



# Current Affairs

Magazine for all Govt. Exams, Mumbai

**SSC-BANK-RAILWAY-LIC-POST**

**June 2023**

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# Current Affairs

## June 2023

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**The Reliable Publication, Pune**

# Appointment

## Indian origin Ajay Banga confirmed as the 14th President of World Bank

▶▶ Ajay Banga, who is of Indian origin, has been officially selected as the 14th President of the World Bank. The 25-member executive board of the World Bank elected Ajay Banga, who previously served as the CEO of Mastercard, to hold the position for a period of five years, starting from June 2.

▶▶ The World Bank's Board expressed their eagerness to work with Mr. Ajay Banga on the organization's evolution process.

▶▶ The nomination of Ajay Banga for this post was made by US President Joe Biden in February.

▶▶ Joe Biden congratulated Mr. Banga and praised him as a leader who would bring transformation, expertise, experience, and innovation to the World Bank's presidency.

▶▶ Joe Biden added that Ajay Banga, along with World Bank leadership and shareholders, will play a crucial role in steering the institution as it develops and expands to address global challenges, particularly climate change, which directly impact the World Bank's fundamental goal of reducing poverty.

▶▶ Margherita Della Valle named as CEO of Vodafone

### Ajay Banga's Selection Process as World Bank President -

▶▶ Ajay Banga was selected as the only candidate to take over from David Malpass, who was the outgoing World Bank chief and a former US Treasury official in the Donald Trump administration. Ajay Banga underwent a four-hour interview with the World Bank board members, and after several meetings in recent weeks, he received the board's final approval.

▶▶ The Indian-American was elected and David Malpass would continue to serve until June 1. The decision was made through a vote by 24 board members, with Russia abstaining, which is different from the usual consensus-based process.

### World Bank

▶▶ On July 1, 1944, as the battles of the Second World War raged in Europe and the Pacific, delegates from 44 countries met in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire to participate in what became known as the Bretton Woods Conference.

▶▶ Their purpose was to agree on a system of economic order and international cooperation that would help countries recover from the devastation of the War and foster long-term global growth.

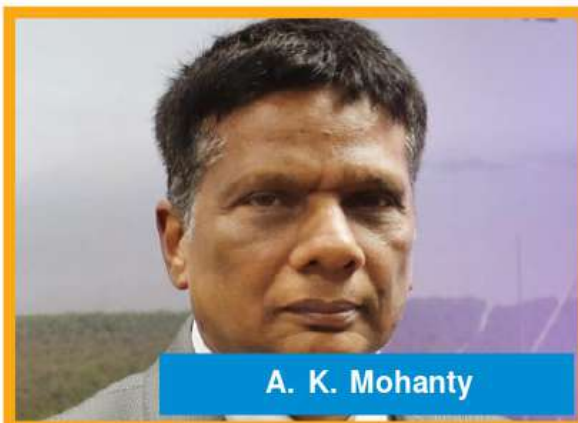


Ajay Banga

- ▶▶ At its conclusion, the conference attendees produced the Articles of Agreement for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (soon called the World Bank) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ▶▶ The World Bank is like a cooperative, made up of 189 member countries. These member countries, or shareholders, are represented by a Board of Governors, who are the ultimate policymakers at the World Bank.
- ▶▶ Generally, the governors are member countries' ministers of finance or ministers of development. They meet once a year at the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the IMF.

## **BARC director A K Mohanty appointed as new Atomic Energy Commission chairman**

- ▶▶ Ajit Kumar Mohanty, who is a well-known physicist and also serves as the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), has been selected as the new chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy. This appointment means he will be responsible for overseeing India's nuclear program and exploring the use of atomic power for non-military purposes. Mohanty will take over from K N Vyas.
- ▶▶ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, as Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission for a tenure up to the age of 66 years i.e. till 10.10.2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Mohanty was appointed as the BARC director in March 2019.



### **Career of Ajit Kumar Mohanty -**

- ▶▶ Ajit Kumar Mohanty, who was recently appointed as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy, was born in Odisha in 1959. He graduated with Honours in Physics from the MPC College in Baripada in 1979 and later completed his post-graduation from Ravenshaw College in Cuttack.
- ▶▶ In 1983, he joined the Nuclear Physics Division of the BARC after completing his training from the BARC Training School's 26th batch. He earned his doctorate from Mumbai University and worked on various nuclear physics-related areas covering collision energy from the sub-Coulomb barrier to the relativistic regime using the Pelletron accelerator at TIFR, PHENIX and CMS experiments at BNL in the United States and CERN, Geneva.
- ▶▶ In addition to his work at BARC, he also held various honorary positions such as general secretary and president of the Indian Physics Association (IPA), spokesperson for the India-CMS collaboration, director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, and director of the Physics Group at BARC. He has also served as the CERN Scientific Associate twice, first during 2002-2004 and again during 2010-2011.

**About the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre :**

- ▶▶ BARC stands for Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, which is India’s premier nuclear research facility located in Trombay, Mumbai.
- It was founded in 1954 by Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, a renowned physicist and founding director of the institute.
- ▶▶ BARC is involved in nuclear energy research, including the design and development of nuclear reactors, nuclear fuel cycle technologies, and radiation processing, as well as basic and applied research in several areas of physics, chemistry, and biology.
- ▶▶ It also operates a number of nuclear facilities, including the Dhruva reactor, the CIRUS reactor, and the Purnima-II reactor, among others. The organization is governed by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), which reports directly to the Prime Minister’s Office....

**Delhi HC appoints former Karnataka HC judge as Basketball Federation of India administrator**

- ▶▶ Former judge of the Karnataka High Court, P Krishna Bhat, has been appointed by the Delhi High Court as the administrator of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) to conduct elections in the organization. The appointment is effective immediately, and the administrator will continue to function until a newly-elected body takes charge of BFI. The court has instructed the administrator to ensure that the election process is concluded as soon as possible according to the Sports Code. This decision was made in response to several petitions regarding the election of office bearers and executive committee members for the term 2023-2027.



**P Krishna Bhat**

- ▶▶ The Delhi High Court emphasized that elections for national sports federations must be conducted democratically, with clear, fair, and transparent rules. In this particular case, the rejection of nomination forms would result in the exclusion of a large number of state representatives from participating, which is unacceptable. Out of 30 nomination forms, 15 were rejected for this reason, and five candidates withdrew their nominations, leaving no contest for electing office-bearers of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI). Additionally, 27 members of the electoral college have expressed dissatisfaction with the selection process of candidates.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Basketball Federation of India Founded: 1950;**
- ▶▶ **Basketball Federation of India Headquarters: New Delhi**

## **Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad to be next Coal India chief**

- ▶▶ The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) recommended Central Coalfields CMD PolavarapuMallikharjuna Prasad as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India (CIL).
- ▶▶ The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) recommended Central Coalfields CMD PolavarapuMallikharjuna Prasad as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India (CIL). Prasad is expected to take the charge of India's largest coal miner accounting for almost 80 per cent of the mined commodity from July 1.



- ▶▶ A mining engineer from Osmania university, Prasad took over as the CCL CMD on September 1, 2020, and has more than three decades of experience in the mining sector. He is credited for the diversion of Nallah at Hingula opencast area to unlock coal reserve of 26 million tonnes (MT) in FY15 and the commencement of a new railway siding at the Talcher Coalfields.

### **About the PolavarapuMallikharjuna Prasad -**

- ▶▶ Prasad also took over as the CMD of Bharat Coking Coal (BCCL) in August 2019. Both CCL and BCCL are subsidiaries of CIL. Prasad will take over the baton from serving CMD Pramod Agrawal, whose term ends on June 30, 2023. Agrawal is a Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer, who took over the charge of CMD of the mining behemoth from Anil Kumar Jha in January 2020. He is the third officer from the Indian Administrative Service to hold the top post at CIL.

### **IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Coal India Headquarters : Kolkata;**
- ▶▶ **Coal India Founded : November 1975**

## **Sharad Pawar steps down as NCP chief**

- ▶▶ Veteran Maharashtra politician and former Union minister Sharad Pawar has decided to step down as the president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). In recognition of the need for a new generation to lead the party and set its course, Sharad Pawar proposed the establishment of a committee comprising Praful Patel, AjitPawar, and SupriyaSule to oversee the selection of his successor as the Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) chief.
- ▶▶ This committee will be responsible for selecting the next NCP president, advancing the party's principles and objectives to the public, and serving the people in a manner that they believe is appropriate. The party's development will continue to be a top priority for the committee.

**About the Sharad Pawar -**

- ▶▶ Sharad Pawar was born on December 12, 1940, in Maharashtra, India. He began his political career as a member of the Congress party and served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on multiple occasions.
- ▶▶ In 1999, Sharad Pawar founded the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) after leaving the Congress party over differences in leadership. Since then, he has been the chief of the NCP and has held several high-profile positions, including Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Defence, and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution in the Indian government.
- ▶▶ Sharad Pawar is regarded as one of the most influential and skilled politicians in India, known for his ability to build and maintain alliances across party lines. He has played a crucial role in shaping the political landscape of Maharashtra and India as a whole....



**Sharad Pawar**

**Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood appointed next CBI director**

- ▶▶ Praveen Sood, the Director General of Police in Karnataka, has been appointed as the next director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The 59-year-old will take on the position for two years after Subodh Kumar Jaiswal's term ends on May 25.
- ▶▶ With an impressive educational background, **Sood** has previously held roles including superintendent of police of Bellary and Raichur districts, commissioner of police of Mysore City, and police advisor to the government of Mauritius.
- ▶▶ During his tenure as additional director general of police (computer wing), Sood was responsible for the implementation of the Criminal Tracking Network System in Karnataka.
- ▶▶ He has received awards for his innovative use of technology to improve traffic management and road safety.
- ▶▶ Karnataka DGP **Praveen Sood** appointment was cleared in a meeting of a high-powered committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. The latter reportedly gave a dissent note on the selection of Sood as the next **CBI director**.



**Praveen Sood**

June 2023

Govt. Exams



## **Gol appointed Ravneet Kaur as CCI Chairperson**

▶▶ The government has appointed **Ravneet Kaur** as the Chairperson of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**. There has been no full-time Chairperson for the competition regulator since Ashok Kumar Gupta demitted office in October 2022. CCI Member Sangeeta Verma has been acting as the Chairperson since October last year.



▶▶ The appointment of Ravneet Kaur, a 1988 Punjab cadre IAS officer, will be for a period of five years from the date of assuming charge or till the date of attaining the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest, as per the order dated May 15. The Chairperson will get a consolidated salary of Rs 4,50,000 per month without house and car.

### **About the 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 to promote competition and prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.

▶▶ The CCI was established on 14 October 2003. It consists of a chairperson and six members appointed by the Central Government. The commission has its headquarters in New Delhi and has four regional offices located in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Bengaluru.

### **The CCI has the following powers and functions :**

- ▶▶ To investigate cases of anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position.
- ▶▶ To issue directions to companies to cease and desist from anti-competitive practices.
- ▶▶ To impose penalties on companies for violating the Competition Act.
- ▶▶ To promote competition in the market by issuing guidelines and advisories to businesses.
- ▶▶ To educate consumers about their rights and to protect them from unfair trade practices.
- ▶▶ The CCI has played a significant role in promoting competition in the Indian market. It has investigated and taken action against a number of anti-competitive practices, including cartels, price-fixing, and abuse of dominant position. The CCI has also issued a number of guidelines and advisories to businesses to help them comply with the Competition Act.
- ▶▶ The CCI has been praised for its work in promoting competition in the Indian market. It has been credited with helping to lower prices, improve product quality, and increase consumer choice. The CCI has also been credited with helping to attract foreign investment to India.
- ▶▶ The CCI is an important institution in the Indian economy. It plays a vital role in promoting competition and protecting consumers. The CCI is committed to ensuring that the Indian market is fair and competitive for all businesses and consumers.

## **Manoj Soni to take oath as UPSC chairman**

▶▶ Educationist **Manoj Soni** will take oath as the chairman of **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. Soni, who joined the Commission as the member on June 28, 2017, has been performing the duties of the UPSC chairman since April 5, 2022. Prior to his appointment in the UPSC, Soni has served three terms as Vice-Chancellor. These include two consecutive terms from August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2015 as VC of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Gujarat; and one term as VC of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (The MSU of Baroda) from April 2005 to April 2008. A scholar of political science with specialisation in international relations studies, he has taught international relations at Sardar Patel University (SPU), Vallabh Vidyanagar between 1991 and 2016, except for the period when he served as Vice-Chancellor of the two universities.



### **Soni awards and recognitions -**

- ▶▶ In 2013, he was conferred with the rare honour of “Honorary Mayor-President of the City of Baton Rouge” by the Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA, for his exemplary leadership in empowering disadvantaged section of society with IT literacy.
- In 2015, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, London, UK, honoured him with the World Education Congress Global Award for Distance Learning Leadership.
- Soni has in the past served on the Boards of Governors of several institutions of higher education and public administration. He was also a member of a quasi-judicial body constituted by an Act of the Gujarat Legislature, which regulates the fee structure of the un-aided professional institutions in Gujarat.

### **All about UPSC :**

- ▶▶ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is India’s premier central recruitment agency for recruitment of all the Group ‘A’ officers under Government of India. It is responsible for appointments to and examinations for the Group ‘A’ posts of several central government establishments which also includes the central public sector undertakings and the central autonomous bodies. While Department of Personnel and Training is the central personnel agency in India.
- ▶▶ **The UPSC was established on 1 October 1926** by the Government of India under the **Government of India Act, 1919**. The Commission is headquartered in New Delhi and has regional offices in Allahabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, and Patna.
- ▶▶ The UPSC is headed by a Chairman who is appointed by the President of India. The Chairman is assisted by a number of members who are also appointed by the President of India. The members of the UPSC are drawn from a variety of backgrounds, including the civil services, the armed forces, and the academia.

- ▶▶ The UPSC conducts a number of competitive examinations for the recruitment of Group 'A' officers in the central government. The most prestigious of these examinations is the Civil Services Examination, which is also known as the IAS Examination. The Civil Services Examination is a three-tier examination that tests the candidates on their knowledge of general studies, English, and their choice of subjects.
- ▶▶ The UPSC also conducts examinations for the recruitment of officers in other Group 'A' services, such as the Indian Foreign Service, the Indian Police Service, and the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.
- ▶▶ The UPSC is an independent constitutional body and its decisions are not subject to the approval of any other authority. The Commission is committed to ensuring that the recruitment of Group 'A' officers is based on merit and that the officers recruited are of the highest caliber.

## Ex-NBC Universal ad chief Linda Yaccarino named as new Twitter CEO

- ▶▶ Ex-NBCUniversal advertising executive **Linda Yaccarino** will take over as **CEO of Twitter**, Elon Musk said. Musk, who runs Tesla and Space X, said a day prior that he plans to transition to a role as executive chairman and chief technology officer. The announcement comes months after Musk pledged in December to step down as the head of Twitter as soon as he found someone "foolish enough to take the job." Yaccarino, who stepped down earlier on Friday as the ad sales chief at NBCUniversal, oversaw an international team of about 2,000 employees, according to the NBCUniversal website.



- ▶▶ She brings longstanding relationships with major advertisers and a strong reputation within the corporate community. Yaccarino worked at NBCUniversal for nearly 12 years, rising through the executive ranks to become chairman of global advertising and partnerships in 2020. Before NBCUniversal, Yaccarino served as an advertising executive at Turner Broadcasting Company for almost 20 years. After acquiring Twitter in October, Musk has sought to shore up the company's finances by slashing costs and expanding revenue through a revamped version of its subscription service.

### Who is Linda Yaccarino ?

- ▶▶ Yaccarino, who graduated from Penn State University in 1985, worked in media advertising for about 30 years before being named Twitter CEO. Over more than a decade at NBCUniversal, Yaccarino generated more than \$100 billion in advertising sales, focusing recently on an effort to coordinate advertising across TV, streaming and online platforms, the company's website said in a profile of Yaccarino that was removed.
- ▶▶ When NBC launched its streaming service Peacock in 2020, for instance, Yaccarino led a campaign to offer an array of ad formats, such as binge ads that afterward allow a viewer to watch ad-free as well as ads that include a QR-code directing viewers to a product.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Twitter Parent organization: X Corp;**
- ▶▶ **Twitter Founders: Jack Dorsey, Evan Williams, Biz Stone, Noah Glass;**
- ▶▶ **Twitter Founded: 21 March 2006, San Francisco, California, United States;**
- ▶▶ **Twitter Headquarters: San Francisco, California, United States.**

**Alla Bhatt appointed as first Indian Global Ambassador of Gucci**

▶▶ **Gucci**, the luxury fashion brand from **Italy**, has appointed **Alia Bhatt** as its first global ambassador from India. She will debut as the brand's newest global ambassador at the **Gucci Cruise 2024 show** in **Seoul** next week. This appointment is an important moment for both the brand and the Indian fashion industry, especially since it comes after **Bhatt's Met Gala debut**.



▶▶ This is also the first time that **Gucci** has selected an Indian celebrity as a global ambassador, highlighting the growing recognition of the Indian market worldwide.

▶▶ The performer, businesswoman and producer will debut as Gucci's representative at the **Gucci Cruise 2024 fashion event**, which will be held at the **Gyeongbokgung Palace** in Seoul. This show will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the brand's first shop opening in the country.

**Alia Bhatt Expresses her Gratitude -**

▶▶ Through a message shared on **Instagram**, the actor expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to represent Gucci not only in India, but also on a worldwide platform. She conveyed her admiration for the brand's heritage, which has always captivated her, and expressed her eagerness to collaborate with Gucci in achieving many fashion milestones together.

**Dr. K. Govindaraj Elected As New President of Basketball Federation of India**

▶▶ **Dr K. Govindaraj** elected as the **President of International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Asia**. He is a Congress MLC. He is also the President of Basketball Federation of India and President of Karnataka Olympic Association. Govindaraj was unanimously nominated to take over as President of FIBA Asia. This is the first time that an Indian has been nominated as the President of FIBA Asia. The nomination was ratified at the FIBA Asia Congress making Govindaraj, the first Indian to lead the International Basketball Federation in Asia, which includes 44 countries.

- ▶▶ Govindaraj has replaced Qatar's Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani, who was serving his fourth five-year term as head of FIBA Asia since 2002. After confirmation of the post, Govindraj had stated that it's an honour for the entire Indian sports fraternity to get an opportunity and responsibility to be at the helm of affairs of Asian basketball, and help develop basketball in Asia.



**Dr. K. Govindaraj**

**About the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) :**

- ▶▶ The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) is the governing body for the sport of basketball worldwide. Established in **1932** and headquartered in **Switzerland**, **FIBA** is responsible for overseeing and regulating international basketball competitions, including the FIBA Basketball World Cup, Continental Championships, and the Olympic basketball tournaments. FIBA sets the rules and regulations of the game, promotes the development of basketball globally, and works towards the advancement and promotion of the sport at all levels. Additionally, FIBA is responsible for accrediting and organizing international basketball referees and coaches.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **International Basketball Federation Founded : 18 June 1932;**
- ▶▶ **International Basketball Federation Headquarters : Mies, Switzerland;**
- ▶▶ **International Basketball Federation President : HamaneNiang.**

**Sourav Ganguly named as brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism**

- ▶▶ Former India cricket captain and ex-BCCI chief **Sourav Ganguly** was roped in as the brand ambassador for Tripura Tourism. Ganguly expressed his willingness to be the brand ambassador for Tripura tourism after the state's Tourism Minister **Sushanta Chowdhury** met him at his residence in Kolkata. Ganguly's selection as the brand ambassador for Tripura Tourism is expected to draw significant attention to the state's unexplored tourist destinations.



**Sourav Ganguly**

- ▶▶ The Tripura government is confident that Ganguly will be a successful brand ambassador for the state. They believe that his popularity and charisma will help to attract more visitors to Tripura and boost the tourism industry. The announcement came after Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury met Ganguly at his residence in Kolkata along with state officials, and discussed the proposal. Tripura Chief Minister ManikSaha, who had earlier spoken to the former ace cricketer, expressed his confidence that Ganguly's involvement will greatly benefit the tourism sector.

**All about Tripura :**

- ▶▶ Tripura is a state in Northeast India. It is bordered by Assam and Mizoram to the east and by Bangladesh to the north, south and west. Tripura is divided into 8 districts and 23 sub-divisions, where Agartala is the capital and the largest city in the state. Tripura has 19 different tribal communities with a majority Bengali population. Bengali, English and Kokborok are the state’s official languages.
- ▶▶ It became a full-fledged state of India in 1972. Tripura lies in a geographically isolated location in India, as only one major highway, National Highway 8, connects it with the rest of the country. Five mountain ranges — Hathai Kotor, Atharamura, Longtharai, Shakhan and Jampui Hills — run north to south, with intervening valleys; Agartala, the capital, is located on a plain to the west. The state has a tropical savanna climate, and receives seasonal heavy rains from the south west monsoon.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Tripura Capital: Agartala;**
- ▶▶ **Tripura Governor: Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya;**
- ▶▶ **Tripura CM: Dr. Manik Saha.**

**K.V. Viswanathan, Prashant Mishra take oath as Supreme Court judges**

- ▶▶ **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra** and senior advocate **KV Viswanathan** will be sworn in as Supreme Court judges, after the Central government cleared the appointment of the advocates. Their names were recommended to the Centre by the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) **DY Chandrachud**.



