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Current Affairs

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September 2023

Govt. Exams

Current Affairs September 2023

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The Reliable Publication, Mumbai

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Appointment

Sanjay Kumar Agarwal takes charge as CBIC Chairman

- IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Agarwal succeeds Vivek Johri who superannuated as CBIC chief on May 31. In an order issued on August 5, the finance ministry had appointed Agarwal, who was holding charge of CBIC member compliance management, looking into investigations.
- The CBIC, which deals with policy making in indirect taxes —GST, customs, excise — is headed by a chairman and has six members in the board. The board is assisted by principal chief commissioners/ chief commissioners and principal director generals/ director generals.



About the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) -

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is responsible for the administration of indirect taxes in India, which include customs, central excise, service tax, and goods and services tax (GST). The CBIC also has the responsibility of preventing tax evasion and smuggling.
- The CBIC was established in 1947, following the independence of India. It was originally called the Central Board of Revenue (CBR). The CBR was responsible for the administration of all taxes in India, including direct taxes and indirect taxes. In 2000, the CBR was split into two boards: the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the CBIC. The CBIC took over the responsibility of administering indirect taxes.
- The CBIC is headed by a Chairman, who is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India. The Chairman is assisted by a number of members, who are also IRS officers. The members are responsible for different areas of work in the CBIC, such as customs, excise, service tax, and GST.
- The CBIC has a number of offices located all over India. The headquarters of the CBIC is located in New Delhi. The CBIC also has regional offices, zonal offices, and field formations.
- The CBIC is a very important organization in the Indian government. It is responsible for collecting a significant amount of revenue for the government. The CBIC also plays a vital role in preventing tax evasion and smuggling.

Here are some of the key functions of the CBIC :

- ✓ Administering indirect taxes in India
- ✓ Preventing tax evasion and smuggling
- ✓ Formulating policy recommendations for indirect taxes
- ✓ Implementing laws and regulations related to indirect taxes
- ✓ Providing training to officers and staff of the CBIC
- ✓ Conducting research on indirect taxes
- The CBIC is a dynamic organization that is constantly evolving. It is committed to providing efficient and effective administration of indirect taxes in India. The CBIC is also committed to preventing tax evasion and smuggling. The CBIC plays a vital role in the economic development of India.

Important

- ✓ **CBIC Chairperson : Vivek Johri;**
- ✓ **CBIC Founded : 1 January 1964.**

Justice Subhasis Talapatra sworn in as new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

- Justice Subhasis Talapatra was officially appointed as the 33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. The oath of office was administered by Governor Ganeshi Lal, marking his succession of Justice S Muralidhar.
- He is set to hold the position of Chief Justice for a relatively short period of under two months, concluding with his retirement on October 3, 2023.

Justice Talapatra's Judicial Journey: From Tripura to Orissa High Court -

- Born on October 4, 1961, in Udaipur, Tripura, Justice Talapatra began his judicial journey.
- He assumed the role of a judge in the Tripura High Court on September 13, 2013, having previously served as an additional judge in the same court from November 15, 2011.
- In 2018 and 2019, he had the honor of temporarily holding the position of acting Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court on two occasions.
- He was transferred to the Orissa High Court as a judge on June 1, 2022, where he officially took the oath of office on June 10, 2022.

Nomination of Justice Talapatra for Chief Justice of Orissa High Court by Supreme Court Collegium -

- Justice Talapatra's nomination for the role of Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court was put forth by the Supreme Court Collegium, under the leadership of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.
- The Collegium of the Supreme Court is composed of the five most senior judges, including the Chief Justice of India. Their responsibilities encompass evaluating the promotion of Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts to the Supreme Court, the promotion of High Court Judges to Chief Justices, and the elevation of Judges.



Important

- ✓ **Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal**

Microsoft appoints Puneet Chandok to lead India operations

- Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia, effective from September 1, 2023. He will take over operational responsibilities from Anant Maheshwari and will lead the integration of Microsoft's businesses across South Asia, including countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Puneet aims to strengthen Microsoft's presence in the region and focus on key industries through a customer-centric approach, with generative AI as a core technology.
- This appointment comes during a period of significant market expansion for Microsoft, especially in cloud technology and digital innovation. With a massive partner ecosystem globally, including a substantial network in India generating high cloud revenue, and investments in local infrastructure, such as a new data center in Hyderabad, Microsoft's growth aligns with India's emergence as a global innovation hub. The company is dedicated to serving the market with transformative digital technology to contribute to India's economic

progress and inclusive growth agenda.

About Microsoft India -

- Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT" @microsoft) enables digital transformation for the era of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge. Its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. Microsoft set up its India operations in 1990. Today, Microsoft entities in India have over 20,000 employees, engaged in sales and marketing, research, development, customer support, and industry solutions across 10 Indian cities – Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, New Delhi, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Noida, and Pune. Microsoft offers its global cloud services from local data centers to accelerate digital transformation across Indian startups, businesses, and government organizations.



Important

- ✓ **Microsoft Founders:** Bill Gates, Paul Allen;
- ✓ **Microsoft Headquarters:** Redmond, Washington, United States;
- ✓ **Microsoft Chairperson:** Satya Nadella (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer).

Tesla appoints India-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its CFO

- Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down. He was appointed Tesla CFO in addition to his current role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car major after Kirkhorn, Tesla's Master of Coin and finance chief for the last four years, stepped down from the post.
- Mr Kirkhorn's 13-year tenure with the Elon Musk-led American EV giant was described as one of "tremendous expansion and growth" in the company filing.



Career and experience of Vaibhav Taneja -

- Mr Taneja has served as Tesla's CAO since March 2019 and as the Corporate Controller since May 2018. He served as the Assistant Corporate Controller between February 2017 and May 2018, and from March 2016, served in various finance and accounting roles at SolarCity Corporation, a US-based solar panel developer acquired by Tesla in 2016. Before that, Mr Taneja was employed at PricewaterhouseCoopers in both India and the US between July 1999 and March 2016.

Who Is Tesla's New CFO Vaibhav Taneja ?

- Taneja is a commerce graduate. He did his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Delhi University between 1996 and 1999. He also pursued his Chartered Accountancy from Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, between 1997 and 2000.

Important

- ✓ **Tesla Founders:** Elon Musk, Martin Eberhard, JB Straubel, Marc Tarpenning, Ian Wright;
- ✓ **Tesla Founded:** 1 July 2003, San Carlos, California, United States;
- ✓ **Tesla CEO:** Elon Musk (Oct 2008–);
- ✓ **Tesla Headquarters:** Austin, Texas, United States.

Centre Appoints R. Doraiswamy as LIC Managing Director

- Government of India had appointed R. Doraiswamy as the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) managing director. He is currently executive director at the central office in Mumbai. He has been appointed as managing director of LIC in place of Mini Ipe with effect from the date of assumption of charge of office on or after September 1, 2023, and up to the date of his superannuation August 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the national insurer said in a regulatory filing.
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, had in June recommended the name of Mr. Doraiswamy as MD. The FSIB is headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Other members of the headhunter are the Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises; IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda, former LIC managing director Usha Sangwan, and former Oriental Insurance managing director A.V. Girija Kumar.



About the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) -

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is an Indian multinational public sector life insurance company headquartered in Mumbai. It is India's largest insurance company as well as the largest institutional investor with total assets under management worth ₹45.7 trillion (US\$570 billion) as of March 2023. It is under the ownership of Government of India and administrative control of the Ministry of Finance.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India was established on 1 September 1956, when the Parliament of India passed the Life Insurance of India Act, nationalising the insurance industry in India. Over 245 insurance companies and provident societies were merged together.

PR Seshadri appointed new MD & CEO of South Indian Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of PR Seshadri as Managing Director & CEO of the South Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2023.

Professional Background -

- PR Seshadri is an accomplished banker with experiences spanning multiple businesses, functional lines and geographies. He has significant experiences in enterprise level management and in the management of all key commercial banking business lines and he has substantial experience in successfully managing investors, boards and regulatory relationships in multiple geographies.
- PR Seshadri is a respected business leader with a proven track record of building and leading large teams to execute and deliver complex business objectives. He demonstrated his ability in creating new businesses as well as in problem solving. He is successful in scaling businesses – both existing and new – taking advantage of new technologies and new market opportunities.

Educational Background -

- He holds Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. PR Seshadri has served as, amongst other positions as, Managing Director & CEO of The Karur Vysya Bank Limited (KVB), Managing



Director & Regional Sales and Distribution Head, Citibank N.A., Asia Pacific, Singapore, Managing Director & Regional Head of Lending, Businesses, Citibank N.A., Asia Pacific, Singapore, Managing Director CitiFinancial Consumer Finance India Limited (CCFIL), India, Marketing Director, Citibank N.A, India Branches, Head of Structured Finance & Managing Director, CFRSIL & Integration Manager – Associates India Limited, Head of Banking Collections, Citibank N.A, India, Head of Automobile Finance -Northern India, Head of Community Banking, Northern India, and Mortgage Business, Head – Southern India, Citi India.

Important

- ✓ **South Indian Bank Headquarters : Thrissur**
- ✓ **South Indian Bank Founded : 25 January 1929**

Sachin Tendulkar to be EC's national icon

- Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will become a "National Icon" of the Election Commission (EC) and spread awareness regarding the need for greater voter participation in the electoral process. The poll body will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Tendulkar in the national capital on Wednesday. It will be a three-year agreement as part of which the cricketing legend will spread voter awareness.
- The EC's decision to appoint Tendulkar as its national icon is a significant step towards encouraging greater voter participation in India. Tendulkar's popularity and influence among the youth make him a powerful force for good, and he is sure to make a positive impact on the electoral process.



About the Collaboration -

- This collaboration will mark a significant step towards leveraging Mr. Tendulkar's unparalleled impact with the youth for increasing voters' participation in the forthcoming elections, especially in General Elections 2024, the EC said in a statement. Through this partnership, the EC aims to bridge the gap between citizens, especially youth and urban populations, and the electoral process thereby, trying to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy, it said.
- The Commission had last year recognised actor Pankaj Tripathi as a national icon. Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, actor Aamir Khan and boxer Mary Kom had been the poll body's national icons.

Here are some of the reasons why Sachin Tendulkar is special :

- He is widely regarded as one of the greatest cricketers of all time.
- He is an inspiration to millions of people around the world.
- He is a role model for the youth.
- He is a respected and popular figure in India.
- He has a strong commitment to social causes.
-

Justice Prakash Shrivastava Appointed as NGT Chairperson

- Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT). After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired. After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired in July, Justice Sheo Kumar Singh was appointed as the Acting Chairperson. Justice Srivastav Enrolled as Advocate on February 2, 1987. He Practised on Tax, Civil and Constitutional sides in the Supreme Court of India at

New Delhi. He was later appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on January 18, 2008 and became a permanent Judge on January 15, 2010.

Life and Career of Prakash Shrivastava -

- Justice Shrivastava was born on March 31, 1961. In the year 1987, he was enrolled as an advocate and practiced in tax, civil, and constitutional law, at the Supreme Court. Later, he was appointed as an additional judge at the Madhya Pradesh High Court on January 18, 2008 before being made permanent on January 15, 2010. Subsequently, Justice Shrivastava served as the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court from October 11, 2021 till his retirement on March 30, 2023.



About the NGT -

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialized body set up by the Government of India under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 to provide speedy and effective justice to cases related to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources. It is a quasi-judicial body with powers to hear and decide cases relating to environmental pollution, environmental degradation, and other matters affecting the environment.
- The NGT has its headquarters in New Delhi and has five zonal benches located at Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai, and Guwahati. The Tribunal is headed by a Chairperson who is a retired judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court. The other members of the Tribunal are also qualified legal professionals.

The NGT has the power to :

- hear and decide cases relating to environmental pollution, environmental degradation, and other matters affecting the environment;
- issue directions, orders, or decrees for the protection of the environment;
- award compensation for damages caused to the environment;
- take suo motu action on matters relating to environmental protection; and
- perform such other functions as may be prescribed,

Parminder Chopra appointed as CMD of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has appointed Parminder Chopra as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD); she becomes the first woman to lead India's largest NBFC. Chopra assumed the top job at the power sector lender with effect from August 14, 2023. She earlier held additional charge as CMD from June 1, and was Director (Finance) from July 1, 2020. She also played a key role in the successful implementation of a Rs 1.12 lakh crore Liquidity Infusion Scheme (LIS) for the power distribution sector, which was rolled out as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Career and experience of Parminder Chopra -

- Chopra has over 35 years of experience in the power and financial sector. At PFC, she has headed key finance functions, including resource mobilisation (domestic and international markets), banking, treasury, asset liability management and stressed asset resolution.
- Her prior experience includes stints in power sector majors such as NHPC and Power Grid Corporation of India.
- Under her leadership, PFC has increased funding to clean energy projects, including funding of electric vehicles, bio-fuels, hybrid renewables like Round The Clock, renewable equipment manufacturing, and recently signed



MoUs with clean energy developers worth Rs 2.40 lakh crore, to emerge a principal financier of clean energy projects.

Educational and Professional Background -

- Parminder Chopra holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Delhi University, a testament to her solid academic foundation. Furthermore, her credentials extend to being a qualified Cost and Management Accountant, showcasing her expertise in financial management. To enhance her managerial skills, she also possesses a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management.

About the Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is a financial institution based in India that specializes in providing funding and financial assistance for various power and energy-related projects. Established in 1986, PFC plays a crucial role in supporting the development of the power sector in the country.
- PFC's primary objective is to ensure the availability of funds for the expansion, modernization, and development of power generation, transmission, and distribution projects. It offers financial solutions to both public and private sector entities involved in the power industry.

Kamlesh Varshney, Amarjeet Singh Appointed SEBI whole-time members

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as SEBI Whole-Time Members. While Varshney, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a joint secretary at the revenue department in the Finance Ministry, Singh is an executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Both Varshney and Singh have been appointed for three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier, according to an order issued by the Secretariat of the ACC. At SEBI, Varshney and Singh will fill in the vacancies created by the retirement of S K Mohanty and Ananta Barua.



All about the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) -

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulator of the securities market in India. It was established in 1992 by the Government of India to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate, the securities market and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

SEBI has a wide range of powers and functions, including :

- Registering and regulating stock exchanges
- Regulating the activities of brokers, sub-brokers, and other intermediaries
- Monitoring the securities market for any irregularities or malpractices
- Taking action against those who violate the securities laws
- Educating investors about the securities market
- SEBI is a statutory body and its headquarters are in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It has regional offices in all major cities in India. SEBI has played a significant role in the development of the Indian securities market. It has helped to create a more transparent and orderly market, and has protected the interests of investors.

Here are some of the key achievements of SEBI :

- Increased investor awareness about the securities market
- Brought down the number of fraudulent and manipulative activities in the market
- Improved the corporate governance practices of listed companies
- Promoted the development of new products and services in the securities market

BPCL announces Rahul Dravid as Brand Ambassador

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has announced cricketer Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador. He will endorse BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and range of MAK lubricants. This exciting partnership highlights Bharat Petroleum's strong dedication to quality, authenticity, and excellence. Rahul Dravid embodies exceptional sportsmanship, serves as a role model, and possesses qualities such as integrity, dependability, and trustworthiness that align perfectly with our values at BPCL. Rahul Dravid will endorse BPCL's well-known Pure for Sure initiative and their range of MAK lubricants.



- As an icon who elevated Indian cricket to new heights, Rahul truly represents our values of trust, ethics, service, and consistency. His association with BPCL will further emphasize our commitment to delivering quality products consumers can rely on throughout the country.

About the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) -

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is an Indian public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It operates three refineries in Bina, Kochi and Mumbai. BPCL is India's second-largest government-owned downstream oil producer, whose operations are overseen by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It was ranked 309th on the 2020 Fortune list of the world's biggest Public sector undertakings in India, and 792nd on Forbes's 2021 "Global 2000" list.
- In 1976, the company was nationalized under the Act on the Nationalisation of Foreign Oil companies ESSO (1974), Burma Shell (1976) and Caltex (1977). On 24 January 1976, the Burmah Shell was taken over by the Government of India to form Bharat Refineries Limited. On 1 August 1977, it was renamed Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. It was also the first refinery to process newly found indigenous crude Mumbai High Field.

Infosys Signs Tennis Legend Rafael Nadal As Ambassador For 3 Years

- Infosys announces a three-year partnership with global tennis icon Rafael Nadal, appointing him as the brand ambassador and the face of Infosys' Digital Innovation. This partnership not only marks a milestone for Nadal but also signifies Infosys' dedication to transforming the tennis landscape through cutting-edge technologies.



Redefining Tennis Analysis Through AI -

- At the heart of this collaboration lies the creation of a match analysis tool infused with the power of artificial intelligence. This personalized tool is set to offer real-time insights to Nadal's coaching team, enabling them to simultaneously track data from his live matches during his return to the tour.

The tool will merge this live data with historical match information, facilitating a comprehensive analysis that will undoubtedly enhance Nadal's performance strategy.

