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# Current Affairs

Magazine for all Govt. Exams, Mumbai

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May  
2023

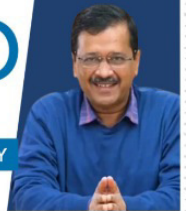
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**The Officers Times®**

# Current Affairs

## May 2023

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**The Reliable Publication, Pune**

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**The Reliable Publication, Pune**

# Appointment

## Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh is new Vice-Chief of Navy

- ▶▶ Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed the position of Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS) as part of a series of high-level changes in the Indian Navy.

### New Vice-Chief of Navy -

- ▶▶ On April 2nd, Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed the position of Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS) as part of a series of high-level changes in the Indian Navy. Vice Admiral Singh graduated from the National Defence Academy in Pune and joined the Indian Navy's executive branch in 1986. Over his 37-year career, he has served on various types of ships and held many leadership roles, including Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (CSNCO), Flag Officer Commanding of the Western Fleet, Commandant Naval War College, and Controller Personnel Services. Prior to his current position as VCNS, he was Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations). In recognition of his distinguished service, he was awarded the Nao Sena Medal in 2009 and the AtiVishishtSeva Medal in 2020.
- ▶▶ As part of the recent high-level changes in the Indian Navy, Vice-Admiral Suraj Berry has assumed the position of Chief of Personnel (COP), while Vice-Admiral Atul Anand has taken over as Director-General Naval Operations (DGNO). Vice-Admiral Anand joined the Executive Branch of the Navy in 1988 and served as the Flag Officer Commanding of the Maharashtra and Karnataka Naval Areas before being promoted to a three-star officer and assuming the role of DGNO. Vice-Admiral Berry, who specializes in gunnery and missile warfare, was commissioned in 1987 and had previously served as Controller-Personnel Services at naval headquarters before taking up his new role as COP.



## IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral R Hari Kumar
- ▶▶ Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950
- ▶▶ Indian Navy headquarters: New Delhi

## **Rajib K Mishra takes over as CMD of PTC India**

▶▶ Rajib Kumar Mishra, who is currently the acting chairman of PTC India or formerly Power Trading Corporation of India Limited, has been given a permanent role in the company, despite facing regulatory issues related to its subsidiary, PTC India Financial Services Ltd. Mishra has extensive experience in the power sector and holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Aligarh Muslim University. He was also awarded the status of Visiting Scholar by the University of Texas, Austin, in 2008 for his post-doctoral research. Mishra completed his graduation in Electrical Engineering from NIT Durgapur and his post-graduation from NTNU, Norway under NORAD Fellowship.



**Rajib K. Mishra**

- ▶▶ Dr. Mishra started working at PTC India Limited as the Executive Director in October 2011, overseeing operations, business development, retail and advisory services. He later joined the PTC Board as the Director of Marketing and Business Development on February 24, 2015. Before joining PTC, Dr. Mishra worked at NTPC and Power Grid in various capacities, accumulating a professional experience of 38 years.
- ▶▶ Dr Rajib Kumar Mishra, who has over 38 years of professional experience, has served in various capacities at NTPC and Power Grid before joining PTC India as Executive Director in October 2011. In his previous role at PTC, he was responsible for operations, business development, retail, and advisory services. He has also authored several technical and management papers and four published books by Rupa & Co. On March 29, he was appointed as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of PTC India Limited.

### **About the Power Trading Corporation of India Limited (PTC) :**

- ▶▶ Power Trading Corporation of India Limited (PTC) is a public sector undertaking established in 1999 under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. Its primary business is to trade electricity across different regions of India. PTC initially started its operations as a power trading company in India, but over the years, it has diversified into other areas such as power generation, transmission, distribution, and consulting services. PTC has played a significant role in the development of the Indian power sector by promoting competition and transparency in the market. The company has also been involved in several international projects in countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka

## **Kalikesh takes charge as NRAI president**

- ▶▶ Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, who held the position of Senior Vice-President, took over as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).
- ▶▶ Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, who held the position of Senior Vice-President, took over as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI). This change occurred as the previous

president, Raninder Singh, went on a long leave after the Sports Ministry issued a directive stating that the heads of national sports federations (NSFs) cannot hold office for more than 12 years, as per the National Sports Code. Raninder Singh, who was re-elected as the NRAI president in September 2021, went on leave following this directive.

- ▶▶ Last month, the Sports Ministry had observed that Raninder Singh had served as NRAI president for 12 years, from December 29, 2010, to December 29, 2022, and, as per the National Sports Code, he cannot continue to hold the position any further. Despite being re-elected as NRAI president in September 2021 for a four-year term, he had to go on a leave of absence as he had completed the maximum permissible tenure as the head of the federation.



**Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo**

**About the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) -**

- ▶▶ The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) is the apex body for shooting sports in India. It was formed in 1951 and is affiliated with the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), the Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC), and the Commonwealth Shooting Federation (CSF). The NRAI is responsible for promoting and governing the sport of shooting in India and organizes various national-level competitions and selection trials for international events. The association also selects and trains shooters for major international competitions such as the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games....

**Sudha Shivkumar took over as 40th President of FICCI Ladies Organisation**

- ▶▶ Sudha Shivkumar has been appointed as the 40th president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), which is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber in Southeast Asia. The appointment took place during the 39th annual session. As the president of FLO, Shivkumar aims to focus on empowering women by promoting an enabling environment that fosters entrepreneurship, industry participation, and economic development for women. She intends to carry out several interventions towards achieving this goal. FLO plays a significant role in promoting and encouraging women's participation in various fields, and the organization has been working towards the economic and social empowerment of women in India for many years.



**Sudha Shivkumar**

**Who is Sudha Shivkumar ?**

- ▶▶ Sudha Shivkumar pursued a Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Madras. Later, she specialised in Corporate and Bankruptcy laws and completed a Master of Applied Finance

with a specialization in Investment Banking from Macquarie University, Sydney, with distinction. With over 13 years of experience, she headed a leading non-banking finance company and subsequently led the operations of a mutual fund based in South India, managing assets worth Rs 25,000 crore. Additionally, she handled a portfolio of Rs 350 crore for an international group of high net worth individuals for seven years. Ms. Shivkumar is a lawyer and investment banker by profession and currently serves as a director at her family-run business that focuses on auto ancillaries. She previously served as the Chairperson of FLO Chennai Chapter in 2016-17. FLO currently has 19 chapters across India with approximately 3,000 businesswomen as its members.

**About the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)**

- ▶▶ FLO was established in 1983, as a division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) which is the apex body of industry and commerce in India. As an All India Organisation for women, FLO has 18 Chapters pan India – Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Northeast, Pune, Amritsar, Northeast & Uttarakhand, with its Head Office in New Delhi. Our members comprise of entrepreneurs, professionals and Corporate Executives....

**Sheenu Jhawar becomes the first woman President of TiE Rajasthan**

- ▶▶ The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Rajasthan has appointed Dr. Sheenu Jhawar as the new President for a term of two years, from 2023 to 2025. This marks a historic moment as Dr. Jhawar becomes the first woman to hold this position in the 21-year history of TiE Rajasthan. She takes over from Dr. Ravi Modani, who had been leading the chapter effectively since 2021.



**About the TiE Rajasthan -**

- ▶▶ TiE Rajasthan is a chapter of TiE Global, and in 2021, it was recognized as the Best Chapter. Since its inception in 2002, TiE Rajasthan has been a leader in the State of Rajasthan, and has contributed significantly to the start-up ecosystem. The founding members, the Governing Council, and past leadership of TiE-R have implemented a strategy that has facilitated access to funding, mentoring, and other resources, thereby making it easier for start-ups to thrive in the state. Over the last two decades, TiE Rajasthan has played a crucial role in supporting start-ups in the region.
- ▶▶ TiE Rajasthan has achieved significant milestones in recent years, bringing them closer to the startup community, and earning recognition on the global stage. Startups mentored by TiE Rajasthan have received international acclaim, and TiE Rajasthan itself was honored with the highly coveted Best TiE Chapter Award in 2021.

May 2023

Govt. Exams

## **Ratnakar Patnaik appointed as new Chief Investment Officer of LIC**

- ▶▶ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced the appointment of Ratnakar Patnaik as the new Chief Investment Officer, replacing PR Mishra, who stepped down from the role on April 10.
- ▶▶ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced the appointment of Ratnakar Patnaik as the new Chief Investment Officer, replacing PR Mishra, who stepped down from the role on April 10. Additionally, PC Paikray has been named the new Chief Risk Officer, taking over from Tablesh Pandey on the same date. Patnaik, who has 32 years of experience in the industry, began his career at LIC as a Direct Recruit Officer in September 1990. This information was disclosed in a filing by the insurer.
- ▶▶ Ratnakar Patnaik, who assumed the role of Chief Investment Officer on April 10, has extensive experience in marketing assignments, having worked in four different zones. He served as Senior Divisional Manager for the Indore and Jamshedpur divisions, and spent three years as Regional Manager in the Eastern zone. Patnaik moved up the ranks and eventually became Chief of Investment – Front Office at the central office. He holds a major in Physics and is a fellow of the Insurance Institute of India. These details were revealed in a filing made by LIC, announcing his appointment.



### **About the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) -**

- ▶▶ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is a state-owned insurance and investment company headquartered in Mumbai, India. It was founded in 1956 and is currently the largest insurance company in India in terms of market share. The company offers a range of life insurance products, including term insurance, endowment policies, pension plans, and unit-linked insurance plans (ULIPs), among others. LIC also invests in various sectors, including infrastructure, real estate, and equity markets, and is considered one of the largest institutional investors in India. The company has a vast network of branches and agents across India and is known for its strong customer base and financial stability.

## **IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Life Insurance Corporation Founded: 1 September 1956**
- ▶▶ **Life Insurance Corporation Headquarters: Mumbai**
- ▶▶ **Chairperson of Life Insurance Corporation: Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar.**



## Microsoft India president Anant Maheshwari appointed Nasscom chairperson

▶▶ Anant Maheshwari, the President of Microsoft India, has been appointed as the Chairperson of Nasscom for the period 2023-24, succeeding Krishnan Ramanujam, the President of Business and Technology Services at Tata Consultancy Services, who held the position for the year 2022-23. Additionally, Rajesh Nambiar, the Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, has been named as the Vice Chairperson of Nasscom for 2023-24. Nasscom is the top association for the software and IT services industry.



Anant Maheshwari

- ▶▶ The recently appointed leaders, together with President Debjani Ghosh, will lead the industry towards achieving its goal of reaching USD 500 billion by 2030 and making India a global technology hub. Their main focus will be to enhance the impact and level of innovation in India's domestic sector to drive sustainable growth, particularly in the face of global economic uncertainties.
- ▶▶ The industry leadership aims to increase revenue in the domestic market and expedite the implementation and widespread impact of deep technologies. They plan to achieve this by creating an environment that combines favorable technology policies, a robust startup ecosystem for deep tech, reliable funding, and the inflow of talented professionals from around the world.

### IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Nasscom Founders: Dewang Mehta, Nandan Nilekani**
- ▶▶ **Nasscom Founded: 1 March 1988**
- ▶▶ **Nasscom President: Debjani Ghosh**
- ▶▶ **Nasscom Type of business: Non-governmental trade association**
- ▶▶ **Nasscom Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh**

## Centre appoints Arun Sinha as National Technical Research Organisation chairman

- ▶▶ The appointment of Arun Sinha as the new Chairman of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) has finally been announced by the government, after a prolonged delay. Sinha, who has served as an advisor in NTRO for two years, belongs to the 1984 batch Kerala cadre.
- ▶▶ The position of NTRO Chairman had been vacant for the past three to four months, and Sinha's appointment comes as a much-needed relief for the organization. Moreover, with this appointment, the government is expected to expedite the process of appointing the heads of the Border Security Force and the Indian Coast Guard, which have also been lying vacant for a while.

Sinha's appointment as NTRO Chairman is expected to bring fresh impetus to the organization and help it achieve its objectives more efficiently. As an experienced bureaucrat, Sinha is well-equipped to lead NTRO and guide it towards achieving its goals of providing technical intelligence to various agencies of the Indian government.

**What is National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) :**



- ▶▶ The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) is a technical intelligence agency in India that was established in 2004. It functions under the National Security Advisor and reports to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The organization is responsible for providing technical intelligence to various agencies of the Indian government, including the Intelligence Bureau, the Research and Analysis Wing, and the Defence Intelligence Agency.
- ▶▶ NTRO is responsible for developing technology and software applications for communication interception, encryption and decryption, and cyber security. It also plays a critical role in monitoring the activities of foreign intelligence agencies and cyber threats to India's national security....

**India captain Rohit Sharma Announced as JioCinema's brand ambassador**

- ▶▶ JioCinema, a digital streaming platform, has announced India cricket team captain Rohit Sharma as their new brand ambassador. As part of this collaboration, Rohit will be working with the JioCinema team to promote their digital-first approach towards sports viewing. Together, they will work towards expanding the fan base for sports properties nationwide by introducing a series of initiatives.



**Significance of Rohit Sharma as JioCinema's brand ambassador :**

- ▶▶ Rohit Sharma's appointment as the brand ambassador is aimed at promoting JioCinema's vision of making sports viewing more accessible and seamless through digital platforms. With Rohit's popularity and influence in the sports world, JioCinema hopes to reach out to a larger audience and enhance the overall viewing experience for sports fans across the country.

**JioCinema and TATA IPL 2023 :**

- ▶▶ JioCinema's streaming of the TATA IPL 2023 for viewers in India has been a massive success, garnering over 550 crore views in the first two weeks itself. This remarkable feat has made JioCinema one of the most preferred digital streaming platforms for sports content in the country.
- ▶▶ Moreover, JioCinema's popularity has been further strengthened by its association with 23 sponsors

for the 2023 TATA IPL streaming, which is a record number for any digital event in India. The high number of sponsors and advertisers signed up by JioCinema for the IPL season 16 is a testament to the platform's growing popularity and reach among sports enthusiasts in the country....

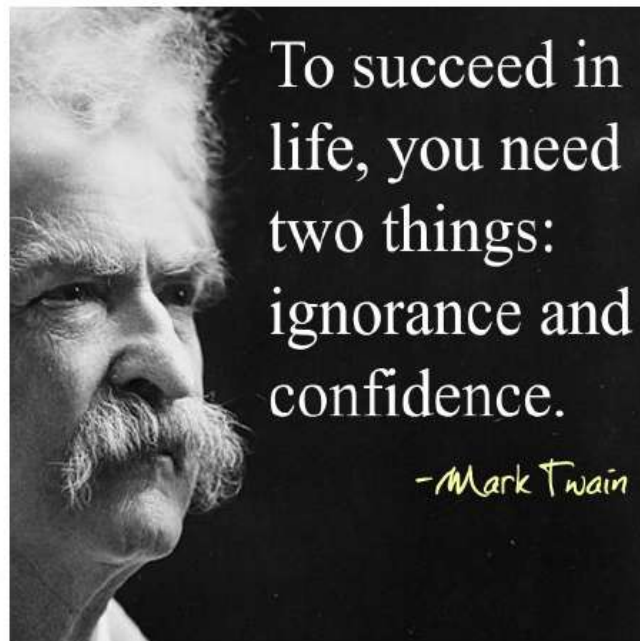
## **Tata Electronics appoints Randhir Thakur as CEO & MD**

▶▶ Tata Group, appointed Dr. Randhir Thakur, as the CEO and managing director of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL), as the group has drawn a strategy to strengthen its semiconductor manufacturing capabilities in an attempt to gain an edge over rivals in the country's thriving precision machining business. Till recently, Thakur was associated with global electronic chip and circuits manufacturing giant Intel. Thakur, a veteran in the manufacturing space, was serving as the president of Intel Foundry Services before taking charge at the helm of TEPL.



**Randhir Thakur**

- ▶▶ Thakur has made significant contributions to the development of advanced semiconductor technologies. He has deep expertise in ecosystem leadership, process technology equipment, driving mergers and acquisitions, and joint ventures, product development, while collaborating closely with ecosystem partners and customers.
- ▶▶ Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL) was founded in 2020 as a greenfield venture of the Tata group with expertise in manufacturing precision components and has a roadmap that extends to semiconductor fabrication and packaging segments. TEPL, a greenfield venture of the conglomerate, is essentially an electronic component manufacturing firm, with its primary manufacturing facility located in the Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu, India. Through TEPL, the salt-to-software conglomerate intends to gain a beachhead in the country's precision machining and assembly capabilities space.



*-Mark Twain*

## **Rajneesh Karnatak Named As New MD and Chairman Of Bank Of India**

- ▶▶ The Indian government has selected Rajneesh Karnatak as the Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of India (BOI). Karnatak currently serves as the Executive Director of the Union Bank of India.
- ▶▶ The Indian government has selected Rajneesh Karnatak as the Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of India (BOI). Karnatak currently serves as the Executive Director of the Union Bank of India. As per the announcement, he will take up the role of MD & CEO of Bank of India for a period of three years, starting from the date he assumes office or until further instructions.



### **Experience and Career of Rajneesh Karnatak :**

- ▶▶ With over 29 years of experience, Rajneesh Karnatak previously served as the Chief General Manager of Punjab National Bank before being appointed as the Executive Director of Union Bank of India on October 21, 2021. He holds a Master of Commerce degree and is a certified associate from the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).
- ▶▶ Throughout his career in banking, Karnatak has held key positions such as General Manager in Oriental Bank of Commerce, where he headed critical divisions like large corporate credit branches and strategic verticals such as credit monitoring, digital banking, and mid corporate credit.
- ▶▶ After the amalgamation of Oriental Bank of Commerce into Punjab National Bank, Rajneesh Karnatak held positions as the head of both the credit monitoring division and corporate credit division in PNB. He has extensive experience in project funding and working capital funding, as well as risk management, with a particular focus on credit risk.
- ▶▶ Karnatak served as the non-executive chairman of UBI Services on behalf of Union Bank of India and was a non-independent non-executive director on the Board of UBI (UK). He was also a member of the governing board of the Indian Institute of Bank Management (IIBM) in Guwahati.
- ▶▶ Karnatak acted as the nominee director on behalf of Punjab National Bank on the board of PNB Housing Finance and India SME Asset Reconstruction Company. Additionally, he served as a board trustee on IIFCL Asset Management Co (IAMCL).

### **IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Bank of India Founder : RamnarainRuia;**
- ▶▶ **Bank of India Founded : 7 September 1906, Mumbai;**
- ▶▶ **Bank of India Headquarters : Mumbai.**

## **Debadatta Chand named as new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda**

▶▶ Debadatta Chand has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Bank of Baroda (BOB), according to a government announcement made on April 29. Chand is currently serving as the Executive Director of the bank. He will assume the position of MD for a term of three years, effective from July 1, 2023, or until further notice. This appointment follows the term extension of the previous MD, Sanjiv Chadha, which ended on January 19, 2021, and was extended by the government for an additional five months until June 30, 2021.



▶▶ After receiving approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the appointment notifications were issued. In January of this year, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), which is responsible for recruiting directors for state-owned banks and financial institutions, recommended Debadatta Chand's name for the position of Managing Director and CEO at Bank of Baroda.

### **Career of Debadatta Chand :**

- ▶▶ Debadatta Chand has an educational background that includes completing his Plus 2 in the Science stream at Rajendra College, Bolangir. He also holds a B.Tech degree from the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology and an MBA in Finance from the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management.
- ▶▶ Chand began his career as an Officer in Allahabad Bank in 1994 and later worked as a Manager at the Small Industries Development Bank of India [SIDBI] from 1998 to 2005. He joined Punjab National Bank (PNB) in 2005 as Chief Manager and eventually rose to the position of Chief General Manager. Prior to his role as Executive Director at Bank of Baroda, Chand served as the CGM for Mumbai Zone at PNB.

### **IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Bank of Baroda Founder: Sayajirao Gaekwad III**
- ▶▶ **Bank of Baroda Founded: 20 July 1908, Vadodara**
- ▶▶ **Bank of Baroda Headquarters: Alkapuri, Vadodara**

## **Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024**

▶▶ Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC: The government announced the appointment of Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

until June 29, 2024.

- ▶▶ The government announced the appointment of Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) until June 29, 2024. Following this, he will serve as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer until June 7, 2025, as stated by LIC in a release. Mohanty, who is currently the Managing Director, had been serving as the interim Chairperson of the state-run life insurance company since March 14, replacing M R Kumar, whose term ended on March 13, 2023.



**Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC : Key Points**

- ▶▶ In 1985, Mohanty started working for LIC as a trainee officer and has gained significant experience in the insurance industry.
- ▶▶ He has held various positions in the past, including COO and CEO of LIC Housing Finance Ltd, senior divisional manager in Raipur and Cuttack, and chief in legal and investment monitoring and accounting.
- ▶▶ LIC has three managing directors, M Jagannath, Tablesh Pandey, and Mini Ipe.
- ▶▶ It is the biggest financial institution in the country, managing assets worth more than Rs 44.35 crore as of December 2022.
- ▶▶ The Appointment Committee of Cabinet has given its approval for the selection of Bishnu Charan Patnaik, who was previously the Managing Director of LIC, to become the Whole-time Member (Life) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- ▶▶ Patnaik will assume the post from the date of his appointment until he reaches the age of 62.
- ▶▶ Hari Hara Mishra takes charge as CEO of Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies

**Here some of the Important Takeaways about LIC, Life Insurance Corporation of India:**

- ▶▶ **History:** LIC was established in 1956 by the government of India. It was created to spread life insurance and ensure the economic development of the country.
- ▶▶ **Services:** LIC provides a range of insurance products, including life insurance, health insurance, pension plans, and unit-linked plans. It also offers group insurance and micro insurance schemes.
- ▶▶ **Size:** LIC is the largest insurance company in India and one of the largest life insurers in the world. It has a network of over 3,000 branches and more than one million agents.
- ▶▶ **Financials:** LIC has a strong financial position, with a net worth of over Rs 31 lakh crore (as of 2021). It has consistently been profitable and has a high credit rating....

# Awards

## Nilesh Sambare honoured with the 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023' award

- ▶▶ Nilesh Bhagwan Sambre, the founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation, was recently honored with the "Maratha Udyog Ratna" award at the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023". The conference was organized by the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Development and Guidance Institute Maharashtra State". Nilesh Sambre received the award for his noteworthy achievements in the industry sector and his dedicated work in remote areas like Palghar. Nilesh Bhagwan Sambre, who is also known as Appa, received the award from prominent entrepreneurs from Maharashtra, including Suresh Haware, Purushottam Khedekar, Nirmalkumar Deshmukh, Dr. Sachin Bhadane, and Vijay Ghogare.



### About the Jijau Educational and Social Organization -

- ▶▶ The Jijau Educational and Social Organization is a non-profit group with a focus on uplifting underprivileged communities in five districts of India, namely Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg. Nilesh Sambare founded the organization in 2008, and it has been providing education, healthcare, employment, and agriculture-related assistance using its own funds for the past 14 years, without accepting any donations. The organization is headquartered in Jadpoli and runs two medical camps every day, along with a well-equipped hospital that provides free treatment. Additionally, the organization operates eight CBSE schools for education in Palghar district, 43 competitive examination libraries, and various activities related to employment, agriculture, and women empowerment, all provided free of cost. The Jijau Foundation also runs 20 police academies and offers 10 free ambulance services daily.

## Bharat Biotech wins award at World Vaccine Congress 2023

- ▶▶ At the World Vaccine Congress 2023 held in Washington, USA from April 3-6, Bharat Biotech was awarded the Best Production/Process Development award as a part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) award.
- ▶▶ At the World Vaccine Congress 2023 held in Washington, USA from April 3-6, Bharat Biotech

May 2023

was awarded the Best Production/Process Development award as a part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards.

- ▶▶ Bharat Biotech, headquartered in Hyderabad, was the sole Indian company among the nominees for the ViE awards in multiple categories such as the best clinical trial company, best clinical trial network, best central/specialty laboratory, best contract research organisation, and best production/process development, among others. Bharat Biotech is known for developing the world's first intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc, and its intramuscular vaccine, Covaxin, which is used in India's public vaccination programme and has also been exported.