**Who is KV Viswanathan ?**

- ▶▶ KV Viswanathan is a senior advocate who has practiced in the Supreme Court for over 30 years. He has appeared in a wide range of cases, including constitutional law, criminal law, and commercial law. He is also a member of the Bar Council of India and the Supreme Court Bar Association.

**Who is Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra ?**

- ▶▶ Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra is the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. He was appointed as a judge of the High Court in 2013 and elevated as its Chief Justice in 2021. He has also served as a judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
- ▶▶ The five-member Collegium said the Supreme Court has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges and is currently functioning with 32. Two Supreme Court judges – Dinesh Maheshwari and MR Shah – retired recently. Four more vacancies are going to arise by the second week of July and the working strength of judges will further come down, the collegium noted as it recommended the names of Viswanathan and Mishra.

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## A.K. Jain appoints as new PNGRB Chairman by Government

- ▶▶ The chairman position of the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** has finally been filled. A K Jain, the former Coal Secretary, has been appointed by the **Appointments Committee** of the Cabinet to take on this role for a period of five years. The position has been vacant since December 2020.
- ▶▶ The government order announcing the appointment stipulated that he would hold the position until either the age of 65, until further notice, or until the date he assumed charge of the post.



### AK Jain appoints as new PNGRB Chairman by Government: Key Points

- ▶▶ Jain is replacing **D K Saraf**, the former **PNGRB** chief who retired on December 3, 2020.
- ▶▶ Tarun Kapoor, another experienced oil industry official, was also considered for the position but was selected as the advisor to the Prime Minister instead.
- ▶▶ As the **PNGRB** chairman, **Jain** will be responsible for overseeing a range of functions such as granting licenses to entities wishing to operate in the oil and gas sectors, monitoring their activities, and regulating tariffs.

### About AK Jain :

- ▶▶ AK Jain himself has extensive experience in the energy and environment sectors, having worked as Joint Secretary in the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)** and as Joint Secretary and then Additional Secretary in the Niti Aayog handling energy.
- ▶▶ Before taking over as Coal Secretary, he also served as Additional Secretary and Special Secretary in the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**.

## Indian-Origin Cop Is Highest-Ranking South Asian Woman In New York

- ▶▶ Indian-origin Captain **Pratima Bhullar Maldonado** has become the highest-ranking South Asian woman in the **New York Police Department (NYPD)**. She was promoted to the rank of Captain last month. Maldonado, 45, was born in Punjab, India, and moved to the United States with her family when she was 9 years old. She joined the NYPD in 1999 and has served in a variety of roles, including patrol officer, detective, and sergeant.
- ▶▶ Maldonado's promotion is a positive step for the



NYPD and for the South Asian community in New York City. She is a role model for young South Asian women and she is an inspiration to all who strive to achieve their dreams. She is currently the commanding officer of the 102nd Police Precinct in South Richmond Hill, Queens. The precinct is home to a large South Asian community, and Maldonado said she is committed to building relationships with the community and working to keep it safe. Maldonado's promotion is a significant milestone for the NYPD and for the South Asian community in New York City. She is a role model for young South Asian women and she is an inspiration to all who strive to achieve their dreams.

- ▶▶ Noted: Earlier this year, Lt Manmeet Colon, a 37-year-old Indian-origin Sikh woman officer, assumed charge as the assistant police chief in the state of Connecticut, becoming the department's first-ever second-in-command of Asian descent.

## **Jayakumar S. Pillai Appointed as Deputy Managing Director of IDBI Bank**

- ▶▶ **IDBI Bank** announced via an official filing that **Jayakumar S. Pillai** has been appointed as **Deputy Managing Director** on the bank's Board. The appointment has been approved by the bank's board of directors and is valid for a period of three years starting from the date he assumes office, as authorized by the **RBI**.



- ▶▶ **Jayakumar S. Pillai** brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having worked for 32 years and 7 months at **Canara Bank**.
- ▶▶ During his tenure, he has held leadership positions in various branches across different locations, gaining extensive expertise in branch banking, retail resource mobilization, credit delivery in sectors such as **Retail, Agriculture, MSME, and Recovery**.
- ▶▶ Additionally, he served as the Chief Executive of Canara Bank's UK operations for more than four years, where he gained valuable experience in international banking.
- ▶▶ Furthermore, Pillai has served as the Wing Head in the Bank's mid-corporate credit department at the Head Office.

## **R. Dinesh Appointed as CII President for 2023-24**

- ▶▶ TVS Supply Chain Solutions Executive Vice Chairman **R. Dinesh** has assumed office as the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** President for 2023-24 while ITC Managing Director Sanjiv Puri has been named as President-designate. The CII National Council, which met in New Delhi to elect new office-bearers for 2023-24, also named EY Chairman India Region Rajiv Memani as Vice-President.
- ▶▶ Mr. Dinesh is a fourth-generation TVS family member. He has been engaged with CII for many years at the state, regional and national levels.



- ▶▶ Mr. Dinesh succeeds Bajaj Finserv Ltd, CMD Sanjiv Bajaj as per the statement released by the Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ▶▶ Mr. Dinesh started TVS Supply Chain Solutions (erstwhile known as TVS Logistics) in 1995. The company, under his leadership, has grown manifold to become a billion-dollar company.
- ▶▶ The company has a presence across continents making it a truly global company and serving customers in over 50 countries.
- ▶▶ Mr. Dinesh has won many awards including 'Icon of the Year' from the ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu for the year 2018, the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the 'Services' category by Ernst & Young in 2017.
- ▶▶ He is also the recipient of TiECON's "Next Gen Entrepreneur of the Year 2014" award and 'Emerging Entrepreneur' award by CII in 2010.



**About Confederation of Indian Industry -**

- ▶▶ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering with Industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.
- ▶▶ CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led, and industry-managed organization, with around 9000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 286 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

**Useful Information**

1. **PAN** - Permanent Account Number.
2. **PDF** - Portable Document Format.
3. **SIM** - Subscriber Identity Module.
4. **ATM** - Automated Teller Machine
5. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code.
6. **FSSAI(Fssai)** - Food Safety & Standards Authority of India.
7. **Wi-Fi** - Wireless Fidelity
8. **GOOGLE** - Global organization of Oriented Group Language Of Earth.
9. **YAHOO** - Yet Another Hierarchical Officious Oracle.
10. **WINDOW** - Wide Interactive Network Development for Office Work Solution.

# Awards

## Three imprisoned Iranian female journalists win top UN prize

### UNESCO Awards Press Freedom Prize to Imprisoned Iranian Female Journalists:

- ▶ On May 3, UNESCO marked World Press Freedom Day by awarding its annual World Press Freedom Prize to three imprisoned Iranian female journalists. The winners, Niloufar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi, were recognized for their work in reporting on human rights abuses in Iran and their commitment to truth and accountability.



### The Work of the Iranian Journalists :

- ▶ Hamed and Mohammadi played crucial roles in breaking the news of the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in police custody for wearing her headscarf too loosely. Amini's death sparked months-long protests across Iran, leading to one of the most significant challenges to the Islamic Republic since the 2009 Green Movement. The third winner, Narges Mohammadi, is a journalist and prominent human rights activist in Iran.

### The Charges Against the Journalists :

- ▶ However, the journalists' reporting also led to their indictment by Iran's judiciary on charges of collaborating with the United States, acting against national security, and creating "propaganda against the system." They have been in prison since September, with Hamed in solitary confinement.

### The Significance of the UNESCO Prize :

- ▶ The UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize, named after Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano who was assassinated in 1986, is awarded to those who have made an outstanding contribution to press freedom. UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay emphasized the importance of paying tribute to women journalists who are prevented from doing their jobs and who face threats and attacks on their personal safety, saying: "Now more than ever, it is important to pay tribute to all women journalists who are prevented from doing their jobs and who face threats and attacks on their personal safety."

### The Bravery of the Iranian Journalists :

- ▶ The Chair of the international jury of media professionals that chose the winners, Zainab Salbi, praised the bravery of the three women and their work, which she said "led to a historical women-led revolution." She added that they had paid a high price for their commitment to reporting

on the truth, and the international community was committed to honoring them and ensuring their voices continue to echo worldwide until they are safe and free.

**The Importance of Protecting Press Freedom :**

- ▶▶ The imprisonment of Hamed and Mohammadi has sparked international criticism over the security forces' crackdown on dissent, which has included the arrests of nearly 100 journalists. According to human rights activists in Iran, at least 529 people have been killed since the protests began, and over 19,700 others have been detained. Despite this, Iran has not offered any overall casualty figures.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Country located in the Middle East**
- ▶▶ **Current President: Ebrahim Raisi (elected in 2021)**
- ▶▶ **Currency: Iranian rial (IRR)**
- ▶▶ **Official language: Persian**
- ▶▶ **Capital city: Tehran**
- ▶▶ **Population: approximately 85 million people.**

**Jayant Narlikar awarded Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award 2022**

- ▶▶ Renowned astronomer and founder director of IUCAA, **Prof Jayant V. Narlikar**, received the inaugural **Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award** from the Astronomical Society of India (ASI). Narlikar is a past president of ASI and was the founding director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). He is known for his work on cosmology and gravitation, and has made significant contributions to the understanding of the evolution of the universe.



**Jayant Narlikar**

- ▶▶ **The Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award** is a prestigious award that recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals to the field of astronomy. The award honors the memory of Govind Swarup, a pioneer in the field of radio astronomy in India, and it serves as a testament to the honorees' dedication, innovation, and immense impact on the scientific community.

**About the Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award :**

- ▶▶ The Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award is an award given by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the field of astronomy throughout their careers. The award was instituted in 2022 and is named after Govind Swarup, a pioneer in the field of radio astronomy in India.
- ▶▶ The award carries a cash prize of **Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh and fifty thousand)**, funded

by the family of Govind Swarup, as well as a plaque, and a citation. Support for the recipient's travel (within India) to the venue of the meeting and full local hospitality during the period of the meeting will be provided by the Society.

- ▶▶ The nominees for the award will be scientists who have contributed significantly to the growth of astronomy and astrophysics in India. The nominees will be selected by a committee of eminent scientists appointed by the ASI.
- ▶▶ This prestigious award, established in 2022, recognizes the significant contributions of Indian astronomers like Prof Narlikar in the field of astronomy and astrophysics. Prof Narlikar's notable achievements include his research on the Universe, his contributions to Astrophysics, particularly the Narlikar-Hoyle theory, and his pioneering work in cosmology research in India.

## IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **President of the Astronomical Society of India: Prof. Dipankar Banerjee;**
- ▶▶ **Astronomical Society of India Hyderabad, India;**
- ▶▶ **Astronomical Society of India Founded: 1972.**

## Socialist Pandit Ramkishan Becomes Man Of The Century At 97

- ▶▶ Former Lok Sabha MP Pandit Ramkishan was recently awarded the title of "Shatabdi Purush" (Man of the Century) in New Delhi in recognition of his contributions as a socialist leader. The honor was bestowed on him during the birth centenary celebrations of Madhu Limaye, a renowned socialist ideologue and parliamentarian. Ramkishan is considered the most senior and iconic figure in Indian socialism and has been recognized as the "Socialist Shatabdi Purush". The event was attended by senior politicians including former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik, CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechuri, INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala and JDU leader KC Tyagi.



**Pandit Ramkishan**

- ▶▶ Pandit Ramkishan, a well-known socialist leader, played an active role in the movements led by other socialist leaders such as Jayaprakash Narayan and Lohia. He was imprisoned multiple times, including during the Emergency period. Ramkishan also served as a member of the Lok Sabha once, in 1977, and was elected four times to the Rajasthan Assembly in 1962, 1967, 1974, and 1990. Ramkishan was arrested several times while fighting for tribals, Dalits and the poor.

## **Cochin Port has bagged the Sagar Shreshtha Sammaan Award 2023**

▶▶ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways honoured the **Cochin Port Authority (CPA)** with the **Sagar Shreshtha Sammaan** for the best turnaround time in non-container category during 2022-23. Minister for Ports and Shipping Sarbananda Sonowal presented the award to CPA Chairperson M. Beena in New Delhi. The award is in recognition of the 'excellent performance of the Cochin Port in handling dry bulk and liquid bulk cargo vessels'.



- ▶▶ The port recorded 48 hours in turning around vessels of an average parcel size of 43,800 MT. The turnaround time is an important performance parameter. The function was attended by senior functionaries of the Ministry, major ports and industry representatives.
- ▶▶ This award is in recognition of the excellent performance of Cochin Port in handling dry bulk and liquid bulk cargo vessels at Cochin. The port recorded 48 hours in turning around vessels of an average parcel size of 43,800 MT that arrived at the Port. The TRT is a performance parameter which is calculated on the basis of the notice of readiness by the vessel till pilot disembark time after operations, of a vessel that arrives at the port. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal given away the Award to Dr M Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority.

## **Russian poet Maria Stepanova wins Leipzig Book Prize 2023**

▶▶ Maria Stepanova, a renowned Russian writer currently residing in Berlin, has been awarded the Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023. Her novel, *In Memory of Memory*, which delves into the themes of Stalinism and the collapse of the Soviet Union, earned her a nomination for the Booker Prize in 2021. However, it was her volume of poetry, *Girls Without Clothes*, that earned her the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize. This collection of poetry sensitively explores the often concealed violence against women and the power dynamics that fuel this oppression in a highly poetic manner.



▶▶ The prize ceremony was held at the opening of the 30th Leipzig Book Fair on April 25. Presented since 1994 for the "advancement of reconciliation" in Europe, another Russian exile, the journalist Masha Gessen who lives in the US, won in 2019 for her book "The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia."

- ▶▶ The panel of judges praised Stepanova’s unwavering commitment to a poetic perception of the world and acknowledged that her literary works reverberate with the voices of renowned authors from across the globe. Stepanova, a Russian-Jewish poet, novelist, and journalist born in Moscow in 1972, has been a vocal critic of Vladimir Putin’s administration. She has expressed her admiration for Ukraine’s resistance to the invasion, describing it as a battle of “good versus evil” in an interview with the German public broadcaster RBB.

**About the Leipzig Book Prize -**

- ▶▶ The Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding is a prestigious literary award that has been awarded annually since 1994. The prize aims to promote a greater understanding between European cultures by recognizing outstanding works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry that contribute to this goal.
- ▶▶ The prize is awarded as part of the Leipzig Book Fair in Germany and is presented in three categories: fiction, non-fiction, and translation. The winner in each category receives a cash prize and a bronze sculpture.

**PGCIL wins Global Gold Award for CSR work**

- ▶▶ The Green Organization has awarded Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), with the Global Gold Award for their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) work.
- ▶▶ The Green Organization has awarded Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), a Maharatna CPSU of Ministry of Power, Government of India, with the Global Gold Award for their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) work. The recognition was given at the Green World Awards 2023 function held in Miami, USA. This award is a recognition of PGCIL’s efforts to improve agriculture productivity and rural livelihood through watershed management, community participation, and better crop management practices in 10 villages of Jaipatna Block of Kalahandi District in Odisha.
- ▶▶ The 60-month farmer-centric project started in October 2019 and has a withdrawal plan to ensure its sustainability. PGCIL has been involved in a number of CSR programs for the community and environment. With a well-defined and customized Exit Policy for its CSR projects, PGCIL gives importance to community participation by way of effective collaboration, capacity building, and sustainability aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



**Importance of Corporate Social Responsibility :**

- ▶▶ Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a business approach that involves taking responsibility for the company’s impact on society and the environment. It is a company’s way of giving back to the community and the environment that it operates in. CSR includes a wide range of activities such as supporting education, health, and environmental causes, improving the lives of the people in the community, and promoting sustainable development.

## **CM Yogi Adityanath honoured Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award**

*Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, presented the Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his efforts in creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh.*



- ▶▶ Former President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, presented the **Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award** to Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** for his efforts in creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh. The award ceremony took place at the Shri Shanmukhananda Auditorium in Mumbai, where Dr.

Lalji Prasad Nirmal, a member of the UP legislative council, received the award on behalf of the Chief Minister. The event was organized by the Buddhanjali Research Foundation and was attended by Ramnath Kovind as the chief guest. This was the 13th edition of the award ceremony.

### **List of Previous winners :**

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Harshaali Malhotra (2022) | ■ Richa Chadha (2020)   |
| ■ Prakash Ambedkar (2018)   | ■ Mayawati (2017)       |
| ■ P. S. Krishnan (2016)     | ■ Shabana Azmi (2014)   |
| ■ Kanshi Ram (2012)         | ■ Joginder Singh (2011) |
| ■ Anand Teltumbde (2010)    | ■ Nitish Kumar (2009)   |
| ■ Shekhar Suman (2008)      | ■ S. M. Krishna (2007)  |

### **About the Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award -**

- ▶▶ The Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award is an annual award presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to society in the areas of education, social welfare, and economics, in the spirit of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a renowned Indian jurist, economist, social reformer, and politician who played a pivotal role in the drafting of the Indian Constitution and fought for the rights of the oppressed sections of Indian society.
- ▶▶ The award was instituted in 1996 by the Government of Maharashtra in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and it is presented every year on his birth anniversary. The award carries a cash prize and a citation and is conferred upon individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the society in the spirit of Dr. Ambedkar's vision of social justice, equality, and human rights.
- ▶▶ Recipients of the award include individuals from various fields such as social work, education, politics, law, and literature. The award is considered a prestigious recognition in India, and it is given to those who have worked tirelessly to promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideals of social equality and justice.

## President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu confers 37 Gallantry awards

- ▶▶ On May 09, 2023, the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) was held in New Delhi, during which the President of India, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, awarded **8 Kirti Chakras and 29 Shaurya Chakras to personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State/ Union Territory Police. Five of the Kirti Chakras and five of the Shaurya Chakras were awarded posthumously.** The gallantry awards were presented to individuals who demonstrated



outstanding bravery, unwavering courage, and exceptional devotion to their duties. The names of the awardees were listed in the order in which they were presented with their respective awards.

## South Asian Film Festival of Montreal honors 'Gauri' with 'Best Long Documentary Award'

- ▶▶ The documentary "Gauri", directed by **Kavitha Lankesh**, has received the "Best Long Documentary Award" at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023. The film is about journalist and activist **Gauri Lankesh**, who was assassinated in 2017, and the current political crisis in India.
- ▶▶ The award citation describes the film as a courageous and uncompromising examination of the events surrounding **Gauri Lankesh's murder**, and praises Kavitha Lankesh's energetic direction and narration.



- ▶▶ The documentary was commissioned by Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam, an organization that upholds Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which advocates for freedom of expression and access to information.
- ▶▶ The documentary "All That Breathes", which was nominated for an Oscar, was also in competition and received the runner-up prize.

### About the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM)

- ▶▶ The **Kabir Centre for Arts and Culture** in Montreal is organizing the 13th South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM) in 2024.
- ▶▶ The festival will be a hybrid event, combining both in-person cinema screenings and online presentations.



**SHAURYA CHAKRA (Non Posthumous)**

No.	Name and Other Details	Service
1.	Shri Amit Kumar, Assistant Commandant, CRPF	MHA
2.	Shri Satendra Singh, Assistant Commandant, 21 BN, CRPF	MHA
3.	Havildar Ghanshyam (now Naib Subedar), The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
4.	(i) Shri Vikki Kumar Pandey, Deputy Commandant, 209 CoBRA, CRPF (ii) Shri Vijay Oraon, Constable/GD, 209 CoBRA, CRPF	MHA (Act performed together)
5.	Lieutenant Commander Mritunjay Kumar (07456-W)	Navy
6.	IC-78962W Major Amit Dahiya, Sena Medal, 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
7.	(i) Shri Somay Vinayak Munde, IPS, Addl. Superintendent of Police (now Superintendent of Police), Maharashtra Police (ii) Shri Ravindra Kashinath Naitam, Head Constable, Maharashtra Police (iii) Shri Tikaram Sampatrao Katenge, Police Naik, Maharashtra Police	MHA (Act performed together)
8.	IC-72252H Major Nitin Dhaania, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
9.	14941570X Lance Naik Raghvendra Singh, The Mechanised Infantry, 9th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
10.	IC-80532L Major Sandeep Kumar, The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
11.	SS-47677W Major Abhishek Singh, The Mechanised Infantry, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
12.	(i) Squadron Leader Sandeep Kumar Jhahria, (33270) Accounts/Garud (ii) Corporal (now Sergeant) Anand Singh, (954576) Indian Air Force (Garud)	Air Force (Act performed together)
13.	IC-77164W Major Aditya Bhadauria, The Kumaon Regiment, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
14.	(i) Group Captain Yogeshwar Krishnarao Kandalkar, (27207) Flying (Pilot) (ii) Flight Lieutenant Tejpal, (36539) Meteorology/Garud (iii) Leading Aircraftman Sunil Kumar, (990231) Indian Air Force (Security)	Air Force (Act performed together)
15.	SS-48529X Captain (now Major) Yudhvir Singh, The Mechanised Infantry, 9th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
16.	SS-48830N Captain Rakesh T R, 9th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
17.	13779485Y Lance Naik Vikas Choudhary, The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
18.	SS-48517H Captain (now Major) Arun Kumar, The Kumaon Regiment, 13th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army

## **Indian Peacekeepers Honoured Posthumously with Dag Hammarskjold**

▶▶ India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador **Ruchira Kamboj**, received the Dag Hammarskjold Medals on behalf of Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi. The **Dag Hammarskjold Medal** is the highest honor awarded to UN peacekeepers. It is awarded posthumously to members of peacekeeping operations as a tribute to the sacrifice of those who have lost their lives in peacekeeping operations. The ceremony took place at the UN headquarters in New York to commemorate the **International Day of UN Peacekeepers**. The medal is named after the second Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold.