Revolutionizing the Tennis Experience -

- Infosys has embarked on a journey to revolutionize the way tennis is experienced by fans, players, and coaches alike. Through its pioneering platforms for video and statistics analysis, the company has elevated training methodologies, offering players and coaches unprecedented insights into performance dynamics. Moreover, by integrating AI-assisted journalism platforms into match analysis, Infosys has enabled broadcasters to deliver

engaging content, enriching the viewer experience.

Pioneering a Synergy of Sportsmanship and Technological Ingenuity -

- The partnership between Infosys and Rafael Nadal signifies a remarkable fusion of sportsmanship and technological innovation. As both entities collaborate to reshape tennis through AI-powered insights and immersive digital experiences, they not only embrace the present but also lay the groundwork for a future where sports and technology harmoniously converge.

FIDC Announces Appointment Of Umesh Revankar As Chairman

- In a meeting convened in Mumbai, the managing committee of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) has appointed Mr. Umesh Revankar, who presently serves as the Executive Vice Chairman for Shriram Finance Limited, as the new Chairman of FIDC. This decision comes in recognition of Revankar's extensive experience and profound expertise in the financial services sector.



New Leadership for FIDC -

- Umesh Revankar's is set to take on this role for a two-year term, beginning on the 23rd of August, 2023. With decades of experience in the financial services industry, Revankar is poised to steer FIDC towards a new era of progress and advancement.

An Illustrious Career -

- Umesh Revankar's journey in the financial services industry spans over 35 years, starting as an executive trainee with Shriram Group in 1987. Through the years, he has climbed the corporate ladder, taking on various responsibilities and key leadership positions in business operations. His impactful contributions have been pivotal in establishing Shriram Transport Finance as India's largest commercial vehicle financier.

Diverse Roles and Achievements of Revankar Beyond Shriram Finance Limited -

- Apart from his significant contributions to Shriram Finance Limited, Revankar is also a Director for multiple companies within the Shriram Group. These include Shriram Automall India Limited, Shriram General Insurance, and Shriram Life Insurance. His educational background is equally impressive, holding a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in finance from Mangalore University. He has further honed his skills by participating in an Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business School.

Kamlesh Gandhi and K.V. Srinivasan Join as Co-chairmen of FIDC -

- To complement Umesh Revankar's leadership, Kamlesh Gandhi, CMD of MAS Financial Services Limited, and K.V. Srinivasan, CEO and WTD of Profectus Capital Private Limited, have been appointed as Co-chairmen of FIDC. This collaborative approach to leadership is expected to further enhance FIDC's effectiveness in driving growth and innovation within the financial services industry.

Emmerson Mnangagwa Wins Second Term As President Of Zimbabwe

- Emmerson Mnangagwa has been declared the winner of Zimbabwe's presidential election, securing a second term as the nation's leader. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced Mnangagwa as the victor with 52.6% of the vote, while his closest rival, Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC), trailed behind at 44%.
- This election marks a significant moment in Zimbabwe's political landscape, occurring six years after the fall of longtime ruler Robert Mugabe, who was ousted from power in a military coup.

Emmerson Mnangagwa: From Political Apprentice to Zimbabwe's "Crocodile" President -

- Born on 15 September 1942, Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa is a prominent Zimbabwean politician who assumed the role of Zimbabwe's President on 24 November 2017. A dedicated member of (Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front) ZANU-PF and a close associate of former President Robert Mugabe,

Mnangagwa occupied various key ministerial positions and served as Mugabe's Vice-President until November 2017.

- Taking the helm at the age of 80, Mnangagwa's ascendancy followed a 2017 military coup that deposed Zimbabwe's longstanding leader, Robert Mugabe, who had held authority since the country's independence in 1980. During the mid-1980s, Mnangagwa held responsibility for internal security. Mnangagwa was nicknamed as "The Crocodile," a creature renowned in Zimbabwean legend for its cunning and unyielding nature."



Indian Oil ropes in Chef Sanjeev Kapoor as its Brand Ambassador

- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), a prominent player in the oil and gas industry, is taking significant steps to expand its business in the commercial and industrial LPG segment. The company recently launched a captivating video conferencing featuring Celebrity Chef Sanjeev Kapoor as a brand ambassador for its Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand.

Introduction of Indane XTRATEJ LPJ Brand -

- In a recent event held in Bengaluru, V. Satish Kumar, Marketing Director at Indian Oil, unveiled a brand-new video commercial that highlights the Indane XTRATEJ LPG Brand. This new offering aims to provide a cost-efficient solution that not only meets the requirements of various segments such as hotels and hospitality but also addresses the growing expectations of customers in an era of rapid change.

Rapid Growth in Market Volume

- Sailendra, Executive Director at Indian Oil, revealed that the company has experienced remarkable year-on-year growth in the market volume of Indane XTRATEJ LPG. This growth signifies the positive demand for this product among consumers.

Saving and Benefits with XTRATEJ LPG -

- The Indane XTRATEJ brand comes with a guarantee of a minimum of 5% savings and users have the potential to save even more based on their usage pattern. This cost-effectiveness, combined with the endorsement by Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, makes XTRATEJ a compelling choice for businesses in the hospitality and commercial sector.



Awards

President Droupadi Murmu Approves 76 Gallantry Awards

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu has given her approval for 76 Gallantry awards to members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the occasion of Independence Day 2023. Among these honors are four Kirti Chakra awards (awarded posthumously), 11 Shaurya Chakra awards (including five posthumous), two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).



- Additionally, the President has sanctioned 30 Mention-in-Despatches awards to Army personnel, including a posthumous award for Army dog Madhu, and one for an Air Force member. These recognitions acknowledge their significant contributions in various military operations, such as Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Casualty Evacuation, Operation Mount Chomo, Operation Pangsau Pass, Operation Meghdoot, Operation Orchid, Operation Kalisham Valley, Rescue Operation, and Operation Evacuation.

Following is the list of Gallantry Awards approved by the President :

KIRTI CHAKRA

No.	Name and Rank	Service	Award
1)	Late Shri Dilip Kumar Das	Insp/GD	CRPF (Posthumous)
2)	Late Shri Raj Kumar Yadava	HC/GD	CRPF (Posthumous)
3)	Late Shri Bablu Rabha	Constable/GD	CRPF (Posthumous)
4)	Late Shri Sambhu Roy	Constable C/GD	CRPF (Posthumous)

SHAURYA CHAKRA

No.	Name and Rank	Service	Award
1	IC-76052K Major Vijay Verma	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
2	IC-76877P Major Vikas Bhambhu, Sena Medal (Posthumous)	252 Army Aviation Squadron	Army
3	IC-81741P Major Mustafa Bohara Sena Medal (Posthumous)	252 Army Aviation Squadron	Army
4	IC-79120X Major Sachin Negi	The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
5	SC-00905H Major Rajendra Prasad Jat	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
6	SC-00971L Major Ravinder Singh Rawat	The Armoured Corps, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Rawat
7	16013482F Hav Vivek Singh Tomar (Posthumous)	5th Battalion, The Rajputana Rifles	Army

No.	Name and Rank	Service	Award
8	16022160H Naik Bhim Singh	The Rajputana Rifles, 9th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
9	13779235X Rifleman Kulbushan	The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, 52nd Battalion, Manta (Posthumous) The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
10	Late Shri Saifullah Qadri, Sg. Constable	J&K Police	MHA
11	Shri Garvit Mukesh Kumar, Constable 61 CRPF	-	MHA

BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

No.	Name and Rank	Service	Award
1	IC-76180F Major Nitish Tyagi, Sena Medal	12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment Sena Medal	Army
2	IC-80201K Major A Ranjith Kumar, Sena Medal	The Parachute Regiment, High Altitude Warfare School	Army

SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

No.	Name and Rank	Service	Award
1	IC-64244P Lieutenant Colonel Yogesh Kumar Sati	523 Intelligence and Field Security Unit	Army
2	IC-71048X Lieutenant Colonel Dhruv Rajan	The Grenadiers, 29th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
3	IC-74633H Major Abhimanyu Repswal	The Armoured Corps, 22nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
4	IC-75393H Major Neikhotso Secu Angami	3rd Battalion, The 8th Gorkha Rifles	Army
5	IC-76219H Major Vikas Giri	The Parachute Regiment, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
6	IC-77779F Major Abhishek Tyagi	The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
7	IC-78013K Major Borawake Apoorv Suhas	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
8	IC-78151L Major Aashish Dhonchak	The Sikh Light Infantry, 19th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
9	IC-78779N Major Navdeep Goswami	6th Battalion, The Jat Regiment	Army
10	IC-79029F Major Rishabh Negi	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
11	IC-80202M Major Borawake Apoorv Suhas	4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
12	IC-80568K Major Abhishek Katoch	5th Battalion, The Rajput Regiment	Army
13	IC-81592M Major Saurabh Kumar	15th Battalion, The Kumaon Regiment	Army
14	IC-81775H Major Ranjit Kumar	The Brigade of the Guards, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
15	IC-83008H Major Santosh Kumar	11 Gorkha Rifles, 1 Sikkim Scouts Battalion	Army
16	IC-83108N Major Rishabh Kumar Nashine	9th Battalion, The Dogra Regiment	Army
17	IC-85077X Major Ronish Kumar	19th Battalion, The Punjab Regiment	Army
18	SC-00943Y Major Dhumal Rohan Shahaji	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
19	SS-46282H Major Maanas Narla	The Corps of Engineers, 30 (Independent) Reconnaissance and Observation Flight	Army
20	SS-46286Y Major Jaiveer Yadav	2nd Battalion, The Bihar Regiment	Army
21	SS-48532X Major Thakre Akash Ashok	61 Engineer Regiment	Army
22	SS-48926W Major Vikas Lamba	12th Battalion, The Mahar Regiment	Army

No.	Name and Rank	Service	Award
23	IC-82947Y Captain Aayush Chauhan	The Rajputana Rifles, 9th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
24	IC-85483X Captain Saurabh Gupta	12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
25	SS-50195M Captain Chetan Singh	The Corps of Signals, 34th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
26	JC-247925L Risaldar Sanjay Kumar	55 Armoured Regiment	Army
27	JC-551984N Naib Subedar Dipti Kumar Hazwari	5th Battalion, The Assam Regiment	Army
28	3202898H Havildar Manoj Kumar	The Jat Regiment, 34th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
29	4008286N Havildar Arun Kumar	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
30	4193965P Havildar Ranveer Singh	The Kumaon Regiment, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
31	4199936W Havildar Pradeep Kumar Singh	15th Battalion, The Kumaon Regiment	Army
32	13630562K Naik Sovindra Kumar	12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
33	18005135A Naik Dharmvir	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
34	19002538L Naik Hardeep Singh	24th Battalion, The Sikh Regiment	Army
35	2706631X Naik Munish Kumar	The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
36	3012008F Naik Satyendra Singh	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
37	3012377Y Naik Khemchand	5th Battalion, The Rajput Regiment	Army
38	4486359P Naik Harjinder Singh	The Sikh Light Infantry, 19th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
39	9114169H Naik Rafiq Ahmad Mir	The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
40	20004865Y Lance Naik Abhishek	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
41	3018169A Lance Naik Sanwra Choudhary	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
42	20007762L Sepoy Yashwant Singh	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
43	2518207X Sepoy Akashdeep Singh	18th Battalion, The Punjab Regiment	Army
44	3016460N Sepoy Sateram	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
45	3018182K Sepoy Sanwra Choudhary	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
46	3018252X Sepoy Dhan Singh Gurjar	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
47	3211310X Sepoy Vikash	The Jat Regiment, 34th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
48	12975042N Rifleman Shaheen Husain Gan	162 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army)	Army
49	15511217Y Sowar Ravi Sharma	The Armoured Corps, 22nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
50	16123961L Sapper Vishal Yadav	The Corps of Engineers, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
51	2713315F Grenadier Salim Khan	The Grenadiers, 29th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
52	15251500W Gunner Ramalingam K	The Regiment of Artillery, 19th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army

NAO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

No.	Name and Rank	Service
1	Lieutenant Commander Paneerselvam Vishnu Prasanna (08495-F)	Navy
2	Commander Kaustab Banerjee (06158-W)	Navy
3	Commander Hanish Singh Karki (05093-Z)	Navy

VAYU SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

No.	Name and Rank	Service
1	Wing Commander Shiv Kumar Chauhan (28472) Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
2	Wing Commander Shrey Tomar (30170) Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
3	Squadron Leader GL Vineeth (31529) Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
4	Flight Lieutenant Pradeep Murugan (36071) MET/GARUD	Air Force

Following is the list of 'Mention-In-Despatches' of Army and Air Force Personnel:

No.	Name and Rank	Operation	Service
1	Lieutenant Colonel Gimmy Thomas (IC-64239K)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
2	Major Ajit Kumar Rout (IC-72069A)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
3	Major Jaiddep Jakhar (IC-77241A)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
4	Major Amandeep Singh (IC-82779L)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
5	Major Ankit (SS-49906P)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
6	Havildar Amandeep Rana (4580203W)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
7	Naik Bashir Ahmad Ganai (12974354X)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
8	Acting Lance Dafadar Mohd Ibrahim Khan Mustufa Khan (7244077N)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
9	Sepoy Yudhveer (4205174M)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
10	Army Dog Madhu (8B99, Posthumous)	Operation Rakshak	Indian Army
11	Lieutenant Colonel Aakash Majumdar (SS-44547H)	Operation Snow Leopard	Indian Army
12	Major Jasvinder Chauhan (IC-79220H)	Operation Snow Leopard	Indian Army
13	Major Prateek Bist (IC-81520H)	Operation Snow Leopard	Indian Army
14	Captain Rahul Kaushal (SS-49899K)	Operation Snow Leopard	Indian Army
15	Havildar Madhukar Kumar (15168221M)	Operation Snow Leopard	Indian Army
16	Trainee Raptan Phuntsok (00073247K)	Operation Snow Leopard	Indian Army
17	Lieutenant Colonel Vikramjit Singh (IC-67128X)	Operation Casualty Evacuation	Indian Army
18	Lieutenant Colonel Roshnikanta Irungbam (IC-71283W)	Operation Casualty Evacuation	Indian Army
19	Captain Navneet Singh Rana (IC-83294P)	Operation Mount Chomo	Indian Army
20	Naib Subedar Jamail Singh (JC-192911H)	Operation Pangsa Pass	Indian Army
21	Rifleman Tidip Siksa (G/5013009H)	Operation Pangsa Pass	Indian Army
22	Havildar Jagjit Singh (13626980F)	Operation Meghdoot	Indian Army
23	Havildar Lovejit Singh (4483607P)	Operation Meghdoot	Indian Army
24	Havildar Rai Singh Uikey (G/3200992N)	Operation Orchid	Indian Army
25	Havildar Jagroop Singh (13626896F)	Operation Kalisham Valley	Indian Army
26	Naik Aravind Kumar Maurya (15583031L)	Rescue Operation	Indian Army
27	Major Parambeer Singh (IC-79986M)	CH&AC Meeting Approval	Indian Army
28	Major Nongmeikapam Danish (TA-42681P)	CH&AC Meeting Approval	Indian Army
29	Captain Abhishek Dhaka (IC-86130K)	CH&AC Meeting Approval	Indian Army
30	Naik Mahesh Shrestha (5050882X)	CH&AC Meeting Approval	Indian Army
31	Wing Commander Ashish Kapoor (28218)	Operation Evacuation	Indian Air Force

Subhash Runwal receives the Lifetime Achievement Award RICS

- Subhash Runwal, Chairman of Runwal, a leading real estate developer with a legacy of over four decades, has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the first-ever RICS South Asia Awards. RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is a global industry body representing professionals across the country.
- Hosting its first-ever awards, it aimed to recognize global and Indian industry-leading achievements and demonstrate the upholding of the highest standards of professionalism and ethics by individuals and teams across built and natural environments. This recognition is a testimony to Runwal's exceptional contributions, outstanding achievements, and unwavering dedication to the real estate sector.



About Runwal -

- Established in 1978, Runwal is one of Mumbai's premier real estate developers, operating in the residential, commercial, and organized retail verticals for over 4 decades, with a robust track record of 42+ delivered projects and 24 ongoing projects. The developer boasts of over 35,000+ happy families; it has continuously driven to keep the 'customer' as a focal point in the designing, planning, and construction of all its projects. The testimony of their legacy has been that 35+ awards have been won by the group over these years.

About the RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) -

- RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is a global industry body representing professionals across the country. Hosting its first-ever awards, it aimed to recognize global and Indian industry-leading achievements and demonstrate the upholding of the highest standards of professionalism and ethics by individuals and teams across built and natural environments.

Indian-American economist Raj Chetty awarded Top Harvard University prize

- Raj Chetty and Michael Springer awarded Harvard's George Ledlie Prize
- Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, and Michael Springer, a biologist, have been awarded Harvard University's George Ledlie Prize for their groundbreaking work in their respective fields.
- Chetty, a professor of economics at Harvard University, is known for his work on economic mobility. He has used big data to study the factors that influence a person's ability to move up the economic ladder. His research has shown that the American Dream is not as attainable as many people believe, and that there are significant obstacles that prevent people from achieving upward mobility.



