her previous accolades as well. In 2014, she was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize for her Malayalam translation of Arundhati Roy’s Booker Prize-winning novel, “The God of Small Things.” This recognition further highlighted her talent and contribution to the literary world.

Expansion of Grammy Awards : Introducing Three New Categories

- ▶▶ The Grammy Awards will introduce three new categories, according to The Hollywood Reporter. These additions include **Best African Music Performance, Best Pop Dance Recording, and Best Alternative Jazz Album**. The creation of the Best African Music Performance category recognizes the growing global popularity of African artists such as Burna Boy, Wizkid, and Tems, who have achieved great success on the charts.



- ▶▶ This category aims to highlight the influence of the Afrobeats genre and celebrate the diverse musical expressions from across the African continent. Various subgenres like Afrobeats, Afro-fusion, Afro pop, Bongo Flava, Ethio jazz, Kizomba, High Life, Fuji, Ndombolo, Mapouka, Ghanaian drill, Afro-house, and South African hip-hop will be eligible for consideration.
- ▶▶ Previously, African-based songs dominated the nominations in the Best Global Music Performance category, which was introduced in 2022. With the addition of the Best African Music Performance award, it is expected that songs from other global genres such as Latin music, K-pop, and Arabic music will now have a better chance of earning nominations in the Best Global Music Performance category.

Grammy Awards Introduce New Categories and Modify Voting Process for 66th Edition

- ▶▶ In addition to the new categories, the Grammys have also made changes to the voting process.

Two categories, Producer of the Year (Non-Classical) and Songwriter of the Year (Non-Classical), have been moved to the general field. Grammys voters are limited in the categories they can vote, however all voters are allowed to vote in the general field.

- ▶ The changes were voted on and passed at the academy's Board of Trustees meeting last month. The eligibility period for the 66th Grammys, which now has 94 categories, will be from October 1, 2022, to September 15, 2023. The nominations will be announced in November, and the awards ceremony will take place in early 2024.

BE READY
TO FAIL
'CAUSE
ONLY THEN
YOU ARE
READY
TO SUCCEED

Economic

Fino Payments Bank Partners with Hubble to Introduce India's First Spending Account

- ▶▶ **Fino Payments Bank** has announced its collaboration with Sequoia Capital-backed fintech **Hubble** to launch India's first spending account. This innovative offering allows customers to conveniently park their funds, make purchases across various categories such as food ordering, shopping, travel, and entertainment, and save up to 10 percent on all transactions made through the account.



A Unique and Rewarding Solution :

- ▶▶ Fino Payments Bank aims to revolutionize the way individuals manage their finances with the introduction of the spending account. By integrating this account with their existing digital savings account operated through the FinoPay mobile app, customers gain access to a range of benefits and savings opportunities.

Efficient Expense Tracking :

- ▶▶ One of the key features of the spending account is its integration with over 50 renowned brands partnered with Hubble. Users can easily monitor their spending across different categories, allowing for better budgeting and expense management. This functionality empowers individuals to take control of their financial habits while simultaneously providing them with valuable insights into their consumption patterns.

Generous Savings Potential :

- ▶▶ The collaboration between Fino Payments Bank and Hubble presents an exciting opportunity for customers to enjoy significant savings on their purchases. By leveraging the spending account, users can accumulate savings of up to ₹ 20,000 per year. This impressive figure demonstrates the potential financial impact of this innovative solution, allowing customers to maximize their hard-earned money.

India tops digital payments rankings globally, shows MyGovIndia data

- ▶▶ **India** has emerged as the global leader in digital payments for the year 2022, surpassing other nations in terms of both value and volume of transactions. The data from the government's citizen

engagement platform, MyGovIndia, reveals India's dominant position in the **digital payment** landscape, showcasing the country's robust payment ecosystem and widespread adoption of digital modes.

India's Global Digital Payments Leadership :

- ▶▶ According to the data, India recorded a staggering 89.5 million digital transactions during the review period. This accounted for a remarkable 46 percent share of the world's real-time payments in 2022, surpassing the combined digital payments of the next four top countries.



Milestones in Digital Payments :

- ▶▶ The growth of digital payments in India has witnessed significant milestones in terms of both value and volume. Experts from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) highlighted the country's strong payment ecosystem and the acceptance of digital modes by Indian citizens as key factors contributing to India's digital payments success.

Celebrating the Achievement :

- ▶▶ MyGovIndia acknowledged India's dominance in the digital payment landscape through a celebratory tweet. The tweet highlighted India's innovative solutions and widespread adoption of digital payments, which have propelled the country towards a cashless economy. The achievements were marked under the hashtags #9YearsOfTechForGrowth and #9YearsOfSeva, showcasing the country's progress in digital transformation.

Global Comparison :

- ▶▶ Brazil secured the second position in digital payments with 29.2 million transactions, followed by China at third place with 17.6 million transactions. Thailand and South Korea secured the fourth and fifth spots, respectively, with 16.5 million and 8 million transactions.

RBI Notifies Four Key Measures to Strengthen 1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks

- ▶▶ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in collaboration with the Central Government, has introduced four crucial measures to bolster the strength of 1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the country. These initiatives were announced following detailed discussions between Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and RBI Governor, with the objective of achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sahakar se Samridhi.' This article highlights the key measures that have been notified by the RBI, which include allowing UCBs to open new branches, facilitating



One Time Settlements, extending the deadline to meet priority sector lending targets, and designating a Nodal Officer in the RBI.

Opening New Branches :

- ▶▶ UCBs now have the opportunity to expand their reach by opening new branches without prior approval from the RBI. They can open up to 10% (maximum of 5 branches) of the total number of branches in the previous financial year within their approved area of operation. However, UCBs must ensure their policies are approved by their respective boards and comply with the Financially Sound and Well Managed (FSWM) norms.

One Time Settlements :

- ▶▶ In a significant move, UCBs have been granted the authority to offer One Time Settlements (OTS) on par with commercial banks. With the approval of their board, cooperative banks can now provide a process for technical write-off and settlement with borrowers. This development brings UCBs at par with other commercial banks and enables them to streamline their lending practices and recover bad debts more effectively.

Reserve Bank of India : 601st Meeting of Central Board of the RBI

- ▶▶ The central board of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das, conducted its 601st meeting in **Hyderabad** to assess the current global and domestic economic conditions, along with the accompanying difficulties.



Reserve Bank of India : More About The Meeting of Central Board of the RBI

- ▶▶ According to a statement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), during its meeting, the board evaluated the **global and domestic economic scenario**, as well as the associated obstacles, taking into account the influence of current global geopolitical events. Additionally, the board deliberated on the Reserve Bank of India- RBI's undertakings during the ongoing 2022-23 accounting year, and approved the budget for the upcoming 2023-24 accounting year.

Reserve Bank of India : Need of The Meeting of Central Board of the RBI

- ▶▶ Reserve Bank of India this Meeting is Against the backdrop of mounting global concerns over the **collapse of banks** in the US, triggered by aggressive monetary tightening, the meeting was held. Recently, the **US Federal Reserve** increased interest rates by 25 basis points in an attempt to curb inflation, despite the banking crisis. The **Bank of England** and **European Central Bank (ECB)** have also raised their benchmark interest rates. However, policymakers and experts have reassured that the Indian banking system is well-positioned.

RBI Launches '100 Days 100 Pays' Campaign to Settle Unclaimed Deposits

- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently initiated the '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign, aimed at tracing and settling the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district within a span of 100 days. This campaign is part of the RBI's ongoing efforts to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and ensure their rightful return to owners or claimants. With the launch of this campaign, the RBI hopes to bring attention to the issue of unclaimed deposits and facilitate their resolution.



Understanding Unclaimed Deposits -

- ▶▶ **Unclaimed deposits** refer to funds that have remained untouched or inactive for a period of ten years or longer. When such deposits exhibit no activity, banks transfer the funds to the "Depositor Education and Awareness" (DEA) Fund, which is maintained by the RBI. However, depositors retain the right to claim their deposits, along with applicable interest, from the bank(s) where these deposits were held, even after they have been transferred to the DEA Fund.

Reasons for Accumulation of Unclaimed Deposits -

- ▶▶ The accumulation of unclaimed deposits primarily occurs due to several reasons. One common reason is the non-closure of savings or current accounts that depositors no longer intend to operate. Additionally, depositors may fail to submit redemption claims for matured fixed deposits, leading to the transfer of funds to the DEA Fund. There are also instances where deposits belong to deceased individuals, and their nominees or legal heirs do not come forward to make a claim on the respective bank(s).

Magnitude of Unclaimed Deposits -

- ▶▶ As of February 2023, the total amount of unclaimed deposits transferred to the RBI by public sector banks (PSBs) reached Rs 35,012 crore. Among the PSBs, the State Bank of India (SBI) holds the highest value of unclaimed deposits, amounting to Rs 8,086 crore, followed by Punjab National Bank with Rs 5,340 crore, Canara Bank with Rs 4,558 crore, and Bank of Baroda with Rs 3,904 crore.

UPI Transactions Reach Record High of Rs 14.3 Trillion in May 2023

- ▶▶ **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions** in India soared to unprecedented levels in May 2023, with a total transaction value of Rs 14.3 trillion and a volume of 9.41 billion. This represents a 2% increase in value and a 6% increase in volume compared to the previous month of April. The surge in UPI transactions comes at a time when the Indian government is actively promoting

digital payments and aims to bring various tax collections under the digital payment ecosystem.

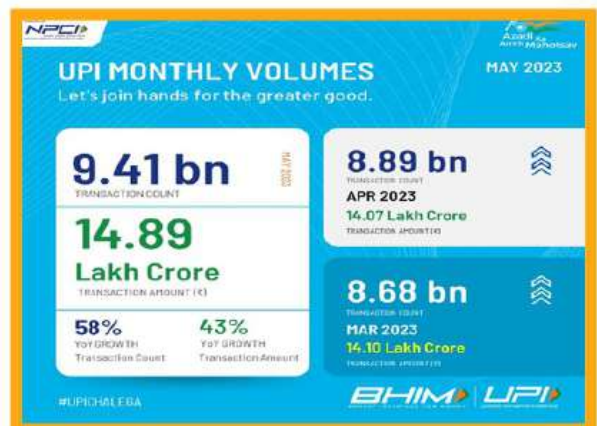
Record-Breaking UPI Transactions -

- ▶▶ In May, UPI transactions experienced remarkable growth, with a value of Rs 14.3 trillion and a volume of 9.41 billion. The transaction volume witnessed a staggering 58% increase compared to the same period in the previous financial year, while the transaction value rose by an impressive 37%. These numbers highlight the growing acceptance and adoption of UPI as a preferred mode of payment in India.



Government’s Digital Payment Drive -

- ▶▶ The surge in UPI transactions aligns with the government’s ongoing efforts to promote digital payments across different sectors, including tax collection. By encouraging businesses and individuals to shift towards digital payment platforms, the government aims to enhance transparency, improve efficiency, and reduce the dependence on cash transactions.



IMPS Transactions Show Marginal Growth -

- ▶▶ Alongside UPI, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions also experienced a slight increase. IMPS transactions reached Rs 5.26 trillion in value, marking a 1% rise compared to April. In terms of volume, IMPS transactions saw a marginal increase to 500 million in May, up from 496 million in April. This represents a 3% growth in volume and a 16% growth in value compared to May 2022.

Federal Bank Launches ‘I am Adyar, Adyar is Me’ Campaign in Chennai

- ▶▶ The **Federal Bank** has initiated a unique campaign in Chennai, titled ‘I am Adyar, Adyar is me,’ to celebrate the rich culture and stories of the local community. The campaign transforms an entire bank branch into a museum of local stories, showcasing the struggles and triumphs of individuals who make Adyar special. With vibrant paintings adorning the walls and an exclusive exhibition featuring 40 compelling stories, the campaign aims to capture the essence of Adyar.



Transforming the Adyar Branch into a Living Museum :

- ▶▶ The Federal Bank’s Adyar branch has undergone a remarkable transformation for the ‘I am Adyar,

Adyar is me' campaign. The branch has been converted into a living museum, showcasing the soul of Adyar through art and stories. Vibrant paintings now adorn the walls, reflecting the lively spirit of the locality.

Capturing Compelling Stories :

- ▶▶ In preparation for the campaign, the Federal Bank's team ventured into the neighborhoods of Adyar, engaging with the local community. They listened to the people's stories and collected around 100 stories and photographs from the individuals they interviewed. Out of these, 40 of the most compelling stories were selected for the exclusive exhibition at the Adyar branch.

An Exclusive Exhibition :

- ▶▶ The heart of the 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me' campaign lies in the exclusive exhibition at the Adyar branch of the Federal Bank. For two weeks, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., visitors can experience the diverse stories and experiences of the people of Adyar. The exhibition serves as a tribute to the residents of Adyar, showcasing their everyday journeys, joys, and accomplishments.

A First-of-Its-Kind Micro-Marketing Initiative:

- ▶▶ The 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me' campaign sets a new precedent in the banking industry as a first-of-its-kind micro-marketing initiative. By celebrating the local culture and stories, the Federal Bank aims to connect with the community on a deeper level. The campaign goes beyond traditional marketing approaches, emphasizing the importance of human experiences and personal connections.

Auto-Rickshaws as Brand Ambassadors :

- ▶▶ To further spread the message of the campaign, over 100 auto-rickshaws in Adyar have been decorated with the branding of the 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me' campaign. These mobile advertisements serve as moving billboards, capturing the attention of residents and visitors alike. The vibrant branding on the auto-rickshaws reinforces the campaign's spirit and creates additional buzz within the community.

Sberbank introduces Indian rupee accounts for individuals in Russia

- ▶▶ **Sberbank, Russia's top lender**, has announced that individuals can now open accounts in Indian rupees, as the bank looks to decrease its reliance on the US dollar and euro. Sberbank has more than 100 million retail clients and already offers deposits in China's yuan and UAE dirhams.

Key Points :

- ▶▶ The bank's finance chief stated that Sberbank will issue bonds in Chinese yuan if the opportunity arises and will continue borrowing in rubles. In addition, rival VTB has announced plans for yuan savings to make up a significant portion of Russia's foreign exchange portfolio by 2025.