### **Indian Peacekeepers Honoured Posthumously with Dag Hammarskjold: Key Points**

- ▶▶ Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi of the Border Security Force lost their lives while serving under the UN flag last year in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- ▶▶ They used to serve with the Organisation Stabilisation Mission (MONUSCO) in the country.
- ▶▶ Meanwhile, Shaber Taher Ali, employed in a civilian capacity with the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), was also posthumously awarded the Dag Hammarskjold Medal, which was received by Under-Secretary for Field Support, Atul Khare.
- ▶▶ Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj informed that they are immortalized by their selfless sacrifice, devotion to duty, and dauntless courage, and will always serve as an inspiration for all.
- ▶▶ The UN Secretary-General António Guterres informed that the UN's 87,000-plus peacekeepers worldwide are a beacon of hope and protection' for vulnerable civilians in an increasingly dangerous and uncertain world.
- ▶▶ Further, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN hosted a reception that was attended by more than 200 guests to pay their respects near the Remembrance Board.
- ▶▶ The International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed annually on May 29. It recognizes peacekeepers' dedication, professionalism, and bravery worldwide. India one of the largest troop-contributing countries
- ▶▶ Since the inception of the UN's peacekeeping operations in the 1950s, India has made contributions to its peacekeeping operations and is one of the largest troop-contributing countries.
- ▶▶ India has deployed more than 275,000 troops, including a significant number of women peacekeepers, in over 51 UN peacekeeping missions.
- ▶▶ Additionally, India was the first nation to send an all-female contingent to a UN peacekeeping operation in Liberia in 2007.

## Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov wins International Booker Prize for 'Time Shelter'

- ▶▶ Georgi Gospodinov's captivating novel, "Time Shelter," translated by Angela Rodel, has secured the prestigious **2023 International Booker Prize**. This remarkable achievement marks the first time a Bulgarian novel has been awarded this renowned **literary honor**.

### A Brilliant Exploration of Memory and Destiny

- ▶▶ Gospodinov's "Time Shelter" presents readers with a profound narrative, skillfully addressing the contemporary question of the implications when our memories begin to fade. The novel seamlessly weaves together individual and collective destinies, offering a poignant reflection on the delicate balance between the intimate and the universal.



### The Intriguing Premise of "Time Shelter"

- ▶▶ At the heart of the novel lies the concept of a "clinic for the past," a haven for Alzheimer's sufferers seeking solace in recaptured memories. Each floor of the clinic meticulously reconstructs a different decade, providing patients with the opportunity to relive moments from their personal histories. However, as the narrative unfolds, the past begins to encroach upon the present, blurring the boundaries between time and reality.

### A Story Inspired by a Disrupted World

- ▶▶ Gospodinov's motivation to write "Time Shelter" stems from a sense of disarray in the fabric of time itself. Influenced by global events such as the rise of populism and the repercussions of Brexit, the author explores the manipulation of the past as a tool for political agendas. Through his narrative, Gospodinov examines the challenges of living in a world where meaning and a clear future seem elusive.

## Narendra Modi conferred with Papua New Guinea and Fiji's highest honour

- ▶▶ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** received the highest honours of **Papua New Guinea** and **Fiji**, an unprecedented acknowledgement of a non-resident in the two Pacific island nations. During his maiden visit to **Papua New Guinea**, Modi hosted a significant summit between India and 14 Pacific island countries to bolster bilateral ties. Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Bob Dadae, awarded Modi with the Grand Companion of the **Order of Logohu (GCL)**, which is the country's highest civilian award.



**PM Modi given Papua New Guinea and Fiji's highest honour : Key Points**

- ▶▶ This rare award is limited to a select group of “**Chief**” titleholders, which includes former US President Bill Clinton.
- ▶▶ Papua New Guinea granted this award to Modi for his outstanding contribution towards promoting the unity of Pacific Island nations and spearheading the cause of the **Global South**.
- ▶▶ In receiving the accolade, Modi gave credit to the people of India and the generations of the Fiji-Indian community for playing a crucial role in cementing a special and enduring bond between the two countries.
- ▶▶ Throughout his tenure, Modi has received various international awards from many countries, including **Russia, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, and the Maldives**.

**What all international awards PM Modi has received so far?**

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Modi has been the recipient of multiple prestigious international awards, such as The Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud, the State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan, the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award, and the Order of Zayed Award.
- ▶▶ These awards are the highest honours awarded to non-Muslim dignitaries by **Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Palestine, and the United Arab Emirates** respectively. Additionally, Prime Minister Modi has been honoured with the Order of St. Andrew Award (Russia's highest civilian honour), the Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin (the highest honour awarded to foreign dignitaries by the Maldives), and the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance (a top honour bestowed by a Gulf country).

**IPS - Indian Police Service**

**IAS - Indian Administrative Service**

**IFS - Indian Foreign Service**

**IIT - Indian Institute of Technology**

**ITI - Industrial Training Institute**

**DM - District Magistrate**

**SDO - Sub Divisional officer**

**RTI - Right To Information**

**CM - Chief Minister**

**PM - Prime Minister**

# Economic

## RBI, BIS launch fourth edition of G20 TechSprint competition

- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) have announced the launch of the G20 TechSprint 2023, a global competition aimed at improving cross-border payments through innovative technology solutions. The fourth edition of the competition was unveiled on May 4, and it is open to global innovators.

### Problem Statements for TechSprint 2023 :

- ▶▶ The TechSprint 2023 will focus on three problem statements formulated by the BIS Innovation Hub (BISIH) and RBI. The problem statements include the following:

### Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)

- ▶▶ Sanctions technology solutions to reduce illicit finance risk, forex (FX), and liquidity technology solutions to enable settlement in emerging market and developing economy (EMDE) currencies
- ▶▶ Technology solutions for multilateral cross-border central banking digital currency (CBDC) platforms.
- ▶▶ The competition aims to showcase how technology solutions can address illicit financing risks, provide settlement solutions in other currencies, and achieve interoperability in multi-lateral CBDC platforms.

### Competition Details and Timeline :

- ▶▶ The G20 TechSprint 2023 competition is open to developers from around the world to submit their applications from May 4 to June 4, 2023. The competition will conclude around August/September 2023.
- ▶▶ The TechSprint is a global technology competition that promotes innovative solutions aimed at improving cross-border payments. The competition is intended to encourage collaboration between financial institutions, technology providers, and other stakeholders in the global financial system to develop innovative solutions for cross-border payments.

### Bank for International Settlements (BIS), key points:

- ▶▶ The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is an international financial institution owned by central banks that facilitates cooperation among central banks and other agencies in pursuit of monetary and financial stability.



**Here are some key points about BIS :**

- ▶▶ Established in 1930, BIS is the world’s oldest international financial organization.
- ▶▶ It is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, and has representative offices in Hong Kong and Mexico City.
- ▶▶ Its membership includes 63 central banks from around the world, representing countries that account for about 95% of global GDP.
- ▶▶ The BIS’s mission is to promote international monetary and financial cooperation and to serve as a bank for central banks.
- ▶▶ The BIS acts as a forum for central banks to share information, discuss policy issues, and collaborate on research.
- ▶▶ The BIS also provides banking services to central banks and other international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ▶▶ The BIS is involved in promoting financial stability, including by conducting research on financial markets and instruments and providing assistance to central banks in managing their reserves.
- ▶▶ The BIS is also responsible for setting global standards and guidelines for banking and financial market regulation, including through its Committee on Banking Supervision and Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures....

**HDFC Bank launches digital distribution platform for its agents and partners**

- ▶▶ HDFC Bank, one of India’s leading private sector banks, has introduced its digital distribution platform, HDFC Bank Smart Saathi, to connect business correspondents (BCs) and business facilitators (BFs) to the bank. The platform aims to take banking products and services to the last mile, and contribute to the development of the country.



**Boosting Financial Inclusion :**

- ▶▶ The launch of HDFC Bank Smart Saathi is a significant milestone in HDFC Bank’s mission to provide innovative solutions that cater to the evolving needs of its customers. By establishing a network of business correspondents and business facilitators, the bank is committed to boosting financial inclusion in India. This network will play a vital role in taking banking products and services to the rural and remote areas of the country, where the majority of the population resides.

**The Prosperity of Rural India :**

- ▶▶ According to Smita Bhagat, Group Head, Government and Institutional Business, Alternate Banking Channels and Partnerships, Inclusive Banking Group and Start-ups, HDFC Bank, the prosperity of rural India is integral to realizing the vision of a \$5 trillion economy. Over the next 12-18 months, the bank plans to reach two lakh villages through a combination of branches and agent networks. The launch of HDFC Bank Smart Saathi is an important step towards meeting this objective.

## **Banks end FY23 with a robust 15.4 pc credit growth: RBI Data**

▶▶ Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) reported a robust credit growth of 15.4% in FY23 compared to 9.7% in FY22. The growth was powered by personal loans, loans to the services sector, and agriculture and allied activities. Personal loans registered a growth of 20.6% in FY23 as compared to 12.6% in the year-ago period, primarily driven by housing loans, according to RBI data on sectoral deployment of bank credit.



▶▶ Bank credit and deposit growth lost steam in the last fortnight of FY23 compared to the year-ago period, even as overall growth under these two key parameters was robust in the reporting financial year as compared to FY22.

### **Slow deposit growth expected due to rising deposit rates and competition between banks:**

▶▶ Deposit growth witnessed a slower growth at 9.6% y-o-y compared to credit growth for the fortnight ended March 10, 2023. Deposit rates have already risen and are expected to go up even further due to elevated policy rates, intense competition between banks for raising deposits to meet strong credit demand, a widening gap between credit & deposit growth, and lower liquidity in the market. The short-term Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) has reached 6.78% (as of March 3, 2023)...

## **RBI Cancels Certificate of Registration of 7 NBFCs and Surrender Permits of 14 NBFCs**

▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken significant actions in the financial sector, canceling the certificate of registration of seven **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** and accepting the surrender permits of 14 NBFCs. These moves aim to regulate and maintain the stability of the non-banking financial institution (NBFI) sector. Here are the details of the RBI's actions:



▶▶ Cancellation of Certificate of Registration of 7 NBFCs:

**The RBI has canceled the certificate of registration of the following seven NBFCs:**

1. Coorg Tea Company
2. TrimurthiFinvest
3. East West Finvest India





or sale of goods (other than securities), or providing services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.

**About the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Key Information :**

- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the central bank of India, responsible for the formulation and implementation of monetary policy in the country. It was established on April 1, 1935, in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The RBI plays a crucial role in maintaining financial stability, regulating the banking system, and ensuring the stability of the Indian rupee.

**Bank of Barod a launches Electronic Bank Guarantee on its Digital Platform**

- ▶▶ **Bank of Baroda**, a public sector bank, has announced its partnership with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**, a government-backed information utility appointed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, to launch the **Electronic Bank Guarantee (BG) system**.
- ▶▶ The system enables the issuance of inland bank guarantees securely and conveniently through the bank's digital platform BarodaINSTA.



**Bank of Baroda launches Electronic Bank Guarantee : Key Points -**

- ▶▶ This system is entirely digital, which reduces turnaround time and ensures a safer and more accessible medium.
- ▶▶ Upon issuance, the beneficiary can view the final digital BG immediately on the NeSL portal, eliminating the need for a separate BG issuing Bank authentication.

**Electronic Bank Guarantee by Bank of Baroda : Aim**

- ▶▶ The aim of this launch is to significantly reduce the turnaround time for issuing electronic bank guarantees compared to the conventional paper-based process.
- ▶▶ The Bank expects the new system to bring down the average turnaround time for a conventional BG from 2-3 days to just a few minutes.

**Why is launching an Electronic bank guarantee important ?**

- ▶▶ The reason for launching electronic bank guarantees is to provide a faster turnaround time compared to the traditional paper-based process of issuing inland bank guarantees.
- ▶▶ The **Bank of Baroda** claims that e-BGs will significantly reduce the average turnaround time from 2-3 days to a few minutes. E-BGs are stored in a central repository, making it easy to authenticate and verify documents for all stakeholders.
- ▶▶ e-BGs are a transformative reform that simplifies banking, enhances security and accessibility for customers.

- Contractors, SMEs, and large corporations frequently apply for bank guarantees, and the move to e-BGs will benefit all, providing a quick, seamless, transparent, and entirely secure process.
- ▶ In addition to the Bank of Baroda, other banks like **HDFC, SBI, Yes Bank, and Federal Bank** offer e-BG facilities.

## I M P O R T A N T

- ▶▶ **MD & CEO of NeSL: Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri**
- ▶▶ **RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das**

## Bank of Maharashtra Emerges as Top Performer in NPA Management during FY23

- ▶▶ **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)**, a Pune-based state-owned lender, has been recognized as the best bank in managing bad loans, achieving a remarkably low net **non-performing assets (NPAs)** ratio of 0.25% during the financial year that ended in March 2023. This achievement positions BoM as the leader among all banks with total business exceeding Rs 3 lakh crore, not limited to public sector banks (PSBs), according to the published yearly data of banks.



### Impressive Rankings in NPA Management:

- 1) Bank of Maharashtra: BoM secured the top spot with a net NPA ratio of 0.25%.
- 2) HDFC Bank: HDFC Bank followed closely with a net NPA ratio of 0.27%.
- 3) Kotak Mahindra Bank: Kotak Mahindra Bank secured the third position with a net NPA ratio of 0.37% of net advances.

### Leading Public Sector Banks (PSBs):

- ▶▶ Among the public sector banks (PSBs), Bank of Maharashtra was at the forefront of NPA management, closely followed by State Bank of India (SBI) with a net NPA ratio of 0.67% and Bank of Baroda at 0.89% at the end of March 2023.

### High Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) :

- ▶▶ BoM stands out with its exceptional provision coverage, having almost fully provided for the NPAs. The bank boasts the highest Provision Coverage Ratio of 98.28%, followed by UCO Bank at 94.50% and Indian Bank at 93.82%.

### Strong Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) :

- ▶▶ In terms of Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), Bank of Maharashtra demonstrates its robust financial position with the highest CAR of 18.14% among PSBs, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank at 17.10% and Canara Bank at 16.68%, as of March 31, 2023.

**Impressive Loan Growth :**

- ▶▶ Bank of Maharashtra maintains its leading position in terms of loan growth among scheduled commercial banks, recording a remarkable 29.49% increase on an annual basis, according to published banking data.

**Deposit Growth and CASA Deposits :**

- ▶▶ While HDFC Bank takes the lead in deposit growth rate with a 20.80% increase, followed by Federal Bank at 17% and Kotak Mahindra Bank at 16.49%, Bank of Maharashtra excels in low-cost Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) deposits. BoM secures the top spot with a CASA deposit growth rate of 53.38%, closely followed by IDBI Bank at 53.02% and Kotak Mahindra Bank at 52.83%.

**HDFC Bank partners Manipal Global to build up a talent pipeline**

- ▶▶ **HDFC Bank**, one of India’s premier private sector lenders, has announced a strategic partnership with Manipal Global Skills Academy to launch the Leadership Excellence Program (LXP). The program aims to hire and train women branch managers and enhance gender diversity within the organization. By collaborating with Manipal Global, HDFC Bank aims to develop a talent pipeline of skilled professionals equipped with industry-aligned competencies.



**Program Overview**

- ▶▶ The **Leadership Excellence Program (LXP)** is a transformative initiative designed to establish a robust talent pipeline of female professionals at HDFC Bank. The bank plans to hire, train, and deploy over 200 women branch managers across key cities in India, including Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad, and Uttar Pradesh. The program’s objective is to increase the percentage of women within the organization to 25% by the year 2025.

**Comprehensive Training Program**

- ▶▶ Selected candidates for the Women Branch Managers Program – LXP undergo a comprehensive one-month virtual training program facilitated by Manipal Global Skills Academy (MGSA). The training is tailored to equip future branch managers with essential skills such as resource management, marketing strategies, risk-reward trade-offs, process and control management, customer relationship management, stakeholder engagement, maintaining a quality asset portfolio, and driving growth and profitability. Soft skills and leadership training are also integral components of the program.

**Empowering Women in Banking**

- ▶▶ The collaboration between HDFC Bank and Manipal Global Skills Academy demonstrates HDFC Bank’s commitment to diversity and inclusivity in the workplace. The partnership aims to empower women in the banking sector by providing them with cutting-edge training and fostering a diverse talent pool. By enabling women to excel in leadership roles, this strategic initiative promotes

innovation, industry growth, and women's economic empowerment.

### **Placement-Linked Training Model -**

- ▶▶ The Leadership Excellence Program (LXP) follows a unique placement-linked training model, ensuring that participants are fully prepared for a successful career in the banking sector. Leveraging Manipal Global's expertise in training methodologies, the program guarantees 100% readiness and productivity from day one. This model not only enhances the quality of talent in the banking industry but also addresses long-term employability at a national level.

### **Positive Outlook for a More Equitable Future**

- ▶▶ Vinay Razdan, CHRO of HDFC Bank, emphasizes that the Leadership Excellence Program reflects the bank's dedication to diversity and inclusivity in the workplace. This strategic collaboration with Manipal Global Skills Academy not only delivers advanced training solutions but also contributes to the advancement of women in the banking sector. By championing this progressive move, HDFC Bank aims to foster innovation, promote a more equitable future, and drive the industry's growth.

## **RBI Approves Merger of Maratha Co-op Bank with Cosmos Co-op Bank**

- ▶▶ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted approval for the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank. The merger is set to take effect from May 29, 2023, as announced by the RBI. This decision comes after Maratha Sahakari Bank, established in 1946 with seven branches in Mumbai, had been placed under regulatory directions by the central bank since August 31, 2016. The Scheme has been sanctioned under the authority of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.



### **Background -**

- ▶▶ The Maratha Sahakari Bank, a prominent co-operative bank in Mumbai, has faced regulatory intervention by the RBI since 2016. Under the Directions imposed by the central bank, the bank's operations were closely monitored and regulated. The decision to merge with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank represents a strategic move to ensure the stability and continued services of the Maratha Sahakari Bank.

### **Approval by RBI -**

- ▶▶ In a statement, the RBI confirmed that the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation between Maratha Sahakari Bank and The Cosmos Co-operative Bank has received the necessary sanction. The regulatory approval has been granted under the provisions of Section 44A(4) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The RBI's decision reflects its commitment to safeguarding the interests of depositors and ensuring the stability of the banking sector.

### Effective Date and Operations -

- ▶▶ With the Scheme set to come into force from May 29, 2023, all branches of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., located in Mumbai, will function as branches of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited, headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra. The merger will allow customers of Maratha Sahakari Bank to seamlessly transition their banking activities to The Cosmos Co-operative Bank, ensuring minimal disruption and uninterrupted services.

### The Cosmos Co-operative Bank -

- ▶▶ The Cosmos Co-operative Bank, an urban co-operative bank operating across multiple states, boasts a network of 140 branches. With deposits and advances amounting to ₹ 16,522 crore and ₹ 12,293 crore, respectively, as of March-end 2022, The Cosmos Co-operative Bank has a strong financial position and a well-established presence in the co-operative banking sector.

### Benefits of the Merger

- ▶▶ The merger of Maratha Sahakari Bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank offers several advantages for both institutions and their customers. It ensures the continuity of banking services for Maratha Sahakari Bank's customers, safeguarding their interests and deposits. Additionally, the merger strengthens the financial position and expands the customer base of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank, contributing to its growth and stability in the co-operative banking sector.

## Gupshup Launches UPI Payments for Feature Phone Users, Bringing Financial Inclusion to All

- ▶▶ **Gupshup.io**, a conversational engagement platform, has unveiled a groundbreaking solution that enables UPI payments for feature phone users through its native app called GSPay. This innovative approach allows seamless payment experiences using SMS, eliminating the need for internet connectivity. Leveraging the **UPI 123 Pay system** introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Gupshup.io is making digital payments accessible to a wider audience. In addition, users can conveniently scan QR codes to complete transactions, further enhancing the ease of use.