**About the World Vaccine Congress -**

- ▶▶ The World Vaccine Congress is a major international conference focused on vaccines, covering the entire vaccine value chain from basic research to commercial manufacturing. It brings together experts from all over the world to share their knowledge and expertise in vaccine development. The conference has been particularly important in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and has been a platform for sharing groundbreaking discoveries and insights.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Bharat Biotech Founders : Krishna Ella, Suchitra Ella;**
- ▶▶ **Bharat Biotech Date founded : 1996.**

**C. R. Rao wins International Prize in Statistics 2023**

- ▶▶ The 2023 International Prize in Statistics, which is regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in statistics, has been awarded to Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, an Indian-American statistician.

**International Prize in Statistics 2023 -**

- ▶▶ The 2023 International Prize in Statistics, which is regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in statistics, has been awarded to Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, an Indian-American statistician.



**C. R. Rao**

The prize, established in 2016, is presented once every two years to an individual or team that has made significant contributions to science, technology, and human welfare through the use of statistics. The award is given out by a collaboration of five major international statistics organizations and recognizes major accomplishments by an individual or team. Rao will be honored with the prize, which carries an \$80,000 cash award, at the International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Canada, in July.



### What was Rao's 1945 paper about ?

- ▶▶ Rao's groundbreaking paper, 'Information and accuracy attainable in the estimation of statistical parameters', was published in 1945 in the Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society, a journal that is otherwise not well known to the statistics community. The paper was subsequently included in the book Breakthroughs in Statistics, 1890-1990. This was an impressive achievement given Rao was only 25 at the time and had just completed his master's degree in statistics two years prior.

### About the C. R. Rao -

- ▶▶ Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, born in Karnataka in 1920, is an Emeritus Eberly professor in the statistics department at Pennsylvania State University. He played a significant role in establishing the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata and has been associated with the institute since 1941. Rao holds PhD and ScD degrees from Cambridge University.
- ▶▶ In addition to being awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1968 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001, Rao was the recipient of the SS Bhatnagar Prize in 1963 and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1967. He also received the Wilks Medal of the American Statistical Association in 1979 and the US National Medal of Science in 2002.

## Indian-American physician Dr. Nitya Abraham honoured with young urologist of the year award

- ▶▶ An Indian-American physician and professor Dr. Nitya Abraham has been honoured with the Young Urologist of the Year Award conferred by the American Urological Association (AUA).



**Dr. Nitya Abraham**

- ▶▶ An Indian-American physician and professor Dr. Nitya Abraham has been honoured with the Young Urologist of the Year Award conferred by the American Urological Association (AUA). Dr. Abraham is an Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency programme. She is among the honorees of the 2023 Young Urologist of the Year Award. Abraham is among members selected by their colleagues who serve on the Young Urologists Committee and endorsed by their respective Section/Society to receive the special honour for 2023.
- ▶▶ Abraham has been chosen from the New York region for her accomplishments and contributions. Abraham has mentored countless students, residents, fellows and junior faculty both at her institution and others in the New York region. She serves as the Chair of the Executive Curriculum Committee for Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She is a member of the Society for Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine, and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU) Young Urologists Committee and social media committee. Abraham has received funding from the US Department of Defense for urinary diagnostic markers of interstitial cystitis, and is also a co-author of the AUA White Paper on Rationale and Strategies for Reducing Urologic Post-Operative Opioid Prescribing.

- ▶▶ The awards committee described her as a prolific researcher with a clinical research focus on the impact of social determinants of health on pelvic floor health.

**Other honourees :**

- ▶▶ The other honourees are Rena Malik, MD from the Mid-Atlantic Section at the University of Maryland; Jesse D. Sammon, DO from New England Section at Maine Medical Partners Urology; Sarah Vij, MD from North Central Section at Cleveland Clinic and Alexander J. Ernest from MD, Society of Government Service Urologists at Brooke Army Medical Center. It also includes Kerri Thurmon, MD from the South Central Section at the Denver Health and the University of Colorado School of Medicine; Zachary Klaassen, MD from the Southeastern Section at the Medical College of Georgia; and Yahir Santiago- Lastra, MD from the Western Section at the UC San Diego Health....

**Ukrainian president decorated with Poland's top award**

- ▶▶ The highest decoration of Poland, the Order of the White Eagle, was presented to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky by the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, during a meeting between the two leaders
- ▶▶ The highest decoration of Poland, the Order of the White Eagle, was presented to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky by the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, during a meeting between the two leaders at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw.
- ▶▶ During his visit, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, intends to hold meetings with the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, the Prime Minister of Poland, Mateusz Morawiecki, and representatives from the business community, as well as with Ukrainian and Polish citizens at the Royal Castle. The Office of the President of the Republic of Poland stated that Zelensky was awarded the Order of the White Eagle as recognition for his contributions towards strengthening the relationship between Poland and Ukraine, promoting security, and advocating for human rights.



**About the Order of the White Eagle :**

- ▶▶ The Order of the White Eagle is the Republic of Poland's oldest and most prestigious award. The Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland stated that Zelensky was given the award in acknowledgment of his contributions to enhancing ties between Poland and Ukraine, promoting security, and his unwavering commitment to protecting human rights.

## **Sonam Wangchuk conferred with Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award**

▶▶ Sonam Wangchuk, a distinguished engineer, innovator, educationist, and sustainable development reformist, has been honored with the prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award. The award has been initiated by Shree Ramkrishna Exports (SRK), a leading company in diamond crafting and exports, and its philanthropic arm Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF). Wangchuk is the Founder-Director of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL).



▶▶ The Santokbaa Humanitarian Award, which includes a cash prize of Rs. 1 crore, has been created in honor of Late Santokbaa Dholakia, the mother of Govind Dholakia, the Founder Chairman of SRK and SRKKF. The award ceremony took place on April 10, 2023, which is the death anniversary of Santokbaa. The award was presented to Sonam Wangchuk at Hotel Zen in Ladakh during the ceremony. The previous award recipients include Tata Sons' former chairman Ratan Tata, Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, Space scientist and former ISRO chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar, philanthropist and Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murty.

### **About the Sonam Wangchuk :**

▶▶ Sonam Wangchuk is the creator of the Ice Stupa technique, which involves the creation of artificial glaciers that store winter water in the form of cone-shaped ice heaps. This technique has been instrumental in addressing the water scarcity issue in Ladakh. Apart from this, he is also involved in tackling other environmental challenges. The campus of SECMOL, which he designed, runs completely on solar power and does not use any fossil fuels for heating, lighting, or cooking. His efforts have significantly improved the lives of people in Ladakh, making him an inspiration for individuals who aspire to make a positive impact on the world....

## **Asha Bhosle to receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar**

▶▶ Asha Bhosle, the renowned singer, will be honored with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award, which was established by the Mangeshkar family and trust in memory of Lata Mangeshkar. The award ceremony will take place on April 24, which is the anniversary of their father's death. Asha Bhosle, who is Lata Mangeshkar's younger sister, will be the recipient of the award.



▶▶ The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar is an

annual award given to someone who has made a significant contribution to the nation, its people, and society. The award was first presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Other Awardee's -**

- ▶▶ According to the press note issued by the Mangeshkar family, veteran ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas will receive the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar for contribution to Indian music; Gauri Theaters of Prashant Damle fan foundation for Best Drama of the Year (“Niyam VaAtiLagu”); SadguruSeva Sangh Trust for yeoman Social Service; GranthaliPrakashan with the VagvilasiniPuraskar for contribution to literature; actor-director Prasad Oak with the VisheshPuraskar for contribution to cinema and and drama; and actor Vidya Balan with the VisheshPuraskar for contribution to cinema.

**Angela Merkel receives Germany's highest honor**

- ▶▶ Former Chancellor Angela Merkel received Germany's highest Order of Merit. The Grand Cross award was handed to her by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The award has only been given twice before, to former chancellors Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl. All three former leaders belong to the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU).
- ▶▶ The Order of Merit entails no financial reward. Merkel led Germany from 2005 to 2021, totaling four terms in office. She did not seek a fifth term. She was the first woman to take the post of chancellor and the first German head of government to have grown up in socialist East Germany. Steinmeier praised Merkel as an “unprecedented politician” who successfully steered Germany through difficult times, including the 2008 financial meltdown and the 2015 refugee crisis. Merkel, 68, was the first woman to lead Germany and the first chancellor who grew up behind the Iron Curtain in communist East Germany.



**About the Order of Merit -**

- ▶▶ Germany's highest Order of Merit is known as the Federal Cross of Merit, or Bundesverdienstkreuz in German. It is awarded by the President of Germany to individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation's cultural, economic, or political life, or have provided outstanding service to society. The Order of Merit was established in 1951, and is considered to be one of the most prestigious awards in Germany. There are eight classes of the Order of Merit, with the highest being the Grand Cross, followed by the First Class Cross, Second Class Cross, and so on. The award is not restricted to German citizens and is frequently bestowed upon foreigners who have contributed to Germany's social, political, or cultural development.

## **Utsa Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023**

▶▶ Utsa Patnaik, a well-known economist of both national and international acclaim, has been chosen for the prestigious Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023. The award is presented annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust, with outstanding social scientists being recognized by a national-level jury from the nominations received. The recipient of the award will receive a citation and a cash prize of ₹ 2 lakh at a ceremony to be held in Chennai, the date of which will be announced by the Trust soon. In 2022, the award was presented to the Indian economist, Prabhat Patnaik.



▶▶ Utsa Patnaik is a renowned economist of national and international repute who has made seminal contributions to the fields of agrarian studies, political economy, history of economic thought, and colonialism and imperialism. She has authored several books and articles on various topics related to development economics, such as agrarian relations, peasant movements, food security, poverty alleviation, fiscal policy, trade policy, debt crisis, globalization, neoliberalism, capitalism, socialism, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism (MLM), Indian economic history, and world economic history.

### **Malcolm Adiseshiah Award -**

- ▶▶ It is one of the most prestigious national awards in India that recognizes and honours the outstanding contributions of social scientists to the field of development studies.
- ▶▶ It was instituted in 2000 by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- ▶▶ The Award is given every year to a mid-career social scientist who has made outstanding contributions to development studies through research, teaching, policy advocacy, or public service.
- ▶▶ The award consists of a citation and prize money of Rs. 2 lakhs.
- ▶▶ The award is given by a national-level jury constituted by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust from the nominations received.

## **Raj Subramaniam honoured with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman**

▶▶ Raj Subramaniam, the CEO of FedEx, a renowned global transportation company, and an Indian-American, was recently honored with the distinguished Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award. This award is the highest civilian recognition bestowed by India upon individuals of Indian descent and Indian diaspora. Due to travel restrictions, Subramaniam, aged 55, received the award from Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the US, at a ceremony held at India House on Saturday instead of receiving it in India earlier this year.

- ▶▶ Subramanian, 55, was presented with the award by India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu at a ceremony at the India House on Saturday since he could not travel to India early this year to receive the award. The other awardee, Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, was also present at the event. Subramanian is the president and CEO of FedEx Corporation, one of the world's largest transportation companies. His international leadership experience and keen business insights have contributed immensely to the success of FedEx.



**About the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman :**

- ▶▶ The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman is an award presented by the Government of India to individuals of Indian origin and diaspora who have made significant contributions in their respective fields and have enhanced India's image in the international community. The award was instituted in 2003 to coincide with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day) celebrations. Recipients of this award are chosen based on their achievements in various fields, including science, business, arts, and philanthropy, among others. It is considered the highest civilian award given by India to individuals of Indian origin residing outside the country....

**Ministry of Panchayati Raj celebrates National Panchayat Awards Week**

- ▶▶ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is celebrates National Panchayat Awards Week from 17th to 21st April, 2023, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) 2.0, leading up to National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April, 2023. In order to commemorate this occasion in a meaningful manner and to align with the AKAM 2.0 guidelines of taking a "whole-of-society" and "whole-of-government" approach, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has developed a series of Thematic Conferences centered around the theme "Panchayat on ke Sankalpon ki Siddhi ka Utsav" to increase the reach of AKAM 2.0 and positively impact the lives of all Indians.



- ▶▶ The National Panchayat Awards Week kick off with a five-day event featuring the "National Conference on Incentivization of Panchayats-cum-Award Ceremony" in New Delhi. The President of India has graciously agreed to inaugurate the event on 17th April, 2023, to commence the National Panchayat Awards Week, confer the National Panchayat Awards, and address the esteemed gathering. The National Conference on Incentivization of Panchayats-cum-Award Ceremony is expected to attract over 1,500 delegates from various parts of India.
- ▶▶ The Awardee Panchayats under various categories of National Panchayat Awards-2023 namely, (i) Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP) for the performance under

individual LSDG themes, (ii) Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSVP) for the aggregate performance under all 9 LSDG themes and green initiative related Special Categories of (iii) Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar and (iv) Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar will be felicitated and the award money will be transferred digitally to the Awardee Panchayats on this occasion. A booklet on 'Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats' would be released by Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and the first copy of the booklet will be presented to the Hon'ble President of India....

## **Nandini Gupta wins Femina Miss India 2023**

- ▶▶ Nandini Gupta from Rajasthan has been crowned Femina Miss India World 2023 in a grand ceremony held recently, making her the winner of the 59th edition of the beauty pageant.

### **Femina Miss India 2023**

- ▶▶ Nandini Gupta from Rajasthan has been crowned Femina Miss India World 2023 in a grand ceremony held recently, making her the winner of the 59th edition of the beauty pageant. The first runner-up was Shreya Poonja from Delhi, and the second runner-up was Thounaojam Strela Luwang from Manipur. The event featured dazzling performances by Kartik Aaryan, Ananya Panday, and was hosted by Manish Paul and Bhumi Pednaker. Nandini will represent India at the 71st Miss World pageant, which will take place in the United Arab Emirates.



### **Who is Nandini Gupta ?**

- ▶▶ Nandini Gupta is 19 years old and hails from Kota, one of the biggest coaching hubs in the country for engineering and medical aspirants. The new Miss World India holds a Business Management degree. According to the Miss India organisation, Ratan Tata is the most influential person in Nandini's life. Actor and Miss World 2000 Priyanka Chopra is one beauty queen who inspires Nandini the most.

The important thing in  
life is to have a great  
aim, and the  
determination to attain it.

## **Neeli Bendapudi receives Immigrant Achievement Award 2023**

- ▶▶ Neeli Bendapudi, the current president of Penn State University, is set to receive the Immigrant Achievement Award for her significant contributions to higher education in the United States.

### **Innovative Leadership in Higher Education :**

- ▶▶ Neeli Bendapudi, the current president of Penn State University, is set to receive the Immigrant Achievement Award for her significant contributions to higher education in the United States. The award recognizes immigrants who have made significant contributions to their communities and professions, and Bendapudi's innovative leadership and extensive career in academia have earned her this prestigious recognition.



### **From India to Penn State :**

- ▶▶ Bendapudi's journey to becoming the first female and person of color to serve as Penn State's president began in India. She was born in Visakhapatnam and moved to the United States in 1986 to pursue her doctoral studies in marketing at the University of Kansas. Her academic achievements and leadership potential were evident from an early age, and she soon became an academic leader and educator, serving in various administrative roles and teaching marketing.

### **A Career in Academia and Business :**

- ▶▶ Bendapudi's nearly 32-year career in academia and business has been marked by numerous achievements and accolades. She has served as provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas, dean of the School of Business at the University of Kansas, and founding director of the Initiative for Managing Services at Ohio State University. She has also previously held the position of executive vice president and chief customer officer for Huntington National Bank.

### **Innovative Leadership in Higher Education :**

- ▶▶ Bendapudi's innovative leadership at Penn State has been characterized by a customer-centric approach to education. She has implemented several programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing the academic and personal experiences of Penn State's students. These programs include the "Penn State Go" app, which allows students to access course materials, campus events, and academic resources from their smartphones.
- ▶▶ Bendapudi's leadership has also emphasized diversity and inclusion in higher education. She has implemented programs that provide support and resources to underrepresented students and faculty members, and her focus on diversity and inclusion has earned Penn State recognition as one of the top 30 universities for LGBTQ+ students, according to Campus Pride....



## **Shakira Receives Billboard's Inaugural Latin Woman of the Year Award**

- ▶▶ Shakira, the renowned Colombian singer, will be recognized with the prestigious 'Latin Women of the Year' award at the inaugural Latin Women in Music gala hosted by Billboard.
- ▶▶ Shakira, the renowned Colombian singer, will be recognized with the prestigious 'Latin Women of the Year' award at the inaugural Latin Women in Music gala hosted by Billboard. With her exceptional music contributions spanning over three decades, Shakira has been titled as the 'Queen of Latin Music'. The two-hour event will celebrate the achievements of prominent Latin women in the music industry and will be recorded at Miami's Watsco Center, hosted by Ivy Queen and Jacqueline Bracamontes.



### **Shakira : An Accomplished Musician and Philanthropist**

- ▶▶ Over the course of her successful career, Shakira has been honored with several prestigious awards, including three Grammys, 39 Billboard Latin Music Awards, 12 Latin Grammys, and seven Billboard Music Awards. Along with her achievements in the music industry, she also has a deep passion for philanthropy. At a young age, Shakira founded the Pies Descalzos Foundation, which has constructed nine public schools in Colombia, reflecting her commitment to education..

## **68th Filmfare Awards 2023 Announced : Check The Complete List Of Winners**

- ▶▶ On April 27, 2023, the 68th edition of the Hyundai Filmfare Awards took place at the Jio World Conventional Centre in Mumbai. This year's ceremony was co-hosted by Salman Khan, AyushmannKhurrana, and Maniesh Paul, marking Salman Khan's first time as a host for the event. The awards were presented in collaboration with Maharashtra Tourism. The award ceremony was a platform for many up-and-coming artists to achieve their dreams of receiving the prestigious Black Lady trophy.



### **History of Filmfare Awards -**

- ▶▶ The Filmfare Awards are one of the oldest and most prestigious film awards in India, presented annually by The Times Group to honor both artistic and technical excellence in the Hindi film industry.

## Here's a list of winners of the Filmfare Awards 2023

Category	Winner
Best Film	GangubaiKathiawadi
Best Film (Critics')	Badhaai Do
Best Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for Badhaai Do
Best Actor (Female)	Alia Bhatt for GangubaiKathiawadi
Best Actor (Critics')	Sanjay Mishra for Vadh
Best Actress (Critics')	Bhumi Pednekar for Badhaai Do and Tabu for BhoolBhulaiyaa 2
Best Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for GangubaiKathiawadi
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Anil Kapoor for Jug Jugg Jeeyo
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	SheebaChaddha for Badhaai Do
Best Music Album	Pritam for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Dialogue	Prakash Kapadia and UtkarshiniVashishtha for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Screenplay	Akshat Ghildial, Suman Adhikary and Harshavardhan Kulkarni for Badhaai Do
Best Story	Akshat Ghildial and Suman Adhikary for Badhaai Do
Best Debut (Male)	Ankush Gedam for Jhund
Best Debut (Female)	Andrea Kevichusa for Anek
Best Debut Director	Jaspal Singh Sandhu and Rajeev Barnwal for Vadh
Lifetime Achievement Award	Prem Chopra
Best Lyrics	Amitabh Bhattacharya for Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Arijit Singh for Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Kavita Seth for Rangisari from Jug Jugg Jeeyo
RD Burman Award for Upcoming Music Talent	JahnviShrimankar for Dholida from GangubaiKathiawadi
Best VFX	DNEG and Redefine for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Editing	NinadKhanolkar for An Action Hero
Best Costume Design	Sheetal Sharma for GangubaiKathiawadi
Best Production Design	Subrata Chakraborty and Amit Ray for GangubaiKathiawadi
Best Sound Design	Bishwadeep Dipak Chatterjee for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Background Score	SanchitBalhara and Ankit Balhara for GangubaiKathiawadi
Best Choreography	Kruti Mahesh for Dholida from GangubaiKathiawadi
Best Cinematography	Sudeep Chatterjee for GangubaiKathiawadi
Best Action	Parvez Shaikh for Vikram Vedha

- ▶▶ The awards were first introduced in 1954, making them one of the oldest film awards in India.
- ▶▶ The inaugural ceremony was held in Mumbai, and the awards were presented to honor films released in the year 1952 and 1953.
- ▶▶ The first Filmfare Award for Best Film went to "Do Bigha Zamin", directed by Bimal Roy.
- ▶▶ Dilip Kumar won the Best Actor award for his performance in the film "Daag", and Meena Kumari won Best Actress for her role in the film "BaijuBawra". Naushad Ali won Best Music Director for "BaijuBawra".

## **Tata Sons' Chairman Ratan Tata awarded Australia's highest civilian honour**

- ▶▶ Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, has been awarded the Order of Australia (AO), which is Australia's highest civilian honour.
  - ▶▶ Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, has been awarded the Order of Australia (AO), which is Australia's highest civilian honour. The announcement was made by Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell. The award was given to Tata in recognition of his contributions towards strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Australia. Tata has been a strong supporter of the 2022 India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is said to have the largest workforce of any Indian company in Australia, with around 17,000 employees.
  - ▶▶ Ratan Tata was recently named an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his contributions in promoting trade, investment, and philanthropy between India and Australia. This recognition was given to him just a month before he received Australia's highest civilian honour for his efforts in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries.
  - ▶▶ Indian Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata appointed in 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service
- Ratan Tata receives several awards -**
- ▶▶ Ratan Tata has received several awards throughout his career, including the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan, two of India's highest civilian honours. He has also been awarded the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award, the Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award, and the Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In addition, he has received several honorary degrees from prestigious universities around the world.



## **Dalai Lama Gets 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award In Person After 64 Years**

- ▶▶ After a 64-year wait, members of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation personally presented the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award to the Dalai Lama at his residence. The award was the first international recognition given to the spiritual leader for his exceptional leadership of the Tibetan community's courageous fight in safeguarding their sacred religion, which serves as the foundation of their culture and way of life. The award was given by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation in the Philippines in August 1959.



- ▶▶ Susanna B Afan, the President of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, along with Foundation Trustee Emily AAbrrera, had the honor of meeting with the Dalai Lama, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, in person to present the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award, 64 years after it was awarded to him.
- ▶▶ The office of the Tibetan spiritual leader has reported that his elder brother, GyaloThonden, had accepted the Magsaysay Award on behalf of the Dalai Lama in Manila, Philippines, in August 1959. Following his exile from Tibet in 1959, the Dalai Lama has resided in India.

### **Who is Dalai Lama ?**

- ▶▶ The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people and is regarded as one of the most important figures in Tibetan Buddhism. The title "Dalai Lama" is a combination of the Mongolian word "dalai," meaning ocean, and the Tibetan word "lama," meaning guru, teacher, or mentor. The Dalai Lama is believed to be the reincarnation of Avalokiteshvara, the bodhisattva of compassion, and is responsible for leading the Tibetan people in spiritual and secular matters.
- ▶▶ The current and 14th Dalai Lama is Tenzin Gyatso, who was born in Tibet in 1935. He was recognized as the Dalai Lama at the age of two and was enthroned in 1950. In 1959, he fled Tibet following a failed uprising against Chinese rule and has since been living in exile in India. The Dalai Lama is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and has been a vocal advocate for nonviolence, human rights, and religious harmony throughout his life. He is widely respected and admired for his teachings, wisdom, and compassion, and has followers all over the world.