About Sberbank :

- ▶▶ Sberbank is the largest bank in Russia and one of the largest banks in the world.



- ▶▶ It was founded in 1841 and has been a key player in the Russian banking industry ever since.
- ▶▶ Sberbank operates more than 14,000 branches across Russia, serving 95 million customers.
- ▶▶ It is recognized as the leader in many areas of banking, including retail and corporate banking, investment banking, and asset management.

Why is Sberbank famous ?

- ▶▶ Sberbank is known for its innovative approach to banking. It has been at the forefront of digital banking, offering its customers a range of digital, mobile, and online services.
- ▶▶ The bank has invested heavily in technology, including artificial intelligence and data analytics, to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance the customer experience.
- ▶▶ Sberbank has also been active in developing new products and services to support the growth of small and medium-sized businesses in Russia.
- ▶▶ Sberbank has received a number of awards and accolades for its performance and innovation. In 2020, the bank was named as the “Best Bank in Russia” by Global Finance and “Bank of the Year” by The Banker. It has also been recognized for its digital innovation, winning awards for its mobile banking app and online banking platform.
- ▶▶ Sberbank has expanded its presence outside of Russia, with a focus on emerging markets in Eastern Europe and Asia. The bank has established a network of subsidiaries and partnerships in these regions to support its growth strategy and serve the needs of its customers.

Indian Overseas Bank Introduces Innovative Scheme Allowing Customers to Use Any Name as Account Number

- ▶▶ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**, a public sector lender based in Chennai, has launched a groundbreaking scheme called ‘**My Account My Name,**’ which enables customers to select any name as their savings account number. This initiative, the first of its kind in the banking industry, allows individuals to choose a personalized account number that can be used for all transaction purposes. The scheme was officially launched by the bank’s Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer during a virtual event at the IOB Central Office in Chennai. This article provides an overview of the scheme and its potential benefits for customers.



Revamping Saving Account Schemes for All Segments of Society :

- ▶▶ Recognizing the diverse needs of its customer base, IOB has recently revamped all its saving account schemes to cater to various segments of society. Whether an individual belongs to the salaried class, is a high net worth individual (HNI), a student, a pensioner, or a senior citizen, IOB aims to provide tailored account options to suit their requirements. This comprehensive approach showcases the bank’s commitment to inclusivity and customer-centricity.

The 'My Account My Name' Scheme :

- ▶▶ Under the 'My Account My Name' scheme, IOB customers can now choose their account number using any combination of seven letters, seven numbers, or seven alphanumeric characters. This innovative feature eliminates the need for customers to remember their traditional 15-digit account numbers. For example, customers could select account names such as AJIT007, PRADHAN, or 2424707. The scheme initially targets customers with IOB SB HNI and IOB SB SALARY accounts, offering them greater convenience and personalization options.

Benefits for Customers :

- ▶▶ By allowing customers to choose their account numbers, IOB aims to enhance the banking experience and simplify transactions. The scheme offers several benefits:
 - **Personalization:** Customers can personalize their banking experience by selecting an account number that holds significance for them, such as incorporating their name, lucky number, or other memorable combinations.



National

India Makes Debut at Annecy International Animation Festival, Showcasing AVGC Expertise

- ▶▶ India's **Animation, Gaming, Visual Effects, and Comics (AVGC) sector** is set to make a remarkable impression on the global stage as the country participates for the first time at the prestigious Annecy International Animation Festival (AIAF) in **France**. Led by Apurva Chandra, Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, an Indian delegation comprising eminent personalities from the animation industry has been actively showcasing India's prowess in creating animation and VFX content for global audiences at the AIAF.



India's Emergence as a Preferred Destination for VFX and Animation Content -

- ▶▶ In recent years, India has witnessed a surge in demand for its animation and VFX content, becoming a favored destination for global production houses. The country's AVGC sector has been making significant strides by adopting world-class techniques and innovative technologies, supported by a pool of immensely talented professionals. As a result, India has gained recognition as one of the leading providers of animation and VFX services worldwide.

Incentives for Foreign Companies in India's AVGC Sector -

- ▶▶ Secretary Apurva Chandra highlighted India's commitment to nurturing the AVGC sector by providing attractive incentives to foreign companies interested in producing AVGC content in India. He emphasized that these incentives are equivalent to those provided for shooting films in the country, presenting a lucrative opportunity for companies to leverage the benefits. This commitment to incentives also extends to supporting pre and post-production activities, further solidifying India's dedication to fostering a thriving AVGC industry.

Strengthening Collaboration between India and France -

- ▶▶ During the festival, Secretary Chandra held discussions with Michael Marin, Director of AIAF, to explore avenues for enhancing India's engagement with Annecy. They deliberated on the potential for collaboration between India and France to host an animation film festival in India, which could further promote artistic and cultural exchange between the two nations. Such collaborations would undoubtedly contribute to the growth and development of India's AVGC sector.

India Pavilion: Showcasing Indian Creativity -

- ▶▶ As a testament to India's vibrant animation industry, Secretary Chandra inaugurated the India Pavilion at AIAF. Designed around the theme of the Saraswati Yantra, the pavilion provided

a platform for Indian artists, studios, and production houses to showcase their creative work and engage with the global animation community. The Indian delegation also had the opportunity to interact with Indian creatives who secured entries in the highly esteemed Annecy festival competition for 2023.

Dharmendra Pradhan flags off Gabon's first Agri-SEZ Project

- ▶▶ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off **Gabon's** first Agri- SEZ project from New Delhi
- ▶▶ The project will be implemented by **AOM group** (a leading company on promoting agricultural development and innovation), with **Centurion University** (state university in odisha) as the technical and knowledge partner
- ▶▶ In the first phase of the program, 30 farmers and 20 B.Sc./M.Sc. Agriculture and B.Tech/M.Tech Engineering students from **Gajapati district**, which is an Aspirational district of **Odisha**, will be travelling together as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture **SEZ (Special Economic Zone)**



Static :

- ▶▶ Gabon is a country along the Atlantic coast of Central Africa, having french as its official language
- ▶▶ A special economic zone (SEZ) is an area in which the business and trade laws are different from the rest of the country.
- ▶▶ SEZs are located within a country's national borders, and their aims include increasing trade balance, employment, increased investment, job creation and effective administration.

Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI'

- ▶▶ The **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal**, launched the 'Sagar Samriddhi' online dredging monitoring system as part of the 'Waste to Wealth' initiative of the ministry. The **National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC)** developed the system, which replaces the old Draft and Loading Monitor system and offers improved efficiency and transparency.

SAGAR SAMRIDDHI : Key Points

- ▶▶ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways also updated its '**Dredging Guidelines for Major Ports**' to outline the planning and preparation, technical investigations, dredged material management, and cost estimation procedures for dredging projects, including enabling the ports

to formulate and complete them within specified timelines.

- ▶▶ The ministry issued an addendum in March 2023 for the disposal of dredged material, which would reduce the cost of dredging, and the online system would facilitate cost reduction along with increased efficiency and transparency.

SAGAR SAMRIDHI : Aim

- ▶▶ The ministry aims to develop major ports into trans-shipment hubs with deep drafts of over 18 meters as part of its Maritime India Vision 2030.

About NTCPCW’ :

- ▶▶ The NTCPCW’ establishment under the **Sagarmala Programme** of MoPSW has invested INR 77 crores, and it aims to promote research and development for the marine sector to create a robust marine industry in India.
- ▶▶ The centre is committed to promoting research and development in the marine industry, with the ultimate goal of establishing a robust marine sector in the country.
- ▶▶ Equipped with state-of-the-art 2D and 3D investigation capabilities, the centre offers top-notch research and consultancy services for the Port, Coastal, and Waterways sector in all disciplines.
- ▶▶ The centre’s expertise lies in a range of areas, including Ocean modelling, Coastal & Estuarine Flows, Sediment transport and morph dynamics, Navigation and Manoeuvring planning, Dredging and Siltation estimation, Port and Coastal Engineering consultancy, designing Structures and Breakwaters, Autonomous Platforms and vehicles, Experimental and CFD modelling of flow and Hull interaction, Hydrodynamics of multiple hulls, and Ocean renewable energy coupled with port facilities.



NHAI launches ‘Knowledge Sharing Platform’ for development of Highways

- ▶▶ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced the launch of a knowledge-sharing platform by the **National Highway Authority of India**. This platform aims to promote the inclusive development of national highways. It will serve as a collaborative space for experts and citizens to share ideas and knowledge in various fields including road design, safety, construction, environmental sustainability, and related areas.
- ▶▶ The platform intends to encourage the exchange of best practices and innovative ideas from around the world. By facilitating the sharing of expertise, it aims to contribute to the development of the country’s national highway infrastructure. This initiative seeks to harness the collective wisdom



and experiences of professionals and the public to drive advancements in the field of highway development in India.

- ▶▶ The online platform is a great source for citizens and experts to share their ideas and practices that will be beneficial to the nation's development. Through this online pathway, any citizen and expert can share relevant and rational ideas that will help the authority implement them, leading to development.

NHAI Promotes Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Practices

- ▶▶ With the help of updated technology and rapid innovation, the national highway infrastructure is developing at a fast pace. To promote sustainable and eco-friendly methods, NHAI is using recycled materials like plastic waste and fly ash. They are also encouraging the use of Recycled Asphalt (RAP) and Recycled Aggregates (RA) to contribute to a healthy environment.

Centre launches 'Dakshta' course collection on iGOT platform to enhance skills of young professionals

- ▶▶ **The Personnel Ministry** announced that the central government has launched a new collection of courses called "Dakshta" (Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skill for Holistic Transformation in Administration) on the **iGOTKarmayogi Platform**.

Key Points -

- ▶▶ The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has established Karmayogi Bharat, a government-owned not-for-profit special purpose vehicle, to steer the mission's fundamental goals.
- ▶▶ It's charged with the ownership, management, maintenance, and enhancement of the iGOTKarmayogi platform.
- ▶▶ Mission Karmayogi (National programme for civil services capacity building), in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building a 'Viksit Bharat', plays an important role in nurturing a smart, citizen-friendly, and future-ready public workforce.

About Dakshta -

- ▶▶ This platform is a comprehensive guide for government officials seeking to develop their capacity-building skills.
- ▶▶ The Dakshta collection contains 18 courses designed to equip learners with the necessary knowledge and skills required to perform their duties effectively.
- ▶▶ These courses cover a range of topics, including data-driven decision making, office procedures, effective communication, public policy research, and stress management. Currently, 40 young professionals and consultants from the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) are undergoing phased induction training through the curated collection of courses on offer.
- ▶▶ The courses are provided by esteemed institutions such as Wadhvani Foundation, ISTM (Institute



of Secretariat Training and Management), MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), MDNIY (Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga), IIM-B (Indian Institute of Management Bangalore), Microsoft, and others.

Centre Introduces 'Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair' for Employee Stress Relief

- ▶▶ The central government of India has recently taken a proactive step towards improving the well-being of its employees by introducing the “Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair” protocol. This initiative, spearheaded by the **Ministry of AYUSH** (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy), aims to help professionals relieve stress, rejuvenate their energy levels, and enhance concentration. The protocol includes a series of simple yoga practices, such as asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing techniques), and dhyana (meditation), all of which can be easily incorporated into a short break from work.



Encouraging Employee Wellness :

- ▶▶ Recognizing the importance of employee well-being in fostering a productive and harmonious work environment, the personnel ministry has directed all central government ministries and departments to embrace and encourage this innovative yoga practice. The “Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair” protocol offers a convenient solution for busy officials who may find it challenging to dedicate time to yoga outside of their office spaces. By practicing this short-duration yoga routine while sitting in their office chairs, employees can experience the benefits of relaxation, stress reduction, and improved focus.

Developed by Experts :

- ▶▶ The “Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair” protocol has been carefully developed by eminent experts in the field of yoga. The Ministry of AYUSH has collaborated with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga to create this tested and effective protocol. The positive feedback received thus far from participants underscores its efficacy in combating workplace stress and enhancing overall well-being.

Components of the Y-Break Protocol :

- ▶▶ The “Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair” protocol encompasses a range of yoga practices suitable for the office environment. These practices include:
 1. **Asanas (Postures):** The protocol features a selection of seated asanas designed to stretch and relax the muscles, promote good posture, and alleviate physical discomfort caused by long hours of sitting.
 2. **Pranayama (Breathing Techniques):** Breathing exercises are an integral part of the protocol, as they help regulate the breath, increase oxygenation, and induce a sense of calm and clarity.
 3. **Dhyana (Meditation):** The inclusion of meditation allows employees to cultivate mindfulness, reduce mental chatter, and improve their ability to focus and concentrate on their tasks.

Promoting Awareness and Implementation :

- ▶▶ To ensure widespread adoption of the “Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair” protocol, the Ministry of AYUSH has urged all ministries and departments of the Government of India to disseminate information about this practice among their employees. This includes employees working in attached and subordinate offices. The goal is to create a culture of well-being within the workplace, where employees prioritize self-care and make use of the available tools to alleviate stress and enhance their overall work experience.

Dharmendra Pradhan flags off Gabon’s first Agri-SEZ Project

- ▶▶ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off **Gabon’s** first Agri- SEZ project from New Delhi
- ▶▶ The project will be implemented by **AOM group** (a leading company on promoting agricultural development and innovation), with **Centurion University** (state university in odisha) as the technical and knowledge partner
- ▶▶ In the first phase of the program, 30 farmers and 20 B.Sc./M.Sc. Agriculture and B.Tech/M.Tech Engineering students from **Gajapati district**, which is an Aspirational district of **Odisha**, will be travelling together as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture **SEZ (Special Economic Zone)**



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- ▶▶ Gabon is a country along the Atlantic coast of Central Africa, having french as its official language
- A special economic zone (SEZ) is an area in which the business and trade laws are different from the rest of the country.
- SEZs are located within a country’s national borders, and their aims include increasing trade balance, employment, increased investment, job creation and effective administration.

Provision in Law :

- ▶▶ The existing provision of **Section 10AA** of the Income Tax provides **15 years** of tax benefit to newly established businesses or units located in (Special Economic Zone) SEZs.

