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The Officers Times®

Current Affairs

March 2023

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(Founder-Director Reliable Academy)

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The Reliable Publication, Pune

Index

● Appointments	4
● Awards	13
● Business & Banking	25
● National Events	33
● International Events	54
● Sports Events	66
● Important Days	78
● <i>BANK-SSC-RLY-INS-IBPS-RRB QUIZ</i>	83

The Reliable Publication, Pune

Appointment

President Draupadi Murmu named new governors in 12 states and 1 UT

- ▶▶ President DroupadiMurmu has approved the appointments of new Governors for as many as 13 states.
- ▶▶ President of India DroupadiMurmu appointed 13 new Governors while accepting the resignations of Bhagat Singh Koshyari as Governor of Maharashtra and of Radha Krishnan Mathur as Lt. Governor of Ladakh on 12 February. Following is the complete list of new governors who have been appointed. These appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices :-



President Draupadi Murmu

State	Name
1. Governor of Arunachal Pradesh	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (Retired)
2. Governor of Sikkim	Lakshman Prasad Acharya,
3. Governor of Jharkhand	C P Radhakrishnan,
4. Governor of Himachal Pradesh	Shiv Pratap Shukla
5. Governor of Assam	Gulab Chand Kataria,
6. Governor of Andhra Pradesh	S. Abdul Nazeer
7. Governor of Andhra Pradesh appointed as Governor of Chhattisgarh-	Justice (Retd) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
8. Governor of Chhattisgarh appointed as Governor of Manipur	Anusuiya Uikye
9. Governor of Manipur appointed as Governor of Nagaland-	La. Ganesan
10. Governor of Bihar appointed as Governor of Meghalaya-	Phagu Chauhan
11. Governor of Himachal Pradesh appointed as Governor of Bihar-	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
12. Governor of Arunachal Pradesh appointed as Lt. Governor of Ladakh-	Brig (Dr) B D Mishra (Retd)
13. Governor of Jharkhand appointed as Governor of Maharashtra	Ramesh Bais

How are Governors appointed?

- ▶▶ Article 153 of the Constitution says "There shall be a Governor for each State."
- ▶▶ According to Article 155 "the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal".
- ▶▶ Under Article 156, "the Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President", but his term shall be five years.
- ▶▶ Articles 157 and 158 lay down the qualifications and terms of office of the Governor.

Age and eligibility -

- ▶▶ The Governor must be a citizen of India and must have completed 35 years of age.
- ▶▶ The Governor should not be a member of Parliament or State Legislature, and should not hold any other office of profit.
- ▶▶ The position of Governor is envisaged as a political head who has to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers of the State.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Article 153– Governors of states
- ▶▶ Article 154– Executive power of state
- ▶▶ Article 155– Appointment of Governor
- ▶▶ Article 156– Term of office of Governor
- ▶▶ Article 157– Qualifications for appointment as Governor
- ▶▶ Article 158– Conditions of Governor's office
- ▶▶ Article 159– Oath or affirmation by the Governor...

Mohammad Shahabuddin elected as 22nd President of Bangladesh

- ▶▶ A former judge and freedom fighter, Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu, was elected unopposed as Bangladesh's 22nd President. A gazette was issued on the appointment of the new Bangladesh President by the Chief Election Commissioner. According to the country's Chief Election Commission, 74-year-old Chuppu will replace President Mohammad Abdul Hamid.
- ▶▶ The tenure of incumbent Hamid, the longest-serving president of Bangladesh, will end on April 23, and according to the Constitution, he cannot hold a third term. Senior Awami League leader and seven-time lawmaker Hamid was elected Bangladesh president in the last two elections. He was sworn in for his second term on April 24, 2018.



Who is Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu?

- ▶▶ After his retirement as a district and sessions judge, Chuppu served as one of the commissioners

of the independent Anti-Corruption Commission.

- ▶▶ He later joined politics and became a member of the Awami League Advisory Council, which comprises senior party leaders and technocrats.
- ▶▶ However, Chuppu will have to relinquish the party post to become the titular head of the State.
- ▶▶ Born in the northwestern Pabna district, Chuppu was a leader of Awami League's student and youth wings in the late 1960s and early 1970s.
- ▶▶ He also took part in the 1971 Liberation War and was imprisoned for waging a protest after the August 15, 1975 assassination of Bangladesh's founder Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — the father of Prime Minister Hasina — in a military coup along with most of his family members.
- ▶▶ The coup also led to the toppling of the Awami League government. In 1982, he was inducted into the country's judicial service.
- ▶▶ Chuppu served as the coordinator of the Bangabandhu murder trial when Awami League returned to power in the 1996 elections.
- ▶▶ His wife Rebeka Sultana is the former joint secretary to the government.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- ▶▶ Bangladesh Currency: Bangladeshi Taka
- ▶▶ Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka...

Supreme Court back to full strength with two more High Court Justices

- ▶▶ India's Supreme Court is now back to its full strength of 34, with the elevation of two High Court Chief Justices to the apex court.
- ▶▶ India's Supreme Court is now back to its full strength of 34, with the elevation of two High Court Chief Justices to the apex court. The last time the apex court was at its full strength was in September-November 2019. The Chief Justices of the Allahabad High Court and the Gujarat High Court are the latest additions to the 34-judge collegium.



Key points -

- ▶▶ Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Chief Justice Aravind Kumar were recommended to the Supreme Court Collegium last month.
- ▶▶ The appointments of Justices Bindal and Kumar follow closely on the heels of the February 4 appointments of five judges to the apex court, based on recommendations made in December 2022.
- ▶▶ Justices Pankaj Mithal, Sanjay Karol, PV Sanjay Kumar, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Manoj Misra took oath on February 6, following the announcement from the Centre...

K. Satyanarayana Raju named as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank

- ▶▶ The Union Government has appointed K Satyanarayana Raju as its Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank, with immediate effect. He will be replacing L V Prabhakar who demitted office on December 31, 2022. He joined the erstwhile Vijaya Bank in 1988, and rose to the level of chief general manager in Bank of Baroda.
- ▶▶ His experience has led to digital transformation of banking products and services.
- ▶▶ Raju, who is a Physics Graduate, Post Graduate in Business Administration (Banking and Finance) and CAIIB (Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers), had earlier served Canara Bank as Executive Director since March 10, 2021. He has a very rich and vast experience in all segments of banking including Branch Banking, Corporate Credit, Retail Credit, Agri Financing, Credit Monitoring, Credit Recovery, Compliance etc. Also his rich experience and exposure led to digital transformation of banking products and services.
- ▶▶ **About the Canara Bank**
- ▶▶ Canara Bank is an Indian public sector bank under the control and ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Established in 1906 at Mangalore by Ammembal Subba Rao Pai, the bank also has offices in London, Dubai and New York.



IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Canara Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- ▶▶ Canara Bank Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai;
- ▶▶ Canara Bank Founded: 1 July 1906.

EAC-PM : Shamika Ravi appointed as member in EAC-PM

Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) -

- ▶▶ Economics professor and researcher Shamika Ravi has been appointed as a member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM). She is currently non-resident senior fellow of the governance studies program at the Brookings Institution Washington D.C.
- ▶▶ EAC-PM, chaired by economist Bibek Debroy, currently has one member and six part-time



Shamika Ravi

members. Member Sanjeev Sanyal welcomed Ravi in a social media post. Part-time members of the advisory body include economist Rakesh Mohan and Sajjid Z. Chinoy, Managing Director and Chief India Economist at J.P. Morgan.

ABOUT EAC-PM

- ▶ Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.
- ▶ The Terms of Reference of EAC-PM include analyzing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon, addressing issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. These could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else. They also include attending to any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.
- ▶ At present, the composition of EAC-PM is: Dr. Bibek Debroy (Chairman), Shri Sanjeev Sanyal (Member), Shri Rakesh Mohan (Part-Time Member), Dr. SajjidChinoy (Part-Time Member), Dr. Neelkanth Mishra (Part-Time Member), Shri Nilesh Shah (Part-Time Member), Prof. T.T. Ram Mohan (Part-Time Member) and Dr. Poonam Gupta (Part-Time Member)....

Puma India named Indian Captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its brand ambassador

- ▶ Sports brand Puma India announced roping in women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its latest brand ambassador.
- ▶ Sports brand Puma India announced roping in women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its latest brand ambassador. As part of the partnership terms, Harmanpreet will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories throughout the year. With this, Harmanpreet joins PUMA's roster of brand ambassadors that include Virat Kohli, football stars Neymar Jr and Sunil Chhetri, boxer MC Mary Kom, cricketer HarleenDeol and Para-Shooter AvaniLekhara.
- ▶ The 33-year-old batter from Punjab has the record of the fourth fastest women's T20I hundred in the world to her name and she is also India's only centurion in the women's T20I. Harmanpreet has scored six international hundreds so far in her career, five of them coming in from ODIs. The most capped player in the T20I format has also been conferred the Arjuna award in 2017.
- ▶ PUMA has been actively contributing to the rise of sports culture in the country by associating with 250+ athletes across cricket, boxing, football and para-sports...



World Bank President Malpass to step down

- David Robert Malpass is an economist from the USA. He has been serving as the President of the World Bank since 2019. He served as Economic Advisor to former US President Donald Trump. He recently announced that he is resigning. He has not completed his term yet. The term of the president of the world bank is five years.

Why is Malpass resigning?

- He has been criticized by climate activists since September. He was asked if he agreed that fossil fuel burnings are warming the planet. Malpass refused to answer. Being a physics graduate and an economist, he is well aware of the fact that fossil fuel burnings warm the planet. Yet he chose to stay silent! This is the criticism placed by climate activists.



Malpass

About Malpass -

- He played a major role during the US financial crisis of 2007-08. He predicted the crisis and the great recession that followed right.

Criticisms -

- Malpass was criticised for supporting the environmental policies of Trump. Also, he rarely mentions climate change in his speeches and addresses. In 2021, when Joe Biden became the President of the USA, the country prioritised the fight against climate change. He was called a "Climate Denier". Climate Denial is the term used to refer to concepts that are creating unwarranted doubts about climate change. In other words, the people who refuse to accept the fact that the "World is facing Climate Change" are called "Climate Deniers".

What is World Bank and how it works?

- The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. They are not a bank in the ordinary sense but a unique partnership to reduce poverty and support development. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. The World Bank promotes long-term economic development and poverty reduction by providing technical and financial support to help countries implement reforms or projects, such as building schools, providing water and electricity, fighting disease, and protecting the environment...

5 branches of World Bank -

- IBRD: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- IDA: The International Development Association
- IFC: The International Finance Corporation
- MIGA: The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- ICSID: The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

IMPORTANT

- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- World Bank Founded: July 1944.

New World Bank President : Ajay Banga, the former Mastercard CEO

- David Malpass, the former World Bank President resigned before his term was completed due to climate-related controversies. After his resignation, US President Joe Biden recently nominated the former Master Card CEO Ajay Banga as the new World Bank President. Ajay has expertise in handling climate change-related economic issues.

About Ajay Banga :

- He is now serving as the Vice Chairman of General Atlantic, a private firm. His business experience with the master card is more than 30 years. He is the first Indian-born nominee to serve at the World Bank. With the recent FBI reports talking about the hate crimes against Sikhs in the country, the US's political decision on choosing Ajay Banga as the head of the key organization is commendable.



Ajay Banga

Background :

- David Malpass was nominated by former US President Donald Trump. The duo was criticized for their anti-environmental policies.

Is it a brain drain for India ?

- Ajay did his schooling and college in India. He is an IIM, Ahmedabad alumni, one of the prestigious central government institutes. GoI puts in crores and crores of money in IITs and IIMs offering quality education at affordable prices. Though the nomination of Ajay is a prestigious moment for India, the sad part is the country failed to reap the benefits of its investments made.
- GoI should take more steps to identify qualified graduates in the country and provide them with a good platform to serve the country. It is to be noted that NambiNayar, the former ISRO officer faced false accusations. He rejected his NASA offer and chose to join ISRO.

Former IAS B.V.R. Subrahmanyam appointed new NITI Aayog CEO

- Former IAS officer BVR Subrahmanyam was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Niti Aayog. The former Commerce Secretary takes over from Parameswaran Iyer, who has been named as the Executive Director of World Bank. Subrahmanyam will take over from current CEO Parameswaran Iyer who will join World Bank as executive director in Washington DC. Subrahmanyam's appointment as NITI Aayog CEO was announced by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Mr. Subrahmanyam's appointment is for two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post.



B. V. R. Subrahmanyam

About the BVR Subrahmanyam :

- ▶▶ Subrahmanyam, a 1987 batch IAS of Chhattisgarh cadre, retired as commerce secretary in September 2022. During his year-long stint at the department of commerce, Subrahmanyam played a key role in strategising the road map to a record \$422 billion merchandise exports, as the economy struggled to get out of the post-Covid slump last year.
- ▶▶ He also steered at least half a dozen free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations. During his tenure in the commerce department, India signed two trade deals — with the United Arab Emirates, and Australia. Considered an internal security expert, Subrahmanyam had held the post of chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir earlier.

What is NITI Aayog ?

- ▶▶ NITI Aayog is developing itself as a state-of-the-art resource centre with the necessary knowledge and skills that will enable it to act with speed, promote research and innovation, provide strategic policy vision for the government, and deal with contingent issues. The Government has replaced Planning Commission with a new institution named NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India). A cabinet Resolution issued today gave details of the new institutions.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ NITI Aayog Vice Chairman: Suman Bery;
- ▶▶ NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015;
- ▶▶ NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi

CAG GC Murmu selected as external auditor of International Labour Organization

- ▶▶ The International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva has chosen the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to serve as its external auditor for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027, the apex auditor announced. The CAG is Girish Chandra Murmu.

Key Points -

- ▶▶ The Supreme Audit Institute of the Philippines, the current external auditor of ILO, will be replaced by CAG.
- ▶▶ The CAG provided specifics, stating that ILO had established a panel for the nomination of an external auditor and had requested proposals from the Superior Audit Institutions (SAIs).
- ▶▶ The ILO selected three Supreme Audit Institutions (India, Canada, and United Kingdom) for technical presentations based on their technical expertise and other factors.
- ▶▶ A three-person team from CAG of India presented their strengths, methodology, and skill set to the ILO's tripartite selection panel in Geneva, along with their extensive expertise auditing international organisations.



G. C. Murmu

- ▶▶ The CAG's strategy for creating a strategic partnership with ILO, through which it seeks to support ILO in achieving its goals while retaining crucial independence and oversight in carrying out the duties of the external auditor, impressed the selection panel.
- ▶▶ The World Health Organization (2020-2023), Food and Agriculture Organization (2020-2025), International Atomic Energy Agency (2022-2027), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (2021-2023), and Inter Parliamentary Union are currently being externally audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (2020-2022)....

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **CAG Full Form: Comptroller and Auditor General of India**
- ▶▶ **CAG of India: Girish Chandra Murmu.**

Rajeev Raghuvanshi Appointed as New Drug Controller General of India

- ▶▶ Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi has been appointed as the new Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ▶▶ Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi has been appointed as the new Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi is a former Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission secretary-cum-scientific director.
- ▶▶ Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi will supersede Dr. PBN Prasad who is holding the position till 28th February 2023. The order which was released stated that Raghuvanshi will continue to be the DDCI till February 28, 2025.
- ▶▶ Rajeev Raghuvanshi Appointed as New Drug Controller General of India- Key Points
- ▶▶ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has recommended to the government his name as the successor to Dr. V G Somani, whose extended tenure will end in mid-February.
- ▶▶ The recommendation was later approved by the Health Ministry, followed by approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ▶▶ Based on the assessment of bio-data of the eligible officers received and after holding personal talks with them on January 27 recommends Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi for appointment to the post of Drug Controller (India) on a short-term contract basis.
- ▶▶ The DDCI heads the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) which is responsible for ensuring quality drug supply across the country.
- ▶▶ It also has the authority to give approval to new drugs and regulate clinical trials.
- ▶▶ Dr. Raghuvanshi has 14 granted US patents along with more than 250 published patent cooperation treaties and Indian patents.
- ▶▶ He has more than 25 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has co-authored six chapters in books..



Rajeev Raghuvanshi

Awards

Raja Ram Mohan Roy 2023 presented to Journalist A.B.K. Prasad

- ▶ In 2023, the Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award is presented to Journalist A.B.K. Prasad for his contributions towards journalism. Raja Ram Mohan Roy lived in the 19th century. The reformer founded Brahma Samaj in 1828 and played a major role in abolishing Sati. The Press Council of India presents awards in the name of the legend every year.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award 2023: About ABK Prasad

- ▶ A.B.K. Prasad has devoted his 75 years of life to journalism. He has worked as an editor in major journals in AP. Also, he worked as the Chairman of the Official Language Commission between 2004 and 2009. It was constituted under the constitutional provisions provided in Article 344. It looks after the progressive use of the official language in the country.

Who will present the Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award ?

- ▶ Press Council of India. It is a statutory body formed in 1966. It watches the press and their actions in the country. It was established under the Press Council Act of 1978. Usually, a retired Supreme court Judge is appointed as the chairman of the Press Council of India. Anybody can file complaints against any press with the Press Council of India.



A. B. K. Prasad

BBC ISWOTY Award : Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik nominated

- ▶ Five athletes were nominated for the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award, including wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik.
- ▶ Five athletes were nominated for the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award, including wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, who recently protested WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and accused him of sexual abuse and intimidation.



Vinesh Phogat & Sakshi Malik

BBC ISWOTY Award : Key Points

- ▶▶ Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won silver at the Tokyo Olympics, as well as renowned shuttler PV Sindhu and boxer Nikhat Zareen also made the cut.
- ▶▶ The athletes were chosen from a short list after a jury of sports writers and journalists chose their favourite players based on their accomplishments.
- ▶▶ A public poll that started on Monday and will last until midnight on February 20 will determine the winner. The winner will be declared on March 5.
- ▶▶ The gold medalist from the 2018 Asian Para Games, Ekta Bhanu, praised the decision and emphasised the need of improving accessibility for athletes with physical limitations in stadiums..

Former PM Manmohan Singh conferred Lifetime Achievement Honour by UK

- ▶▶ Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was recently conferred a Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life.

Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers -

- ▶▶ Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was recently conferred a Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life. The India-UK Achievers Honours by NISAU UK, in partnership with the British Council in India and the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT), celebrate the achievements of Indian students who studied at British universities and the Lifetime Achievement Honour is a nod to Dr Singh's academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- ▶▶ To mark 75 years of India's independence, the first-ever India UK Achievers Honours covered 75 high achievers and some key Outstanding Achievers who bolster the India-UK diaspora living bridge.

Other India UK Achievers -

- ▶▶ British Indian peer Lord Karan Bilimoria received the Living Legend Honour at the awards ceremony on January 25.
- ▶▶ Opposition Labour Party MP Virendra Sharma, another a patron of NISAU UK, was also conferred the Living Legend Honour.
- ▶▶ Among the Outstanding Achievers honoured included Bollywood actor Parineeti Chopra, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spokesperson Raghav Chadha, Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and Indian women's football team goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan.



Manmohan Singh

Grammy Award 2023: Ricky Kej, Bengaluru-Based Composer, Wins His third Grammy

▶▶ Grammy Award 2023: Ricky Kej, a musician, won his third Grammy Award for the album "Divine Tides," which he co-wrote with rock legend Stewart Copeland.

▶▶ Ricky Kej, a musician, won his third Grammy Award for the album "Divine Tides," which he co-wrote with rock legend Stewart Copeland. This is undoubtedly a proud moment for India. The Indian music producer and composer from Bengaluru received the prize for "Divine Tides" after being nominated in the category of Best Immersive Audio Album. At



the live event held at the Crypto.com venue in Los Angeles, USA, the outcome was revealed.

About Ricky Kej Grammy win -

- ▶▶ In 2022, Kej and Copeland won another Grammy for Best New Age Album for their collaboration on this song. The musician also received a prize for his 2015 album, "Winds of Samsara."
- ▶▶ "Divine Tides," a tribute to the beauty of our natural world, features artists from all across the world.
- ▶▶ The 9 tracks on this highly regarded album and its 8 music videos were shot in locations all over the world, from the breathtaking Indian Himalayas to Spain's chilly woodlands.