### Expanding UPI Payments Beyond Traditional Channels

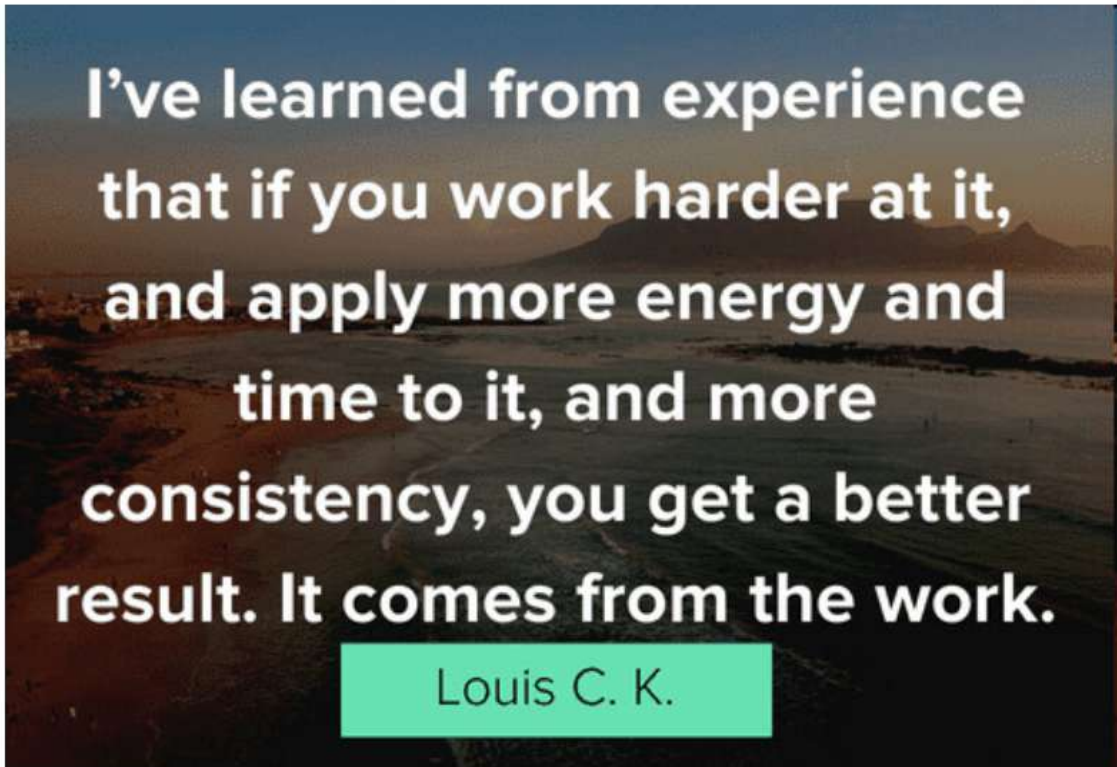
- ▶▶ Traditionally, **UPI payments** have relied on internet connectivity, limiting the accessibility for feature phone users. Gupshup.io's GSPay app breaks these barriers by leveraging SMS as the primary medium for UPI transactions. This breakthrough empowers feature phone users to register for UPI, link their bank accounts, and set UPI PINs, all within the embedded app on their phones. With a simple two-step process, users can initiate payments by entering the mobile number or UPI ID of the payee, the desired amount, and their UPI PIN. Once confirmed, the payment is processed, and the user receives a notification, ensuring a seamless and secure transaction experience.

**Language Localization and Strategic Partnerships**

- ▶▶ Recognizing the linguistic diversity in India, GSPay app supports 12 Indian languages, including English, Hindi, Marathi, Odia, and Assamese, among others. This localization effort enhances user accessibility and promotes wider adoption across various regions of the country. To further expand its reach, Gupshup.io has partnered with Nokia (HMD Global) to integrate GSPay into select Nokia feature phones, extending the benefits of UPI payments to a larger user base.

**The Significance of UPI123Pay**

- ▶▶ The launch of UPI123Pay by the RBI last year played a crucial role in enabling feature phone users to conduct UPI transactions without requiring an internet connection. UPI123Pay simplifies the transaction process into three easy steps, ensuring that more individuals can access digital experiences through their feature phones. This initiative highlights the commitment of the RBI and NPCI to promote financial inclusion and bridge the digital divide.



# National

## Unified portal, CU-Chayan launched by UGC for faculty recruitment

- ▶▶ University Grant Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar launched a new recruitment portal called CU-Chayan for Central University faculty, declaring it to be completely user-friendly and suitable for the needs of all the stakeholders in the recruitment process.
- ▶▶ The UGC created the CU-Chayan portal with the aim of developing an enabling environment for both universities and applicants, with universities able to manage every aspect of the recruitment process independently. Currently 31% seats are vacants across different universities.



### What does CU-Chayan portal offer ?

- ▶▶ The CU-Chayan portal is a unified recruitment platform that is tailored specifically to the recruitment of faculties in Central Universities.
- ▶▶ The portal serves as a common platform for listing vacancies, job advertisements, and postings across all Central Universities.
- ▶▶ Moreover, the registration and application process is entirely online, from application to screening to alerts for portal users.
- ▶▶ The CU-Chayan portal offers a personalized dashboard that is built to manage the application process. It provides transparency and access to every facet of the recruitment process.
- ▶▶ It offers a variety of features to assist applicants, including a consolidated list of job openings from all participating universities, a singular login for applying to any of the universities, and customised dashboards to aid in the application process.
- ▶▶ Additionally, applicants can use a range of filters like university name, location, job title, category, subject, employment type, experience, education level, and more to look for jobs.

### CU-Chayan Portal launched by UGC : Key Points

- ▶▶ For universities, the platform offers real-time application tracking, personalised admin dashboards, adjustable advertising regulations, and a fully online process that includes payment gateways, from initial application to screening.
- ▶▶ It also features built-in email communication tools, online feedback and reference options for referees, and provides real-time analysis and insights into the application process.

- ▶▶ Members of the university's Screening Committee can see applicant details, view point or research scores generated by the system, and verify uploaded documents against each entry.
- ▶▶ Additionally, the screening committee's comments and scores can be saved within the portal.

## **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh to Inaugurate 8th All India Pension Adalat in Delhi**

- ▶▶ Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** is set to inaugurate the **8th All India Pension Adalat** in Delhi on May 17. This initiative, organized by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, aims to resolve chronic pension-related cases. Additionally, the Minister will preside over the **50th pre-retirement counselling (PRC) workshop**, providing retiring civil employees with essential information and guidance for a smooth transition into retirement.



### **All India Pension Adalat :**

- ▶▶ The **All India Pension Adalat**, launched on an experimental basis in 2017, has been instrumental in resolving pensioners' grievances efficiently. Through the integration of technology and a collaborative approach, stakeholders involved in each case are brought together on a common platform, ensuring timely resolution of pension-related issues. In the previous seven adalats, a total of 24,218 cases were taken up, with 17,235 cases successfully resolved.

### **Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshops :**

- ▶▶ Conducted by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, the pre-retirement counselling (PRC) workshops are designed to assist civil employees approaching retirement within the next six months. These workshops offer retiring personnel valuable guidance on the necessary formalities for the timely payment of retirement benefits. Key topics covered include filling pension forms on the **BHAVISHYA platform**, an overview of the integrated pensioners' portal, income tax incentives for senior citizens and pensioners, and more. So far, 49 PRCs have been organized, benefiting a total of 6,972 retiring personnel.

### **Integration of Pension Disbursing Banks :**

- ▶▶ As part of the continuous efforts to enhance ease of living for pensioners, the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare has undertaken the integration of all portals relevant to pensioners. This integration includes the pension disbursing bank portals, **ANUBHAV**, **CPENGRAMS** (Centralised Pension Grievances Redress and Monitoring System), and **CGHS** (Central Government Health Scheme). The newly created **"Integrated Pensioners' Portal"** (ipension.nic.in) serves as the central platform for accessing these services. The integration of the pension seva portals of SBI and Canara Bank with the Bhavishya portal has already been completed, enabling pensioners to conveniently access their pension slips, check the status of life certificate submissions, and obtain Form-16 through the integrated pensioners' portal.



## **UGC launches new website, UTSAH and PoP portals to promote quality education**

- ▶▶ **The University Grants Commission (UGC)** has launched a new website, the **UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) Portal**, and the **Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal** to promote quality education in India. The launch of these new initiatives is a significant step by the UGC in its efforts to promote quality education in India. The new website, UTSAH Portal, and PoP Portal will provide valuable resources to students, faculty, and universities, and will help to improve the quality of higher education in India.



### **Overview of the news :**

- ▶▶ These new initiatives are a significant step by the UGC in its efforts to promote quality education in India. The new website, UTSAH Portal, and PoP Portal will provide valuable resources to students, faculty, and universities, and will help to improve the quality of higher education in India.
- ▶▶ To align with the National Education Policy 2020, the UGC has launched the Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal. This portal enables institutions to connect with experienced professionals in specific fields. Experts from any discipline can register on the PoP Portal, providing comprehensive information about their expertise, work experience, location, and preferred engagement type. Universities and institutions can register on the portal, post advertisements for PoP positions specifying the required domain and number of posts, and access the profiles of registered experts on the portal.

### **About these initiatives -**

- ▶▶ The new UGC website is more user-friendly and informative, with categorized information for students, faculty, and universities. The website also has a section on the National Education Policy 2020, which outlines the UGC's vision for higher education in India.
- ▶▶ The UTSAH Portal is a comprehensive platform that provides detailed information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education. The portal covers a wide range of topics, including curriculum development, faculty development, research, and student support.
- ▶▶ The PoP Portal is a new initiative that aims to facilitate the appointment of experienced professional experts as faculty members in higher education institutions. The portal will provide a platform for institutions to connect with experienced professionals and invite them to apply for faculty positions.

### **Here are some of the key features of the new UGC website, UTSAH Portal, and PoP Portal :**

- ▶▶ The new UGC website is more user-friendly and informative, with categorized information for students, faculty, and universities.

- ▶▶ The UTSAH Portal is a comprehensive platform that provides detailed information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education.
- ▶▶ The PoP Portal is a new initiative that aims to facilitate the appointment of experienced professional experts as faculty members in higher education institutions.

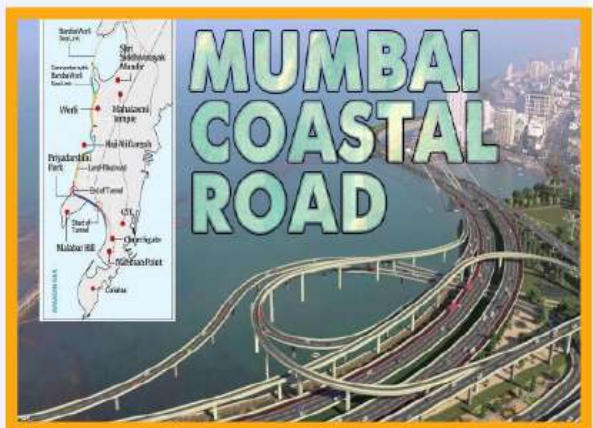
**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **University Grants Commission Founded: 1956;**
- ▶▶ **University Grants Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;**
- ▶▶ **University Grants Commission Preceding executive: SukhdeoThorat.**

**India's First Undersea Tunnel Nears Completion : Mumbai Coastal Road Project**

▶▶ India's First Undersea Tunnel Nears Completion: Mumbai Coastal Road Project:

▶▶ The Mumbai Coastal Road Project (MCRP) is a Rs 12,721-crore initiative by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to link Marine Drive to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link. The most significant feature of the project is the construction of India's first undersea tunnel, which is set to open by November 2023. The 2.07-kilometer twin tunnels run 17-20 meters below sea level, connecting Girgaon to Priyadarshini Park via the Arabian Sea, Girgaon Chowpatty, and Malabar Hill.



**Construction Challenges and Use of TBM :**

- ▶▶ The construction of the twin tunnels involved cutting through complex geological strata using a massive Chinese Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) and a team of 35 men. The TBM, named Mavala, is the largest ever used in India, weighing over 1,700 tonnes and standing about 12 meters tall. It was manufactured by the China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Company Ltd (CRCHI) and was assembled and launched a year ago.
- ▶▶ The TBM has been instrumental in completing the construction of the undersea tunnels. It broke through from the Girgaon end in January 2022 after a year of mining activity, and the second tunnel's boring commenced in April 2022. The BMC expects to make its breakthrough by the end of May as only 140 meters of mining work remains.

**Tunnel Design and Features :**

▶▶ The tunnels have a diameter of 12.19 meters and feature six crosswalks, four for pedestrians and two for motorists. Each tunnel has three 3.2-meter-wide



lanes, with two lanes operational and the third used in case of emergencies or increased vehicular density.

- ▶▶ The tunnels also have fibreglass facades resembling the Queen's Necklace, a famous C-shaped promenade on Marine Drive. The entry and exit points are designed to provide easy access to the tunnels, and the crosswalks allow for safe pedestrian and vehicular movement.

**Impact on Commute Time :**

- ▶▶ The MCRP is expected to reduce the 45-minute commute from Girgaon to Worli to just 10 minutes during peak hours. The high-speed coastal road, spanning 10.58 kilometers, connects Marine Drive to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link. The undersea tunnels are a critical component of the project, cutting down commute time and easing traffic congestion in the area....

**Shri Bhupender Yadav launches Meri LiFE App**

- ▶▶ **The Meri LiFE app**, launched by Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, is set to revolutionize the way individuals and communities track their progress in the global mass movement called **Mission LiFE**. Inspired by the vision of the Prime Minister, this movement aims to nudge people towards taking action to protect the environment and adopt sustainable lifestyles. With a focus on youth engagement, the app encourages individuals to participate in a series of LiFE-related tasks, empowering them to make a positive impact on the environment.



**Mission LiFE: A Lifestyle for Environment :**

- ▶▶ Mission LiFE, launched by the Prime Minister on October 20, 2022, in Kevadia, Gujarat, seeks to bring about behavior changes in individuals through simple, actionable steps. It emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilization, encouraging people to move away from mindless and wasteful consumption patterns. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change serves as the nodal ministry for national-level coordination and implementation of Mission LiFE, collaborating with various stakeholders to spread awareness and foster sustainable actions.

**The Meri LiFE App : Tracking Progress and Guiding Action :**

- ▶▶ To amplify youth action for climate change leading up to World Environment Day on June 5, 2023, the Meri LiFE app has been introduced. This mobile application is designed to provide a structured approach for tracking progress made on Mission LiFE and engaging users in a gamified experience. Upon signing up, users are guided to participate in a series of LiFE-related tasks under five themes: Save Energy, Save Water, Reduce Single-Use Plastic, Adopt Sustainable Food Systems, and Adopt Healthy Lifestyle.

## **Ministry of Tourism participates in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023**

- ▶▶ The Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India, is participating in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023 to promote inbound travel to India from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- ▶▶ The Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023, one of the most prominent global events for the travel and tourism industry, kicked off in Dubai, UAE, on May 1, 2023, with a substantial presence from India. The Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India, is participating in the event to promote inbound travel to India from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.



### **India's Large Pavilion at ATM 2023 :**

- ▶▶ India has one of the largest pavilions at the event, with over 100 participants, including state tourism boards, hotels, and tour operators showcasing the diverse cultural and tourism offerings of the country. The focus of this year's event is on reducing carbon emissions in the travel industry, and the Indian pavilion is showcasing the eco-friendly initiatives of the country, which includes sustainable tourism practices and responsible wildlife tourism.

### **India's Booming Outbound Tourism Market :**

- ▶▶ According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in the first nine months of 2022, Indian nationals spent \$10 billion on overseas travel, which is a significant increase of almost 43% from the pre-Covid figures. Indian business consultants have projected that the annual number of outbound journeys will surpass 27 million, with a total value of more than \$42 billion by 2024....

## **Anji Khad bridge, first cable stayed rail bridge in India**

- ▶▶ India's Union Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has shared a timelapse video showcasing the construction of the Anji Khad Bridge, the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge. With a total of 96 cables spanning a length of 653km, the bridge is part of the challenging Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL) Project in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.



### **Anji Khad bridge : Key Points**

- ▶▶ The bridge connects Katra and Reasi and required detailed geological investigations from IIT Roorkee and IIT Delhi to navigate the complex and fragile terrain of the Himalayan mountain slopes.

- ▶▶ Due to space restrictions on the Katra end, a special hybrid foundation was developed to stabilize the foundation of the main span.
- ▶▶ On the Srinagar end, the majority of the Anji Khad Bridge works were completed, including the construction of the main pylon with a 40-meter-deep hybrid foundation, the central embankment, and the ancillary viaduct.
- ▶▶ To simplify construction and consider typical conditions, the 725.5-meter bridge was divided into four parts: the 120-meter-long ancillary viaduct on the Reasi side, a 38-meter-long approach bridge on the Katra end.
- ▶▶ The main cable-stayed bridge with a length of 473.25 meters and a central span of 290 meters, and the 94.25-meter-long central embankment located between the ancillary viaduct and the main bridge, which connects tunnels T2 and T3 on the Katra-Banihal Section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project.

**About Anji Khad Bridge :**

- ▶▶ The Anji Khad Bridge is supported by a single main pylon standing at a height of 331 meters above the river bed, with a height of 193 meters from the top of the foundation.
- ▶▶ It has an asymmetrical design, with a total deck width of 15 meters, and is supported by 96 cables with lengths ranging from 82 meters to 295 meters.
- ▶▶ The main pylon utilized 40-meter-deep micropiles and a 20-meter hybrid well foundation.
- ▶▶ Designed to withstand heavy storms with strong winds of up to 213 km/h, the Anji Khad Bridge can accommodate a single railway line and a 3.75-meter-wide service road, with a 1.5-meter-wide footpath on each side of the deck.
- ▶▶ To ensure worker safety and increase efficiency while saving construction time, advanced equipment such as the DOKA Jump-Form Shuttering and Pump Concreting Systems have been utilized.
- ▶▶ Prime Minister Inaugurates 91 FM Radio Transmitters, To Benefit Border, Aspirational Districts

**Anji Khad Bridge : Other Highlights**

- ▶▶ To monitor the bridge’s structural health during use, numerous sensors have been installed at various locations on the bridge.
- ▶▶ The Italian company ITALFERR was responsible for detailed design and construction supervision, while the UK company COWI was responsible for proof-checking, based on the Indy design, started by Photo by Eurocodes.
- ▶▶ The site-specific earthquake parameter studies were conducted by the Department of Earthquake Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, to determine the seismo-tectonic framework for the region. The line is designed to operate at a speed of 100 km/h, which does not cause any issues for the train-structure interaction

**Supreme Court allows divorce on the grounds of “irretrievable breakdown of marriage”**

- ▶▶ The Supreme Court of India has granted couples the right to divorce on the grounds of “irretrievable breakdown of marriage” under Article 142 of the Constitution. This ruling applies to cases where

both parties seek a mutual consent divorce or where one partner seeks a divorce despite opposition from the other.

- ▶▶ The court noted that it must be fully convinced and satisfied that the marriage is beyond salvation, emotionally dead, and totally unworkable before granting a divorce on the grounds of “irretrievable breakdown of marriage”. The factual determination and evaluation must be objective and firmly established.



**Discretionary power under Article 142 :**

- ▶▶ Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to give precedence to equity over law in the pursuit of “complete justice” in a matter. The court, however, cannot be directly approached under Article 32 to seek divorce on the grounds of “irretrievable breakdown of marriage”. Granting a divorce on these grounds is not a right but a discretionary power to be exercised with great care and caution.

**Removal of the cooling-off period :**

- ▶▶ The verdict removes the mandatory six-month cooling-off period between the first and second motion for divorce in mutual consent divorce petitions under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA). The court may also set aside and quash other proceedings and orders, including criminal cases and First Information Reports, based on the settlement between the parties.

**Factors for determining “irretrievable breakdown of marriage” :**

- ▶▶ The court has provided factors as illustrations to determine “irretrievable breakdown of marriage”. The exercise of this discretionary power must be based on the factual matrix in a particular case, evaluated objectively.

**Ending agony, suffering, and torment :**

- ▶▶ The court held that a hyper-technical view in cases of “irretrievable breakdown of marriage” is counter-productive as the pendency of such cases causes pain, suffering, and harassment. The court’s duty is to ensure that matrimonial matters are amicably resolved to end the agony, affliction, and torment caused by such disputes....

**India to Join International Climate Action in Civil Aviation from 2027**

- ▶▶ India has announced that it will participate in the International Civil Aviation Organisation’s (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027. The decision was made at a meeting of the Parliament’s Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Civil Aviation held in New Delhi and chaired by the Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia.

**ICAO’s Focus on Reducing Carbon Emissions :**

- ▶▶ ICAO has been tasked with reducing carbon emissions from international civil aviation. To achieve

this goal, the global body has adopted several key aspirational goals, including a two per cent annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050, carbon neutral growth, and net zero by 2050. These goals are clubbed under CORSIA and LTAG.

**Implementation of CORSIA :**

- ▶▶ CORSIA is to be implemented in three phases, and financial implications due to offsetting have to be borne by individual airlines, depending upon their international operations. It is applicable only to flights originating from one country to another.



**Why India is Joining ICAO’s Climate Action Measures from 2027 :**

- ▶▶ The Indian Ministry has stated that “this will enable airlines of developing countries like India to get time to grow more so that they do not face any adverse financial consequences due to CORSIA.” The financial implications of offsetting would have had a significant impact on airlines in developing countries. Joining the initiative in 2027 will give Indian airlines time to expand their operations and avoid any adverse financial consequences.

**About International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) :**

- ▶▶ ICAO is an intergovernmental specialized agency associated with the United Nations (UN) that was established in 1947 by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944) known as the Chicago Convention. The headquarters of ICAO is located in Montreal, Canada....