8th Edition of the World’s Largest Urban Cleanliness Survey Begins

- ▶▶ The field assessment of **SwachhaSurvekshan 2023** is going to be launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Assessment from 1st July 2023. As a part of Swachha Bharat Mission, urban cleanliness survey is based on cleanliness of public spaces and toilets, feedback of residents and the performance of municipalities in waste collection, segregation and

processing. **SwachhaSurvekshan 2023-MeraSheher, Meri Pehechan** is the 8th annual edition ranking released on the basis of cleanliness of the cities by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Assessment.

Ministry Responsible for Urban Cleanliness Survey -

- ▶▶ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Assessment release the annual ranking based on the cleanliness of public places and toilets, feedback of residents and the performance of municipalities which is known by the name SwachhaSurvekshan.



More about SwachhaSurvekshan 2023 :

- ▶▶ SwachhaSurvekshan is a part of Swachha Bharat Mission launched in 2016 with the objective to help the cities in achieving the goal of sustainable sanitation. SwachcaSurvekshan 2023 is the 8th edition of the Urban Cleanliness Survey, in the SwachcaSurvekshan 2023 about 3000 assessors will take the field assessment of about 4500+ cities within a month and their ranking will be released later in the year.
- ▶▶ While talking about the SwachhaSurvekshan 2022 only 4,354 cities were included in the urban cleanliness survey, out of which Indore topped the ranking.

Criteria for ranking released for the Urban Cleanliness Survery :

The cities will be marked out of 9,500 marks and the division is as follows:

- ▶▶ 53% is for service level progress out of which 40% of marks will be for the processing and disposal of waste, 33% for segregated collection and 27% for the used water management and protection of sanitation workers.
- ▶▶ 23% for certification.
- ▶▶ 23% for citizens feedback.

Education loans register 17% growth in FY23

- ▶▶ According to **Reserve Bank of India's** (RBI) data, the outstanding portfolio under education loans grew 17 per cent at ¹ 96,847 crore in the year 2022-23 as against ¹ 82,723 crore in the previous year.
- ▶▶ The priority sector education loans show growth of 0.9 per cent in FY 2022-23 which is significant because the growth in education loans was flat during 2021-22 & it was negative for the three years prior to it



Financial Year Year Growth % (In negative)

FY20-21	3%
FY19-20	3.3%
FY18-19	2.5%

- ▶▶ The Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in education advances stood at **7.82 per cent** of a total outstanding portfolio of ¹ 80,000 crore at the end of the first quarter of FY23

Facts :

- ▶▶ In India, around 90 per cent of education loans are disbursed by the Public Sector Banks. Private sector banks and regional rural banks (RRBs) accounts for around 7 per cent and 3 per cent of total education loan outstanding, respectively

Reasons for Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in loans :

- ▶▶ Fresh job creation has not kept pace with the number of graduates coming out of the colleges
- ▶▶ Limited job opportunities or a mismatch between the skills acquired during education and the job market
- ▶▶ Financial crises affected overall economic conditions & job market, making it challenging for borrowers to repay their education loans

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ A Non Performing Asset (NPA) is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days
- ▶▶ Dharmendra Pradhan is the Union Minister for Education

Coal India to come under Competition Act: Supreme Court

- ▶▶ In a recent judgment, the **Supreme Court** of India ruled that **Coal India Limited (CIL)** and its subsidiary companies are subject to the **Competition Act, 2002**. The court held that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) can take action against CIL for abuse of its dominant position in the coal sector. However, the court emphasized that CIL has the right to defend its actions under the law. This decision comes after CIL challenged a ruling by the CCI in 2014, which held the company guilty of abuse of dominant position and imposed a penalty.



Background -

- ▶▶ CIL, a public sector undertaking and its subsidiary Western Coalfields Limited, argued that they should be exempt from the Competition Act because they are governed by the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. They contended that as entities geared towards achieving the objectives declared in Article 39(b) of the Indian Constitution, which focuses on the distribution of community resources for the common good, they should not be bound by the Competition Act.

About Competition Commission of India :

- ▶▶ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the chief national competition regulator in India.

- ▶▶ It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002.
- ▶▶ It promotes competition and prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.
- ▶▶ It was founded in 14 October 2003 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ▶▶ Its chairperson is **Ravneet Kaur**.

About Coal India Limited -

- ▶▶ Coal India Limited (CIL) is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Coal, Government of India.
- ▶▶ It was founded in 1975 & is headquartered at Kolkata.
- ▶▶ **Pramod Agarwal** is the Chairman & MD of Coal India Limited.

Centre allocates ₹ 145 crore to Nagaland for Unity Mall

- ▶▶ The Central government has allocated ₹ 145 crore to **Nagaland** for the construction of a **Unity Mall** in **Dimapur**. This funding is part of the Union Budget 2023-24, which has set aside ₹ 5,000 crore for the establishment of Unity Malls across the country. The mall in Nagaland aims to promote and showcase the state's One District One Product (ODOP) offerings, highlighting the unique products and industries of the region.



ODOP Sampark Event and Focus on Local Industries -

- ▶▶ The announcement was made during an (One District One Product) ODOP Sampark event organized by the Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in collaboration with Invest India and the Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland. The event aimed to create awareness about the ODOP and PM Gati Shakti initiatives, with a focus on promoting local industries and improving logistics.

National Programme for Organic Production Drive in Kohima -

- ▶▶ Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary of DPIIT, highlighted the efforts of DPIIT and Invest India in conducting a National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) Drive in Kohima. The drive specifically focused on chili farming, and more than 30 farmers from Kohima participated in the workshop. During the event, documentation for organic certification was completed for 15 chili farmers, with ongoing verification for others. This certification will provide better market access and improved prices for the farmers, especially in international markets.

Government's Commitment for Improving Logistics -

- ▶▶ Dawra emphasized the government's commitment for improving logistics for ODOP products from Nagaland, including chili, turmeric, kiwi, and pineapple. Initiatives such as Krishi UDAN and expanding railway connectivity will be implemented to enhance facilities and streamline the transportation of these products.

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala Launches “Report Fish Disease” App

- ▶▶ The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying in the Government of India have taken a significant step towards digitizing the fish farming sector with the launch of the android-based mobile app, “Report Fish Disease” The app, unveiled by Shri Parshottam Rupala, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, aims to enhance disease reporting and surveillance in the aquaculture industry.



The Launch of “Report Fish Disease” App -

- ▶▶ As a part of the government’s vision of “Digital India,” the app serves as a central platform connecting fish farmers, field-level officers, and fish health experts.
- ▶▶ The app enables seamless integration and transparent communication among stakeholders.

Benefits of the “Report Fish Disease” App

1. Data Collection and Mapping

- ▶▶ The app collects and stores data on temporal and spatial scales, providing a valuable resource for disease mapping and analysis.
- ▶▶ By analyzing disease cases, researchers and policymakers can gain insights into disease trends and develop targeted interventions.

2. Early Warning System

- ▶▶ The app establishes an early warning system to help farmers mitigate losses caused by diseases.
- ▶▶ Farmers receive scientific advice from experts, enabling them to take preventive measures promptly.
- ▶▶ Timely interventions can help minimize the impact of diseases on fish farms, ensuring sustainable production.

3. Improved Disease Reporting

- ▶▶ The app facilitates direct communication between fish farmers and district fisheries officers and scientists.
- ▶▶ Farmers can self-report diseases affecting their finfish, shrimps, and molluscs through the app.
- ▶▶ By providing scientific technical assistance, experts can promptly address reported issues.

4. Strengthening Disease Reporting

- ▶▶ The app empowers fish farmers to report disease outbreaks efficiently, reducing the chances of unnoticed or unreported incidents.
- ▶▶ By capturing real-time data, the app supports accurate disease surveillance at both the local and national levels.
- ▶▶ Strengthening disease reporting will aid in implementing effective control measures and preventing the spread of diseases.

Background -

1. National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD)

- ▶▶ For early detection of diseases, Government of India under PMMSY has implemented National Surveillance Programme on Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) Phase-II throughout the country.
- ▶▶ The program aims to meet national and international obligations through transparent reporting.
- ▶▶ The Department of Fisheries has allocated ₹33.78 crore for the second phase of NSPAAD for a period of three years.
- ▶▶ The app, developed by ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow, supports the NSPAAD initiative.

2. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- ▶▶ The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana is a flagship scheme dedicated to the holistic development of the fisheries sector.
- ▶▶ With an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores, the scheme aims to achieve significant milestones by 2024-25, including increasing fish production and export earnings and doubling the incomes of fishers and fish farmers.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Digital India is a campaign launched by the Government of India in 2015 to ensure that the Government’s services are made available to citizens electronically through improved online infrastructure.
- ▶▶ Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana was launched by Prime minister Shri Narendra Modi on 10th September 2020.
- ▶▶ “Report Fish Disease” app is developed by ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow

Amarnath Yatra 2023 : Jammu-Kashmir LG Flags off First Batch of Pilgrims

- ▶▶ The annual Amarnath Yatra 2023 commenced on Friday, June 30, as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, flagged off the first group of pilgrims. With over 3,400 devotees in the inaugural batch, the pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the southern Himalayas of Kashmir started with enthusiasm and under strict security arrangements.

Flag-Off Ceremony at Bhagwati Nagar Camp:

- ▶▶ Early on June 30, Manoj Sinha flagged off the initial batch of over 3,400 pilgrims from the Bhagwati Nagar camp in Jammu and Kashmir. The event marked the official commencement of the Amarnath Yatra 2023. With stringent security measures in place, the pilgrims embarked on their journey towards the twin base camps in Kashmir.



Warm Welcome and Enhanced Security :

- ▶▶ As the pilgrims crossed the Ramban-Banihal stretch, they were greeted with warmth and hospitality by the locals and security officials at Chandipur. To ensure the safety of the pilgrims, CRPF troopers provided escort services, while the Army and police maintained control along the highway, guaranteeing a secure passage.



Routes and Itinerary :

- ▶▶ The 62-day Amarnath Yatra will officially begin from Kashmir on Saturday. Pilgrims have the option to choose between two routes. The traditional 48-kilometer Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district offers a scenic and longer journey. Alternatively, the 14-kilometer Baltal route in the Ganderbal district is shorter but steeper, presenting a challenging yet rewarding experience.

Aadhaar-Based Face Authentication Transactions Reach Record High of 10.6 Million in May

- ▶▶ Since its establishment in October 2021, Aadhaar-based face authentication transactions for service delivery have achieved an unprecedented milestone, recording an all-time high of 10.6 million in May. This marks the second consecutive month with over 10 million face authentication transactions, showcasing a remarkable 38% increase compared to January 2023 figures. The popularity of this technology continues to rise, bolstered by the in-house AI and machine learning-based face authentication solution developed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).



Diverse Applications Empowered by UIDAI's Face Authentication Solution -

- ▶▶ The UIDAI's face authentication solution has been embraced by 47 entities, including state government offices, federal government ministries, and various banks. This versatile technology serves numerous purposes, including:
 - 1) Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana: Facilitating the registration and authentication of beneficiaries under this healthcare scheme.
 - 2) PM Kisan Scheme: Ensuring secure authentication of beneficiaries to enable effective implementation of this scheme.
 - 3) Digital Life Certificates: Enabling retirees to generate digital life certificates from the comfort of their homes.

- 4) Employee Attendance Tracking: Assisting government agencies in accurately monitoring employee attendance.
- 5) Bank Account Opening: Streamlining the account opening process at select major banks through business correspondents.

Andhra Pradesh's Implementation of Aadhaar-Based Facial Authentication -

- ▶▶ The government of Andhra Pradesh has implemented Aadhaar-based facial authentication for two key schemes:
 - 1) Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme: Utilizing facial authentication to facilitate fee reimbursement for eligible higher education students.
 - 2) EBC Nestham Scheme: Leveraging facial authentication for the efficient distribution of welfare benefits to economically backward women.

Advantages and Integration of Face Authentication -

- ▶▶ Face authentication offers several advantages, including ease of use and faster authentication. It serves as a supplementary authentication method alongside fingerprint and OTP-based authentications. In May, the UIDAI also completed 14.86 million Aadhaar upgrades in response to user requests, further enhancing the system's reliability and security.

Aadhaar e-KYC Service: Enabling Transparent Business Transactions

- ▶▶ The Aadhaar e-KYC service continues to play a vital role in the banking and non-banking financial services sectors. By providing a transparent and improved consumer experience, it facilitates seamless business transactions. In May alone, there were over 254 million e-KYC transactions, contributing to a total of more than 15.2 billion e-KYC transactions by the end of May 2023.

Competitive exams don't test you, but your authenticity of being an aspirant.

– Arpit parashar



International

UNGA adopts draft resolution introduced by India

- ▶▶ The UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) has adopted by consensus a draft resolution piloted by **India** to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honour fallen **peacekeepers**.

About the news :

- ▶▶ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' in the UN General Assembly Hall and it was adopted by consensus.



- ▶▶ The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda and the US.
- ▶▶ It received a record 190 co-sponsorships.

Significance of the memorial wall :

- ▶▶ It will remind people of not only the sacrifices of the fallen but also be a constant reminder of the cost of our decisions.

Peacekeepers :

- ▶▶ People who serve in various conflict zones, enduring harsh conditions and risking their lives to keep peace.
- ▶▶ They not only maintain peace and security, but also facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament and reintegration of former combatants.

Rank of countries according to the total number of peacekeepers contributed to United Nations operations :

RANK	COUNTRY	PEACEKEEPERS
1	Bangladesh	7233
2	Nepal	6251
3	India	6043
4	Rwanda	5927
5	Pakistan	4331

Statics:

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations with its headquarters in New York, United States.

- It is currently, an alliance of 193 member states which was founded in 1945 by United nations.
- International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is celebrated every year on May 29.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **India is the 3rd largest contributor to UN Peacekeeping missions**
- ▶▶ **Theme of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2023 is 'Peace begins with me'**
- ▶▶ **Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations is Ruchira Kamboj**

World Bank introduces its initial plan to enhance road safety in South Asia

- ▶▶ **The World Bank (WB)** has initiated its first-ever project dedicated solely to road safety in South Asia, with a financial agreement of USD 358 million signed with the government of Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Aim :

- ▶▶ The project aims at reducing fatalities and injuries caused by road crashes in high-risk highways, district roads and selected cities.
- ▶▶ The project will focus on two national highways in Bangladesh, namely Gazipur-Elenga (N4) and Natore-Nawabganj (N6).