About Ricky Kej -

- ▶▶ Ricky Kej, an Indian music composer and environmentalist who was born on August 5, 1981, is a two-time Grammy Award winner and three-time nominee.
- ▶▶ He has performed in over 30 different nations, including Geneva and the New York and New York locations of the UN. Kej was introduced as a UNHCR "Goodwill Ambassador" in December 2022.
- ▶▶ Ricky is only the fourth Indian and youngest person from India to have won a Grammy Award.
- ▶▶ American musician and composer Stewart Copeland is a five-time Grammy Award winner. He is the band's founder and drummer. The Police is a British rock band that has sold more than 75 million albums worldwide.

Dr Peggy Mohan bags 'Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award

▶▶ Author Dr Peggy Mohan has bagged the 'Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award at the fourth edition of Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023).

'Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award -

▶▶ Author Dr Peggy Mohan has bagged the 'Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award at the fourth

edition of Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023). Her book 'Wanderers, Kings and Merchants,' portraying evolution of language as the outcome of migrations, won the award that carries Rs two lakh as cash prize and a sculpture. Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah presented the award to Mohan at the valedictory ceremony of the four-day MBIFL 2023.

- ▶▶ The Trinidad-born author, also a linguist who earned a PhD in linguistics from the University of Michigan, USA, migrated to India and worked as a professor of Language Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia University, New Delhi.



About the MBIFL 2023 -

- ▶▶ MBIFL 2023, also known as 'Ka' in Malayalam, featured Nobel and Booker Prize winners and Jnanpith awardees and others among over 400 names in creative fields. The fourth edition of MBIFL under the theme "Shadows of history, Lights of the future" makes a comeback at a fitting time as Mathrubhumi celebrates its centenary year. At this time, this festival becomes a contemplative platform to examine a journey emerging from the shadows and reaching the light. The award includes a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh, a plaque and a citation.

A "Golden Book Awards" 2023 announced

- ▶▶ The "Golden Book Awards" is announced its winner for 2023. This prestigious event recognizes and celebrates the best book in literature. There were more than 75,000 books published in India and nominees include a diverse mix of literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books. The awards are judged by a panel of literary experts, like Dr Kailash Pinjani (President Indian Authors Association), Dr Deepak Parbat (Founder of Superfast Author) & Murali Sundaram (Founder of TLC), who choose the winners based on factors such as originality, creativity, and impact on the literary world.



The winners of Golden Book Awards 2023 :

- ▶▶ J.K Rowling – Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets Of Dumbledore
- ▶▶ Gaur Gopal Das – Energize Your Mind: A Monk's Guide To Mindful Living
- ▶▶ Deepak Chopra – The Seven Spiritual Law Of Success: A Practical Guide To Achieving Your Dreams
- ▶▶ Kamlesh Patel – The Wisdom Bridge: Nine Principles To A Life That Echoes In The Hearts Of Your Loved Ones
- ▶▶ Jeff Kinney – Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: DiperOverlode



GOLDEN BOOK AWARD WINNERS 2023



- ▶▶ Ashneer Grover – Doglapan: The Hard Truth About Life And Start-Ups
- ▶▶ Ruskin Bond – How To Live Your Life
- ▶▶ Namita Thapar – The Dolphin And The Shark: Stories On Entrepreneurship
- ▶▶ Snch Desai, Sunil Tulsiani & Brian Tracy – Ultimate Secrets To Wealth
- ▶▶ Raj Shamani – Build, Don't Talk – Things You Wish You Were Taught In School
- ▶▶ Bhupendra Singh Raathore – The Magic Of Thinking Rich
- ▶▶ Deepak Bajaj – Network Marketing In 60 Minutes
- ▶▶ Deepti Naval – A Country Called Childhood: A Memoir
- ▶▶ Smita Goswamy – Family Run To Family Led
- ▶▶ Subadrallan – An Enticing Career
- ▶▶ Aadya Dube – Always Be Unique
- ▶▶ Navin Reuben Dawson – Chimaera
- ▶▶ Rajeev Kumar Dubey – Urvi
- ▶▶ Dr Soumendranath Bandyopadhyay – The Mysteries Of The Universe-Where Fact Is More Interesting Than Fiction
- ▶▶ Ankush Pare – Secret to overcome stammering and becoming an effective speaker
- ▶▶ Parag Pandya – Padagha(Japanese Version – Bussokusekika)

- ▶▶ Moasenla R. Jamir – Foreign Engine In Flight – A Light Of Passage In Poems
- ▶▶ Gowri Venket – Superstar Of My Life – Saibaba
- ▶▶ Dr Sreeveni V – Self-Worth As Your First Impression – Signature Of Your Expression
- ▶▶ Ashutosh Madhukar Marathe – The Extra In Ordinary
- ▶▶ Dr K. Sreekumar – Buddhavelicham
- ▶▶ Rakhi Kapoor – Now You Breathe – Overcoming Toxic Relationships And Abuse
- ▶▶ Chandrima Chowdhury – The Tales Of The Uncommon Commons
- ▶▶ Dr P. Madhurima Reddy – The Awakening
- ▶▶ Aashish Patidar Property Shastra – A Vedic Guide To Buy The Right Property
- ▶▶ S. Ilanchezhiyan – 10x Ceo To The Board Joy To Yoy
- ▶▶ Kiran Sidde – Vidyarthi-Betal
- ▶▶ Osama Regaah – Travel And Thoughts

About the Golden Book Awards -

- ▶▶ Golden Book Awards is sponsored by Wings Publication International; they have a presence in many countries, and they are supporting literature and upcoming authors in the entire world. Wings Publication supports entrepreneurs, coaches, trainers & consultants to establish authority and thought leadership in form of the book. They are constantly seeking new ways to build your brand and showcase your expertise. One often overlooked opportunity for doing so is by writing a book.

Khajuraho hosts first G20 Culture Working Group meet

- ▶▶ The UNESCO World Heritage site KHAJURAHO located in the state of Madhya Pradesh is hosting the first Culture Working Group Meeting. More than 125 delegates from foreign countries will attend the meeting. Pdam Shri Nek Ram also attended the meeting. He is known as the "Millet man".

About Khajuraho -

- ▶▶ It is a group of Hindu and Jain temples. They were built in 1000 CE during the Chandela dynasty. There were more than 85 temples in Chandela times. Unfortunately, only 12 of these temples survived. The Kandariya Mahadeva Temple is one of the 12 temples that survived. This temple has various symbols and exhibits the richness of Indian art.

Significance of KHAJURAHO -

- ▶▶ The temples were built by Brahmacharis. They were built at the same time. However, after completion were dedicated to both Hinduism and Jainism. This depicts India's acceptance of



different religions since medieval times.

Chandela Dynasty

They ruled the Bundelkhand region. They belonged to the Rajputs clan.

KHAJURAHO Dance Festival

- ▶▶ Khajuraho also hosted the International Dance Festival recently. The festival is a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. It was conducted by the MP Government and the Department of Culture. The first KHAJURAHO dance festival began in 1975. Several dance artists of different dance styles like Manipuri, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, etc participated in the festival.

IIT Indore Students Awarded with Global Best M-GOV Awards by Egyptian President

- ▶▶ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore Students won AED 1 million by winning the gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai. Niyati Totala and Neel Kalpeshkumar Parikh of The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, were awarded the prestigious medal by Egyptian President Abel Fattah Al-Sisi.



Key Points -

- ▶▶ The IIT students were the creators of the 'Blockbill' app. Blockbill is a blockchain-based receipt generation app that generates digital receipts for all of its users' transactions.
- ▶▶ This app solves multiple problems, which aids the transition away from the production of thermal papers for printing receipts.
- ▶▶ Thermal papers which are ubiquitous and found in most retail locations cannot be recycled because of the chemicals that are used to create them. Blockbill is conceptualized to solve this issue.
- ▶▶ The "M-Gov Award" and the "GovTech Award" are annual awards organized by the UAE government as part of the World Government Summit.
- ▶▶ These awards are designed to encourage pioneering students, researchers, government agencies & institutions, private sector companies, and startups to develop innovative solutions using the latest technologies to address evolving local and global challenges and explore new opportunities for a better future for humanity.

About M-Gov Award 2023 -

- ▶▶ It is the eighth edition of "The Global Best M-Gov Award" which is presented to students and researchers worldwide enrolled and registered in public and private universities, as well as graduates of the "One Million Coders" Program, to highlight the pioneering role of universities and creative and innovative youth in addressing local and global challenges.
- ▶▶ The award aims to recognize solutions that adopt novel approaches and techniques efficiently leveraging technology to solve problems affecting a large segment of the population and provide tangible benefits with the ability to expand geographically across borders.



Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023

The DPIFF (DadasahebPhalke International Film Festival Awards) was started in 2012. It is an independent corporate film festival. It is not the same "DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD" presented at the National Film Awards. The DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD is presented in a ceremony organized by the Government of India (Directorate of Film Festivals). But the DPIFF is completely a private ceremony organized by the family members of DadasahebPhalke. 2023 was organized by his grandson. Dadasaheb is the Father of Indian Cinema. The award presented in his name at the National Film Award ceremony is one of the most prestigious awards in the country. It is not to be confused with DPIFF

DPIFF 2023 -

- ▶▶ Film of the year: RRR
- ▶▶ Best Film: The Kashmir Files
- ▶▶ Best Actress: Alia Bhatt
- ▶▶ Best Actor: Ranbir Kapoor
- ▶▶ Critics-Best Actor: Varun Dhawan
- ▶▶ Critics-Best Actress: Vidya Balan
- ▶▶ Best Director: R Balki
- ▶▶ Best Cinematographer: PS Vinod
- ▶▶ Most Promising Actor: Rishab Shetty (for KANTARA)
- ▶▶ Best Playback singer-Male: Sachet Tandon
- ▶▶ Best Playback Singer-Female: Neeti Mohan
- ▶▶ Best Web Series: RUDRA
- ▶▶ Most versatile Actor: Anupam Kher
- ▶▶ Television Series of the Year: Anupama
- ▶▶ Best Actor in Television series: Zain Imam for Fanaa
- ▶▶ Best Actress in Television Series: Tejaswi Prakash



March 2023

S.S. Rajamouli's RRR wins 'Best International Film' award at HCA

- ▶▶ S.S. Rajamouli's directorial, 'RRR' has bagged the 'Best International Film' award at the Hollywood Critics Association Film Awards.

About the RRR Movie :

- ▶▶ RRR wins 'Best International Film' award at HCA
SS Rajamouli's directorial, 'RRR' has bagged the 'Best International Film' award at the Hollywood Critics Association Film Awards. The film director Rajamouli and actor Ram Charan accepted the award with joy and pride. It has also won three more awards at the HCA film awards. Before bagging the 'Best International Film' award, 'RRR' won three awards at HCA – 'Best Action Film', 'Best Stunts', and 'Best Original Song'.
- ▶▶ Team 'RRR' is currently in Los Angeles and will be attending the Oscars on March 12. 'RRR' song 'NaatuNaatu' has been nominated for the Oscars in 'Original Song' category. In January this year, 'NaatuNaatu' won the Golden Globes in the 'Best Original Song' category. 'RRR' bagged two more awards at the 28th edition of the Critics Choice Awards. 'RRR' starring Jr NTR and Ram Charan bagged the Critics' Choice Award for Best Song for its track 'NaatuNaatu'. It also picked up the 'Critics' choice award for 'Best Foreign language film' in a ceremony held in Los Angeles.

About the RRR Movie :

- ▶▶ RRR is a fictional story based on the lives of two Telugu freedom fighters, Alluri Seetharama Raju and KomaramBheem. Ram Charan and Jr NTR played lead roles, respectively. The film collected over ₹ 1,200 crore worldwide. Alia Bhatt, Ajay Devgn and Shriya Saran also starred in the film.
- ▶▶ This lyrical composition of 'NaatuNaatu' by MM Keeravani, high energy rendition by singers Rahul Sipligunj and KaalaBhairava, unique choreography by Prem Rakshith, and lyrics by Chandrabose are all the elements that make this 'RRR' mass anthem a perfect dance craze....



JSW chairman Sajjan Jindal bags 'Entrepreneur of the Year 2022' title

- ▶▶ EY Entrepreneur of the Year: Sajjan Jindal, the chairman and managing director of JSW Group, was awarded as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2022.

EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2022 :

- ▶▶ Sajjan Jindal, the chairman and managing director of JSW Group, was awarded as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2022. The seven-member jury led by former ICICI Bank chairman

K V Kamath selected Jindal as the EOY 2022 winner for his "exceptional entrepreneurial journey in scaling the global conglomerate with presence in steel, cement, infrastructure, energy, and paints to revenues of US\$22 billion. Jindal has created a track record of executing large capital-intensive, technically complex, and state-of-the-art steel manufacturing facilities on principles of cost efficiency and operational excellence.



Winners in other categories included -

- ▶▶ Mahesh Pratapneni, co-founder and group CEO of MedGenom, who was awarded in the startup category.
- ▶▶ IDFC First Bank MD V Vaidyanathan bagged the award in the financial services category;
- ▶▶ Borosil Group executive chairman Pradeep Kheruka in manufacturing;
- ▶▶ Safexpress MD Rubal Jain in services;
- ▶▶ Vedant Fashions chairman Ravi Modi in products & retail; and
- ▶▶ Gujarat Fluorochemicals MD Vivek Jain in business transformation category....

Dr. Mahendra Mishra awarded the International Mother Language Award in Dhaka

- ▶▶ Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra, an Indian educator and social worker for the advancement of indigenous languages in Odisha, received the World Mother Language Award from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

International Mother Language Award :

- ▶▶ Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra, an Indian educator and social worker for the advancement of indigenous languages in Odisha, received the World Mother Language Award from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr. Mishra has worked over



three decades on the language, culture and education of the marginalised languages of Odisha. Inaugurating a four-day programme of the International Mother Language Institute and conferring the award, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressed the need 'for research to preserve, revitalise and develop the mother languages of the world as many languages are being lost'.

- ▶▶ In Dhaka, four awardees received the two national prizes and the two international awards from Prime Minister Hasina. The national prizes went to Habibur Rahman and Ranjit Singha of Bangladesh, while Mahendra Kumar Mishra and Mother Language Lovers of Global Society, Vancouver, received honourable mentions. The prize was established by UNESCO in 2021 and is granted to those who have made exceptional contributions to the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of mother tongues.

- ▶▶ International Mother Language Day observed on 21st February

History of the Day :

- ▶▶ February 21 is celebrated as the International Mother Language Day, as declared by the United Nations in 2000. As per the UNESCO, this day aims to celebrate the ways of expressing the world in its multiplicity, committing to the preservation of the diversity of languages as a common heritage, and working for quality education in mother tongues for all. The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh and was approved at the 1999 UNESCO General conference....

SansadRatna award 2023

- ▶▶ 13 members of Parliament (MP) have been nominated for the SansadRatna Awards 2023. The Jury Committee of eminent Parliamentarians and civil society, chaired by Arjun Ram Meghwal (State Minister of Parliamentary Affairs) and Co-Chaired by T S Krishnamurthy (Former Chief Election Commissioner of India) has nominated eight MPs from Lok Sabha and five from Rajya Sabha for the SansadRatna Awards 2023. These nominations are based on cumulative performance in questions, private members' bills and members' debates from the beginning of the 17th Lok Sabha till the end of the Winter Session 2022.



- ▶▶ Notably: The 13th SansadRatna Awards 2023 will be presented on March 25 in the national Capital.

SansadRatna Awards 2023 nominated from Lok Sabha :

1. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC, West Bengal),
2. Gopal Chinayya Shetty (BJP, Maharashtra),
3. Sudhir Gupta (BJP, Madhya Pradesh) and
4. Dr. Amol RamsingKolhe (NCP, Maharashtra)
5. Bidyut Baran Mahato (BJP, Jharkhand),
6. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (BJP, West Bengal),
7. Kuldeep Rai Sharma (INC, Andaman Nicobar Islands),
8. Dr Heena Vijayakumar Gavit (BJP, Maharashtra),

SansadRatna Awards 2023 from Rajya Sabha :

1. Smt Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan (NCP, Maharashtra)
2. Dr. John Brittas (CPI-M, Kerala),
3. Dr. Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD, Bihar),
4. Vishambhar Prasad Nishad (Samajwadi Party, UP) and
5. SmtChhaya Verma (INC, Chhattisgarh)

Two Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha nominated for SansadRatna Award 2023 -

- ▶▶ Rajya Sabha's Standing Committee on Tourism, Transport, and Culture, chaired by Vijay Sai Reddy
- ▶▶ Lok Sabha's Parliamentary Committee on Finance, chaired by Jayant Sinha

Lifetime Achievement Award :

- ▶▶ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award: T K Rangarajan, (Former Rajya Sabha MP for two terms and a Senior CPIM Leader).

Some facts about SansadRatna Awards :

- ▶▶ SansadRatna Awards were instituted on the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam to honour top performing Parliamentarians. He himself inaugurated the first edition of the award ceremony in 2010 in Chennai. So far, 90 top performing parliamentarians have been honoured and all of them have received the award individually. K. Srinivasan is the Founder Chairman of the SansadRatna Award Committee and Ms. Priyadarshini Rahul is the Chairman....

Successful and
unsuccessful people
do not vary greatly
in their abilities.
They vary in their
desires to reach
their potential.

Economic

Karnataka Bank awarded 'Prathista Puraskar for achieving highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions

'Prathista Puraskar' under 'Digidhan Awards 2021-22'

- ▶ Karnataka Bank was awarded with 'Prathista Puraskar' under 'Digidhan Awards 2021-22' by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), government of India for achieving target with highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions in private sector bank category. Labelled as 'KBL-NxT', the bank is currently undertaking an accelerated digital drive under its transformation journey 'KBL VIKAAS 2.0'. This award is an ideal tribute to the founding fathers of this great institution as Karnataka Bank is stepping into its 100th year of its fruitful existence."



This award is an ideal tribute to the founding fathers of this great institution as Karnataka Bank is stepping into its 100th year of its fruitful existence."

About the Karnataka Bank Limited -

- ▶ Karnataka Bank Limited was incorporated on 18 February 1924, and commenced business on 23 May 1924. Its founders established it at Mangalore, a coastal town in the Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka.
- ▶ Karnataka Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank based in Mangalore. It is an 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank with a network of 898 branches, 1 extension counter, 885 ATMs, 563 cash recyclers and 546 e-lobbies/mini e-lobbies across 22 states and 2 union territories. It has 8,519 employees and over 11 million customers throughout the country. Its shares are listed on the NSE and BSE. The tagline of the bank is "Your Family Bank Across India."
- ▶ Karnataka Bank Limited has adopted core banking, internet banking and has established its "MoneyPlant" (885 ATMs, 563 cash recyclers and 546 e-lobbies/mini e-lobbies) system across the country.

IMPORTANT

- ▶ Karnataka Bank Headquarters: Mangaluru;
- ▶ Karnataka Bank CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S (15 Apr 2017-);
- ▶ Karnataka Bank Founded: 18 February 1924....

ICICI Bank signs pact with BNP Paribas

- ▶▶ ICICI Bank and BNP Paribas have signed an initial pact to cater to the banking requirements of European corporates operating in India and Indian companies in the European Union.
- ▶▶ ICICI Bank and BNP Paribas have signed an initial pact to cater to the banking requirements of European corporates operating in India and Indian companies in the European Union.
- ▶▶ The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities establishes a framework of a partnership between the two banks for providing financial services to corporate customers operating in the India, Europe corridor, private sector lender ICICI Bank said in a statement.
- ▶▶ As the fifth largest economy in the world and with a strong focus to become a regional manufacturing hub, India is at the forefront of leading the world's growth in the near future. This makes India a very attractive destination for trade and foreign investment, with Europe ranking amongst the top regions investing in India. We are confident that ICICI Bank will support BNP Paribas' customers, grow their business in India, and make India one of their key markets, Anup Bagchi, Executive Director, of ICICI Bank said.



About BNP Paribas :

- ▶▶ BNP Paribas is a French international banking group, founded in 2000 from the merger between Banque Nationale de Paris and Paribas, formerly known as the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas. BNP Paribas Group has been in India since 1860 and is among the leading international financial institutions providing a wide range of financial services covering corporate and institutional banking, and personal investment services for individuals...

Reserve Bank of India Announces 2nd Global Hackathon "HARBINGER 2023"

- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank announced its second global hackathon - 'HARBINGER 2023 - Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'Inclusive Digital Services'.
- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank announced its second global hackathon – 'HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'Inclusive Digital Services'. Registration for the hackathon starts from February 22, 2023. It had received 363 proposals submitted by teams from within India and from 22 other countries including the US, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Philippines, and Israel.