**Indian Army Inducts First Women Officers into Regiment of Artillery**

- ▶▶ In a historic first, the Indian Army has inducted five women officers into its Regiment of Artillery. Lt Mehak Saini, Lt Sakshi Dubey, Lt Aditi Yadav, Lt Pious Mudgil, and Lt Akanksha have joined the Army’s premier artillery units after successfully completing their training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai.



- ▶▶ Military sources have reported that three of the five women officers have been posted to frontline formations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, while the other two have been posted to “challenging locations” near the frontier with Pakistan. The Regiment of Artillery is a major combat support arm, and it has around 280 units that handle various gun systems, including Bofors howitzers, Dhanush, M-777 howitzers, and K-9 Vajra self-propelled guns.

**Women Officers to Receive Adequate Training :**

- ▶▶ The sources also stated that the young women officers are being posted to all types of key artillery units, where they will receive adequate training and exposure to handle rockets, field and surveillance, and target acquisition (SATA) systems, as well as key equipment.

**Approval of the Proposal by the Government :**

- ▶▶ In January, Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande announced the decision to commission women officers into artillery units. The proposal was later approved by the government....

**Indian Army's Gajraj Corps Conducts Joint Flood Relief Exercise 'Jal Rahat' in Assam**

*The 'Jal Rahat' flood relief exercise conducted by the Gajraj Corps of the Indian Army in Assam showcased the joint efforts and coordination among multiple agencies in dealing with flood-related emerg*



- ▶▶ The **Gajraj Corps of the Indian Army** recently conducted a joint flood relief exercise called '**Jal Rahat**' at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River in Assam. The purpose of the exercise was to validate joint drills and enhance coordination among multiple agencies involved in flood relief operations. The event witnessed the participation of various organizations, including the Indian Army, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), and police representatives. The exercise focused on coordinating preparedness and conducting rescue missions in flood-affected areas.

**Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination :**

- ▶▶ The 'Jal Rahat' exercise aimed to strengthen collaboration and coordination among different agencies involved in **flood relief operations**. By conducting joint drills and rehearsals, the exercise provided an opportunity for the specialist teams from the Army, NDRF, and SDRF to work together seamlessly. This joint effort ensured a more efficient and effective response to rescue and evacuate people from inundated areas during floods.

**Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches 'Millets Experience Centre' at DilliHaat**

- ▶▶ India's Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently launched the Millets Experience Centre (MEC) at DilliHaat in New Delhi.
- ▶▶ India's Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently launched the Millets Experience Centre (MEC) at DilliHaat in New Delhi. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) established the MEC in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to promote the adoption of millets among the general public.





**India Aims to Become Global Hub for Millets :**

- ▶▶ In his inaugural address, Mr Tomar praised India’s dynamic role in celebrating the International Year of Millets 2023 led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said India is gearing towards becoming a ‘Global Hub’ for Millets, and the setting up of the MEC is a step in that direction.

**MEC to Promote Dietary Benefits of Millets :**

- ▶▶ The Ministry-led initiative of establishing a consumer-oriented Millets Experience Centre would not only promote the dietary benefits of millets but also popularize Shree Anna as a nutritional powerhouse. Customers can have a unique dining experience and purchase a variety of ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook products from local millet start-ups at the MEC.

**The Purpose of Millets Experience Centre(MEC) :**

- ▶▶ The purpose of the Millets Experience Centre, founded by NAFED and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), is to enhance public awareness about millets and encourage their utilization. In response to India’s proposal, which was endorsed by 72 countries, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 to be the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023). The declaration put India at the vanguard of the celebrations, and the government has been working in ‘mission mode’ to promote millets as a crop that benefits farmers, the environment, and consumers.

**PM Modi Chairs 8th Governing Council Meeting of Niti Aayog, Emphasizes Team India Approach for a Developed Nation by 2047**

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently presided over the **8th Governing Council Meeting** of Niti Aayog, held at the New Convention Centre in New Delhi. The meeting saw the participation of Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors representing 19 states and 6 union territories. In his address, Prime Minister Modi underscored the importance of collaborative efforts between the central government, states, and union territories to realize the aspirations of the people and transform India into a developed nation by 2047.



**Working Towards a Viksit Bharat @ 2047**

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Modi emphasized the need for Niti Aayog to play a crucial role in assisting states in formulating their long-term strategies for the next 25 years. He urged the states and union territories to align their developmental agendas with the national goals and work together as “Team India” to achieve the vision of a prosperous and developed India by 2047, termed as “Viksit Bharat.”

**Promoting Cooperative and Competitive Federalism**

- ▶▶ The Prime Minister lauded Niti Aayog’s initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperative and competitive federalism, such as the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme

(ABP). These programs showcase the power of collaboration between the center, states, and districts and highlight the transformative impact of data-driven governance in improving the lives of citizens at the grassroots level.

### **Focus on Shree Anna and Water Conservation**

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Modi emphasized the importance of promoting the cultivation and consumption of millets, or “Shree Anna,” especially in the International Year of Millets. He also highlighted the need for concerted efforts towards water conservation through the Amrit Sarovar program, recognizing the critical role of water in sustainable development.

## **Centre to Launch New Rs.75 Coin to Mark New Parliament Inauguration**

- ▶▶ The Ministry of Finance has announced the launch of a special Rs. 75 coin to commemorate the inauguration of India’s new parliament building. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will unveil the coin on Sunday, 28 May, coinciding with the celebration of India’s 75 years of independence.

### **The Design and Symbolism :**

- ▶▶ The newly minted Rs.75 coin will feature the iconic Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar on one side, with the words “**Satyamev Jayate**” below it. The coin will bear the inscription “Bharat” in Devanagari script on the left side and “India” in English on the right. It will also display the rupee symbol and the denomination value of 75 in international numerals beneath the Lion Capital. On the reverse side, an image of the parliament complex will be depicted, with “**SansadSankul**” written in Devanagari script on the upper periphery and “**Parliament Complex**” in English on the lower periphery.



### **Significance of the Coin -**

- ▶▶ The issuance of the ₹ 75 coin holds great symbolic importance as it pays tribute to India’s 75 years of independence. The Lion Capital, a national emblem of India, represents strength, courage, and righteousness. The inclusion of the parliament complex highlights the significance of the new building and its role as a center of democracy.

### **Specifications and Composition -**

- ▶▶ The circular coin will have a diameter of 44 millimeters and 200 serrations along its edges. It will weigh 35 grams and be composed of a four-part alloy, consisting of 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% nickel, and 5% zinc. The use of silver in the composition adds a precious and commemorative element to the coin.

### **Controversy Surrounding the Inauguration :**

- ▶▶ While the inauguration of the new parliament building is expected to be a momentous occasion, it has faced opposition from several political parties. The Congress, AamAadmi Party, Left, Trinamool, and Samajwadi Party, among others, have announced their decision to boycott the event. They argue that the focus should be on preserving the “soul of democracy” rather than constructing a new building.

**Opposition’s Criticism and BJP’s Response -**

- ▶▶ The opposition parties have expressed their disapproval of Prime Minister Modi inaugurating the new parliament building instead of President Droupadi Murmu. They perceive it as a departure from democratic norms and an affront to constitutional values. In response, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has labeled the opposition’s decision to boycott the inauguration as a “blatant affront to democratic ethos and constitutional values of our great nation.”

**Indian Govt Introduce 30% Subsidy for Sustainable Shipping Construction**

- ▶▶ The **Indian government** has introduced a series of measures aimed at promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly technology in the shipping sector. These initiatives include offering financial assistance and focusing on upgrading ports. The government’s announcement was made during a two-day conference organized by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)** following their earlier plan to develop hydrogen ports in **India**.
- ▶▶ Earlier this year, the government prioritized the modernization of the shipping industry by imposing an age limit on ships sailing under the **Indian flag** or owned by **Indian shipowners**.



**30% Subsidy for Sustainable Shipping Construction : Key Points**

- ▶▶ During the conference, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** unveiled five initiatives that concentrate on green shipping and the digitization of ports.
- ▶▶ He stressed the government’s commitment to promoting environmentally friendly shipping practices and enhancing port efficiency. These new efforts aim to foster sustainable development within the maritime sector.
- ▶▶ As part of the first initiative, the government plans to increase financial support for companies engaged in constructing eco-friendly ships.
- ▶▶ Currently, the government provides 20 percent financing, decreasing by three percent annually, for newly built vessels.

**PM Modi Announced India to Open New Consulate in Brisbane**

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed that a new consulate would be constructed in Brisbane during his address at the Community Event in Sydney. He announced that India will establish a new consulate in Brisbane, Australia which aims to fulfill a long-standing demand of the Indian diaspora in Australia. It was announced during the address of Narendra Modi at a packed stadium

at Sydney's Qudos Bank Arena which was attended by more than 21,000 people across Australia along with the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese.

**PM Modi Announced India to open new consulate in Brisbane: Key Points**



- ▶▶ Narendra Modi informed that was it an absolute delight to connect with the Indian diaspora at the community program, where he also thanked his Australian Prime Minister for supporting him in the unveiling foundation stone of "Little India; a suburb of Sydney."
- ▶▶ As Prime Minister Albanese welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he also announced Harris Park as "Little India".
- ▶▶ Harris Park is a hub in Western Sydney where the Indian Community celebrates the Indian festival and events including Diwali and Australia Day.
- ▶▶ The Prime Minister of India stated that there was a time when 3Cs were used to define relations between India and Australia which were Commonwealth, Cricket, and Curry.
- ▶▶ The audience busted into loud applause after he stated that the strongest and biggest foundation of trust between the countries is mutual trust and mutual respect.
- ▶▶ India and Australia have also joined hands to facilitate the movement of students, academics, and professionals along with its current consulates in Perth, Melbourne, and Sydney.

Hard work and talent are crucial to success, and intangible qualities like heart and clutch are generally real - but luck is just as important. Nobody gets to the top by accident, but nobody's on top without some pretty phenomenal accidents of fate.

— Andrew Sharp —

## **PM Narendra Modi inaugurates new Parliament building**



- ▶▶ **On May 28, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi** officially opened the new **Parliament building**. He arrived at Gate No. 1, wearing traditional attire, and was greeted by Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla**. Accompanied by priests from Karnataka's Shringeri Math, the Prime Minister participated in a ceremonial "Ganapati Homam" to seek divine blessings for the inauguration of the new Parliament building. Vedic chants added a spiritual atmosphere to the occasion.
- ▶▶ PM Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Ministers and CMs of different States attend a multi-faith prayer meeting under way at the new Parliament building. PM Narendra Modi felicitates the workers who helped in the building and development of the new Parliament House.
- ▶▶ Installs 'Sengol' near Lok Sabha Speaker's chair  
**Adheenams hand over 'Sengol' to Modi**
- ▶▶ Modi led a procession carrying the "Sengol" while traditional "nadaswaram" tunes played and Vedic mantras were chanted. The procession made its way to the new Parliament building, where Modi placed the "Sengol" in a dedicated enclosure on the right side of the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha chamber. During the ceremony, the Prime Minister also honored select workers who had made significant contributions to the construction of the new Parliament building.
- About the Sengol -**
- ▶▶ Made of silver and gold, the five-feet long sceptre was handed over by Lord Mountbatten to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on August 14, 1947, as a symbol of the transfer of power, according to the government. The Sengol, a symbol of governance in Tamil kingdoms of yore, was then kept for display in The Allahabad Museum.
- About the Parliament building -**
- ▶▶ The new building is located in the **Central Vista area of New Delhi** and is designed to accommodate the growing size and needs of the Indian Parliament. The new Parliament building has been designed to accommodate future requirements, with seating for **888 members in the Lok Sabha and 384 members in the Rajya Sabha**.
- ▶▶ The new building will also house six committee rooms equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual systems. This is a significant improvement compared to the present structure, which has only three such rooms.
- ▶▶ Unlike the circular shape of the old Parliament building, the new building takes on a triangular shape to optimize space utilization, covering an area of approximately **65,000 square meters**. The four-storey building has been constructed at an estimated cost of **1970 crore**. The building has been designed by Ahmedabad-based **HCP Design, Planning and Management, and constructed by Tata Projects Limited**.

## IMPRINT India : Boosting Research and Innovation for a Technologically Advanced Nation

- ▶▶ The IMPRINT India scheme, an acronym for “Impacting Research Innovation and Technology,” is a collaborative initiative between the Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Human Resource Development in India. The program aims to strengthen research and innovation in the country by addressing major engineering and technology challenges across ten crucial domains. By promoting indigenous research and development, IMPRINT India seeks to reduce dependence on foreign technology and enhance the nation’s self-sufficiency. This article explores the objectives, features, functionality, benefits, and vision of the IMPRINT India scheme. “Objectives of IMPRINT India:



**The primary objectives of the IMPRINT India program are as follows :**

- ▶▶ **Identify Areas of Relevance :** The scheme aims to identify areas in society that require immediate innovation and technological intervention. By focusing on pressing challenges, IMPRINT India ensures that research efforts align with the needs and aspirations of the nation.
- ▶▶ **Enhance Research Funding:** IMPRINT India aims to secure increased support and funding for research in the identified areas. By providing adequate resources, the program encourages technical institutions to undertake comprehensive research projects to address societal challenges effectively.

## First Vande Bharat Express Train of Northeast to be Flagged Off by PM Modi

- ▶▶ “Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off Assam’s first Vande Bharat Express train. The state-of-the-art Vande Bharat train will be flagged off by the Prime Minister through video conferencing. The new service will cover the distance of 411 km between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri in 5 hours 30 minutes reducing the present shortest journey time by the speediest train significantly. Get to know all the features included in the first Vande Bharat Express train of Northeast India.



**Features -**

- ▶▶ It is the first of its kind premium semi-high speed aesthetically designed, well-equipped fully Air Conditioner service between Guwahati in Assam and New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.
- ▶▶ The Guwahati- NJP Vande Bharat Express train service will operate six days a week.
- ▶▶ There will be no service on this train.

- ▶▶ “This will be the fastest train in this sector and will benefit IT professionals, businessmen, students, and tourists.”The train will stop at Kamakhya, New Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, New Alipurduar, and New Coochbehar and culminate at NJP.“This will be the third Vande Bharat for West Bengal after the Howrah-NJP Vande Bharat Express and the Howrah-Puri Vande Bharat Express.

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**Department of Water Resources Chairs Meeting of Atal Bhujal Yojana**

- ▶▶ The fourth meeting of the National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) of the Atal Bhujal Yojana was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is being implemented as a Central Sector Scheme since April 2020 in 8220 water-stressed Gram Panchayats of 229 administrative blocks/ Talukas in 80 districts of seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh for a five-year period (2020-25).



**Atal Bhujal Yojana: Introduction -**

- ▶▶ The Committee has reviewed the overall progress of the scheme and directed the States to expedite all the activities including procurement as well as convergence for the implementation of the interventions proposed under Water Security Plans (WSPs).
- ▶▶ The Committee noted that the scheme implementation was hampered by COVID during the initial two years and given that community behavioral change is a time taking process, it was decided that the scheme should be taken up for continuation for another two years beyond the existing time of the scheme.
- ▶▶ Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti “Launch Year: 2023“ Implementing Body: Department of Water Resources.

# International

## Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue unveiled by Devendra Fadnavis in Mauritius

- ▶▶ Chhatrapati Shivaji statue unveiled by Devendra Fadnavis in Mauritius: Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis revealed a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Mauritius.
- ▶▶ Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis revealed a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Mauritius. He highlighted Maharashtra's potential as a leading industrial and investment destination in India at the Indo-Mauritius Business Forum and signed an MoU to promote trade between Mauritius and Maharashtra.



### Chhatrapati Shivaji statue unveiled in Mauritius : Key Points

- ▶▶ Fadnavis attended a cultural event with Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and will meet with members of the Maharashtrian community.
- ▶▶ During his visit to Mauritius, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis unveiled a statue of the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and emphasized that our existence today is indebted to Shivaji Maharaj.
- ▶▶ Fadnavis lauded Shivaji Maharaj's accomplishments, particularly his exceptional management of the tax system and law and order.
- ▶▶ He also pledged a grant of 44 million Mauritius rupees for the construction of a multipurpose hall and a scholarship for 10 students.
- ▶▶ The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and members of the Mauritius Marathi Mandali Federation.
- ▶▶ 'Gigachat' Russia's Sberbank launches AI to compete with ChatGPT

### IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **President of Mauritius: PrithvirajsingRoopun**
- ▶▶ **Prime Minister of Mauritius: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth**
- ▶▶ **Mauritian Currency: Mauritian rupee**
- ▶▶ **Capital of Mauritius: Port Louis.**



## World Bank Approves \$82 Million Loan For Controlling Zoonotic Diseases in India

- ▶▶ The **World Bank's** Board of Executive Directors has approved an \$82 million loan to support **India's** efforts in adopting global best practices for **animal health management**. The loan aims to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases, recognizing the interconnectedness of people, animals, and the environment.



### Risks of Animal Disease Outbreaks in India:

- ▶▶ With India being home to the **largest livestock population in the world**, the risks associated with animal disease outbreaks are particularly high. These outbreaks not only pose risks to public health systems but also have significant economic costs. For instance, foot and mouth disease alone costs the country over \$3.3 billion annually.

### Livestock Health and Disease Control Program :

- ▶▶ The loan will support **India's Livestock Health and Disease Control Program**, which aims to control animal diseases and zoonoses. By implementing this program, the risks of animal disease outbreaks can be reduced through improved disease surveillance and veterinary services in the livestock and wildlife sectors.

### Enhancing Animal Health Services :

- ▶▶ Through the Animal Health System Support for One Health Program, at least 2.9 million livestock farmers in the participating states of **Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh** will have increased access to improved animal health services. This will help ensure the early detection and timely response to potential disease outbreaks.

## UN General Assembly Declares November 26 as World Sustainable Transport Day:

- ▶▶ The **United Nations General Assembly** took a significant step towards promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation by adopting a resolution to designate November 26 as **World Sustainable Transport Day**. This global initiative aims to raise awareness, educate the public, and foster international

### World Sustainable Transport Day

- ▶▶ The resolution encourages member states, UN organizations, international and regional entities, and civil society to commemorate this day through educational activities and events focused on enhancing knowledge about sustainable transport.

### Enhancing Intermodal Transport Connectivity: A Key Priority:

- ▶▶ One of the core focuses of World Sustainable Transport Day is the enhancement of intermodal

transport connectivity. Intermodal transportation refers to the seamless movement of people and goods across various modes of transport, such as combining railways, roadways, waterways, and air travel. By promoting and improving intermodal transport networks, the aim is to enhance efficiency, reduce congestion, and minimize environmental impacts.



### **Promoting Environmentally Friendly Transportation Practices :**

- ▶▶ World Sustainable Transport Day seeks to promote environmentally friendly transportation practices that prioritize sustainability and reduce carbon emissions. This includes encouraging the use of electric vehicles, promoting the development and utilization of clean fuels, and advocating for the adoption of green technologies in transportation infrastructure. By transitioning to low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport, we can contribute significantly to mitigating climate change and achieving the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.

## **WMO Approves Global Tracker for Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- ▶▶ The World Meteorological Congress has made a groundbreaking decision to approve a new **greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative**, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This initiative aims to support urgent action in reducing heat-trapping gases that contribute to rising global temperatures. The newly established **Global Greenhouse Gas Watch** will address critical information gaps, integrating various observing systems, modeling capabilities, and data assimilation under one comprehensive framework.



The unanimous support from WMO's 193 members highlights the growing importance of greenhouse gas monitoring and the need to strengthen the scientific foundation for climate change mitigation efforts.

### **The Importance of the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch**

- ▶▶ Filling information gaps and providing an integrated framework
- ▶▶ Unifying surface-based and space-based observations, modeling, and data assimilation
- ▶▶ Overcoming limitations in international exchange of greenhouse gas observations and modeling products

### **Endorsement by the World Meteorological Congress**

- ▶▶ Recognizing the societal significance of greenhouse gas monitoring

- ▶▶ Supporting scientific understanding of the Earth System
- ▶▶ Strengthening the underpinning of mitigation actions for climate agreements

**Components of the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch -**

**A. Comprehensive Observations**

- ▶▶ Surface-based and satellite-based monitoring of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O
- ▶▶ Monitoring of concentrations, total and partial column amounts, vertical profiles, and fluxes
- ▶▶ Exchange of data internationally to facilitate rapid information sharing

**B. Prior Estimation of GHG Emissions**

- ▶▶ Utilizing activity data and process-based models to estimate emissions
- ▶▶ Providing crucial insights for mitigation planning

**C. Global Earth System Models**

- ▶▶ Developing high-resolution models representing GHG cycles
- ▶▶ Enhancing understanding of the carbon cycle and its implications

**D. Data Assimilation Systems**

- ▶▶ Combining observations with model calculations for higher accuracy
- ▶▶ Generating valuable products to support decision-making

**Ireland Set to Implement Alcohol Health Warnings, Leading Global Efforts**

- ▶▶ **Ireland** is on track to become the first country to enforce mandatory health advisories on alcohol products. The **Irish Minister** for Health, **Stephen Donnelly**, has approved the new policy, which will be implemented starting from May 22, 2026. This three-year period aims to allow businesses enough time to adjust to the **new public health guidelines**.