- Springer, a professor of systems biology at Harvard Medical School, is known for his work on developing new diagnostic tests. He was instrumental in developing a faster and more accurate COVID-19 test, which has helped to improve the fight against the pandemic. He also helped to design and operate the new Harvard University Clinical Laboratory (HUCL), which has managed testing and samples for the university community.

About the George Ledlie Prize -

- The George Ledlie Prize is awarded by the President and Fellows of Harvard College to a member of the Harvard community who has made the most valuable contribution to science, or in any way for the benefit of

mankind. It is awarded no more frequently than every two years.

- Chetty and Springer are both deserving recipients of this prestigious award. Their work has made significant contributions to their respective fields, and it has helped to make the world a better place.

Here are some additional details about the two winners :

- Raj Chetty is a professor of economics at Harvard University and the director of Opportunity Insights, a research group that studies inequality. He is also a former advisor to US President Joe Biden on economic issues.
- Michael Springer is a professor of systems biology at Harvard Medical School. He is known for his work on developing new diagnostic tests, including a faster and more accurate COVID-19 test. He also helped to design and operate the new Harvard University Clinical Laboratory (HUCL).

69th National Film Awards 2023 Winners List Announced

- The winners of the 69th National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi. The 69th National Film Awards took center stage, unveiling a constellation of talented winners who have left an indelible mark on India's cinematic landscape. These awards are recognized as one of the highest honors in the field of film-making, serve as an evident to the dedication and creativity of individuals who contribute to the nation's rich cinematic tapestry.

National Film Awards Winners 2023 -

- In a glittering ceremony, the winners of the 69th National Film Awards were revealed. The Allu Arjun was awarded for the Best Actor for the film Pushpa while the Best Actress Award was presented to Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon for their films Gangubai Kathiawadia and Mimi respectively. The Best Feature Film Award was presented to The Nambi Effect. The Kashmir Files won the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration.



69th National Film Awards 2023 Complete Winners List

Category	Winner
▶ Best Feature Film	Rocketry
▶ Best Director	Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari
▶ Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	RRR
▶ Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration	The Kashmir Files
▶ Best Actor	Allu Arjun, Pushpa
▶ Best Actress	Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon, Mimi
▶ Best Supporting Actor	Pankaj Tripathi, Mimi
▶ Best Supporting Actress	Pallavi Joshi, The Kashmir Files
▶ Best Child Artist	Bhavin Rabari, Chhelo Show
▶ Best Screenplay (Original)	Shahi Kabir, Nayattu
▶ Best Screenplay (Adapted)	Sanjay Leela Bhansali & Utkarshini Vashishtha, Gangubai Kathiawadi
▶ Best Dialogue Writer	Utkarshini Vashishtha & Prakash Kapadia, Gangubai Kathiawadi
▶ Best Music Director (Songs)	Devi Sri Prasad, Pushpa
▶ Best Music Direction (Background Music)	MM Keeravaani, RRR
▶ Best Male Playback Singer	Kaala Bhairava, RRR
▶ Best Female Playback Singer	Shreya Ghoshal, Iravin Nizhal
▶ Best Lyrics	Chandrabose, Konda Polam's Dham Dham Dham
▶ Best Hindi Film	Sardar Udham

Category	Winner
▶▶ Best Kannada Film	777 Charlie
▶▶ Best Malayalam Film	Home
▶▶ Best Gujarati Film	Chhello Show
▶▶ Best Tamil Film	Kadasi Vivasayi
▶▶ Best Telugu Film	Uppena
▶▶ Best Maithili Film	Samanantar
▶▶ Best Mishing Film	Boomba Ride
▶▶ Best Marathi Film	Ekda Kaay Zala
▶▶ Best Bengali Film	Kalkokkho
▶▶ Best Assamese Film	Anur
▶▶ Best Meiteilon Film	Eikhoigi Yum
▶▶ Best Odia Film	Pratikshya
▶▶ Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director	Meppadiyan, Vishnu Mohan
▶▶ Best Film on Social Issues	Anunaad – The Resonance
▶▶ Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation	Aavasavyuham
▶▶ Best Children's Film	Gandhi and Co
▶▶ Best Audiography (Location Sound Recordist)	Arun Asok & Sonu K P, Chavittu
▶▶ Best Audiography (Sound Designer)	Aneesh Basu, Jhilli
▶▶ Best Audiography (Re-recordist of the final mixed track)	Sinoy Joseph, Sardar Udham
▶▶ Best Choreography	Prem Rakshith, RRR
▶▶ Best Cinematography	Avik Mukhopadhyay, Sardar Udham
▶▶ Best Costume Designer	Veera Kapur Ee, Sardar Udham
▶▶ Best Special Effects	Srinivas Mohan, RRR
▶▶ Best Production Design	Dmitri Malich and Mansi Dhruv Mehta, Sardar Udham
▶▶ Best Editing	Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Gangubai Kathiawadi
▶▶ Best Makeup	Preetisheel Singh, Gangubai Kathiawadi
▶▶ Best Stunt Choreography	King Solomon, RRR
▶▶ Special Jury Award	Shershaah, Vishnuvardhan
▶▶ Special Mention	1. Late Shri Nallandi, Kadasi Vivasayi 2. Aranya Gupta & Bithan Biswas, Jhilli 3. Indrans, Home 4. Jahanara Begum, Anur
▶▶ Best Non-feature film	Ek Tha Gaon
▶▶ Best Direction (Non-feature film)	Bakul Matiyani, Smile Please
▶▶ Best Debut Non-Feature Film of a Director	Paanchika, Ankit Kothari
▶▶ Best Anthropological Film	Fire on Edge
▶▶ Best Biographical Film	Rukhu Matir Dukhu Majhi and Beyond Blast
▶▶ Best Arts Films	T.N. Krishnan Bow Strings to Divine
▶▶ Best Science & Technology Films	Ethos of Darkness
▶▶ Best Promotional Film	Endangered Heritage 'Warli Art'
▶▶ Best Environment Film (Non-feature film)	Munnam Valavu
▶▶ Best Film on Social Issues (Non-feature film)	Mithu Di and Three Two One
▶▶ Best Investigative Film	Looking For Challan
▶▶ Best Exploration Film	Ayushman
▶▶ Best Educational Film	Sirpigalin Sirpangal
▶▶ Best Short Fiction Film	Dal Bhat
▶▶ Best Animation Film	Kandittundu
▶▶ Best Film on Family Values	Chand Saanse
▶▶ Best Cinematography (Non-feature film)	Bittu Rawat, Pataal
▶▶ Best Audiography (Re-recordist of the final mixed track) (Non-feature film)	Unni Krishnan, Ek Tha Gaon

Category	Winner
▶ Best Production Sound Recordist (Location/Sync Sound) (Non-feature film)	Suruchi Sharma, Meen Raag
▶ Best Editing (Non-feature film)	Abhiro Banerjee, If Memory Serves Me Right
▶ Best Music Direction (Non-feature film)	Ishaan Divecha, Succelent
▶ Best Narration/Voice Over (Non-feature film)	Kulada Kumar Bhattacharjee, Hathibondhu
▶ Special Mention (Non-feature film)	1. Aniruddha Jatkar, Baale Bangara, 2. Srikanth Deva, Karuvarai, 3. Sweta Kumar Das, The Healing Touch, 4. Ram Kamal Mukherjee, Ek Duaa
▶ Special Jury Award (Non-feature film)	Shekhar Babu Rankhambe, Rekha
▶ Best Book on Cinema	Music by Laxmikant Pyarelal: The Incredibly Melodious Journey by Rajiv Vijayakar
▶ Best Film Critic	Purushothama Charyulu
▶ Best Film Critic (Special Mention)	Subramanya Bandoor

National Film Awards -

- The National Film Awards, held annually, stand as a beacon of honor in the stream of Indian cinema. The National Film Awards are organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals, under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. They celebrate films that exhibit not only aesthetic and technical excellence but also social relevance, signifying the power of cinema as a medium of both art and impact.

History of National Film Awards -

- The National Film Awards were started in 1954 in the name of "State Awards." At that time, only best films in different regional languages were nominated and awarded. In 1967, it started giving awards for actors and technicians working on the films. The first actor to win Best Actress Award was Nargis for her performance in Raat Aur Din while Uttam Kumar won the Best Actor Award for Antony Firingee and Chiriyakhana.

Ratan Tata conferred with Maharashtra govt.'s 'Udyog Ratna' award

- Eminent industrialist Ratan Tata was conferred with the first ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar at the industrialist's home in Colaba in south Mumbai.
- The contribution of the Tata group in all sectors is immense. The steel-to-salt group operates in more than 100 countries across six continents. In 2021-22, the collective revenue of Tata companies stood at \$128 billion. The honour comprised a shawl, a citation and a memento from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). The award comprises a shawl, a citation, and a memento. It is presented by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.



About the Udyog Ratna award -

- The Udyog Ratna award is a prestigious award that recognizes the achievements of outstanding industrialists in Maharashtra. It is a testament to the contribution of these individuals to the economic development of the state. The award is named after the Sanskrit word "udyog", which means "enterprise" or "industry". It is a fitting name for an award that celebrates the achievements of those who have helped to build and grow the industrial sector of Maharashtra. The Udyog Ratna award is a great source of pride for the recipients, and it is a reminder of their contribution to the state's economic development. It is also an inspiration to others who are working to make a difference in the industrial sector.

5 young Indians among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award winners

- Five youths from India have been named among 17 teen environmental activists from across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award who have taken initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- Indian Youth Recognized as International Young Eco-Heroes for Environmental Initiatives
- The young eco-warriors who were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, "Action For Nature", are Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.



About the International Young Eco-Hero Awards -

- The International Young Eco-Hero Awards programme recognises and encourages children and teens from ages 8 to 16 who have taken action towards solving the most critical environmental issues.
- The awardees are eco-conscious youth who took the crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems. Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 20 years, "Action For Nature" has recognised 339 Eco-Heroes from 27 countries and 32 US states.

SVAMITVA Scheme Of Ministry Of Panchayati Raj Won National Award For E-Governance 2023

- The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme, initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has been honored with the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) in recognition of its groundbreaking application of emerging technologies to deliver citizen-centric services.
- The accolade was presented during the 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.
- The SVAMITVA honored with the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023.



The Significance of the National Conference on e-Governance -

- The two-day National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) was jointly organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- The event, themed "Viksit Bharat, Empowering Citizens," aimed to facilitate discussions on cutting-edge technologies, effective e-Governance strategies, and knowledge sharing among various stakeholders. The conference, held at the Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, served as a vital platform for brainstorming and exchanging insights on the latest technologies driving e-Governance initiatives.

Celebrating Innovative E-Governance Initiatives -

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, alongside prominent dignitaries and senior officials from both the Government

of India and State Governments, actively participated in the 26th National Conference on e-Governance. The event featured the presentation of the National e-Governance Awards across five distinct categories:

- **Government process re-engineering for digital transformation**
- **Application of emerging technology for providing citizen-centric services**
- **District-level initiative for e-Governance**
- **Research on citizen-centric services by academic and research institutions**
- **Application of emerging technology in e-Governance by start-ups**

- The conference effectively fostered discussions on the latest technological advancements in e-Governance, providing a platform for learning and collaboration.

Empowering Citizens through SVAMITVA Scheme -

- The SVAMITVA Scheme, a brainchild of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, represents a revolutionary initiative aimed at granting property ownership rights to individuals residing in village-inhabited areas. Leveraging state-of-the-art drone and Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies, the scheme facilitates the creation of Property Cards, allowing rural property owners to unlock the potential of their residential assets. These Property Cards are pivotal in obtaining bank loans and other financial benefits, while also contributing to the resolution of land-related disputes through the production of highly accurate, 5cm resolution maps.
- The scheme is executed through collaborative efforts involving Survey of India as the technology implementation partner, State Revenue and Panchayati Raj Departments, and NIC-GIS.



Economic

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Introduces Reforms for Transparent Home Loan EMIs

- In a significant move aimed at enhancing transparency and consumer protection in the home loan sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a comprehensive set of reforms pertaining to floating rate home loans. These reforms are designed to bring more clarity to the process of resetting interest rates, offer borrowers the option to switch to fixed interest rates, and prevent banks from unilaterally changing the loan tenure without proper consent.



Transparent Reset of Interest Rates :

- The RBI's reforms emphasize the need for banks to establish a transparent framework for resetting interest rates on floating rate home loans. Regulated Entities, including banks, are now required to:
 1. Clearly communicate with borrowers about potential changes in tenor and Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs).
 2. Provide borrowers the flexibility to switch from floating to fixed interest rate loans or foreclose their loans.
 3. Disclose all charges associated with exercising these options.
 4. Ensure effective communication of essential information to borrowers.
- These measures are expected to bolster consumer protection and improve transparency within the lending process.

Addressing Unreasonable Tenure Changes :

- A concern highlighted by the RBI was the undue elongation of loan tenures by lenders without obtaining proper consent or communication from borrowers. Instances where loan tenures were extended to over 30 years without borrower consent have been observed. To counter this issue, the RBI is implementing a conduct framework for all Regulated Entities.

Wholesale Price Deflation Narrows to 1.36% in July, Driven by Food Price Spike

- Wholesale prices in July contracted by 1.36% after a 4.12% deflation in June. Despite overall deflation, food and primary article prices surged by over 7.5%, reducing the dip from June's low.
- In July, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) continued to exhibit deflationary trends for the fourth consecutive month, although the decline was notably mitigated by a substantial increase in food and primary article prices. While the overall WPI deflation shrank from June's 92-month low of -4.1% to -1.36%, a surge of over 7.5% in food and primary article prices played a pivotal role in this shift.

Food and Primary Article Inflation Surges :

- Primary food article inflation reached an impressive 14.3% in July, marking its highest level in nearly a decade.

The surge in vegetable prices was particularly striking, with an 81.1% spike compared to June and a 62.1% increase from the previous year. Other staples like milk, wheat, cereals, pulses, and paddy saw year-on-year price hikes of over 8% to 9%.

Mixed Trends Within Food Category :

- While several food items experienced substantial price escalations, potatoes and fruits saw declines of 24.4% and 8.9%, respectively, in comparison to last July. However, the price of potatoes did increase by 8% from June. Onions, too, witnessed a notable price increase of nearly 28% since June 2023 and 7.13% from July 2022.



Retail Inflation Surges to 15-Month High of 7.44% in July

- In July, retail inflation in India experienced a significant upswing, reaching 7.44%, marking the highest rate since April 2022. This surge contrasts with the preceding four-month period of inflation below the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold. The increase is largely attributed to an 11.5% spike in food prices, making it the first time since September 2022 that the price rise has crossed the 7% mark.

Food Price Surge Drives Overall Inflation :

- Retail Inflation Surges to 15-Month High of 7.44% in July
- The primary driver of the July inflation surge was an impressive 11.5% increase in food prices, causing a ripple effect on the overall inflation rate. Notably, vegetable prices surged by a staggering 37.3%, while cereals and pulses became over 13% more expensive. Consequently, urban consumers saw their food bills rise by over 12.3%, while rural consumers experienced an 11% increase in food inflation. On the whole, rural residents faced a slightly higher overall inflation rate of 7.63% for the same period.



Consumer Price Index and Food Price Dynamics :

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 2.9% from the previous month, reflecting the swift inflationary pressures. The month-on-month increase in food prices was notable as well, with a 6.7% upsurge. These figures surpassed the expectations of most economists.

Implications for the Economy :

- The sudden surge in inflation poses challenges for the central bank's projections and policy decisions. The 7% inflation rate for two consecutive months raises questions about the possibility of triggering action from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Bank of Baroda's chief economist, Madan Sabnavis, points out that while the probability of an interest rate hike remains low, it cannot be ruled out entirely.

Unified Payment Interface (UPI) : Simplified Mobile Money Transfer in India

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionized digital transactions in India, enabling instant and secure fund transfers through mobile apps.

Unified Payment Interface (UPI): Introduction:

- UPI, or Unified Payment Interface, revolutionizes inter-bank transactions via mobile apps in India.
- Regulated by RBI and facilitated by NPCI, UPI enables instant, fee-free fund transfers.