Significance of This Global Hackathon :

- ▶ Fintechs have been invited to develop solutions that have the potential to make digital financial services accessible to the differently-abled, facilitate efficient compliance, extend the reach of Central Bank Digital Currencies and enhance the scalability of blockchains.
- ▶ "Being part of HARBINGER 2023 gives an opportunity to the participants to get mentored by industry experts and exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury and win exciting prizes in each category," the RBI said.

The RBI has invited innovative ideas in four segments :

- ▶ 'Innovative, easy-to-use, digital banking services for differently-abled (Divyaang);
- ▶ RegTech solutions to facilitate more efficient compliance by Regulated Entities (REs)';
- ▶ Exploring use cases/solutions for CBDC-Retail transactions, including transactions in offline mode';
- ▶ 'increasing Transactions Per Second (TPS)/throughput and scalability of blockchains'.

More About The Global Hackathon :

- ▶ Winner of the hackathon will be given a prize of Rs 40 lakh and runner-up Rs 20 lakh. The first hackathon was announced in November 2021 and results were declared in June 2022.

RBI's Digital Payments Index Jumps to 377.46 in Sept from 349.30 in March

- ▶ Digital payments across the country registered a growth of 24.13 per cent in a year through September 2022, as per RBI's digital payment index that measures the adoption of online transactions.
- ▶ Digital payments across the country registered a growth of 24.13 per cent in a year through September 2022, as per the RBI's Digital Payments Index which measures the adoption of online transactions. The newly-constituted RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) stood at 377.46 in September 2022 against 349.30 in March 2022 and 304.06 in September 2021. The index is published on a semi-annual basis(i.e. twice a year) from March 2021 onwards with a lag of four months.
- ▶ The RBI-DPI Index has increased across all parameters driven by significant growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country over the period, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

What is RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) :

- ▶ The Reserve Bank had announced construction of a composite RBI-DPI with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.
- ▶ The RBI-DPI index has demonstrated significant growth representing the rapid adoption and deepening of

About The First Global Hackathon

digital payments across the country in recent years.

- ▶▶ The index for March 2022 stands at 349.30 as against 304.06 for September 2021, which was announced on January 19, 2022.
- ▶▶ Among the digital modes of payments, the number of transactions using Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) increased by 30.5 percent during 2021-22.
- ▶▶ Payment transactions carried out through credit cards increased by 27 per cent and 54.3 per cent in terms of volume and value, respectively and transactions through debit cards decreased by 1.9 per cent in terms of volume, though in terms of value, it increased by 10.4 per cent.
- ▶▶ Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) recorded an increase in volume and value terms by 32.3 per cent and 48.5 percent, respectively.

Parameters of Digital Payment Index(DPI) :

The RBI-DPI comprises 5 broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods. These parameters are-

- ▶▶ Payment Enablers (weight 25%).
- ▶▶ Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors.
- ▶▶ Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%).
- ▶▶ Payment Performance (45%).
- ▶▶ Consumer Centricity (5%). ...

PhonePe launches cross-border UPI payments service

- ▶▶ PhonePe launches cross-border UPI payments service: PhonePe announced the debut of a service that will enable its Indian users to pay foreign businesses using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

What all are the new features of India ?

- ▶▶ PhonePe announced the debut of a service that will enable its Indian users who are travelling overseas to pay foreign businesses using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). "UPI international" enables retail locations with a native QR (quick response) code in the UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan. Similar to how they do with overseas debit cards, users would be able to make direct payments in a foreign currency from their Indian bank. The Walmart-backed finance app PhonePe claimed to be the first to do so in India.

Cross-border UPI payments service launched by PhonePe: Key Points

- ▶▶ PhonePe, with a recent \$350 million investment from General Atlantic and a \$12 billion pre-money valuation, became the most valuable fintech company in India.



- ▶▶ According to a report by Bain and Company, the money will enable PhonePe to expand its business and compete with Google Pay, Paytm, and Amazon Pay in the \$350 billion Indian fintech market by 2026.
 - ▶▶ Users of PhonePe can use the PhonePe App to authorise their UPI-linked bank account for the service at the merchant location or in advance of their foreign travel.
 - ▶▶ To activate the service, the customer would need to enter their UPI pin.
 - ▶▶ Since its launch in December 2015, PhonePe has grown to become India's top payments app. With 435 million registered users, PhonePe is currently used by one in four Indians.
 - ▶▶ RBI Keeps SBI, ICICI, HDFC as Domestic Systemically Important Banks
- What all are the new features of India ?**
- ▶▶ **To make** purchases at overseas merchant outlets, Indian shoppers must use foreign currency, their credit cards, or their forex cards.
 - ▶▶ They can now utilise their Indian bank account to make UPI payments thanks to a feature of PhonePe.
 - ▶▶ This year, UPI International will be expanded to new nations, according to plans by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and NPCI International Payments Limited. UPI was made by NPCI....

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan (27 Oct 2020-);**
- ▶▶ **HDFC Bank Founded: August 1994, Mumbai;**
- ▶▶ **HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;**

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Hello Ujjivan-India's first voice, visual, vernacular banking app

- ▶▶ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched Hello Ujjivan, India's first mobile banking application with 3 V's – voice, visual, and vernacular-enabled features – to provide banking access to individuals who have limited reading and writing skills. The app is designed to instill banking habits in MicroBanking and Rural customers who are digitally challenged.

More About The Hello Ujjivan Application :

- ▶▶ Hello Ujjivan, co-created with Navana.AI, is accessible by voice in eight regional languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, Oriya, and Assamese.

Features of The Hello Ujjivan Application :

- ▶▶ Customers can speak to the app in their native language to perform banking transactions and access services such as paying loan EMIs, opening FD and RD accounts, transferring funds, checking account balance, and updating passbooks, among others.



- ▶▶ The app's intuitive AI and machine learning capabilities enable it to comprehend customers' unstructured banking requests and provide the desired result.
- ▶▶ The application engine adapts to the various dialects of the user and has the capacity to learn and respond to their particular dialect.
- ▶▶ The app also provides a visual representation, along with a recorded voice guide in the user's preferred language at every step, allowing them to transact without fear or reliance on others, thereby removing the anxiety associated with online banking transactions.
- ▶▶ As per Ujjivan Small Finance Bank's research, the app addresses the digital divide on the banking needs, aspirations, and behaviours of MicroBanking and Rural customers.
- ▶▶ Ujjivan SFB is utilising its 600 branches and close to 9000 Microbanking and Rural Banking staff to educate the customers on using the Hello Ujjivan app.

The Targeted Customers of The Hello Ujjivan Application :

- ▶▶ In its initial phase, Hello Ujjivan will be available to its existing MicroBanking customers. In the subsequent phase, the company will continue to add more languages and banking features and solutions, such as opening new customer accounts, paying utility bills, availing repeat loans, mobile and DTH recharge.

About TheUjjivan Small Finance Bank Growth :

- ▶▶ Ujjivan SFB has developed a comprehensive digital strategy to simplify banking services throughout India. Ujjivan SFB's digital strategy of the bank is built to bridge the digital divide between metro vs semi urban and rural customers, who are often left out. The bank currently serves over 72 million customers through its 600 branches across 25 states and union territories in India. As of December 31, 2022, the gross loan book is valued at INR 21,895 cr. and the deposit base is valued at INR 23,203 cr.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- ▶▶ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founder: Samit Ghosh;
- ▶▶ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founded: 28 December 2004...

V Ramachandra appointed by RBI as member of Advisory Committee of SIFL, SEFL

- ▶▶ Ramachandra, a former chief general officer of Canara Bank, was appointed by the Reserve Bank on Tuesday to the advisory committees of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL).
- ▶▶ The RBI had created a three-member advisory council to support the administrator of the two crisis-ridden enterprises after replacing the boards of SIFL and SEFL in October 2021.
- ▶▶ During the corporate insolvency resolution process, the Advisory Committee shall provide advice to the Administrator regarding the management of SIFL and SEFL.
- ▶▶ Venkat NageshwarChalasani, a former deputy managing director at the State Bank of India, and

T. Srinivasaraghavan, a former managing director at Sundaram Finance Limited, make up the other two members of the committee.

- ▶▶ The National Company Law Tribunal's Kolkata Bench received applications from the RBI in October 2021 to begin the corporate insolvency resolution procedure against SIFL and SEFL (NCLT).
- ▶▶ RBI's Digital Payments Index Jumps to 377.46 in Sept from 349.30 in March



About Advisory Committee of SIFL, SEFL -

- ▶▶ The three-member committee established pursuant to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019, "will remain as the a...

RBI updates rules for foreign donations via NEFT, RTGS -

- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes to the NEFT and RTGS systems for Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) related transactions following the Home Ministry's order for SBI.
- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes to the NEFT and RTGS systems for Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) related transactions following the Home Ministry's order for State Bank of India (SBI) to report details of overseas donors on a daily basis, including the purpose of remittances.
- ▶▶ Under the FCRA, foreign contributions can only be received in the "FCRA account" of SBI's New Delhi Main Branch, with contributions coming directly from foreign banks through SWIFT and from Indian intermediary banks through NEFT and RTGS systems.
- ▶▶ To comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the RBI has mandated SBI to capture donor details such as name, address, country of origin, amount, currency, and purpose of remittance for transactions, which SBI must report to the MHA daily. The new instructions will be effective from March 15, 2023.
- ▶▶ RBI has also instructed banks to incorporate necessary changes in their core banking/middleware solutions to capture the requisite details while forwarding foreign donations through NEFT and RTGS systems to SBI.

FCRA Rules Tightening :

- ▶▶ Since 2014, the FCRA rules have been tightened under the Narendra Modi-led government, resulting in the cancellation of FCRA registration for nearly 2,000 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for violating various provisions of the law. As of December 2021, there were 22,762 FCRA-registered organisations.

What is Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) :

- ▶▶ The FCRA was enacted during the Emergency in 1976 in an atmosphere of apprehension that foreign powers were interfering in India's affairs by pumping in funds through independent organisations. These concerns had been expressed in Parliament as early as in 1969.
- ▶▶ The law sought to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations so that they

functioned "in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic".

- ▶▶ It requires every person or NGO wishing to receive foreign donations to be registered under the Act, to open a bank account for the receipt of the foreign funds and to utilise those funds only for the purpose for which they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.
- ▶▶ The Act prohibits receipt of foreign funds by candidates for elections, journalists or newspaper and media broadcast companies, judges and government servants, members of legislature and political parties or their office-bearers, and organisations of a political nature.

Amendments in FCRA :

- ▶▶ It was amended in 2010 to "consolidate the law" on utilisation of foreign funds, and "to prohibit" their use for "any activities detrimental to national interest"
- ▶▶ The law was amended again by the current government in 2020, giving the government tighter control and scrutiny over the receipt and utilisation of foreign funds by NGOs..



"To point out the importance of circumspection in your conduct, it may be proper to observe that a good moral character is the first essential in a man, and that the habits contracted at your age are generally indelible, and your conduct here may stamp your character through life. It is therefore highly important that you should endeavor not only to be learned but virtuous."

~ GEORGE WASHINGTON

National

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Aero India 2023 with hopes of local production boost

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 14th edition of its flagship aero show in Bengaluru, an event seen to be a great business opportunity when New Delhi is looking to push indigenous products, modernise Soviet-era equipment and as domestic carriers add fleet.

Aero India 2023: Theme :

- ▶▶ The theme of Aero India 2023 is "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities".

About Aero India 2023 :

- ▶▶ Aero India 2023, Asia's largest aero show, will run from February 13 to February 17, displaying locally-produced equipment and technologies to attract partnerships with foreign companies. The event will include aerial displays by aircraft and helicopters, as well as a large exhibition and trade fair of aerospace and defence companies.
- ▶▶ About 809 companies from 98 countries are likely to take part in the event.

India's Defence Indigenisation :

- ▶▶ India, which was for decades an importer in defence sector, is now exporting defence equipment to 75 countries. Defence equipment exports in the last five years have increased six-fold, Modi said in his inaugural address.
- ▶▶ India has crossed \$1.5 billion of defence equipment exports in 2021-2022. "Our target is by 2024-2025, the defence exports amount will rise to up to \$5 billion," Modi said.
- ▶▶ India, under its "Make in India" policy, has been keen on manufacturers such as Lockheed Martin Corp, Boeing, and Airbus to make more than parts in the country and share technology.
- ▶▶ The share of domestic procurement in the total procurement has been on an uptrend. In 2018-19, the domestic procurement stood at 54% of the total procurement, this figure jumped to 59% in 2019-20 and to 64% in 2020-21. This year it has been increased to 68% for domestic procurement, of this 25% budget has been earmarked for procurement from private industry.
- ▶▶ With focus of Government on indigenisation and procurement of defence products from the domestic resources, the expenditure on defence procurement from foreign sources has reduced from 46% to 36% in the last four years i.e. from 2018-19 to 2021-22.



- ▶ Till October 2022, a total of 595 Industrial Licences have been issued to 366 companies operating in Defence Sector.
- ▶ Government has also established two Defence Industrial Corridors, one each in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to attract investments in Aerospace & Defence sector and established a comprehensive defence manufacturing ecosystem in the country....

Global Investor Summit : UP received Rs. 33.5 lakh crores of investment

- ▶ PM Modi recently inaugurated the Global Investor Summit in Lucknow. It was a three-day-long summit. Invest UP 2.0 was launched during the summit. Also, Global Trade Show was conducted. More than 18,605 Memorandum of Understanding were signed during the summit. The state received Rs 33.5 lakh crores of investment. These investments are to create 92.5 lakh employees in the state. The investments are primarily in real estate, renewable energy, education, housing, electronic vehicle manufacturing, food processing, and renewable energy.



UK investments in UP -

- ▶ During the summit, it was decided that the UK will invest in aerospace, defence, and in medical sectors.

How did UP attract good investments?

- ▶ The state of UP has been launching several investment attractive policies. Also, it has been promoting investments in data centres, aerospace, electrical vehicles, tourism, warehousing, etc. the state launched a medical device park. Several logistics hubs are being developed in the Yamuna Expressway. A MEgal food park planned in Bareilly, a Plastic park planned in Gorakhpur, and several other similar initiatives is increasing the investments in the state.
- ▶ President Murmu concluded the summit.

Region-wise investments received

- ▶ The west of the state has the maximum investments. Around 45% of the investments received were on this side. District-wise, Noida received the maximum investments followed by Agra.

Lithium Reserves found in Jammu & Kashmir

- ▶ The Geological Survey of India has found lithium reserves in Jammu and Kashmir. They have been found in the Reasi district. Today India is importing Lithium from countries from Argentina and Australia. In 2021 alone, the price of lithium increased by 400% for several reasons. One of them was an increase in digital growth and electric batteries during COVID.

World Lithium reserves -

- ▶▶ Most of the lithium reserves are concentrated in South America; especially in countries such as Argentina, Chile and Bolivia. These 3 countries are called the Lithium Triangle. However, they are not the top producers of lithium in the world! China produces 75% of the world's lithium. Rather than production, China is doing the refining business.



Lithium-Essential for the digital world -

- ▶▶ Lithium is highly important to produce rechargeable batteries. The requirement of Lithium is essential in electric vehicles, smartphones, laptops, digital cameras and every other electronic component we use today. They are the major storage blocks of electricity.

Way Forward -

- ▶▶ India is to e-auction the Lithium blocks soon. Lithium is used in heart pacemakers. It is a low-density metal with a high energy-to-weight ratio. Meaning a very little quantity of lithium can store large amounts of energy. This property of Lithium makes the metal ideal for electricity storage.

Wetland Ex-Situ Conservation Establishment (WESCE)

- ▶▶ The Rajasthan State Government recently announced the WESCE plan. The French Government is to fund this project for a period of eight years. The total cost is estimated to be around Rs 1200 crores. The WESCE is a zoo that will be launched within the World Heritage site, Keoladeo National Park. The zoo will display dolphins, crocodiles, water buffaloes, and other exotic species. The major attraction will be the wetland species to be put in the zoo.



What is the plan ?

- ▶▶ The State Government is planning to introduce several changes to the World Heritage Site. There is a plan to breed and re-introduce extinct species on the site. For this, the species such as black bucks, otters, and hog deer have been selected. The other proposed changes are as follows:
 - AN AQUARIUM: This is being planned for Gangetic dolphins and indigenous crocs
 - ENCLOSURES: To display wetland species like water buffalo, swamp deer, Indian Rhino, etc
 - Residential Quarters for the park workers and managers
 - Veterinary care centres, tourist facilities, etc.

Keoladeo National Park -

- ▶▶ The park once served as a hunting reserve for kings from Afghanistan, China, Turkmenistan, and Siberia. It is a migrating ground for waterfowl and some of the rare Siberian cranes. It is a major stop point in the Central Asian Flyway.

TN 'Pudumai Penn' Scholarship Scheme

- ▶ The Scheme was launched by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin in 2022. The scheme will pay thousands of rupees to government school students. Beneficiaries of the scheme are students studying in Class V to Class XII. Only girl students are included in the scheme. Tamil Nadu Government allotted 698 crores of rupees for the scheme. More than six lakh girls are to benefit from the scheme.



Background -

- ▶ Earlier, the Tamil Nadu Government was implementing a Marriage assistance scheme. This marriage assistance scheme has now been converted into higher education scheme
- ▶ The marriage assistance scheme is called MoovalurRamamirthamAmmaiyar Marriage Scheme. The newly launched higher education scheme is MoovalurRamamirthamAmmaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme. This scheme is being implemented under the name "Pudhumai Penn Scheme".

Political Aspects -

- ▶ The scheme was launched in the presence of Delhi CM Shri Arvind Kejriwal. The DMK (Stalin's party) is now ruling the state. They campaigned against BJP to come to power.

Who is MoovalurRamamirthamAmmaiyar ?

- ▶ She lived between 1883 and 1962. She was a social activist and an active participant in the Dravidian Movement (the movement of which Stalin's father Karunanidhi was a part). She fought against the Devadasi system in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Yuva Sangam Registration Portal

- ▶ The development in the northeastern states has always been slow as compared to the Indian mainland. This is mainly because the states are covered with forests and the percentage of the tribal population is high. Also, natural factors hinder the development of the region. For instance, Brahmaputra is called Sorrow of Assam. Frequent earthquakes occur in the region. There are anti-socialistic groups, Naga insurgencies, etc; Chinese interference in the border; the Inrush of Rohingyas and many more reasons that hinder the development of North Eastern India. To fasten the development process in the region and to link the region with the rest of the mainland, the Government of India has launched the Yuva Sangam Registration portal.



About the portal -

- ▶▶ The main objective of the portal is to connect with the youth in the northeast region. The portal was launched under the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat". Through the Yuva Sangam initiative, youths in the region will travel across different parts of the country and learn about different cultures in India.

Significance -

- ▶▶ It is important to educate the youths and provide them with skills to develop the North Eastern Region. Chinese infiltrations are increasing in the region. GoI has to earn the trust of the locals in the region. Therefore, there is a necessity of inclusive development.

Global Climate Resilience Fund-50 million USD for women

- ▶▶ Hillary Clinton was in Ahmedabad, Gujarat attending the 50th-anniversary celebration of SEWA. SEWA is Self Employed Women Association. It was founded by the late activist Ela Bhatt. During the function, Mrs Clinton announced 50 million USD for women in the region. The fund is to be used to fight against climate change.



Global Climate Resilience Fund -

- ▶▶ The fund will be mainly used to fight heat waves in the region. Sometimes, the temperature in the region crosses sixty degrees Celsius due to heat waves. It usually occurs during May-June. The number of heat waves and the intensity of heat waves has been increasing in the country lately. In 1981-90, the number of heat wave days was 413. Between 2011 and 2020, the heat waves days in the country were 600. The number of heat wave days is increasing due to climate change.

When is a heat wave declared ?

- ▶▶ The IMD declares heat waves when the temperature in the plain increases above 40 degrees Celsius and when the temperature in the hilly region increase by 30 degrees Celsius.

SEWA -

- ▶▶ Self-Employed Women Association. It is a trade union promoting self-employed female entrepreneurs and low-income female labourers. It was founded in 1972.

Is US Politics entering Indian soil ?