### **About the Ramon Magsaysay Award -**

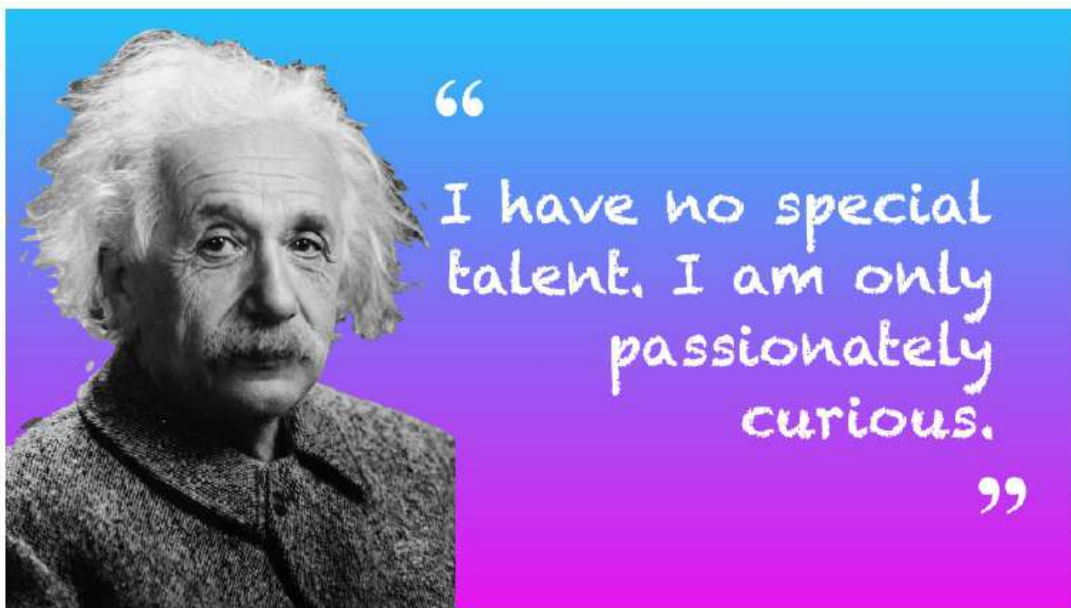
- ▶▶ The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award that recognizes individuals and organizations in Asia who demonstrate exceptional courage, integrity, and service to their communities. Established in 1957, the award was named after the late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay, who was known for his honest leadership and dedication to public service. The award is often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Asia" and is administered by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, based in Manila, Philippines.
- ▶▶ The award is given in six categories, namely government service, public service, community leadership, journalism, creative arts, and peace and international understanding. Recipients of

the award receive a certificate, a medal, and a cash prize.

- ▶▶ The Ramon Magsaysay Award has recognized individuals and organizations from various fields, including social work, education, the arts, and science, among others. The award has become one of the most prestigious honors in Asia and has helped raise awareness of the significant contributions of individuals and organizations in promoting social justice, human rights, and democratic values in the region.

### List of Indian recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Award

Name	Year	Category
Vinoba Bhave	1958	Community Leadership
Jayaprakash Narayan	1965	Public Service
Mother Teresa	1962	Peace and International Understanding
Satyajit Ray	1992	Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts
M.S. Swaminathan	1986	Public Service
Arvind Kejriwal	2006	Emergent Leadership
Shanta Sinha	2003	Community Leadership
Rajendra Singh	2001	Community Leadership
Kulandei Francis	2012	Community Leadership
Bezwada Wilson	2016	Emergent Leadership
Ravish Kumar	2019	Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts



# Economic

## SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits

▶▶ The SBI has revealed plans to introduce new variants of current accounts and savings accounts in the fiscal year 2023-24, as it seeks to reduce the gap between deposit growth and credit growth.

▶▶ The State Bank of India (SBI) has revealed plans to introduce new variants of current accounts and savings accounts in the fiscal year 2023-24, as it seeks to reduce the gap between deposit growth and credit growth. The bank intends to launch two new variants of current accounts, one with a balance of ₹ 50,000 and another with a balance of ₹ 50 lakh.

It also plans to introduce a new savings account called "Parivar" (family) account.

▶▶ The move comes as SBI aims to increase its customer base and attract more deposits, particularly from retail customers. The bank has identified the need to offer more attractive products and services in order to achieve this goal. By introducing new variants of current accounts and savings accounts, SBI hopes to provide greater flexibility and convenience to its customers, and to increase its market share in the Indian banking sector.

▶▶ SBI's deposit growth has lagged behind its credit growth in recent quarters. By the end of 2022, the bank's domestic deposits had grown by 8.86% year-on-year, while domestic advances had grown by 16.91% year-on-year. The new plans are designed to help the bank boost its deposit growth and reduce the gap between deposits and advances.

▶▶ SBI expects its domestic deposits and domestic advances to grow by around 12% and 16% year-on-year, respectively, in the fiscal year 2023-24. The bank also plans to enhance its digital banking platform to provide a more seamless and user-friendly experience for its customers....



## PM Jan Dhan Yojana sees record 50,000 crore surge in balance

▶▶ Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana sees a surge in account balances and new account holders.

▶▶ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) scheme has achieved a significant milestone in the financial year ending March 31, 2023. The basic bank accounts under the scheme have registered a record surge of ₹ 50,000 crores, with the total balance reaching ₹ 1.99 lakh crore, an increase from ₹ 1.49-lakh crore in the previous financial year. Additionally, there has been

an addition of 5 crore new accounts under the scheme, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 48.65 crores.

**Public sector banks lead as key drivers of the PMJDY scheme -**

- ▶▶ According to a senior SBI official, the significant increase in the total balance on a year-on-year basis indicates the growing use of these accounts for various purposes by both the government and beneficiaries. The public sector banks are the key



drivers of the scheme, holding <sup>1</sup> 1.55-lakh crore with them as deposits, followed by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with <sup>1</sup> 38,832 crores. Private sector banks hold the remaining deposits.

- ▶▶ The growth of the Jan Dhan scheme over the last five years has been significant, with almost a quarter of the present total balance coming in the year 2022-23. This development is believed to be driven by a healthy rural economy, which gained traction in the last financial year, according to a senior analyst with a private rating agency.

**Jan Dhan scheme's inbuilt insurance cover offers <sup>1</sup> 1 lakh accident cover -**

- ▶▶ Under the Jan Dhan scheme, the RuPay card comes with an inbuilt accident insurance cover of <sup>1</sup> 1 lakh, valid for up to 90 days after the cardholder carries out a successful transaction at a merchant establishment, ATM, or e-commerce platform. However, the pace of issuing RuPay cards appears to have slowed down, with only 33 crore cards issued so far out of about 49 crore account holders. Additionally, about 8 percent of PMJDY accounts have zero balances, while the average balance is over <sup>1</sup> 2,400, according to RBI data....

**RBI to launch centralised portal PRAVAAH for licencing, approval applications**

- ▶▶ RBI is set to introduce a new secured web-based portal called "PRAVAAH", aimed at simplifying and streamlining the application processes.
- ▶▶ RBI is set to introduce a new secured web-based portal called "PRAVAAH" (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation AndAutHorisation) aimed at simplifying and streamlining the application processes. The portal will display the timeframes for deciding on applications and approvals, leading to greater effectiveness in regulatory processes and making it easier for regulated entities to do business with RBI.



**Key Features of PRAVAAH portal :**

- ▶▶ It will provide transparent timelines for the decision-making process on the applications/approvals sought by the applicants.

- ▶▶ This will enable the applicants to know the expected timeframes for the decision on their applications, and they can plan their business activities accordingly.
- ▶▶ Additionally, PRAVAAH will offer a single interface for applicants to submit and track the status of their applications, making it easier to monitor the application's progress.
- ▶▶ Moreover, it will enable RBI to standardize the application forms, making the application process more uniform and simpler.

## RBI Foundation Day 2023 observed on 1st April

- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on April 1, 1935, in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The Central Office of the RBI, initially set up in Kolkata, was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937. Sir Osborne Smith the first Governor of the Bank. The Bank was constituted as a shareholders' bank. The RBI is the central bank of India and is responsible for regulating the country's monetary and credit system. It is also responsible for issuing currency and managing the country's foreign exchange reserves. The RBI works closely with the government of India to formulate and implement monetary and fiscal policies that promote economic growth and stability. It was set up as a private shareholder's bank with a capital of Rs. 5 crores.



### **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) performs various functions, some of which are as follows:**

- ▶▶ **Formulating and implementing monetary policy:** The RBI is responsible for formulating and implementing monetary policy in India, with the aim of maintaining price stability while ensuring adequate credit flow to the productive sectors of the economy.
- ▶▶ **Regulating and supervising banks and financial institutions:** The RBI regulates and supervises banks and financial institutions in India to ensure their stability and soundness.
- ▶▶ **Issuing and managing currency:** The RBI is responsible for the issuance and management of currency in India.
- ▶▶ **Managing foreign exchange reserves:** The RBI manages India's foreign exchange reserves and intervenes in the foreign exchange market to maintain stability in the value of the rupee.
- ▶▶ **Acting as a banker to the government:** The RBI acts as a banker and advisor to the central and state governments in India, managing their accounts and providing them with credit and other banking services.
- ▶▶ **Conducting research and analysis:** The RBI conducts research and analysis on various aspects of the economy, including banking and financial systems, monetary policy, and economic development.
- ▶▶ **Developing and regulating payment and settlement systems:** The RBI develops and regulates payment and settlement systems in India, including electronic fund transfer systems, cheque clearing systems, and other payment mechanisms.



- ▶▶ Promoting financial inclusion: The RBI works to promote financial inclusion and ensure that banking and financial services are accessible to all sections of society.

**Here are some important dates in the history of the Reserve Bank of India :**

- 1935 Establishment of the Reserve Bank of India under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- 1937 The Central Office of the RBI, initially set up in Kolkata, was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937.
- 1949 Nationalization of the Reserve Bank of India
- 1950 Introduction of a new system of note issue
- 1951 Introduction of a system of credit control
- 1969 Given additional powers to regulate the credit system with nationalization of 14 major banks
- 1971 Declaration of the RBI as the regulator of the Indian money market
- 1985 Establishment of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation
- 1991 Implementation of economic reforms to liberalize the Indian economy
- 1994 Introduction of the system of minimum capital requirements for banks
- 1997 Becoming the regulator of the entire financial system in India
- 2016 Introduction of demonetization of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 banknotes
- 2018 Introduction of a new framework for resolving stressed assets in the banking system
- 2020 Implementation of a 3-month moratorium on all term loans due to COVID-19 pandemic
- 2021 Announcement of the issuance of digital currency, also known as Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), in phases

**Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups in Pune**

- ▶▶ State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has opened its first dedicated branch for startups in Pune, Maharashtra. The dedicated branch will provide all kinds of support to a startup during its growth journey. Asheesh Pandey, Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra, was present in the inaugural ceremony. Sadashiv Survase, Joint Director, Industries, Govt. of Maharashtra, Sajit Kumar, Senior VP SIDBI venture capital, General Managers of the bank, entrepreneurs from start-ups along with customers were present at the event. During the event Bank of Maharashtra signed an MoU with SIDBI venture capital for proactive financing of start-ups. Start-ups are an entrepreneur venture in early stage of business operation, which if properly nurtured becomes an integral pillar of economic growth, employment generation while satisfying evolving needs of its clients with innovation.



**About the Bank of Maharashtra :**

- ▶▶ Bank of Maharashtra is a public sector bank in India, with its headquarters located in Pune, Maharashtra. It was founded in 1935 and nationalized in 1969. The bank offers a wide range of banking services, including personal banking, corporate banking, and international banking. It has a network of branches and ATMs across India, and also offers online banking services. The bank is committed to providing its customers with quality service and innovative products, and has won several awards for its performance and achievements.

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

- ▶▶ **Bank of Maharashtra CEO: A. S. Rajeev (2 Dec 2018)**
- ▶▶ **Bank of Maharashtra Headquarters: Pune**
- ▶▶ **Bank of Maharashtra Founders: D. K. Sathe, V. G. Kale**
- ▶▶ **Bank of Maharashtra Founded: 16 September 1935.**

**India Post Payments Bank launches WhatsApp Banking Services**

- ▶▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched its WhatsApp Banking Services in New Delhi, allowing customers to conveniently access banking services on their mobile phones. The new WhatsApp Banking channel will enable customers to connect with the bank on WhatsApp and access a range of services, including requesting doorstep services, finding the nearest Post Office, and more.



**More About IPPB WhatsApp Banking Services:**

- ▶▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with Bharti Airtel to offer WhatsApp Banking services to customers in small towns and tier 2,3 cities.
- ▶▶ The service will soon support multi-language, allowing rural customers to access banking services in their preferred language.
- ▶▶ The addition of WhatsApp messaging is part of IPPB's effort to promote financial inclusion and reach the rural areas of the country.
- ▶▶ IPPB and Airtel IQ are also planning to integrate a live customer support agent into the WhatsApp solution, providing customers with 24/7 support and quick resolution of their queries.

## **UPI processes 8.7 bln transactions in March, highest ever since inception**

- ▶▶ In March 2023, the UPI processed a historic high of 8.7 billion transactions, worth Rs 14.05 trillion. This achievement marks yet another milestone for the UPI since its inception.
- ▶▶ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India's flagship digital payment platform, set a new record at the end of the fiscal year 2022-23. In March 2023, the UPI processed a historic high of 8.7 billion transactions, worth Rs 14.05 trillion. This achievement marks yet another milestone for the UPI since its inception.



- ▶▶ As per the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) data, UPI transactions in March 2023 witnessed a 60% increase in volume and a 46% increase in value compared to the same period in the previous year. In March 2022, the UPI had processed 5.4 billion transactions worth Rs 9.6 trillion.

### **Recent Trends in UPI Transactions :**

- ▶▶ Since its launch with 21 banks in 2016, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem has grown to encompass 381 banks, facilitating billions of digital transactions every month.
- ▶▶ The participants in India's digital payments ecosystem, as per the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), include payers and payees, payment service providers (PSPs), remitter and beneficiary banks, NPCI, bank account holders, and merchants.
- ▶▶ In this value chain, the apps used to conduct UPI transactions, like Google Pay or PhonePe, are referred to as third-party app providers (TPAPs), while banks are called PSPs and typically serve as both remitters and beneficiaries in most transactions. TPAPs cannot directly access the UPI network and require PSPs to establish connections and enable transactions....

## **Fino Payments Bank and Rajasthan Royals ties up for Digital Banking Partner**

- ▶▶ Fino Payments Bank has renewed its association with Rajasthan Royals (RR) for the season 16 of IPL. Fino Bank will be RR's official Digital Banking Partner. The bank made its maiden foray with the mega sporting event last season by partnering with RR as the Digital Payments Partner. The newly launched FinoPay digital savings account is expected to get more traction through this engagement.
- ▶▶ With the launch of its new FinoPay digital savings account, the bank hopes to gain more traction through its engagement with the Rajasthan Royals. The partnership is expected to provide the bank with an opportunity to showcase its innovative digital banking solutions to a wider audience, and also promote financial inclusion in the country. This year, Fino Bank is not only engaging

with the Rajasthan Royals at the premier stage, but is also powering a grassroots level talent hunt called “Cricket Ka Ticket.” The initiative is aimed at discovering India’s next cricketing superstar, both male and female, by identifying and nurturing talented players from across the country. Through this initiative, Fino Payments Bank is demonstrating its commitment to promoting sports and encouraging young talent in India.



**About the Fino Payments Bank**

- ▶▶ Fino Payments Bank is a new-age bank in India that was launched in 2017. It is a subsidiary of FinoPaytech Limited, which is a leading provider of payments and banking solutions in India. Fino Payments Bank is headquartered in Mumbai and has a network of over 500 branches and 25,000 banking points spread across the country.
- ▶▶ The bank’s focus is on providing digital banking solutions and financial services to customers, particularly those in rural and semi-urban areas. It offers a range of products and services, including savings accounts, current accounts, fixed deposits, and bill payments, among others. The bank also provides easy and convenient banking services through its mobile banking app, FinoPay, which allows customers to access their accounts, transfer money, pay bills, and more.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Fino Payments Bank Founded : 4 April 2017**
- ▶▶ **Fino Payments Bank Headquarters : Juinagar, Navi Mumbai**
- ▶▶ **Fino Payments Bank MD & CEO : Rishi Gupta**

**Neobank Jupiter secures NBFC licence**

- ▶▶ Jupiter, a neobanking startup, has obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), enabling the company to provide credit from its own resources. According to Jitendra Gupta, the founder of Amica Financial Technologies Ltd., which operates Jupiter, the company will appoint a professional chief executive officer to manage the NBFC operations.
- ▶▶ This is a significant development for Jupiter as the company has been expanding its lending operations through partnerships with NBFCs. With the NBFC license, Jupiter will have more control over its lending operations and will be able to offer credit directly from its own books, providing greater flexibility and control over the lending process.



**About Jupiter : A Neobank :**

- ▶▶ Jupiter is a neobank, a type of digital bank that operates entirely online without any physical branches. It was founded in 2019 by Jitendra Gupta, who previously co-founded Citrus Pay, a payment gateway company that was acquired by PayU in 2016.

**About NBFCs :**

- ▶▶ NBFCs, or non-banking financial companies, are financial institutions that provide a range of financial services but do not hold a banking license. They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and are subject to certain regulations and restrictions, but they are not allowed to accept demand deposits or issue cheques....

**Canara Bank has partnered with Reserve Bank of India Innovation hub**

- ▶▶ Canara Bank, in partnership with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), has introduced a new customer-friendly service called “Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H,” which is aimed at enhancing customer satisfaction. These are self-declaration forms that individuals submit to the bank to avoid the deduction of TDS on interest income, provided their income is below the basic exemption limit. These forms, namely Form 15G (for individuals and HUFs) and Form 15H (for senior citizens), require PAN information to be furnished.



- ▶▶ A lot of residents, especially senior citizens, submit their 15G and 15H forms to their banks at the beginning of each fiscal year, particularly in the first few weeks of April. Presently, our bank allows these forms to be submitted through online banking or mobile banking, which require familiarity with and access to these services. However, many elderly individuals are not accustomed to using internet and mobile banking services, so they have to stand in long queues at bank branches throughout the day to submit these tax exemption forms.

**About the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub :**

- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) recognized the problem, engaged with various banks to explore possible solutions, and developed a blueprint to resolve the issue. The suggested solution employs technologies that elderly citizens are already familiar with, and uses an OMNI-channel approach. As a result, all depositors, including senior citizens, can now conveniently submit their Tax Waiver forms through SMS and Website, using their registered mobile phone number, from anywhere and at any time.
- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH) is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that was launched to promote innovation in the financial sector. The RBIH works towards identifying areas where innovation can help address challenges and opportunities in the financial industry, and facilitates the development of solutions through collaboration with banks, fintech companies, and other stakeholders. Its main goal is to enhance financial inclusion, efficiency, resilience, and customer service through innovation.

## IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata**
- ▶▶ **RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das**
- ▶▶ **RBI HQ: Mumbai**

### **SBI's fourth startup branch opens in Mumbai BKC**

- ▶▶ SBI opened its fourth branch exclusively for startups in Mumbai's BKC area. At the inaugural event, SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara stated that the branch's key objective is to offer comprehensive assistance to startups throughout their journey, from establishing their business entity to conducting IPOs and FPOs. SBI opens 3rd specialized Startup branch in Gurugram

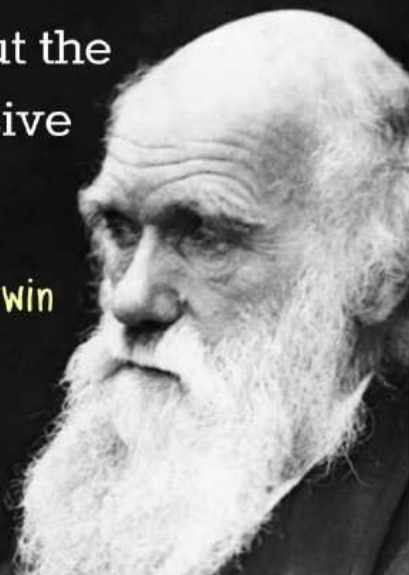
#### **SBI's fourth startup branch :**

- ▶▶ In addition to providing standard banking services to startups, the branch will also serve as a comprehensive resource for investment banking, treasury/forex, advisory, and other supplementary financial services offered by the bank's subsidiaries, according to him. Reports suggest that SBI plans to cater not only to startups but also to the needs of private equity (PE), venture capital (VC), and alternative investment funds (AIFs).



It is not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the most responsive to change.

-Charles Darwin



# National

## Himachal Pradesh launched Sanjeevani Project

- ▶▶ The economy of Himachal Pradesh is predominantly reliant on agriculture and animal husbandry. The rural households in the state consider livestock care as a crucial aspect.
- ▶▶ The economy of Himachal Pradesh is predominantly reliant on agriculture and animal husbandry. The rural households in the state consider livestock care as a crucial aspect, given the livestock population of approximately 4.41 million. The state government has initiated a project named Sanjeevani to uplift the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners. The project aims to enhance the lives of farmers by providing them with convenient and high-quality livestock care services at their doorstep, utilizing telemedicine and technology. This will aid in reducing the turnaround time for services and potentially prevent outbreaks.
- ▶▶ The Animal Husbandry Department of Himachal Pradesh has collaborated with Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd. (BFIL), a subsidiary of IndusInd Bank, for the National Animal Disease Control Programme-Mobile Veterinary Van (NADCP-AHD-MVU) project. The collaboration aims to provide doorstep livestock care through a toll-free telephone number that will be operational soon. The project intends to ensure the timely delivery of quality treatment to livestock, saving farmers the additional expenses of traveling for availing veterinary services like artificial insemination, medicines, vaccination, surgery, and infertility testing.



### IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Himachal Pradesh Chief minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu;
- ▶▶ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister: Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu;
- ▶▶ Himachal Pradesh Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla;
- ▶▶ Himachal Pradesh Official tree: Deodar cedar;
- ▶▶ Himachal Pradesh Capitals: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter).

## Food Conclave-2023 in Hyderabad

- ▶▶ The Telangana government has scheduled the Food Conclave-2023 on April 28 and 29, which is a yearly gathering of 100 experts in the agri-food industry to discuss and exchange ideas.
- ▶▶ The Telangana government has scheduled the Food Conclave-2023 on April 28 and 29, which is a yearly gathering of 100 experts in the agri-food industry to discuss and exchange ideas. The main aim of the event is to recognize the primary obstacles and prospects for the Indian agri-food sector's expansion in the current decade.



### More about the Food Conclave-2023 :

- ▶▶ The event will encompass five theme-based sessions that will delve into different facets of the agri-food industry.
- ▶▶ The focal points will revolve around agriculture (green), edible oils (yellow), dairy (white), meat and poultry (pink), and aquaculture (blue).
- ▶▶ The Telangana government is partnering with various organizations to orchestrate this event.
- ▶▶ These organizations include the World Economic Forum-India, Indian Vegetable Oil Producers Association, Indian Dairy Association, Heifer International, and Society of Aquaculture Professionals....

## EAMS Jaishankar launches 'TulsiGhat Restoration Project' in Uganda

- ▶▶ During his three-day visit to Uganda's Kampala, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the 'TulsiGhat Restoration Project' in Varanasi.
- ▶▶ During his three-day visit to Uganda's Kampala, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the 'TulsiGhat Restoration Project' in Varanasi. He commended the Overseas Friends of BJP-Uganda for their efforts to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the oldest inhabited city in the world. Uganda has been selected to chair the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the period of 2022 to 2025 on behalf of Africa. The chairmanship of the movement rotates every three years during summit conferences and is assisted by both the previous and incoming chairs, representing the movement's past, present, and future. During his visit to Uganda, S. Jaishankar will hold delegation-level discussions with his Ugandan counterpart to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral relations between





the two nations. Additionally, he is expected to meet with other Ministers and call on the country's leadership.

- ▶▶ Jaishankar will be in Mozambique from April 13 to 15. "This will be the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to the Republic of Mozambique," according to the MEA announcement. During his visit, he will meet with Mozambique's top officials and co-chair the Joint Commission Meeting's 5th Session alongside Mozambican Foreign Minister Veronica Macamo. The EAM is anticipated to meet with numerous other Ministers and Assembly representatives from Mozambique

## **India releases first edition of Dogri version of Indian Constitution**

- ▶▶ Union Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju released the first edition of the Dogri version of the Constitution of India at University of Jammu.
- ▶▶ On April 10, 2023, India released the first edition of the Dogri version of the Indian Constitution. The release of this version is a significant step towards promoting linguistic diversity and preserving the cultural heritage of the country.



### **About Dogri Language :**

- ▶▶ Dogri is a language spoken in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir and is one of the 22 official languages recognized by the Indian Constitution.
- ▶▶ Dogri is one of the official languages of the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. On 22 December 2003, in a major milestone for the official status of the language, Dogri was recognized as a national language of India in the Indian constitution.
- ▶▶ The earliest written reference to Dogri (using the paleonym Duggar) is found in the Nuhsipihr ("The Nine Heavens"), written by the poet Amir Khosrow in 1317 CE.
- ▶▶ Dogri is descended from Sanskrit, the language of the Vedas (1500–1200 BCE).