What will all be covered in the World Bank Road Safety Project?

- ▶▶ The project will introduce comprehensive road safety measures, such as improved engineering designs, pedestrian facilities, emergency care, speed enforcement, and proper signboards in order to reduce road traffic deaths by over 30 percent on these two highways.
- ▶▶ Additionally, the project will also include construction of road signs, footpaths, speed breakers, zebra crossings, dividers, and bus bays in the five Bangladeshi divisions, namely Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Mymensingh to reduce accidents and fatalities.
- ▶▶ The project will establish an ambulance service, including bike ambulances with a toll-free number, which will quickly take the road crash victims to the hospitals. Furthermore, the project will upgrade trauma care facilities in selected district hospitals and Upazila Health Complexes.
- ▶▶ In order to control the speed of the vehicles, the project will install CCTV cameras on roads and create an electronic messaging system.
- ▶▶ The project will also provide for patrol vehicles and crash site cleaning equipment. Lastly, the project is designed to strengthen institutions to manage road safety effectively across the country, in addition to supporting the Bangladeshi government.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **World Bank President : Ajay Banga assumed office as the 14th President of the World Bank Group on June 2, 2023, following his selection for the position. Prior to his new role, he held the position of Vice Chairman at General Atlantic.**
- ▶▶ **World Bank Headquarter : Washington D.C**

UNESCO : U.S. to Rejoin in July

- ▶▶ **UNESCO has announced that the United States will rejoin the agency in July**, four years after leaving due to allegations of bias against Israel. The move to rejoin will require a vote by member states, but is expected to pass easily. UNESCO promotes educational, scientific and cultural causes, and designates World Heritage Sites globally.

US Withdraws from UNESCO due to Palestine's Membership :

- ▶▶ The US stopped funding UNESCO, worth millions of dollars, in 2011 after Palestine became a member of the agency. This decision was made by then President Barack Obama, who halted the funding due to Palestine's status as a non-sovereign state, not recognized by the United Nations. Although Palestine was included as a non-member observer state in 2012, granting them participation in General Assembly proceedings, they lacked voting rights. Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, Nimrod Barkan, supported the US decision, objecting to the "politicisation of UNESCO" caused by Palestine's membership.



Palestinian-Israeli Conflict and UNESCO's Role :

- ▶▶ The Palestinians claim territories captured by Israel in the 1967 war for their own independent state, while Israel believes that UN recognition is an attempt to pressure them into concessions. This has led to tensions and a pushback against UNESCO's alleged anti-Israel bias, including criticism of its occupation of East Jerusalem and declaring ancient Jewish sites as Palestinian heritage sites. US laws prohibit funding to any UN agency that recognizes Palestinian demands for their own state but an agreement was reached in 2022 to resume funding for UNESCO.

Impact of US Withdrawal from UNESCO :

- ▶▶ The US decision to withdraw from UNESCO in 2017, citing unpaid dues and China's influence in setting global education and technology standards, created a funding shortfall of up to \$600 million. Israel also reduced funding before exiting the agency. The US has now rejoined UNESCO for various reasons, including concerns over China's role in policy making and technology education.

US Early Withdrawal from the UN :

- ▶▶ The US Withdraws from the UN in the Past
- ▶▶ During the presidency of Ronald Reagan in 1984, the US exited from UNESCO as it perceived the agency to be poorly managed, fraudulent, and a tool of Soviet advancement. After nineteen

years, the US returned to the organization in 2003 led by George Bush, who expressed that the country will participate entirely in the mission of UNESCO to elevate human rights, learning, and tolerance, signifying commitment to human dignity.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **100% UNESCO Director General: Audrey Azoulay**
- ▶▶ **100% UN Chairman: António Guterres**

5 new countries elected as non-permanent members of the UNSC

▶▶ Five countries have been elected as non-permanent members of the **UN Security Council** following a vote in the General Assembly. **Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia** will join the premier body for maintaining international peace and security, starting in January, serving for a two-year period. They were among six countries vying for five non-permanent seats around the Council's horseshoe-shaped table that will become vacant at the end of the year.



▶▶ The five newly elected countries will join Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland as non-permanent members of the Council. They will take up seats currently occupied by Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates when their two-year terms end on 31 December.

How UN Security Council Works?

- ▶▶ The Security Council is composed of 15 countries, five of which – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – are permanent members, granting them the right to veto any resolution or decision.
- ▶▶ The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly, which comprises all 193 UN Member States, and in line with geographical distribution by region.
- ▶▶ Voting is conducted by secret ballot and candidates must receive a two-thirds majority, or 128 votes, even if they run uncontested.
- ▶▶ Overall, 192 countries voted to fill three Council seats allocated to the Africa and Asia-Pacific Groups, and one each for Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ▶▶ Slovenia beat Belarus in the race for Eastern Europe, receiving 153 votes versus 38, while Algeria, Guyana, Sierra Leone and the Republic of Korea ran unopposed.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ UN Security Council Founded : 24 October 1945;
- ▶▶ UN Security Council Headquarters : New York, New York, United States;
- ▶▶ UN Security Council Head : António Guterres.

UAE to Host World's Largest Conservation Conference in 2025

- ▶▶ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged victorious in the bid to host the prestigious World Conservation Congress (WCC) in 2025. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has chosen Abu Dhabi as the venue for this momentous event. The WCC, renowned as the world's largest gathering of conservationists, is expected to attract over 10,000 delegates from more than 160 countries. Taking place from October 10-21, 2025, the conference will serve as a critical platform for global environmentalists to address pressing challenges and formulate innovative solutions for a sustainable future.



A Global Confluence of Conservationists :

- ▶▶ The 2025 WCC will witness an unprecedented convergence of conservationists, environmentalists, scientists, policymakers, and activists from around the world. With an estimated attendance of 10,000-15,000 delegates, the conference will foster collaboration and knowledge exchange on a scale never seen before. Participants will have the opportunity to network, share insights, and forge partnerships that can drive effective conservation efforts worldwide.

Tackling Pressing Environmental Challenges -

- ▶▶ The WCC in Abu Dhabi will serve as a vital platform to address the most urgent environmental challenges facing our planet. Delegates will engage in discussions, workshops, and presentations covering a wide range of topics, including climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, ocean conservation, and sustainable development. The conference will provide a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences, explore innovative solutions, and collectively strategize to mitigate these threats and safeguard our natural heritage.

Proposals and Recommendations for Future Conservation Efforts -

- ▶▶ One of the highlights of the 2025 WCC will be the presentation of crucial proposals and recommendations that will shape future conservation initiatives. Through collaborative efforts and interdisciplinary dialogues, the conference aims to develop actionable strategies to address complex environmental issues. Delegates will work together to draft resolutions, policies, and frameworks that can guide conservation efforts at local, national, and international levels. These outcomes have the potential to revolutionize conservation practices and set the stage for a sustainable future.

WMO gets Celeste Saulo as its 1st female Secretary-General

▶▶ **Celeste Saulo of Argentina** has been appointed as the **first female Secretary-General** of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**. Saulo won a landslide vote at the UN Climate and weather agency's Congress in Geneva. Saulo has served as the director of Argentina's National Meteorological Service since 2014.



▶▶ The leadership election of the World Meteorological Congress takes place every four years. The agency plays a key role in coordinating international meteorological work. It relies on satellites and thousands of weather stations to measure key parameters of the atmosphere, land and ocean.

About the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) : ▶▶

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) responsible for international cooperation in the field of meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences. The WMO was founded in 1950 and has 193 Member States. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

The WMO's main goals are to :

- ▶▶ Provide a framework for international cooperation in meteorology, operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences;
- ▶▶ Promote the establishment of networks for the observation of the Earth's atmosphere, oceans and land surface;
- ▶▶ Facilitate the exchange of meteorological and hydrological data and products;
- ▶▶ Provide technical assistance to developing countries;
- ▶▶ Promote the application of meteorology, operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences to the benefit of humanity.

India and Serbia Aim for 1 Billion Euros Bilateral Trade Target by the End of the Decade: MEA

▶▶ **India and Serbia** have set an ambitious target of achieving a bilateral trade volume of one billion euros by the end of the decade. President Droupadi Murmu of India and her Serbian counterpart, Aleksandar Vucic, have expressed their commitment to strengthen bilateral relations and explore new areas of cooperation. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) highlighted the significant discussions and engagements between the two leaders during President Murmu's visit to Serbia.

Targeting Bilateral Trade Expansion :

▶▶ President Droupadi Murmu and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic agreed to set a target for

bilateral trade between the two countries to reach one billion euros, aiming to surpass the current trade volume of 32 crore Euros. The MEA Secretary-West, Sanjay Verma, confirmed this during a media briefing.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations :

- ▶▶ Both leaders reiterated their commitment to existing agreements and explored opportunities to enhance cooperation across various sectors. They discussed the importance of upholding the rule of law, respecting sovereignty, and preserving territorial integrity. President Vucic described Serbia’s relationship with India as a fraternity and encouraged President Murmu to consider Serbia as a second motherland.



Areas of Cooperation :

- ▶▶ President Vucic identified six major areas of cooperation for further collaboration between India and Serbia. These areas include defense and military technology cooperation, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, industrial cooperation, information technology, artificial intelligence, cultural cooperation (including film production), and cemetery graphics.

Promoting Culture, Cinema, and Tourism :

- ▶▶ Cultural cooperation, particularly in cinema and tourism, emerged as a recurring theme in the discussions. Serbia expressed its interest in attracting Indian filmmakers for shooting and post-production activities. President Vucic highlighted the benefits of collaboration between the film industry and tourism, contributing to better mutual understanding and business relations. Serbia also offered attractive concessions, such as cashback facilities, to encourage filming in the country.

China Unveils World’s Most Powerful Hypersonic Wind Tunnel for Advancing Aerospace Ambitions

- ▶▶ China has achieved a major milestone in its pursuit of **hypersonic technology** with the completion of the world’s most powerful wind tunnel. Known as the JF-22, this groundbreaking facility is set to play a pivotal role in China’s hypersonic ambitions, enabling the country to make significant strides in the development of hypersonic vehicles. The JF-22 wind tunnel, located in Beijing’s Huairou district, boasts impressive capabilities, including the ability to simulate hypersonic flight conditions at speeds up to Mach 30.



Understanding the Challenges of Hypersonic Flight :

- ▶▶ Hypersonic flight poses numerous challenges, including managing extreme heat and pressure, ensuring stable flight paths, and guaranteeing passenger safety. The JF-22 wind tunnel provides a controlled

environment for researchers to study these complex physics and overcome the technical hurdles associated with hypersonic flight. By simulating hypersonic conditions, researchers can better understand the interaction of hypersonic vehicles with their surroundings and develop innovative technologies to enhance performance and safety.

- ▶▶ Importance of Wind Tunnels in Hypersonic Research:
- ▶▶ Wind tunnels like the JF-22 are crucial tools in advancing hypersonic technology. These facilities allow for systematic testing and analysis of vehicles in controlled environments. By subjecting models or prototypes to high-speed airflow, researchers can identify potential issues or design flaws before building and flying actual vehicles. This reduces the risk of failure or accidents and enables the development of robust and reliable hypersonic systems.

Innovative Approach of the JF-22 Wind Tunnel :

- ▶▶ What sets the JF-22 wind tunnel apart is its innovative approach to generating airflow. Instead of traditional expansion methods, the JF-22 employs a shock wave generator called a “reflected direct shock wave driver.” This system utilizes precisely timed explosions to create shock waves that converge, generating high-speed airflow within the tunnel. While this method has its drawbacks, such as noise, air pollution, and safety concerns, it provides the rapid and intense energy bursts required for hypersonic testing.

Oman Creates History as First Foreign Government to Promote Country through Yoga

- ▶▶ In a pioneering initiative, the Indian Embassy in the **Sultanate of Oman** has introduced an innovative video called ‘**Soulful Yoga, Serene Oman**’ on the eve of the **International Day of Yoga 2023**. The video showcases yoga enthusiasts from different countries performing beautiful yoga poses against stunning backdrops such as mountains, beaches, and sand dunes in and around Muscat.

What makes this video unique is its collaboration with the Government of Oman ?



- ▶▶ The Indian Embassy partnered with ‘Visit Oman,’ a subsidiary of Oman’s Ministry of Tourism, to produce the video. This marks the first instance of a foreign government using yoga to promote its own country. The video not only demonstrates the increasing popularity and acceptance of yoga as a health practice worldwide but also highlights its growing prominence in Oman.
- ▶▶ With a significant Indian community of 700,000 in Oman, yoga has gained considerable traction in recent years. The Indian Embassy has been actively involved in promoting yoga in Oman through various initiatives. In 2022, ‘Muscat Yog Mahotsav,’ a 75-day celebration featuring over 75 yoga events across major cities in Oman timed with the 75 years of India’s independence under ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.’

Embassy Launches Oman Yoga Yatra: A five-month-long journey -

- ▶▶ In a bid to spread awareness about the transformative power of yoga, the Indian Embassy has launched the ‘Oman Yoga Yatra.’ This initiative aims to engage thousands of participants from diverse backgrounds, leading up to a grand celebration of the International Day of Yoga 2023.

Large-Scale Celebration on June 21, 2023 -

- ▶▶ Scheduled for June 21, 2023, the event is set to witness the participation of over 2,000 individuals. People from various walks of life will come together to experience the profound impact of yoga on their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. The celebration will serve as a testament to the universal appeal and practice of yoga.

Yoga for Sports: Special Session for Oman’s National Hockey Teams -

- ▶▶ Recognizing the significance of yoga in sports, the Indian Embassy organized a special yoga session for the Men’s and Women’s National Hockey teams of Oman. By emphasizing the importance of yoga in enhancing athletic performance and overall well-being, this initiative highlights the integration of yoga principles into the realm of sports.