- ▶▶ Maybe or maybe not! Hillary Clinton is from Democratic Party. She contested Donald Trump during the 2016 US presidential elections and lost. Joe Biden, the current president of the USA is from the Republican Party. He served as the Vice President during President Obama's period.

Mukhyamantri Tirth-Darshan Yojana

- ▶▶ The Scheme was launched by the Madhya Pradesh Government. Under the scheme, the senior citizens will be taken on a spiritual tour free of cost. They will be taken to pilgrimage sites that

are located outside the state. One or two pilgrimage sites will be visited by them. The scheme is funded by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Features of the scheme -

- ▶▶ The scheme is applicable only to senior citizens, that is, persons of age 60 years
- ▶▶ For women, two years of age concession is provided
- ▶▶ The scheme is to be implemented with the help of IRCTC
- ▶▶ During the travel, the tourists will be provided with food, accommodation, bus travel cost, drinking water, etc. Meaning all the expenses will be borne by the State Government.



Beneficiaries -

- ▶▶ Only the MP state people shall apply for the scheme. He or she applying to the scheme should not be an income taxpayer. Physical and mental fitness certificates are essential to apply for the scheme. The applicants should not be suffering from diseases like TB, obstructive respiratory diseases, mental illness, etc.

Kerala Police Operation AAG

- ▶▶ The Kerala Police recently arrested 2,507 gangsters under OPERATION AAG. It was launched throughout the state. The operation aimed on arresting the fugitives listed under the Kerala anti-Social Activities Prevention Act (KAAPA). The primary targets in the list were those who returned to the state after being deported.



About the Operation -

- ▶▶ The operation was started at 11 PM on February 4, 2023. The Police forces raided more than 3,501 places and registered 1,673 cases. According to the Police, they achieved catching more than 50% of the fugitives on their list.

Why was the operation launched ?

- ▶▶ Foreign nationals from Bangladesh, Oman, Nepal, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia visit Kerala in search of livelihood and jobs. Most of these foreign nationals enter the state through illegal means mainly in search of jobs to support their families back home. As the state has a high literacy rate, the cost of labour is expensive. And so Keralites hire cheap foreign labourers to hide their original identity. The main issue is terrorists enter the country in this way. For this reason, the Police Force of Kerala state often launches such operations and deports illegal entries. For instance, the Love Jihad terrorist group, ISIS, etc are popular terrorist groups in the state. Money laundering and illegal drug and weapon activities are also high in the state as compared to other coastal states in the country.

Bihar : MV Ganga Vihar Floating Restaurant

- ▶▶ Floating restaurants are built on large steel barges. The first floating restaurant of India was built in Sirhind of Punjab. It was built in a small canal near a village. The Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation recently built MV Ganga Vihar, a floating restaurant at the NI Ghat. The restaurant is on the Ganges.



Background -

- ▶▶ The State Government of Bihar has been taking initiatives to increase tourism in the state. There are beautiful and historic heritage sites in the state with huge tourism potential. This includes the Rajgir, Sasaram, and Bodh Gaya. Also, the state government is planning on launching a water sports event in the state. Today most of the Biharis visit Andaman and Nicobar and Goa to enjoy the thrill of water sports. The plan is to keep these tourists within the state.

Significance of Floating restaurants in India -

- ▶▶ The Indian restaurant industry has more than 1.5 million outlets. The industry is constantly increasing. Nightlife lovers, business travellers, and family travellers are potential customers. Disposable income is increasing in India and also educated middle class is increasing. The India Food Service Report says that the value of the Indian food industry is Rs 5,99,782 crores. The report was prepared by NRAI National Restaurant Authority of India.

Biggest Floating Restaurant in the world -

- ▶▶ Iconic Jumbo of Hong Kong is the biggest floating restaurant in the world. It is the south China sea. It belongs to the Aberdeen Restaurant Enterprises. It suffered more than 12.4 million USD in losses during the pandemic.

Delhi's Child Rights Body's WhatsApp chatbot

- ▶▶ The Government of Delhi constituted the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. Since its constitution, the DCPCR launched several technological interventions to establish a good communication link between the government and the people. Recently, the DCPCR launched the WhatsApp chatbot called "BAL MITRA"



What is BAL MITRA Chatbot ?

- ▶▶ The chatbot will help the citizens communicate with DCPCR
- ▶▶ Parents can discuss education-related issues like admission issues with the commission

- ▶▶ The chatbot tries to remove the communication gap between the public and the government

Features of the Chatbot -

- ▶▶ Complaint registration
- ▶▶ Tracking the status of the complaint
- ▶▶ Acquiring information about admissions
- ▶▶ Providing information on children's rights
- ▶▶ It allows people to report confidential matters

Benefits of the Chatbot -

- ▶▶ There is wide public hesitation when it comes to making a complaint against social offenses. The chatbot helps people to register complaints without hesitation. It is highly beneficial to citizens who are unable to contact the commission physically.

Other similar initiatives -

- ▶▶ The DCPCR recently launched the Early Warning System. The Education Department of Delhi brought back 50,000 students to schools using the system. The main objective of the system is to reduce dropout rates in Delhi.

Amendments in enhance business at GIFT City

- ▶▶ The GIFT city, Gujarat International Finance Tech City is under construction. It is the first greenfield smart city in India. Today, the city is one of the major international IT and finance hubs. To boost its development, Finance Minister Smt Nimrula Sitaraman announced several measures in the Budget 2023.



What measures were introduced ?

- ▶▶ Data Embassies to be established in GIFT city for countries that are seeking digital continuity solutions
- ▶▶ Establish an EXIM bank subsidiary in GIFT City. Through this, the foreign banks shall provide acquisition financing. Also, can aid in trade re-financing
- ▶▶ Finance Minister proposed to make an amendment to the IFSCA Act. Demanded to avoid dual regulation under the SEZ act, asked for provisions for arbitration, and ancillary services-
- ▶▶ Powers to IFSCA under SEZ Act to set up a single window system that will facilitate registration and approval from SEZ authorities and GST authorities, SEBI, RBI, and IRDAI
- ▶▶ Tax benefits extended to funds involved in the relocation of IFSC and GIFT City

Significance -

- ▶▶ The amendments would turbocharge the GIFT city.
- ▶▶ Acquisition Financing: Funds provided by banks to a company to acquire other companies. Through acquisition financing, a smaller company will increase in size. Also, it shall aid in the Disinvestment policies of GoI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated National Aadi Mahotsav

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Aadi Mahotsav on 16th February 2023 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi. This was announced at a media briefing by the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda in New Delhi.
- ▶▶ Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Renuka Saruta was also present on the occasion. Arjun Munda also informed that the Prime Minister will be given an overview of the products which will be on display at various stalls and will engage with the artisans and the craftsmen from the tribal communities.



Key Points -

- ▶▶ The Minister further informed that the Tribal Affairs Ministry is making all-out efforts to ensure full participation and involvement of the tribal communities in realizing the Prime Minister's vision of AatmaNirbhar Bharat.
- ▶▶ He also said that the emphasis on the organic production of products by the tribal communities can play a big role in combating the challenge of global warming.
- ▶▶ The Minister noted that an effort has been made to draw more and more artisans from remote areas producing lesser-known and unique items to come and take part in Aadi Mahotsav being organized across the country.
- ▶▶ He also added that the Aadi Mahotsav is a major platform to catapult the tribal products into national and international markets.
- ▶▶ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED) is engaging with top designers to ensure quality and contemporary designs in tribal products, at the same time maintaining their originality.
- ▶▶ The present edition of the flagship event of TRIFED has the theme of "A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture, Cuisine, and Commerce", which represents the basic ethos of tribal life.
- ▶▶ The festival will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, handloom, paintings, jewelry, cane & bamboo, pottery, food & natural products, gifts & assortment, tribal cuisine, and much more through 200 stalls to showcase this.
- ▶▶ More than 1000 tribal artisans and artists from 28 States/UTs will be participating in the festival. This includes tribal cooks from 19 States/UTs for which 20 food stalls are being set up.
- ▶▶ Millets have been an integral part of the diet of tribal communities. United Nations, at the behest of the Government of India, has declared 2023 the International Year Millets.
- ▶▶ To commemorate this and create awareness and increase the production & consumption of tribal millets, tribal artisans from across the country are invited to display & sell millet products and cuisines.

Ladakh sets Guinness record Pangong Tso Marathon

- ▶▶ The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council recently launched Pangong Tso Marathon. The marathon is the first of its kind in India. It was held on the frozen Pangong Tso lake.

Guinness World Record -

- ▶▶ The marathon was conducted at an altitude of 4,350 metres. With this, it makes the Guinness record for World's Highest Frozen Lake Marathon. It is the first frozen lake marathon in India.



About the Marathon -

- ▶▶ The marathon included a 21 km long run. It began in Luking village. The marathon was organized by the Council of Ladakh along with the Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh.

Significance -

- ▶▶ The Government of India is now trying to increase the activities in remote border areas. Also, it is in the footsteps of increasing the population in these areas. This is being done to reduce the Chinese and Pakistani infiltrations here. To achieve this, several development activities are being brought. The marathon is one such step. The 2020 tensions between India and China were around the Pangong Tso lake. The Chinese had occupied more than 14 points in the disputed region. After the face-off in 2020, Indian Army captured several peaks in the region.

Pangong Tso Lake -

- ▶▶ The lake has saline water and is completely frozen during winter. Researchers believe that the lake was a part of the Indus river system in early times. Today, however, the lake lies separated from the Indus river. It is the highest saltwater lake in the world.

India's First AC Double Decker Electric Bus Introduced in Mumbai

- ▶▶ India's first air-conditioned double-decker electric bus was inducted into the fleet of BEST- the civic transport public body in Mumbai. The wet-leased e-bus will be registered at the Regional Transport Office before it hits the road for the public. This air-conditioned double-decker electric bus is likely to ply on the routes in suburbs where conventional double-decker buses that run on diesel are currently operated.



- ▶▶ Lokesh Chandra, general manager of the Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking, informed that they are scheduled to receive 4-5 more double-decker air-conditioned e-buses in the next 8-10 days

and a total of 20 such buses before March end from Switch Mobility, a subsidiary of automobile manufacture Ashok Leyland. The number of double-decker e-buses will reach 200 by this year-end.

Key Points -

- ▶▶ Mumbai's iconic double-decker bus has been introduced in public service in a new electric double-decker form.
- ▶▶ The new e-bus has two doors and an equal number of staircases for accessing the upper decks. The new buses will be equipped with facilities like digital ticketing, CCTV cameras, live tracking, digital display, and a panic button for emergencies, among others.
- ▶▶ According to BEST, the double-decker bus passenger carrying capacity is almost double compared to their single-decker counterparts.
- ▶▶ The new buses have a seating capacity of 65 and including standing passengers, they can carry 90 to 100 passengers.
- ▶▶ The prototype air-conditioned e-bus of the county was unveiled on August 17, 2022, by Union minister Nitin Gadakari in Mumbai when BEST announced to introduce double-decker e-bus in public service in October 2022 after completing the certification and registration process.
- ▶▶ Switch Mobility executives informed that the certification was delayed mainly due to the revised certification process of the Centre.
- ▶▶ As the certificate was received from the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), line production of the double-decker e-buses will be undertaken at a workshop in Patalganga in the Raigad district of Maharashtra....

First Semiconductor plant of India

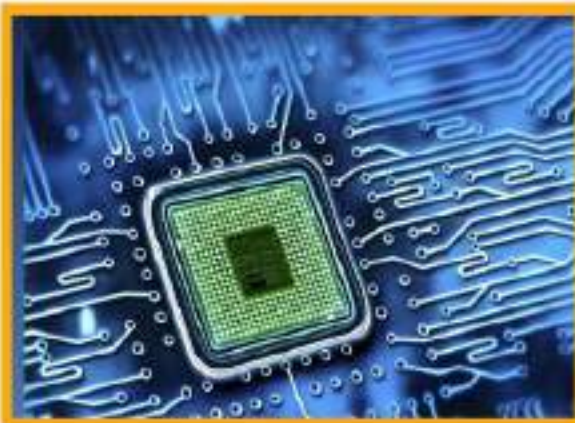
- ▶▶ The Vedanta group and the Foxconn of Taiwan have come together to build the first semiconductor manufacturing unit in Dholera of Gujarat. The companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gujarat Government. According to the agreement, they will invest Rs 1,54,000 crores in this project.

Where ?

- ▶▶ The semiconductor plant will be built in the Dholera Special Investment Region in Ahmedabad. It is a greenfield industrial city. The Dholera Special Investment Region Development Authority handles the land and the projects. The project was started by PM Modi when he was the CM of Gujarat.

Projects within Dholera Special Investment Region -

- ▶▶ Ultra Mega Solar Park : generating 4400 MW of electricity
- ▶▶ An international airport
- ▶▶ Freight transport railway line
- ▶▶ Expressway to connect Ahmedabad. Dholera is 100 km from Ahmedabad



Background -

- ▶▶ The MoU to build the semiconductor plant was signed in 2022. The project is being implemented under the Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-27. The project aims to generate at least 2 lakh new employment opportunities.

What is a Semiconductor plant ?

- ▶▶ It manufactures ICs and semiconductor materials. The semiconductor materials are made usable for electronic applications through a process called Doping. For instance, to create an N-type semiconductor material, you need to add Phosphorous to Germanium. Such doping processes are done in semiconductor plants.

Significance of Semiconductor plants -

- ▶▶ Currently, India is importing most of the semiconductor materials from China. With the new plant, India will become self-reliant and can manufacture high-quality electronic products rather than depending on inexpensive low-quality Chinese goods!

DUSTLIK 2023 : India-Uzbekistan Military Exercise

- ▶▶ India and Uzbekistan conducted the fourth edition of the DUSTLIK 2023 military exercise in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. During the exercise, the countries trained their troops in multi-domain operations and shared their skills. India's GARHWAL Rifles from the Western Command participated in the exercise. And from Uzbekistan, the North Western Military command participated in the exercise. The exercise is biennial, meaning conducted once in two years.



Uzbekistan Military Power -

- ▶▶ The country ranks 62 in its military power. It is a part of the Turkic world. With more than 65,000 soldiers, the Army of Uzbekistan is one of the largest in Central Asia.

Significance -

- ▶▶ The Hisar Air Base of Uzbekistan is jointly operated by Indian Air Force and Tajik Air Force. It is also called the Gissar Air Base. India used the base extensively during the Afghan crisis.

Why is DUSTLIK important ?

- ▶▶ Uzbekistan is important to India for connectivity to Iran and the Central Asian region. India is trying to expand its trade in the Central Asian region. But the conflicts in Afghanistan are a big hindrance. To counter such security issues, India needs the support of other central Asian countries like Uzbekistan.

Observation -

- ▶▶ In recent times, Indian Army is deploying the Garhwal Rifles in military exercises. In the recent DHARMA GUARDIAN military exercise conducted with Japan too, the Garhwal Rifles participated.

Chandrayaan-3 lander clears key test

- ▶▶ The Chandrayaan 3 is the third lunar mission of India. Indian Space Research Organization recently announced that the EMI-EMC test of the lander part was successful. The EMI-EMC are Electromagnetic tests. During the test, the lander is checked if its operation is creating EM interference in the nearby environment. Also, checks if its operation is affected by the nearby EM waves.

What is the EMI-EMC test ?

- ▶▶ EMI is the Electro Magnetic Interference test and EMC is the Electro Magnetic Compatibility test. For the successful landing and operation, it is essential that the lander part clears the EMI and EMC tests.

Significance -

- ▶▶ If the lander did not clear the test or if tests were partially completed, the entire Chandrayaan 3 may go in vain. It is essential for any electronic component to block electromagnetic waves. Also, the component should not emit any electromagnetic waves. If it emits or doesn't block the EM waves, the energy and the signals received, sent, or produced in the component are disrupted. Miscommunication happens and the mission fails. Probably, the Chandrayaan 2 lander crashed onto the moon's surface for this reason. MISCOMMUNICATION.

About Chandrayaan 3 -

- ▶▶ There are three main modules in the project. They are the Propulsion module, Rover module, and Lander Module.



India to setup Digital University

- ▶▶ The Minister of Skill Development Shri Dharmendra Pradhan recently announced that India will soon set up Digital University. The main objective of establishing a Digital University is to reduce the cost of higher education. Also, the university will increase access to several skill programmes. The minister made the announcement at the SCO virtual summit.

Background -

- ▶▶ The Government of India is trying to empower the youth in the country. To achieve this, it has been creating several entry points in the education system. The focus is to uplift the youth by training them in the skills that the Indian industry requires. This will help India become self-reliant.



Significance -

- ▶▶ With Digital Universities, the youths can develop their skills at very fewer expenses. This will help India achieves the five pillars of AtmaNirbhar Bharat namely Economy, system, infrastructure, demand, and Vibrant Demography.

How will Digital Universities help India create Vibrant demography ?

- ▶▶ Vibrant demography means a population with high skills. Population explosion is of course not good for the country. But what if the increasing population is of high literacy levels? The good education system of India has increased the NRI working population and overall remittance. While China is now launching birth-boosting plans like 30-day paid leave to newly married, India is focusing on skilling the population! Within 10 years, the Skilled Indian population will take the economy to a developed zone.

Learning-Teaching Material Jadui Pitara

- ▶▶ The National Education Policy 2020 envisaged play-based learning teaching material. In accordance with the policy, Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan recently launched the “JADUI PITARA”. It is a play-based learning material for children between the age of 3 to 8 years. It is available in 13 different Indian languages. It was developed under the National Curriculum Framework. The material is easy to use and can be downloaded and printed on paper.



What is JADUI PITARA ?

- ▶▶ It s a set of playbooks, puzzles, flashcards, posters, worksheets, and storybooks. The material intrigues the curiosity of the children. The material focuses on five major developmental activities namely literacy development, positive learning habits, cultural development, cognitive development, socio-emotional development, and ethical development.
- ▶▶ The main objective is “LEARN THROUGH PLAY”

Significance -

- ▶▶ The Government of India is in the footsteps of creating AMRIT GENERATION. The teaching material will help India achieve this. Amrit Generation is the future generation of India. They are patriotic, responsible, and dutiful. They take part in government activities and contribute largely to the welfare of the country.

DGCA: Domestic Air Traffic increases in India

- ▶▶ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation releases reports on all Indian carriers on monthly basis. According to the recently released report of January 2023, air traffic has increased significantly. As compared to 2022, the growth of air traffic has increased by 95%. More than 12.5 million passengers travelled in January 2023. In January 2022, the Omicron wave affected air traffic. Only 6.4 million passengers used air transport in 202.

Current Status of the Airlines in the country -

- ▶▶ IndiGo is the largest airliner in the country. However, the market value of the airlines has been decreasing in recent times
- ▶▶ The Air-India was the second largest airline. It holds 9.2% of air traffic in the country. Under the reigns of TATA, Air India has set a target to conquer 30% of the air travel market
- ▶▶ Vistara was the third largest airline in the country. VISTARA is a joint venture of TATA and Singapore Airlines
- ▶▶ AKASA is a new arrival. It started its operation in August 2022. The Airline has 2.8% of the market share



Performance of the Airlines -

- ▶▶ INDIGO was the most punctual airline in the country. AKASA was the second most punctual. VISTARA, AIR INDIA, AIR ASIA, and SPICE JET were the least punctual airlines.

CJI DY Chandrachud Launched “Neutral Citations” For All Supreme Courts

- ▶▶ The Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud announced that the Supreme Court has launched “neutral citations” of judgments to ensure a uniform pattern of citing its decisions.
- ▶▶ The Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud announced that the Supreme Court has launched “neutral citations” of judgments to ensure a uniform pattern of citing its decisions. Earlier, the Supreme court informed that steps had been taken for the introduction and implementation of a uniform, reliable and secure methodology for identifying and citing decisions in the apex court, namely the neutral citations system, to ensure a uniform pattern of citing all decisions of the top court.



- ▶▶ **CJI DY Chandrachud Launched “Neutral Citations” For All Supreme Courts- Key Points**
The bench led by the CJI assembled to hear urgent mentioning of matters for listing, and the CJI announced that all judgments of the top court would have neutral citations.
The Chief Justice of India informed that they have launched neutral citations. All judgments of the court will have neutral citations,” adding that around 30,000 verdicts of the apex court would have neutral citations.
- ▶▶ He also noted that hopefully, the HCs would also follow suit. The top court was using machine learning tools, which would translate its verdicts into Indian languages....