### **More About The Dogri version of Indian Constitution :**

- ▶▶ Union Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju released the first edition of the Dogri version of the Constitution of India at University of Jammu.
- ▶▶ The translation of the Constitution into different languages is not a new concept. The Constitution was originally written in English and Hindi and has since been translated into several other languages. The translation of the Constitution into Dogri was a long-standing demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and its release has been welcomed by the people of the state.

### **Significance of the Dogri version of the Constitution :**

- ▶▶ The Dogri version of the Constitution will help people who speak this language understand the fundamental rights and duties of citizens, the functioning of the government, and the role of various institutions in the country. It will also promote awareness and understanding of the Constitution

among the people of Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country where Dogri is spoken.

- ▶▶ The release of the Dogri version of the Constitution is a step towards fulfilling the constitutional mandate of promoting linguistic diversity in India. The Indian Constitution recognizes the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of the country and provides for the development and promotion of various languages. The release of the Dogri version of the Constitution is a testament to this commitment.

## **Amit Shah launches Vibrant Village program at Kibithu border village in Arunachal Pradesh**

- ▶▶ On April 7, 2023, India's Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Vibrant Village program at Kibithu, a border village in Arunachal Pradesh. This program aims to bring about the overall development of rural areas and transform them into self-sufficient and prosperous communities.

### **About Kibithu Village :**

- ▶▶ Kibithu is a remote village located at an altitude of 9,000 feet above sea level, near the India-China border. It is the easternmost village of India and is considered as the gateway to the Land of the Rising Sun, Arunachal Pradesh. This village lacks basic amenities such as electricity, healthcare facilities, and proper roads, which makes it difficult for the residents to access the necessary services.



### **Significance of the Vibrant Village program :**

- ▶▶ The Vibrant Village program, launched by the Home Minister, aims to change this situation by providing access to basic amenities and promoting economic growth in rural areas. The program includes various initiatives such as the construction of roads, bridges, and other infrastructure, provision of electricity, and access to clean drinking water. It also includes skill development programs to create employment opportunities for the local residents.
- ▶▶ The Vibrant Village program is in line with the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, which aims to make India self-reliant and self-sufficient. It will not only improve the quality of life of people living in rural areas but will also promote economic growth and development in these regions. The program will be implemented in a phased manner, and the government has allocated funds for its successful execution.

### **Significance of the rural development :**

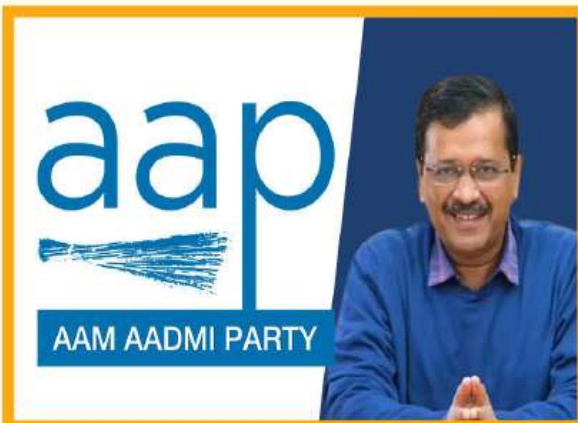
- ▶▶ During the launch of the program, Amit Shah highlighted the importance of rural development and said that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that every citizen of the country, regardless of their location, has access to basic amenities and facilities. He further added that the Vibrant Village program is a step towards achieving this goal and will benefit the people of Arunachal Pradesh and other rural areas across the country....

## **Election Commission grants national party status to AamAadmi Party**

- ▶▶ In a significant development, the Election Commission has granted national party status to the AamAadmi Party (AAP). The party's recognition as a national party is based on its electoral performance in four states- Delhi, Goa, Punjab, and Gujarat.

**Current National Parties of India: Here is the complete :**

- ▶▶ With this recognition, the AAP joins the list of national parties in India such as the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party, and Communist Party of India (Marxist). The recognition also means that the party can contest elections in all states and union territories of India.



**With the recent rejig, here is the complete list of national parties in India -**

- 1) AamAadmi Party
- 2) Bahujan Samaj Party
- 3) Bharatiya Janata Party
- 4) Communist Party of India (Marxist)
- 5) Indian National Congress
- 6) National People's Party (NPP)

**Other Recent Development :**

- ▶▶ On the other hand, the national party status of the All India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Communist Party of India (CPI) has been withdrawn by the Election Commission. Additionally, the state party status of RLD in Uttar Pradesh, BRS in Andhra Pradesh, PDA in Manipur, PMK in Puducherry, RSP in West Bengal, and MPC in Mizoram has been revoked.

## **Union Minister Sonowal launches 'SAGAR-SETU' mobile app of National Logistics Portal Marine**

- ▶▶ The Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, SarbanandaSonowal, introduced the "Sagar Setu" mobile application for the National Logistics Portal Marine.
- ▶▶ The Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, SarbanandaSonowal, introduced the "Sagar Setu" mobile application for the National Logistics Portal Marine. The "Sagar Setu" mobile app by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways offers a login module, service catalogue, Letter of Credit, bank guarantee, certification, and track & trace features.

**Significance of the 'SAGAR-SETU' mobile app :**

- ▶▶ It gives real-time information on vessel-related details, gate information, container freight stations,

and transactions. The app also facilitates digital payments for charges associated with import and export clearance processes, such as shipping line charges, transportation fees, and container freight station charges.

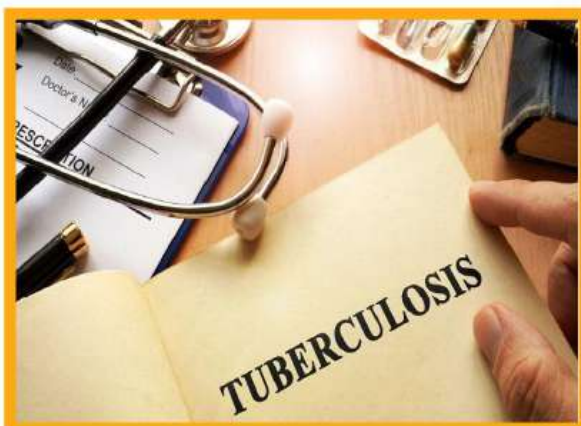
**Benefits of “Sagar Setu” Mobile Application -**

- ▶▶ The “Sagar Setu” mobile app aims to enhance convenience by reducing turnaround time for approvals and compliances.
- ▶▶ It also enhances visibility into operations and tracking, aiding in tracking records and transactions.
- ▶▶ Users can receive notifications for service requests through the app.



**India becomes first country to develop model for TB estimation.**

- ▶▶ India has developed a country-level mathematical model that estimates the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the country. The model allows for TB incidence and mortality estimate data to be available by March each year, months before the World Health Organization (WHO) releases its annual estimates in October. The model, which draws from data such as an individual’s infection and disease status, healthcare utilization, and treatment outcomes, was presented at the 36th Stop TB Partnership Board meeting in Varanasi. The Indian model estimated the TB incidence rate in India to be 196 in 2022, lower than the WHO’s estimate of 210 and suggested 3.20 lakh TB mortality absolute numbers in 2022, lower than WHO’s estimated 4.94 lakhs.



**India’s Efforts to Eliminate TB: Improved Treatment and Patient Tracking -**

- ▶▶ India has made significant efforts to increase the National TB Elimination Program coverage and generate more evidence. Laboratory services have been scaled up and decentralized with high-quality rapid diagnostic tests. In addition, India has introduced a daily regimen for first-line treatment of tuberculosis, integrating the regimens in the public and private sectors to ensure universal access to TB care. Patients with drug-resistant TB have been provided with injection-free, shorter, and better second-line treatment. The use of Nikshay, a tracking system for patients, has helped to improve the treatment outcomes of all types of patients in both the public and private sectors, including those who may have otherwise been lost to follow-up.

## **India become world's second-largest solar manufacturer by 2026**

- ▶▶ India has been making significant strides toward renewable energy in recent years, with a focus on solar energy. The country has set ambitious targets to increase its solar energy capacity and has been taking various steps to achieve them. In line with this, India is expected to become the world's second-largest solar manufacturer by 2026.



### **India : Second-largest solar manufacturing country in the world :**

- ▶▶ According to a report by the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), India is poised to become the second-largest solar manufacturing country in the world by 2026, overtaking Japan and trailing only China. The report states that India's solar manufacturing capacity is expected to increase from 10 GW in 2020 to 50 GW by 2030. This increase in capacity is expected to create around 3 lakh (300,000) direct jobs and 9 lakh (900,000) indirect jobs.

### **Government's efforts: India's solar manufacturing industry :**

- ▶▶ India's solar manufacturing industry has received a boost due to the government's focus on renewable energy and initiatives like the National Solar Mission. The government has also introduced various policies and schemes to promote domestic solar manufacturing, such as the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. Under this scheme, the government has earmarked a budget of Rs 4,500 crore (\$600 million) for the solar PV segment, which is expected to create manufacturing capacity of 10 GW.
- ▶▶ Several Indian companies have also been investing in solar manufacturing. Adani Solar, for example, has set up a 1.2 GW solar cell and module manufacturing facility in Gujarat. Tata Power Solar has a manufacturing unit with a capacity of 1.1 GW in Bangalore, while Waaree Energies has a capacity of 2 GW spread across three facilities in Maharashtra and Gujarat. These companies, along with others, are expected to increase their capacity in the coming years....

## **India slams OIC for its 'anti-India' agenda**

- ▶▶ India has strongly criticized the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its "anti-India" agenda, accusing the organization of meddling in India's internal affairs and promoting extremism. In a statement issued on April 4, 2023, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed its "strong protest" against the OIC's statement, which it called "unwarranted and factually incorrect."

### **India and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) :**

- ▶▶ India has slammed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its "anti-India" agenda after the group issued a statement expressing concern about violence and vandalism targeting the Muslim community in several Indian states during Ram Navami processions.

▶▶ In the statement, the OIC General Secretary denounced such acts of violence and vandalism as a manifestation of mounting Islamophobia and systemic targeting of the Muslim community in India. The OIC called on Indian authorities to take firm actions against the instigators and perpetrators of such acts and ensure the safety, security, rights, and dignity of the Muslim community in the country.

▶▶ The Indian Ministry of External Affairs responded to the OIC statement, calling it “factually incorrect” and accusing the group of indulging in “anti-India propaganda.” The ministry stated that India is a secular country where the constitution guarantees freedom of religion to all citizens, including Muslims. It further emphasized that the incidents mentioned in the OIC statement were isolated and did not reflect the general state of religious harmony in the country.



**Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and The Kashmir issue :**

▶▶ India has previously criticized the OIC for its stance on the Kashmir issue, with the Indian government terming the group’s statements as interference in the country’s internal affairs. The OIC has been critical of India’s revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and its decision to bifurcate the state into two union territories.

**Amit Shah Unveils 54-Foot-Tall Statue Of Lord Hanuman At Gujarat Temple**

▶▶ Indian Home Minister Amit Shah has unveiled a 54-foot-tall statue of Lord Hanuman at a temple in Gujarat, India.

▶▶ Indian Home Minister Amit Shah has unveiled a 54-foot-tall statue of Lord Hanuman at a temple in Gujarat, India. The statue was installed, made of bronze, at Sarangpur temple in Botad district, Gujarat.



▶▶ The statue, which stands on a 48-foot-tall pedestal, has been built at a cost of around Rs 30 crore (\$4 million USD) by the Hanuman Seva Samiti, a trust associated with the temple. It is said to be one of the tallest statues of Lord Hanuman in the world.

▶▶ In his address at the unveiling ceremony, Shah said that the statue is not just a symbol of devotion but also a message of India’s cultural heritage and spirituality to the world. He added that the statue will become a major tourist attraction and boost tourism in the region.

▶▶ The statue was installed with the help of a crane and the whole process took several hours to complete. The statue’s face was unveiled first, followed by the body and the tail. The entire process was telecast live on television channels.

- ▶▶ Lord Hanuman is a Hindu deity who is worshipped for his strength, courage, and devotion. He is believed to have played a key role in the Hindu epic Ramayana, where he helped Lord Rama rescue his wife Sita from the demon king Ravana.

**Significance of this :**

- ▶▶ The unveiling of the statue has been welcomed by many people in Gujarat, who see it as a symbol of pride and devotion. However, some have criticized the project, saying that it is a waste of public money and resources.
- ▶▶ The installation of statues has been a contentious issue in India, with some accusing the government of promoting a particular religion through such projects. However, supporters argue that such statues help promote the country's cultural heritage and boost tourism....

## India, Bangladesh, Japan to hold connectivity meet in Tripura

- ▶▶ The connectivity event in Tripura, India, on April 11-12, will bring together Bangladesh, India, and Japan to explore connectivity initiatives and harness the commercial potential of the region.
- ▶▶ Bangladesh, India, and Japan are set to hold a connectivity event in Tripura, India on April 11-12. The event is aimed at exploring connectivity initiatives and leveraging the commercial potential of the region.
- ▶▶ The Asian Confluence, a think tank from Northeast India, will organize the event in collaboration with India's Ministry of External Affairs. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam will represent Bangladesh, while India's deputy foreign minister and the Japanese ambassador to India will also attend.



**What are the gaps in developing Northeast India :**

- ▶▶ A recent study conducted by the Asian Confluence recommended scaling up multi-modal connectivity between Northeast India and Bangladesh to enhance competitiveness and narrow the development gaps in the region.
- ▶▶ It also suggested working together to establish express corridors for the transit of goods from the Northeast Region to the Chattogram Port and bringing synergy in trade facilitation.
- ▶▶ The study further recommended creating industrial value chains to benefit all stakeholders in India and Bangladesh, including Japanese companies in the region.
- ▶▶ It suggested establishing a Japan-Northeast India Chamber of Commerce to promote Japanese investment in Northeast India and a Northeast India-Bangladesh-Japan CEO Forum to provide the necessary business leadership....

## PM Modi launched big cats alliance to conserve seven cats

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) during his visit to Karnataka on April 9, 2022.
- ▶▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) during his visit to Karnataka on April 9, 2022. The IBCA aims to conserve seven species of big cats, including tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, snow leopards, and clouded leopards.



### International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA): Focus on seven major big cats :

- ▶▶ International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) will focus on the protection and conservation of seven major big cat species in the world. These species are the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and cheetah.

### Significance of big cats alliance :

- ▶▶ The alliance seeks to bring together countries, conservationists, and experts from around the world to collaborate on conservation efforts for these seven big cat species.
- ▶▶ Through IBCA, India hopes to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices in conserving these species with other countries that have significant big cat populations, such as Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa.
- ▶▶ The alliance also aims to facilitate collaborations between governments, NGOs, and the private sector to create sustainable solutions for conservation.
- ▶▶ The launch of IBCA marks a significant step towards the conservation of these magnificent animals, as their populations face unprecedented threats from habitat loss, poaching, and human-animal conflicts.

## PM Modi to flag off India's first Water Metro in Kochi

- ▶▶ During his two-day visit to Kerala, PM Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate India's first-ever water metro that connects 10 islands surrounding Kochi using battery-operated electric hybrid boats.
- ▶▶ During his two-day visit to Kerala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate India's first-ever water metro that connects 10 islands surrounding Kochi using battery-operated electric hybrid boats. This innovative mode of transportation will provide seamless connectivity between the islands and the city, offering a similar level of convenience and travel experience as traditional metro systems. This transportation system is particularly beneficial in urban areas like Kochi.



**About India's first Water Metro :**

- ▶▶ The metro project in Kochi will begin with eight electric hybrid boats developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- ▶▶ The project is being funded by the Kerala government and the German company KfW.
- ▶▶ The water metro system will include 38 terminals and 78 electric boats.
- ▶▶ The first phase of the KWM service will launch from High Court-Vypin and Vyttila-Kakkanad terminals.
- ▶▶ The tickets for the boat trip will start at Rs 20 and weekly and monthly passes will be available for frequent travelers.
- ▶▶ The Kochi One Card can be used for both Kochi Metro Rail and Kochi Water Metro.
- ▶▶ The Kochi One App allows users to digitally purchase tickets.
- ▶▶ Other Projects in Kerala: Worth over Rs 3,200 crore.
- ▶▶ Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various projects worth over Rs 3,200 crore.
- ▶▶ The rail electrification of the Dindigul-Palani-Palakkad section will be dedicated by PM Modi.
- ▶▶ The foundation stone for the redevelopment of Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, and VarkalaSivagiri railway stations will be laid.
- ▶▶ PM Modi will also lay the foundation for comprehensive development projects in the Thiruvananthapuram area, including Nemon and Kochuveli.
- ▶▶ The sectional speed of the Thiruvananthapuram-Shoranur section will also be increased during the event



**India Pavilion At Global Education & Training Exhibition Inaugurated At Dubai**

- ▶▶ The 'Study in India Pavilion' at the Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) in Dubai was inaugurated by the Consul General of India in Dubai, Dr. Aman Puri on April, 26, 2023. Organized by the Services Export Promotion Council with the support of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the India Pavilion at GETEX 2023 is being held from 26-28 April 2023 at Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE. The pavilion, spanning over 200 sqm, features more than 30 universities and edtech stakeholders of Indian higher education.



**Indian Institutions Expanding Global Reach :**

- ▶▶ Dr Aman Puri expressed his excitement at the increasing number of Indian institutions expanding their global reach. He also highlighted that India is an ideal destination for students looking to pursue technologies like Data Science and Cybersecurity. This is a positive sign for Indian higher education, as it indicates that Indian universities are becoming increasingly competitive in the international market.

**Major Exhibitors in the Pavilion :**

- ▶▶ Major exhibitors in the pavilion include Ajeenkya DY Patil University, B. S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science & Technology, Birla Institute of Technology, Board of Open Schooling and Skill Education, Brindavan Group of Institutions, Dome Technical Information Pt Ltd, Dr. D. Y Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University, EdCIL, Ganpat University, Janikk International, Kumaraguru Institutions, Marwadi Education Foundation, MW Global Academy Pt Ltd, NIRMA University, NITTE Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Pandit DeenDayal University, Pimpri Chinchwad Education Trust, Sandip University, Sharda University, SRM University, Symbiosis International University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, and a few others. These institutions are known for their academic excellence, and their participation in this event reflects their commitment to promoting Indian higher education in the international market....

**Union Minister Sonowal Inaugurates the technology arm of Shipping Ministry In TN**

- ▶▶ Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister SarbanandaSonowal, who inaugurated the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways & Coasts (NTCPWC) at the Discovery Campus of IIT, Madras.
- ▶▶ Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister SarbanandaSonowal, who inaugurated the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways & Coasts (NTCPWC) at the Discovery Campus of IIT-Madras. The centre will enable Make In India tech solutions for the sector and propel overall growth.



The Discovery Campus was set up in February 2018 on 163-acre area of the IIT Madras, and is located at Thaiyur, about 36 km from the main campus at Guindy.

- ▶▶ The NTCPWC, the technology arm of Union Shipping Ministry will be expanded to include world-class multifunctional maritime laboratories in the areas of climate change, marine robotics, marine informatics and analytics, smart modelling and simulation. A maritime innovation hub, which will act as core of breeding ecosystem for fostering startups and innovation in the nation, will be setup at the NTCPWC.

**About the NTCPWC -**

- ▶▶ The NTCPWC will enable #MakeInIndia tech solutions for this important sector and give impetus

to growth of our ports, waterways and coastal communities. NTCPWC with a mandate to bring cutting-edge technology to the port and waterways sectors was established under the ambitious Sagarmalaprogramme at a cost of Rs 77 crore. This “role model” centre will provide solutions to challenges in the maritime sector through scientific support, education, applied research and technology transfer at the local, regional, national and international levels.

- ▶▶ The NTCPWC-IIT Madras, Discovery Campus spread over four acres, has about five state-of-the-art labs. Notable among them is the ‘Sedimentation Management and Test Basin,’ which is a large shallow water facility for ports and waterways and marine information and communication laboratory where iVTMS and e-navigation products are developed....

## **Ministry of Health plans to launch 100 Food Streets Nationwide**

- ▶▶ Ministry of Health plans to launch 100 Food Streets Nationwide: Union Health Ministry and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs have made a decision to establish 100 food streets throughout country.

### **Ministry of Health plans to launch 100 Food Streets Nationwide -**

- ▶▶ The Union Health Ministry and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs have made a noteworthy and inventive decision to urge states and Union Territories to establish 100 food streets in 100 districts throughout the country. This pilot project is intended to serve as a model for other streets to follow and promote hygienic and safe food practices.



Ministry of Health plans to launch 100 Food Streets Nationwide

- ▶▶ The objective of this initiative is to encourage food businesses and community members to adopt safe and healthy food practices, ultimately leading to a decrease in foodborne illnesses and an enhancement in overall health outcomes.

### **Ministry of Health plans to launch 100 Food Streets Nationwide : Key Points -**

- ▶▶ Union Health Secretary, Shri Rajesh Bhushan and Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Secretary, Shri Manoj Joshi, wrote a letter to states emphasizing the importance of safe and clean food for the health of citizens. They explained that following safe food practices not only supports the “eat right campaign” and food safety but also enhances the credibility of local food businesses, generates employment opportunities, boosts tourism, and contributes to the economy. Additionally, it helps in maintaining a cleaner and eco-friendly environment.
- ▶▶ Street foods are deeply rooted in Indian culture and can be found throughout the country, showcasing the diverse local culinary traditions. In addition to offering affordable daily sustenance to millions of people, street food also creates job opportunities and contributes to the tourism industry. However, there are concerns about food safety and hygiene at street food stalls and markets. As urbanization continues to advance, these hubs offer convenient access to food, but also exacerbate the problem of contaminated and unsafe food due to unsanitary practices.

- ▶▶ The one-of-a-kind project will be executed through the National Health Mission (NHM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and with technical assistance from FSSAI. To address significant gaps, financial support in the amount of Rs.1 crore per food street/district will be provided to the States/Union Territories. 100 such food streets will be established in 100 districts throughout the country, with a standardized branding of the food streets in compliance with FSSAI guidelines. This support will be given under the National Health Mission (NHM) in the ratio of 60:40 or 90:10....

## **NHAI to Develop 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cables Across India by FY 2025**

- ▶▶ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced plans to develop an integrated network of around 10,000 kilometers of optic fiber cables (OFC) infrastructure across India by the fiscal year 2025. The project will be implemented by NHAI's special purpose vehicle, National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), which will create utility corridors along the national highways to develop the OFC infrastructure. The OFC network will provide internet connectivity to remote regions in India and facilitate the country's transition to modern telecommunication technologies such as 5G and 6G. Pilot tracks for the development of digital highways have already been identified by NHAI, with the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and Hyderabad-Bangalore corridor included in the plan.



### **NHAI targets to complete OFC infrastructure project in a year -**

- ▶▶ The OFC infrastructure development project is already underway, with a goal to complete it within a year. The OFC network will be leased out on a fixed-rate allocation system on an open-for-all basis through a web portal to eligible users. An official OFC allotment policy is being finalised in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The development of digital highways in India is expected to expedite the country's digital transformation and have a catalytic effect on its growth and development....

## **Central Government notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023**

- ▶▶ The Central government has recently issued the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, which are designed to comply with the guidelines set by the Supreme Court.
- ▶▶ The Central government has recently issued the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, which are designed to comply with the guidelines set by the Supreme Court in a writ petition involving the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and the People for Elimination of Stray Troubles. The Supreme Court had issued several orders emphasizing that the relocation of dogs was not permissible.

### Key Points To Note About Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 :

- ▶▶ The rules mandate the implementation of Animal Birth Control programmes for stray dogs by local bodies, municipalities, municipal corporations, and panchayats.
- ▶▶ Effective implementation of the rules can help reduce the stray dog population and address animal welfare issues.
- ▶▶ Municipal corporations must jointly implement the Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies Programmes.
- ▶▶ The rules provide guidelines on how to deal with human and stray dog conflicts without relocating dogs.
- ▶▶ The Animal Birth Control programme must be carried out by AWBI-recognized organizations specifically recognized for the said programme.
- ▶▶ A list of such organizations will be available on the AWBI website and updated regularly.
- ▶▶ The Central Government has sent letters to all State Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of Animal Husbandry and Urban Development Departments....



## Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches 'YUVA PORTAL'

- ▶▶ Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the YUVA PORTAL in New Delhi, which aims to connect and identify potential young Start-Ups.
- ▶▶ Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the YUVA PORTAL in New Delhi, which aims to connect and identify potential young Start-Ups. The minister also introduced the One Week – One Lab programme during the event.



### Significance of the YUVA PORTAL :

- ▶▶ Dr. Singh emphasized the importance of broad-based stakeholder participation, particularly from the industry, for the sustainable growth of Start-Ups.
- ▶▶ He highlighted India's global excellence in technology, innovation, and Start-Ups, stating that each of the 37 CSIR Labs is dedicated to a unique area of work.
- ▶▶ The One Week – One Lab programme will provide an opportunity for these labs to showcase their work and enable others to benefit from it....

## JyotiradityaScindia to inaugurate India Steel 2023 in Mumbai

- ▶▶ On April 19th, India Steel 2023 will be inaugurated at the Mumbai Exhibition Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai, with Union Minister of Steel JyotiradityaScindia presiding over the event. The Union Ministry of Steel, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and FICCI, is organizing India Steel 2023.
- ▶▶ The conference and international exhibition will take place from April 19-21.
- ▶▶ The primary objective of the event is to provide a forum for industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in the steel sector.
- ▶▶ The India Steel 2023 exhibition will showcase cutting-edge technologies, products, and solutions from the Indian steel industry.
- ▶▶ This biennial event offers a unique opportunity for participants to interact with industry leaders, gain insights into future growth prospects, and explore collaboration opportunities in the Indian steel industry.



### Focus Point of the India Steel 2023 :

- ▶▶ The sessions at India Steel 2023 will cover various topics related to the steel industry.
- ▶▶ “Augmentation of Enabling Logistics Infrastructure” will discuss the importance of improving logistics infrastructure to facilitate the growth of the steel industry in India.
- ▶▶ “Demand Dynamics for Indian Steel Industry” will examine the factors affecting demand for steel and how the industry can adapt to changing market conditions.
- ▶▶ “Sustainability Goals via Green Steel: Challenges and Way Forward” will focus on the challenges and opportunities in promoting sustainable practices in the steel industry, including the development of green steel.
- ▶▶ “Conducive Policy Framework & Key Enablers for Indian Steel” will explore the role of government policies and initiatives in supporting the growth of the Indian steel industry, including the key enablers for success.
- ▶▶ “Technology Solutions for Enhancing Productivity & Efficiency” will highlight the latest technological advances and solutions for improving productivity and efficiency in steel production....

## India-born academic named in task force to expand US-India univ partnerships

- ▶▶ Neeli Bendapudi, an academic of Indian origin, has been selected as one of the five co-chairs of an Association of American Universities (AAU) task force that aims to enhance research and

academic collaborations among higher education institutions in the United States and India.

- ▶▶ In collaboration with the Biden administration’s US-India initiative on critical and emerging technology, AAU has established a national task force that aims to expand technological and industrial cooperation between the United States and India.

- ▶▶ The task force will convene on a monthly basis to identify priority areas for bilateral research and educational collaboration, examine current programs that could serve as models for future partnerships, and devise effective strategies to advance this mission.



**About the Neeli Bendapudi :**

- ▶▶ Bendapudi, who currently serves as the president of the Pennsylvania State University, is deemed to be a suitable candidate for this task force due to her 30-year experience as a leader in both higher education and business, according to a statement released by the university.
- ▶▶ Neeli Bendapudi has been named as one of the five co-chairs of a task force created by the Association of American Universities (AAU) with a goal of increasing research and academic collaborations between higher education institutions in the United States and India....

**‘Vande Metro’ to be rolled out by December 2023, says Ashwini Vaishnaw**

- ▶▶ Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that the Union government plans to introduce ‘Vande Metro’ by December 2023. This announcement comes after the successful launch of the Vande Bharat Express, which is a semi-high-speed train operating in several parts of the country. The upcoming metro network is expected to connect major cities and provide a cost-effective mode of transportation.



**More About The ‘Vande Metro’:**

- ▶▶ Vaishnaw further mentioned that ‘VandeMetro’ will operate on a short-distance metro rail network, connecting major cities within a distance of 100 kilometers or less. This new initiative will help ease the congestion pressure on local trains. Vaishnaw emphasized that ‘Vande Metro’ will be affordable and is based on the positive response received for the Vande Bharat Express. He confirmed that the trains will be operational by December.
- ▶▶ When asked about the “High-Speed Test Track,” Vaishnaw informed that it is designed to assist in testing high-speed trains, and will accelerate the process of constructing such trains.

**Key Features of the Vande Metro :**

- ▶▶ The Vande Metro is a short-distance version of the Vande Bharat Express.

- ▶▶ It will run between cities that are less than 100 kilometers apart.
- ▶▶ The train will operate at a high frequency, with four to five trips per day.
- ▶▶ The Vande Metro will have eight coaches, similar to a metro train.
- ▶▶ This is in contrast to the 16-car composition of the Vande Bharat Express.
- ▶▶ The aim of the Vande Metro is to provide an affordable and efficient mode of transportation to job seekers and students.
- ▶▶ The Ministry has instructed the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai and the Research Design and Standard Organisation in Lucknow to begin production of the eight-car rakes for the Vande Bharat trains as soon as possible....

## The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on Ambedkar Circuit flagged off from New Delhi

- ▶▶ A special Bharat Gaurav tourist train has been launched from New Delhi that will take passengers to various cities associated with BR Ambedkar across the country.
- ▶▶ Social reformer BR Ambedkar, a special tourist train has been launched from New Delhi that will take passengers to various cities associated with him across the country. The train, named Bharat Gaurav, will tour the Ambedkar Circuit and was flagged off by Union Minister of Tourism G Kishan Reddy and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment



Virendra Kumar from the Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. The tour, which will last for seven nights and eight days, will cover important sites in Maharashtra and Bihar.

### **Objective of the Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on Ambedkar Circuit :**

- ▶▶ The main objective of this tourist train is to provide passengers with an insight into the life and accomplishments of BR Ambedkar. Additionally, it aims to promote domestic tourism and the idea of "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat". The train comprises 11 3rd AC coaches and charges Rs 29,440 for a single passenger, covering travel expenses, boarding, food, and local sightseeing. The tour includes visits to important locations such as BR Ambedkar's birthplace in Mhow and "Dikshabhumi" in Nagpur, as well as various Buddhist sites in Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, and Sanchi....

## India opens its 16th Visa application center in Kushtia

- ▶▶ The 16th Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Bangladesh was inaugurated by High Commissioner Pranya Verma in Kushtia town. The opening ceremony was attended by Mahbubul Alam Hanif, a Member of Parliament from Kushtia-3. The IVAC is expected to provide more convenience and accessibility to the residents of Kushtia and nearby areas who need to apply for visas to travel to India.



- ▶▶ According to a press release by the High Commission of India in Bangladesh, the newly inaugurated IVAC center is expected to enhance tourism, trade, and people-to-people exchanges between India and Bangladesh. The center is aimed at promoting a peaceful and prosperous region where individuals can travel, work together, and exchange ideas with ease and convenience.
- ▶▶ The Indian High Commission in Bangladesh operates the biggest visa operation centre in the world. A large number of foreign visitors to India, including those applying for medical, tourist, business, and student visas, come from Bangladesh. In the fiscal year 2019-20, more than 1.6 million visas were issued in Dhaka.



**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ Bangladesh Capital : Dhaka;
- ▶▶ Bangladesh Prime minister : Sheikh Hasina
- ▶▶ Bangladesh Currency : Bangladeshi Taka

## Geothermal Energy and India-China Dispute

### Geothermal Energy : A Renewable Resource for Electricity Demand

- ▶▶ Geothermal energy is a valuable renewable resource that has been harnessed to meet the electricity demands of several countries, including Iceland, El Salvador, New Zealand, Kenya, and the Philippines. Unlike non-renewable energy sources, such as fossil fuels, geothermal energy is sustainable and does not deplete over time. It is a reliable source of power that has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change.



### India Rejects China's Objection to Amit Shah's Visit to Arunachal Pradesh

- ▶▶ On the 10th of April, China voiced its opposition to a proposed visit by Amit Shah, Union Home Minister of India, to Arunachal Pradesh. China claimed that the visit was a violation of its territorial sovereignty. However, India has firmly rejected China's objection, stating that the state of Arunachal Pradesh has always been and will remain an integral and inalienable part of India. India's response underscores its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its regions.

### Longstanding India-China Territorial Disputes -

- ▶▶ It is important to note that China and India have had longstanding territorial disputes over several

regions, including Arunachal Pradesh. Despite multiple rounds of talks and negotiations, the two nations have yet to reach a mutually agreeable solution. The latest controversy surrounding Amit Shah's proposed visit highlights the ongoing tensions between the two nations, which have escalated in recent years. As such, the situation warrants close monitoring and continued efforts towards peaceful resolution.

## **G20 Park: Delhi's Waste-to-Wonder Concept Aligns with PM's Vision for a Sustainable Future**

- ▶▶ India has put forward a proposal to construct a G20 park in Delhi that will serve as a representation of global unity on the path of development.
- ▶▶ India has put forward a proposal to construct a G20 park in Delhi that will serve as a representation of global unity on the path of development. According to sources, PM Modi has been closely monitoring the park's concept development. The park, which will be located at the Shanti Path and Ring Road junction, will be based on the theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future."



The sculptures in the park will depict the national animals and birds of the G20 countries and will be created using the "waste to wonder" concept. Each sculpture will be made from scrap and other waste materials sourced from the New Delhi Municipal Council's yards and other agencies. Lalit Kala Academy will be responsible for promoting and creating the artwork projects. The metal art pieces used in each sculpture will have dimensions of 5-7 feet by 4-5 feet.

- ▶▶ According to officials, the idea of a G20 park enhances Delhi's identity as a city that values art and culture. Artists from various Indian states, including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Haryana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Chhattisgarh, are currently working on creating national birds and animals of different G20 countries. These include the Indian peacock, Brazilian jaguar, American bison, Chinese red-crowned crane, Saudi Arabian camel, Korean magpie, Australian emu, Canadian gray jay, Russian brown bear, and Mexican golden eagle. The artwork projects are part of the Waste to Wonder Art Camp.
- ▶▶ A team of well-known national-level artists with experience in waste-to-wonder projects has conceptualized, designed, and curated the art pieces for the G20 park. Each piece will be carefully crafted by hand and given a high-quality finish to demonstrate that waste can be transformed into something remarkable. To prevent theft or damage, each piece will be securely installed on a base platform. An information plate will be placed next to each piece, detailing the animal, its appearance in real life, and its significance to the country it represents. The details of the artists involved in creating the piece will also be displayed.

### **About the G20 :**

- ▶▶ The G20 comprises 19 countries—Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States—as well as the European Union. The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population....

## India Approves National Quantum Mission

- ▶▶ The Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission, aimed at propelling India into a leading position in the quantum technology sector and promoting economic growth through its development.
- ▶▶ On April 19, the Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission, aimed at propelling India into a leading position in the quantum technology sector and promoting economic growth through its development. The mission seeks to expedite progress in the field and cement India's position as a major player in the industry.



### Key Points to Note About The National Quantum Mission -

- ▶▶ The mission aims to make India a leading nation in the quantum technology sector and promote economic growth.
- ▶▶ The total cost of the mission is over six thousand crore rupees.
- ▶▶ The mission will run from 2023-24 to 2030-31.
- ▶▶ Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the mission will give India a quantum jump in the world arena.
- ▶▶ Currently, six countries including the USA, Canada, and France have quantum technology.

### Significance of the National Quantum Mission: -

- ▶▶ The National Quantum Mission will have a positive impact on several industries, including communication, health, finance, energy, drug design, and space applications.
- ▶▶ The mission aligns with national priorities such as Digital India, Make in India, Skill India, Stand-up India, Start-up India, Self-reliant India, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- ▶▶ The mission seeks to promote scientific and industrial research and development in Quantum Technology.
- ▶▶ It aims to create a dynamic and innovative ecosystem in the field of quantum technology.
- ▶▶ The mission will facilitate the growth and expansion of quantum technology in India.

### What is Quantum technology ?

- ▶▶ Quantum technology refers to the use of the principles of quantum physics to develop new technologies that exploit the unique properties of quantum systems. It involves the manipulation and control of the behavior of particles at the atomic and subatomic level. Quantum technology has the potential to revolutionize various fields, including computing, cryptography, communication, and sensing.

# International

## Finland Becomes 31st NATO Member After Turkey's Approval

▶▶ Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), has announced that Finland has become the 31st member of the alliance, thanks to Turkey's unanimous vote.

▶▶ Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), has announced that Finland has become the 31st member of the alliance, thanks to Turkey's unanimous vote. Despite Russia's opposition to Finland's membership, Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of NATO. Finland shares a long border of over 1,300 kilometers with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. However, Sweden's application to join NATO has been declined by Turkey and Hungary.



▶▶ Finland's membership in NATO has been a topic of discussion for many years, with some arguing that it would help to strengthen Finland's defense capabilities, while others have expressed concerns about potential tensions with neighboring Russia. With Finland's membership, NATO now includes most of the countries in Europe and North America.

### What is NATO and its History ?

▶▶ NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is an intergovernmental military alliance established in 1949. It was formed as a collective defense pact between North American and European nations to deter Soviet expansion and protect member states from potential Soviet aggression during the Cold War.

▶▶ The founding members of NATO were the United States, Canada, and ten European nations including Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. Since then, the alliance has expanded to include 31 member countries.

▶▶ The organization operates on the principle of collective defense, with members agreeing to mutual defense in response to an attack by an external party. NATO also engages in crisis management, conflict prevention, and peacekeeping operations around the world.

### To become a member of NATO, a country must meet the following criteria:

▶▶ Political and economic stability: The country must have a stable democratic government, a functioning market economy, and a proven record of respecting human rights and the rule of law.

▶▶ Military readiness: The country must have a capable and well-trained military that can contribute to the collective defense of the alliance. This includes a commitment to investing in defense and maintaining modern equipment.

- ▶▶ Commitment to collective defense: The country must be willing and able to contribute to the collective defense of the alliance, including by supporting other member countries in times of need.
- ▶▶ Compatibility with NATO values: The country must share the values of the alliance, including a commitment to democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law.
- ▶▶ Geographic proximity: While not an official requirement, NATO tends to give preference to countries that are in close geographic proximity to existing members, as this makes it easier to coordinate and deploy forces in times of crisis.

## IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Finland Prime minister : Sanna Marin;**
- ▶▶ **Finland Capital : Helsinki;**
- ▶▶ **Finland Currency : Euro.**

## ‘MF Hydra’: World’s first liquid hydrogen-powered ferry gets operational

▶▶ Norwegian company Norled has successfully launched the world’s first ferry that runs on liquid hydrogen. The vessel, called MF Hydra, is a hybrid that uses both batteries and liquid hydrogen fuel cell

**MF Hydra -**



▶▶ Norwegian company Norled has successfully launched the world’s first ferry that runs on liquid hydrogen. The vessel, called MF Hydra, is a hybrid that uses both batteries and liquid hydrogen fuel cells. It underwent sea trials for two weeks after initial testing at Hjelmeland quay earlier this year. The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has given final approval for the ferry to operate. This milestone achievement is a significant step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the maritime industry, as hydrogen fuel cells produce only clean water as a byproduct.

### **Dimension of the MF Hydra ferry :**

▶▶ The ferry, MF Hydra, has received clearance from the Norwegian Maritime Administration to start sailing. The vessel, delivered in 2021, has a length of 82.4 meters and can carry up to 300 passengers and 80 vehicles. With its two 200 kW fuel cells, two 440 kW generators, and two Shottel thrusters, it can travel at a speed of 9 knots. The hydrogen systems for the ferry were provided by Linde Engineering in Germany, while the fuel cells that generate electricity from hydrogen were developed by Danish company Ballard. The vessel was equipped and completed by Westcon in Ølensvåg, in collaboration with system integrator SEAM from Karmøy, which also supplied the automation scope for the hydrogen system. Corvus Energy supplied the batteries for the vessel.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Norway Capital : Oslo**
- ▶▶ **Norway Currency : Norwegian Krone**
- ▶▶ **Norway King : Harald V of Norway**

**Saudi Arabia becomes Shanghai Cooperation Organization dialogue partner**

▶▶ The Saudi Arabian government has taken a significant step towards joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a regional alliance dominated by China and Russia. During a cabinet meeting presided over by King Salman bin Abdulaziz, a memorandum was approved to initiate dialogue with the SCO. The decision to pursue membership was reportedly raised during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Chinese President Xi Jinping in December of last year.



▶▶ According to sources, the decision to pursue dialogue partner status with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is seen as the first step towards eventual full membership for Saudi Arabia. This decision was made after Saudi Aramco’s announcement of increased investment in China, including a joint venture in northeast China and acquiring a stake in a privately owned petrochemical group. The growing relationship between Riyadh and Beijing has caused concern in Washington, which sees Chinese influence as a threat to U.S. interests. However, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have expressed worries about the United States’ perceived disengagement from the region and are seeking to expand their partnerships. The U.S. has stated its intention to remain an active player in the Middle East despite these concerns.

**About the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

▶▶ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established in June 2001 by China, Russia, and several Central Asian countries including Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. It is an alliance that focuses on politics, economics, and security in the Eurasian region and is currently the largest regional organization in the world. The SCO consists of eight full members, four observer states, and several dialogue partners, including Turkey. In 2017, Pakistan and India were granted full membership. Iran, an SCO observer state since June 2005, was granted permanent membership in September 2021, and a year later, signed a memorandum of commitment to formally join as a full member.

**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Saudi Arabia Capital: Riyadh;**
- ▶▶ **Saudi Arabia Currency: Saudi Riyal.**

## **New Zealand's Kim Cotton becomes first female umpire to officiate men's T20I match**

▶▶ On April 5th, during the second T20I match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Dunedin, Kim Cotton became the first woman to serve as an on-field umpire in a men's international match.

▶▶ On April 5th, during the second T20I match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Dunedin, Kim Cotton became the first woman to serve as an on-field umpire in a men's international match between two full-member teams, making history. Cotton has previously worked as an on-field and TV umpire in 54 women's T20Is and 24 women's ODIs, as well as officiating at the women's T20 and ODI World Cups from 2018 to 2023.



▶▶ Kim Cotton made history on April 5th as the first woman to officiate as an on-field umpire in a men's international match between two full-member teams during the second T20I between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Dunedin. Prior to this, she had served as an on-field and TV umpire in 54 women's T20Is and 24 women's ODIs, and had also officiated at the women's T20 and ODI World Cups from 2018 to 2023.

▶▶ Earlier, Claire Polosak became the first woman to officiate in a men's Test match as the fourth umpire during the third Test of the Border Gavaskar Trophy between India and Australia in Sydney in January 2021. Moreover, in the Ranji Trophy tournament held earlier this year, female umpires Vrinda Rathi, N. Janani, and V. Gayathri made history by becoming the first women to perform on-field umpiring duties in the tournament's history...

## **Israel launches new Ofek-13 spy satellite into orbit**

▶▶ On April 5th, 2023, Israel successfully launched a new spy satellite, named Ofek-13, into orbit. The satellite, Ofek-13, launched from the Palmachim Airbase in central Israel, is intended to provide advanced intelligence capabilities to the Israeli military and intelligence agencies.

### **Israel's Ofek series spy satellites :**

▶▶ The Ofek-13 satellite is the latest addition to Israel's Ofek series of spy satellites, which have been in operation since 1988. The satellite is said to have advanced capabilities, including high-resolution imaging and the ability to transmit real-time intelligence to ground stations.

### **Middle-East on the boil and the launch of Ofek-13 :**

▶▶ The launch of the Ofek-13 satellite comes at a time of heightened tensions in the Middle East, with Israel facing security threats from various sources, including Iran and its proxies in the region. The satellite is expected to provide the Israeli military with vital intelligence on potential threats to its security.

### Significance of The Ofek-13 satellite -

- ▶▶ In addition to its military applications, the Ofek-13 satellite is also expected to be used for civilian purposes, including monitoring natural resources, such as water and agricultural land, and supporting disaster relief efforts.

- ▶▶ The successful launch of the Ofek-13 satellite is a significant achievement for Israel's aerospace industry. Israel is a world leader in satellite technology,

with a range of advanced capabilities in areas such as communications, navigation, and remote sensing.

- ▶▶ The launch of the Ofek-13 satellite is also likely to have wider implications for the Middle East region and beyond. The satellite's advanced capabilities may increase Israel's intelligence-gathering capabilities, which could have implications for regional security and stability.

### Ofek-13 satellite and Israel's technological edge :

- ▶▶ Overall, the launch of the Ofek-13 satellite is a demonstration of Israel's commitment to maintaining its technological edge in the face of security challenges. The satellite's advanced capabilities are likely to play a key role in enhancing Israel's intelligence-gathering capabilities and providing vital support to its military and civilian agencies....

**LAUNCH PROVIDER**  
Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. (IAI)

**MISSION TYPE**  
Earth observation (SAR)

**PAYLOAD**  
**Ofek-13 (TecSAR 3)**  
Payload mass: ~260 kg | Satellite Bus: TecSAR  
Israel MoD's Ofek(Ofeq)-13 combines high resolution with large area coverage using electronic beam steering, providing high resolution SAR images of up to 0.5 meters

**LAUNCH WINDOW**  
MARCH 28/29\*  
2110Z UTC  
02:10 IDT\*  
**2023**  
(successful launch)  
MARCH 28  
17:10 EDT  
14:10 PDT

**LAUNCH VEHICLE**  
**SHAVIT-2**  
comet-2 FLIGHT #6  
Height 26.4 m  
Diameter 1.35 m  
LV mass ~ 35.0 tons

**ENGINE BLOCKS**

STAGE/ENGINES	PROPELLANTS	MAX THRUST
TUG STAGE 1 x LK-4 (VACUUM)	N2H4	402 N
3) STAGE- 3 1 x AUS-51 (SOLID)	HTPB	58.6 kN
2) STAGE- 2 LeoLink LK-1 (SOLID)	HTPB	515.8 kN
1) STAGE- 1 LeoLink LK-1 (SOLID)	HTPB	553.8 kN

**LAUNCH SPACEPORT**  
Pad 1, Palmachim Airbase, State of Israel (ISRAEL)

**DESTINATION**  
Retrograde Low Earth Orbit (r LEO)  
Altitude: ~390 km  
Inclination 141°

**RECOVERY**  
LAUNCH VEHICLE IS EXPENDABLE

SPACETECH INTELLIGENCE  
HOMEM DO ESPAÇO  
spaceintel101.com  
@spaceintel101  
fb.com/groups/SpaceTalk101

May 2023

## Chinese Company Space Pioneer Successfully Launches Tianlong-2 Rocket into Orbit

- ▶▶ Chinese company Space Pioneer has achieved a historic milestone in space exploration, launching its Tianlong-2 rocket into orbit from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Inner Mongolia on April 2. This marks the first time a liquid-fueled rocket has been launched into orbit by a Chinese aerospace firm, and the first time a startup has successfully reached orbit on its initial attempt.



The Tianlong-2 rocket, also known as “Sky Dragon-2,” has enabled Beijing Tianbing Technology to launch a small satellite named “Love Space Science” to a polar orbit around Earth. The satellite will test its remote sensing capabilities from this sun-synchronous orbit.



**Tianlong-2 Rocket: Capable of Carrying 2 Tons to Low Earth Orbit -**

- ▶▶ The three-stage Tianlong-2 rocket is capable of carrying 2,000 kilograms (2 tons) to low Earth orbit or 1,500 kg (1.5 tons) to a 500-kilometer-altitude sun-synchronous orbit. The rocket is fueled by coal-based kerosene, making use of three YF-102 gas generator engines that deliver a thrust of 193 tons at take-off. The Beijing Tianbing Technology Co. has stated that the rocket adopts a “three flat and one vertical” test and launch mode, enabling liquid rocket launch from a simple cement field. This innovation provides a solid foundation for large-scale launches.