PM Modi and President Biden Exchange Unique Gifts During White House Visit

- ▶▶ During Prime Minister **Narendra Modi’s** visit to the United States and his meeting with President **Joe Biden** at the White House, both leaders exchanged unique and thoughtful gifts as a symbol of friendship and diplomacy. These gifts not only represented the cultural heritage of India and the United States but also showcased the personal connection between the two leaders. Here are the details of the gifts exchanged between PM Modi and President Biden:



Gifts from PM Modi to President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden :

1. **Special Sandalwood Box:** Prime Minister Modi presented a special sandalwood box to President Biden. This box was meticulously handcrafted by a master craftsman from Jaipur, showcasing the exquisite artistry and craftsmanship of India. The box contained an idol of Lord Ganesha, a revered deity in Hinduism, symbolizing wisdom, success, and good fortune. Additionally, it included a Diya, an oil lamp that holds great spiritual significance in Indian culture.
2. **Lab-Grown Diamond:** As a gesture of appreciation, PM Modi gifted a 7.5-carat lab-grown diamond to First Lady Jill Biden. This diamond was specifically chosen for its ability to reflect the chemical and optical properties of earth-mined diamonds. The exquisite diamond was placed in a Papier mache box called kar-e-kalamdani, adding to its uniqueness and elegance.

Gifts from President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden to PM Modi :

1. **Antique American Book Galley:** President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden presented PM Modi with a handmade, antique American book galley from the early 20th century. This gift symbolized

the rich literary heritage and shared love for knowledge between the United States and India. The book galley held historical significance, representing the importance of cultural exchange and intellectual collaboration.

2. **Vintage American Camera and Prints:** Accompanying the book galley, the Bidens gifted PM Modi a vintage American camera, evoking the spirit of artistic expression and photography. The camera was accompanied by an archival facsimile print of George Eastman's Patent of the first Kodak camera, paying homage to the invention that revolutionized photography. Additionally, a hardcover book on American wildlife photography and a signed, first edition copy of 'Collected Poems of Robert Frost' were included, celebrating American literature and nature.

Estonia legalizes same-sex marriage, a first for Central Europe

- ▶▶ **Estonia's** parliament passed a law legalising same-sex marriage, making it the first central European nation to do so. While much of western Europe has already legalised same-sex marriage, it remains prohibited in many former communist central European countries that were once part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.



About the Estonia same-sex marriage bill :

- ▶▶ The bill was passed with 55 votes in the 101-seat parliament, with support from the coalition of liberal and social democratic parties led by Prime Minister Kallas, who won the 2023 election.
- The new law will become effective in 2024. A recent poll by the Centre for Human Rights found that 53% of Estonians support same-sex marriage, compared to 34% a decade ago.
- However, many still consider homosexuality to be unacceptable, including a significant portion of the ethnic-Russian minority, which makes up one quarter of the country's population.

Why same-sex marriage ?

- ▶▶ Half of the Estonian LGBTQ+ community has experienced harassment recently, according to the government.
- ▶▶ Tomas Jermalavicius, Head of Studies at the International Centre for Defence and Security, believes that Estonia's successful legalisation of same-sex marriage was aided by shifting public opinion and Kallas' strong electoral victory.
- ▶▶ Latvia and Lithuania, the other two Baltic nations formerly annexed by the Soviet Union, have yet to legalise same-sex marriage, with same-sex partnership bills stuck in their parliaments.

Background of Estonia same-sex marriage bill :

- ▶▶ The bill was introduced in October 2020, but due to COVID-19-related delays, it was not discussed until 2021.
- ▶▶ The bill would grant same-sex couples the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples, including the right to adopt and inherit property.

- ▶▶ Currently, Estonia only recognizes registered partnerships, which do not offer the same level of legal protection as marriage.
- ▶▶ The bill has faced opposition from conservative and religious groups who argue that it goes against traditional family values and the institution of marriage.
- ▶▶ However, supporters argue that denying same-sex couples the right to marry is a violation of their human rights and creates inequality under the law.
- ▶▶ The Estonian parliament is expected to vote on the bill in 2021, but it was unclear back then. But now the bill has passed, Estonia becomes the first country in the Baltic region to legalize same-sex marriage.
- ▶▶ Estonia has made significant strides in LGBTQ+ rights in recent years. In 2014, the country legalised same-sex partnerships and in 2016, the government passed an anti-discrimination law that protects LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination in employment, education, and other areas.

GE Aerospace Signs MoU with HAL to Produce Fighter Jet Engines for IAF: Marking a New Era for India-US Defence Ties

- ▶▶ In a significant development during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the United States, **General Electric (GE) Aerospace** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, a state-run Indian aerospace company. The MoU paves the way for the joint production of fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and signifies a new era in the India-US partnership. This agreement holds immense strategic importance, as while many countries manufacture their own fighter aircraft, only a select few possess the advanced technology required to produce jet engines.



only a select few possess the advanced technology required to produce jet engines.

Transfer of Technology and Indigenously Developed Capabilities -

- ▶▶ The MoU between GE Aerospace and HAL includes provisions for a significant transfer of technology and the indigenously developed production of fighter jet engines. The agreement encompasses the potential joint production of GE Aerospace's F414 engines in India. GE Aerospace is currently working with the US government to secure the necessary export authorization for this collaboration. The finalization of the deal is contingent upon the resolution of detailed aspects and obtaining approval from the US Congress, which is expected to take approximately 30 days.

HAL's Role in Engine Production -

- ▶▶ Once the necessary approvals are obtained, HAL will undertake the production of jet engines at its Engine Division facility in Bengaluru. It is important to note that the collaboration will not be structured as a joint venture. The partnership between GE Aerospace and HAL represents a significant milestone for India's aviation industry, as it marks the beginning of a new era in the country's relationship with the United States.

Significance of Jet Engine Technology -

- ▶▶ Jet engine technology is considered the pinnacle of aviation achievements. While several nations, including India, have successfully developed their own fighter aircraft, the production of jet engines has remained a challenge. With this collaboration, India aims to overcome its decades-long quest to manufacture its own jet engines, enabling the country to achieve self-reliance in this critical area of aerospace technology.

Titanic sub destroyed in 'catastrophic implosion'

- ▶▶ A deep-sea submersible named **Titan**, operated by OceanGate Expeditions, met a devastating end during its mission to explore the century-old wreck of the Titanic. The United States Coast Guard announced that the submersible was discovered in pieces, resulting from a catastrophic implosion that claimed the lives of all five people on board. The multinational search for the vessel concluded with the detection of a debris field, including major fragments of the Titan, near the bow of the Titanic in the remote depths of the North Atlantic.



Loss of Contact and Implosion -

- ▶▶ The Titan had been missing since it lost contact with its surface support ship from a week. Coast Guard officials stated that the debris field aligned with the characteristics of a catastrophic implosion of the submersible. The exact cause of the implosion and subsequent destruction of the Titan remains unknown.

The Victims and Their Legacy -

- ▶▶ OceanGate confirmed that there were no survivors among the five men on board the Titan. The crew included Stockton Rush, the founder and CEO of OceanGate Expeditions, who was piloting the submersible. The other victims were British billionaire and explorer Hamish Harding, Pakistani-born businessman Shahzada Dawood and his 19-year-old son Suleman (both British citizens), and French oceanographer and renowned Titanic expert Paul-Henri Nargeolet.

Extensive Search Efforts -

- ▶▶ Multiple countries, including the United States, Canada, France, and Britain, participated in a five-day search operation involving aircraft and vessels. The search covered thousands of square miles of open seas in hopes of locating the Titan. The global attention received by this search overshadowed another maritime tragedy involving a migrant vessel off the coast of Greece, which claimed the lives of hundreds of people.

India's Progress Recognized : Removed from UN Secretary-General's Report on Impact of Armed Conflict on Children

- ▶▶ India has been removed from the UN Secretary-General's annual report on the impact of armed conflict on children, signaling the country's improved measures to protect children. The decision by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres acknowledges India's commitment to child protection and highlights the positive outcomes of its technical mission and a workshop on strengthening child protection. This development marks a significant milestone for India, which had been included in the report since 2010.



India's Inclusion and Previous Concerns :

- ▶▶ Initially, India was listed in the report alongside other countries such as Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Lake Chad Basin, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the Philippines. The inclusion of India was based on allegations of armed groups recruiting young boys in Jammu and Kashmir and the detainment of boys by security forces due to their association with such groups.

Engagement and Collaborative Efforts :

- ▶▶ In the previous report, Secretary-General Guterres commended the Indian government's engagement with his special representative, expressing optimism about India's removal from the list of concerns. The latest report on Children and Armed Conflict in 2023 confirms India's removal, attributing it to the government's proactive measures to protect children. Guterres also recognizes a workshop organized by India in Jammu and Kashmir in November 2022, which saw the participation of the United Nations.

India's Commitment and Collaboration :

- ▶▶ Virginia Gamba, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, acknowledged India's close collaboration with the United Nations over the past two years. This collaboration demonstrates India's dedication to prevention and the establishment of sustainable measures to safeguard children.

Global Scenario :

- ▶▶ **Disproportionate Impact on Children:** Globally, children continue to bear a disproportionate brunt of armed conflict, as highlighted in Guterres' annual report. In 2022, the United Nations verified a staggering 27,180 grave violations, encompassing 24,300 violations committed during that year and an additional 2,880 violations committed earlier but verified in 2022. These violations affected 18,890 children across 24 situations and one regional monitoring arrangement. The report underscores the prevalence of grave violations such as killing, maiming, recruitment and use, abduction, and detention of children.

Sports

Asia Cup 2023 Schedule, Date, Venue & Teams

- ▶▶ The Asia Cup 2023 is scheduled to be held in Pakistan from 31 August to 17 September 2023. The tournament will be a 50-over ODI tournament, with all matches played at international standard venues. The 2023 Edition will feature two groups, with two teams from each group qualifying for the Super Four stage. The top two teams from the Super Four stage will then face off in the final.



Asia Cup Time Table 2023

Cricet Event	Asia Cup 2023
Council Name	Asian Cricket Council (ACC)
Hosting Country Names	Sri Lanka and Pakistan
Total Teams	6 Teams
Total Matches	13 Matches
Teams	Pakistan, Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka
Asia Cup Start Date	31st August 2023
Asia Cup 2023 Final Match	17 September 2023
Schedule Release date	June Month
Streaming Partners	Hotstar, Jio Cinema, Amazon Prime, Star Sports,
ACC Official Website	asiancricket.org

The following are the venues for the Asia Cup 2023

- ▶▶ **Pakistan and Sri Lanka** will host the Asia Cup cricket tournament in 2023. Keep watching this space for updates on the venue.

Asia Cup 2023 Groups

- ▶▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India Secretary Jay Sah confirmed that India and Pakistan are in the same group for ODI Asia Cup 2023.

Group 1 Teams : India, Pakistan, Nepal

Group 2 Teams : Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh

Schedule for the Asia Cup 2023

Date of Match	Team Name	Venue
31st Augst 2023	India Vs Pakistan	Sri Lanka
01 September 2023	Sri Lanka Vs Afghanistan	Pakistan
02 September 2023	Bangladesh Vs Afghanistan	Pakistan
03 September 2023	India Vs Qualifier	Pakistan
04 September 2023	Sri Lanka Vs Bangladesh	Pakistan
05 September 2023	Pakistan Vs Qualifier	Sri Lanka
06 September 2023	B1 Vs B2	Sri Lanka
07 September 2023	A1 Vs A2	Sri Lanka
09 September 2023	A1 Vs B1	Sri Lanka
11 September 2023	A2 Vs B2	Sri Lanka
13 September 2023	A1 Vs B2	Sri Lanka
15 September 2023	B1 VS A2	Sri Lanka
17 September 2023	Final Match	Sri Lanka

Pakistan's Nahida Khan announces retirement from international cricket

- ▶▶ Pakistan women's cricketer **Nahida Khan** has announced her retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a remarkable career that spanned over a decade. The 36-year-old opening batter made her debut for the national team in February 2009 against Sri Lanka and went on to represent Pakistan in over 100 matches across formats. With numerous records and achievements to her name, Nahida leaves behind a legacy that will be remembered in women's cricket in Pakistan.



A Distinguished Career :

- ▶▶ Nahida Khan's retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable journey that has left an indelible mark on the women's cricket scene in Pakistan. Over the course of her career, Nahida has represented her country with passion and dedication, earning her place as one of Pakistan's most respected cricketers.

Record-Breaking Feats :

- ▶▶ During her time on the field, Nahida Khan achieved several notable milestones. She holds the record for the most catches in an ODI innings, having caught the ball four times in a match against

Sri Lanka in 2018. In a career spanning 66 ODIs, Nahida accumulated 1410 runs, showcasing her ability as a reliable and consistent opening batter. In addition, she showcased her skills in the T20I format, accumulating 604 runs in 54 matches.

World Cup Appearances :

- ▶▶ Nahida Khan’s contributions to Pakistan cricket extend to the grand stages of the ICC Women’s World Cups. She proudly represented Pakistan in three ODI World Cups (2013, 2017, and 2022) and four T20I World Cups (2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018). Her experience and presence in these prestigious tournaments have been invaluable to the team.

FIFA U20 World Cup 2023 - Uruguay beat Italy 1-0

- ▶▶ **Uruguay beat Italy 1-0** to win its first Under-20 World Cup title held in Argentina. The Celeste’s victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament. Luciano Rodríguez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute in a header from close range. More than 40,000 people, mostly cheering for Uruguay, attended the match at the Diego Maradona Stadium. FIFA President Gianni Infantino was also present. France finished third, defeating South Korea 3-2 in the third-place playoff.



FIFA U20 World Cup 2023 Awardee’s

- ▶▶ Nigeria won the Golden Boot award, with 10 goals.
- ▶▶ Argentina’s Thiago Almada won the Golden Ball award, as the tournament’s best player.

History of FIFA U20 World Cup

- ▶▶ The tournament was first held in 1977 as the FIFA World Youth Championship.
- ▶▶ The name was changed to the FIFA U-20 World Cup in 2005.
- ▶▶ The tournament is held every two years, in odd-numbered years.
- ▶▶ Twelve different nations have won the title, with Argentina being the most successful team with six titles.
- ▶▶ Brazil has won five titles, while Portugal, Nigeria, Spain, and Uruguay have each won two titles.
- ▶▶ The tournament has been used as a showcase for some of the best young talent in the world, with players such as
- ▶▶ Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi, and Neymar all winning the Golden Ball award as the tournament’s best player.