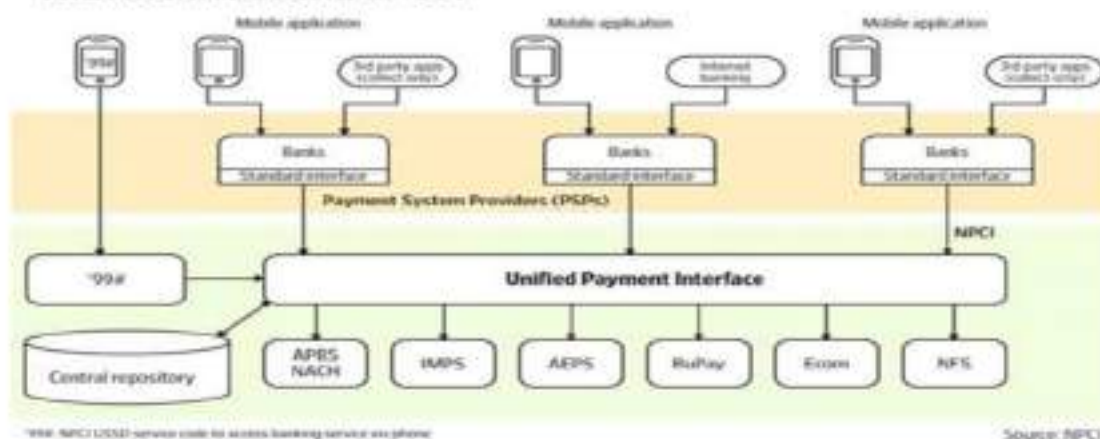
Unified Payment Interface (UPI) : Basics :

- UPI ID: Unique bank account identifier for sending/receiving funds.
- UPI PIN: 4/6-digit PIN for secure money transfer.
- Mobile payment apps like Paytm simplify UPI transactions using contacts or numbers.

Unified Payment Interface (UPI): Simplified Mobile Money Transfer in India



THE ARCHITECTURE OF UPI



Unified Payment Interface (UPI): Features :

- Speed: Payments completed within seconds.
- Wide Acceptance: Almost all banks offer UPI transactions via mobile apps.
- Security: Requires user's SIM card and secret MPIN.
- Request Money: Unique feature to request funds from individuals.
- Bill Payments: Set up reminders and pay bills easily.
- Complaints: Easy reporting of account issues.
- 24/7 Availability: Payments accessible round the clock.
- No Charges: UPI transactions are free of cost.

Unified Payment Interface (UPI): Benefits :

- Effortless Online Payments: Simplified digital transactions.
- Secure Transfers: Safe money transfer method.
- Diverse Payments: Bill payments, e-commerce shopping, QR code scanning.
- Convenience: Payments at local stores through QR codes.
- Rewards: Regular UPI users receive discounts, cashback, and rewards.

AU Bank Becomes India's First Bank To Provide 24x7 Video Banking Service

- AU Small Finance Bank, the largest small finance bank in India, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of their innovative 24x7 video banking platform. This pioneering service enables customers to engage in face-to-face video interactions with expert bankers, akin to video calls. This move redefines convenience, as it provides round-the-clock support, even during weekends and holidays.

Breaking Ground in Customer-Centric Services

- AU Small Finance Bank has etched its name in history as the first financial services provider in India to present a 24x7 live video banking solution.

Through this cutting-edge platform, customers gain unparalleled access to live video interactions with dedicated bankers at any hour, on any day. This leap in technology empowers not only tech-savvy millennials but also newcomers to banking, busy professionals, and senior citizens, delivering a personalized and hassle-free banking experience.

Enriching Accessibility through Innovation -

- AU's 24x7 Video Banking transcends the limitations of physical infrastructure, bridging gaps in service provision. The platform is particularly beneficial to regions with limited resources, extending vital banking services to previously underserved areas. This visionary move underscores AU Small Finance Bank's commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that even those residing in remote rural areas can access banking services as long as they possess an internet connection.



Airtel Payments Bank Launched India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card

- India's first payment bank, Airtel Payment Bank also became the first Indian Bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account. The debit cards will be crafted from recycle- Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified eco-friendly material, against normal PVC cards. The introduction coincides with the Bank's dedication to sustainability and its drive to advocate for environmentally conscious practices within the financial industry.

Environmental Impact -

- Each production batch of 50,000 cards will result in a reduction of 350 kgs of carbon emissions compared to the traditional PVC cards commonly used in the market.
- The production of r-PVC cards will lead to a 43% reduction in hydrocarbon consumption, playing a role in curbing petroleum usage during the manufacturing process.
- With each batch of r-PVC cards contributing to the conservation of an 6.6 million litres of water.

About new Debit cards -

Airtel Payments Bank debit card comes in two variants(under Classic variant)

- Personalised Classic Card: Availed through the Airtel Thanks mobile application.
- Insta Classic Card: Availed at selected neighbourhood banking points (by the close of the current quarter).

Note : The cards also offer the rewards with e-commerce benefits of up to INR 10,000, as well as complimentary One Dines experiences in major cities across India.



Important

- ✓ **Airtel Payment Bank MD & Chief Executive Officer: Anubrata Biswas;**
- ✓ **Airtel Payment Bank Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi;**
- ✓ **Airtel Payment Bank Established: 2017.**

RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting Highlights

- RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy meeting highlights encompass the RBI's decisions, economic assessments, inflation forecasts, and policy measures discussed during the August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting.

1. Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained the repo rate at 6.50% during its August 2023 monetary policy meeting.
- The decision was taken unanimously by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

2. Inflation Trends and Forecasts:

- Headline inflation, which dropped to 4.3% in May 2023, experienced a rise in June and is expected to further surge in July and August due to higher vegetable prices.
- The RBI has projected India's Q2 retail inflation at 6.2%, Q3 at 5.7%, and Q4 at 5.2% for the current fiscal year.
- The CPI inflation forecast for FY2023-24 has been revised from 5.1% to 5.4% due to shocks in vegetable prices.

3. Economic Outlook:

- Despite weak external demand, domestic economic activity remains robust and is likely to maintain its momentum.
- The RBI has retained the GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year at 6.5%, with balanced risks.

4. Monitoring Inflation Trajectory :

- The MPC remains committed to aligning inflation with the target of 4% and anchoring inflation expectations.
- The cumulative rate hike of 250 basis points implemented by the MPC is gradually affecting the economy.
- The MPC decided to stay vigilant and assess the evolving situation before making any policy changes.

5. Liquidity Measures :

- The RBI has instructed banks to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% on the growth in deposits between May 19 and July 28, effective from the August 12 fortnight.

6. UPI Payment Updates :

- The RBI announced changes in UPI payments, allowing offline payments using near-field communication.
- The payment limit via UPI Lite has been increased from Rs 200 to Rs 500.

7. Transition to Fixed-Rate Regime :

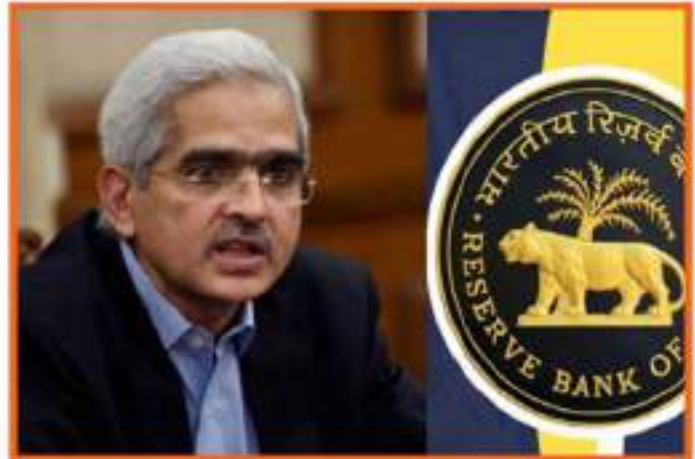
- Home loan and other borrowers are permitted to switch to a fixed-rate regime, according to the RBI's directive.

8. Consistent Policy Stance :

- This marks the third consecutive monetary policy meeting in which the MPC has chosen to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.50%.
- Previously, the MPC had increased the repo rate by 250 basis points from May 2022 to February 2023.

9. Positive Indian Economic Outlook :

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das noted that the Indian economy remains a bright spot in the global landscape.



Digital payments grew significantly at 13.24% in FY23, shows RBI index

- In the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23), digital payments in India experienced remarkable growth, as indicated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI). The RBI-DPI, a comprehensive measure of payment digitization, displayed a substantial increase across all parameters during this period, driven by significant advancements in payment infrastructure and performance across the country. The index for March 2023 recorded a value of 395.58, marking a 13.24% growth compared to September 2022 (377.46), as announced on January 31, 2023.



RBI-DPI's Growth Trajectory -

- The RBI-DPI began with a base index value of 100 in March 2018 and has been consistently rising ever since. It provides a reliable gauge of the extent of digital payment adoption in India and is updated semi-annually, with a four-month lag.

Key Parameters of RBI-DPI -

The RBI-DPI encompasses five major parameters, each representing crucial aspects of the digitization of payments. These parameters are:

1. **Payment Enablers:** This parameter evaluates the factors that facilitate digital payment adoption, such as the availability of digital wallets, mobile banking services, and internet penetration.
2. **Payment Infrastructure – Demand Side Factors:** Focusing on the consumers' end, this parameter examines the accessibility and ease of using digital payment platforms, including point-of-sale (POS) devices and payment gateways.

HDFC Bank's Jagdishan Highest Paid Bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55cr Pay

- In the fiscal year 2023, Sashidhar Jagdishan, the CEO of HDFC Bank has taken the top spot as the highest paid bank CEO. With an overall package of Rs.10.55 crore, Jagdishan's compensation stands out among his peers in the banking sector.

Jagdishan's success -

- Sashidhar Jagdishan took over as CEO of the HDFC Bank in late 2020 and has shown exceptional leadership during his tenure. His contribution to the bank's growth and profitability has been rewarded with a total remuneration of over Rs.10.55 crore in the FY23 which positions him as the highest-earning bank CEO in the country.
- Jagdishan's package included a basic salary of Rs.2.82 crore, allowances and perquisites of Rs.3.31 crore, provident fund of Rs.33.92 lakh and a performance bonus of Rs.3.63 crore.



Kaizad Bharucha's Impressive Earning -

- Kaizad Bharucha, the deputy managing director of the HDFC bank, is another high-earning executive from HDFC Bank with the total earning of Rs.10 crore for FY23. Bharucha is likely the second highest grossing banker in India. His expertise and strategic contribution in the bank's operations have been duly recognised in his compensation.

Highest Paid Bank CEOs -

- Among other prominent bank CEOs, Amitabh Chaudhary of Axis Bank ranks high in terms of remuneration. With a payout of Rs.9.75 crore in FY23, he is among the highest-paid bank CEO in the country. Following closely is Sandeep Bakshi of ICICI Bank with the total earning of Rs.9.60 crore for FY23.

Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards

- In a significant partnership, Axis Bank has joined forces with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to introduce two groundbreaking lending products. These products are powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC), a pioneering initiative launched by RBIH.

Innovative Lending Products for Seamless Credit :

Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) for Agricultural Growth -

- Digital Agricultural Financing: Axis Bank is set to revolutionize agricultural financing by launching the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) through the PTPFC platform.
- Initial Rollout: As a pilot project, the KCC will be initially offered in Madhya Pradesh, catering to the agricultural community in the region.
- Limit and Accessibility: Eligible customers will be able to access KCCs with a credit limit of up to Rs 1.6 lakh, empowering them to invest in their agricultural endeavors.
- Streamlined Application Process: The entire application process for KCC will be conducted digitally, eliminating the need for customers to submit physical documents.

Unsecured MSME Loans for Business Growth :

- Empowering Small Businesses: Recognizing the importance of small businesses, Axis Bank is introducing unsecured loans through the PTPFC platform to bolster the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- Nationwide Availability: Unlike the region-specific KCC, these MSME loans will be accessible across the country, aiming to support small businesses across diverse sectors.
- Generous Loan Ceiling: Qualified customers will be eligible for loans of up to Rs 10 lakh, providing the financial boost required for their business expansion plans.
- Simplified Application: Similar to the KCC process, the application for these MSME loans will be streamlined and entirely digital, ensuring a hassle-free experience for applicants.



RBI Raises Offline Payment Transaction Upper Limit to ₹ 500 from ₹ 200 "

- In a recent development, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes to the offline payment transaction regulations, aiming to enhance user convenience and digital payment adoption. The central bank has decided to increase the upper limit of offline payment transactions from ₹200 to ₹500, with immediate effect. This move is part of RBI's ongoing efforts to streamline payment processes and adapt to evolving consumer needs.

Key Changes and Limits -

1. **Increased Transaction Limit :** The upper limit for offline payment transactions has been raised to ₹500. This means that consumers can now make



offline payments up to ₹500 using their payment instruments without the need for an active internet connection. This adjustment seeks to facilitate smoother transactions for small to moderate purchase amounts.

2. **Total Offline Transaction Limit :** It's important to note that while the upper limit per offline transaction has been increased, the total limit for offline transactions on a payment instrument remains ₹2,000. This ensures a balance between convenience and security, preventing excessive financial exposure in case of any unauthorized usage.
 3. **Replenishment Process :** To maintain security standards, the process of replenishing the used transaction limit is allowed only in online mode with an additional factor authentication (AFA). This extra layer of security ensures that the replenishment process is safeguarded against potential fraudulent activities.
- Transaction Alerts and Liabilities

RBI Introduces UDGAM Portal : Your Guide to Reclaiming Unclaimed Deposits

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a groundbreaking solution for individuals seeking their unclaimed deposits. Named the UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) portal, this centralized web platform is designed to simplify the process of locating unclaimed deposits across various banks. Here's a comprehensive breakdown of the key features and steps involved:

The Purpose of UDGAM Portal -

- The RBI's UDGAM portal serves as a user-friendly tool for individuals to track down their unclaimed deposits seamlessly, consolidating information from multiple banks into a single accessible location. With the growing prevalence of unclaimed deposits, RBI has been proactively promoting awareness campaigns to educate the public about this issue. Through UDGAM, RBI aims to empower citizens to identify their unclaimed deposits and engage with their respective banks to initiate claims.

How UDGAM Works ?

- The UDGAM portal simplifies the process of identifying and claiming unclaimed deposits by streamlining the steps involved. RBI collaborated with Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and select banks to develop this platform.
- Currently, the UDGAM portal provides access to unclaimed deposit information from seven banks, including prominent names like State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, South Indian Bank, Central Bank of India, Dhanlaxmi Bank, DBS Bank India, and CitiBank N.A. For other banks, the search feature will be introduced in phases by October 15, 2023.

Registration Process on UDGAM Portal -

- Getting started with the UDGAM portal is a straightforward process. Follow these steps to register and initiate your search for unclaimed deposits:
 1. **Visit the Portal :** Head to the UDGAM portal.
 2. **Register :** Fill in your mobile number, name, password, and the provided CAPTCHA. After completing the form, submit your details.
 3. **OTP Verification :** An OTP will be sent to your registered mobile number. Enter this OTP to proceed.
 4. **Login :** Use your registered mobile number and password to log in to your UDGAM account.
 5. **Additional OTP :** Once you've entered your login details, you'll be prompted to enter another OTP for added security.
 6. **Enter Search Criteria :** You'll be directed to a page where you need to input the account holder's name and the bank's name. Additionally, choose at least one search criterion from options like PAN, Voter ID, Driving License Number, Passport Number, or Date of Birth.
 7. **Initiate Search :** Click on the search button to trigger the system to retrieve and display your unclaimed deposits' details.



National

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras To Be Established Across The Country

- The Railways Ministry is embarking on a significant endeavor aimed at establishing Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) at railway stations throughout the country. This initiative holds the primary objective of ensuring the availability of top-notch medicines to the public, all while maintaining an affordable price point.
- As part of this progressive initiative, the Ministry has meticulously curated a list of fifty railway stations that will serve as the launching grounds for the pilot project. This strategic selection aims to lay the groundwork for greater accessibility to Janaushadhi products for both passengers and visitors frequenting these bustling stations.



Objectives of Implementing PMBJKs at Railway Stations -

- The establishment of PMBJKs addresses the pressing healthcare requirements of passengers while fostering an improved overall experience. The primary objectives of introducing PMBJKs at railway stations are as follows:
 1. **Promoting Affordable Healthcare Access**
 - The establishment of PMBJKs underscores the Government of India's commitment to ensuring the availability of quality medicines and consumables (Janaushadhi products) to all citizens at affordable prices. By making essential healthcare products accessible within railway stations, this initiative contributes significantly to fulfilling this mission.
 2. **Convenient Access to Janaushadhi Products**
 - PMBJKs are strategically positioned within the circulating areas and concourses of railway stations, ensuring that passengers and visitors can conveniently access Janaushadhi products. This convenience factor plays a crucial role in enabling individuals to prioritize their health and wellness even during their travels.



India's first Solar Mission Aditya L1 to be launched soon

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is launching its first solar mission, Aditya-L1, to study the Sun. The mission will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), which is about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. From this vantage point, Aditya-L1 will be able to study the Sun's atmosphere, magnetic fields, and space weather impacts.

Mission Overview -

- **Halo Orbit Placement:** Aditya-L1 is designed to be positioned in a halo orbit around the L1 Lagrange point, ensuring a stable vantage point for continuous solar observations.
- **Launch and Deployment:** The mission will be launched using the ISRO PSLV rocket from the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR) in Sriharikota. The spacecraft will initially be placed in a low Earth orbit,

which will then be transformed into an elliptical orbit before reaching L1 using on-board propulsion.