**China’s Commercial Space Sector: Over 20 Private Rockets to Launch This Year -**

- ▶▶ In 2014, President Xi instructed China’s air force to accelerate the integration of air and space capabilities, marking the country’s commitment to the space race. This led to the birth of China’s commercial space sector, with over 20 private and commercial rockets expected to be launched from China this year. Beijing Tianbing Technology Co. plans to improve its reusable large liquid carrier rockets, heavy liquid carrier rockets, and manned space shuttles. The company aims to use advanced aerospace propulsion technology and service solutions to enable orbital transportation and intercontinental transportation, and to help China’s commercial rockets enter the era of big payloads and green aerospace. This will allow aerospace technology to benefit people’s livelihoods and the lives of ordinary people....

**India gives \$2 million to African Union Transition Mission in Somalia**

- ▶▶ India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj, reaffirmed India’s commitment to peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa by handing over a contribution of USD 2 million to the United Nations Trust Fund.



**Significance of this Fund :**

- ▶▶ The fund is aimed at supporting the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). By making this contribution, India seeks to support the efforts of the international community to promote peace and stability in the region.

**India and African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) :**

- ▶▶ India’s Permanent Mission to the UN released a statement, highlighting India’s recognition of

the crucial role played by the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in creating a secure environment in Somalia and in containing terrorism, particularly by the Al-Shabaab group.

- ▶▶ India had previously contributed USD 4 million to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and has now pledged an additional USD 2 million to support ATMIS. This contribution reflects India's continued commitment to promoting peace, security, and stability in the region.

**About African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) :**

- ▶▶ The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) was established on 1 April 2022 in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2628 (2022) and the African Union Peace and Security Council Communique 1068th of 8 March 2022.
- ▶▶ The mission was created to support the implementation of the Somali Transitional Plan, which aims to transfer full security responsibility to the Somali security forces and institutions by the end of 2024. ATMIS will work to create a secure environment in Somalia and support the development of the country's security sector in order to achieve this objective.

**Japan's health ministry approves first abortion pill in its history**

- ▶▶ A panel in Japan's health ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill, in a major step for reproductive rights decades after other countries made abortion medication widely available.
- ▶▶ A panel in Japan's health ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill, in a major step for reproductive rights decades after other countries made abortion medication widely available. The ministry's pharmaceutical board granted approval to the MeFeego Pack, an abortion pill manufactured by British pharmaceutical Linepharma, according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.



**Overview of the news -**

- ▶▶ The medication consists of two types of pill, and can be used within nine weeks of pregnancy, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK. In a clinical trial in Japan, 93% of participants had a complete abortion within 24 hours. The medication combines mifepristone and misoprostol, which the World Health Organization has included in its Essential Medicines List, described as safe and effective for pregnant people.
- ▶▶ It would provide an alternative to a surgical procedure amid calls for progress in women's reproductive rights and gender equality. In Japan, abortions have been usually performed with metal instruments. As this procedure is invasive, medical experts and others are calling for introduction of abortion pills in Japan.
- ▶▶ Under Japan's existing laws, women can only receive an abortion if a pregnancy "may significantly damage the person's physical health due to bodily or economic reasons" or if they became pregnant due to rape....

## **Shahabuddin Chuppu takes oath as Bangladesh's 22nd president**

- ▶▶ Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu has become the 22nd president of Bangladesh, taking over from Abdul Hamid, in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, politicians, judges, and senior officials
- ▶▶ Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu has become the 22nd president of Bangladesh, taking over from Abdul Hamid, in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, politicians, judges, and senior officials. The event was held at the historic Durrbar Hall of Bangabhaban, where Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath to Shahabuddin. He was elected unopposed in February this year as the candidate of the ruling party, and after the ceremony, he signed the documents for the office of the president.
- ▶▶ There are growing disputes between the ruling Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) regarding the electoral system as Bangladesh prepares for general elections. The elections are scheduled for December or January next year.



### **About the Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu -**

- ▶▶ Mohammed Shahabuddin, who was born in 1949 in the northwestern Pabna district, has had a varied career. He started out as a district judge and later served as a commissioner of the independent Anti-Corruption Commission. He then entered politics and became a member of the Awami League Advisory Council, which is made up of senior party leaders and technocrats. However, to take on the role of president, he had to resign from his party position.
- ▶▶ In his younger years, Shahabuddin was active in the Awami League's student and youth wings and played a role in the 1971 Liberation War. He was imprisoned after the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, who was the father of the current Prime Minister Hasina. Later, in 1982, he joined the country's judicial service.

### **IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Bangladesh Capital : Dhaka**
- ▶▶ **Bangladesh Prime minister : Sheikh Hasina**
- ▶▶ **Bangladesh Currency : Bangladeshi Taka**

## **IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania**

- ▶▶ IIT Madras is set to establish the first Indian Institute of Technology in Africa in Tanzania, with classes scheduled to begin in October. The new campus will be located in Zanzibar, and marks

IIT Madras' first international campus. V Kamakoti, the institute's director, announced the plans during his address at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day. A team of five IIT Madras professors visited Tanzania in February to hold discussions with officials about setting up the new campus.



- ▶▶ The setting up of the first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Africa is significant for several reasons:
- ▶▶ **Strengthening India-Africa relations:** The establishment of IIT in Tanzania marks a significant step in strengthening the ties between India and Africa. It reflects India's growing interest in the African continent and its commitment to promoting education and human resource development in Africa.
- ▶▶ **Promoting technical education:** IITs are renowned for their quality technical education, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will provide African students with access to world-class technical education, which will help them build their careers and contribute to the development of their countries.
- ▶▶ **Bridging the skill gap:** There is a significant skill gap in Africa, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will help bridge this gap by providing African students with the technical skills and knowledge required to meet the demands of the industry.
- ▶▶ **Encouraging innovation and research:** IITs are known for their research and innovation, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will encourage research and innovation in the African continent, which will help drive economic growth and development....

## Belgium firm to launch biodiesel project in Ayodhya soon

- ▶▶ The city of Ayodhya has been chosen for a two-year pilot project aimed at producing biodiesel from waste. Belgium-based company Vito is expected to launch the project in Ayodhya soon. The company, which focuses on clean technology and sustainable development, has already started working on the project, according to officials.



**Biodiesel project in Ayodhya: Key Points to Note:** -

- ▶▶ Belgium-based company Vito is set to launch a two-year pilot project aimed at producing biodiesel from waste in Ayodhya, India.
- ▶▶ The project will initially use one tonne of plastic waste to generate biodiesel.
- ▶▶ Vito officials have held meetings with Ayodhya administration officials and organised a workshop for the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation officials.

- ▶▶ The company will use the corporation’s material recovery facility for waste segregation before setting up its own facility.
- ▶▶ Ayodhya was selected for the pilot project due to the expected increase in waste generated by the surge in devotees’ footfall after the opening of the Ram temple in January 2022.
- ▶▶ The Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Trust has estimated a turnout of several lakhs of devotees every month, which will generate more waste and create a major garbage disposal issue for the corporation....

## Mongolia refinery to be built by India by 2025

- ▶▶ Mongolia will have its first oil refinery up and running by 2025. The first phase of the \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan-funded Mongol Oil Refinery will be finished by the end of the year. Given that Russia is the only source of energy imports for Mongolia, the development has strategic ramifications.



Mongolia refinery to be built by India by 2025

### Mongolia refinery to be built by India by 2025: Key Points -

- ▶▶ The refinery will enable Mongolia to satisfy 70% of its domestic demand.
- ▶▶ According to the nation’s ambassador, Dambajav Ganbold, the first oil refinery in Mongolia, which is being constructed on the outskirts of the capital city of Ulaanbaatar with funding from India, would be finished by 2025.
- ▶▶ Mongolia also intends to entice investment from India in its mining and metals industries with intentions to start shipping coking coal to India by 2024.

### What all Mongolia have to offer ?

- ▶▶ Important rare earth metals are also found in Mongolia, which may be essential to India’s plans to develop cutting-edge technical capabilities in semiconductors and sustainable transportation.
- ▶▶ Indian businesses have already travelled to Mongolia to investigate these possibilities. It is anticipated that regular direct flights between Mongolia and India will be established in order to enable these exchanges.
- ▶▶ India is Mongolia’s significant “third neighbour” in this area. This is one of the foreign policy’s key ideas, and it first came up because of Mongolia’s two large neighbours, Russia and China.
- ▶▶ So, in order for Mongolia to be an independent state, it is needed to establish contact with a third neighbour...

## Syria becomes world’s largest ‘narco-state’: Report

- ▶▶ According to reports, Syria has now become the world’s largest narco-state, with the majority of its foreign currency earnings coming from the production and export of Captagon, a highly addictive amphetamine commonly referred to as “poor man’s coke”. In line with the definition

provided by Collins Dictionary, Syria can be classified as a narco-state as the illegal trade of narcotics, specifically Captagon, forms a significant portion of its economy, accounting for over 90 percent of the country's foreign currency earnings.



- ▶▶ Experts have indicated that Syria is the leading producer of Captagon, a highly addictive amphetamine that is primarily exported to the Gulf region. Due to sanctions or a halt in trading with Syria following the crackdown on protesters by President Bashar al-Assad in 2011, the regime, in conjunction with Lebanon's Hezbollah, increased the production and export of Captagon to Gulf countries.
- ▶▶ The rapid growth in the production and use of illicit drugs, particularly Captagon, has raised concerns globally. In response, the US enacted the Captagon Act last year, which links the trade of the drug to the Assad regime in Syria and labels it a "transnational security threat."

**What is Captagon ?**

- ▶▶ Captagon is a popular recreational drug among the youth in Gulf states, as well as being used by armed individuals who feel invincible while under its influence
- ▶▶ It is sometimes referred to as "Captain Courage" or "Jihadi magic potion"
- ▶▶ Additionally, Captagon is used by dieters, students studying for exams, and people who work double shifts, at night, or have multiple jobs to make ends meet
- ▶▶ The cost of manufacturing Captagon is as low as USD 1 per pill
- ▶▶ However, the need to pay bribes to smugglers, soldiers, secret police, warlords, and customs officials to pass various routes and checkpoints increases the price of the drug
- ▶▶ The price can go up to USD 14-20 per pill due to these additional costs...

**Ghana becomes first country to approve Oxford malaria vaccine for children**

- ▶▶ Ghana has made history by becoming the first country to approve a highly effective malaria vaccine developed by scientists at the University of Oxford in the UK. The vaccine, called R21/Matrix-M, has exceeded the World Health Organization's target of 75% efficacy, making it a significant milestone in the fight against malaria.
- ▶▶ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 619,000 people died from malaria in 2021, with the vast majority of the deaths being children in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ▶▶ In Ghana, where malaria is endemic and perennial, an estimated 5.3 million cases and 12,500



deaths were recorded in 2021. The R21/Matrix-M vaccine, which has shown promising results in clinical trials, could be a game-changer in reducing the burden of malaria in Ghana and other sub-Saharan African countries.

**Significance of this development :**

- ▶▶ However, the WHO has yet to recommend the R21 vaccine for widespread use, and until it does, there is a question mark over the amount of international funding available for it. The vaccine's phase 3 trial is ongoing, but earlier trials have shown efficacy levels of 77%, a level that was maintained after a single booster dose given a year later.
- ▶▶ In contrast, the RTS,S vaccine, which the WHO recommended for use in a landmark move in 2021, has more modest efficacy levels. The approval of the R21/Matrix-M vaccine in Ghana is an important step in the fight against malaria, but its impact will depend on its approval and implementation in other sub-Saharan African countries.
- ▶▶ The Serum Institute of India, the biotechnology giant that is manufacturing the R21 vaccine, has the potential to manufacture more than 200 million doses annually. This offers hope that the vaccine could be made widely available in sub-Saharan Africa, where it is needed the most....

**Nepal becomes founding member of International Big Cats Alliance**

- ▶▶ Nepal has become a founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance. During the launch of the alliance under India's initiative, Minister for Energy Shakti Bahadur Basnet handed over the letter.
- ▶▶ Nepal has become a founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance. During the launch of the alliance under India's initiative, Minister for Energy Shakti Bahadur Basnet handed over the letter mentioning Nepal will be associated with the alliance as a founding member to Indian Minister for Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav.
- ▶▶ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the alliance aimed at the conservation of seven big cats namely tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma. India has assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of \$100 million for the alliance.
- ▶▶ The tiger population in Nepal reached 335 in 2022 from 121 in 2010 as a result of the government working in partnership with local communities, security agencies and conservation partners. Nepal successfully achieved its goal of doubling the tiger population by 2022 as per its commitment made during the first tiger summit in 2010 in St Petersburg.



**IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Nepal Capital : Kathmandu**
- ▶▶ **Nepal Prime minister : Pushpa Kamal Dahal**
- ▶▶ **Nepal Currency: Nepalese Rupee**

## **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to open first overseas office in Abu Dhabi**

- ▶▶ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has recently signed an agreement to create its first Interim Operational Hub in Abu Dhabi Global Market, marking its initial foray into establishing an overseas office. AIIB is a multilateral development bank that focuses on financing infrastructure projects that prioritize sustainability. As the host country for COP28 later this year, the UAE has emphasized the importance of climate finance, a key concern for nations as they strive to increase their efforts and commitments towards climate action.



### **Key Points To Note :**

- ▶▶ The AIIB has established its first Interim Operational Hub in Abu Dhabi Global Market, which will serve as its initial overseas office.
- ▶▶ The office will have a strategic location in the Middle East and the world, and will support the Bank's development agenda by financing infrastructure projects that prioritize sustainable economic growth, particularly in areas where it is most needed.
- ▶▶ Dr. Al Jaber, who is also the COP28 President-Designate, has stated that hosting the AIIB's overseas operational office reflects the UAE's commitment to strengthening cooperation with international organizations and institutions that focus on sustainable economic development in developing countries.

### **About Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) :**

- ▶▶ AIIB is a multilateral development bank that was established in 2016 with the goal of financing infrastructure projects in Asia and beyond.
- ▶▶ The bank is headquartered in Beijing, China, and has over 100 member countries, including several major economies such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and Australia.
- ▶▶ AIIB's mission is to foster sustainable economic growth, create wealth and improve infrastructure connectivity in Asia by investing in infrastructure and other productive sectors.

### **Major contributors to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) :**

- ▶▶ China – China is the largest contributor to the AIIB, with a share of around 26% of the bank's capital.
- ▶▶ India – India is the second-largest contributor to the AIIB, with a share of around 7.5%.
- ▶▶ Russia – Russia has a share of around 6.6% in the AIIB, making it one of the major contributors to the bank.
- ▶▶ Germany – Germany has a share of around 4.6% in the AIIB, making it one of the largest European contributors to the bank.
- ▶▶ South Korea – South Korea has a share of around 3.8% in the AIIB, making it one of the major contributors to the bank....



## **Zimbabwe to introduce gold-backed digital currency**

- ▶▶ To combat the falling value of the Zimbabwean currency, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has announced plans to introduce a gold-backed digital currency. The digital gold tokens will be a form of electronic money, backed by gold held at the RBZ. This will enable holders of small amounts of Zimbabwean dollars to exchange their money for tokens and protect themselves against exchange rate fluctuations.
- ▶▶ The Zimbabwean economy operates on a dual currency structure, with the Zimbabwean dollar and the U.S. dollar in use. The U.S. dollar currently dominates and accounts for about 70% of domestic transactions, according to the RBZ. In an effort to halt the collapse of the Zimbabwean dollar and reduce the demand for the U.S. dollar, the RBZ introduced gold coins in July 2022.
- ▶▶ The RBZ had re-introduced the Zimbabwean dollar in 2019, replacing the previous multiple currency system that had been in place since 2009, when the country abandoned its old local dollar due to years of hyperinflation.
- ▶▶ Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Zimbabwean government permitted individuals with free funds to use their foreign currency to make domestic payments for goods and services. This policy led to the current dual currency system, where the Zimbabwean dollar and the U.S. dollar are both in use for domestic transactions.



### **IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Location:** Zimbabwe is a landlocked country located in southern Africa.
- ▶▶ **Capital City:** Harare is the capital city of Zimbabwe.
- ▶▶ **Population:** The estimated population of Zimbabwe as of 2021 is around 15.2 million.
- ▶▶ **Official Languages:** English, Shona, and Ndebele are the official languages of Zimbabwe.
- ▶▶ **Currency:** The Zimbabwean dollar is the official currency of the country.
- ▶▶ **President:** The current President of Zimbabwe is Emmerson Mnangagwa

## **India and Ukraine Chamber of Commerce to be set up**

- ▶▶ An India-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce will be established in the upcoming months in an effort to strengthen commercial ties. The Chamber will work to increase opportunities for investment and cooperation in industries including infrastructure and power with the help of the Ukrainian government.

**India and Ukraine Chamber of Commerce to be set up : Key Points**

- ▶▶ The event happened after EmineDzhaparova, Ukraine’s first deputy foreign minister, visited India.
- ▶▶ Dzhaparova recommended during the tour that Indian infrastructure companies take part in the restoration of Ukraine, which is at war with Russia.
- ▶▶ The private sectors in both countries were unable to interact and look for opportunities in the absence of a chamber of commerce.
- ▶▶ In the coming months, efforts are being made to create such a body, according to people with knowledge of the situation.



**India and Ukraine Trade Relations :**

- ▶▶ The Ukrainian Embassy in India reports that in 2021, bilateral trade between India and Ukraine totaled \$3.45 billion.
- ▶▶ Ukraine sold fertilisers and vegetable oils worth \$2.49 billion to India, but it also received \$961.2 billion worth of commodities from that country....

**WTO rules India violated global trade rules in IT dispute**

- ▶▶ The World Trade Organization (WTO) has found that India has breached global trading regulations in a dispute over import duties on IT products with the European Union (EU), Japan, and Taiwan. The WTO panel’s report recommended that India should modify the measures to conform with its obligations. The dispute began in 2019 when the EU objected to India’s introduction of import duties of between 7.5% and 20% on various IT products, including mobile phones, integrated circuits, and components, stating that the tariffs exceeded the maximum rate. Japan and Taiwan also lodged similar complaints that year.



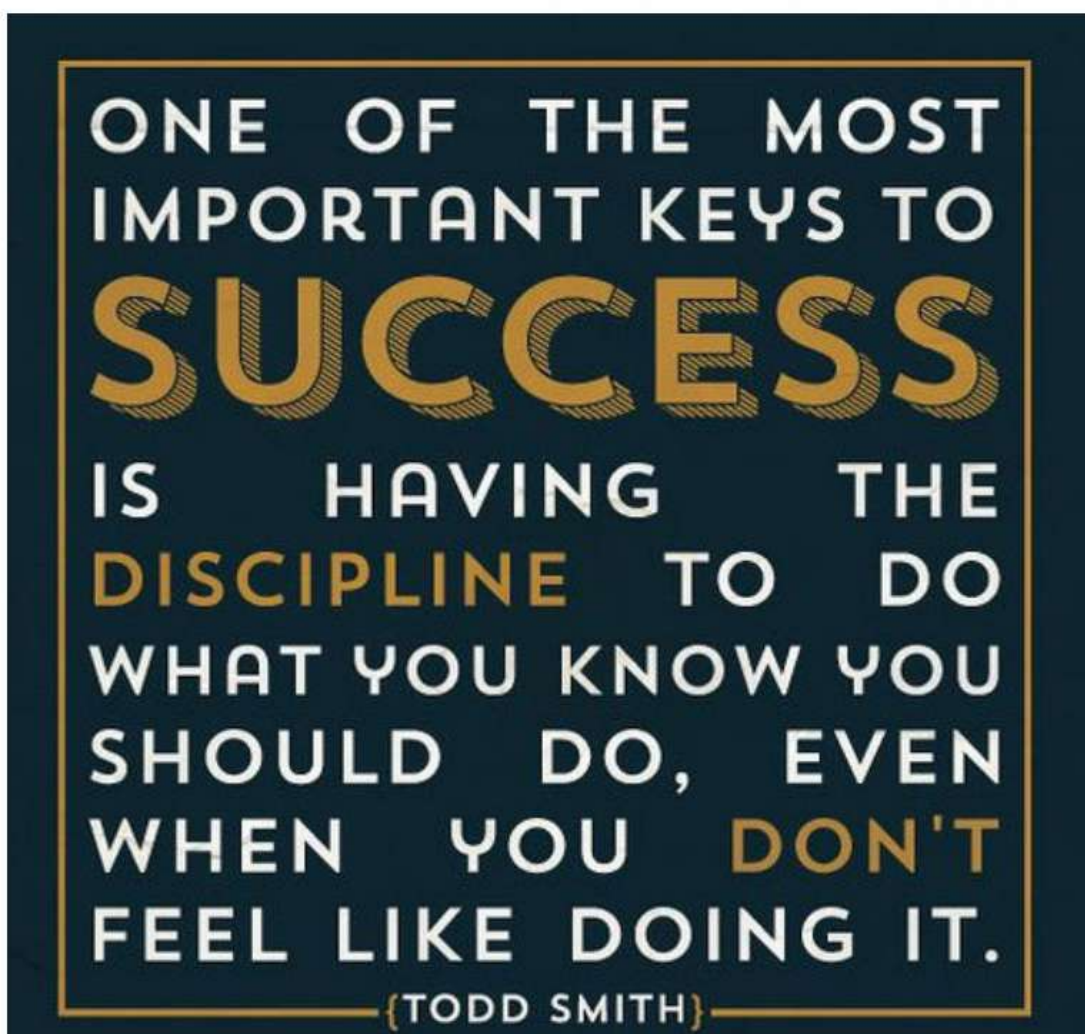
**EU says up to 600 million euros of exports affected by India’s tariffs**

- ▶▶ The EU is India’s third-largest trading partner, and its exports worth up to 600 million euros (\$654.66 million) are directly affected by India’s tariffs on an annual basis, according to Brussels. India’s diplomatic mission in Geneva has not commented on whether it will appeal against the decision. However, if it does, the case will remain in legal limbo as the WTO’s top appeals court is currently not functioning due to the United States opposition to judge appointments.
- ▶▶ The WTO panel found that India had already brought some of the tariffs under scrutiny in line with global trading regulations since 2020. While the panel supported the complaints against India,

it dismissed one of Japan's claims that India's customs notification lacked "predictability". The EU's trade department reiterated that a rules-based trading system was necessary for good trade relations, calling the tariffs "illegal" in a tweet.

### Implications for India's IT Industry and Trade Relationships

- ▶▶ The ruling has significant implications for India's IT industry, which is a vital sector of the country's economy. It remains to be seen whether India will accept the panel's decision and bring its import duties into line with global trading rules or challenge the ruling.... Read more at: <https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/wto-rules-india-violated-global-trade-rules-in-it-dispute/>



# Sports

## David Warner becomes fastest to score 6000 runs in IPL

- ▶▶ During a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, Delhi Capitals' captain David Warner became the fastest batsman to reach 6000 runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- ▶▶ During a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, Delhi Capitals' captain David Warner became the fastest batsman to reach 6000 runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL). He is now the third player to achieve this feat after Virat Kohli from Royal Challengers Bangalore and Shikhar Dhawan, captain of Punjab Kings. It took Warner 165 innings to reach this milestone, while Kohli and Dhawan achieved it in 188 and 199 innings respectively.
- ▶▶ David Warner, who has been the recipient of the Orange Cap three times in IPL 2015, 2017 and 2019, reached the milestone of 6000 runs with a boundary during a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati. He achieved this feat by pulling a short ball from Trent Boult behind square for four. Warner completed his half-century off 44 balls with a four off Ravichandran Ashwin. This was Warner's 57th fifty in the IPL, and he has also scored four centuries in the tournament. Additionally, he also became the highest run-scorer of the season during this innings



May 2023

## FIFA Rankings : India's Football Team Rises to 101

- ▶▶ According to the latest FIFA rankings, the Indian men's football team has climbed up five spots and is now ranked at 101.
- ▶▶ According to the latest FIFA rankings, the Indian men's football team has climbed up five spots and is now ranked at 101. The team's upward movement in the rankings can be attributed to their recent wins against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan during the Trination tournament, which helped them secure 8.57 rating points. The victories were achieved in matches



held last month in Imphal, with scores of 1-0 and 2-0 against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, respectively. The current ranking chart is the first of the year, with the previous one being published on December 22.