KIIT-hosted 1st Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav Comes to an End in Odisha

- ▶▶ The **KIIT** hosted the inaugural **Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav**, which is a spectacular sporting event that came to a close on June 12. The event has attracted around 5,000 indigenous athletes and 1,000 officials who represent 26 states.

1st Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav: Why is it important ?

- ▶▶ It is a joint endeavor of the **Odisha Government** and the **Union Ministry of Culture**.
- ▶▶ The event's opening ceremony was attended by Governor **Prof Ganeshi Lal**, Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, and the founder of KIIT and KISS, **Dr Achyuta Samanta**.
- ▶▶ During the ceremony, the speakers expressed their belief that **KIIT** and **KISS** were the logical choices to host the event.
- ▶▶ **Dr Samanta** highlighted the event's exceptional nature, specifically its merger of sports and culture, tribal communities and sports, and the amalgamation of tradition and modernity.



Overall Standings -

- ▶▶ The first-ever Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav, a sporting event dedicated to indigenous communities, was a grand display of skill and ability.
- ▶▶ A total of 5,000 tribal athletes from 26 Indian states participated in this impressive event.
- ▶▶ **Karnataka** demonstrated their strong competitive nature and achieved the second-place position in the overall standings.
- ▶▶ **Jharkhand** also exhibited their remarkable talent and secured the third-place position, adding to the thrill and intensity of the occasion.
- ▶▶ **Odisha** displayed their impressive abilities in the competitive sport of Kabaddi, triumphing in the men's division to showcase their superiority.
- ▶▶ On the other hand, **Karnataka** demonstrated their strength and determination in the women's division, claiming the top spot.
- ▶▶ Likewise, in the exciting sport of volleyball, **Karnataka** exhibited outstanding teamwork and strategic prowess, securing first place in both the men's and women's categories.

3rd Khelo India University Games Concludes in Varanasi

- ▶▶ The third edition of the **Khelo India University Games** concluded at the IIT BHU campus in Varanasi. The closing ceremony was attended by **Anurag Singh Thakur**, the Union Youth

Affairs and Sports Minister, **Nishith Pramanik**, the Union Minister of State for Sports, and **Yogi Adityanath**, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.
3rd Khelo India University Games : Closing Ceremony



- ▶▶ During his speech at the closing ceremony, Anurag Singh Thakur highlighted that the Khelo India campaign, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has provided the biggest platform for identifying talented players in the country. He emphasized that the campaign's objective is not only to enhance sports infrastructure but also to nurture and support talented athletes.
- ▶▶ Thakur commended the Uttar Pradesh government for successfully organizing the 3rd Khelo India University Games and mentioned the positive development of sports facilities and sports culture in the state.
- ▶▶ During the closing ceremony of the third Khelo India Games, Union Ministers, dignitaries, players, and attendees paid their respects to the victims of the Balasore train accident. They observed a two-minute silence in honor of the departed souls.

About 3rd Khelo India University Games -

- ▶▶ Punjab University emerged as the overall champions once again at the Khelo India University Games, reclaiming their title after missing out in the previous edition.
- ▶▶ Despite Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, winning all the gold medals in Fencing, they fell short on the final day of the competition.
- ▶▶ Panjab University concluded the Games with a total of 69 medals, including 26 gold, 17 silver, and 26 bronze.
- ▶▶ Guru Nanak Dev University secured 24 gold, 27 silver, and 17 bronze medals, securing their place in the top three for the first time.
- ▶▶ Jain University from Karnataka, last year's champions, finished third with 16 gold, 10 silver, and six bronze medals.
- ▶▶ Notably, Jain University had the most successful male and female athletes of the Khelo India University Games 2022.

India Defeat Pakistan To Become Hockey Junior Asia Cup Champions

- ▶▶ **The Indian junior men's hockey team** maintained its continental supremacy by beating arch-rivals **Pakistan 2-1** to become Asia Cup champions in **Salalah, Oman**. Angad Bir Singh struck in the 13th minute and Arajjeet Singh Hundal in the 20th for India, while Pakistan managed to pull one back with Abdul Basharat scoring in the 37th minute. This was India's fourth title having been crowned champions on three previous occasions in 2004, 2008 and 2015. Meanwhile, Pakistan has won the tournament in 1987, 1992 and 1996.

- ▶▶ Araijeet Singh Hundal, India's top-scorer at Men's Junior Asia Cup hockey 2023 with eight goals, doubled the lead five minutes into the second quarter. Earlier, India and Pakistan, pitted in the same pool, remained undefeated in the group stage after the India vs Pakistan hockey match ended in a 1-1 draw. India, however, managed to top the group as they had a better goal difference over second-placed Pakistan.
- ▶▶ In the semi-finals, India trounced the Republic of Korea 9-1 while Pakistan defeated Malaysia 6-2. The Men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament in Oman was held after eight years. The 2021 edition was cancelled due to COVID-19.



T20 World Cup Winners List from 2007 to 2023 (Updated)

- ▶▶ The list below provides information on the winners of the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup from 2007 to 2022**. The latest edition of the tournament, held in 2022 in Australia, saw the final match taking place on 13th November at Melbourne Cricket Ground between Pakistan and England. England emerged victorious in the final, becoming the champions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. For a comprehensive list of previous winners, refer to the table below.

T20 WORLD CUP WINNERS LIST FROM 2007 TO 2023

 2007	 2009	 2010	 2012
 2014	 2016	 2021	 2022

ICC Men's T20 World Cup Winners List (2007-2022)		
Year	Host Country	Winner
2007	South Africa	India
2009	England	Pakistan
2010	West Indies	England
2012	Sri Lanka	West Indies
2014	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka
2016	India	West Indies
2021	UAE/Oman	Australia
2022	Australia	England

ICC Men's T20 World Cup Winners List

Year	Winner	Runner-up	Player of the Series	Top Run Scorer	Highest Wicket Taker	Venue
2007	India	Pakistan	Shahid Afridi	Matthew Hayden	Umar Gul	South Africa
2009	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Tillakaratne Dilshan	Tillakaratne Dilshan	Umar Gul	England
2010	England	Australia	Kevin Pietersen	Mahela Jayawardene	Dirk Nannes	West Indies
2012	West Indies	Sri Lanka	Shane Watson	Shane Watson	Ajantha Mendis	Sri Lanka
2014	Sri Lanka	India	Virat Kohli	Virat Kohli	Ajantha Mendis	Bangladesh
2016	West Indies	England	Virat Kohli	Tamim Iqbal	Mustafizur Rahman	India
2021	Australia	New Zealand	Mitchell Marsh	Babar Azam	Adam Zampa	UAE/Oman
2022	England	Pakistan	Sam Curran	Virat Kohli	Wanindu Hasaranga	Australia

ICC Men's T20 World Cup Winner List- Country-Wise

Country Name	No. of times Winner	Year
West Indies	2	2012, 2016
India	1	2007
Pakistan	1	2009
England	2	2010, 2022
Sri Lanka	1	2014
Australia	1	2021

T20 World Cup 2022 Winner -

- ▶▶ The T20 World Cup 2022 has concluded, and England emerged as the new champions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. In the first semifinal, Pakistan competed against New Zealand, and Pakistan emerged victorious, becoming the first team to secure a spot in the final of the ICC T20 Men's World Cup 2022. The second semifinal featured a match between India and England, with England winning by 10 wickets and becoming the second team to qualify for the finals.

French Open 2023: Novak Djokovic beats Casper Ruud

- ▶▶ **Novak Djokovic** won his men's-record **23rd Grand Slam title** with a victory over **Casper Ruud** in French Open Final. Djokovic broke a tie with rival Rafael Nadal for the most major singles trophies in the history of men's tennis. The Serb moves into the outright lead of men's majors ahead of Rafael Nadal. He also becomes the first man to win all four majors at least three times. By winning his 23rd Slam title at the French Open beating Norwegian world No. 4 Casper Ruud 7-6(1), 6-3, 7-5 in the final. Djokovic broke away from Rafael Nadal in the men's pecking order. Joining Serena Williams on the most Slam count by any player in the Open Era, he also became the first man to win all the Majors at least thrice.

▶▶ This year, the **Roland Garros tournament or French open** has seen a significant increase in the total prize money, reaching an impressive •43.9 million. This reflects a notable rise of 13.76 percent compared to the previous year. As a result of his outstanding performance at the tournament, Djokovic will be awarded a prize money of •2,300,000 (\$2,496,039), which is a 4.55 percent increase from the amount given twelve months ago. The runner-up, Casper Ruud, will receive •1,150,000 (\$1,248,019) as a recognition of his commendable efforts in the competition.



List of Winners French Open 2023

Title	Winner	Runner up
Men’s Singles	Novak Djokovic	Casper Ruud
Women’s Singles	IgaEwiłtek	Karolina Muchova
Men’s doubles	Ivan Dodigand AustinKrajicek	Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen
Women’s doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei and Wang Xinyu	Taylor Townsend and Leylah Fernandez
Mixed doubles	Miyu Kato and Tim Pütz	Bianca Andreescu and Michael Venus

The History of the French Open: A Century of Tennis Excellence

- ▶▶ The French Open is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, and it has been held annually since 1891. The tournament was originally known as the French Championships, and it was only open to French players or foreign players who were members of a French club. In 1925, the tournament was opened to all players, and it has been one of the most prestigious tennis tournaments in the world ever since.
- ▶▶ The French Open is played on clay courts, which are slower than the grass courts of Wimbledon and the hard courts of the US Open. This makes for a more strategic and physical game, and it has led to some of the most exciting and memorable matches in tennis history.

ICC Player of the Month for May 2023 revealed

▶▶ **Harry Tector** has been selected as the **ICC Men’s Player of the Month for May**, marking Ireland’s first-ever recipient of the award. He emerged victorious in a tough competition against the renowned Pakistani cricketer **Babar Azam** and Bangladesh’s promising young batter **Najmul Hossain Shanto**. On the other hand, the ICC Women’s Player of the Month for May 2023 has been awarded to **ThipatchaPutthawong (Thailand)**, a talented 19-year-old player. She



follows in the footsteps of her compatriot NaruemolChaiwai, who won the award last month.

- ▶▶ Both players were selected as the standout performers following a vote conducted among a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and media representatives, and global cricket fans registered at icc-cricket.com, who had been voting since the nominees were announced last week.

Important points :

- ▶▶ Tector has been enjoying a sustained period of good batting form in One-Day International (ODI) cricket dating back to July 2022, and his recent run-scoring feats have seen him shoot up to a highest-ever position of seventh spot in the MRF Tyres ICC Men’s ODI batting rankings.
- ▶▶ Newly crowned ICC Women’s Player of the Month ThipatchaPutthawong became Thailand’s latest winner of the award following a flurry of impressive bowling figures in her country’s gold-medal winning performance at the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in May. The left-armer took 11 wickets in four T20Is during the performance period at a staggering average of 1.54, enjoying successive spells of four wickets for three runs, three for three, and three for two against the Philippines, Malaysia and Myanmar respectively in Thailand’s surge to gold.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;**
- ▶▶ **ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;**
- ▶▶ **ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.**

Sunil Kumar wins decathlon gold at Asian U20 Athletics Championship

- ▶▶ India’s **Sunil Kumar** scored 7003 points and clinched gold in men’s decathlon at the **Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Yecheon, South Korea**. Apart from Sunil’s heroics, Pooja clinched women’s high jump silver after finishing with a 1.82m jump while Bushra Khan, secured silver in women’s 3000m race. In the women’s 4x100m relay, India secured bronze with a time of 45.36s.
- ▶▶ Siddharth Choudhary bagged gold medal in the men’s Shot Put with a throw of 19.52m while ShivamLohakare won silver in Javelin throw with a throw of 72.34m. Sharuk Khan clocked 8:51.74 in men’s 3000m steeplechase to add another silver to India’s medal tally.



India’s Overall Medal -

- ▶▶ India is placed third in the overall rankings with 12 medals – Three each of gold, silver and bronze. Japan tops the chart with 10 golds and 17 medals overall while China is placed second with 14 medals.

Max Verstappen wins Spanish Grand Prix 2023

- ▶▶ **Max Verstappen** emerged victorious at the **Spanish Grand Prix**, clinching the pole position and extending his lead in the Formula One championship by 53 points. Red Bull's dominance continued as they celebrated their seventh consecutive triumph of the season.

Overview of the race :

- ▶▶ Lewis Hamilton, a seven-time world champion, secured the second spot for Mercedes but trailed a substantial 24.090 seconds behind Verstappen. Hamilton's teammate, George Russell, completed the podium, marking a successful outing for the Mercedes team at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya, despite the cloudy yet dry conditions.
- ▶▶ Sergio Perez of Red Bull, Verstappen's closest contender in what seems to be a season destined to crown the Dutch prodigy for the third time, fought back from an 11th-place start to finish fourth.
- ▶▶ Verstappen's triumph in Spain marked his fifth win of the season, his third consecutive victory, and his third triumph in Spain. It also marked his 40th Formula One win, adding to his remarkable track record.



Previous race's winners list :

Race	Winner
Monaco Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Bahrain Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Saudi Arabia Grand Prix 2023	Sergio Pérez
Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023	Sergio Pérez

Cristiano Ronaldo sets Guinness World Record to make 200 International Caps

- ▶▶ **Cristiano Ronaldo** has received a **Guinness World Record** after reaching **200 international caps for Portugal**. The legendary forward is making his 200th appearance for A Selecao das Quinas in their Euro 2024 qualifier against Iceland. The 38-year-old has broken another record and is the most-capped player in international football.
- ▶▶ Cristiano Ronaldo's achievement has been recognized by the Guinness Book of Records. The Portugal captain was presented with a certificate for



his accomplishment before his nation's clash against Iceland.

- ▶▶ It is yet another record to add to Ronaldo's long list of accomplishments in international football. The Al Nassr frontman is the all-time top goalscorer in international football with 122 goals in 200 games to date. The legendary forward is showing no signs of stopping and isn't intending on doing so anytime soon. The 38-year-old spoke this week about his future with the Portugal national team.

Ronaldo Debut -

- ▶▶ Ronaldo made his debut for A Selecao das Quinas back in 2003 at the age of 18. He won the 2016 European Championships with his national team and could be eyeing participating in next year's edition of the tournament.