- **Cruise Phase and Halo Orbit:** As the spacecraft journeys towards L1, it will exit Earth's gravitational sphere of influence, marking the commencement of the cruise phase. Once at L1, it will enter a vast halo orbit around the Lagrange point.

Mission Objectives -

- **Solar Upper Atmospheric Dynamics:** Aditya-L1's primary objective is to study the dynamic behavior of the Sun's upper atmosphere, including the chromosphere and corona. The mission seeks to understand processes like chromospheric and coronal heating, and the initiation of solar eruptive events.
- **Space Weather Impact:** By observing solar activities and their impact on space weather in real-time, the mission aims to contribute to the understanding of solar events like coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and their influence on Earth's space environment.
- **Particle and Plasma Environment:** Aditya-L1 will provide valuable data on particle dynamics from the Sun, contributing to the study of solar wind, particle propagation, and the partially ionized plasma in the solar atmosphere.

Payloads and Scientific Instruments -

- **VELC (Visible Emission Line Coronagraph):** This payload will focus on studying the corona through imaging and spectroscopy, along with observing coronal mass ejections.
- **SUIT (Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope):** SUIT will capture images of the photosphere and chromosphere, measuring solar irradiance variations and facilitating narrow and broadband imaging.



Dharmendra Pradhan launches DBT in NAPS to strengthen apprenticeship ecosystem

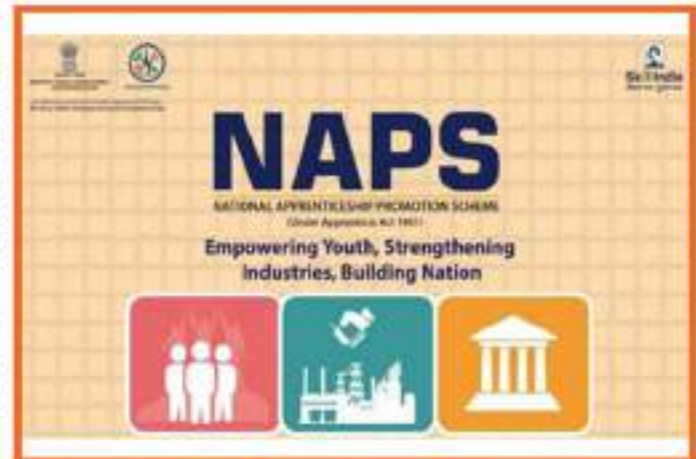
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to strengthen apprenticeship training and encouraging the involvement of both industries and young individuals.
- During the launch event, an approximate sum of Rs. 15 crores was disbursed to one lakh apprentices, signifying the official commencement of DBT in NAPS.

Progress and Impact of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme -

- Since its inception in 2016 until July 31, 2023, the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme has engaged a total of 25 lakh youths as apprentices. The scheme has witnessed remarkable progress, with around 2.6 lakh apprentices successfully completing their training in the fiscal year 2023-24.
- A notable achievement attributed to the Government of India's proactive efforts is the exponential growth in the number of active establishments participating in apprenticeship training. The count has surged from 6,755 in 2018-19 to an impressive 40,655 in 2023-24.

Minister's Perspective and Industry Interaction -

- Lauding the launch of DBT in NAPS, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan expressed his enthusiasm for invigorating the apprenticeship ecosystem in the nation. He emphasized that this initiative is aligned with Prime Minister



Modi's vision and congratulated the one lakh apprentices who received stipends through DBT on this auspicious occasion.

- The Minister interacted with industry clusters and passionate apprentices from various states, including Maharashtra, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. The engagement showcased the substantial progress in apprenticeship training, including a remarkable 488% increase in the number of establishments engaged in training since the inception of NAPS.

In a First In India, Goa To Give Free IVF Treatment In Govt Hospital

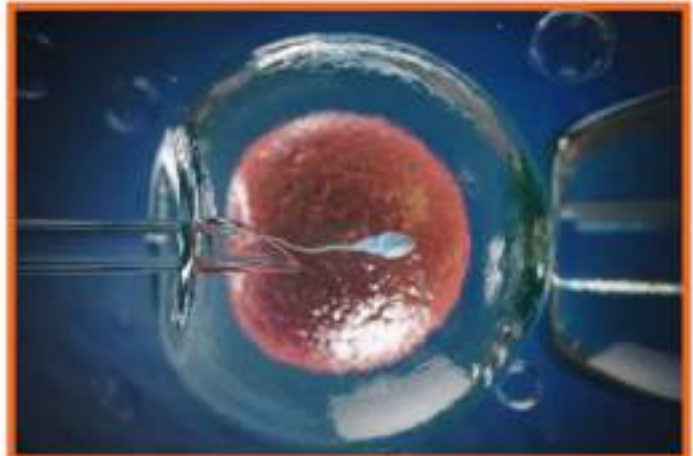
- In a significant stride towards accessible and affordable healthcare, Goa has emerged as the trailblazer among Indian states by introducing free In vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment.
- This groundbreaking initiative, coupled with assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), was officially inaugurated by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at the Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim.

A Landmark for Healthcare: Goa Leads the Way -

- With this momentous development, Goa establishes itself as a trailblazer in healthcare services. Goa Medical College's super-speciality block is now equipped to offer IVF treatment, responding to the needs of the community with compassion and innovation. Approximately 100 hopeful parents have already registered with GMC, eager to avail the IVF facility.

Addressing the Financial Burden -

- In India, the cost of IVF treatment has often been a significant deterrent for couples seeking fertility solutions. Depending on the hospital and the complexity of the IVF procedure, the expenses can range from Rs 70,000 to Rs 3 lakh per cycle. The financial burden often leaves many individuals and families grappling with limited options. The Goa government's decision to offer free IVF treatment directly addresses this pressing concern, easing the financial strain on couples and expanding access to reproductive healthcare.



India's First Long-Range Revolver 'Prabal' To Be Launched On August 18

- India is set to introduce its first long-range revolver named 'Prabal' on August 18 marking a stride forward in the realm of indigenous firearm manufacturing
- In a significant stride towards indigenous manufacturing and innovation, the state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), based in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, is all set to unveil 'Prabal', India's first long-range revolver. The launch date is marked for August 18, ushering in a new era of personal defense firearms.

Revolutionizing Firearm Design: Prabal's Unique Features -

- Designed and manufactured by AWEIL, this lightweight 32 bore revolver boasts an exceptional range, capable of accurately hitting targets up to 50 meters away. This remarkable range is more than double that of other revolvers currently in production, establishing Prabal as a frontrunner in the field of long-range handguns.
- A remarkable feature that sets Prabal apart from its counterparts is the incorporation of a side swing cylinder. This innovative design element eliminates the need to fold the firearm for cartridge insertion, simplifying the



reloading process and enhancing user convenience.

- With a mere weight of 700 grams (excluding cartridges), a barrel length of 76 mm, and an overall length of 177.6 mm, Prabal is ergonomically designed for ease of use. Its trigger pull is designed to be effortless, enabling a wide range of individuals, including women, to handle it confidently.

Accessible and Compliant: Prabal's Licensing and Availability -

- A key aspect of the Prabal revolver's launch is its accessibility to civilians with the requisite license. As the booking window for Prabal opens on August 18, individuals can secure their own Prabal revolvers. This move not only boosts domestic manufacturing but also offers citizens a dependable tool for self-defense, reinforcing the importance of personal safety.

Viacom18 Completes Merger Of JioCinema and Voot OTT Platforms

- Viacom18, a prominent player in the Indian media and entertainment industry, has made significant strides in merging its two Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, JioCinema and Voot. The integration process has reached an advanced stage, with technology backends fully aligned and a majority of Voot Select subscribers smoothly transitioning to JioCinema.

Unification of Platforms -

- The merger has led to the dissolution of Voot as a standalone platform, both in terms of functionality and visibility.
- A simple Google search for Voot redirects users to the JioCinema website, consolidating Viacom18's OTT presence under a single brand.
- The transition is also evident on app platforms, where only the JioCinema app is now available, marking a cohesive and streamlined user experience.

The Synergistic Merger -

- The merger process gained significant momentum in April 2023, when Viacom18 completed a complex merger scheme involving Reliance Industries, Bodhi Tree Systems, and Paramount Global.
- This strategic move facilitated the integration of JioCinema into Viacom18, making it the primary platform for marquee content.
- Notably, Viacom18 has also secured the rights to stream the Indian Premier League (IPL) through JioCinema, underscoring its commitment to delivering diverse and high-quality content.

Evolution of Voot and JioCinema -

- Voot, initially launched by Viacom18 in 2014, gained popularity as a versatile OTT platform offering a range of content.
- The platform's premium service, Voot Select, further solidified Viacom18's position in the streaming industry.
- Concurrently, JioCinema was introduced under Reliance Industries' telecommunications arm, Jio, and subsequently became part of the Viacom18 umbrella in 2022.



India's First 3D-Printed Post Office Inaugurated In Bengaluru

- Bengaluru, often hailed as nation's tech capital, has welcomed the India's first 3D-printed post office. Located in Cambridge Layout near Ulsoor, this post office has set a new benchmark for efficiency, sustainability, and design.

Union Minister Unveils Bengaluru's Remarkable 3D-Printed Post Office -

- Inaugurating the post office, Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, commended Bengaluru's innovative spirit. The post office, encompassing an area of 1,021 square feet, was swiftly completed in just 43 days – a remarkable departure from the conventional construction period of around 10 months.

Pioneering Construction : Contour Crafting Unleashes Intricate Design with Robotic Precision -

- Employing quick-setting materials and a specially engineered robotic arm extruder, the technique known as contour crafting was utilized to construct the building's intricate design. This method allowed for precise layering, resulting in a unique and visually captivating structure.

Collaborative Triumph : Larsen and Toubro, IIT Madras Propel Architectural Marvel to Reality -

- This architectural marvel was brought to life through a collaboration between Larsen and Toubro, a prominent construction company, and technical guidance from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras. The project, originally slated for completion in September of the previous year, saw its culmination in May 2023 at a cost of Rs 23 lakh.

Revolutionizing Construction Economics : 3D Printing's 30% Cost Savings and Time Efficiency -

- The decision to employ 3D printing technology was underpinned by its potential to save costs by up to 30% and drastically reduce construction time. Unlike traditional methods, the layer-by-layer approach allowed for a more streamlined and efficient process, leading to substantial economic benefits. This technique significantly reduced construction time and costs, marking a departure from conventional construction techniques.



Important

- ✓ Chief Post Master General of Bengaluru : S Rajendra Kumar

Finance Minister Launches HSBC India's Green Hydrogen Partnerships

- In a significant step towards fostering innovation in the field of green hydrogen, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched strategic partnerships between HSBC India and prominent institutions, namely the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF).
- The collaboration, which comes with a substantial grant support totaling ₹15 crore (\$2 million), marks a pivotal moment in advancing projects that prioritize green hydrogen as a strategic alternative fuel. These initiatives are poised to play a crucial role in building a resilient green-hydrogen economy.



Pioneering Innovation for a Sustainable Future -

- The partnerships forged by HSBC India underline the nation's commitment to accelerating innovation in the realm of green hydrogen. As India strives to reduce its carbon footprint and make significant strides in the fight against climate change, green hydrogen has emerged as a game-changing solution that aligns perfectly with these goals. The strategic partnerships aim to channel resources and expertise into projects that will drive the adoption of green hydrogen across various sectors.

Government's Focus on Green Reforms -

- These reforms are not only expected to pave the way for a more sustainable future but also create numerous employment opportunities in the emerging green economy. By focusing on technologies like green hydrogen, India is positioning itself as a leader in the global effort to transition towards low-carbon alternatives and attain self-reliance in energy production. This aligns with the country's commitment to meeting its international

climate targets and fostering a greener, more resilient economy.

The Role of Partnerships in Boosting the National Green Hydrogen Mission -

- HSBC India's strategic partnerships with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF) are poised to provide a significant boost to the government's National Green Hydrogen Mission. Announced during the union budget for 2021-22, this mission outlines a comprehensive roadmap for integrating alternative energy sources into India's energy landscape. With a strong focus on green hydrogen, the mission seeks to harness the potential of this clean fuel to address energy security and environmental challenges.

Important

- ✓ **CEO of HSBC India: Hitendra Dave**

Nitin Gadkari launches Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme)

- The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) was launched by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on August 22, 2023, in New Delhi. The program aims to enhance road safety by elevating vehicle safety standards for up to 3.5-tonne vehicles in India. Bharat NCAP will also greatly push the safety and quality of the vehicles in India, while simultaneously promoting a healthy competition among OEMs to manufacture safer vehicles.



NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme), Program Details -

- The program is applicable to type approved motor vehicles of M1 category less than 3.5T GVW.
- This is a voluntary program in which the base variants of a given model shall be tested.
- The program will commence from October 1, 2023, and will be based on Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.
- The program aims to create an ecosystem of competitive safety enhancements leading to increased awareness among consumers.
- Consumers can take an informed decision by making a comparative assessment on vehicle performance under crash test conditions.

Benefits of Bharat NCAP -

- Bharat NCAP will help to improve the safety of vehicles in India.
- It will promote a healthy competition among OEMs to manufacture safer vehicles.
- It will help to create awareness among consumers about the safety features of vehicles.
- It will help to reduce the number of road accidents and fatalities in India.

Conclusion

- The launch of Bharat NCAP is a major step towards improving road safety in India. The program is expected to have a positive impact on the safety of vehicles and the behavior of drivers. It is a win-win for both manufacturers and consumers, and it is an important step towards making India a safer place to drive.

Indore Named Best City and Madhya Pradesh Best State in India Smart Cities Awards 2022

- The India Smart Cities Awards 2022, organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, have recognized Indore as the best city and Madhya Pradesh as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. The awards celebrate the progress and achievements of cities and states in promoting sustainable development and enhancing the quality of urban life across India.



Top City and State Recognized :

- **Best City Award:** Indore has been named the best city in the India Smart Cities Awards 2022. The city has a remarkable track record, being consistently ranked as the cleanest city in the Swachh Bharat Mission for six consecutive years.
- **Best State Award:** Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. The state has shown significant commitment to urban development through the implementation of multi-sectoral projects aimed at improving citizens' quality of life.

Top Smart Cities :

- **Second Best City:** Surat secured the second position among the smart cities for its notable efforts in urban development.
- **Third Best City:** Agra claimed the third spot for its initiatives contributing to the Smart Cities Mission.

State Rankings :

- **Second Best State:** Tamil Nadu was placed second among the states, reflecting its strides in urban development and sustainable projects.
- **Shared Third Best State:** Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh shared the third position among the states for their contributions to the Smart Cities Mission.

Award Categories and Winning Projects :

- **Built Environment Category:** Coimbatore's model roads and restoration of lakes project was recognized as the top project in this category.
- **Economy Category:** Jabalpur's incubation center project was awarded the top position for its economic impact.
- **Mobility Category:** Chandigarh's public bike-sharing initiative stood out in the mobility category.
- **Governance Category:** Chandigarh also excelled in the governance category, specifically in e-governance services.
- **Union Territory Category:** Chandigarh received the overall award for being the best Union Territory in the India Smart Cities Awards.

Progress of Smart Cities Mission :

- The Smart Cities Mission, launched in 2015, has seen significant achievements. The 100 selected cities have completed 76% of the proposed projects worth Rs. 1.10 lakh crore.
- The remaining projects, valued at Rs. 60,095 crore, are expected to be completed by June 30, 2024. The deadline was extended to accommodate the completion of projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC) :

- All 100 Smart Cities have operational Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC), which serve as the urban management nerve center. These centers have enhanced urban services, including crime tracking, safety measures, transport management, waste management, water supply, and disaster management.

ISAC Awards and Its Goals :

- The India Smart Cities Awards aim to recognize and reward cities, projects, and ideas that contribute to sustainable development and enhance the overall quality of life for urban residents.
- The awards promote inclusivity, equity, safety, health, and collaboration among cities.

Selection Process and Nominations :

- The ISAC 2022 had a two-stage submission process. The Qualifying Stage assessed cities' overall performance, while the Proposal Stage required nominations for six award categories.
- Out of 845 nominations from 80 qualifying smart cities, 66 winners were identified across various categories.

CWC Launches 'Floodwatch' To Provide Real-Time Flood Forecasts To Public

- The Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri Kushvinder Vohra, has taken a groundbreaking step towards enhancing flood preparedness and response by unveiling the "FloodWatch" mobile application.
- This revolutionary app is designed to harness the power of mobile phones to disseminate real-time flood-related information and forecasts to the public, up to 7 days in advance. The app, which offers both readable and audio broadcasts, is available in two languages, English and Hindi, making it accessible to a wider audience.



Real-Time Flood Monitoring: Keeping Citizens Informed -

- The core functionality of the "FloodWatch" app revolves around providing real-time flood monitoring. Users can conveniently access up-to-date flood situation reports from across the country. Drawing from near real-time river flow data from various reliable sources, the app empowers users with accurate and current flood-related information.