RTI released data, 60% of voters linked Aadhaar to voter ID

- ▶▶ 60% of voters linked Aadhaar to voter ID, RTI Data: According to the Election Commission (EC), more than 60% of India's 94.5 crore voters have connected their Aadhaar numbers to their voter IDs.
- 60% of voters linked Aadhaar to voter ID : RTI Data**



- ▶▶ According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), more than 60% of India's 94.5 crore voters have connected their Aadhaar numbers to their voter IDs. There are 56,90,83,090 voters who are linked to their Aadhaar overall.

RTI Data : Key Points

- ▶▶ With almost 92% of voters in the State providing their Aadhaar information to the Election Commission, Tripura had the highest rate of Aadhaar linking during last week's elections. Some of these voters may have submitted Form 6B, which the EC introduced last year, with papers other than Aadhaar, such as PAN, a driver's licence, or a passport.
- ▶▶ The Aadhaar is the primary requirement on the form, though, and voters can only submit an alternate document after admitting that they do not have an Aadhaar.
- ▶▶ By enabling election officials to obtain the 12 digit number from voters, the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 was passed to eliminate duplicate voter registration lists.
- ▶▶ After Tripura, Lakshadweep and Madhya Pradesh are in second and third place, respectively, with nearly 91% and 86% of voters providing the information.
- ▶▶ India can emerge as a biodiversity champion

What is the percentage of the other states ?

- ▶▶ On average, voters in southern States have not submitted their Aadhaar in such quantities.
- ▶▶ Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh both fell short of 71%, while Tamil Nadu and Kerala are somewhere between 61% and 63%.
- ▶▶ Gujarat, where only 31.5% of voters have connected the identification card to their voter registration, has the lowest rate of Aadhaar registration. In the nation's capital, less than 34% of voters were linked to their Aadhaar....

Kerala : First State to use Robotic Manhole cleaners

- ▶▶ Kerala uses a BANDICOOT robot to clean sewage. With this, it has become the first state to launch robotic scavengers. BANDICOOT was launched in the temple town Guruvayur.

Genrobotics developed the robot. The main objective of developing the robot is to eliminate manual scavenging. The robot has been in use since 2018. However, this is the first time, it is being used to clean public manholes, replacing humans. The robot fulfils its purpose of the invention for the first time. BANDICOOT was already used in several other states but not for scavenging purposes and not in public places.



Working of BANDICOOT -

- ▶▶ The Bandicoot has a robotic Tron unit. It is the major component of the robot and the unit operates just like the limb of man. The Tron enters the manhole, digs and collects the waste. The robot is waterproof and fireproof. It has cameras and sensors. Bandicoot can detect harmful gases.

Awards for BANDICOOT -

- ▶▶ Genrobotics received the "Kerala Pride" award for building BANDICOOT. The award was presented under Kerala Startup Mission. Also, Genrobotics received National Award for developing the robot.

Why the name BANDICOOT? -

- ▶▶ The Bandicoots are terrestrial omnivores endemic to Australia. The animal is a digger. The robot operates just like the animal digging the waste from the manhole and thus the name.

About BANDICOOT -

- ▶▶ It is the first robotic scavenger in the world. It was developed under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Make in India initiative. IOCL announced that it will use BANDICOOT robots to clean certain spots in its refineries.

Union Government Approved Renaming of Aurangabad & Osmanabad in Maharashtra

- ▶▶ Chief Minister Eknath Shinde confirmed that Aurangabad city will be renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and Osmanabad city will be called Dharashiv. After a year the proposal to rename Aurangabad and Osmanabad has been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Key Points -

- ▶▶ The Ministry stated that it has no objection to renaming cities. The initial proposal was made in a cabinet meeting during the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in June 2022 before Uddhav Thackeray resigned as the then-chief minister.
- ▶▶ After claiming that the decision by the Uddhav government was illegal, On July 16, 2022, a Government Resolution was passed by the two-member cabinet, comprising Eknath Shinde and



his deputy Devendra Fadnavis, for changing the names, and a proposal was then forwarded to the Centre.

- ▶▶ The Bombay High Court sought to know from the Maharashtra government if it had called for objections and suggestions before deciding to rename Aurangabad and Osmanabad cities in the state.
- ▶▶ A division bench of Acting Chief Justice S V Gangapurwala and Justice Sandeep Marne also directed the Union government to show if any proposal was submitted by the state government to it over the change of names.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Chief Minister of Maharashtra: Eknath Shinde
- ▶▶ Governor of Maharashtra: Devendra Fadnavis
- ▶▶ Maharashtra was founded on 1st May 1960

PM Modi to disburse 13th Instalment of Rs 16,800cr under PM-KISAN

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will disburse the 13th installment of the income support programme PM-Kisan, totaling more than Rs 16,800 crore to more than eight crore beneficiary farmers in Belagavi, Karnataka,

PM Modi to disburse 13th instalment of Rs 16,800cr under PM-KISAN: Key Points

- ▶▶ The programme distributes Rs 6,000 annually in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 into each eligible landholder farmer's bank account.
- ▶▶ When PM-Kisan was introduced in February 2019, more than Rs 2.2 lakh crore had been distributed to over 11 crore landholder farmer families across the nation.
- ▶▶ In May and October of last year, the 11th and 12th installments of the current financial year's funding were made available.
- ▶▶ "Farmers all around the country have already benefited significantly from the PM-Kisan plan, and this next instalment will further increase their incomes and contribute to the expansion of the agriculture industry."
- ▶▶ All landholding farmer families in the nation are eligible under the programme, with some restrictions.
- ▶▶ More than three million women beneficiaries of the scheme have received more than Rs 53,600 crore in funding during the last four years....



Term of the 22nd Law Commission extended till August, 2024

- ▶▶ The Union cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on February 22 extended the term of the 22nd Law Commission till August 31, 2024. The move came as the tenure of the 22nd Law Commission of India ended on February 20, 2023.
- ▶▶ Former chief justice of the Karnataka High Court Ritu Raj Awasthi is the chairperson of the current commission, and its members include KT Sankaran, a retired judge of the Kerala High Court.



The 22nd commission is tasked with :

- (a) identification of laws that are no longer relevant and can be done away with;
- (b) suggesting new laws that may be necessary to implement the directive principles and to attain the objectives set out in the preamble of the Constitution;
- (c) advising the government on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be routed through the ministry of law and justice (Department of Legal Affairs);
- (d) considering the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the government through law ministry; and
- (e) preparing reports on all issues, matters, studies and research undertaken by it and recommending such reports for effective measures to be taken by the central or state governments.

About The Law Commission of India :

- ▶▶ The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- ▶▶ The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955 for a three-year term.
- ▶▶ The first Law Commission was established during the British Raj era in 1834 by the Charter Act of 1833 and was chaired by Lord Macaulay.
- ▶▶ Law commissions have been instrumental in the progressive development and codification of laws in the country. The commission has so far submitted 277 reports.

Objectives of the Law Commission of India :

- ▶▶ It works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ▶▶ The Law Commission undertakes research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo-motu...

NOKIA changes its logo

- ▶▶ The smartphone giant NOKIA recently changed its brand identity for the first time in 60 years. The telecom equipment maker is now focusing on growth. The iconic blue colour of NOKIA was dropped. And a new logo has been adopted. The new logo has five different shapes.

Why did Nokia change its logo ?

- ▶▶ With the new logo, NOKIA is sending information to the international market. The changed logo says NOKIA has emerged as a technology company. According to NOKIA, the world is of the assumption that the company produces only smartphones. But it is not so. NOKIA is into the technology business and not the Smartphone business. To deliver this to the international market, NOKIA changed its logo.

Why did Nokia fail in India ?

- ▶▶ Trends in India changed significantly in 2007. Nokia failed to adapt to the changing trends. Competition increased aggressively and NOKIA couldn't withstand the competition.

About NOKIA -

- ▶▶ It is a Finnish company. It is in the business of information technology, multinational telecommunication, consumer electronics, etc. The company is spread over 100 countries. In terms of revenue, it is the 415th largest company. In 2009, it was in the 85th position. NOKIA grew after PekkaLundmark became the CEO in 2020.
- ▶▶ Nokia signed a contract with NASA to build a 4G mobile network on the moon
- ▶▶ Flipkart-NOKIA collaboration to sell NOKIA products in India



Cobra Warrior exercise

- ▶▶ The Cobra Warrior Exercise is to be held at Waddington Air Force Base in the UK in March 2023. It is a multinational exercise. Countries like Singapore, Finland, the USA, South Africa, and Sweden will participate in the exercise. India is also participating in the exercise. The IAF will send five Mirage 2000 fighters along with IL-78 mid-air refueller aircraft, and two C-17 Globemaster.

Background -

- ▶▶ The Cobalt Warrior is one of the largest Royal Air Force exercises. During the exercise, the Royal Air Force provides special training to pilots from different countries. The exercise is being conducted for more than a decade. The exercises are considered one of the most challenging exercises in the world. Therefore, the participating air forces gain good exposure. During the exercise, the Royal British Air Force offers Qualified Space Instructors Courses,



surveillance, Multi-Engine Tactics, Qualified Weapons Instructors, etc. To qualify for these war strategies the Air Force crew has to seek intense training provided by the British Royal Air Force.

India – UK Military Exercises -

- ▶▶ The navies of the countries hold “KONKAN”. The Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force hold a bilateral exercise called the INDRADHANUSH. The Indian Army and the Royal British Army hold AJEYA WARRIOR.

Aim of the exercise -

- ▶▶ To provide operational exposure to the participating Air Forces
- ▶▶ To enhance the combat capability
- ▶▶ Build strong friendship bonds

India can emerge as a biodiversity champion

- ▶▶ India can emerge as a biodiversity champion: The United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montreal, Canada, made a strong case for the value of our planet’s biodiversity.



- ▶▶ Biodiversity, the totality and variety of our biological resources, is crucial to the survival of the world. The United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montreal, Canada, made a strong case for the value of our planet’s biodiversity. The 2030 commitment, which aims to “stop and reverse” biodiversity loss by protecting 30% of the world’s land and 30% of its oceans by 2030, was ratified on December 19, 2022, by delegates from 188 nations.
- ▶▶ India is in a prime position to lead the world in becoming biodiversity champions because it currently has 17% of the world’s population and 17% of the world’s biodiversity hotspots.

India can emerge as a biodiversity champion: Key Points

- ▶▶ Green Growth was listed as one of the seven priorities, or Saptarishis, in the Union Budget 2023.
- ▶▶ The variety and variability of life on Earth is referred to as biodiversity or biological diversity.
- ▶▶ A measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem levels is called biodiversity.
- ▶▶ India is in a prime position to lead the world in becoming biodiversity champions because it currently has 17% of the world’s population and 17% of the world’s biodiversity hotspots.

Species discovered -

- ▶▶ According to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), there may be as many as 13 million species, although only 1.75 million have been recognised yet, including a large number of insects.

Significance -

- ▶▶ Codependence, cohabitation, and interaction
- ▶▶ Biodiversity, the sum and variety of our biological wealth, is crucial to the future of this world.
- ▶▶ The diversity of species on earth, sometimes known as the “web of life,” maintains the harmony of ecosystems and allows for the coexistence of people.
- ▶▶ They engage with the surroundings to carry out a variety of tasks..

International

Saudi Arabia to send its first woman to space

- ▶▶ Rayyana Barnawi. The legendary woman is to make history. She will be the first Arab woman to enter space. This is a historical moment for the country that had centuries of restrictions against Muslim women! Rayyana is to travel to the International Space Station along with Ali Al-Qarni, a fighter jet pilot. SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is to carry them. The crews are to be launched from Florida.



Why is it historic?

- ▶▶ Saudi Arabia has been very conservative about its women. However, Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman brought in several changes. He allowed women to drive. Also, permitted women to travel abroad.

First Arab Muslim to travel to space -

- ▶▶ The Royal Prince of Saudi Arabia Prince Sultan Bin Salman was the first Saudi Arabian to travel to space in 1985. He too travelled in a US-organized space flight.

Significance -

- ▶▶ The Arab countries are relaxing their laws. They are liberalizing their restrictions on Muslim women. The recent first woman space flight is one of the reflections of Arab relaxation. The country is doing so to increase its trade relations. The only way to attract investors to the country is to ensure their comfort and safety.
- ▶▶ With the world moving towards alternate fuels, the future of oil is becoming unsure. Therefore, the Arab world is forced to come out of its conservations. International relations experts see this as trade-based changes!

Quad Nations begins Public Campaign To Improve Cyber Security

- ▶▶ The commencement of a public campaign to strengthen cyber security in these four countries has been announced by The Quad.
- ▶▶ The commencement of a public campaign to strengthen cyber security in these four countries has been announced by The Quad, a plurilateral structure made up of India, Australia, Japan, and the US.

Public Campaign to Improve Cyber Security by Quad Nations : Key Points

- ▶▶ Internet users are encouraged to join the challenge and make a commitment to adopt safe and responsible online behaviours, according to the National Security Council Secretariat.
- ▶▶ The programme is a reflection of the Quad's ongoing efforts to increase cyber security action and awareness as well as to promote a more secure and robust cyber ecosystem for the benefit of economies and consumers worldwide.
- ▶▶ Cybercrime and other hostile cyber threats, which can cost trillions of dollars annually and compromise sensitive, personal data, target Internet users all over the world.
- ▶▶ Internet users and service providers can take small steps to significantly improve cybersecurity and cyber safety.
- ▶▶ Pakistani PM approves IMF deal, Geo reports, without giving details



What is all there is in the Quad Nations Public Campaign ?

- ▶▶ ▶▶ The recommendations include regularly updating security software, activating multi-factor authentication for better identity checks, using stronger passphrases that change frequently, and being aware of typical online frauds like phishing.
- ▶▶ The Quad Cyber Challenge offers resources for all users, from corporations to educational institutions, small businesses, and individuals, and will culminate in events during the week of April 10.
- ▶▶ These resources include fundamental cybersecurity knowledge and training.
- ▶▶ The Quad partners are striving to guarantee that everyone has access to the information required to make wise decisions when using the internet and mobile devices.
- ▶▶ Find out what you and your organisation can do to promote a more secure, resilient, and safe online environment so that the entire world is better protected from online dangers.
- ▶▶ This effort is being coordinated in India by the National Security Council Secretariat and the office of National Cyber Security Coordinator.

Natasha Perianayagam Scored Highest in "World's Brightest" Students List

- ▶▶ A 13-year-old girl, Natasha Perianayagam won the title of "world's brightest" student. Natasha Perianayagam, an Indian American, was named to the list compiled by the Johns Hopkins Center.
- ▶▶ Natasha has been listed on the "world's brightest" list, previously she also took the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) test in 2021, when she was still in the 5th grade. The test is a worldwide operation, with over 1500 students participating in the project across 76 countries.

Natasha Perianayagam Scored Highest in “World’s Brightest” Students List – Key Points

- ▶▶ Natasha Perianayagam is a student at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School in New Jersey, US.
- ▶▶ In 2021, Natasha’s results in the verbal and quantitative sections of the test came up to the 90th percentile of an advanced standard-level performance, which put her on the honors list.
- ▶▶ This year, Natasha was awarded for her exceptional performance in the SAT, ACT, School, and College Ability Test, or other similar tests, which were taken as part of the CTY Talent Search by the organization.
- ▶▶ According to the university, CTY used testing methods above grade level to pick out the advanced students in the crowd of 15,000 to prove their above-grade-level academic talent.
- ▶▶ Natasha was among the students who appeared for the CTY test across 76 countries in the 2021–22 Talent Search Year.
- ▶▶ While Natasha passed the CTY ceremony, less than 27 percent of the students who took the test could make it. The students received high or grand honors based on their test scores....



State of Emergency In New Zealand after Cyclone Gabrielle

- ▶▶ Cyclone Gabrielle hit the New Zealand coast and caused severe damage. Heavy rains, floods, and landslides forced the New Zealand government to declare an emergency. It was a Category 3 cyclone. PM of NZ announced a 7.3 million USD relief package. Winds reached a speed of 140 km/hr. Auckland was badly hit. Homes were left powerless. More than 500 flights were cancelled.

Emergency in New Zealand -

- ▶▶ During emergencies, the local bodies of the country have greater power. They get the power of restricting travel.

How does New Zealand work during Emergencies ?

- ▶▶ The National Emergency Management Agency takes full control. It operates directly under PM. It connects the local bodies and the PM directly.

When can the NZ Govt declare an emergency ?

- ▶▶ The NZ govt. can declare three different types of emergencies namely local emergency, national emergency, and regional emergency. The emergency shall be declared when there is a threat to biosecurity, or defence, during earthquakes, epidemics, wildfires, etc.



El Nino and La Nina on Australian and New Zealand Cyclones -

- ▶▶ They face more cyclones during LA NINA. During EL NINO, the region becomes dry and there are wildfires. EL NINO and LA NINA develop during Mar-Jun. Their intensities reach a peak during Nov-Feb. Their effects weaken during summer.

CBRN terror response in TARKASH Exercise

- ▶▶ India and USA military recently conducted the TARKASHA exercise. It was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The Special Operation Forces of the US and the National Security Guard of India participated in the exercise. Usually, military exercises focus on enhancing the skills and weapon usage of the soldiers. In a unique way, this exercise focused on CBRN TERROR RESPONSE. CBRN means Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear.



Russian Arms Supplies to India Worth \$13 bn in past 5 years

- ▶▶ Russian state news agencies reported that India received arms worth around \$13 billion from Russia in the past five years. Moreover, New Delhi has further placed orders with Moscow for weapons and military equipment exceeding \$10 billion....
- ▶▶ India accounts for around 20 percent of Moscow's current order book and is the world's biggest buyer of Russian arms. While New Delhi has not openly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for dialogue and diplomacy to solve the conflict.



India, China : Interest in buying Russian arms :

- ▶▶ Dmitry Shugayev, the head of Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, told the agencies that India, China and some Southeast Asian countries have continued to have interest in buying Russian arms.
- ▶▶ The agency reported that annual arms exports have been about \$14-15 billion, with the order book steady at around \$50 billion....
- ▶▶ Russia's S-400Triumf missile defence systems, short-range surface-to-air missiles systems such as the Osa, Pechora or Strela, as well as Su-30 warplanes, MiG-29 helicopters and drones have been of special interest to Asian countries, Shugayev said..

Nikki Haley- A Republican & An Indian-American formally launches her 2024 presidential bid

- ▶▶ Indian-origin Republican leader Nikki Haley formally launched her 2024 presidential bid, casting herself as a younger, fresher alternative to her one-time boss and former US President Donald Trump. Haley, 51, is the two-term Governor of South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the United Nations.

Nikki Haley: Daughter of Indian immigrants :

- ▶▶ Haley was born Nimrata Nikki Randhawa in Bamberg, South Carolina, to Indian immigrants. Her parents hailed from Punjab and worked as teachers while also running a clothing store in rural South Carolina. She was raised as a Sikh but converted to Christianity after marriage to Michael Haley in 1996.

Nikki Haley: Governor of South Carolina :

- ▶▶ Nikki Haley was elected to the state legislature of South Carolina in 2004. In 2010, she became the first woman to become the Governor of South Carolina and only the second person of Indian descent to hold the post in any US state after Bobby Jindal (Louisiana)....

US ambassador to the United Nations :

- ▶▶ Nikki Haley further gained national recognition during her tenure as US ambassador to the United Nations during the Trump presidency. During her tenure, she was known as a vocal critic of Russia, Iran and China. She also spoke against North Korean missile testing, threatening to increase US military presence in the region to counteract any aggression from Kim Jong-un....



IMF: India and China to contribute more than half of global growth

- ▶▶ The International Monetary Fund recently said that India and China will contribute more than 50% of the global growth in 2023. Another 25% will be contributed by other Asian countries. This is happening because the supply chains faded during the pandemic and the service sectors boomed during the same period. The supply chains will take time to recover. Things may change when they recover.

What is the IMF saying ?