- ▶▶ The Indian men's football team has made a remarkable progress in the latest FIFA rankings, moving up by five places to reach the 101st spot, just one spot away from the top-100. The team earned 8.57 rating points after winning two matches against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan in the Tri-nation tournament held last month in Imphal. However, India is still at the 19th position among 46 Asian nations with a total of 1200.66 points. India's highest-ever ranking was at the 94th position in 1996, and the team has rarely made it to the top-100, making this achievement noteworthy.
- ▶▶ According to the latest FIFA rankings, Argentina continues to hold the top spot as the world champions, followed by France, Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, and Spain in the top 10 positions. Japan holds the highest rank among the Asian countries. ...

## Brazilian Dante Akira Uwai Wins Medal Design Competition for Gangwon 2024

- ▶▶ Brazilian artist Dante Akira Uwai has won the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 medal design competition. After six weeks and over 3,000 submissions to the International Olympic Committee competition, Akira Uwai's creation – 'A Sparkling Future' – was chosen by a panel of judges including Olympian Laurenne Ross, former winner Zakea Page, IOC Young Reporters, Young Leaders, and Gangwon 2024 Youth Supporters.



- ▶▶ Akira Uwai's victory means his design will feature on the medals for Gangwon 2024 which will be awarded in the Republic of Korea from 19 January to 1 February next year. Art has always been integral to the 27-year-old architect who was born in Sao Paulo and brought up in Brasilia.

### About the Gangwon 2024 -

- ▶▶ Gangwon 2024 will be the fourth iteration of the Winter YOG, and the first in Asia. The previous editions took place in Innsbruck (2012), Lillehammer (2016), and Lausanne (2020). The Opening Ceremony will take place on 19 January 2024, and the Closing Ceremony is on 1 February 2024. The Youth Olympic Village will be located at student accommodation facilities at Gangneung-Wonju University. The aim of Gangwon 2024 is to drive positive change and social unity in the region, impacting society in the areas of sport, culture and education.
- ▶▶ The Gangwon 2024 programme will consist of 15 disciplines across seven sports. For the first time ever at a Winter YOG, there will be no mixed National Olympic Committee (NOC) events. The Gangwon 2024 slogan of "Grow together, shine forever" was launched at the 500 days-to-go countdown celebration....

**Peru removed as host of 2023 FIFA Under-17 World Cup -**

- ▶▶ FIFA announced that it had withdrawn Peru’s hosting rights to the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023™. The decision was made following extensive discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation.
- ▶▶ FIFA announced that it had withdrawn Peru’s hosting rights to the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023™. The decision was made following extensive discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation (FPF). The reasons for the withdrawal of Peru’s hosting rights were not immediately clear, but FIFA officials cited concerns over the country’s ability to meet the requirements for hosting such a major tournament.
- ▶▶ The decision was a major blow to Peru, which had been preparing for the event for several years. The country had been investing heavily in the development of its football infrastructure, including the construction of new stadiums and the refurbishment of existing ones.

**FIFA opened a new bidding process :**

- ▶▶ FIFA has since opened a new bidding process to find a replacement host for the tournament. Several countries have expressed interest in hosting the event, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico.

**About FIFA U-17 World Cup :**

- ▶▶ The FIFA U-17 World Cup is a biennial international football tournament organized by FIFA for players under the age of 17. The tournament features 24 teams from around the world and is seen as an important platform for young players to showcase their talents and gain valuable experience.
- ▶▶ In conclusion, the withdrawal of Peru’s hosting rights to the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023™ was a disappointment for the country, which had been working hard to prepare for the event. FIFA has since opened a new bidding process to find a replacement host, and several countries have expressed interest in hosting the tournament. The FIFA U-17 World Cup is an important platform for young players to showcase their talents, and the event is eagerly anticipated by football fans around the world....

**Dhoni, Yuvraj inducted with the MCC honorary life membership**

- ▶▶ MS Dhoni, the former captain of the Indian cricket team who led the team to victories in the T20 and ODI World Cups and the 2013 Champions Trophy, along with Yuvraj Singh, the Player of the Tournament in the 2011 ODI World Cup, have been named among the five Indians to be awarded honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). Dhoni, who was also a wicketkeeper-batsman, played 538 international matches across formats and scored over 17,000 runs. The MCC, which is based in London and founded in 1787, is



one of the most prestigious cricket clubs in the world and is responsible for the Laws of Cricket. The club has a long history of awarding honorary life memberships to players who have made significant contributions to the sport.

- ▶▶ In addition to MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, the former Indian cricketer, was also awarded an honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). Yuvraj was a key member of the Indian team that won the first T20 World Cup in 2007 and the 2011 home World Cup, where he contributed with both the bat and ball. He famously hit six sixes in an over against England in the 2007 T20 World Cup and scored a quickfire 70 against Australia in the semi-final. Suresh Raina, another member of the 2011 winning World Cup squad, was also recognized for his contributions in knocking out the defending champions in the quarter-finals and in the semi-final against Pakistan.
- ▶▶ Former India women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj and veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami were also granted honorary life memberships by the MCC. The duo retired from international cricket after India's early exit from the 2022 ODI World Cup. Mithali Raj remains the top run-scorer in women's ODIs with 7805 runs in 232 games, while Jhulan Goswami is the leading wicket-taker in the format with 255 scalps. The MCC is known for recognizing the contributions of exceptional cricketers to the sport, and this recognition is a testament to the achievements of these Indian cricketers....

## Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh Wins Title At World Chess Armageddon Asia And Oceania Event

- ▶▶ In the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh, who is a teenager, pulled off a major upset by defeating former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final. Gukesh emerged as the winner in a thrilling summit clash that was full of ups and downs. The first game of the match ended in a draw after Gukesh employed a perpetual check strategy. However, he managed to win the following game, securing the championship. Both Gukesh and Abdusattorov have qualified for Armageddon's Grand Finale in September.
- ▶▶ The 16-year-old Indian won in a field that included former world classical champion Vladimir Kramnik, Daniil Dubov, Yangyi Yu (China), Vidit Gujrathi and Karthikeyan Murali (both India) and Param Maghsoodloo (Iran), apart from Abdusattorov. An Armageddon game is a variant of blitz chess to determine a winner after a series of drawn games. A drawn game in Armageddon is counted as a win for Black.



## **Russian superstar Daniil Medvedev Wins Maiden Miami Opens Title 2023**

- ▶▶ Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev claimed his fourth title of the year by defeating Jannik Sinner in a closely-contested final match in Miami Opens 2023. Medvedev, who was once the top-ranked player in the world, has now won 24 out of his last 25 matches, including his latest victory at the prestigious Miami Open. The win marked his first-ever title win at the Miami Open. Medvedev clinched his fifth Masters 1000 title and 19th title overall by beating Sinner, who has also been in impressive form this season, with a scoreline of 7-5, 6-3.



Interestingly, Medvedev has won each of his 19 titles in different tournaments. This was also his first Masters 1000 title since winning in Toronto back in 2021.

- ▶▶ By winning the Miami Open, Daniil Medvedev has also increased his advantage over Novak Djokovic in the ATP year-end rankings (Race to Turin) by 600 points. On the other hand, Jannik Sinner's performance in reaching the final has allowed him to climb to his career-best ranking of No. 9 in the men's singles chart.

### **About the Miami Open :**

- ▶▶ The Miami Open is a professional tennis tournament that takes place annually in Miami Gardens, Florida, United States. It is classified as an ATP Tour Masters 1000 event on the men's tour and a WTA 1000 event on the women's tour. The tournament was first held in 1985 and has since been played at the Hard Rock Stadium. It is one of the most prestigious tennis events in the world, attracting top players from around the globe....

### **Commonwealth champion weightlifter SanjitaChanu faces 4-year ban by NADA**

- ▶▶ SanjitaChanu, a weightlifter from India who has won the Commonwealth Games twice, has been banned for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India after she tested positive for banned drugs. The testing took place during the National Games held in Gujarat in September-October 2022, and the results showed the presence of drostanolone, an anabolic-androgenic steroid prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- ▶▶ Drostanolone is mainly prescribed to treat advanced inoperable breast cancer in women, but it is commonly abused by athletes as a performance-enhancing drug. The primary medical purpose of drostanolone is to treat advanced inoperable breast cancer in women. Nevertheless, athletes often misuse the steroid as a performance-enhancing drug. Following her positive test for drostanolone, SanjitaChanu was temporarily suspended by NADA from the date of her sample collection, and her four-year suspension has now been formally declared. Consequently, Chanu will be stripped of her silver medal from the National Games as well.
- ▶▶ After testing positive for drostanolone, SanjitaChanu was provisionally suspended by NADA from the date of her sample collection, and her four-year ban has now been officially announced. As a result, Chanu will also lose her National Games silver medal. In the past year, several



Indian athletes who had qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, including Shivpal Singh, Kamalpreet Kaur, and Dhanalakshmi Sekar, along with Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Navjeet Kaur Dhillon and promising long jumper Aishwarya Babu, were found to have violated anti-doping regulations.

## I M P O R T A N T

- ▶▶ **National Anti-Doping Agency Headquarters: New Delhi;**
- ▶▶ **National Anti-Doping Agency Founded: 24 November 2005**

## Indian men, women bag 4th Asian Kho Kho titles

- ▶▶ India emerged as the winners in both men's and women's categories at the 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships held in Tamulpur, located in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of north-central Assam's Baksa district. In the finals, the Indian men's team beat Nepal by a margin of 6 points and an inning, while the Indian women's team outscored their Nepalese opponents by 33 points and an inning.
- ▶▶ During the semi-finals of the 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships, the Indian men's team defeated Sri Lanka by 45 points, while Nepal won against Bangladesh by 12 points with 1.5 minutes remaining. The Indian women's team beat Bangladesh by 49 points and an inning in their semi-final, while Nepal comfortably won against Sri Lanka by 59 points and an inning in the other semi-final. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka shared the third place in both men's and women's categories.



### About the Asian Kho Kho Championships -

- ▶▶ The 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships had a total of 16 teams, including both male and female teams, from various countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and host country India. The event was organized by the Kho Kho Federation of India and was hosted by the Assam Kho Kho Association with support from the BTR government and the government of Assam. Around 500 players and officials participated in the event, which was held on mats at the Tamulpur Higher Secondary School ground. The venue had a makeshift indoor stadium with a seating capacity of around 7,000 people. This was the first time the event was held in a semi-rural location, unlike the previous events which were held in urban areas such as Kolkata, Dhaka, and Indore. During the closing ceremony, Ranjana Sarania from Tamulpur, who was part of the Indian women's team, was felicitated....

May 2023

Govt. Exams

## Sri Lanka fail to qualify directly to ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

- ▶▶ Sri Lanka's attempt to move up to the eighth spot in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League table has been unsuccessful, as they lost to New Zealand in the third ODI at Hamilton.
- ▶▶ Sri Lanka's attempt to move up to the eighth spot in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League table has been unsuccessful, as they lost to New Zealand in the third ODI at Hamilton. The Super League is being used as a qualification tournament for the 2023 Cricket World Cup, which will feature 10 teams. Seven teams have already secured their spots in the tournament, but Sri Lanka's loss means they remain outside of the top eight in the Super League standings and must continue to fight for qualification.
- ▶▶ The World Cup 2023 was set to feature the top 8 teams in the points table, but Sri Lanka's recent loss to New Zealand means they finished 9th in the standings. As a result, they must now compete in the ICC World Cup qualifiers, which will take place in Zimbabwe in June and July. The top two teams from the qualifiers will then qualify for the ICC ODI World Cup. This marks the first time in 44 years that the Sri Lankan team will have to play qualifiers in order to earn their place in the World Cup.
- ▶▶ Currently, there is a competition between West Indies and South Africa for the 8th position in the points table for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. The West Indies team is currently holding the 8th position. The tournament will be hosted by India and will begin on October 5, 2023. The teams that have already qualified for the World Cup are New Zealand, England, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Australia, Afghanistan, and West Indies.



## Sharjah stadium stand named after Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th birthday

- ▶▶ In honor of Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday, the West Stand at the renowned Sharjah cricket stadium has been renamed as the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.' A special ceremony was held on Monday to commemorate the occasion, which coincided not only with the batting icon's birthday but also with the 25th anniversary of his remarkable performance of scoring back-to-back centuries against Australia in 1998, known as the 'Desert Storm,' in front of a packed stadium.



- ▶▶ Sachin Tendulkar's outstanding performance in the final match of the Coca-Cola Cup, a triangular series between India, Australia, and New Zealand, held on April 22 and 24, 1998, is widely recognized as the 'Desert Storm'. He scored an impressive 143 and 134 in these two matches, which has been recorded in the history books. Tendulkar has scored a total of 49 centuries in One Day Internationals (ODIs) across 34 stadiums, but his exceptional performance at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, where he scored the twin hundreds in April 1998, remains a memorable and celebrated achievement among his fans worldwide.

**About the Sharjah Cricket Stadium -**

- ▶▶ The Sharjah Cricket Stadium is a popular cricket stadium located in the emirate of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It is one of the oldest cricket stadiums in the region, having been built in 1982. The stadium has a seating capacity of around 27,000 spectators and has hosted a large number of international cricket matches, including One Day Internationals (ODIs), Test matches, and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).
- ▶▶ The stadium is well-known for its unique floodlights, which were installed in 1996 and were the first of their kind in the world. The stadium has also been awarded the Guinness World Record for hosting the most number of ODIs, with a total of 244 matches being played at the venue.
- ▶▶ Over the years, the Sharjah Cricket Stadium has witnessed many historic moments in cricketing history, with some of the most notable ones being Sachin Tendulkar's "Desert Storm" innings of back-to-back centuries against Australia in 1998 and Javed Miandad's last-ball six off Chetan Sharma to secure a win for Pakistan against India in 1986. The stadium remains a popular venue for cricket matches, with many high-profile matches, including IPL games and Asia Cup finals, being played there.
- ▶▶ The Sharjah Cricket Stadium has been awarded the Guinness World Record for hosting the most number of One-Day Internationals (ODIs), with a total of 244 matches being played at the venue. It has witnessed some of the most memorable moments in cricketing history over the years.

**Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara named gates unveiled at iconic SCG**

- ▶▶ Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar has turned 50 this year on 24 April and to honour him the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia has unveiled a set of gates named after him. Along with him, the SCG also added the name of another cricketing legend Brian Lara, who will be sharing the honour with Sachin Tendulkar. The gates were unveiled to mark Tendulkar's 50th birthday and the 30th anniversary of Lara's 277 at the SCG, in which he scored a century in the test played in January 1993. With this new honour, both the legends will join the league of great Donald Bradman, Alan Davidson and Arthur Morris.



- ▶▶ Looking at the data, Lara's 277 remained to his highest at the SCG, where he totalled 384 runs at the ground in four Tests overall. Meanwhile, Sachin had an average of 157 at the iconic ground, where he scored 785 runs in five Tests over the years with three centuries. It also includes the memorable 241 not out in January 2004. In 13 international matches at SCG, Mr. Tendulkar has scored 1,100 runs at an average of 100, with four centuries and four fifties and the best score of 241\*. Behind West Indies' Viv Richards (1,134 runs) and Desmond Haynes (1,181 runs), he is the third-highest run-scorer at the venue among non-Australian players. In his 67 international matches there, Tendulkar scored 3,300 runs at an average of 42.85. He scored seven centuries and 17 half-centuries in the country, with the best score of 241\*....

## **IPL 2023 : David Warner becomes most capped overseas captain in IPL, surpasses Adam Gilchrist**

- ▶▶ David Warner became the most capped overseas captain in Indian Premier League (IPL) history when he walked out for the toss for Delhi Capitals against Kolkata Knight Riders during an IPL 2023 game in Delhi. The 36-year-old Warner surpassed compatriot Adam Gilchrist with his 75th appearance as captain in the IPL.



- ▶▶ Warner led the SRH side into the Playoffs in 2017 before his one-year ban from competitive cricket due to the Sandpaper Gate scandal in 2018. Warner then returned as SRH's leader in 2020 and propelled the side to the Playoffs once again. While he was removed from captaincy mid-way through the 2021 season by SRH, Warner returned to the leadership role this season after regular skipper Rishabh Pant was indefinitely rule out of competitive cricket due to an accident in December 2022.
- ▶▶ Warner first captained in the IPL during his previous stint with the Delhi Capitals (then Daredevils) in 2013, when he stood as the stand-in captain for Mahela Jayawardena. Warner was then roped in by Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2014 before the Australian took over the reins from Daren Sammy in 2015. Warner is the joint-most successful foreign captain alongside Gilchrist with 35 wins. Warner has racked up over 3000 runs as captain in the IPL and has the highest average (47.20) among all captains who have crossed the mark....

## **FIFA : Argentina to replace Indonesia as under-20 World Cup host**

- ▶▶ FIFA has selected Argentina to host the under-20 soccer World Cup after revoking the hosting rights from Indonesia.
- ▶▶ FIFA has selected Argentina to host the under-20 soccer World Cup after revoking the hosting rights from Indonesia. This decision was made after Indonesia's football association cancelled the draw scheduled to take place in Bali due to the governor's refusal to host Israel's team.

- ▶▶ The South American Football Confederation Congress received the official bid from the Argentine Football Association to host the under-20 soccer World Cup from May 20 to June 11. The tournament's official draw will take place in Zurich. Argentina, which has won a record six titles, last hosted the under-20 World Cup in 2001. Additionally, it is in the running to jointly host the 2030 World Cup finals alongside Uruguay, Chile, and Paraguay.



**About the FIFA U-20 World Cup -**

- ▶▶ The under-20 soccer World Cup, also known as the FIFA U-20 World Cup, is a biennial international football tournament organized by FIFA for the national teams of men's under-20 age group. The tournament was first held in 1977 as the FIFA World Youth Championship, and since then, it has been held every two years except for a brief period from 1979-1985. The tournament has been won by a variety of countries, with Argentina having the most wins with a total of six titles. The most recent tournament was held in 2019 and was won by Ukraine....

**Harmanpreet Kaur & Suryakumar Yadav named Wisden T20I player of 2022**

- ▶▶ The Indian duo of Suryakumar Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur has added another feather to their outstanding crown after bagging the Wisden Almanack's leading cricketer in the World awards. Suryakumar won the honour of Wisden Almanack's leading T20I cricketer while Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to win the Cricketer of the Year award.



**Overview of the news :**

- ▶▶ The year 2022 in T20Is was almost like a net session for Suryakumar. Wherever he went, he amassed runs for fun: a total of 1164 of them at a stunning strike rate of 187.43. This included 68 sixes, something no T20I batter has ever done in a calendar year. His two centuries and nine half-tons — including three in the 2022 T20 World Cup alone — helped India win 28 of their 40 games last year. His standout knock in 2022 of the 55-ball 117 at Nottingham, his maiden T20 hundred.
- ▶▶ As for Harman, she is one of the five Cricketers of the Year announced in the 2023 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. A well-deserved honour for the champion of Indian women's cricket in 2022, having led the Women in Blue to a 3-0 ODI series win on English soil, the first since 1999, and a Silver medal finish at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. She piled on 754 ODI runs, including an unbeaten 143 in the England ODIs and 524 T20I runs — spoke for itself as she continues to make history and rewrite it with her talent and commitment to the sport....

## Odisha's Bhubaneswar to host 2023 Intercontinental Cup in June

- ▶▶ Four-team Intercontinental Football Cup will be held in Bhubaneswar from June 9 to 18. This will be the third edition of the tournament with the previous two being held in Mumbai (2018) and Ahmedabad
- ▶▶ Four-team Intercontinental Football Cup will be held in Bhubaneswar from June 9 to 18. This will be the third edition of the tournament with the previous two being held in Mumbai (2018) and Ahmedabad (2019). Host India will be joined by Lebanon, Mongolia and Vanuatu in the tournament. The Indian men's national team had previously never played against Mongolia and Vanuatu. Against Lebanon, the hosts hold a record of playing six matches.
- ▶▶ The Indian team is currently on a five-match unbeaten streak on home turf, a run that began on June 8, 2022, with a 2-0 win over Cambodia in the AFC Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers Round 3 in Kolkata. Since then, Igor Stimac's side has defeated Afghanistan (2-1), Hong Kong (4-0), and then on to the Tri-Nation tournament, where it beat Myanmar (1-0) and the Kyrgyz Republic (2-0) in Imphal....



## Kagiso Rabada becomes the fastest player to take 100 wickets in IPL

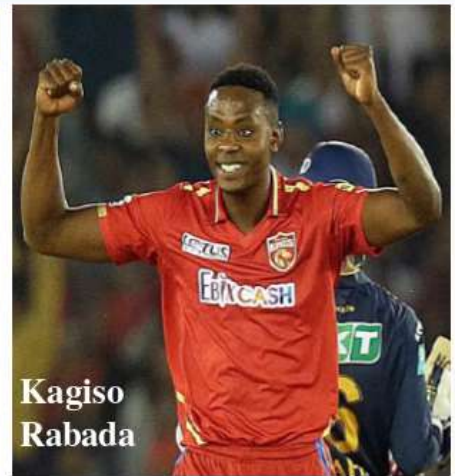
- ▶▶ During a match between Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans at IS Bindra Stadium, Kagiso Rabada achieved a significant milestone by taking his 100th wicket in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- ▶▶ During a match between Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans at IS Bindra Stadium, Kagiso Rabada achieved a significant milestone by taking his 100th wicket in the Indian Premier League (IPL). He became the fastest bowler to reach this milestone in terms of matches played, completing it in his 64th IPL match. Rabada, who is a right-arm pacer, surpassed Lasith Malinga, who reached the 100-wicket mark in his 70th match. The wicket that led to Rabada's achievement was that of Wriddhiman Saha.
- ▶▶ In 2020, while playing for Delhi Capitals, the 27-year-old Kagiso Rabada won the Purple Cap by taking the highest number of wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL). He took 30 wickets in 17 matches that season. In the IPL 2022 auction, he was purchased by Punjab Kings for Rs. 9.25 crore and picked up 23 wickets in 13 matches in the last season. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the fastest Indian to reach 100 IPL wickets, is the third-fastest overall to reach the milestone.



Rashid Khan, Amit Mishra, and Ashish Nehra are tied at fourth position, having taken 83 matches each to reach the 100-wicket mark, while Yuzvendra Chahal is fifth, having taken 84 matches.

**FASTEST TO 100 WICKETS IN IPL**

Bowler	Matches	Date
Kagiso Rabada	64	April 13, 2023
Lasith Malinga	70	May 18, 2013
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	81	April 17, 2017
Rashid Khan	83	April 23, 2022
Amit Mishra	83	May 10, 2014
Ashish Nehra	83	April 05, 2017
Yuzvendra Chahal	84	May 04, 2019



**Kagiso Rabada**

Success is not the key to happiness.  
Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.  
– Albert Schweitzer

# Important Days

## List of Important Days and Dates in April 2023

### Aprils Fools' Day

April Fools' Day is also known as All Fools' Day and is celebrated for centuries but its origins are uncertain. According to some historians, it was first celebrated in 1852, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar and some say that it is related to the turn of the seasons.

**1st  
April**

### Odisha Foundation Day

Odisha Foundation Day is celebrated on the 1st of April every year in memory of becoming a separate province on April 1, 1936.

**2nd  
April**

### World Autism Awareness Day

World Autism Awareness Day is observed on 2 April to raise awareness about autism and to educate people about it.

### International Carrot Day

In 2003, the lively root's first annual festival was held with the sole purpose of honouring the essential salad ingredient. At present, the event is celebrated with great joy and interest in France, Italy, Sweden, Russia, Australia, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

**4th  
April**

### Mahavir Jayanti

This is the most auspicious day for Jains and is observed by the Jain community across the world in memory of the last spiritual teacher of Jainism (Mahavir). This year it is celebrated on April 4.