Flood Forecasts at Your Fingertips -

- One of the key features that set the "FloodWatch" app apart is its flood forecasting capabilities. Users can receive flood forecast for their nearest locations, enabling them to stay informed about potential flood threats. The app's Home Page offers easy access to flood advisories at the station closest to the user, simplifying the process of obtaining crucial information.

Interactive Map for Enhanced User Experience -

- The app takes advantage of an interactive map, adding an extra layer of convenience for users. By using this map, individuals can access CWC Flood Forecasts for the next 24 hours or Flood Advisories for up to 7 days. Users have the option to either directly select a station from the map or search for specific station names using the search box. The map functionality also allows for zooming in on the selected station, enhancing the precision of the information.

Shiv Shakti Point and its Importance

What is Shiv Shakti Point?

- On 26th August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed that the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's moon lander would be named 'Shiv shakti Point.'
- This significant declaration was made during the Prime Minister's visit to the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex in Bengaluru. The naming of this lunar landing site holds not only scientific but also spiritual and inspirational significance.

Shiv Shakti Point: A Fusion of Science and Spirituality -



- The name 'Shiv Shakti Point' represents a harmonious amalgamation of spirituality and scientific prowess. Just as the convergence of Lord Shiva and Goddess Shakti signifies the cosmic balance in Hindu mythology, the naming of the lunar landing site as Shiv Shakti Point embodies the unity of human endeavor and the awe-inspiring wonders of the cosmos.

Inspiration for Future Generations -

- The Prime Minister stated that the naming of the lunar landing site as Shiv shakti Point is intended to inspire upcoming generations to channel the power of science for the betterment of humanity.

Empowering Women in Science -

- The naming of lunar landing site as 'Shiv shakti Point' serves as an evident to the role of women scientists in Chandrayaan-3. Addressing the role of women scientists in the Chandrayaan-3 mission, Prime Minister Modi acknowledged the integral contributions of women to India's scientific endeavors. This recognition highlights the nation's commitment to gender inclusivity and showcases the increasing representation of women in the field of science and technology.

Scientific Triumph and Dedication -

- Shiv shakti Point marks the spot where Chandrayaan-3's moon lander successfully touched down on the lunar surface, after a meticulous journey of 40-days into space. The PM Modi praised the efforts of the ISRO scientists, highlighting their dedication and the rigorous testing that led to the successful soft landing. The mission's success underscores India's achievements in the field of space exploration and its commitment to pushing the boundaries of scientific knowledge.

Tiranga Point: Remembering Chandrayaan-2 -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced that the crash-landed site of Chandrayaan-2 on the lunar surface, where the Indian tricolor was imprinted, would be known as 'Tiranga Point.' This designation is a tribute to the resilience and indomitable spirit of the Indian space program, signifying the nation's perseverance in the face of challenges.

Symbol of Unity and Pride -

- The announcement of 'Shiv shakti Point' and 'Tiranga Point' symbolizes unity, national pride and interplay of human aspiration with cosmic marvels. These names will not only resonate in the scientific community but also inspire individuals from all walks of life. By honoring the achievements of Indian space scientists and showcasing the nation's achievements, these names will serve as a beacon of inspiration for the generations.

Aditya-L1 Mission to be Launched in September

- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chief S Somanath announced that Aditya-L1 mission, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun will be likely launched by the first week of September. This announcement comes hours after ISRO's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 made a successful landing on the lunar surface.
- Aditya L1 will be ISRO's 2 space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat, which was launched in 2015. Aditya 1 was renamed as Aditya-L1. The Aditya 1 was meant to observe only the solar corona.



What is AstroSat ?

- AstroSat, was launched in September, 2015, by PSLV-C30 from Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh). It is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.

About the Aditya L1 -

- Aditya L1 would be the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun. The spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth. A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing

the Sun without any occultation/eclipses. This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time. Earlier, on July 14, ISRO, taking to Twitter informed that Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun was getting ready for the launch.

Key Points -

- **Launch Vehicle:** Aditya L1 will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) XL with 7 payloads (instruments) on board.
- **Objective:** Aditya L1 will study the Sun's corona (Visible and Near infrared rays), Sun's photosphere (soft and hard X-ray), chromosphere (Ultra Violet), solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), and will carry out round-the-clock imaging of the Sun.
- **Challenges:** The distance of the Sun from Earth (approximately 15 crore kms on average, compared to the only 3.84 lakh kms to the Moon). This huge distance poses a scientific challenge. Due to the risks involved, payloads in earlier ISRO missions have largely remained stationary in space; however, Aditya L1 will have some moving components which increases the risks of collision. Other issues are the super hot temperatures and radiation in the solar atmosphere. However, Aditya L1 will stay much farther away, and the heat is not expected to be a major concern for the instruments on board.

Important

- ✓ **Evolution of every planet, including Earth and the exoplanets beyond the Solar System, is governed by its parent star i.e. the Sun in our case. The Solar weather and environment affects the weather of the entire system. Therefore, it is important to study the Sun.**
- ✓ **Effects of Variation in Solar Weather System: Variations in this weather can change the orbits of satellites or shorten their lives, interfere with or damage onboard electronics, and cause power blackouts and other disturbances on Earth.**

Operation Jericho : How Air Force Operations Quelled the Mizoram Insurgency of 1966

- The historical use of air power in Mizoram during the 1966 insurgency has recently gained attention due to its mention by Prime Minister Modi in response to a no-confidence motion. This article delves into the events surrounding the Mizoram insurgency of 1966, the government's response, the involvement of the Indian Air Force (IAF), and the aftermath of Operation Jericho.



Mizoram of 1966: A Rising Insurgency :

- **Operation Jericho: How Air Force Operations Quelled the Mizoram Insurgency of 1966**
- The 1960s witnessed a period of protests and insurgency in the Mizo Hills, now known as Mizoram.
- The Mizo National Front (MNF), seeking independence from India, spearheaded a separatist movement.
- The central government's decision to station additional Assam Rifles battalions in the region sparked outrage and led to the launch of 'Operation Jericho' by MNF.
- Operation Jericho aimed to seize control of Aizawl, resulting in its successful occupation in late February.
- Notably, this operation was characterized by meticulous planning and confidence rarely seen in the Indian subcontinent.
- Many armed volunteers were ex-servicemen or former Assam Regiment personnel dismissed for disciplinary issues.
- The rebels besieged the headquarters of 1 Assam Rifles, released prisoners, looted arms and funds, and declared independence.

Government's Response : Overcoming Resistance :

- Brigadier Rustom Zal Kabraji led ground operations to clear rebel-held positions. He commanded the 61 Mountain Brigade based in Agartala.
- Despite efforts to resupply the Assam Rifles battalion via helicopters, rebel resistance led to the shooting down of some supply missions.
- The ground operations faced formidable opposition, requiring several days to reach Aizawl.

IAF's Role in the Conflict: Air Power Takes Center Stage :

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) was called upon as the Army struggled against the rebels.
- Initially, the IAF focused on re-supplying army installations using Dakotas and Caribou transport aircraft from Guwahati and Jorhat.
- During one such mission, a Dakota aircraft sustained 21 bullet holes but managed to land at Kumbhigram air base near Silchar.
- This incident triggered offensive air operations.
- The 29 Squadron operated the Toofani (Dassault Ouragan), stationed at Bagdogra, while the 14 Squadron flew Hunters from Jorhat.
- Actual air missions commenced on March 5, contributing significantly to regaining control over previously independent territories.



Union Cabinet Approves PM-eBus Sewa Scheme: Boosting Electric Public Transportation

- In a significant move towards enhancing urban transportation and promoting electric mobility, the Union Cabinet has given its nod to the "PM-eBus Sewa" scheme. This initiative is aimed at expanding city bus operations by deploying 10,000 electric buses through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Union Cabinet Approves PM-eBus Sewa Scheme: Boosting Electric Public Transportation

1. **Scheme Cost and Support :** The PM-eBus Sewa scheme is projected to incur a total cost of Rs 57,613 crore. To facilitate its implementation, the Central government will provide financial support of Rs 20,000 crore. The scheme's scope extends over a period of 10 years.
2. **Coverage Criteria :** The scheme will encompass cities with a population of three lakh and above as per the 2011 census, including capital cities of Union Territories, the North Eastern Region, and Hill States. A notable emphasis will be placed on cities lacking organized bus services.
3. **Direct Job Creation :** Implementation of the scheme is projected to result in the creation of 45,000 to 55,000 direct job opportunities. This will be accomplished through the deployment of approximately 10,000 buses for city bus operations.
4. **Segment A : Augmenting City Bus Services:** One segment of the scheme, labeled Segment A, is dedicated to enhancing city bus services across 169 cities. This component will primarily focus on expanding the availability of electric buses for urban transportation.
5. **Segment B : Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI):** The second segment, Segment B, targets 181 cities and revolves around green mobility initiatives. These include the implementation of bus priority measures, development of multimodal interchange facilities, integration of NCMC-based Automated Fare Collection Systems, establishment of charging infrastructure, and more.



- Operational Framework :** The responsibility of operating the bus services and making payments to bus operators will rest with the respective states and cities. The Central Government's role will involve extending subsidies as outlined in the scheme to support these operations.
- Promoting E-Mobility :** The scheme places a strong emphasis on promoting electric mobility. It provides substantial support for the creation of necessary behind-the-meter power infrastructure. Additionally, cities will receive assistance for establishing charging infrastructure as part of Green Urban Mobility Initiatives.

Key Highlights :

PM-eBus Sewa
Cabinet nod to "PM-eBus Sewa" for augmenting city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses

Segments of the Scheme

- Augmenting the City bus services - (169 cities)**
 - Augment city bus operations with 10,000 e-buses on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode
 - Associated infrastructure to provide support for development/up-gradation of depot infrastructure
 - Creation of behind-the-meter power infrastructure (substation, etc.) for e-buses
- Green Urban Mobility Initiatives - (181 cities)**
 - Green initiatives like bus priority infrastructure, multimodal interchange facilities, NCMC-based Automated Fare Collection Systems, Charging infrastructure, etc.
 - States/Cities to be responsible for running bus services and paying bus operators; Center to provide subsidies

India announces 'Green' Hydrogen standard

- India has announced the definition of Green Hydrogen. The Green Hydrogen Standard for India sets a criterion of 2 kg CO₂ equivalent per kg H₂ as a 12-month average emission threshold. It is a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The guidelines established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, delineate the emission benchmarks that must be fulfilled for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green', signifying its origin from renewable sources.
- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has characterized Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (encompassing processes like water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, hydrogen drying, and compression) that does not exceed 2 kg CO₂ equivalent per kg H₂.
- The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods. The notification explicitly states that the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy will define a comprehensive methodology for measuring, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification, and certifying green hydrogen and its derivatives. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects.



Green Hydrogen -

- It is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, non-toxic and highly combustible gaseous substance.
- Green hydrogen stands as an energy resource that emerges via water electrolysis using renewable sources like wind, solar, and hydroelectric power.
- This form of hydrogen plays a key factor in transitioning towards a carbon-neutral economy while aiding in climate change mitigation.
- The produced hydrogen can be stored and employed as fuel across transportation, industry, and agricultural sectors.
- Other types of Hydrogen: Hydrogen can also be categorized as 'grey' and 'blue'.
- Grey hydrogen is manufactured from fossil fuels like coal and gas, constituting around 95% of total production in South Asia.
- Blue hydrogen is generated utilizing electricity produced by combusting fossil fuels; however, it incorporates technologies to capture and prevent the carbon emissions from being released into the atmosphere.

Driving Factors for Green Hydrogen Development -

Several compelling reasons underline the imperative to develop green hydrogen :

- **Energy Transition:** The shift away from fossil fuels gains momentum, and green hydrogen offers a clean energy carrier to replace traditional sources across sectors.
- **Energy Storage:** Hydrogen acts as a reservoir for excess renewable energy, effectively addressing the intermittency of solar and wind power.
- **Decarbonizing Industries:** Hard-to-abate sectors like heavy industry and chemicals find solace in green hydrogen as a clean feedstock and energy source.
- **Energy Security:** Diversification through green hydrogen reduces dependence on finite fossil fuels, enhancing energy security.
- **Global Market Potential:** The surging interest in sustainable energy presents a lucrative market for green hydrogen technologies.
- **Technological Innovation:** Ongoing research drives innovation, leading to efficient production methods and cost reduction.
- **Meeting International Commitments:** Countries committed to net-zero emissions find an ally in green hydrogen, aiding their clean energy targets.

Ministry Of Education Announces Launch Of Smart India Hackathon-2023

- In a stride towards nurturing innovation and collaborative problem-solving, the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) have unveiled the much-anticipated sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023. This landmark event continues to be a testament to the growing spirit of innovation in India's educational landscape.

Empowering Solutions : The Essence of SIH -

- The Smart India Hackathon acts as a remarkable platform that unites the ingenuity of India's young minds with the practical obstacles encountered by diverse government entities and ministries. With a vast network comprising more than 7500 Innovation Institutes spanning the nation, SIH is a breeding ground for unconventional solutions and fresh perspectives.
- Since its establishment in 2017, the initiation of the Smart India Hackathon has marked a significant milestone. It has evolved into a global exemplar of a Hackathon and innovation framework, embodying its dynamic progression over time. The array of themes embraced by this Hackathon reflects its diversity, spanning from



agriculture and health tech to transportation and even extending beyond these domains.

Joining Hands for Innovation -

- The Smart India Hackathon represents the joint efforts of the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). The Hackathon brings together a remarkable collection of 239 problem statements, comprising 182 software challenges and 57 hardware challenges. The participation of 26 Central Ministries, 6 State Ministries, and 4 Industry partners underscores the holistic approach to addressing multifaceted challenges through innovative collaboration.

Themes that Propel Innovation -

- The thematic scope of SIH 2023 is expansive and encompassing, with themes reflecting diverse societal needs. Ranging from Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development to Blockchain and Cybersecurity, Clean and Green Technology to Disaster Management, and from Fitness and Sports to Heritage and Culture, the themes capture the essence of pressing challenges.
- Igniting Innovation Across Sectors
- The Smart India Hackathon 2023 is set to serve as a melting pot of innovation, where ideas will be forged, tested, and refined to address the most pressing challenges faced by society. This event not only celebrates India's prowess in technology and innovation but also underscores the nation's commitment to nurturing its future innovators and problem solvers.

Important

- ✓ **Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) : T G Sitharam**

Assam Govt Issues Notification Banning Plastic Water Bottles Below 1 Litre

- In a decisive move towards environmental conservation, the Assam Environment and Forest Department has taken a significant step by announcing the ban on the use and production of plastic water bottles below 1000 ml capacity within the state. This transformative initiative, set to be enforced from October 2 this year, reflects Assam's commitment to combat plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices.
- Recognizing the environmental hazards posed by such smaller plastic bottles, the Assam government's decision aligns with its commitment to safeguard the state's natural beauty and biodiversity.



A Progressive Ban on PET Bottles: Assam's Vision for a Greener Future -

- Last month, the Assam government made headlines by declaring its intent to prohibit the production and use of drinking water bottles made from Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with a volume of less than 1 litre. This commendable decision has now materialized into official action, with the Assam Environment and Forest Department issuing a resolute notification on August 23. The notification effectively puts an end to the manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, and sale of plastic water bottles below the specified capacity.

G20 Summit Delhi Schedule 2023 : Location, Venue

- The G20 Summit, a significant international event, is poised to kick off on September 9th in the vibrant city of Delhi. The summit is scheduled to span two days and will witness the participation of representatives from member nations along with esteemed guest nations. This annual assembly holds immense importance as it provides a platform for global leaders to address pressing issues and foster cooperation on a range of topics.

Formation and Significance of the G20 : Shaping Global Economic Cooperation -

- On September 26, 1999, a collective of 19 nations along with the European Union (EU) came together to establish the G20 group. The primary purpose of their collaboration was to engage in discussions regarding crucial financial matters that have a global impact. These G20 member countries held substantial power and influence, collectively representing nearly two-thirds of the world's population, conducting about 75% of worldwide trade, and generating approximately 85% of the global currency.

- The G20, also known as the Group of Twenty, serves as an ideal platform for fostering international business cooperation on a worldwide level. It plays a significant role in shaping and reinforcing the global framework and governance related to major international economic issues.



Upcoming G20 Summit 2023 : Setting the Stage at New Delhi's Iconic Bharat Mandappam -

- The G20 Summit 2023 will take place at the prestigious 'Bharat Mandappam,' located within the ITPO Convention Centre in the heart of New Delhi's iconic Pragati Maidan. The event is scheduled to span September 9th and 10th, during which delegates will engage in comprehensive discussions and negotiations aimed at shaping the course of international policy.

- In addition to the central summit location, foreign dignitaries are also slated to explore key landmarks within the national capital, including the serene Rajghat, the pioneering IARI Pusa, and the illustrious National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA). This unique opportunity to experience the cultural and historical richness of Delhi serves to deepen the understanding and connections between nations.