**Ireland Set to Implement Alcohol Health Warnings : Key Points**

- ▶▶ Despite facing strong opposition from the alcohol industry since the proposal was first introduced to the **European Union (EU)**, Ireland has successfully secured the right for its citizens to have clear and concise warnings about the harmful effects of alcohol on all alcohol products.
- ▶▶ These health warnings, which include information about risks like cancer, have received support from the World Health Organization and have been approved by both the **European Union** and the **World Trade Organization**.
- ▶▶ There is also a growing body of evidence showing their effectiveness.

- ▶▶ However, the alcohol industry executives worldwide have vehemently opposed these warnings and engaged in aggressive lobbying to prevent their implementation.
- ▶▶ Ireland made progress in implementing the health warning labels after overcoming two major obstacles at the European Union and the World Trade Organization.
- ▶▶ While alcohol companies raised complaints, these organizations decided not to block the proposed measure on grounds of competition or other issues.

## **Indian-Origin Sikh Becomes First Turban-Wearing Lord Mayor of UK City Coventry**

- ▶▶ Coventry, a city in the West Midlands of the **United Kingdom**, has appointed **Jaswant Singh Birdi** as its new **Lord Mayor**. As an Indian-origin Sikh councillor, Birdi's appointment marks a significant milestone in the city's history. Taking on the role of Lord Mayor also means assuming the position of chairman of the City Council. In his new position, Birdi will serve as the non-political and ceremonial head of Coventry.



### **A Momentous Achievement for Jaswant Singh Birdi -**

- ▶▶ Jaswant Singh Birdi, originally from **Punjab, India**, has made history by becoming the first Sikh councillor to hold the prestigious position of Lord Mayor in Coventry. The city, known for its diverse community, has embraced Birdi's appointment as a symbol of progress and inclusivity. His ascendancy to the role of Lord Mayor is a testament to the city's commitment to promoting diversity and recognizing the contributions of individuals from different backgrounds.

### **Continuing the Legacy of Service**

- ▶▶ Jaswant Singh Birdi follows in the footsteps of Councillor Keven Maton, whom he served as Deputy Lord Mayor for the past 12 months. With his experience and dedication to public service, Birdi is well-prepared to assume the responsibilities of the Lord Mayor and carry forward the legacy of his predecessor. Building upon the achievements of Councillor Maton, Birdi aims to make a positive impact on the city of Coventry during his tenure.

## **Indian Railways Hands Over 20 Broad Gauge Locomotives to Bangladesh**

- ▶▶ In a bid to strengthen bilateral relations, **Indian Railways** has handed over 20 broad gauge (BG) locomotives to **Bangladesh**. The virtual handing over ceremony, held at Rail Bhavan, was attended by Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** and Bangladesh's Minister of Railway, Md Nurul Islam Sujan. This gesture fulfills a commitment made by the Indian government during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in October 2019. The locomotives, valued at over Rs 100 crore,

will help augment Bangladesh's railway network and improve passenger and freight train operations.

**Fulfilling Commitment -**

- ▶▶ The **Narendra Modi** government fulfilled its commitment by gifting 20 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh. This pledge was made during Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina's** visit to India in 2019. The locomotives were virtually flagged off from Delhi and made their way into Bangladesh via the Bengal border.



**Enhancing Rail Connectivity -**

- ▶▶ Indian Railways has made modifications to the locomotives to meet the specific requirements of Bangladesh Railway. The handover of these locomotives will contribute to the handling of the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in Bangladesh. Both countries recognize the importance of rail connectivity in improving trade and have been actively working towards strengthening cross-border links.



**Positive Response and Future Prospects -**

- ▶▶ The three pairs of passenger trains currently running between India and Bangladesh have received an encouraging response. These include the Kolkata (Chitpore)-Dhaka Maitree Express, Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express, and New Jalpaiguri-Dhaka Mitali Express. The governments of both countries are exploring further opportunities for the exchange of passenger and cargo traffic, aiming to enhance trade and connectivity.

**Israel ties up with IIT-M to set up water technology centre**

- ▶▶ The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has entered into a partnership with Israel to establish the '**India-Israel Center of Water Technology**' (CoWT). This joint initiative aims to address the challenges in water resources management and water technologies in India. The Letter of Intent (LoI) for the center was signed by representatives from both countries, highlighting the significance of this collaboration in ensuring water security for India.



**Building Human Capacity for Water Management -**

- ▶▶ The **India-Israel Center of Water Technology** will focus on building human capacity to implement

Israel's advanced water technologies in the Indian context. By leveraging the expertise of Israel, known as a global champion in water management, the center aims to develop tailor-made solutions for India's water requirements. This collaboration will be instrumental in achieving the objectives of India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' (MoHUA) 'AMRUT' Mission.

### **Mutual Knowledge Sharing -**

- ▶▶ CoWT will serve as a platform for mutual knowledge sharing between India and Israel. It will facilitate the exchange of technology, scientific information, and literature related to water management. The center will bring together experts from both countries to engage in discussions and consultations on various water-related issues, including drinking water, sewerage management, and the exploration of new areas of intervention.

### **Showcasing Sustainable Water Management Practices**

- ▶▶ Apart from promoting sustainable water management practices, the India-Israel Center of Water Technology will showcase cutting-edge technologies and projects. It will provide Indian water professionals with wide exposure to the latest advancements in the field by organizing demonstrations and exhibitions of Israeli water companies. This initiative will contribute to the adoption of state-of-the-art solutions in India's water sector.

## **Nepal designates 2025 as a 'Special tourism year'**

- ▶▶ During the joint meeting of the federal parliament, President **Ram Chandra Paudel** announced that the decade of the 2080s in the **Bikram Samvat calendar** would be recognized as '**the Visit Nepal decade**' and that the year 2025 will be designated as a special year for tourism. These declarations were presented as part of the policies and programmes for the 2080/81 fiscal year.



### **Nepal designates 2025 as a 'Special tourism year': Key Points**

- ▶▶ The tourism sector in Nepal had experienced a significant decline due to the COVID-19 crisis, but is slowly bouncing back.
- ▶▶ Recent statistics maintained by the **Nepal Tourism Board** show that nearly one lakh tourists have been visiting Nepal monthly since the start of 2023. Over the first four months of that year, Nepal recorded the arrival of more than 3.26 lakh foreign tourists.
- ▶▶ To further support the recovery of the country's tourism industry, the President declared that timely revisions would be made to tourism-related laws.
- ▶▶ Additionally, Nepal's tourist destinations will be promoted in the international community, and necessary infrastructure will be prepared accordingly.
- ▶▶ New tourist destinations will be identified in all seven provinces of Nepal, and each province will be transformed into a cultural village.
- ▶▶ New mountains will also be opened up for climbing, and security arrangements for climbers and tourists will be significantly enhanced to ensure their safety.

- ▶▶ Moreover, **President Paudel** emphasized the potential of film tourism and promised to both materialize and expand this concept.
- ▶▶ Additionally, he declared that new dimensions will be added to adventure tourism, creating more opportunities for visitors to participate in thrilling experiences.

## **India begins “Operation Karuna” to assist Myanmar**

- ▶▶ India has taken an initiative to aid those affected by **Cyclone Mocha** in Myanmar by launching **“Operation Karuna.”** On May 18th, three ships, namely Indian Naval Ships **Shivalik, Kamorta,** and **Savitri,** arrived in Yangon with emergency relief material such as food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, and hygiene items.



### **India begins “Operation Karuna” to assist Myanmar: Key Points**

- ▶▶ India has always been at the forefront in supporting its neighbors during such disasters, highlighting its commitment to ensuring security and growth for all in the region.
- ▶▶ Cyclone Mocha, which recently hit Myanmar, has been classified as an extremely severe cyclonic storm by the IMD and a ‘Super Cyclone’ by the global weather website Zoom Earth.
- ▶▶ The storm emerged in the Bay of Bengal and has been recorded as the strongest all-season cyclone to form in the **Arabian Sea** and **Bay of Bengal** since 1982, with a wind speed of 277 kmph. The name of the Cyclone ‘**Mocha**’ has been suggested by Yemen.



# Sports

## Neeraj Chopra secures victory with 88.67 m throw at Diamond League 2023

▶▶ Olympic gold medal winner **Neeraj Chopra** has secured victory with **88.67 m throw** at Doha Diamond League 2023. Chopra's first throw was 88.67 which was a great way to start the new season. His first throw was enough to seal the victory for him but he still tried to push ahead. Chopra's second throw resulted in an 86.04m distance, maintaining his lead in the charts over Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch, who was able to reach 88.63m, and world champion Anderson Peters, whose best attempt is 85.88m. The Czech Republic thrower moved up to second place, overtaking Anderson Peters. Neeraj made a foul on his fourth attempt.



▶▶ On the other hand, India's Eldhose Paul, who is a champion in triple jump at the Commonwealth Games, secured the 10th position in a field of 11 men during his Diamond League debut. His first attempt resulted in a jump of 15.84m, which was his best distance throughout the event. The 26-year-old athlete from India attempted 13.65m and 14.70m in his next two jumps, but couldn't advance to the medal round. His personal best in this discipline is 16.99m, which he achieved at the Federation Cup in India last year.

### Neeraj Chopra awards

Award	Year
Arjuna Award	2018
VishishtSeva Medal (VSM)	2020
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna	2021
Param VishishtSeva Medal (PVSM)	2022
Padma Shri	2022



**Past title won by Neeraj Chopra**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Medal</b>	<b>Throw</b>
2016	South Asian Games	Gold	82.23 m
2016	Asian Junior Championships	Silver	77.60 m
2016	World U20 Championships	Gold	86.48 m
2017	Asian Grand Prix Series	Silver	82.11 m
2017	Asian Grand Prix Series	Silver	83.32 m
2017	Asian Grand Prix Series	Bronze	79.90 m
2017	Asian Championships	Gold	85.23 m
2018	Offenburg Speerwurf Meeting	Silver	82.80 m
2018	Commonwealth Games	Gold	86.47 m
2018	Sotteville Athletics Meet	Gold	85.17 m
2018	Savo Games	Gold	85.69 m
2018	Asian Games	Gold	88.06 m
2020	Athletics Central North West League Meet (qualification for Olympics)	Gold	87.86 m
2021	Meeting Cidade de Lisboa	Gold	83.18 m
2021	Folksam Grand Prix	Gold	80.96 m
2021	Kuortane Games	Bronze	86.79 m
2021	Olympic Games	Gold	87.58 m
2022	Paavo Nurmi Games	Silver	89.30 m
2022	Kuortane Games	Gold	86.69 m
2022	World Athletics Championships	Silver	88.13 m
2022	Diamond League Lausanne	Winner	89.08 m
2022	Diamond League Final Zurich	Winner	88.44 m

**Ding Liren becomes China's first world chess champion**

►► **Ding Liren** has become 17th world chess champion – the first from China – defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker. Ding defeated Nepo in the last of the four Rapid tiebreaks. Ding takes over as winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen,

who chose not to defend his title after a 10-year reign. He and Nepomniachtchi had finished on seven points each after the 14 first-stage games played in the Kazakh capital, Astana.

- ▶▶ Each had won three, with the other eight ending in draws. For the tie-break stage of the match, also in Astana, the contenders had only 25 minutes to make their moves, plus an additional 10 seconds for each move played. The 30-year-old won the rapid chess playoff by 2.5 points to 1.5, capitalizing on his opponent's mistakes, following the pair's 7-7 tie across 14 longer "classical" games.



## **Anurag Thakur Launches Logo, Mascot, Torch, Anthem & Jersey of Khelo India University Games 2022**

- ▶▶ Anurag Thakur Launches Logo, Mascot, Torch, Anthem & Jersey of Khelo India University Games 2022:
- ▶▶ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the official logo, mascot, torch, anthem, and jersey of the **Khelo India University Games Uttar Pradesh 2022** on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima in Lucknow. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh **Shri Yogi Adityanath** was also present at the occasion.



- ▶▶ Addressing the gathering, **Shri Yogi Adityanath** welcomed all participating athletes, coaches, officials, and support staff to the **3rd Khelo India University Games Uttar Pradesh 2022**. He noted that the environment and perception of Uttar Pradesh has undergone a massive transformation, with peace and the rule of law prevailing. This is why sports and sportspersons are flourishing in the state.

### **Khelo India University Games 2022: A Celebration of Sportsmanship, Heritage and Culture :**

- ▶▶ The Khelo India University Games 2022, Uttar Pradesh, is set to be a grand celebration of sportsmanship, heritage and culture. The event, officially scheduled from May 25 to June 3, 2023, will see more than 4000 athletes from 200 Indian universities competing in 21 sporting disciplines in the cities of Varanasi, Noida, Gorakhpur and Lucknow.



### **The Games Logo and Mascot :**

- ▶▶ The official logo of the Khelo India University Games 2022 Uttar Pradesh represents the rich heritage of Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state. The logo is a representation of the state's rich traditional and historical legacy which has been the foundation for its development in all aspects viz; education, infrastructure and sports.
- ▶▶ The mascot, Jitu, represents **the Barasingha**, an incredible mammal that embodies the spirit of Khelo India University Games, Uttar Pradesh. Jitu will serve as a source of excitement, fostering fan engagement and building team spirit throughout the tournament. The mascot will also help promote team sponsors, merchandise, and other marketing activities, making him an essential part of the event's success.

### **The Launch and Torch Relays :**

- ▶▶ The Khelo India University Games 2022 was officially launched with a grand celebration in Uttar Pradesh, featuring anamorphic visual delights with 3D displays, a stunning opening ceremony, glittering launches, technological wonders and amazing cultural performances. The launch showcased an immersive virtual world of technology that is high on entertainment.
- ▶▶ Chief Minister, UP, also flagged off four Torch Relays which will criss-cross the western, eastern, central, and Bundelkhand regions of India's largest state over the next 20-days. The game's mascot Jitu the Barasingha, the exotic vibrant state animal who embodies "Garv se Gaurav" was unveiled on the occasion. The final unveiling was that of the games torch which was then brought on stage one by one by UP sports icons.

### **The Games :**

- ▶▶ The 12-day-long Khelo India University Games 2022 will see athletes competing in 21 sporting disciplines across four cities. The Kabaddi competition begins in Noida on May 23, 2023, while a few others begin at the various venues on May 24, 2023. The opening ceremony is slated for May 25, 2023 in Lucknow.
- ▶▶ The Khelo India initiative has brought significant changes to the landscape of Indian sports over the last five years. The games provide a platform for budding athletes to showcase their skills and progress easily from one level of competition to the other. The synergy in the sports ecosystem that has been created through these competitions and various schemes has indeed helped Indian athletes to excel in multiple international competitions.

## **Abhilash Tomy completes the Golden Globe Race, finishing second**

- ▶▶ Indian sailor Commander **Abhilash Tomy** (retd.) will finally set foot on land, 236 days after setting sail in the **Golden Globe Race (GGR)**, a solo non-stop yacht race around the world. The retired Naval Commander, who is also a recipient of the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award, had on March 22, 2022, declared his participation in the Golden Globe Race 2022, one of the most dangerous and craziest of endeavours. The GGR began on September 4, 2022.
- ▶▶ According to the Indian Navy, Commander Tomy was in communication with the Race Control in France through messages, which was relaying messages to JRCC Australia. Navy spokesperson

Captain DK Sharma had confirmed that “Commander Abhilash Tomy KC of the Indian Navy, representing India in the Golden Globe Race 2018 (GGR) on an indigenously built sailing vessel ‘Thuriya’ was dismantled and suffered a back injury yesterday. He is in the south Indian Ocean, approximately 1900 nautical miles from Perth, Australia and 2700 nm (approx 5020 km on the ground) from Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari).”



## Luca Brecel wins snooker World Championship title

- ▶▶ **Luca Brecel**, the 28-year-old **Belgian snooker player**, has claimed his first world title after defeating Mark Selby in a thrilling final at the Crucible in Sheffield. The match went down to the wire, with Selby putting up a strong fightback to push Brecel to the brink. However, Brecel held his nerve and eventually prevailed with an 18-15 victory.



### Brecel’s Road to Victory :

- ▶▶ Brecel’s journey to the world title was not an easy one. He faced some of the best players in the game, including **Ronnie O’Sullivan** in the quarter-finals. O’Sullivan, who is widely regarded as one of the greatest snooker players of all time, praised Brecel’s talent and predicted that he would go on to win the tournament. Brecel lived up to O’Sullivan’s expectations, producing some scintillating snooker to overcome his opponents.

### The Final Showdown :

- ▶▶ The final against Selby was a tense affair, with both players showing their skills and determination to win. Brecel started strongly and looked to be cruising to victory, but Selby fought back with a series of century breaks. The match swung back and forth, with both players taking turns to take the lead. In the end, it was Brecel who held his nerve and produced a stunning century break in the 32nd frame to clinch victory.

### A New Star in the Making :

- ▶▶ Brecel’s victory has established him as one of the rising stars of the snooker world. His talent, flair and determination have won him many admirers, and he has been tipped to achieve even greater things in the future. His victory at the Crucible is a testament to his hard work and dedication, and he will no doubt be looking to build on this success in the years to come.

## Odisha extends Indian Hockey team sponsorship till 2033

▶▶ **The Odisha government** has decided to further extend its sponsorship for both the **Men and Women Indian Hockey Teams (senior and junior)** for another ten years from 2023 to 2033. The decision in this regard was taken at the Cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Naveen Patnaik. The cabinet on the day approved 15 different proposals submitted by various departments. As Odisha has been the official sponsor of both the Men and Women National Hockey Teams since 2018, this support is going to be a significant step towards the growth and development of Hockey in India, chief secretary P K Jena.



▶▶ Earlier, Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) had entered into an agreement with Hockey India, after due government approval, for sponsorship of the Indian Hockey Teams (Men/Women, Senior/Junior) for a period of five years from 2018 to 2023. Based on a request from President of Hockey India for extension of the agreement, OMC Ltd had sought approval of the Cabinet which got the government's nod on Monday, Jena said, adding that OMC has now committed to sponsor both the teams till January 31, 2033 and a total amount of Rs 434.12 crores (excluding applicable taxes) will be released by OMC to Hockey India during this period.

### IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Odisha Chief Minister : Naveen Patnaik**
- ▶▶ **Odisha Capital : Bhubaneswar**
- ▶▶ **Odisha Governor : Ganeshi Lal**

## South Africa fast bowler Shabnim Ismail quits international cricket

▶▶ **Shabnim Ismail**, the fastest bowler in women's cricket, has announced her retirement from international cricket. This is a significant blow to South Africa, who heavily relied on Ismail's pace and skill in their recent **Twenty20 World Cup** campaign, where they finished as runners-up. Ismail, who is 34 years old, played in 241 international matches across all formats, including one-day Internationals, Twenty20s, and tests. Her last appearance was in the World Cup final loss to Australia in February at Newlands. During the



tournament, Ismail set a new record for the fastest ball ever recorded in women's cricket, with a speed of 128 kph (80 mph) in the semi-finals against England.

- ▶▶ Shabnim Ismail has retired from international cricket after taking 317 wickets during her career. She is the highest wicket-taker for South Africa in both One Day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is). Ismail also holds the second-highest number of wickets in ODI cricket with a total of 191, behind only India's Jhulan Goswami.

## **Nepal wins ACC Men's Premier Cup**

- ▶▶ Nepal have qualified for the **Asia Cup 2023** after winning the **ACC Men's Premier Cup**. The team, led by Rohit Paudel defeated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by seven wickets in the final that was played across two days at the Tribhuvan University International Cricket Ground in Kirtipur. Put into bat, UAE struggled to find their momentum as they lost wickets at regular intervals and were eventually bowled out for a below-par score of 117 in 33.1 overs. **Asif Khan** top-scored for UAE with a patient knock of 46 runs off 54 balls, while **Lalit Rajbanshi** was the pick of the bowlers for Nepal with excellent figures of 4 wickets for just 14 runs in 7.1 overs.
- ▶▶ Nepal, therefore, joined India and Pakistan in Group A of the Asia Cup to be played in September. Nepal, UAE and Oman will also take part in the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup in July where they will face 'A' teams of five full-member teams.



**June 2023**

## **Dubai becomes the host for the inaugural edition of the Global Chess League**

- ▶▶ Nepal, therefore, joined India and Pakistan in Group A of the Asia Cup to be played in September. **Global Chess League (GCL)**, a joint venture between FIDE and Tech Mahindra, announced **Dubai** as the venue for the inaugural edition. In the presence of key dignitaries such as Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India, Dubai, Viswanathan Anand, five-time world chess champion, and Deputy President, FIDE, CP Gurnani, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Tech Mahindra, Parag Shah, EVP & Head, Mahindra Accelo and Member, Global Chess League Board, and Jagdish Mitra, Chairperson, Global Chess League Board, in the Gulf city.



- ▶▶ The world's largest and first franchise-based chess league will be held in Dubai in association with Dubai Sports Council, the league's Host Partner. FIDE and Tech Mahindra's vision for the league will truly bring the sport of chess to a new audience and help existing fans relate to the sport more than ever before. Global Chess League is a first-of-its-kind tournament with a team vs team format that will bring together the best chess players from across the world, representing major countries and providing a unique experience to chess fans globally. The Global Chess League will draw the world's attention to a new chess format and create an ecosystem for the sport, providing a platform for champions worldwide to showcase the potential of chess.