Bhavani Devi became the first Indian to win Asian Fencing Championship Medal

- ▶▶ In a remarkable achievement, **C.A. Bhavani Devi**, an Olympian from **Chennai**, made history by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian fencing championships held in Wuxi, **China**. Bhavani's outstanding performance and determination earned her a well-deserved **bronze** medal in this prestigious event.



Bhavani's Semifinal Battle -

- ▶▶ In a thrilling and closely contested semifinal match, Bhavani Devi faced off against Uzbekistan's **Zaynab Dayibekova**. The intense encounter concluded with a narrow defeat for Bhavani, as she lost 14-15. Although she missed out on the gold medal opportunity, her remarkable performance ensured that India achieved its maiden medal at the Asian fencing championships.

Victory Over the Reigning World Champion -

- ▶▶ Prior to the semifinals, Bhavani Devi achieved a stunning victory in the quarterfinals. She faced off against **Misaki Emura**, the reigning world champion from Japan. Displaying immense skill and determination, Bhavani defeated Misaki with a remarkable score of 15-10. This victory against such a high-caliber opponent cemented her place in fencing history.
- ▶▶ Misaki is the women's sabre gold medal winner at the 2022 World Fencing Championships held in Cairo, Egypt

Bhavani's Olympic Journey -

- ▶▶ Bhavani Devi's accomplishments extend beyond the Asian fencing championships. She also holds the distinction of being the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Summer Olympic Games. Bhavani represented India at the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**, showcasing her talent and determination on the global stage.

Max Verstappen wins Canadian Grand Prix

▶▶ **Max Verstappen**, the reigning world champion, showcased an outstanding performance at the **Canadian Grand Prix**, securing a dominant victory and marking the **100th Formula One** win for his Red Bull team. **Fernando Alonso**, driving for Aston Martin, claimed the second position, while **Lewis Hamilton** of Mercedes completed the podium in Montreal. Verstappen, who started from pole position, clinched his sixth win out of eight races this season, further extending his lead in the championship standings and reinforcing his pursuit of a third consecutive world title. Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, representing Ferrari, secured the fourth and fifth positions respectively.



▶▶ Fernando Alonso, currently positioned third in the championship, shared his thoughts on the challenging duel he had with his former rival, Lewis Hamilton, for the second-place position. Hamilton, representing Mercedes, expressed that their team is progressively making efforts to develop a competitive car that can contend for race victories. The seven-time champion made these remarks following his appearance on the podium alongside Max Verstappen and Fernando Alonso.

Previous race's winners list:

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

Indonesia Open 2023 : Satwiksairaj & Chirag as men's doubles champions

▶▶ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty emerged as men's doubles champions in the Indonesia Open after beating Malaysian world champion duo of 'Aaron Chia' and 'Soh Wooi Yik' by 21-17 & 21-18 respectively.

About the Indonesia Open 2023 :

- ▶▶ The 2023 Indonesia Open took place at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 13 to 18 June 2023.
- ▶▶ World's no. 6 pair 'Satwiksairaj Rankireddy' & 'Chirag Shetty' from India beat World's no. 3 pair 'Aaron Chia' and 'Soh Wooi Yik' from Malaysia.

- ▶▶ The final match was completed in 43 minutes.

Record :

- ▶▶ Satwik and Chirag became the first doubles team from India to win the Indonesia Open.
- They also became the first pair from the country to win India's first Badminton World Federation Super 1000 title.

About Indonesia Open :

- ▶▶ The Indonesia Open is an annual badminton tournament organized by the Badminton Association of Indonesia since 1982.
- ▶▶ It had a total prize of US \$1,250,000.



Mascot launched for 37th edition of Indian National Games

- ▶▶ Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched 'Moga' at a launch ceremony held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Taleigao, Goa.
- ▶▶ 37th edition of the national games of India will be held in various locations in the state of Goa.
- It will feature competitions in a total of 43 disciplines.
- It will also feature 'Gatka', a traditional martial art form associated with Punjab.

About the National games :

- ▶▶ National Games in India are organised by the Indian Olympic Association.
- ▶▶ The Indian sports ministry, has affirmed that the National Games will be held every two years, except in years where the Olympics and Asian Games are held.
- PT Usha is the president of Indian Olympic Association which is headquartered in New Delhi.

Significance of Mascots :

- ▶▶ Mascots serve as the face of their respective games representing the game's characters and themes. It creates an emotional connection with players & evoke a sense of loyalty of player to the game.

About the previous edition Indian National Games :

- ▶▶ Maharashtra was the winner of 36th National Games which was held in Goa.
- 'Savaj' which represents an Asiatic lion was the mascot for the 36th National Games.

About Goa :

- ▶▶ Sports Minister of Goa is Govind Gaude.
- ▶▶ Indian Bison named 'Gaur' is the state animal of Goa.



Diksha Dagar wins record second ladies European tour event title

- ▶▶ **Diksha Dagar**, a talented 22-year-old southpaw golfer from Jhajjar, **Haryana**, secured her second Ladies European Tour (LET) title at the **Czech Ladies Open**. Diksha, who won her first LET title in 2019 and was part of the winning team at the Aramco Team Series in London in 2021, delivered a commanding performance throughout the tournament. This victory marks her second individual win on the LET, and she now boasts nine top-10 finishes, with four of them achieved this season.



Impressive Performance at the Czech Ladies Open -

- ▶▶ Starting the final day with a comfortable five-shot lead, Diksha displayed remarkable composure and consistency. She carded a final round of 69, featuring four birdies and just one bogey, to secure a four-shot victory. Diksha's solid performance throughout the week included a bogey-free 65 in the second round, where she showcased her exceptional skills with 13 birdies and an eagle over three rounds.

Rise to Victory -

- ▶▶ Diksha's road to victory was marked by steady progress and a series of impressive performances. With a total score of 9-under, she maintained her composure in challenging conditions and finished the tournament as the deserving champion. Thailand's TrichatCheenglab made a valiant effort on the final day with a 64, but her early-round struggles prevented her from closing the gap on Diksha. Trichat finished in sole second place, while Frenchwoman Celine Herbin secured third position at 8-under.

Ashes 2023 : Australia's Steve Smith becomes second-fastest ever to score 9000 Test runs

- ▶▶ Steven Smith, the prominent Australian batsman, achieved another significant milestone by becoming the second-fastest player in the history of Test cricket to reach 9000 runs. The 34-year-old accomplished this feat in 174 innings, just two innings behind Kumar Sangakkara, the former Sri Lankan captain, who achieved the same milestone in 172 innings. Smith, scoring his 32nd century in Test matches, equaled Steve Waugh's record. He scored 110 runs off 184 balls, including 15 boundaries, contributing to Australia's total of 416 runs in the first innings.

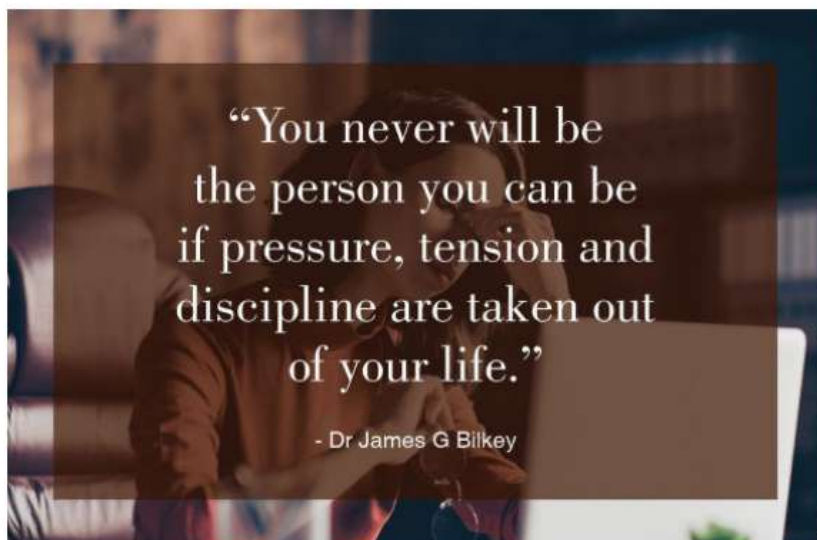


- ▶▶ At the age of 34, Steven Smith achieved his eighth century in Test matches played in England, maintaining an impressive average of 60.27 in 19 games thus far. He has been displaying consistent good form recently and played a crucial role in Australia's victory against India in the World Test Championship (WTC) final held at The Oval earlier this month.
- ▶▶ In the upcoming match, Smith is set to reach another significant milestone as he gears up to play his 100th Test. The momentous occasion will take place when Australia faces England in the third Ashes Test at Headingley, starting from July 6.

Fastest to 9,000 Test runs -

- ▶▶ Kumar Sangakkara : 172 innings
- ▶▶ Steve Smith : 174 innings
- ▶▶ Rahul Dravid : 176 innings
- ▶▶ Brian Lara : 177 innings
- ▶▶ Ricky Ponting : 177 innings

Player	Matches	Innings	Runs	Average	Best	50s	100s
S Tendulkar (IND)	200	329	15921	53.78	248*	68	51
R Ponting (AUS)	168	287	13378	51.85	257	62	41
J Kallis (SA)	166	280	13289	55.37	224	58	45
R Dravid (IND)	164	286	13288	52.31	270	63	36
A Cook (ENG)	161	291	12472	45.35	294	57	33
K Sangakkara (SL)	134	233	12400	57.40	319	52	38
B Lara (WI)	131	232	11953	52.88	400*	48	34
S Chanderpaul (WI)	164	280	11867	51.37	203*	66	30



Important Days & Dates in June 2023

Date	Days
1 June	World Milk Day
1 June	Global Day of Parents
2 June	International Sex Workers' Day
2 June	Telangana Formation Day
3 June	World Bicycle Day
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June	World Environment Day
7 June	World Food Safety Day
8 June	World Brain Tumour Day
8 June	World Oceans Day
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour
14 June	World Blood Donor Day
15 June	World Wind Day
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
16 June	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (International)
18 June	Autistic Pride Day
18 June	International Picnic Day
18 June	Father's Day
19 June	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day
19 June	World Sauntering Day
20 June	World Refugee Day(International)
21 June	World Music Day
21 June	World Hydrography Day
21 June	International Yoga Day
23 June	International Olympic Day
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day
23 June	International Widow's Day
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
26 June	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
29 June	National Statistics Day
29 June	International Day of the Tropics
30 June	World Asteroid Day

BANK-SSC-RLY-INS-IBPS-RRB Quiz



1. Which institution notified 'Indian Standards Related to AYUSH Herbs and Products'?
 [A] FSSAI [B] BIS
 [C] AYUSH Ministry [D] FAO
2. Which institution launched the 'National Mission for Mentoring'?
 [A] AICTE [B] NCTE
 [C] NASSCOM [D] NITI Aayog
3. Which Union Ministry released the 'Swachh Jal Se Suraksha Campaign Report'?
 [A] Ministry of Jal Shakti [B] Ministry of MSME
 [C] Ministry of Rural Development [D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
4. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Unified Registration Portal For GOBARdhan'?
 [A] Ministry of Jal Shakti
 [B] Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
 [C] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 [D] Ministry of Rural Development
5. Which country signed MoU with India for development of Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project?
 [A] Bangladesh [B] Sri Lanka
 [C] Nepal [D] Myanmar
6. Which institution decided to set up the 'Global Alliance for Drowning Prevention'?
 [A] WEF [B] IMF
 [C] WHA [D] UNICEF

1-B 2-B 3-A 4-A 5-C 6-C

ANSWERS

7. Which Union Ministry implements the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)?
 [A] Ministry of External Affairs
 [B] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 [C] Ministry of MSME
 [D] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
8. What is the outlay of 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector'?
 [A] Rs 20000 crore [B] Rs 50000 crore
 [C] Rs 1 lakh crore [D] Rs 2 lakh crore
9. Which Asian country joined the 'Centralised Laboratory Network (CLN)'?
 [A] Sri Lanka [B] India
 [C] Myanmar [D] Bangladesh
10. Which city hosted the 'India-EU Global Gateway Conference'?
 [A] Guwahati [B] Shillong
 [C] Kolkata [D] Itanagar
11. Which state government launched the 'NamoShetkariMahasanman Yojana'?
 [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Maharashtra
 [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Karnataka
12. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO)'?
 [A] Ministry of Electronics & IT [B] Ministry of MSME
 [C] Ministry of Commerce and Industry [D] Ministry of Science and Technology
13. What is Justitia, which was seen in the news recently?
 [A] Asteroid [B] Meteor
 [C] Exo-planet [D] Satellite

7-B 8-C 9-B 10-C 11-B 12-A 13-A

ANSWERS

14. The 'Greentech Safety Award 2023' was awarded to which organisation?
 [A] REC [B] RINL
 [C] PFC [D] SAIL
15. Which institution has conceptualized 'Lightweight Payments System'?
 [A] NPCI [B] RBI
 [C] NASSCOM [D] NITI Aayog
16. Which country has launched the 'Shenzhou-16' Mission?
 [A] Japan [B] China
 [C] South Korea [D] Israel
17. Sabang port, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?
 [A] India [B] Myanmar
 [C] Indonesia [D] Sri Lanka
18. Which state is set to develop the Konark Sun Temple Complex?
 [A] West Bengal [B] Odisha
 [C] Assam [D] Chhattisgarh
19. A Submarine Mud Volcano has been recently spotted in which country?
 [A] Australia [B] Chile
 [C] Norway [D] Japan
20. 'Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)' was founded in which year?
 [A] 1988 [B] 1998
 [C] 2008 [D] 2018
21. Kakhovka Dam, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?
 [A] Ukraine [B] South Africa
 [C] Australia [D] New Zealand