- ▶▶ The Asian countries are back to their pre-pandemic growth. Especially countries like Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia are in full operation



- ▶▶ The inflation will reach the targets set by the central banks of respective countries by the end of 2023. In the recent MPC, RBI increased the interest rate and repo rate. RBI has increased the repo rate by 250 points in 2022 alone. Still, the inflation is 6.25%, which is higher than the target inflation of 6% set by RBI.
- ▶▶ Central banks need to stay alert. As the Chinese are reopening their economy, inflation may increase
- ▶▶ Food and oil processes are coming to stable conditions

Growth -

- ▶▶ Asia is expected to grow by 4.7% in 2023 and by 4.5% in 2024. In 2022, the growth rate of Asian countries was 3.8%

NEOM : Saudi's Future Mega City

- ▶▶ Saudi Arabia recently announced that it has completed one-fifth construction of its futuristic Mega city called the NEOM. The country is spending 500 billion USD to construct the city. The engineering projects in the future city will be powered by clean energy. There will be no cars in the streets. NEOM is a combination of two words NEO and M. NEO is a Greek word meaning New. And M in the name stands for the word Mustakbal, meaning the future. Also, the M stands for crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman.



Key Facts of NEOM -

- ▶▶ The proposal to construct the city was brought by crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman
- ▶▶ The city is located on the Red Sea Coast and is larger than Kuwait or Israel. The city is spread around 26,500 square kilometres
- ▶▶ There will be ten different regions in the city like the airport, bay, floating industrial complex, etc.
- ▶▶ OXAGON: It is a floating industrial complex. It will house a desalination plant, a research centre, and a hydrogen plant

TROJENA: A skiing centre

- ▶▶ Agriculture: 6,500 hectares of farmlands will be created outside the city
- ▶▶ The 2029 Asian Winter Games will be hosted by NEOM
- ▶▶ THE LINE: Smart city that will be housed within NEOM

Concerns -

- ▶▶ More than 20,000 people relocated. The Indigenous Howeitat tribe living in the area was terribly affected. Local water resources will be detoured. Artificial ski slopes will cause severe impact on the desert land. Unjust work terms with the employees in the project are also creating a ruckus.

UAE to host first I2U2 vice-ministerial meeting

- ▶▶ I2U2 is a joint initiative of India, Israel, the USA, and the UAE. I2 stands for Israel and India. U2 stands for USA and UAE. The main objective of the initiative is security cooperation, technological hubs, food security, and other different energy fields. The UAE recently hosted the vice-ministerial meeting of I2U2. It was held in Abu Dhabi. It was attended by the Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment secretary of the USA, the Prime Minister of Israel, PM Modi, and the UAE President.



I2U2 Vice-Ministerial meeting -

- ▶▶ This is the first meeting of its kind. During the meeting, the leaders discussed regional cooperation opportunities and investment opportunities among the countries. They also discussed food insecurity and energy crisis issues.

Benefits for India -

- ▶▶ The grouping helps India gain political and social alliances. India can take the advantage of Abraham Accord and deepen its relationship with Israel without affecting its ties with UAE and the Arab world. Abraham Accord was signed by USA, Israel and UAE. The agreement normalized the relations between the three.
- ▶▶ Within the first two meetings, India gained 2 billion USD of investments in the states of Gujarat and MP in the field of hybrid energy projects.

Principled Vision of I2U2 -

- ▶▶ The leaders of the initiative aim to increase private sector investments in the field of clean energy, emerging technologies, and waste treatment. The first summit of the initiative was held in 2022.

India-Singapore link Digital Payments UPI and PAYNOW

- ▶▶ UPI is the mobile payment method in India. Similarly, PAYNOW is a mobile payment method in Singapore. The countries have planned to link these two mobile payment methods. The linking was done virtually inaugurated by the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and the MD of the Monetary Authority of Singapore Ravi Menon.

Significance -

- ▶▶ With the linkage, the residents of both countries can transfer money at faster rates. Migrant workers and students will be benefitted the most.



G20 -

- ▶▶ The Linkage of UPI and Pay Now was a part of the G20 priorities. One of the key focuses of the 2023 G20 summit is on cheaper, inclusive finance, and transparent cross-border payments.

Benefits -

- ▶▶ The linkage enables person-to-person transfer and person-to-merchant transfer between the countries. Thus, it helps in boosting trade, foreign remittance, etc. Above all the e-commerce businesses will be benefited largely. As instant funds shall be received through this linkage, online shopping becomes easy. Also, fund transfer from an e-wallet is also possible.

Background -

- ▶▶ Indians contribute to 9% of Singapore's citizens. Apart from this, there are Indian students and businessmen living on visas. Tamil is one of the official languages of Singapore. Other official languages are Malay, English, and Mandarin Chinese. The migration of Indians to Singapore started thousand years back. Tamil people migrated to the island during the Chola dynasty rule. Trade was the main reason for the Indians to travel to the country back then.

India, Guyana set to ink pact on oil & gas sector

- ▶▶ India will explore buying oil from Guyana in a long term deal and participating in the South American country's oil and gas exploration sector.
- ▶▶ India and Guyana have agreed to cooperate in the oil and gas sector, including long-term crude purchase from the South American country and investment in its upstream sector. Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri met Guyana president Mohamed Irfaan Ali....



More About The Agreement Between India & Guyana :

- ▶▶ The leaders agreed on direct government-to-government cooperation across the entire spectrum of the oil and gas sector including increased long-term offtake, participation in exploration and production activities in Guyana, technical cooperation in the midstream and downstream sector and capacity building.

The energy-synergy of India: Associations with Colombia, Guyana and Venezuela :

- ▶▶ India is the third-largest consumer and importer of oil worldwide and nearly 85 per cent of its oil demand is met through imports from abroad that includes nearly 10 per cent from Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC).
- ▶▶ In the world arena, with the growing energy demand in Asia, crude oil from Latin America is moving eastward into China and India. LAC with its surplus crude and opportunities for investment fits in perfectly within India's energy security strategy. Crude petroleum oil traded between India and Latin America has become central to India's energy security.
- ▶▶ India has expressed interest in accessing Guyana's crude oil. Guyana's Minister of Natural Resources

and India's Minister of Petroleum Hardeep Puri met in October 2022 on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 2022) in the United Arab Emirates where they discussed areas of cooperation in the energy sector.

- ▶▶ Indian companies are importing significant volumes of petroleum coke, a by-product of oil upgrading and an alternative to coal, from Venezuela. Pet coke is inexpensive compared to coal whose prices have surged immensely. The high quality, large-scale production, low sulphur content and competitive price have made Venezuelan petcoke very attractive despite the downside that the cargo takes nearly 50 days to arrive in India.
- ▶▶ Colombia, which produces more than 1 million barrels a day (60 percent of energy generated is hydro-electrical) and is relentlessly working towards the diversification of sources of energy can be India's clean partner in the energy sector....

Bill Gates Buys Stake in Heineken for \$902 Million

- ▶▶ Bill Gates has acquired a minority stake in Heineken Holding NV, the controlling shareholder of the world's second-largest brewer, for about \$902 million.
- ▶▶ Bill Gates has acquired a minority stake in Heineken Holding NV, the controlling shareholder of the world's second-largest brewer, for about \$902 million. The Microsoft founder and philanthropist picked up 3.8% of Heineken Holding, according to a filing by the Dutch regulator AFM. He bought 6.65 million shares in Heineken Holding, in his individual capacity, and another 4.18 million shares through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust.



More About This Development :

- ▶▶ The shares are valued at •848.2 million (\$902 million), according to Bloomberg calculations at closing share price value of February 17. Gates acquired the stake on the same day that Fomento Economico Mexicano SAB launched a •3.7 billion stock and equity-linked sale for part of its holdings in Heineken.
- ▶▶ **Big Investments In Heineken :**
- ▶▶ Femsa, as the Mexican Coca-Cola bottler and convenience store operator is known, announced plans to offload its stake in Heineken after a strategic review. Femsa said its accelerated bookbuild offering of •1.9 billion in shares in Heineken NV priced at •91 apiece, and •1.3 billion in shares in Heineken Holding sold at •75 each. Heineken Holding controls 50% of Heineken NV, maker of the namesake beer as well as Amstel, Moretti, and Sol among others.

Investment by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust :

- ▶▶ The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust foundation has also invested in Dutch online grocer Picnic BV and holds a 1.34% stake in Dutch fertilizer producer OCI NV. The foundation has long been a powerhouse in the nonprofit world, employing almost 1,800 people and spending nearly \$80 billion since 2000....

Meta launches New LLaMA

- ▶ In the world of artificial intelligence, chatbots have become a ubiquitous tool for communication. Companies have been striving to create their own chatbots to cater to the needs of their customers. After the success of OpenAI's ChatGPT, several companies have launched their own versions of chatbots to grab a share of the market. META, which loves to monopolize the "Internet Chat" world, has launched its new chatbot called LLaMA.



LLaMA: Large Language Model Meta AI

- ▶ LLaMA is a large language model developed by META that is similar to ChatGPT. The main objective of the model is to assist researchers in the field of AI. LLaMA is the third large language model developed by META. The first was Glactica, and the second was Blender. However, unlike its predecessors, LLaMA requires fewer resources and computing power.
- ▶ LLaMA is yet to be released in the market, and only the research paper has been published. However, the announcement of the launch was made in a grand Mark Zuckerberg style, creating a buzz in the industry.

Objective of LLaMA

- ▶ While LLaMA works almost like ChatGPT, its main objective is to assist researchers in their work. LLaMA can fetch information from the research field, making it a valuable tool for researchers. META aims to establish its top position in the world of chats by creating its own chatbot.

META's History of Monopolization

- ▶ META is known for its tendency to absorb its competitors to establish its top position in the market. The company has acquired several popular chat boxes such as Instagram and WhatsApp. However, for a change, META has developed its own chatbot, the LLaMA.

Privacy and Copyright Issues

- ▶ Details on how the LLaMA will handle privacy and copyright issues are yet to be revealed. Privacy and copyright issues have been a major concern for chatbots in the past, and it remains to be seen how META will address these concerns.

Financial crime watchdog FATF suspends Russia's membership due to Ukraine conflict

- ▶ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global organization that monitors financial crime, suspended Russia's membership after finding that Moscow (Russia)'s conflict in Ukraine breached the FATF's principles.

Financial crime watchdog FATF suspends Russia's membership: Key Points

- ▶ FATF is an intergovernmental organization created to fight money laundering and the financing

of terrorism by establishing international standards and monitoring their observance by nations.

- ▶▶ Ukraine expressed its appreciation for the FATF's decision to suspend Russia but also stated that it will keep working with FATF members to further penalise and blacklist Moscow.
- ▶▶ As part of its efforts to exert pressure on Moscow, whose invasion began its second year, Ukraine has repeatedly called for Russia to be excluded from the organization.
- ▶▶ Russia is still a member, despite the fact that it has been suspended.
- ▶▶ UN approves resolution calling for Russia to leave Ukraine after 1 year



FATF About -

- ▶▶ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental policy-making body whose goals are to create and promote national and international policies to fight money laundering and the funding of terrorism as well as to set worldwide standards.
- ▶▶ Separately, the FATF removed Morocco off its "grey list" of nations under extra scrutiny to apply criteria to stop money laundering and terrorism funding and added South Africa to that list.
- ▶▶ 39 nations make up the FATF membership, including the US, India, China, Saudi Arabia, as well as nations in Europe like the UK, Germany, and France and the EU as a whole. Ukraine is not a participant....

India joins Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate

- ▶▶ The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate is a joint initiative of the US. It was started by UAE and USA. The main objective of the initiative is to address hunger and climate change. This is to be achieved by inviting countries and other private organizations to invest in innovative and climate-smart agricultural systems.
- ▶▶ Key Focus of the mission: Gender Equity, Inclusion, and Equity

Objectives of the Mission -

- ▶▶ The mission will demonstrate the benefits of collective commitment. It will aim to increase investments in smart agriculture, innovative agricultural technologies, and food system
- ▶▶ Frameworks will be created to promote knowledge, expertise, and technical discussions. This is to be achieved by amplifying national and international level investments
- ▶▶ To create platforms and infrastructure for governments, scientists, and other stakeholders to share information and take climate-related actions



Stakeholders -

- ▶▶ There are three major stakeholders in the mission. They are government partners, innovation sprint partners, and knowledge partners.

Indian Submarine docks in Indonesia for the first time

- ▶▶ After traversing the Sunda Strait, the Indian submarine INS Sindhukesari docked in Indonesia. This is the first time an Indian submarine is docking in Indonesia. With this, INS Sindhukesari makes history in India-Indonesia relations.

Significance -

- ▶▶ The docking shows India's increasing military outreach in the region. Also, it depicts India's nature of being a diplomatic role player in ASEAN. India ships visit Indonesia and other ASEAN countries. However, this is the first time, a submarine is visiting Indonesia.



INS Sindhukesari -

- ▶▶ It is a diesel-electric submarine. It belongs to Sindhughosh class designed as a part of Project 877. The Sindhughosh class is basically the replica of the KILO class of the Soviet Union. It can launch missiles up to 220 km.

The China factor -

- ▶▶ India docked its submarine when the dispute over the South China sea is at its highest. The dispute is between China and other countries in the region. China is creating artificial military islands in the region and extending its EEZs. Now apart from INS Sindhukesari, the biggest aircraft carrier of the US called the USS Nimitz is also docked in the region.
- ▶▶ India recently conducted training sessions for Philippines personnel.

Sports

T20 World Cup 2023 : India defeats Pakistan

- ▶▶ The T20 Women's Cricket World cup is being held in Cape Town, South Africa. As a part of the world cup, the Indian and Pakistani teams played against each other. India won the match. Pakistan won the task and chose to bat. The team set a target of 150 runs. India won the match by reaching the target of 151 runs losing just three wickets. The Richa Gosh and Jemimah partnership helped India win the match.

About T20 World Cup -

- ▶▶ ICC conducts the world cup. It is a biennial event, meaning held once in two years. The 2023 tournament is to be held in Bangladesh and the 2026 tournament is in England. Australia is the most successful team at the T20 Women's Cricket World Cup. The team has won the cup five times. The first world cup was held in 2009 in England. India has not won the cup yet. In 2020, India was the runner and Australia won the cup.



Smriti Mandhana Becomes Most Expensive Player in WPL with 3.4 crore Bid by RCB

- ▶▶ Indian batter Smriti Mandhana was the most expensive buy at the inaugural Women's Premier League auction in Mumbai. Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) snapped her up for INR 3.4 crore deal. After bagging a whopping amount paid by the RCB in the WPL auction, Mandhana is set to earn double the Pakistan Super League (PSL) highest-paid players.

Key Points -

- ▶▶ Babar, who played for the Peshawar Zalmi side, under the Platinum category, was traded at the season salary of \$1,50,000 or PKR 3,60,00000 (3 Crore 60 lakh).
- ▶▶ Mandhana was also the first player to come up for bidding at the auction, having a base price of INR 50 lakh.
- ▶▶ RCB and Mumbai Indians were locked in an intense battle for her services, before the former



managed to acquire her services, offering an opening as well as a captaincy option.

About Smriti Mandhana -

- ▶▶ Smriti ShrinivasMandhana is an Indian cricketer who plays for the Indian women's national team and the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the WPL. In June 2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) named her as the Best Women's International Cricketer. In December 2018, the International Cricket Council (ICC) awarded her with the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for the best female cricketer of the year.
- ▶▶ On 30 December 2021, she became a nominee of the ICC Women's T20 Player of the Year. In December 2021, she, Tammy Beaumont, Lizelle Lee and Gaby Lewis were nominated for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year. In January 2022, the ICC awarded her with the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year. At the inaugural auctions of the Indian Women's Premier League, Smriti was acquired by the Royal Challengers Bangalore for Rs 3.40 crore.

Khelo India Winter Games 2023

- ▶▶ The Khelo India scheme was launched to increase the sports skills of the youth in the country and also to increase the sports infrastructure. Since the scheme's launch, the Khelo India committee working under the sports ministry has been organizing several games like Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India Winter Games, etc. The Khelo India Winter Games 2023 were recently launched in the Gulmarg of Jammu and Kashmir.



About Khelo India Winter Games 2023 -

- ▶▶ This is the third edition, meaning the games have been conducted twice and this is the third time. More than 1500 participants are to participate this year across nine different games.

Organizers -

- ▶▶ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing the Khelo India Winter Games along with; the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of J&K.

Previous Khelo India Winter Games -

- ▶▶ The 2021 edition was held in Leh. And the 2020 edition was held in Gulmarg. Games held are skiing, figure skating, snowshoe running, ice stock sports, Nordic skiing, ice hockey, speed skating, mountaineering, snow rugby, etc.

Gulmarg -

- ▶▶ It is a hill station and one of the most popular tourist spots in the country. It is located at the PirPanjal Range.

BabitaPhogat joins Oversight Committee panel formed against WFI

- ▶▶ BabitaPhogat joins Oversight Committee panel: BabitaPhogat, a former wrestler, joined oversight committee established to look into the claims made against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).
- ▶▶ BabitaPhogat, a former wrestler, joined the oversight committee established to look into the claims made against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The Oversight Committee is also looking into claims of sexual misbehaviour, harassment, and/or intimidation, as well as financial and organisational irregularities made by well-known athletes.



BabitaPhogat joins Oversight Committee panel -

- ▶▶ The committee was established during the IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting earlier this month, which was also attended by IOA President PT Usha, joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey, and people like Yogeshwar and Abhinav Bindra.

Who all are the members of the Oversight Committee panel formed against WFI ?

- ▶▶ BabitaPhogat is currently the sixth member of the Oversight Committee, which is led by MC Mary Kom, Chairperson of the Athletes Commission and recipient of the Khel Ratna Award.
- ▶▶ Yogeshwar Dutt, a Khel Ratna Awardee, is on the executive council of the IOA.
- ▶▶ Trupti Murgunde, a Dhyanchand Awardee, is a member of the Mission Olympic Cell.
- ▶▶ RadhicaSreeman is a former executive director of TEAMS at the Sports Authority of India

Saudi Arabia to Host Football's 2027 Asian Cup

- ▶▶ The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) won the hosting of the 2027 Asian Nations Cup, for the first time in its history, since its inception in 1956.
- ▶▶ The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) won the hosting of the 2027 Asian Nations Cup, for the first time in its history, since its inception in 1956. This came during the work of the 33rd Congress of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), February 1, in the Bahraini capital, Manama. Saudi Arabia was the only bid presented at the Congress in Manama after India's withdrawal in December 2022.
- ▶▶ After the announcement, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said, 'This victory is an opportunity to create the future of football in the Kingdom and the continent of Asia, and we look forward



with determination to open new horizons for Asian football.”

- ▶▶ The Saudi Arabia 2027 committee concerned with the Saudi file to host the 2027 Asian Nations Cup revealed the new and developed stadiums that will be worked on to host the tournament.

Contest between Saudi Arabia and India :

- ▶▶ On October 17, the AFC Executive Committee selected a shortlist of those wishing to host the continental event held once every four years, which included Saudi Arabia and India, but the final decision to be made by the General Assembly postponed it until early February.
- ▶▶ The Kingdom obtained the vote of 43 countries to organize the 2027 Asian Nations Cup out of 45 votes, and Palestine and Turkmenistan abstained from voting.

Who Is Hosting The 2023 Asian Football Cup :

- ▶▶ It is noteworthy that Qatar will host the next edition of the Asian Football Cup, from June 26 to July 16, 2023.

Kerala wins Inaugural champions of National Beach Soccer Championships

- ▶▶ Kerala has crowned to their bulging cabinet of national football trophies, putting on a show in the final of the National Beach Soccer Championships and overwhelming Punjab 13-4.
- ▶▶ Kerala has crowned to their bulging cabinet of national football trophies, putting on a show in the final of the National Beach Soccer Championships and overwhelming Punjab 13-4, to win the title, at Dumas Beach, Surat. In the third place game played earlier in the day, Delhi beat Uttarakhand 3-1.



- ▶▶ The game was a rematch of the group stage, where Punjab had won a close affair 6-5. On this occasion though, Kerala left them no chance, dominant from the first minute to the last. Kerala captain Kamaludheen opened the scoring for Kerala, blasting in a shot from the right 24 seconds after kick off to give them the lead. For the crowd that had arrived to watch this final, it was a precursor for the goal rush to come.

National Beach Soccer Championships : Key points

- ▶▶ Kerala's goalkeeper Santhosh Kasmeeer was awarded the best goalkeeper of the tournament.
- ▶▶ Rajasthan's Amit Godara was the highest goalscorer, with 27 goals.
- ▶▶ The best player of the tournament was awarded to Kerala's Siju S..