**5th  
April**

### National Maritime Day

On 5th April every year in India National Maritime day is observed because on this date in 1919 navigation history was created SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd journeyed to the United Kingdom. It was a red-letter day in the account of Indian navigation.



**6th  
April**

### **International Day of Sports For Development And Peace**

An annual celebration of the ability of sport to promote social change, community development, and peace and understanding is observed as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

**7th  
April**

### **World Health Day**

As we know that “Health is wealth”. Therefore, World Health Day is celebrated worldwide every year on the 7th of April. Various programs and arrangements are managed by the World Health Organisation. It was the first time celebrated in 1950.

**10th  
April**

### **World Homoeopathy Day (WHD)**

WHD is observed every year on 10 April to pay tribute to the founder and father of the Homeopathy system of medicine Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann. The main aim of this day is to spread knowledge about Homeopathic medicine in public health. In fact from 10 April to 16 April World Homeopathy Week is celebrated annually and is organized by the World Homeopathy Awareness Organisation. Basically, this day is celebrated both for homoeopaths and also for those who have been healed with homoeopathy.

**11th  
April**

### **National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD)**

NSMD is observed on 11 April every year to create awareness about maternity facilities, lactating women, and also for proper health care given to women.

**13th  
April**

### **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**

It took place on 13 April 1919 at Amritsar and is also known as the Amritsar massacre. On this day, British troops under the Command of Gen Dyer fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in Amritsar in Punjab of India. Several hundred people were killed and many hundreds were wounded.

**14th  
April**

### **B. R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day**

B.R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day is also known as Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti which is observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B.R. Ambedkar. This day celebrates the birthday of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, an Indian politician, and social rights activist.

**17th  
April**

### **World Haemophilia Day**

World Haemophilia Day is observed on 17 April every year to increase awareness about hemophilia disease and other inherited bleeding disorders. In 1989, World Haemophilia Day was started by the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH) in honor of WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday.

**18th  
April**

### **World Heritage Day**

This day is observed every year on 18 April to preserve the human heritage and recognize the efforts of all the relevant organizations in the field. This day was announced by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982 and was approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.

**19th  
April**

### **World Liver Day**

It is observed on 19 April to spread awareness about the diseases related to the liver. The liver is the second largest organ in the body. After the brain, it is also the second most complex organ in the body. It performs various crucial functions associated with digestion, immunity, metabolism, and the storage of nutrients within the body.

**21st  
April**

### **National Civil Service Day**

Every year on 21 April Civil Service Day is celebrated to rededicate and recommit themselves to the cause of the people. On this day Civil servants from various parts of the country come together, share their experiences and also learn about others' experiences of working in the public sector.

### **Eid-Ul-Fitr**

Eid-ul-Fitr is observed during the first three days of Shawwl, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar, and marks the conclusion of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. It is customarily observed with a special meal, which for many Muslims is their first meal during the day in a month.

**22nd  
April**

### **World Earth Day**

This day is observed every year on 22 April to mark the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. In the Universe Earth is the only planet where life is possible and so it is necessary to maintain this natural asset. World Earth Day is celebrated to increase awareness about the importance of the planet.

### **Akshaya Tritiya**

The Hindu and Jain communities revere and celebrate Akshaya Tritiya, also known as Akha Teej, as a very auspicious and sacred day. People perform various rituals and other spiritual practices to fulfill their desired wishes.

## **World Book and Copyright Day**

Every year on 23rd April this day is celebrated to promote the enjoyment of books and reading. It is necessary to recognize the magical powers of books because they generate a link between the past and the future, a bridge between generations and across cultures.

**23rd  
April**

## **English Language Day**

English Language Day is celebrated on 23 April annually and is a United Nations (UN) observance day. The day coincides with both the birthday and death day of William Shakespeare and World Book Day

## **National Panchayati Raj Day**

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year on 24 April in India. On this day Constitution came into force with effect on 24 April 1993. In 2010 the first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated. A new part in the Constitution Part IX was added by passing the 73rd Amendment Act from Article 243 to 243 (O) titled "The Panchayats" and a new Eleventh Schedule consisting of 29 subjects within the functions of Panchayats was also added.

**24th  
April**

## **World Day For Animals in Laboratories**

World Lab Animal Day is another name for World Day For Animals In Laboratories, observed every year on April 24 globally. The purpose of this day is to draw attention to the suffering and killing of animals that take place in laboratories all around the world.

## **World Malaria Day**

World Malaria Day is celebrated every year on 25 April to raise awareness about the disease malaria, how to control it, and how to eradicate it completely. In 2008, the first Malaria Day was celebrated, which was developed from Africa Malaria Day, which was an event observed since 2001 by the African governments. At the 60th session of the World Health Assembly in 2007, it was proposed that Africa Malaria Day be changed to World Malaria Day.

**25th  
April**

## **World Intellectual Property Day**

This day is celebrated every year on 26 April and was established by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in 2000 to raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks, and designs impact daily life. And also it plays an important role that intellectual property rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity.

**26th  
April**

**28th  
April**

## **World Day for Safety and Health at Work**

This day is observed on 28 April every year by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) since 2003. This day marks how to improve occupational safety, and health and looks to continue these efforts through several changes like technology, demographics, climate change, etc.

## **International Dance Day**

It is observed on April 29 annually and is also known as World Dance Day. It is a wake-up call for governments, politicians, and institutions that have not yet recognized the importance of dance.

**29th  
April**

## **Sita Navami**

Sita Navami marks the birth anniversary of Maa Sita. Also known as Sita Jayanti, it is celebrated exactly after one month after Ram Navami. On this day, married women observe a fast and offer prayers for their husbands' long lives. \

## **International Astronomy Day**

International Astronomy Day is observed twice a year, on May 15 and October 9, respectively, just before the first quarter moon of spring and fall. Doug Berger, who at the time served as the president of the Astronomical Association of Northern California, established World Astronomy Day. He wanted to pique urban residents' interest in astronomy.

**29th  
April**

## **International Sculpture Day**

Every year, on the last Saturday in April, which occurs on April 29 this year, we mark International Sculpture Day. It is a celebration that honours sculpting and works that have been sculptured.

**30th  
April**

## **Ayushman Bharat Diwas**

The purpose of Ayushmaan Bharat Diwas is to promote the goals of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. This program demonstrates the accomplishment of Indian government goals that are in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). So, these are the National and International important Days in April 2023 month which

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



1. 'Proba-3 Mission', which will be launched aboard ISRO's PSLV, is associated with which space agency?  
[A] NASA [B] ESA [C] JAXA [D] CNSA
2. Which institution is to set up the 'Corporate Debt Market Development Fund'?  
[A] RBI [B] SEBI [C] NSE [D] BSE
3. 'National League for Democracy' is a famous political party based in which country?  
[A] India [B] Myanmar [C] Sri Lanka [D] Pakistan
4. 'Lynx-U2 System' is an indigenously developed naval gun fire control system, manufactured by which institution?  
[A] HAL [B] DRDO [C] BEL [D] BHEL
5. World Bank approved 100 million USD loan for implementation of State Capability and Resilient Growth Program of which state?  
[A] Odisha [B] Kerala [C] Goa [D] Gujarat
6. World Health Organisation (WHO) certified which countries as Malaria-free recently?  
[A] India and Sri Lanka [B] Azerbaijan and Tajikistan  
[C] Pakistan and Afghanistan [D] Nepal and Bangladesh
7. Which country is the host of 'International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence'?  
[A] India [B] UK [C] USA [D] France
8. IMF's Extended Fund Facility has been recently approved for which country?  
[A] Pakistan [B] Afghanistan [C] Bangladesh [D] Ukraine
9. 'Schengen area' is associated with which association?  
[A] ISA [B] SAARC [C] G-20 [D] European Union
10. Which country recently held a referendum on a new constitution (April 2023)?  
[A] Sri Lanka [B] Uzbekistan [C] Afghanistan [D] Iran
11. The 'Draft National Curriculum Framework for School Education' provides frame work for children of which age group?  
[A] 3-18 [B] 5-15 [C] 5-10 [D] 6-18

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

12. Which Union Ministry notified amendments to the 'Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics code) rules, 2021'?  
[A] Ministry of Home Affairs [B] Ministry of Electronics and IT  
[C] Ministry of External Affairs [D] Ministry of Finance
13. 'Juice Mission', which was seen in the news, is associated with which space agency?  
[A] NASA [B] ISRO [C] ESA [D] JAXA
14. 'Hay Fever' is associated with which country?  
[A] Japan [B] China [C] Australia [D] UK
15. Which state is associated with the 'Electronic Knowledge Network'?  
[A] Karnataka [B] Assam [C] Bihar [D] Gujarat
16. The 'Stand Up India Scheme' has been extended till which year?  
[A] 2025 [B] 2027 [C] 2030 [D] 2050
17. Which institution released the 'Stacking up the Benefits Lessons from India's Digital Journey' Report?  
[A] World Bank [B] IMF  
[C] World Economic Forum [D] NITI Aayog
18. Which Asian country has been elected to UN Statistical Commission for a 4-year-term?  
[A] India [B] Sri Lanka [C] China [D] Bangladesh
19. 'Gaia Mission', which was seen in the news, is associated with which space agency?  
[A] ISRO [B] NASA [C] ESA [D] JAXA
20. What is 'Raccoon Stealer' which was seen in the news?  
[A] Animal [B] Malware [C] Crypto-currency [D] Super computer
21. Which institution released the 'World Energy Transitions: Outlook 2023' report?  
[A] International Renewable Energy Agency  
[B] International Monetary Fund  
[C] World Bank  
[D] United Nations Environment Programme
22. Which Indian state organised the 'Food Conclave 2023' brainstorming event?  
[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Telangana  
[C] Andhra Pradesh [D] Karnataka
23. Which state/UT hosted the '5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure'?  
[A] New Delhi [B] Mumbai [C] Chennai [D] Jaipur
24. 'Nathu La' is a mountain pass located in which state/UT?  
[A] Sikkim [B] Assam [C] Jammu and Kashmir [D] Uttarakhand
25. Which country launched the 'Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative'?  
[A] USA [B] UK [C] Australia [D] Germany

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

26. 'Mahila Nidhi' is the first ever women's cooperative fund launched by which state/UT?  
[A] Kerala [B] Rajasthan [C] Karnataka [D] Andhra Pradesh
27. Which country has recently voted to ban rental e-scooters?  
[A] USA [B] India [C] France [D] Finland
28. Which state/UT repealed the 'LoktantraPrahariSamman Act'?  
[A] Himachal Pradesh [B] Assam  
[C] Gujarat [D] Rajasthan
29. Which state is the host of the 'Cope India Exercise'?  
[A] Sikkim [B] Maharashtra [C] West Bengal [D] Punjab
30. What is the name of the single shape that can be used to cover a surface completely without creating a repeated pattern?  
[A] Einstein Tile [B] Ramanujan Tile  
[C] C V Raman Tile [D] Newton Tile
31. Which country is the host of the Bilateral Maritime exercise 'SLINEX-2023'?  
[A] India [B] Sri Lanka [C] France [D] Singapore
32. 'Salar de Atacama' is the largest salt flat found in which country?  
[A] Argentina [B] Chile [C] South Africa [D] Brazil
33. Sea Lamprey, which was seen in the news, belongs to which species?  
[A] Turtle [B] Fish [C] Snake [D] Spider
34. ISRO conducted the 'Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission' along with which institutions?  
[A] DRDO and IAF [B] DRDO and BEL  
[C] DRDO and HAL [D] DRDO and BARC
35. Salim Durani, who was seen in the news, was associated with which profession?  
[A] Business-person [B] Sports-person  
[C] Politician [D] Scientist
36. 'Mircha' Rice, which recently received GI Tag, is from which state/UT?  
[A] Uttarakhand [B] Assam  
[C] Sikkim [D] Bihar
37. Which state/UT has announced to set up the 'Education Service Selection Commission'?  
[A] Gujarat [B] Rajasthan [C] Uttar Pradesh [D] Odisha
38. Vibrant Villages Programme is implemented by which Union Ministry?  
[A] Ministry of Home Affairs  
[B] Ministry of External Affairs  
[C] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
[D] Ministry of Rural Development

**26-B 27-C 28-A 29-C 30-A 31-B 32-B 33-B 34-A 35-B**  
**36-D 37-C 38-A**

39. 'National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical System (NM-ICPS)' is associated with which Union Ministry?  
 [A] Ministry of Electronics and IT  
 [B] Ministry of Science and Technology  
 [C] Ministry of Home Affairs  
 [D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
40. When is the 'World Homoeopathy Day' observed every year?  
 [A] April 1 [B] April 5 [C] April 10 [D] April 15
41. Which institution launched the 'cVigil App'?  
 [A] Supreme Court of India [B] Election Commission of India  
 [C] Indian Medical Association [D] Reserve Bank of India
42. Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease is prevalently spreading in which country?  
 [A] USA [B] UK [C] New Zealand [D] Russia
43. 'Tropospheric Emissions Monitoring of Pollution Instrument' is a device of which space agency?  
 [A] ISRO [B] NASA [C] ESA [D] JAXA
44. How many villages are covered under the 'My Village My Heritage Programme'?  
 [A] 1 thousand [B] 10 thousand  
 [C] 1 lakh [D] 10 lakh
45. INS Tarnugli is being transferred to which country in line with India's SAGAR Mission?  
 [A] Sri Lanka [B] Maldives [C] Nepal [D] Bangladesh
46. What is the name coined for the collection of marine debris in the Northern Pacific Ocean?  
 [A] High Sea Debris [B] Mid Oceanic Debris  
 [C] Great Pacific Garbage Patch [D] American Debris Stream
47. The PTP-NER Scheme has been launched by which Ministry?  
 [A] Ministry of Home Affairs [B] Ministry of Finance  
 [C] Ministry of Tribal Affairs [D] Ministry of Commerce
48. Where is 'Mt Annapurna' situated?  
 [A] India [B] Nepal [C] Bangladesh [D] China
49. Which state in India has become the first to adopt Water Budget?  
 [A] Maharashtra [B] Uttar Pradesh  
 [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Kerala
50. Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Programme is associated with which state / UT?  
 [A] Bihar [B] Odisha  
 [C] Jammu and Kashmir [D] Ladakh
51. Which city is the host of the 'G20 Space Economy Leaders Meeting' in India?  
 [A] Bengaluru [B] Chennai [C] Shillong [D] Kolkata

**39-B 40-C 41-B 42-C 43-B 44-C 45-B 46-C 47-C 48-B  
 49-D 50-C 51-C**



52. Which Indian state/UT announced 'Dr. B R Ambedkar Award' for recognising people involved in the welfare of Dalits?  
[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Telangana  
[C] Madhya Pradesh [D] West Bengal
53. Which city is the host of the 'Global Conference on Compressed Biogas'?  
[A] Mumbai [B] Mysuru [C] New Delhi [D] Chennai
54. Which country is the host of 'SCO Millets Food Festival'?  
[A] Japan [B] India [C] China [D] Sri Lanka
55. Virginia Norwood, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?  
[A] Politics [B] Aerospace [C] Business [D] Sports
56. Uttaramerur inscription, which was seen in the news, is found in which state?  
[A] Gujarat [B] Tamil Nadu [C] Karnataka [D] Odisha
57. Buzi Bridge, which was inaugurated recently, was built by India in which country?  
[A] Sri Lanka [B] Maldives [C] Mozambique [D] Bangladesh
58. 'Incident Management Services' is associated with which Union Ministry?  
[A] Ministry of Home Affairs  
[B] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways  
[C] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
[D] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare
59. Which institution has launched the 'Mission 50K-EV4ECO'?  
[A] RBI [B] SIDBI [C] SEBI [D] NITI Aayog
60. 'Satuani and JurSital' are the festivals celebrated in which state/UT?  
[A] West Bengal [B] Bihar [C] Assam [D] Karnataka
61. When is 'Ambedkar Jayanti' observed in India?  
[A] January 14 [B] February 14 [C] March 14 [D] April 14
62. Which state/UT launched the 'A-HELP Programme'?  
[A] Assam [B] Uttarakhand [C] West Bengal [D] Karnataka
63. Which institution released the 'Status of Women in Agrifood Systems' Report?  
[A] FAO [B] UNICEF [C] NABARD [D] NITI Aayog
64. Which country has developed the 'Hwasong-18 intercontinental ballistic missile'?  
[A] USA [B] North Korea [C] Ukraine [D] Russia
65. Which country was recently hit by 'Cyclone Ilsa'?  
[A] USA [B] Australia [C] Russia [D] Germany
66. 'Cumbum PanneerThratchai' grapes, which received G.I tag recently, is from which state/UT?  
[A] Odisha [B] Tamil Nadu [C] Karnataka [D] West Bengal

**52-B 53-C 54-B 55-B 56-B 57-C 58-C 59-B 60-B 61-D**  
**62-B 63-A 64-B 65-B 66-B**

67. Which country conducted the 'International Aviation Safety Assessment'?
- [A] India [B] USA [C] Australia [D] Russia
- 
68. Which country is the host of the first-ever 'Global Buddhist Conference'?
- [A] Thailand [B] Singapore [C] China [D] India
- 
69. Which armed force launched the Regional Pollution Response Exercise 'RPREX-2023'?
- [A] Indian Army [B] Indian Navy  
[C] Indian Coast Guard [D] Indian Air Force
- 
70. Which country has declared a drug named 'xylazine' as an emerging threat?
- [A] India [B] USA [C] China [D] Sri Lanka
- 
71. Which portal is launched by Central Bureau of Narcotics to simplify the licensing and EXIM authorizations?
- [A] Ice Gate 2.0 Portal [B] Unified Portal of Central Bureau of Narcotics  
[C] Adarsh Seva Portal [D] Nav Nirman Portal
- 
72. What is "Colistin", which is in the news recently?
- [A] Antibiotic drug [B] Ayurvedic Medicine  
[C] Covid variant [D] Fungi
- 
73. Which space agency has released the image of Crab Nebula?
- [A] ISRO [B] European Space Agency  
[C] Roscosmos [D] NASA
- 
74. Where is Zojila tunnel being constructed?
- [A] Himachal Pradesh [B] Assam  
[C] Arunachal Pradesh [D] Jammu and Kashmir
- 
75. Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) is the information database of which international organisation?
- [A] World Bank [B] Bank for International Settlement  
[C] International Atomic Energy Agency [D] Central Bureau of Indirect Taxes and Excise
- 
76. 'District Disability Rehabilitation centre (DDRC)' is an initiative of which Union Ministry?
- [A] Union Social Justice and Empowerment  
[B] Union Law and Justice  
[C] Union Science and Technology  
[D] Union Health and Family Welfare
- 
77. Which city is the host of 'Global Clean Energy Action Forum'?
- [A] New Delhi [B] Pittsburg [C] Paris [D] Rome
- 
78. Which state has announced to set up NITI Aayog-like state-level institution?
- [A] Kerala [B] Maharashtra [C] Telangana [D] West Bengal
- 
79. As of 2022, which country is the largest bilateral lender to Sri Lanka?
- [A] China [B] India [C] Australia [D] USA

**67-B 68-D 69-C 70-B 71-B 72-A 73-D 74-D 75-C 76-A**  
**77-B 78-B 79-B**

80. Who is the first Indian to win four medals at World Wrestling Championships?  
[A] VineshPhogat [B] Bajrang Punia  
[C] Babitakumari [D] Gita Phogat
81. What is 'Magnaportheoryzae' which was seen in the news recently?  
[A] Plant [B] Fungus [C] Bacterium [D] Insect
82. What amount has been allotted to the 'National Quantum Mission'?  
[A] Rs 1000 crore [B] Rs 2000 crore  
[C] Rs 3000 crore [D] Rs 6000 crore
83. Which city hosted the 'National Conference on Water Sufficient Panchayat, Clean & Green Panchayat and Healthy Panchayat'?  
[A] Pune [B] Chennai [C] New Delhi [D] Guwahati
84. Which Union Ministry is associated with the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023?  
[A] Ministry of Communication  
[B] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
[C] Ministry of Culture  
[D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
85. Which state passed a bill to provide reservation in state government jobs from 60 percent to 77 percent?  
[A] Kerala [B] Jharkhand [C] West Bengal [D] Andhra Pradesh
86. Which institution launched the 'State of World Population' Report?  
[A] UNICEF [B] UNFPA [C] WEF [D] IMF
87. Miguel Diaz-Canel, who was seen in the news, is the President of which country?  
[A] Italy [B] Cuba [C] Israel [D] South Africa
88. Which institution launched the 'Coalition of Coastal Cities to Combat Marine Litter'?  
[A] NITI Aayog [B] Centre for Science and Environment  
[C] UNESCO [D] UNICEF
89. Which Union Ministry has developed the 'National Climate Vulnerability Index'?  
[A] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
[B] Ministry of Science and Technology  
[C] Ministry of Power  
[D] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
90. Which country has launched the '1 Billion Meals Endowment' Campaign?  
[A] Israel [B] Ukraine [C] UAE [D] USA
91. Which country is the host of the 'EU-India Aviation Summit'?  
[A] India [B] Italy [C] Germany [D] Finland
92. Which country is the host of the multinational air Exercise INIOCHOS-23?  
[A] India [B] Indonesia [C] Greece [D] USA

**80-B 81-B 82-D 83-C 84-B 85-B 86-B 87-B 88-B 89-B**  
**90-C 91-A 92-C**

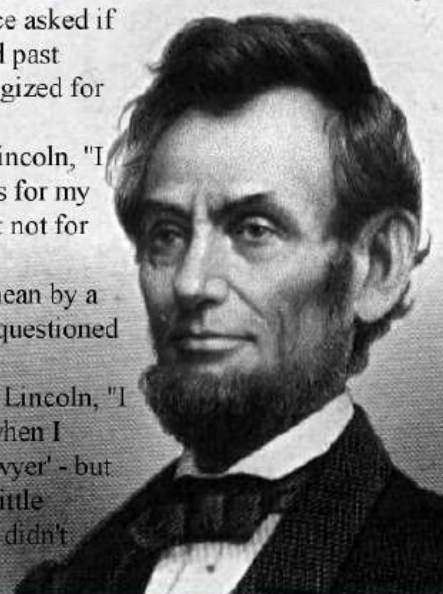
93. Which Union Ministries are associated with the '100 Food Streets' initiative?  
 [A] Health Ministry and Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry  
 [B] Environment Ministry and Jal Shakti Ministry  
 [C] Co-operation Ministry and Agriculture Ministry  
 [D] Agriculture Ministry and Health Ministry
94. 'TeLEOS-2' that was launched as the primary satellite of PSLV, belongs to which country?  
 [A] UAE [B] Israel [C] Singapore [D] Bangladesh
95. The 'Vote from Home' Initiative has been introduced for the first time in the Assembly Elections of which state?  
 [A] Kerala [B] Karnataka [C] Andhra Pradesh [D] Odisha
96. Which institution released a report titled 'State of Global Climate'?  
 [A] WMO [B] IMF [C] WEF [D] UNEP
97. 'Mission Youth', which received the PM Award for Excellence under Innovation Category, is from which state/UT?  
 [A] Karnataka [B] Jammu and Kashmir  
 [C] Odisha [D] Jharkhand
98. What is the theme of 'World Earth Day 2023'?  
 [A] Our Planet; Our Pride [B] Invest in Our planet  
 [C] Earnest Earth [D] Earth and Environment
99. Which country has developed 'GRX-810', a 3D printed superalloy?  
 [A] India [B] UAE [C] USA [D] Israel
100. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched nine campaigns under Inclusive Development (Samaveshi Vikaas) theme in which state?  
 [A] Gujarat [B] Madhya Pradesh  
 [C] Assam [D] West Bengal

Lincoln was once asked if he ever admitted past errors and apologized for them.

"Yes," replied Lincoln, "I do make amends for my big mistakes but not for little ones."

"What do you mean by a little mistake?" questioned his companion.

"Well," drawled Lincoln, "I once said 'liar' when I meant to say 'lawyer' - but there was such little difference that I didn't correct it."



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