## **Babar Azam becomes fastest to 5,000 ODI runs**

- ▶▶ **Babar Azam**, the captain of the **Pakistan cricket team**, has set a new record by becoming the fastest player to score **5000 runs** in One Day International (ODI) cricket. He achieved this feat in 97 innings, breaking the previous record set by South Africa's **Hashim Amla**, who reached the 5000 run mark in 101 innings. Babar accomplished this milestone during the fourth match against New Zealand in Karachi. Prior to Babar, Amla held the record for the fastest 5000 runs in ODI cricket, but the 28-year-old batter broke it by achieving the feat in 97 innings.



- ▶▶ Hashim Amla now holds the second position in the list of batters who reached 5000 runs in the fewest innings in One Day International (ODI) cricket. Viv Richards, Virat Kohli, and David Warner follow Amla in the list, having achieved the milestone in 114, 114, and 115 innings respectively. Babar Azam, the Pakistani batter, broke Amla's record by reaching 5000 runs in just 97 innings. In addition to his latest achievement, Babar has been ranked as the No.1 batter in the International Cricket Council (ICC) ODI rankings for the past two years.
- ▶▶ During Pakistan's innings after being sent in to bat by New Zealand, the 28-year-old Babar Azam broke South African Hashim Amla's record by taking a single to reach 19 runs and becoming the fastest player to score 5000 runs in One Day International (ODI) cricket. Azam made his ODI debut against Zimbabwe in his hometown of Lahore in May 2015. He is the only batter to have scored consecutive hundreds in three ODIs twice, achieving this feat in 2016 and 2022. Despite his accomplishments, Azam is known for his modest and unassuming demeanor.

## **Max Verstappen wins the Miami Grand Prix 2023**

- ▶▶ World champion **Max Verstappen** powered from ninth on the grid to beat Red Bull teammate **Sergio Perez** and win the **Miami Grand Prix 2023**. The victory extends Verstappen's lead at the top of the standings and follows his triumph in the inaugural Miami race last year. Aston Martin's Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso took third for his fourth podium in five races this season as he continues to enjoy his late career revival. Charles Leclerc, who crashed late in qualifying and started seventh on the grid, finished in seventh place with Frenchman Pierre Gasly of Alpine in eighth.

**Previous race's winners list**

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



**Argentina's Lionel Messi wins Laureus sportsman of the year 2023**

►► **Lionel Messi**, who led Argentina to victory in the 2022 World Cup as their captain, was honored with the **Laureus Sportsman of the Year award** at a ceremony held in Paris. In addition to that, Messi accepted the World Team of the Year award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who won the championship in Qatar. Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year.



**Laureus World Sports Awards : Full awards list**

Award	Winner
World Sportsman of the Year Award	Lionel Messi
World Sportswoman of the Year Award	Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce
World Team of the Year Award	Argentina Men's Football Team
World Breakthrough of the Year Award	Carlos Alcaraz
World Comeback of the Year Award	Christian Eriksen
World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award	Catherine Debrunner
World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award	Eileen Gu
Laureus Sport for Good Award	TeamUp



## IPL 2023: RR's Yuzvendra Chahal creates history, becomes first Indian to take most wickets in IPL

▶▶ **Yuzvendra Chahal**, the spinner for both India and the **Rajasthan Royals** cricket team, made history on Sunday as he became the first Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in **T20 cricket**. Chahal's impressive performance against the **Sunrisers Hyderabad** saw him take four wickets for just 17 runs in four overs, ultimately leading his team to a 72-run victory.



▶▶ **Chahal** reached the milestone after dismissing **Harry Brook** with the last ball of the seventh over. He now has an impressive record of 303 wickets in 265 matches, having also taken down Mayank Agrawal, Adil Rashid, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar throughout the match.

### RR's Yuzvendra Chahal becomes first Indian to take most wickets in IPL: Key Points

- ▶▶ Chahal's success helped him to surpass Andrew Tye on the all-time highest T20 wicket-taker list, taking him to the 15th position.
- ▶▶ DJ Bravo from the West Indies leads the list with 615 wickets in 558 matches, followed by Gujarat Titans and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan with 530 wickets, Sunil Narine from the West Indies with 479 wickets, Imran Tahir from South Africa with 469 wickets, and Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan with 451 wickets.
- ▶▶ In the Indian Premier League (IPL), Chahal now shares the second spot with Sri Lankan bowler Lasith Malinga, having taken 170 wickets.
- Behind Chahal in T20 cricket among Indian bowlers are Ravi Ashwin with 288 wickets in 297 matches and Piyush Chawla from the Mumbai Indians team with 276 wickets in 262 matches.

## ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Schedule, Venue and Time Table

▶▶ The **International Cricket Council (ICC) ODI World Cup** is one of the most eagerly awaited events in the cricketing calendar. The tournament, which is held once every four years, brings together the best cricketing nations from around the world to compete for the prestigious title of **World Champions**. The next edition of the **ICC ODI World Cup** is set to take place in 2023, and the excitement among cricket fans is already building.



### About ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

▶▶ The **2023 ICC ODI World Cup** will be hosted by

India, with matches set to be played in a number of cities across the country. The tournament is scheduled to take place from October 23, 2023 to November 24, 2023, and will feature 10 teams from around the world. The 10 teams will be divided into two groups of five, with each team playing four matches in the group stage. The top four teams from each group will then progress to the knockout stage, which will include quarterfinals, semifinals, and a final.

### ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Teams -

- ▶▶ The current format of the tournament allows for a lot of excitement and unpredictability. With just 10 teams competing, every match is important, and there is no room for error. Each team will have to bring their A-game if they want to make it to the knockout stage and ultimately lift the trophy. The top teams in the world will be competing, including **India, Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, West Indies, and Afghanistan.**
- ▶▶ The 2023 ICC ODI World Cup is sure to be a memorable event, not just for the fans, but also for the players. The tournament will provide an opportunity for some of the world's best cricketers to showcase their skills and compete against each other on the biggest stage. The pressure and intensity of the tournament will test the mental and physical abilities of the players, and only those who can handle the pressure will be able to come out on top.
- ▶▶ The tournament will also provide an opportunity for some of the lesser-known teams to make a name for themselves. Teams like Afghanistan and Bangladesh have made significant progress in recent years and will be looking to upset the established cricketing nations. The tournament will provide a platform for these teams to showcase their talent and potentially cause some upsets.

## ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Teams

### ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Schedule in India as Host -

- ▶▶ The 2023 ICC ODI World Cup is also an opportunity for India to cement their place as one of the best cricketing nations in the world. India has a proud cricketing history, and the country is renowned for producing some of the best cricketers in the world. Hosting the tournament on home soil will give the Indian team a significant advantage, and they will be hoping to capitalize on this and lift the trophy for the first time since 2011.



### ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Schedule, The ODI WC 2023 -

- ▶▶ The 2023 ICC ODI World Cup is set to be one of the most exciting cricketing events in recent memory. With the best cricketing nations from around the world competing for the title, the tournament is sure to provide a lot of excitement and drama. It is an opportunity for the players to showcase their skills on the biggest stage, and for the fans to enjoy some of the best cricket that the world has to offer. All eyes will be on India in February 2023, as the country hosts the ICC ODI World Cup and looks to lift the trophy on home soil.

### ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Venues -

- ▶▶ The ICC ODI World Cup 2023 is set to be one of the biggest sporting events of the year, with 10 of the world's best cricketing nations battling it out for the coveted trophy. The tournament is scheduled to be held in India, one of the cricketing powerhouses of the world.
- ▶▶ The ICC ODI World Cup is one of the biggest events in the world of cricket, and it is set to take place in 2023. The tournament will feature the top cricketing nations from around the globe, battling it out for the ultimate prize in the sport. The tournament will be hosted by India, and several venues have been selected for the matches, including Mumbai, Chennai, Jaipur, Abu Dhabi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, and



**ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Venue:  
Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai**

## Telangana's VuppalaPraneeth became India's 82nd Grandmaster

- ▶▶ **V. Praneeth**, a 15-year-old chess player from Telangana, achieved the title of Grandmaster, **becoming the sixth from the state and the 82nd in India.** He secured this milestone by defeating GM Hans Niemann from the US during the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023. This victory also helped him surpass an Elo rating of 2500, specifically 2500.5. Praneeth obtained his first GM-norm and the title of International Master (IM) at the First Saturday tournament in March 2022. He earned his second GM-norm at Biel MTO in July 2022, followed by his final GM-norm at the second Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2023 after nine months.
- ▶▶ India has produced a total of 81 grandmasters, making it the third-most in the world after Russia and China. The first Indian grandmaster was Viswanathan Anand, who won the title in 1988. Anand is a five-time world champion and is considered one of the greatest chess players of all time. The success of Indian grandmasters has helped to popularize the game of chess in India. There are now millions of chess players in India, and the game is played at all levels of society. The Indian government has also taken steps to promote chess, and there are now many chess academies and training centers in the country. The future of chess in India looks bright. With a large pool of talented players and a growing interest in the game, India is well-positioned to produce even more grandmasters in the years to come.



**June 2023**

## Magnus Carlsen Won 2023 Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland

- ▶▶ **World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen** won the **2023 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland**, the second leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The Norwegian Grandmaster, the World No. 1, Magnus Carlsen finished with a score of 24/36 and took home the \$40,000 1st place prize. Jan-Krzysztof Duda was placed second, the local favorite and defending champion who led until the final day and ended just a point behind with 23/36, after nearly winning a final game against Carlsen that would have forced a playoff.



### Magnus Carlsen Won 2023 Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland: Key Points

- ▶▶ Carlsen's match day started with a victory against Vachier-Lagrave, extending his win streak from the end of the previous day to seven.
- ▶▶ He was then held to a draw by Romanian Grandmaster Bogdan-Daniel Deac before going on to defeat Radoslaw Wojtaszek (Poland), Kirill Shevchenko (Romanian), and another Romanian Richard Rapport in consecutive rounds to overtake the lead.
- ▶▶ Then draws with Anish Giri (Netherlands) and Levon Aronian (America), putting Carlsen a full point ahead of the previous day's leader, Duda.
- ▶▶ Going into the final round, Duda needed to defeat Carlsen with black pieces to catch up and force a playoff. Despite losing an exchange out of the opening, Duda managed to survive into the endgame and completely turn it around.
- ▶▶ But in the time scramble, the Pole missed a few chances and Carlsen managed to hold after 124 moves of play, clinching the title.
- ▶▶ The 2023 Grand Chess Tour continues with the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz in Zagreb Croatia, taking place from July 3-10, and Saint Louis in the USA (November 12 – 19).
- ▶▶ It will conclude with the final classical event, the Sinquefeld Cup, to be held from November 19 – December 3 in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA.

## Third Edition of Khelo India Games Kicks Off in Uttar Pradesh

- ▶▶ The highly anticipated third edition of the **Khelo India University Games (KIUG)** has commenced in **Uttar Pradesh**, marking a significant milestone in the state's sporting endeavors. With over 4,000 athletes and officials from 207 universities across the country participating in 21 disciplines, the event is set to span 12 action-packed days. While the majority of events will take place in five cities of Uttar Pradesh, the shooting competitions will be held in New Delhi.

### **Inaugural Events -**

- ▶▶ Kabaddi Matches and Opening Ceremony The SVSP Sports Complex Indoor Hall in Gautam Buddha Nagar sets the stage for the opening events of KIUG, featuring thrilling kabaddi matches. The official opening ceremony, a grand affair, is scheduled to take place in Lucknow on Thursday, bringing together athletes, officials, and spectators in a celebration of sporting excellence.



### **Debut of Water Sports at Taal Lake -**

- ▶▶ This edition of KIUG promises an exciting addition with the introduction of water sports. The serene Taal Lake in Ramgarh, Gorakhpur, will serve as the venue for a gripping rowing contest. This inclusion reflects the organizers' commitment to diversify and expand the range of sporting disciplines, offering athletes unique opportunities to showcase their talent and passion.

### **Challenges of Sports Infrastructure**

- ▶▶ While KIUG stands as a remarkable platform for athletes to shine on the national stage, officials from various state sports associations, including the Uttar Pradesh Olympic Association, have expressed disappointment regarding the state's inadequate sports infrastructure. Due to a lack of suitable venues owned by the UP Sports Directorate, all events during the 12-day Games will be organized at borrowed locations.

### **Hopes for Development in Sporting Infrastructure -**

- ▶▶ Anandeshwar Pandey, the secretary-general of the state Olympic association, expressed aspirations for the Khelo India University Games to spark development in the sports infrastructure of the state. Drawing parallels with the transformative impact of major sporting events like the 1982 Asian Games and the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, Pandey believes that improved infrastructure will facilitate better training opportunities for athletes, leading to enhanced performances at international competitions, including the Olympics.

### **Enhancing Visibility and Fair Play**

- ▶▶ Sanjay Saraswat, the executive director of the Sports Authority of India's Lucknow center, emphasized the significance of KIUG in providing athletes with increased visibility at the national level. By ensuring fair play in sports, KIUG aims to rectify previous instances of mass manipulations observed during school and university games. Saraswat stressed the importance of establishing robust policies for university athletes, enabling them to demonstrate their abilities and potential.
- ▶▶ RP Singh, the state's sports director, expressed optimism regarding the positive impact of KIUG on the sporting development of Uttar Pradesh. With KIUG being a prominent event for the state, Singh believes it will serve as a platform for athletes from Uttar Pradesh's universities to showcase their talent and secure medals. He anticipates that the Games will contribute to the improvement and expansion of the state's sporting infrastructure, fostering a conducive environment for athletic growth.

## Adidas named new India cricket team kit sponsor

- ▶▶ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that **Adidas** will be the new kit sponsor of the Indian team. Adidas will replace Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd, maker of Killer Jeans, which came in as interim sponsor after the then-sponsor Mobile Premier League Sports (MPL Sports) pulled out of the deal midway.
- ▶▶ Adidas is a German multinational corporation that designs and manufactures athletic shoes, apparel, and equipment. The company is headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Germany, and is the largest sportswear manufacturer in the world. Adidas has been involved in cricket for many years, and is the current kit sponsor for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA).



### Other Info :

- ▶▶ The current sponsor, Killer Jeans, will have its contract expire on May 31, after which the Adidas deal will take effect. Prior to Killer Jeans, MPL was India's kit sponsor. Killer, a clothing brand, took over the kit sponsorship from MPL, which wanted to end its contract, which was set to expire in 2023. For a three-year deal, MPL paid the Indian board 6.5 lakh per match and 9 crores in royalties.
- ▶▶ The BCCI is also looking for a new primary sponsor after reports surfaced that the current sponsor, Byju's, was willing to end its contract before the deadline in November 2023. India will be hosting the ICC Cricket World Cup this year from October-November. With this being the World Cup year, fans could get to see India's brand-new ODI kit soon.

## Neeraj Chopra becomes World No.1 in men's javelin rankings

- ▶▶ Tokyo Olympic gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra** has claimed number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time. Neeraj Chopra has topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters. On 30 August, 2022, the Indian javelin throw ace rose to World No. 2, but was stuck behind Peters, the reigning world champion, since then.
- ▶▶ In 2022, Neeraj won the Diamond League 2022 finals in Zurich in September, which made him the first Indian athlete to do so. However, he was sidelined with an injury following his victory in Zurich. The Indian national record holder in men's javelin throw, competed in the season-opening Doha Diamond League on May 5 and finished first with a throw of 88.67m. Anderson Peters finished third in Doha with a distance of 85.88m.



- ▶▶ Neeraj will now compete at the FBK Games 2023 on June 4 in the Netherlands and confirmed his participation at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2023 in Turku, Finland, on June 13. With the Paris 2024 Olympics approaching, the 2023 season promises to be a crucial one for Neeraj. Neeraj will compete in the World Athletics Championships in Budapest in addition to defending his Diamond League title and Asian Games javelin gold medal in Hangzhou.

## **Italian Open 2023: Daniil Medvedev Triumphs**

- ▶▶ Daniil Medvedev defeated Holger Rune 7-5, 7-5 in the final of the 2023 Italian Open. Medvedev, the world No. 2, won his first clay-court title and sixth ATP Masters 1000 crown. Rune, the world No. 10, was playing in his first Masters 1000 final. In women's Singles, Elena Rybakina defeated Anhelina Kalinina 6-4, 1-0 (retired) in the final of the 2023 Italian Open. The match was delayed by rain for over four hours, and Kalinina was forced to retire after sustaining a left thigh injury while trailing 6-4, 1-0.



**Here are the results of the 2023 Italian Open**

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	<b>Daniil Medvedev</b>	Holger Rune
Women's Singles	<b>Elena Rybakina</b>	Anhelina Kalinina
Men's Doubles	<b>Hugo Nys and Jan Zieliński</b>	Robin Haase and Botić van de Zandschulp
Women's Doubles	<b>Storm Sanders and Elise Mertens</b>	Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula

## **FIFA World Cup 2026 Official Brand Unveiled**

- ▶▶ The FIFA World Cup™ Trophy, which is widely regarded as the most prestigious and recognized sporting symbol worldwide, has been revealed as a prominent feature of the official brand for the **FIFA World Cup 2026**. In a groundbreaking move, the brand incorporates an image of the actual trophy along with the specific year of the tournament, resulting in an innovative design concept that forms the foundation of the FIFA World Cup™ emblem for the 2026 edition and future events. This combination of the trophy and the hosting year allows for customization to showcase the distinctiveness of each host country while establishing a consistent and recognizable brand structure for the years ahead.



**Overview of the News -**

- ▶▶ The FIFA World Cup 26 Official Brand was unveiled in Los Angeles, USA, during a special event. The launch brought together FIFA, the host countries Canada, Mexico, and the USA, as well as football legends and distinguished guests, marking the initial step in the exciting journey leading up to the grandest sporting event in history.
- ▶▶ The event served as a celebration of this significant milestone and set the stage for the upcoming preparations and anticipation surrounding the tournament.
- ▶▶ During the launch, an additional highlight was the introduction of the WE ARE 26 campaign, which aims to empower individuals, locations, and communities to actively contribute to the launch of the FIFA World Cup 26™ Official Brand.
- ▶▶ This campaign involves capturing portraits of various faces and places that hold their own distinctive FIFA World Cup stories. By featuring individuals and experiences that will be encountered by fans in 2026, the campaign extends an invitation to everyone to participate and become a part of this extraordinary event.

**About the FIFA World Cup 2026 -**

- ▶▶ The upcoming FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in June and July 2026, culminating in the crowning of the champions on Sunday, July 19, 2026. The tournament format will feature a group stage phase involving four teams, followed by an expanded knockout phase, where the top 32 national teams from around the world will compete for the ultimate prize in football. The road to the 2026 World Cup will commence with CONMEBOL, the South American confederation, initiating the qualification process. Current champions Argentina and other South American teams will begin their qualifying matches in September 2023.

**I M P O R T A N T**

- ▶▶ **FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904;**
- ▶▶ **FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.**
- ▶▶ **FIFA President: Gianni Infantino.**



Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.



- Vince Lombardi





# Chennai Super Kings Win IPL 2023

Chennai Super Kings beats Gujarat Titans by five wickets to win fifth title. After 74 matches spread across two months and involving 10 teams, the 2023 edition of the Indian Premier League saw Chennai Super Kings being crowned the champions for the fifth time, which brought MS Dhoni's team level with Mumbai Indians, who have also won the title five times.

**MOST WICKETS IN IPL 2023** TOI

Top 10

BOWLER	TEAM	WICKETS
Mohammed Shami	GT	28
Mohit Sharma	GT	27
Rashid Khan	GT	27
Piyush Chawla	MI	22
Yuzvendra Chahal	RR	21
Tushar Deshpande	CSK	21
Varun Chakravarthy	KKR	20
Ravindra Jadeja	CSK	20
M Pathirana	CSK	19
Mohammed Siraj	RCB	19

In a rain-hit final, which had to be moved to the reserve day because of inclement Ahmedabad weather, CSK defeated defending champions Gujarat Titans by five wickets (DLS method) in a thrilling finish.

Requiring 10 off the last two balls to reach the revised target of 171 in 15 overs, Ravindra Jadeja hit Mohit Sharma for a six and a four to script a thrilling triumph.