National Ice Hockey Championship: ITBP wins 3rd consecutive time

- ▶▶ The central ice hockey team of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has won the 12th edition of the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship for men- 2023.

National Ice Hockey Championship 2023 -

- ▶▶ The central ice hockey team of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has won the 12th edition of the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship for men- 2023 organized in Leh, Ladakh. The ITBP team defeated the Ladakh Scouts by a score of 1-0 at the final. This is the third time in succession that the mountain trained Force has won this premier national ice hockey championship.
- ▶▶ Top teams of the country participated in this national tournament organized at the Ice Hockey Rink in Ladakh which is located in one of the highest altitude regions of the world. The ITBP is a pioneer in the adventure sports in the country and possesses an unparalleled record of mountaineering and allied sports in the country.
- ▶▶ The ITBP is a pioneer when it comes to adventure sports in the country as they possess an unparalleled record of mountaineering and allied sports in the country. Established in 1962, the ITBP guards the high-altitude frontiers of the Himalayas in difficult terrain and climatic conditions.



IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Ice Hockey Association of India President: Dr. Surinder Mohan Bali;
- ▶▶ It became a member of the International Ice Hockey Federation on April 27, 1989..

Indian Golfer Aditi Ashok Won Kenya Ladies Open Title 2023

- ▶▶ Indian Olympian Aditi Ashok won the 2023 Magical Kenya Ladies Open Title with a final-round score of 74. This is the fourth Ladies' European championship of Aditi Ashok overall.
- ▶▶ Indian Olympian Aditi Ashok won the 2023 Magical Kenya Ladies Open Title with a final-round score of 74. This is the fourth Ladies' European championship of Aditi Ashok overall. Her first LET title comes after winning the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open in Abu Dhabi in 2017. She finished with a score of 12-under 280 at the Vipingo Ridges after shooting a final round of 67-70-69-74.



Indian Golfer Aditi Ashok Won Kenya Ladies Open Title 2023- Key Points

- ▶▶ The golf player, Aditi Ashok, played one of the most dominant matches of her career.
- ▶▶ She was competing in her first event in over two months, took a three-shot lead in the first round, increased it to five after two rounds, and increased it to six after the third.

- ▶▶ At the end of every round, Aditi kept adding the points on the table that showed a clear lead at the end of the final round.

About Aditi Ashok -

- ▶▶ Aditi Ashok is an Indian professional golfer from Bengaluru. She played the Ladies European Tour and LPGA Tour. She made her Olympics Games Debut at the 2016 Summer Olympics. She qualified for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo representing India in golf and finished in 4th position.
- ▶▶ Aditi Ashok was born in Bengaluru to Ashok Gudlamani and Maheshwari. She completed her schooling at The Frank Anthony Public School and Graduated in 2016. She started playing golf at the age of 5. Her father Ashok was her caddie in the 2016 Olympics, while her mother Maheshwari Ashok was her caddie for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics...

Ravichandran Ashwin becomes the fastest Indian to pick up 450 Test wickets

- ▶▶ Ravichandran Ashwin picked up his 450th Test wicket during the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy game between India and Australia at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur.
- ▶▶ Ravichandran Ashwin picked up his 450th Test wicket during the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy game between India and Australia at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur. He achieved the feat when he bowled Alex Carey in the 54th over. He also became the fastest Indian to scale the landmark, going past former leg-spinner Anil Kumble. Ashwin took 89 Tests to reach the milestone as compared to Kumble's 93.



- ▶▶ Overall, he is the second-fastest to reach the milestone. Former Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan is only ahead of him, having reached the landmark in 80 matches. The Australian duo of Glenn McGrath (100) and Shane Warne (101) complete the list of the five fastest bowlers to pick up 450 Test wickets....

Rohit Sharma Becomes 1st Indian skipper to Record Hundreds in All 3 Formats

- ▶▶ Rohit Sharma led from the front as he scored his ninth Test century to become the first Indian captain to score hundreds in all formats.
- ▶▶ Rohit Sharma led from the front as he scored his ninth Test century to become the first Indian captain to score hundreds in all formats. This was Rohit's first three-digit score in the longest format of the game against Australia in the 1st Test of the four-match series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, Jamtha in Nagpur.
- ▶▶ Rohit is the fourth overall to have scored centuries in all three formats as captain after Sri Lanka's Tillakaratne Dilshan, South Africa's Faf du Plessis and Pakistan's Babar Azam.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Rohit had scored his maiden ODI century as Indian captain against Sri Lanka on December 13, 2017, in Mohali, unbeaten on 208.
- ▶▶ In T20Is, his first and only century as Indian skipper also came against Sri Lanka on December 22, 2017, in Indore, as he smashed 118.
- ▶▶ Rohit had scored his maiden century in Test cricket way back more than nine years back in November 2013 against the West Indies at the Eden Garden, a majestic 177.
- ▶▶ He had scored his first double-century against South Africa in October 2019, a superb 212 at the JSCA International Stadium in Ranchi.
- ▶▶ Rohit Sharma has scored 30 hundreds overall in one-day internationals....

Shubman Gill and Grace Scrivens named ICC Men's and Women's Player of January

- ▶▶ India batter Shubman Gill was named ICC Men's Player of the Month for January following a series of impressive innings in the ODI format, while England U-19 skipper Grace Scrivens became the youngest player to be named for the women's honour. The awards were decided in a global vote conducted among media representatives, ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and fans registered at the ICC website....



- ▶▶ India's Shubman Gill wins his first ICC Men's Player of the Month award following another fine series of performances in ODI cricket. With 567 runs during January, which included three century-plus scores, the 23-year-old batter wowed fans with a lethal combination of graceful and attacking strokeplay.
- ▶▶ Gill overcomes a competitive field to claim the award, beating New Zealand opener Devon Conway and compatriot Mohammed Siraj in the global vote. In doing so, he becomes the first Indian winner since Virat Kohli in October 2022....
- ▶▶ Scrivens bagged the award after her all-round brilliance in the inaugural ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup. Equally, the England captain excelled in her leadership role, guiding her side to the final, only to lose to eventual title winners India. Captaining her side in seven outings, the 19-year-old enjoyed plenty of success in the middle, scoring 293 runs at an average of 41.85 which included three successive half-centuries in victories over Rwanda, Ireland and the West Indies.

Women's Premier League: Sania Mirza joins Royal Challengers Bangalore as team mentor

- ▶▶ Women's Premier League: Sania Mirza has been roped in as mentor of Royal Challengers Bangalore for the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL).
Women's Premier League (WPL) -
- ▶▶ Sania Mirza has been roped in as mentor of Royal Challengers Bangalore for the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL), to be played in Mumbai from March 4 to 26. The franchise also announced the signing of Australian Ben Sawyer as head coach. Sawyer is the head coach of New Zealand Women and was part of the Women's World Cup-winning side with Australia last year as the assistant coach.
- ▶▶ Royal Challengers put together a star-studded line-up at the inaugural auction, headlined by Smriti Mandhana, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Sophie Devine, Dane van Niekerk and Richa Ghosh. The team will open its WPL campaign on March 5, the second day of the tournament, against Delhi Capitals at Brabourne Stadium.
- ▶▶ Mirza, the first Indian woman to win a major title – she finished with six across women's doubles and mixed doubles – is expected to join the squad following the conclusion of the ATP Dubai Open, which is likely to be her last professional tournament. Mirza, 36, announced her decision to retire from professional tennis prior to the Australian Open, where she and her partner Rohan Bopanna finished runners-up in the mixed doubles.



FIFA World Cup 2026: FIFA confirms US, Canada, Mexico automatically in 2026 World Cup

- ▶▶ The U.S. men's national team, along with Mexico and Canada, will automatically qualify for the 2026 World Cup. The three countries won the right to host the World Cup in a united North American bid.
FIFA World Cup 2026 :
- ▶▶ The U.S. men's national team, along with Mexico and Canada, will automatically qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The three countries won the right to host the World Cup in a united North American bid. FIFA historically has given host nations the right to play in the World Cup without going through the usual qualification tournaments, though this is the first time FIFA had to set aside three host bids.



The tournament is set to expand from 32 teams to 48 in 2026. Another three berths will be awarded to CONCACAF nations via qualifying.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Overview of the news -

- ▶▶ While the U.S. and Mexico tend to qualify for most World Cups, it was good news for Canada, whose men's national team broke a 36-year drought between World Cup appearances when it qualified for Qatar in 2022. Canada lost all three of its group-stage matches.
- ▶▶ The FIFA Council also determined its timetable for bidding for the right to host the 2030 World Cup. That meeting will be separate from FIFA's meeting to select a host for the 2027 Women's World Cup, which will be held first, earlier in 2024.
- ▶▶ There are three confirmed bids for 2030 hosting duties: a South American joint bid featuring Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile; a Spain-Portugal joint bid that added war-torn Ukraine last year; and Morocco.

IMPORTANT

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

ISSF Shooting World Cup: Rudranksh Patil of India wins gold

- ▶▶ The International Shooting Sport Federation conducts the ISSF World Shooting Championship. It was first held in 1897. The recent 2023 ISSF Shooting World Cup was held in Cairo. India's Rudranksh Patil and R Narmada Nithin won gold. This is the first time India wins gold in the competition.

ISSF Shooting World Cup -

- ▶▶ Rudranksh won gold in 10 metre Air Rifle. He defeated Ulbrich of Germany with a score of 16-8. Also, the pair Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan won gold in the 10m Air Pistol.

About ISSF World Cup 2023 -

- ▶▶ It is a homogenous system to qualify for the Olympics. The first world cup of 2023 was held in Jakarta. The second, that is, the current happening world cup of 2023 is held in Cairo. The third will be held in Bhopal, India. Fourth at Lima; fifth at Baku, and sixth at Rio de Janeiro.
- ▶▶ The current ISSF Shooting World Cup being held in Cairo is for rifles and pistols. The International Shooting Sport Federation also conducts the world cup for shotguns.
- ▶▶ Rifles are used for long-range targets. Shotguns are used for short-range.
- ▶▶ A pistol differs from a rifle in size. It is a handgun.



Australia won 2023 Women T20 World Cup

- ▶▶ The 2023 T20 Women's world cup was held in South Africa. The final battle was between South Africa and Australia. The Australian team won the battle. The Australian woman's team is winning the T20 world cup for the sixth time. India quit losing to the Australian team during the semi-finals. India was the runner-up in the previous women's T20 world cup.

Australia -

- ▶▶ Beth Mooney scored 74 runs and topped the match. The name of the women's T20 cricket team is Southern stars. The team captain is Meg Lanning.

South Africa -

- ▶▶ This is the first time South Africa is entering the T20 finals. The name of the South Africa Women's team is Proteas. The women's cricket team was first formed in South Africa in 1888. However, they played their international match only in 1960.

India -

- ▶▶ The name of the Indian Women's Cricket Team is Women in Blue or sometimes also called Team India; the captain is Harman Preet Kaur. It was founded in 1976. The team is governed by the BCCI, that is, the Board of Control for Cricket in India.



Vignesh and Visakh NR become India's first brothers to become Grandmasters

- ▶▶ After winning the 24th NordWest Cup 2023 at Bad Zwischenahn in Germany and defeating German IM Ilja Schneider, Indian chess player Vignesh NR became the 80th Grandmaster of India.

India's 80th Grandmaster -

- ▶▶ After winning the 24th NordWest Cup 2023 at Bad Zwischenahn in Germany and defeating German IM Ilja Schneider, Indian chess player Vignesh NR became the 80th Grandmaster of India. The Chennai boy reached the milestone after crossing 2500 in the live ratings. Vignesh's elder brother Visakh NR had become India's 59th GM in 2019. Thus, Visakh and Vignesh become India's first brothers who are Grandmasters.
- ▶▶ Vignesh earned his first GM-norm at Qatar Masters in 2015 at the age of 17 years. A little over one and a half years later, he scored his second GM-norm at 24th Abu Dhabi Masters in 2017. He secured his final GM-norm at 1st Gujarat GM Open 2018. A fourth GM-norm was scored at Asian Continental 2019 at Xingtai, China....



Rudrankksh Patil Won gold in 10m Air Rifle at ISSF World Cup 2023

- ▶▶ India's Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil won the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Cairo. He defeated Germany's Maximilian Ullbrich by 16-8 in the gold medal match to clinch the top prize. Rudrankksh Patil finished seventh in the qualification round with 629.3 points to make the ranking round, which he topped with 262.0 points to set up a final clash against Ullbrich.
- ▶▶ Croatia's Miran Maricic, who topped qualification, won the bronze medal. Divyansh Singh Panwar and Hriday Hazarika narrowly missed out on the cut for the ranking rounds and finished 11th and 12th, respectively.



Key Points -

- ▶▶ India's Tushar Shahu Mane did finish second in the qualification round but didn't compete in the ranking round since he was playing for ranking points only (RPO). Vedit Jain, another Indian competing for RPO, finished 15th in qualification.
- ▶▶ This was Rudrankksh Patil's second gold medal at the Cairo shooting World Cup in as many days. He had paired with Narmada Raju to win the 10m air rifle mixed team gold.
- ▶▶ Narmada Raju, meanwhile, was in action in the women's 10m air rifle event but could only finish seventh. The event, however, saw an Indian medalist Tilottama Sen clinching the bronze medal after finishing third in the ranking round.

Adidas will sponsor the India cricket team kit as part of a Rs 350 billion deal

- ▶▶ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is close to agreeing to a deal with German sporting goods giant Adidas to pay Rs 350 crore as the team's uniform sponsor.
- ▶▶ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is close to agreeing to a deal with German sporting goods giant Adidas to pay Rs 350 crore as the team's uniform sponsor. Adidas will take the place of Killer Jeans manufacturer Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd, which stepped in as a temporary sponsor last month after the original sponsor Mobile Premier League Sports (MPL Sports) backed out of the agreement in the middle of it.



- The previous sponsor MPL Sports is an athleisure wear and sports merchandise brand from Galactus Funware Technology Pvt. Ltd. The BCCI-MPL Sports kit deal was to last for three years from November 2020 to December 2023. However, despite BCCI's request to stay on till 31 March, the fantasy sports company pulled out in January, after which Kewal Kiran took over as interim sponsor. MPL had come in after US sportswear company Nike's term ended in 2020 after a 14-year-long association..

I stand for honesty,
equality, kindness,
compassion, treating
people the way you
want to be treated, and
helping those in need.
To me, those are
traditional values. Ellen DeGeneres

Important Days

7th February Global Tourism Resilience Day

- ▶ The United Nations General Assembly has adopted a resolution from Jamaica to declare the first-ever Global Tourism Resilience Day on 17th February 2023, in an effort to future-proof the sustainability of tourism. The move to mark the day annually was supported by more than 90 countries. The UNGA invites everyone to observe February 17 as a day to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable tourism, in accordance with local, regional and national priorities and through education, activities and events. The first Global Tourism Resilience Conference will be held in Jamaica on February 15, culminating on Global Tourism Resilience Day.



What is resilience in tourism ?

- ▶ A way to improve sustainability after an ecological or environmental disaster and offers an alternative to sustainable development, as a possible recovery from tourism induced stress.
- ▶ For many developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing states, countries in Africa and middle-income countries, tourism is a major source of income, foreign currency earnings, tax revenue and employment. Because tourism connects people with nature, sustainable tourism has the unique ability to spur environmental responsibility and conservation.
- ▶ Sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- ▶ It can also play a role in accelerating the change to more sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, promoting local culture, improving the quality of life and the economic empowerment of women and young people, indigenous peoples and local communities and promoting rural development and better living conditions for rural populations, including small-holder and family farmers.

Global Tourism Resilience Day: History of the day -

- ▶ Global Tourism Resilience Day (17 February), proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/77/269, aims to emphasize the need to foster resilient tourism development to deal with shocks, taking into account the vulnerability of the tourism sector to emergencies. It is also a call for action for Member States to develop national strategies for rehabilitation after disruptions, including through private-public cooperation and the diversification of activities and products. ...

11th February World Unani Day

World Unani Day is observed on February 11 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of social reformer and renowned Unani scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan, widely regarded as the pioneer of Unani medicine in India. The day commemorates Hakim Ajmal Khan's contribution to the growth of Unani medicine in India and throughout the world. Hakim Ajmal Khan, who was born on February 11, 1868, was an educator, a Unani physician, and the founder of scientific study in the Unani system of medicine.



The day commemorates Hakim Ajmal Khan's contribution to the growth of Unani medicine in India and throughout the world. World Unani Day honours the illustrious scholar while raising public awareness of the use of Unani remedies in healthcare.

World Unani Day 2023 : Theme

On February 10 and 11, the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Ministry of AYUSH, host an international conference on Unani medicine in a hybrid virtual mode with the theme "Unani Medicine for Public Health" in Delhi. The conference's main goal is to debate the value of using Unani medicine to treat non-communicable illnesses and other chronic conditions while also enabling public health experts to work together, think outside the box, and influence the direction of public health with Unani medicine.

15th February International Childhood Cancer Day

International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) is observed on February 15 every year. The day was observed by the Childhood Cancer International, an umbrella organisation of various child cancer support groups created by parents. The day is dedicated to raising awareness and showing support for children and adolescents suffering from cancer. Despite all the advancements in science, childhood cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease among children.

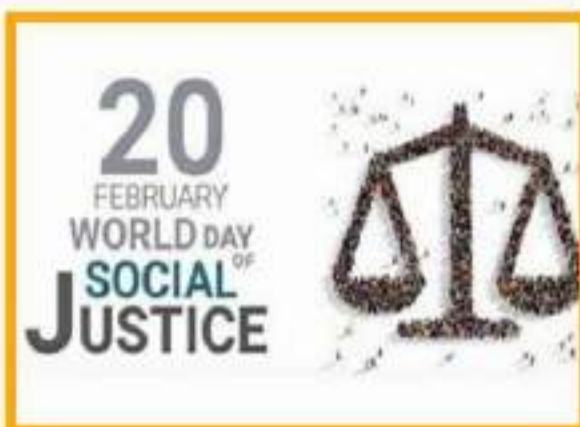


International Childhood Cancer Day 2023 : Theme

The three-year campaign for International Childhood Cancer Day began in 2021 and will conclude in 2023. The theme for the three-year campaign is 'Better Survival'. The campaign is part of the effort to reach the target goal of the WHO Global Childhood Cancer Initiative to achieve at least 60 percent survival for all children diagnosed with cancer around the world by 2030....

20th February World Day of Social Justice

- ▶ Social justice provides equal social, political, and economic opportunities for all. The World Day of Social Justice is celebrated by the United Nations and several other international organizations on February 20. The main objective of observing world social justice day is to spread awareness of the relationship between poverty eradication and social justice. The day also focuses on decent work for labourers. For instance, manual scavenging is not decent work. The day insists on removing such practices. The International Labor Organization also celebrates the day with different themes.



World Day of Social Justice 2023 -

- ▶ In 2023, the day focuses on building trust in world governments. With COVID, the Russian-Ukraine war, and climate change-related disasters, the normal lives of the people were disrupted. Also, with increasing inflation, unemployment, lack of food security, and food scarcity; people lost their trust in governments. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen the social system that is in a fractured state today.

The theme of World Day of Social Justice 2023 -

- ▶ Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice

Focus of 2023 World Day of Social Justice

- ▶ In 2023, the UN is to focus on the workers. Today, many labourers did not receive their pre-pandemic incomes. An increase in commodity prices has affected small businesses. Therefore, it is essential to increase investments, especially in the green economy.

20th February International Mother Language Day

- ▶ International Mother Language Day is celebrated on February 21. The main objective of celebrating the day is to increase the overall literacy level of the world. More than 40% of the world's population is unable to receive education in their mother tongue. There is a need to promote education in the mother tongue, especially in hilly regions where the tribal population is very high. The day also focuses on the ethnic minority population. The International Mother Language Day celebrated by the UN insists on this. Apart from this, the day also focuses on diverse cultures in the world.



Significance -

- ▶ According to the United Nations, education in the mother tongue increases the cognitive actions of the brain. Thinking in your own mother tongue is always easy. It aids in inclusive development. Also, it helps to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Even people in remote areas can be taught about the global crisis. And what they can do to help the world survive climate change-related issues.

The theme of International Mother Language Day 2023 -

- ▶ Multilingual Education – A Necessity to Transform Education

History of International Mother Language Day -

- ▶ The proposal to celebrate International Mother Language Day was initiated by UNESCO in 1999. The resolution was passed by the UNGA in 2002.