G20 Summit 2023 Agenda : A Comprehensive Overview of Scheduled Events -

- The G20 Summit 2023 boasts a carefully structured schedule, designed to cover a range of topics and foster productive dialogue among participating nations. Here's a glimpse of the key events leading up to and during the summit:

- September 3-6: The 4th Sherpa Meeting
- September 5-6: Finance Deputies Meeting
- September 6: Joint Sherpas and Finance Deputies Meeting
- September 9-10: Ministerial Meetings at the G20 Summit
- September 13-14: 4th Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting in Varanasi
- September 14-16: 4th Meeting for the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion in Mumbai
- September 18-19: 4th Framework Working Group Meeting in Raipur

- These various meetings are aimed at fostering cooperation and understanding among the participating nations, paving the way for collaborative solutions to global challenges.

Symbolism in Design: G20 Summit 2023 Logo

- The G20 Summit 2023 logo holds deep symbolic meaning, drawing inspiration from India's national flag, the 'Tiranga.' The logo seamlessly incorporates the vibrant colors of saffron, white, green, and blue. A lotus, adorned with the colors of white, green, and blue, stands gracefully against the backdrop of the Earth. This poignant imagery serves as a reminder of the urgency to adopt environmentally conscious practices, especially in the face of escalating climate change concerns.

- The inclusion of the word 'Bharat' in the Devanagari script beneath the G20 logo pays homage to the host nation, underscoring India's role as a unifying force in the international community.



Harmony in Unity : G20 Summit 2023 Theme

- The theme chosen for the G20 Summit 2023 is “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” meaning “One Earth, One Family, One Future.” Rooted in an ancient Sanskrit text, the Maha Upanishad, this theme encapsulates the essence of global unity and interconnectedness. It serves as a powerful rallying call for nations to come together and collaborate on solutions that transcend borders.
- The theme also aligns with the concept of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), emphasizing the importance of making environmentally sustainable and responsible choices. This concept is not only relevant at an individual level but also resonates with national agendas, highlighting the need for collective action to ensure a sustainable future for all.
- In conclusion, the G20 Summit 2023 promises to be a pivotal event where global leaders will convene to discuss, deliberate, and chart the course for a more harmonious and prosperous world. With its significant agenda, rich symbolism, and unifying theme, the summit stands as a beacon of hope for international cooperation and progress.



ISRO-developed device for fishers' safety successfully tested at Neendakara

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing its innovative device named 'Nabhmitra'. This device, developed at ISRO's Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad, aims to enhance the safety of fishermen during their sea expeditions. The successful testing took place at Neendakara, where the device was installed on a fishing vessel, and its capabilities were assessed in the presence of both scientists and officials from the Fisheries department.



Satellite-Based Communication for Fisher Safety -



- ISRO-developed device for fishers' safety successfully tested at Neendakara
- Nabhmitra operates on the basis of advanced satellite communication technology, allowing seamless two-way

messaging between fishing boats and maritime authorities stationed at sea. This breakthrough technology greatly improves the communication channels and safety measures available to fishermen during their voyages.

ISRO's Nabhmitra device : Key Features and Functions -

- 1. Weather and Cyclone Warnings :** The device facilitates the transmission of critical weather updates and cyclone warnings to fishing boats in the local language. This enables fishermen to stay informed about potentially hazardous conditions and make informed decisions regarding their operations.
- 2. Distress Messages :** Fishermen can now send distress messages to the authorities in case of emergencies. Whether facing challenges like capsizing or fires, fishermen can activate the distress signal with a single button press, immediately alerting the control center about their situation.
- 3. Emergency Connectivity :** Upon receiving a distress signal, the control center is immediately notified, including the precise location of the distressed fishing boat. Simultaneously, the boat's crew receives a response message from the control center, assuring them that help is on the way.
- 4. Navigational Assistance :** In addition to safety features, Nabhmitra also serves as a valuable navigational tool. It provides vital information about shipping channels and maritime boundaries, assisting fishermen in navigating safely through often challenging waters.
- 5. Fishing Field Identification :** The device's capabilities extend beyond safety concerns. Nabhmitra aids in the identification of fishing fields, contributing to more effective and productive fishing operations.

India, Asian Development Bank to set up climate change and health hub in Delhi

- India is now all set to open a climate change and health hub in the national capital Delhi in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Earlier, India had bagged the first WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine. WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine was set up in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

- The new hub for climate change and health will facilitate knowledge sharing, promote partnerships and innovations, and also help countries beyond the G-20, especially developing countries. In its recently released G-20 outcome document, India also noted that climate change will continue to drive health emergencies, including the emergence



and re-emergence of infectious diseases, and by increasing the severity and frequency of natural disasters, thereby threatening to overwhelm health systems' ability to deliver essential services.

The outcome document committed to :

- Prioritize climate-resilient health systems development, build sustainable and low-carbon/low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission health systems and healthcare supply chains that deliver high-quality healthcare, mobilize resources for resilient, low-carbon sustainable health systems, and
- Facilitate collaboration, including initiatives such as the WHO-led Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH). The new Climate Change and Health Hub in New Delhi will help countries all over the world to address to identify new drivers and address the existing drivers using a science and risk-based approach, and to strengthen existing infectious disease surveillance systems.

Significance :

- Climate change affects all and this centre will give an opportunity to have different partners discussing this important issue and learning from each other.
- In its recently released G-20 outcome document, India noted that climate change will continue to drive health emergencies, including the emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases.
- It will also increase the severity and frequency of natural disasters, thereby threatening health systems' ability to deliver essential services.
- Against this backdrop, there is need to enhance the resilience of health systems against the impact of climate change.

International

China's Economy Slips into Deflation: Implications and Countermeasures

- Deflation, the inverse of inflation, signifies a persistent decline in the general price levels of goods and services within an economy. The recent occurrence of deflation in China, the world's second-largest economy, has triggered concerns about its economic prospects and the need for robust policy responses from Beijing.

Understanding Deflation -

- Deflation can be succinctly described as a continuous reduction in overall price levels across an economy. This situation contrasts with inflation, where prices increase over time. In China's case, both the consumer price index (CPI) and producer price index (PPI) reported declines in July.



1. **Consumer Price Index (CPI) Decline** : China's CPI dipped by 0.3 percent year-on-year in July, marking its first decrease since February 2021.
2. **Producer Price Index (PPI) Decline** : The PPI experienced its tenth consecutive monthly decline, falling by 4.4 percent, surpassing the predicted 4.1 percent decrease.

These statistics underscore the mounting economic challenges confronting China.

Causes of Deflation in China -

- Deflation can stem from multiple factors, such as reduced consumer demand, an oversupply of goods, technological innovations that lower production costs, or stringent monetary policies by central banks. In China's context, the primary drivers of deflation are diminished consumer demand and an economic slowdown.
1. **Reduced Consumer Demand**: When consumers anticipate further price drops, they tend to delay purchases. This leads to decreased demand for goods and services.
 2. **Economic Slowdown**: China's economic deceleration has contributed to the decline in consumer spending, amplifying deflationary pressures.

Implications of Deflation -

- While falling prices may initially seem advantageous to consumers, deflation can yield detrimental effects on the economy, mirroring China's predicament.
1. **Negative Demand Cycle**: Deflation can initiate a damaging cycle. Anticipated price decreases prompt consumers to postpone purchases, leading to reduced demand, lower production, decreased business revenues, potential layoffs, and a subsequent decline in consumer spending.
 2. **Economic Contraction**: The cyclical reduction in economic activity can intensify, causing a downward spiral marked by economic contraction, job losses, and financial instability.

Record-Breaking July 2023: Hottest Month on Earth

- In July 2023, our planet experienced an unprecedented rise in temperatures, marking it as the hottest month ever recorded. This alarming trend underscores the urgency of addressing global climate change and its root cause, greenhouse gas emissions. Let's delve into the key highlights and findings of this extraordinary month.

1. **Global Temperature Soars**

- The global average temperature for July 2023 shattered previous records, soaring 0.72°C above the July average of 1991-2020. This temperature increase was a significant 0.33°C higher than the previous hottest month, July 2019. Furthermore, July 2023 was estimated to have been approximately 1.5°C warmer than the historical average from 1850-1900. These figures emphasize the rapid escalation of global temperatures.



1. Northern Hemisphere Heatwaves

- The Northern Hemisphere bore the brunt of extreme heat, with widespread heatwaves affecting various regions. Southern Europe, in particular, experienced scorching temperatures. The occurrence of such heatwaves indicates the concerning intensification of climate anomalies in recent years.

2. South America and Antarctica Affected

- Across South America, numerous countries witnessed well-above-average temperatures. Meanwhile, significant warming was observed around a substantial portion of Antarctica, indicating the broad-reaching impact of global temperature trends.

3. Disturbing Sea Surface Temperature Rise

- Sea surface temperatures also surged to alarming levels, building upon a period of high temperatures since April 2023. In July, global average sea surface temperatures reached a record high, surpassing the 1991-2020 average by 0.51°C . Distinct regions, including the North Atlantic, experienced temperature spikes of 1.05°C above the norm. Marine heatwaves were observed in the Caribbean basin, the Mediterranean Sea, and the seas surrounding Greenland.

4. 2023's Warming Trend

- The year 2023 emerged as the third warmest year to date, with an overall temperature elevation of 0.43°C compared to the recent average. July's global temperature was an astounding 1.5°C above preindustrial levels. This dramatic increase underscores the need for immediate and substantial efforts to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, which remain the primary driver of these unprecedented climate records.

5. Sea Ice Retreat

- The decline of sea ice continued in July 2023, particularly in Antarctica, where the sea ice extent reached a remarkable 15% below average. This unsettling trend has persisted for several months, painting a dire picture of the ongoing impacts of climate change. While Arctic sea ice extent remained slightly below average, it remained well above the record low observed in July 2020.

6. Hydrological Changes

- July 2023 brought varying hydrological conditions across the globe. Northern Europe and regions from the Black Sea to northwestern Russia experienced above-average rainfall. Conversely, the Mediterranean basin faced drier-than-average conditions, with Italy and southeastern Europe witnessing notable anomalies.
- Outside of Europe, areas such as northeastern North America, Afghanistan, Pakistan, northeastern China, northern and eastern Australia, and Chile received above-average rainfall. On the other hand, regions such as Mexico, the southwestern United States, central and southeastern Asia, southwestern Australia, and parts of southern Brazil and Paraguay experienced below-average precipitation.

Australia to be testing ground for US missiles

- Australia's involvement in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) pact has gained attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons. The agreement, initially focused on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, has evolved to address the growing influence of China in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth highlighted Australia's unique contributions and the collaborative nature of the pact.

Australia's Non-Monetary Contribution -

- While Australia's involvement in AUKUS includes the exchange of advanced defense technologies, Secretary

Wormuth emphasized that its contribution doesn't solely revolve around financial commitments. Australia's strategic geographical attributes, including vast distances and sparsely populated land, make it an ideal testing ground for cutting-edge weaponry.

AUKUS Pact and China's Influence -

- The AUKUS pact, signed in late 2021, serves as a strategic response to counter China's increasing dominance in the Asia-Pacific region. By enhancing Australia's defense capabilities, the pact aims to create a deterrent against potential aggression from China, a stance that has been criticized by Beijing but strongly supported by the pact's member nations.

Evolution of AUKUS Focus -

- Initially centered on the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines, the AUKUS pact has broadened its scope to include advanced technologies such as long-range precision firing, artificial intelligence, and hypersonic weapons. The pact's evolution reflects the partners' commitment to staying at the forefront of defense innovation and adapting to emerging threats.



Iraq bans media from using term 'homosexuality'

- The Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC) has enforced a ban on the use of term 'homosexuality', instead mandates using the term 'sexual deviance' as a replacement.
- The media regulatory body of Iraq has issued a prohibition on the usage of the term 'homosexuality' instructing both media and social media entities to employ the term 'sexual deviance' in its place.

Ban on Specific Terms for Media and Internet Companies in Iraq -

- This directive encompasses all media and social media establishments functioning within the country, as specified by the Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC).
- The use of these terms in any of their applications is now prohibited for all licensed CMC phone and internet companies. As a result, these companies are constrained from including "homosexuality" or "gender" in any of their mobile apps.

Complexities Surrounding LGBTQ+ Rights in Iraq and Recent Developments -

- In recent times, loosely defined morality provisions within Iraq's penal code have been utilized to single out LGBTQ+ individuals.
- In the past couple of months, significant Iraqi factions have intensified their opposition to LGBT rights, frequently exemplified by the burning of rainbow flags in protests led by Shiite Muslim factions, who are expressing their disapproval of recent Koran burnings in Sweden and Denmark.

LGBTQ+ Discrimination in Iraq and Global Legal Context -

- LGBTQ+ individuals face extensive discrimination in Iraq, with open homosexuality leading to military service bans and the illegality of same-sex marriages or civil unions
- These individuals lack legal safeguards against discrimination, often falling victim to vigilante justice and honor killings.
- While gay sex is not explicitly criminalized, Iraq's anti-LGBT stance dates back to its declaration of independence, during which homosexuality was officially prohibited.



- As per World Data, gay sex is considered a criminal offense in over 60 countries, while same-sex sexual acts have been decriminalized in more than 130 nations.

Important

- ✓ **Prime Minister of Iraq : Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani**

PM Modi first Indian prime minister to visit Greece in 40 years

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a landmark visit to Greece, marking a significant diplomatic milestone as he became the first Indian Prime Minister to set foot in the country in 40 years. This visit is aimed at fortifying the bilateral relationship between India and Greece, and it comes at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.



Warm Welcome from Indian Community -

- As Prime Minister Modi arrived in the Greek capital of Athens, he was warmly greeted by the Indian community residing in Greece. A symbolic gesture of cultural exchange was presented as they gifted him with a traditional Greek headdress, symbolizing the bridging of cultures and the strong ties that the two nations share.

Diplomatic Dialogues : Cementing Bilateral Relations -

- During his visit, Prime Minister Modi is set to engage in crucial talks with his Greek counterpart, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The primary objective of these discussions is to further solidify the existing relationship between the two countries. The talks are expected to encompass a wide range of areas, including economic cooperation, defense collaboration, and people-to-people connections.

Meeting with Dignitaries : Strengthening Diplomatic Bonds -

- Apart from his meeting with Prime Minister Mitsotakis, Prime Minister Modi is also anticipated to have an audience with Greek President Katerina Sakellariopoulou. This high-level interaction adds another layer to the strengthening of diplomatic bonds between the two nations.

Economic Emphasis : Business Leaders and Indian Diaspora Interaction -

- Recognizing the importance of economic collaboration, PM Modi is scheduled to engage with prominent business leaders from both India and Greece. This interaction aims to foster deeper economic ties, promote investments, and explore avenues for trade growth between the two countries. Furthermore, the Prime Minister will also connect with the Indian diaspora in Greece, highlighting the role of this community in enhancing cultural exchanges and people-to-people relations.

Shared Civilization and Collaborative Endeavors -

- India and Greece share a history steeped in civilization and culture, which forms the foundation for their strong modern-day partnership. Recent years have witnessed the growth of cooperation in various sectors, notably maritime transport, defense, and trade. This visit seeks to build upon these existing collaborations and pave the way for further synergies.

Historical Significance -

- The last time a sitting Indian Prime Minister visited Greece was in September 1983, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi undertook a significant trip to the nation. PM Modi's visit, after a four-decade gap, marks a historic moment in the diplomatic relations between the two countries and signifies India's commitment to fostering stronger global ties.

Richest Man in the World By 27th August 2023, Top 10 List

- The World's Billionaires List or Real-Time Billionaires List is an annual ranking of the world's wealthiest billionaires based on their recorded net worth. It is produced and published by Forbes Magazine every March. The first edition of this ranking was published in 1987.
- The net total worth of each person is approximated on the basis of their reported assets and accounting for debt and other considerations. The ranking published the net total worth of each person in US dollar. These rankings do not include royalty or dictators whose wealth is derived from their status.
- Elon Musk stands in the first position on the list of Billionaires. He is the world's richest person with a net worth of \$239.3B. He is getting a significant portion of his wealth from Telsa and SpaceX.
- **List of Top 10 Richest Man in the World Till by 27th August 2023**



Sr. No.	Name	Net worth (in Billions)	Country
1	Elon Musk	\$240.7	United States
2	Bernard Arnault & Family	\$231.4	France
3	Jeff Bezos	\$154.9	United States
4	Larry Elison	\$146.1	United States
5	Bill Gates	\$119.3	United States
6	Warren Buffet	\$117.4	United States
7	Mark Zuckerberg	\$115.2	United States
8	Larry Page	\$111.9	United States
9	Sergey Brin	\$106.2	United States
10	Steve Ballmer	\$103.4	United States

1. Elon Musk

- Age: 51 years
- Net worth: \$240.7B
- Source: Tesla and SpaceX
- Residence: Austin, Texas
- Citizenship: United States
- Elon Musk is the world's richest person. He co-founded companies like SpaceX (rocket producer), Tesla (electric car maker) and Boring Company (tunnelling startup). A significant portion of his wealth is tied to the success of Tesla. Musk purchased Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion.