**MOST RUNS IN IPL 2023** TOI

Top 10

BATTER	TEAM	RUNS
Shubman Gill	GT	890
Faf du Plessis	RCB	730
Devon Conway	CSK	672
Virat Kohli	RCB	639
Yeshasvi Jeiswel	RR	625
Suryakumar Yadav	MI	605
Ruturaj Gaikwad	CSK	590
David Warner	DC	516
Rinku Singh	KKR	474
Ishan Kishan	MI	454

## List of Award Winners of IPL 2023 final

- ▶▶ Super Striker of the Final: Ajinkya Rahane (CSK) – Rs 1 lakh
- ▶▶ Game Changer of the Final: Sai Sudharsan (GT) – Rs 1 lakh
- ▶▶ Most Valuable Player of the Final: Sai Suadharsan (GT) – Rs 1 lakh

- ▶▶ Super Fours of the Final: Sai Sudharsan (GT) – Rs 1 lakh
- ▶▶ Longest Six of the Final: Sai Sudharsan (GT) – Rs 1 lakh
- ▶▶ Catch of the Final: MS Dhoni (CSK) – Rs 1 lakh
- ▶▶ Player of the Final: Devon Conway (CSK) – Rs 1 lakh

**IPL 2023 Prize Money**

- ▶▶ Winners: CSK – Rs 20 Crore
- ▶▶ Runners up: GT – Rs 12.5 Crore
- ▶▶ Emerging Player of the Tournament: Yashasvi Jaiswal (RR) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Electric Striker of the Tournament: Glenn Maxwell (RCB) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Game Changer of the Season: Shubman Gill (GT) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Most Valuable Player of the Season: Shubman Gill (GT) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Most Fours in the Season: Shubman Gill (GT) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Longest Six of the Season: Faf du Plessis (RCB) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Catch of the Season: Rashid Khan (GT) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Fairplay Award: Delhi Capitals (DC) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Purple Cap for Most Wickets in the season: Mohammad Shami (GT) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Orange Cap for Most Runs in the season: Shubman Gill (GT) – Rs 10 lakh
- ▶▶ Best pitch and ground : Eden Gardens and Wankhede Stadium – Rs 50 lakh

**IPL Winners List 2008 to 2023**

Year	IPL Winners List	Runner up	Venue
2008	Rajasthan Royals	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai
2009	Deccan Chargers	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Johannesburg
2010	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	Mumbai
2011	Chennai Super Kings	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Chennai
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai
2013	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders	Kings XI Punjab	Bangalore
2015	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Bangalore
2017	Mumbai Indians	Rising Pune Supergiants	Hyderabad
2018	Chennai Super Kings	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Mumbai
2019	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Hyderabad
2020	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Dubai
2021	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Dubai
2022	Gujarat Titans	Rajasthan Royals	Ahmedabad
2023	Chennai Super Kings	Gujarat Titans	Ahmedabad

# Important Days

## 17th May World Hypertension Day

- ▶▶ **World Hypertension Day 2023:** World Hypertension Day in 2023 was observed on **May 17th**. This annual event aims to raise awareness about hypertension, its causes, and the importance of prevention and management. It serves as a platform to educate the public about the risks associated with high blood pressure and to promote healthy lifestyle choices, regular physical activity, and proper medical care to prevent and control hypertension.



### Theme of World Hypertension Day 2023 -

- ▶▶ World Hypertension Day focuses on a distinct theme associated with hypertension prevention, treatment, or awareness every year. The emphasis on early detection, good lifestyle choices, and adherence to medical treatments is a common theme. This year's theme is **'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.'**

## 18th May International Museum Day

- ▶▶ **International Museum Day**, observed on **Thursday, May 18, 2023**, serves the purpose of increasing recognition for the vital role that museums play in fostering cultural exchange, enhancing diverse cultures, and fostering mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among different communities. This day, as stated by the International Council of Museums, aims to raise awareness about the significance of museums as valuable platforms for promoting global harmony and development.



- ▶▶ The theme for the 2023 International Museum Day is "Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being." This theme emphasizes the crucial role that museums can assume in advancing the concepts of well-being and sustainability. Museums contribute to these goals by gathering, conserving, and showcasing artifacts that narrate the history of our planet and its diverse life forms.

### Significance of International Museum Day -

- ▶▶ International Museum Day provides an occasion to underscore the significance of museums as

crucial institutions dedicated to safeguarding and promoting our shared heritage. This day serves as a platform to emphasize the social, cultural, and economic importance of museums within society. It sheds light on the obstacles encountered in the preservation of artifacts, the provision of educational programs, and the pursuit of research. Furthermore, it calls for the acknowledgment of the cultural worth that museums possess and the imperative for their sustained presence.

## Important Days & Dates in May 2023

Date	Days
1 May	International Labour Day or May Day
1 May	Maharashtra Day
1 May	Gujarat Day
1 May	World Laughter Day (first Sunday of May)
3 May	Press Freedom Day
3 May	World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May)
4 May	Coal Miners Day
4 May	International Firefighter's Day
6 May	International No Diet Day
7 May	World Athletics Day
8 May	World Red Cross Day
8 May	World Thalassaemia Day
8 May	Mother's Day (Second Sunday of May)
9 May	Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti
11 May	National Technology Day
12 May	International Nurses Day
15 May	International Day of Families
16 May	Buddha Jayanti or Buddha Purnima
17 May	World Telecommunication Day
17 May	World Hypertension Day
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day
18 May	International Museum Day
20 May	National Endangered Species Day (Third Friday in May)
21 May	National Anti-Terrorism Day
21 May	Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday of the May)
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
31 May	National Memorial Day (last Monday of May)
31 May	Anti-Tobacco Day

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



1. India launched the 'NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre with which country?  
 [A] USA [B] UK  
 [C] Australia [D] South Korea
2. Which Union Ministry launched the 'City Beauty Competition Portal'?  
 [A] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
 [B] Ministry of Rural Development  
 [C] Ministry of Home Affairs  
 [D] Ministry of Tourism
3. Which institution launched the Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) Initiative?  
 [A] UNICEF [B] IMF  
 [C] WHO [D] WEF
4. When is the 'World Day for Safety and Health at Work' observed?  
 [A] April 23 [B] April 26  
 [C] April 28 [D] April 30
5. Which tribe is playing a major role in 'Protect Hornbills Project'?  
 [A] Nyishi Tribe [B] Baiga Tribe  
 [C] Bodo Tribe [D] Bhil Tribe
6. What is the theme of 'International Girls in ICT Day 2023'?  
 [A] Empower girls [B] Digital Skills for Life  
 [C] STEM [D] Science Skills for Life

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

**ANSWERS**

7. Which institution released the 'Promoting Millets in Diets' Report?  
[A] NABARD [B] FCI  
[C] NITI Aayog [D] FSSAI
8. 'Washington Declaration' is a bilateral agreement that was signed between the US and which country?  
[A] Canada [B] UK  
[C] South Korea [D] Australia
9. Which city is the host of the 'QUAD Summit 2023'?  
[A] New Delhi [B] Sydney  
[C] Tokyo [D] New York
10. Which company has been recently upgraded to the status of Navratna CPSE (in May 2023)?  
[A] Airports Authority of India [B] Rail Vikas Nigam Limited  
[C] Hindustan Copper Limited [D] Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited
11. Which institution prepares the National Health Account (NHA) estimates for India?  
[A] WHO [B] NITI Aayog  
[C] AIIMS [D] NHSRC
12. Nagorno-Karabakh is a region which is disputed between which 2 countries?  
[A] Armenia and Azerbaijan [B] Russia and Ukraine  
[C] USA and Mexico [D] Nepal and China
13. 'Big Catch-up' Initiative is launched by which organization?  
[A] IMF [B] FAO  
[C] WHO [D] RBI
14. Which organization has released the World Development Report 2023?  
[A] IMF [B] World Bank  
[C] ADB [D] AIIB

**7-C 8-C 9-B 10-B 11-D 12-A 13-C 14-B**

**ANSWERS**

15. Which space agency is associated with the 'Future Circular Collider project'?
- [A] ISRO [B] NASA  
[C] CERN [D] JAXA
16. Which state/UT launched the 'Adarsha Colony initiative'?
- [A] West Bengal [B] Assam  
[C] Odisha [D] Jharkhand
17. Ranajit Guha, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?
- [A] Sports person [B] Historian  
[C] Business person [D] Politician
18. Bihan Mela is an annual festival celebrated by the Kondh tribe in which state?
- [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Odisha  
[C] Jharkhand [D] West Bengal
19. Which country adopted the 'Basic Plan on Ocean Policy'?
- [A] USA [B] Japan  
[C] Indonesia [D] India
20. Jana Shakti Exhibition was organised the 100<sup>th</sup> episode of which program?
- [A] PM Rozgar Mela [B] SwachhtaPakhwada  
[C] Mann kiBaat [D] BetiBachao, Selfie Banao
21. Which is the most innovative state as per the 'National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22'?
- [A] West Bengal [B] Karnataka  
[C] Maharashtra [D] Telangana
22. Voters Helpline App was introduced by the Election Commission for the seamless enrolment of the voters in which state?
- [A] Assam [B] Karnataka  
[C] Kerala [D] Goa

**15-C 16-C 17-B 18-B 19-B 20-C 21-B 22-B**

**ANSWERS**

23. When is the 'World Veterinary Day 2023' observed?  
 [A] April 27 [B] April 29  
 [C] April 30 [D] May 1
24. What is the name of Indian Navy's 3rd indigenous stealth destroyer of the Project 15B class?  
 [A] INS Dhruv [B] INS Imphal  
 [C] INS Kattabomman [D] INS Vikram
25. Majority of Gum Arabic is sourced from Sahel region, which runs through which country?  
 [A] Israel [B] Sudan  
 [C] South Africa [D] Ukraine
26. Which country has returned to Arab League after 11 years?  
 [A] Israel [B] Iran  
 [C] Syria [D] UAE
27. Akashvani will be the permanent name of which institution?  
 [A] All India Radio [B] TRAI  
 [C] IAMAI [D] JMAGC
28. Which state announced financial aid of Rs. 10 lakh to discharged patients suffering from the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy?  
 [A] Kerala [B] Goa  
 [C] Odisha [D] West Bengal
29. Which is the first state to provide digital health cards for children?  
 [A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Assam  
 [C] West Bengal [D] Rajasthan
30. Which military unit is an auxiliary organization with part-time volunteers, who assist the Indian Army?  
 [A] Territorial Army [B] Friends of Army  
 [C] Friends of People [D] Border Volunteers

**23-B 24-B 25-B 26-C 27-A 28-C 29-A 30-A**

**ANSWERS**



31. Dawki landport, which was recently inaugurated, is located between India and which country?  
 [A] Myanmar [B] Nepal  
 [C] Bangladesh [D] Sri Lanka
32. Which institution has set up the 'Agriculture and Market Information System (AMIS)'?  
 [A] FAO [B] WEF  
 [C] IMF [D] World Bank
33. Which Indian Naval Ship has been decommissioned after 36 years of service?  
 [A] INS Magar [B] INS Mahaan  
 [C] INS Vihaan [D] INS Bhim
34. Which country hosted the 'Machines Can See 2023 Summit'?  
 [A] India [B] USA  
 [C] Israel [D] UAE
35. Which institution along with Bank for International Settlements (BIS) launched 'G20 TechSprint'?  
 [A] UIDAI [B] RBI  
 [C] SEBI [D] NITI Aayog
36. Meiteis are the largest ethnic group of which state/UT?  
 [A] Assam [B] Manipur  
 [C] West Bengal [D] Madhya Pradesh
37. Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi was launched in which state/UT?  
 [A] Rajasthan [B] Himachal Pradesh  
 [C] Chhattisgarh [D] Meghalaya
38. Which country hosted the 'Petersberg Climate Dialogue'?  
 [A] USA [B] Germany  
 [C] Ukraine [D] Australia

**31-C 32-A 33-A 34-D 35-B 36-B 37-B 38-B**

**ANSWERS**

39. Which state/UT has recently set up a 'Directorate of Minority Affairs'?
- [A] Sikkim [B] Nagaland  
[C] West Bengal [D] Odisha
40. Which state has set up a dedicated 'Infrastructure Development Corporation'?
- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Maharashtra  
[C] Gujarat [D] Karnataka
41. After nine-year ban, Coal mining has resumed legally in which state/UT?
- [A] Assam [B] Meghalaya  
[C] West Bengal [D] Odisha
42. The US and which country agreed on new immigration policies to prevent illegal border crossing?
- [A] Canada [B] Mexico  
[C] Cuba [D] El-Salvador
43. The Central Government has informed the Supreme Court that it will form a panel on same-sex couples headed by?
- [A] Union Home Minister [B] Cabinet Secretary  
[C] NITI Aayog CEO [D] Union Women and Child Development Minister
44. 'Windhoek Declaration' which was seen in the news, is associated with which field?
- [A] Environment [B] Press Freedom  
[C] Finance [D] Politics
45. What is India's rank in the 'World Press Freedom Index 2023'?
- [A] 141 [B] 151  
[C] 161 [D] 171
46. Which institution released the 'Business Ready (B-READY) project'?
- [A] IMF [B] World Bank  
[C] WEF [D] ADB

**39-B 40-B 41-B 42-B 43-B 44-B 45-C 46-B**

**ANSWERS**

47. NITI Aayog released the 'Best Practices in Social Sector: A Compendium, 2023', in collaboration with which institution?  
 [A] UNICEF [B] UNESCO  
 [C] UNDP [D] UNEP
48. Which country hosted the 'ASEAN India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023)'?  
 [A] India [B] Singapore  
 [C] Thailand [D] Myanmar
49. As per a Supreme Court bench ruling, it can use its powers under which Article to directly grant a divorce decree?  
 [A] Article 21 [B] Article 92  
 [C] Article 121 [D] Article 142
50. Mahi Banswara Atomic Power Project is being constructed in which state/UT?  
 [A] Rajasthan [B] Madhya Pradesh  
 [C] Punjab [D] West Bengal
51. Which country has proposed the 'G20 High-Level Principles on Hydrogen'?  
 [A] India [B] Japan  
 [C] Sri Lanka [D] Brazil
52. Which institution released the 'Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water-related hazards'?  
 [A] UNEP [B] WMO  
 [C] WTO [D] World Bank
53. Which institution released the report titled "Thriving: Making Cities Green, Resilient, and Inclusive in a Changing Climate"?  
 [A] WMO [B] WTO  
 [C] World Bank [D] UNEP
54. Which country announced the '12-point development plan for the Pacific Island nations'?  
 [A] China [B] Bangladesh  
 [C] India [D] Myanmar

**47-C 48-B 49-D 50-A 51-A 52-B 53-C 54-C**

**ANSWERS**

55. Colorado River flows through which country?  
 [A] Argentina [B] USA  
 [C] France [D] Russia
56. 'City of Dead' is a UNESCO World Heritage Site situated in which country?  
 [A] Egypt [B] USA  
 [C] Greece [D] Turkey
57. 'Sendai Framework', which was seen in the news, is associated with which field?  
 [A] Climate Change [B] Disaster Risk  
 [C] Artificial Intelligence [D] Finance
58. 'GAINS' Startup Challenge was launched by which institution?  
 [A] RBI [B] GRSE  
 [C] HAL [D] BARC
59. The US signed a defence cooperation agreement with which country?  
 [A] Indonesia [B] Papua New Guinea  
 [C] Australia [D] Singapore
60. Scientists have found the first-ever genetic detection of wolf-dog hybridization in which country?  
 [A] China [B] India  
 [C] Japan [D] Australia
61. Which country has unveiled a Semiconductor Strategy to minimize its dependence on Asian production?  
 [A] USA [B] Australia  
 [C] UK [D] France
62. Which institution released the 'World Health Statistics 2023'?  
 [A] UNICEF [B] UNESCO  
 [C] WHO [D] UNEP

**55-B 56-A 57-B 58-B 59-B 60-B 61-C 62-C**

**ANSWERS**

63. Vladivostok Port, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?  
 [A] Ukraine [B] Russia  
 [C] Japan [D] Brazil
64. The 'Riverine Based Religious Tourism Circuit' will connect seven significant religious sites located near which city?  
 [A] Chandigarh [B] Guwahati  
 [C] Kochi [D] Vishakhapatnam
65. Which state launched the 'Patch Reporting App' to make the roads in state free of pot holes?  
 [A] Uttarakhand [B] Assam  
 [C] Gujarat [D] Bihar
66. Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?  
 [A] Maharashtra [B] Gujarat  
 [C] Bihar [D] Uttarakhand
67. Which state has recently commenced removal of dotted lands in the state from prohibited list?  
 [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Tamil Nadu  
 [C] Gujarat [D] Uttar Pradesh
68. Which country is set to manufacture generic variant of long-acting cabotegravir (CAB-LA) drug, used for HIV prevention?  
 [A] India [B] USA  
 [C] South Africa [D] Israel
69. Which institution released the 'Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update'?'  
 [A] UNEP [B] UNFCCC  
 [C] WMO [D] IMD
70. Which country is the host of the G-7 Summit in 2023?  
 [A] USA [B] Japan  
 [C] South Africa [D] Brazil

**63-B 64-B 65-A 66-A 67-A 68-C 69-C 70-B**

**ANSWERS**

71. When is the 'World Telecom Day' observed every year?  
 [A] May 12 [B] May 15  
 [C] May 17 [D] May 20
72. Which Union Ministry implements the 'FAME-II Scheme'?  
 [A] Ministry of MSME [B] Ministry of Heavy Industry  
 [C] Ministry of Commerce and Industry [D] Ministry of Power
73. 'Robert E Lucas' who passed away recently, was associated with which field?  
 [A] Physics [B] Economics  
 [C] Medicine [D] Literature
74. Linda Yaccarino has been named as the CEO of which Multi-national Exchange?  
 [A] Twitter [B] Microsoft  
 [C] Google [D] Apple
75. Which institution organises the 'Operation Dhvast'?  
 [A] Coast Guard [B] National Investigation Agency  
 [C] Indian Navy [D] Reserve Bank of India
76. Which institution released the 'World Economic Situation and Prospects report'?  
 [A] UN [B] WEF  
 [C] IMF [D] World Bank
77. Which state hosted the joint flood relief exercise 'Jal Rahat'?  
 [A] Assam [B] Punjab  
 [C] Goa [D] Vishakhapatnam
78. Kapileshwar temple, which is set to be included in the ASI's protected monuments list, is located in which state?  
 [A] Uttarakhand [B] Odisha  
 [C] Andhra Pradesh [D] Kerala

**71-C 72-B 73-B 74-A 75-B 76-A 77-A 78-B**

**ANSWERS**

79. Which institution released the 'Turning off the Tap: How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy' Report?  
 [A] UNICEF [B] UNEP  
 [C] UNFCCC [D] UNDP
80. Which city is the host of LOGISEM – 23 – the National Logistics Management Seminar?  
 [A] New Delhi [B] Mumbai  
 [C] Panjim [D] Guwahati
81. Which institution released the 'World Tourism Barometer' Report?  
 [A] UNICEF [B] UNWTO  
 [C] UNDP [D] World Bank
82. Which institution has established a 'National Energy Management Centre'?'  
 [A] REC Limited [B] REMC Limited  
 [C] NITI Aayog [D] National Gas Exchange
83. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed in which country?  
 [A] India [B] China  
 [C] Brazil [D] South Africa
84. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' Campaign?  
 [A] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
 [B] Ministry of Jal Shakti  
 [C] Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
 [D] Ministry of MSME
85. Amy Pope, the first woman Director General of the International Organization for Migration, is from which country?  
 [A] United States [B] Germany  
 [C] Australia [D] UK
86. 'Samudra Shakti-23' is a bilateral exercise conducted between India and which country?  
 [A] Sri Lanka [B] Indonesia  
 [C] France [D] Israel

**79-B 80-A 81-B 82-B 83-C 84-A 85-A 86-B**

**ANSWERS**

87. Which country is set to launch 'NVS-01 Navigation Satellite'?
- [A] USA [B] India  
[C] UAE [D] Russia
88. Burachapori wildlife sanctuary is situated in which state/UT?
- [A] Assam [B] West Bengal  
[C] Odisha [D] Arunachal Pradesh
89. Where is the 'Great Grandfather Tree' located?
- [A] India [B] China  
[C] Greece [D] Chile
90. Sanchar Saathi portal, which was launched recently, is used for which activity?
- [A] Grievance Redressal [B] Tracking Lost or Stolen Mobile  
[C] Nomination for Awards [D] GST Filing
91. Which is the first Indian city to adopt the localization of the UN-mandated SDGs?
- [A] Chennai [B] Pune  
[C] Bhopal [D] Kochi
92. 'E-retrofitment', which was seen in the news, is associated with which field?
- [A] Culture [B] Electric Mobility  
[C] Finance [D] Sports
93. Which cyclone has hit Myanmar and is one of the strongest storms to hit the region this century?
- [A] Cyclone Mocha [B] Cyclone Myan  
[C] Cyclone Mira [D] Cyclone Moto
94. Which institution launched the '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign?
- [A] RBI [B] NPCI  
[C] SEBI [D] SBI

**87-B 88-A 89-D 90-B 91-C 92-B 93-A 94-A**

**ANSWERS**



95. Which city is the host of the 5th Edition of Global Ayurveda Festival?  
[A] Chennai [B] Thiruvananthapuram  
[C] Pune [D] Mysuru
96. Which country is the host of the 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)?  
[A] India [B] Sri Lanka  
[C] Bangladesh [D] Myanmar
97. The World Health Organisation announced the end of the 10-month long global health emergency for which disease?  
[A] Covid-19 [B] MPox  
[C] Polio [D] Swine Flu
98. The SCO Startup Forum 2023 was organised in which city?  
[A] Mumbai [B] New Delhi  
[C] Mysuru [D] Hyderabad
99. As per a new report, which country's e-waste generation per person tripled over the last two decades?  
[A] USA [B] Canada  
[C] Australia [D] Germany
100. Which country has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a state visit?  
[A] USA [B] Australia  
[C] Ukraine [D] China

**95-B 96-C 97-B 98-B 99-B 100-A**

**ANSWERS**

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