24th February Central Excise Day

- ▶ Central Excise Day is celebrated to honour the works of CBIC. The day honours the CBIC employees who work hard to collect the taxes. The main objective of celebrating the day is to motivate the CBIC employees to deliver their duties effectively and to prevent corruption in the country.

Why is Central Excise Day celebrated on February 24 ?

- ▶ On February 24, 1944, the Central Excise and Salt Act was passed. Later, the Central Excise Tariff Act was introduced in 1985. After some time, this act was integrated with the Central Excise and Salt Act. In 1996, it was called the Central Excise Act of 1944.



Background -

- ▶ The tax system in India started with salt. Salt is one of the most essential ingredients in our daily life. When the British Government imposed taxes on salt through the salt law, the entire nation joined together against the act and raised their voices in unison.

CBIC -

- ▶ It operates under the Revenue Department of GoI which comes under the purview of the finance ministry. It calculates central excise duties, IGST, and CGST, and prevents smuggling. The other organization that operates under CBIC are Central GST Commissionerate, Custom Houses in the country, central revenue laboratories, etc.

Important Days & Dates in February 2023

Date	Days
1 February	Indian Coast Guard Day
2 February	World Wetlands Day
4 February	World Cancer Day
5 to 13 February	Kala Ghoda Festival
6 February-	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation
6 to 12 February	International Development Week
8 February	Safer Internet Day (second day of the second week of February)
10 February	National De-worming Day
11 February	World Day of the Sick
11 February-	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
12 February	Darwin Day
12 February	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
12 February	National Productivity Day
13 February	World Radio Day
13 February-	Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary
14 February-	Saint Valentine's Day
18 to 27 February	Taj Mahotsav
20 February-	Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
21 February	International Mother Language Day
24 February	Central Excise Day
27 February-	World NGO Day
28 February	National Science Day

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



- The Union Budget 2023-24 has allocated Rs. 2,516 crore for the computerization of which unit, over the next 5 years?
[A] State Cooperative Banks [B] District central cooperative banks
[C] Primary Agricultural Credit Societies [D] Multi-state Cooperative Banks
- 'State of the Union (SOTU) Address' is associated with which country?
[A] UK [B] USA [C] Australia [D] China
- Bard is an AI chatbot that is being developed by which tech major?
[A] Microsoft [B] Google [C] Meta [D] Twitter
- 'TReDS' is an electronic platform that facilitates the transactions for which entities?
[A] Pharma companies [B] Exporters
[C] MSMEs [D] Banks
- 'Eagle 44 (Oghab 44)' is the first underground air force base of which country?
[A] Iran [B] North Korea [C] Israel [D] France
- National Research Foundation is an autonomous agency that comes under the aegis of which Union Ministry?
[A] Ministry of Science and Technology [B] Ministry of Electronics and IT
[C] Ministry of Home Affairs [D] Ministry of Education
- When is the 'International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation' observed?
[A] February 1 [B] February 2 [C] February 4 [D] February 6
- NISAR is an Earth-observation satellite jointly developed by ISRO and which other country's space agency?
[A] Japan [B] USA [C] Israel [D] France
- Medium-density Amorphous Ice, which was seen in the news, was created in a container filled with which material?
[A] Plastic [B] Stainless Steel [C] Water [D] Paper

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

10. 'India Energy Week' is observed in India, during which month?
[A] September [B] December [C] February [D] June
11. India agreed for trilateral cooperation initiative, in fields including energy, defence, economy, with which countries?
[A] France and UAE [B] UAE and USA
[C] UAE and Israel [D] Japan and Singapore
12. Which Union Ministry implements the 'FAME (faster adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles) scheme' ?
[A] Ministry of Electronics and IT [B] Ministry of Heavy Industries
[C] Ministry of Science and Technology [D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
13. Ministry of Cooperation signed MoU with which Ministry to enable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) function as Common Service Centers ?
[A] Ministry of Science and Technology
[B] Ministry of Electronics and IT
[C] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
[D] Ministry of Rural Development and Entrepreneurship
14. What is the name of the 'Indian military joint training exercise', which was held recently?
[A] TrishaktiPrahar [B] AtmanirbharPrahar
[C] VikramPrahar [D] Trilok Shakti
15. BIND Scheme, which was seen in the news, is associated with which Ministry?
[A] Ministry of Defence [B] Ministry of MSME
[C] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting [D] Ministry of Power
16. Manuela Roka Botey has been appointed as the first female Prime Minister of which country?
[A] Finland [B] Equatorial Guinea
[C] Norway [D] Sweden
17. Which country has found the radioactive capsule that went missing in January?
[A] USA [B] Australia [C] Russia [D] Ukraine
18. 'World Interfaith Harmony Week' is being observed in which month?
[A] January [B] February [C] March [D] April
19. Which cricketer scored 126 runs and set a new record for the highest individual score by an Indian in T20I cricket?
[A] Virat Kohli [B] Shubman Gill
[C] Suryakumar Yadav [D] Rohit Sharma

10-C 11-A 12-B 13-B 14-A 15-C 16-B 17-B 18-B 19-B

20. Which Union Ministry along with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment implements the NAMASTE scheme?
 [A] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 [B] Ministry of Rural Development
 [C] Ministry of MSME
 [D] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
21. Which institution conducted the 'G20 Cyber Security Exercise and Drill'?
 [A] NASSCOM [B] CERT-In
 [C] NITI Aayog [D] CDAC
22. Which Union Ministry implements the 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana' scheme?
 [A] Ministry of Education [B] Ministry of Skill Development
 [C] Ministry of Home Affairs [D] Ministry of Minority Affairs
23. What is the fixed interest rate of the 'Mahila Samman Bachat Patra' announced recently?
 [A] 6.5% [B] 7.0% [C] 7.5% [D] 8.0%
24. As per the proposed 'National Data Governance Policy', India Data Management Office (IDMO) will be formed under which Ministry?
 [A] Electronics and IT Ministry [B] Home Affairs Ministry
 [C] Science and Technology Ministry [D] External Affairs Ministry
25. Who are the beneficiaries of the PM-VIKAS scheme announced in the Union Budget 2023?
 [A] Teachers [B] MSMEs [C] Artisans [D] Soldier
26. Which institution will be provided a grant of Rs 242 Crore to undertake research on Lab Grown Diamonds?
 [A] IISc Bengaluru [B] IIT Madras
 [C] IIT Delhi [D] IIT Kharagpur
27. Dholavira, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?
 [A] Assam [B] West Bengal [C] Gujarat [D] Arunachal Pradesh
28. WAPCOS, an engineering consultancy and construction services firm under which Union Ministry?
 [A] Ministry of Rural Development [B] Ministry of Jal Shakti
 [C] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs [D] Ministry of MSME
29. Which Union Ministry issued orders to block over 100 betting and loan-lending Chinese apps?
 [A] Ministry of External Affairs [B] Ministry of Finance
 [C] Ministry of Defence [D] Ministry of Electronics and IT

20-A 21-B 22-B 23-C 24-A 25-C 26-B 27-C 28-B 29-D

30. Which country's Chief Justice is the chief guest of the 73rd foundation day of the Supreme Court of India?
[A] Bangladesh [B] Singapore [C] USA [D] France
31. India launched the 'Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies' with which country?
[A] Australia [B] France [C] USA [D] UK
32. What is the sanctioned judicial strength of the Supreme Court of India?
[A] 25 [B] 28 [C] 30 [D] 34
33. As per the Economic Survey, what is the estimated economic growth rate in 2023-24?
[A] 5.5 % [B] 6.0 % [C] 6.5 % [D] 7.0 %
34. Which state/UT launched a 'Real-time source apportionment supersite' to tackle pollution?
[A] New Delhi [B] Maharashtra [C] West Bengal [D] Telangana
35. Who has assumed charge as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force?
[A] Air Marshal APSingh [B] Air Marshal VR Chaudhari
[C] Air Marshal Sandeep Singh [D] Air Marshal HS Arora
36. Which is the first district to register 10,000 new MSMEs?
[A] Coimbatore [B] Ernakulam [C] Lucknow [D] Surat
37. Naba Kishore Das, who was shot dead recently, was the Health Minister of which state?
[A] Gujarat [B] Uttar Pradesh [C] Odisha [D] West Bengal
38. Which city recently hosted the 'Military Literature Festival'?
[A] Jaisalmer [B] Patiala [C] Bhopal [D] New Delhi
39. A rare low-altitude basalt plateau in the Western Ghats has been discovered in which state?
[A] Goa [B] Kerala [C] Karnataka [D] Maharashtra
40. Which city is the host of the first G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting?
[A] Mysuru [B] Chennai [C] Chandigarh [D] Guwahati
41. As per the latest 'All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)', what is the trend of total enrolment in higher education in 2019-20 compared to the previous survey?
[A] Increased [B] Decreased
[C] Remained Same [D] No Change
42. As per the recent RBI study, which state received the highest GST compensation from the centre?
[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Karnataka
[C] Maharashtra [D] Gujarat

30-B 31-C 32-D 33-C 34-A 35-A 36-B 37-C 38-B 39-D
40-C 41-A 42-C

43. Soliga ecarinata, which was named after the Soliga Community, belongs to which species?
[A] Turtle [B] Wasp [C] Butterfly [D] Snake
44. Who is the head of the Commission for the sub-categorisation of OBCs?
[A] Justice G. Rohini [B] Justice DY Chandrachud
[C] Justice Uday Umesh Lalit [D] Justice Sanjay Karol
45. Which institution releases the 'Twenty Point Programme (TPP) progress report'?
[A] NITI Aayog [B] National Statistical Office
[C] Reserve Bank of India [D] Ministry of Finance
46. Which country issued a notice to Pakistan seeking modification of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)?
[A] USA [B] India [C] Russia [D] China
47. Which city hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Film Festival 2023?
[A] Gandhinagar [B] Mumbai [C] Mysuru [D] Kochi
48. Which Union Ministry recently notified officials to act as members of Grievance Appellate Committees (GAC)?
[A] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
[B] Ministry of Home Affairs
[C] Ministry of Finance Affairs
[D] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
49. Road Transport and Highway Ministry announced to scrap all government vehicles older than how many years?
[A] 10 [B] 15 [C] 20 [D] 25
50. 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat' is an outreach programme of which institution?
[A] RBI [B] IRDAI [C] EPFO [D] SEBI
51. The Union Ministry of Mines announced that lithium reserves were found for the first time in which state/UT?
[A] Jharkhand [B] Chhattisgarh
[C] Jammu and Kashmir [D] Karnataka
52. Which planet has the highest number of moons, as of 2023?
[A] Saturn [B] Jupiter [C] Mars [D] Venus

43-B 44-A 45-B 46-B 47-B 48-A 49-B 50-C 51-C 52-B

53. Which Telescope has been selected for the '2023 John L. Jack Swigert, Jr.' Award for Space Exploration?
 [A] James Webb Telescope [B] Hubble Space Telescope
 [C] Chandra X-ray Observatory [D] Spitzer Space Telescope
54. How many satellites were placed in the orbit aboard the SSLV D2 launch vehicle of ISRO?
 [A] One [B] Three [C] Five [D] Seven
55. Which company launched the World's first satellite-based two-way messaging system?
 [A] Meta [B] Qualcomm [C] AMD [D] Samsung
56. Nebraska's Sand Hills, where a new type of quasi-crystal was discovered, is located in which country?
 [A] China [B] Turkey [C] USA [D] Ukraine
57. Which state allocated Rs 13,000 crore to implement the project of transferring water collected in Chambal River to other districts?
 [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Rajasthan
 [C] Punjab [D] Haryana
58. Which article of the Indian Constitution deals with the appointment of Governors for each state in India?
 [A] Article 142 [B] Article 153
 [C] Article 27 [D] Article 52
59. 'Smart Cities Mission' is an initiative of which Union Ministry?
 [A] Ministry of Rural Development
 [B] Ministry of Home Affairs
 [C] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 [D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
60. Which state/UT is the host of 'India's First Frozen Lake Marathon' ?
 [A] Sikkim [B] Arunachal Pradesh
 [C] Ladakh [D] Uttarakhand
61. Which country recently partnered with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council?
 [A] Australia [B] India [C] USA [D] China
62. As per FAO recent database, which country ranked first in milk production across the world?
 [A] Brazil [B] India [C] China [D] Argentina

53-A 54-B 55-B 56-C 57-B 58-B 59-C 60-C 61-B 62-B

63. Which neighbouring country of India partnered with Russia for developing nuclear power?
[A] Sri Lanka [B] Nepal [C] Myanmar [D] Bangladesh
64. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Digital Payments Utsav'?
[A] Ministry of Finance
[B] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
[C] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
[D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
65. Which Indian state topped the medal tally in the 5th Khelo India Youth Games?
[A] Haryana [B] Tamil Nadu
[C] Maharashtra [D] Madhya Pradesh
66. Visva-Bharati University, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which state?
[A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Bihar
[C] West Bengal [D] Odisha
67. Which institution launched the 'Zero-Draft' of the Pandemic Treaty?
[A] World Bank [B] World Health Organisation
[C] World Economic Forum [D] International Monetary Fund
68. Which country leads the International Biofuels Alliance?
[A] India [B] France [C] USA [D] Indonesia
69. 'Paris Club' an informal group of creditor nations, are the members of which organisation?
[A] OPEC [B] OECD [C] G-20 [D] G-7
70. Which famous personality launched the 'Global Climate Resilience Fund – USD 50 mn fund for women'?
[A] Melinda Gates [B] Hillary Clinton
[C] Jeff Bezos [D] Elon Musk
71. What is the name of the first cruise ship manufactured in India?
[A] Ganga Vilas [B] Bharat Vilas
[C] HistoBrustro [D] Bharat Café
72. Which city is the host of the 'Technotex 2023' event of Ministry of Textiles?
[A] New Delhi [B] Mumbai [C] Guwahati [D] Gandhi Nagar
73. Which city is the host of the 'International Engineering and Technology Fair 2023'?
[A] New Delhi [B] Mumbai
[C] Bengaluru [D] Ahmedabad

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

74. 'Jal-Jan Abhiyan' was recently inaugurated in which state/UT?
 [A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Rajasthan
 [C] Maharashtra [D] Gujarat
75. 'KAVACH-2023' is a national-level hackathon organised by which Union Ministry?
 [A] Ministry of Education [B] Ministry of Electronics and IT
 [C] Ministry of Skill Development [D] Ministry of Defence
76. Saur Revolution, which was seen in the news, is associated with which country?
 [A] USA [B] Afghanistan [C] Germany [D] Russia
77. Article 93 of the Indian Constitution, which was seen in the news, is associated with the appointment of which position?
 [A] Governor [B] Supreme Court Judge
 [C] Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha [D] Deputy Speaker of Rajya Sabha
78. Which Union Ministry released the 'Draft Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics Bill' ?
 [A] Ministry of Tourism [B] Ministry of Mines
 [C] Ministry of Culture [D] Ministry of Home Affairs
79. Section 133A of IT Act, which was seen in the news, was used to undertake surveys in which office?
 [A] Oxfam International [B] BBC
 [C] Amnesty International [D] Thomas Reuters
80. Which state recently approved Competitive Examination Ordinance, to prevent unfair means in recruitment?
 [A] Gujarat [B] Bihar [C] Uttarakhand [D] Telangana
81. India recently adopted the 'Digital Work Plan 2023' along with which bloc?
 [A] ASEAN [B] G-20 [C] G-7 [D] SAARC
82. Which state/UT announced an inflation relief package of Rs 19,000 crore in the state's Budget for 2023-24?
 [A] Uttarakhand [B] Gujarat [C] Rajasthan [D] Punjab
83. Which city hosts the 'World Government Summit 2023' ?
 [A] New Delhi [B] New York [C] Dubai [D] Paris
84. Bharatpur bird Sanctuary, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?
 [A] Rajasthan [B] Gujarat
 [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Bihar

74-B 75-A 76-B 77-C 78-B 79-B 80-C 81-A 82-C 83-C
 84-A

85. Brigadier B D Mishra (retired) has been appointed as the Governor/L-G of which state/UT?
[A] Kerala [B] West Bengal
[C] Himachal Pradesh [D] Ladakh
86. Which country hosts the 'Munich Security Conference' ?
[A] USA [B] Germany [C] France [D] Israel
87. Kuno National Park, which was seen in the news, is in which state?
[A] Maharashtra [B] Madhya Pradesh
[C] Gujarat [D] Assam
88. Which state/UT is expected to be the most climate-vulnerable region in India, as per a recent report?
[A] Bihar [B] New Delhi [C] Uttarakhand [D] Maharashtra
89. Which city is the host of the first-ever G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting?
[A] Panaji [B] Khajuraho [C] Mysuru [D] Jaipur
90. What is the expansion of 'ecDNA', which are recently found by the scientists as helping agents for cancer to spread?
[A] existential DNA [B] extrachromosomal DNA
[C] evolutionary DNA [D] extra-resistant DNA
91. What per cent of India's capital procurement budget has been earmarked for domestic industry?
[A] 25 [B] 50 [C] 75 [D] 100
92. Which is the host of the Global Tech Summit (GTS) 2023?
[A] Mumbai [B] Vishakhapatnam [C] Mysuru [D] Kochi
93. Indian Army organised a Women's Snow Cricket Tournament in which state/UT?
[A] Sikkim [B] Jammu and Kashmir
[C] Arunachal Pradesh [D] Assam
94. 'HARBINGER 2023' is the global hackathon organised by which institution?
[A] NITI Aayog [B] RBI
[C] ISRO [D] SEBI
95. Lakshmi Bhandar is a scheme implemented by which state/UT?
[A] Odisha [B] West Bengal [C] Assam [D] Jharkhand
96. What is the name of the indigenous data link communication developed by the Indian Navy?
[A] Vayulink [B] Rakshalink [C] Radiolink [D] Commlink

85-D 86-B 87-B 88-A 89-B 90-B 91-C 92-B 93-B 94-B
95-B 96-A

97. As per the 'Global Labour Resilience Index 2023', labour market resilience is highest in which region?
 [A] South Asia [B] West and North Europe
 [C] North America [D] Oceania
98. Amrutha Nagarothana Scheme is implemented in which state?
 [A] Kerala [B] Karnataka [C] Andhra Pradesh [D] Odisha
99. CERC has approved a proposal to start a spot market segment for which category of power?
 [A] Expensive power [B] Nuclear power
 [C] Renewable Power [D] Wholesale Power
100. Israeli Aerospace Industries(IAI) signed MoU with which Indian organisation to form a joint venture related to Armed Forces?
 [A] HAL [B] ISRO [C] BEL [D] DRDO

Successful
people are
not gifted;
they just work
hard, then
succeed on
purpose.

97-C 98-B 99-A 100-C

ANSWERS

BANK

RBI-SBI-IBPS

SSC

CGL-CHSL-MTS



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Manohar Patil
GA & GK
(Interview Panelist)



Sandip Patil
GA & GK
Current Affairs



Balaji Bhanuse
RBI Officer
(Interview Panelist)



Ashish Yadav
Advance Maths
(CAG Officer)



Amit Kinna
Reasoning
(Railways Officer)



Shishir Banjan
Maths



Md. Faisal
Maths



N.Kumar Ingole
English



Ajay Kumar
Reasoning



Nishikant Kamurti
GK / GS



Karan Shetty
General Studies



Shruti Bhoir
Reasoning

📍 Delhi 📍 Dadar 📍 Thane 📍 Pune 📍 Kalyan



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INSURANCE
LIC | GIC
AAO | ADO



KARTIKI WAGHMARE
SBI PO 2021



NISHIKANT PATIL
EPFO SSA 2021



SAGAR MALVE
RBI Asst. 2021



AKSHAY PAIKRAO
LIC Asst. 2021



VISHAL RATHOD
LIC Asst. 2021



ASHISH TAMBE
Syndicate Bank PO



KANCHAN GHUGE
SBI PO



SUMIT GERELA
Canara Bank PO



SUMEDH GAJBHIYE
SBI PO



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State Bank of India



Kinoyi Kulkarni
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Axis Bank - Account Manager



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Nandu Satu
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CDOO 1st in Maharashtra



Prateek Seeri
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Senior Clerk of State Bank



Shreshth Inam
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Saraswat Bank Junior Officer



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