14-B 15-B 16-B 17-C 18-B 19-C 20-A 21-A

ANSWERS

22. Which cyclonic storm developed over the east-central and Arabian Sea?
 [A] Waferjoy [B] Biporjoy
 [C] Cyclejoy [D] Centrejoy
23. Which state road transport corporation has been conferred with which UITP Award?
 [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Karnataka
 [C] Kerala [D] Andhra Pradesh
24. ISRO along with which country hosted the International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations (SMOPS-2023)?
 [A] USA [B] Italy
 [C] Israel [D] France
25. Which state/UT conferred the 'Green Champion Awards 2022'?
 [A] Karnataka [B] Tamil Nadu
 [C] Assam [D] West Bengal
26. As per the India Rankings 2023, which institution retained its first position in the Overall category?
 [A] IISc Bengaluru [B] IIT Madras
 [C] Amrita University [D] IIT Kharagpur
27. What is the name of the portal launched for monitoring the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Justice Ministry?
 [A] Nyaya Vikas Portal [B] Info Vikas Portal
 [C] CSS Monitor Portal [D] Bharat Scheme Portal
28. India's First International Cruise Vessel was flagged off recently to which country?
 [A] Nepal [B] Sri Lanka
 [C] Japan [D] Indonesia
29. Which institution launched the 'Antardrishti' dashboard?
 [A] NITI Aayog [B] RBI
 [C] SEBI [D] NPCI

22-B 23-C 24-B 25-B 26-B 27-A 28-B 29-B

ANSWERS

30. Which country hosted the Sixth Edition of Exercise Ekatha?
 [A] India [B] Nepal
 [C] Bangladesh [D] Maldives
31. What was the Goods & Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of May 2023?
 [A] Rs 1.17 lakh crore [B] Rs 1.27 lakh crore
 [C] Rs 1.37 lakh crore [D] Rs 1.57 lakh crore
32. Which state launched a state-wide 15-day mega registration drive for MSMEs?
 [A] Bihar [B] Uttar Pradesh
 [C] Assam [D] Gujarat
33. Which country signed a deal to export hydropower to Bangladesh through Indian territory?
 [A] Sri Lanka [B] Afghanistan
 [C] Nepal [D] Laos
34. The United States signed a trade deal with which country, and was warned by China?
 [A] Taiwan [B] Ukraine
 [C] India [D] Sri Lanka
35. Which neighbouring country recorded an annual inflation rate of 37.97% in May 2023?
 [A] Pakistan [B] Afghanistan
 [C] Nepal [D] Myanmar
36. Which country demonstrated Asia's first performance-based navigation for helicopters?
 [A] China [B] India
 [C] Bangladesh [D] Singapore
37. Which country has approved 'Debt Ceiling Deal' to raise the government's borrowing limit?
 [A] India [B] Sri Lanka
 [C] USA [D] Afghanistan

30-D 31-D 32-B 33-C 34-A 35-D 36-B 37-C

ANSWERS

38. Which Article of the Constitution requires the state governments to present their budget each year before the legislature?
 [A] Article 51 [B] Article 101
 [C] Article 202 [D] Article 303
39. Kafue National Park (KNP), which was seen in the news, is located in which country?
 [A] Zambia [B] Latvia
 [C] Egypt [D] Chile
40. Which country unveiled the 'Obstetric Fistula Strategic Plan'?
 [A] India [B] Zambia
 [C] Malaysia [D] Japan
41. 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI' is an initiative of which Union Ministry?
 [A] Ministry of Defence
 [B] Ministry of Jal Shakti
 [C] Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterway
 [D] Ministry of External Affairs
42. Which Union Ministry announced the 'Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman'?
 [A] Ministry of AYUSH
 [B] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 [C] Ministry of Communication
 [D] Ministry of Home Affairs
43. Which company has initiated a pilot study on vehicles utilizing E27 fuel and Ethanol Blended Diesel Fuel?
 [A] BEL [B] HPCL
 [C] DRDO [D] BPCL
44. Which Indian armed force is set to procure the 'Tactical LAN Radio' through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)?
 [A] Indian Air Force [B] Indian Navy
 [C] Indian Army [D] Indian Coast Guard

38-C 39-A 40-B 41-C 42-B 43-B 44-C

ANSWERS

45. Which Armed Force procured the first barge, LSAM 15 (Yard 125) from a Thane-based private company?
 [A] Indian Army [B] Indian Navy
 [C] Indian Air Force [D] Indian Coast Guard
46. Which north-east state/UT recently released the 'District Good Governance Index (DGGI)'?
 [A] Arunachal Pradesh [B] Assam
 [C] Sikkim [D] Mizoram
47. Which space agency's researchers conducted 'Fried space food experiment'?
 [A] NASA [B] ISRO
 [C] ESA [D] JAXA
48. Which state/UT launched 'Integrated Water Resources Action Plan-2023-25'?
 [A] Rajasthan [B] Kerala
 [C] Haryana [D] Odisha
49. Which state government has been permitted to continue mining work in Gaula river?
 [A] Assam [B] Uttarakhand
 [C] Jharkhand [D] West Bengal
50. Which state is the host of the 'National Conference on Recent Advances in School Education'?
 [A] Telangana [B] Punjab
 [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Maharashtra
51. Which country is the host of the 'Ex Khaan Quest 2023' multilateral peacekeeping joint exercise?
 [A] India [B] Sri Lanka
 [C] Mongolia [D] Israel
52. What is the expansion of 'NIXI', which celebrated its 20th foundation day recently?
 [A] National Internet Exchange of India
 [B] National Information Exchange of India
 [C] National iOS Exchange of India
 [D] National Interactive Exchange of India

45-B 46-A 47-C 48-C 49-B 50-B 51-C 52-A

ANSWERS

53. Which Union Ministry launched 'DAKSHTA For Young Professionals'?
- [A] Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
[B] Ministry of MSME
[C] Ministry of Education
[D] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
54. Which institution adopted the 'International Treaty to Protect the High Seas'?
- [A] WEF [B] UN
[C] NITI Aayog [D] World Bank
55. What is the name of the plant which grows on another plant/tree drawing moisture and nutrients not from host?
- [A] Parasite [B] Epiphyte
[C] Phorophyte [D] Photophyte
56. Who is the head of the panel set up to recommend reforms in Arbitration Law?
- [A] T K Vishwanathan [B] Arjun Ram Meghwal
[C] Kiren Rijiju [D] Anurag Thakur
57. 'Common Annual Confidential Reports' which were seen in the news, is associated with which filed?
- [A] Sports [B] Defence
[C] MSME [D] Politics
58. Which personality/ institution was granted the 'Gandhi Peace Prize 2021'?
- [A] Gita Press [B] Tata Foundation
[C] Kailash Satyarthi [D] Medha Patkar
59. Which institution issued Guidelines on Product Offerings by online bond platform providers (OBPP)?
- [A] RBI [B] SEBI
[C] NPCI [D] IRDAI

53-A 54-B 55-B 56-A 57-B 58-A 59-B

ANSWERS

60. Which company launched the 'Indian Languages Programme' to aid small news publishers?
[A] Microsoft [B] Google
[C] Apple [D] Samsung
61. What is the new name of the 'Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society'?
[A] India Memorial Museum and Library Society
[B] Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society
[C] Swatantra Memorial Museum and Library Society
[D] Bharat Memorial Museum and Library Society
62. Which Union Ministry unveiled the 'DugdhSankalanSathi Mobile App'?
[A] Ministry of Jal Shakti
[B] Ministry of MSME
[C] Ministry of Heavy Industries
[D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
63. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited commissioned the '1 MW Rooftop Solar Power Project' in which city?
[A] Chennai [B] Gandhi Nagar
[C] Jodhpur [D] Panjim
64. Which state repealed the Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022 —known as the anti-conversion law?
[A] Kerala [B] Karnataka
[C] Assam [D] Uttarakhand
65. Which state recorded the highest wind capacity addition during 2022-'23?
[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Rajasthan
[C] Gujarat [D] Karnataka
66. Which institution has released the report named – "Detox Development: Repurposing Environmentally Harmful Subsidies"?
[A] IMF [B] World Bank
[C] NITI Aayog [D] WEF

60-B 61-B 62-C 63-C 64-B 65-B 66-B

ANSWERS

67. 'Nature Restoration Law', which was seen in the news, is associated with which region?
 [A] USA [B] Europe
 [C] South-Asia [D] Oceania
68. VAIBHAV fellowships programme is implemented by which Department of Government of India?
 [A] Department of Science and Technology
 [B] Department of Economic Affairs
 [C] Department of Social Justice
 [D] Department of Revenue
69. The National Time Release Study (TRS) Report 2023, is released by which organization?
 [A] Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
 [B] Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
 [C] Port Trust of India (PTI)
 [D] Indian Maritime University (IMU)
70. An outreach programme named "Julley Ladakh" was organized by which organization?
 [A] Indian Navy [B] ISRO
 [C] Indian Oil Limited [D] Google
71. Which state/UT recently withdraw its general consent for the CBI investigations?
 [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Karnataka
 [C] Tamil Nadu [D] Goa
72. Which state/UT celebrates 'Raja' festival to worship the Mother Earth?
 [A] West Bengal [B] Odisha
 [C] Jharkhand [D] Chhattisgarh
73. Which country's central bank Governor has been honoured with the 'Governor of the Year' award?
 [A] Sri Lanka [B] Afghanistan
 [C] India [D] Iran

67-B 68-A 69-A 70-A 71-C 72-B 73-C

ANSWERS

74. Which country returned remains of Indigenous Maori and Moriori people to New Zealand?
 [A] USA [B] UK
 [C] Germany [D] France
75. Which state is the host of the 'Women 20 Summit' in India?
 [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Odisha
 [C] Jammu and Kashmir [D] Goa
76. A celt, belonging to the neolithic period, was recently discovered in which state/UT?
 [A] Kerala [B] Karnataka
 [C] Tamil Nadu [D] Andhra Pradesh
77. Which city hosted the first National Training Conclave?
 [A] Kolkata [B] New Delhi
 [C] Pune [D] Mysuru
78. Who is the head of the Border Security Force (BSF), as of 2023?
 [A] Rakesh Agarwal [B] Nitin Agarwal
 [C] Gagandeep Singh Bedi [D] Rajesh Lakhani
79. Which state/UT hosted the 'National conference of tribal writers'?
 [A] Maharashtra [B] Jammu and Kashmir
 [C] West Bengal [D] Odisha
80. Mayon Volcano, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?
 [A] Indonesia [B] Japan
 [C] Australia [D] Philippines
81. Which city hosted the 'G-20 development ministers' meeting' in India?
 [A] Panjim [B] Varanasi
 [C] Pune [D] Chennai

74-C 75-A 76-C 77-B 78-B 79-B 80-D 81-B

ANSWERS

82. At what level, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee fixed the Repo rate, in its June 2023 Bimonthly meeting?
 [A] 5.50% [B] 6.00%
 [C] 6.50% [D] 7.00%
83. RBI has decided to permit banks to issue which type of cards, abroad?
 [A] RuPay Prepaid forex Cards [B] Gold denominated Cards
 [C] SGB Cards [D] Rupay Petro Cards
84. Huitoto Indigenous group is associated with which country?
 [A] Russia [B] Ukraine
 [C] Colombia [D] Australia
85. India has agreed to set bilateral trade of 1 Billion Euros by end of this decade, with which country?
 [A] USA [B] Russia
 [C] Japan [D] Serbia
86. Which institution has launched 'Vigyan Vidushi' programme?
 [A] NASSCOM [B] TIFR
 [C] ISRO [D] DRDO
87. India held a meeting of the Joint Committee of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with which country?
 [A] Australia [B] UAE
 [C] France [D] Indonesia
88. 'Ex Ekuverin' is the joint military exercise between India and which country?
 [A] Sri Lanka [B] France
 [C] Maldives [D] Japan

82-C 83-A 84-C 85-D 86-B 87-B 88-C

ANSWERS

89. Which country organised the 'Global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Summit'?
- [A] India [B] USA
[C] Australia [D] Spain
90. ADB signed a loan agreement with India for implementing 'Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation, and Value Addition Project' in which state/UT?
- [A] Assam [B] Gujarat
[C] Himachal Pradesh [D] West Bengal
91. Which country announced the 'Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme'?
- [A] France [B] Ireland
[C] Germany [D] UK
92. India gifted indigenously-built in-service Missile Corvette INS Kirpan to which country?
- [A] Sri Lanka [B] Vietnam
[C] Myanmar [D] Nepal
93. A Mesolithic period rock painting depicting a person tilling a piece of land has been found in which state?
- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Andhra Pradesh
[C] Kerala [D] Karnataka
94. TRAI has recently recommended 'essential services' status which entity?
- [A] Submarine cables [B] Unmanned Air Vehicles
[C] Broadband Cables [D] OTT platforms
95. Which Indian institution nudged Google and Apple to secure mobile devices for financial transactions?
- [A] Reserve Bank of India [B] Securities Exchange Board of India
[C] NPCI [D] NASSCOM

89-A 90-C 91-B 92-B 93-B 94-A 95-A

96. The Child Helpline 1098 is set to be consolidated with which helpline?
[A] 100 [B] 101
[C] 112 [D] 1091
97. Which country signed partnership agreement with the UNWTO for promoting tourism?
[A] Sri Lanka [B] Myanmar
[C] Laos [D] India
98. 'Operation Kawach' has been launched to crack down the menace of drugs in which state/ UT?
[A] Punjab [B] Sikkim
[C] New Delhi [D] Gujarat
99. Which institution released the 'Global Food Policy Report (GFPR) 2023'?
[A] FAO [B] IFPRI
[C] FSSAI [D] FCI
100. Which Union Ministry organized the 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' special event?
[A] Ministry of Defence [B] Ministry of AYUSH
[C] Ministry of External Affairs [D] Ministry of Sports

96-C 97-D 98-C 99-B 100-B

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Kanchan Ghuge
State Bank of India
Probationary Officer (PO)



Sumit Gera
Canara Bank - Probationary Officer (PO)



Sumedh Gajbiye
State Bank of India



Kimaya Kathade
ICICI Bank PO



Pushpa Gupta
Saraswat Bank - Deputy Manager



Sonu Singh
Axis Bank - Assistant Manager



DEEPAK PATIL
CIDCO - Account Clerk



Gaurav Meena
Canara Bank - Clerk



Bhunit Shah
Bank Of India-Clerk



Hitesh Vekhande
Punjab Maharashtra Bank Mang. Tr.



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Manish Kumar Singh
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Shivaji Kolambekar
Saraswat Bank Junior Officer



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BANK OF INDIA Clerk



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