2. Bernard Arnault & family

- Age: 74 years
- Net worth: \$231.4B
- Source: LVMH/ luxury goods
- Residence: Paris
- Citizenship: France
- Bernard Arnault is the CEO of the world's largest luxury goods company "Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH)" which encompasses approximately 70 renowned fashion and cosmetics brands. In January 2021, LVMH completed the acquisition of jeweller Tiffany & Co. for a staggering \$15.8 billion.



- Arnault's five children contribute to various sectors within the expansive LVMH empire. In January 2023, he appointed his daughter Delphine to lead Dior, the group's second largest brand.

3. Jeff Bezos

- Age: 59 years
- Net worth: \$154.9B
- Source: Amazon
- Residence: Medina, Washington
- Citizenship: United States
- In July 2021, Jeff Bezos decided to give up his role as CEO of the e-commerce powerhouse Amazon while still maintaining his position as chairman.
- Bezos owned an aerospace company named The Washington Post and Blue Origin, designing rockets and fled to space in July 2021.



BRICS Welcomes New Members: Inclusion of Argentina, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt

- In a significant geopolitical development, the BRICS alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries. This expansion marks a notable shift in the alliance's composition and has the potential to reshape the dynamics of global cooperation.

BRICS's New Members: Bridging the Global South -

- President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, the host nation of the recent BRICS summit, made a historic announcement on August 24th, revealing the names of the new entrants to the alliance. The expanded BRICS now welcomes Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt into its fold. This move not only diversifies the alliance but also provides a platform for emerging economies from different regions to align their interests on the global stage.



Geopolitical Significance and Intentions -

- This expansion was not a sudden development but rather the result of a well-considered decision. Official sources had previously indicated that BRICS was in the process of extending invitations to potential new members. This strategic move carries the potential to forge connections with nations eager to collaborate within a coalition dedicated to advancing the concerns of the "Global South."

Unity Amidst Diversity: BRICS' Vision -

- The BRICS summit saw South African President Ramaphosa extend an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the assembly. PM Modi, in his speech, threw his weight behind the expansion initiative while advocating for a more balanced and inclusive "multi-polar" world order. He also took the opportunity to highlight India's remarkable strides in space exploration and research, emphasizing its commitment to technological advancements.

Complexities of Inclusion: Pakistan's Absence and China's Stance

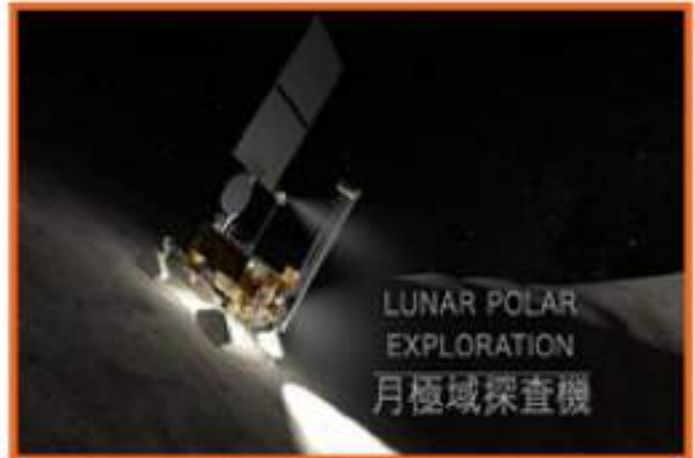
- China's prior push to include Pakistan within the BRICS alliance had introduced a diplomatic quandary, adding complexity to the proceedings. China's reasoning behind this proposition stemmed from its belief that BRICS should encompass a wider membership to represent a broader range of developing nations. However, this idea faced resistance, particularly from India. The opposition was rooted in concerns that an enlarged BRICS could dilute the alliance's core objectives and potentially weaken the consensus among its original members.

ISRO's next mission to Moon is with Japanese, named LUPEX

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing for one more lunar mission, this one in collaboration with Japanese space agency, The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25. But there would be more in the Chandrayaan series as well. LUPEX will offer ISRO another opportunity to probe the surface of the Moon.

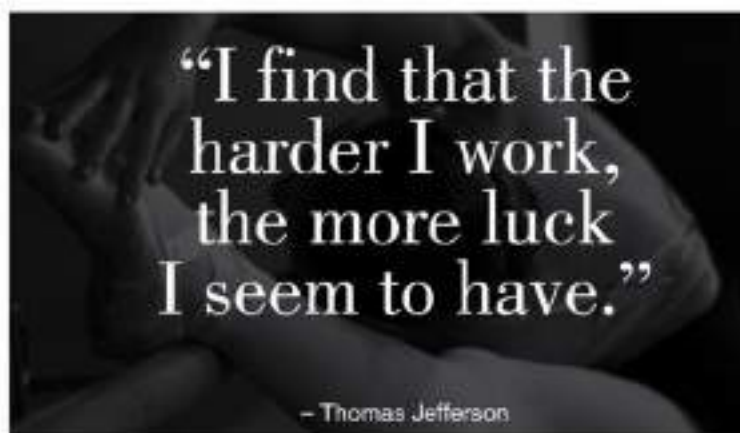
About the LUPEX -

- As its name suggests, LUPEX will also explore the polar regions of the Moon, this time venturing into the permanently shaded regions. One half of the Moon never faces the Sun, and is therefore permanently dark. To land in these areas, the spacecraft and the onboard instruments have to have an alternative power supply option through an onboard battery. LUPEX is also planned to investigate the abundance of water in the polar regions, and explore the possibilities of locating a long-term station in these areas. For the LUPEX mission, the launch vehicle and rover are supposed to be contributed by the Japanese agency, while the lander will come from ISRO. Incidentally, JAXA is sending its own landing mission, its first, to the Moon later this week.
- The immediate priority for ISRO is the Aditya-L1, its first mission to the Sun, which is slated for an early September launch. Aditya-L1, referred to by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address today, will observe the Sun from a distance of 90 million km. It is meant to study the different kinds of phenomena like solar corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and coronal mass ejections. It will also do an imaging of the Sun.



Important

- ✓ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Founded : 1 October 2003;
- ✓ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Headquarters : Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.



Sports

Neeraj Chopra Makes History as First Indian to Secure Gold at World Athletics Championships



Govt. Exams

Current Affairs September 2023

- Neeraj Chopra made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary. He became the first-ever Indian athlete to achieve this feat, marking a significant milestone for Indian athletics. Neeraj's exceptional performance was highlighted by a remarkable throw of 88.17 meters during his second attempt. This outstanding achievement showcased his skill and dominance in the event, solidifying his position as a global contender.
- Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion, took the silver with a season's best of 87.82m while the Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch won bronze with 86.67m. The other two Indian athletes in the 12-man javelin throw finals at Budapest also logged impressive results. Kishore Jena finished fifth with a personal best haul of 84.77m while DP Manu was sixth with 84.14m.

Intense Rivalry and Triumph -

- Neeraj faced tough competition, notably from Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who secured the silver medal with a commendable throw of 87.82 meters. The competition between the two showcased the intensity of the event.
- Neeraj's gold medal not only added a prestigious achievement to his personal record but also contributed to India's medal tally at the World Athletics Championships. This win marked his second medal at the Championships, with a previous silver medal to his name.

World Athletics Championships 2023 men's javelin throw final results

Position	Athlete	Distance
1	Neeraj Chopra (IND)	88.17m
2	Arshad Nadeem (PAK)	87.82m
3	Jakub Vadlejch (CZE)	86.67m
4	Julian Weber (GER)	85.79m
5	Kishore Jena (IND)	84.77m
6	Manu DP (IND)	84.14m
7	Oliver Helander (FIN)	83.38m
8	Edis Matusevicius (LTU)	82.29m
9	Dawid Wegner (POL)	80.75m
10	Ihab Abdelrahman (EGY)	80.64m
11	Andrian Mardare (MDE)	79.66m
12	Timothy Herman (BEL)	74.56m

Asian Champions Trophy title 2023: India beat Malaysia clinch fourth Asian Champions Trophy

- India beat Malaysia 4-3 and clinch a record fourth Asian Champions Trophy title at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai. Malaysia were aggressive in the first half as the Indians found it difficult to restrict their opponent. With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament. Pakistan, with three titles, are at the second spot now. Akashdeep led the attack scoring the opening goal and overall, India had five different goal scorers in the semi-finals of which four of them scored field goals – Karthi Selvam, Mandeep Singh, Akashdeep Singh, and Sumit.



- Japan take 3rd spot after beating South Korea 5-3. Japan finished behind Malaysia in the Asian Champions Trophy tournament after the beat defending champion South Korea 5-3 in the third-place playoff tie in Chennai.

Asian Champions Trophy title 2023 Squads

- Malaysia: Muhammad Mohd, Amirul Azahar, H Othman, Deris Mat Zaimi, Shello Silverius, Razie Rahim, Faiz Jali, Najib Hassan, Kamal Azral Abu, K Hamirin, Muhammad Hassan, Najmi Jazlan, Marhan Jalil, Ashran Hamsani, Azuan Hasan, Fitri Saari, Abdu Muhajir, Faizal Saari, R Rosli, Firhan Ashari
- India: Jugraj Singh, RP Sreejesh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Krishan Pathak, Harmanpreet Singh, Manpreet Singh, Sumit, Varun Kumar, Sukhjeet Singh, Hardik Singh, Amit Rohidas, Akashdeep Singh, Samsheer Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Mandeep Singh, S Karthi, Gurjant Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad.

F1 defending champion Max Verstappen wins Belgian Grand Prix

- Defending Formula One champion Max Verstappen emphatically won the Belgian Grand Prix for an eighth straight win and 10th overall of a crushingly dominant season. He finished 22.3 seconds ahead of teammate Sergio Perez to give Red Bull and easy 1-2. It moved Verstappen ominously closer to a third straight world title and his own F1 record of 15 wins from last year.
- Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc finished in third spot for a third podium of the season, with Lewis Hamilton in fourth for Mercedes ahead of Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso. George Russell was sixth for Mercedes, with Lando Norris (McLaren), Esteban Ocon (Alpine), Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), and Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) completing the top 10.



Previous race's winners list :

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

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinches Gold medal at FISU Games

- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, along with compound archers Avneet Kaur, Sangampreet Singh Bisla, and the men's 10m air rifle team, achieved remarkable victories by securing gold medals at the FISU World University Games 2023 in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China.
- With these achievements, India's medal tally at the FISU World University Games 2023 reached an impressive total of 17 medals – nine gold, three silver, and five bronze. India currently holds the fourth position on the medals table, trailing behind China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.



India Shines at FISU World University Games 2023 -

- The Indian team celebrated the exceptional performance of shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, who notched not one but two gold medals during the competition. Following his triumph in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event, Aishwary continued his brilliant form by claiming the top spot in the men's 10m air rifle team event.
- In the finale, Aishwary scored an impressive total of 252.6 points, securing victory over his fellow Tokyo Olympian and compatriot, Divyansh Singh Panwar, who settled for the silver medal with 251 points. The bronze in the event was bagged by China's Buhun Song, who scored 229 points.
- Indian Trio Clinches Gold Medal in Men's 10m Air Rifle Team Event with Remarkable Team Spirit
- The Indian trio comprising Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Divyansh Singh Panwar, and Arjun Babuta showcased exceptional team spirit, resulting in a gold medal for the men's 10m air rifle team event.
- The team displayed remarkable coordination and skill, earning a combined score of 1894.7 points. China followed closely behind with a silver medal and a score of 1881.9, while Kazakhstan secured the bronze with 1878.2 points.

GM Gukesh overtakes Viswanathan Anand to become highest Indian in FIDE rankings

- The 17-year-old chess prodigy, D. Gukesh, has dethroned Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand as India's top-ranked chess player in the live world rankings. Gukesh achieved this feat by defeating Mistradin Iskandarov in the second round of the FIDE World Cup, reaching a live rating of 2755.9 and climbing to the 9th position in the classic open category. In contrast, Anand's rating of 2754.0 caused him to drop to the 10th spot. This is only the second time since 1986 that Anand has been displaced from the top position.
- Gukesh's recent gain of 2.5 rating points pushed his live rating to 2755.9, while Anand's rating remains at 2754.0. As a result, Gukesh is now ranked as the 9th best chess player in the world, and Anand stands at 10th place. Anand had held the top position in India's chess rankings since January 1987 and has been one of the country's most prominent players since July 1991.
- Gukesh, who recently became the youngest player to reach a live rating of 2750, is determined to break the 2800-mark. Despite this significant achievement, Gukesh is currently focused on his upcoming match against fellow Indian player S. L. Narayanan in the World Cup. Celebrations for his achievement will have to wait as he prepares for the next round.



List of top 10 Chess players in FIDE rankings

Rank	Player	Rating	Country
1	Magnus Carlsen	2838	United States
2	Fabiano Caruana	2786	United States
3	Hikaru Nakamura	2781	United States
4	Ding Liren	2780	China
5	Ian Nepomniachtchi	2779	Russia
6	Alireza Firouzja	2777	France
7	Anish Giri	2764	Netherlands
8	Wesley	2764	United States
9	Gukesh D	2756	India
10	Viswanathan Anand	2754	India

ICC Unveils Male and Female Mascots For Cricket World Cup 2023

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has enthusiastically introduced a captivating pair of brand mascots for the upcoming World Cups. These mascots, unveiled at an event in Gurugram, India, in the presence of U19 World Cup Champions' captains Yash Dhull and Shafali Verma, embody the unity and spirit that cricket promotes worldwide. Representing gender equality and diversity, the mascots, a male and a female, originate from a distant cricket paradise called the Crictoverse.
- **Notably :** The male and female mascots from the Crictoverse symbolize unique traits that stand for gender equality and diversity. The ICC has also launched a naming competition for the mascots, allowing fans to leave their mark on the World Cup until August 27.



ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Female Mascot -

- The female character possesses a turbo-powered arm that hurls fireballs at incredible speeds. Her remarkable precision astonishes even the most daring batters. With unmatched reflexes, fierce flexibility, and unwavering determination, she embodies an exceptional fast bowling prowess. Wearing a belt adorned with six cricket orbs, each strategically prepared for game-changing tactics, she stands ready to make an impact.



ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Male Mascot -

- The male character emanates a captivating blend of icy coolness and explosive batting skills. Every shot he takes, whether it's a cunning finesse or a powerful six, carries an electrifying force that captivates audiences. His electromagnetic bat and versatile array of shots amplify the excitement, igniting the field and thrilling the crowd with each stroke.



Chess World Cup 2023 Final : India's Praggnanandhaa finishes 2nd

- Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa finished second in FIDE World Cup. After three days and four games of intensely nery chess across two formats, Magnus Carlsen finally managed to win the FIDE World Cup for the first time in his career. Carlsen defeated Praggnanandhaa in the final, but not before the 18-year-old teenage had dragged him through the tie-breaker. Carlsen's win was confirmed after the second game of the tiebreaker. The two players had played out one draw each.

- Pragganandha, who turned 18 during the World Cup, was the youngest World Cup finalist ever, and is the youngest World Cup winner. Seeded 31, Pragg is also the lowest seed to make the final of the World Cup. Pragganandhaa became a GM at the age of 12. He was going strong before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, which brought the world to a standstill. But the Chennai teenager made the most of it, honing his skills in online tournaments.

About the Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa -

- Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa (born 10 August 2005) is an Indian chess grandmaster. A chess prodigy, he became an international master at the age of 10, the youngest at the time to do so, and a grandmaster at the age of 12, the second-youngest at the time to do so. On 22 February 2022, at the age of 16, he became the youngest player to defeat then-world champion Magnus Carlsen, when he beat Carlsen in a rapid game at the Airthings Masters Rapid Chess Tournament (a record since broken by Gukesh D, on 16 October 2022).



HS Prannoy Clinches Bronze At BWF World Badminton Championships 2023

- Indian badminton player HS Prannoy secured the bronze medal in the men's singles category at the prestigious BWF World Badminton Championships 2023. Despite a valiant effort, Prannoy was eliminated in the semi-finals that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark on Saturday. His remarkable journey in the tournament showcased his skill and determination on the international stage.

A Tough Match Against Kunlavut Vitidsarn -

- World No. 9 HS Prannoy faced a formidable challenge in the semi-finals as he went head-to-head with Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn, ranked third in the badminton world. The intense match stretched over one hour and 16 minutes at the Royal Arena. Prannoy fought valiantly but was eventually edged out by his Thai counterpart with a scoreline of 21-18, 13-21, 14-21.



A Historic Achievement -

- The 31-year-old HS Prannoy etched his name in Indian badminton history by becoming only the fifth Indian men's singles player to clinch a medal at the BWF World Badminton Championships. Among his compatriots, Kidambi Srikanth remains the sole player to reach the men's singles final, achieving this feat in 2021.

A Memorable Journey -

- HS Prannoy's journey to the semi-finals was nothing short of remarkable. In the quarter-finals, he pulled off a stunning upset (refers to the situation when the team or individual anticipated to win is beaten) by defeating Danish Olympic and defending world champion Viktor Axelsen. This victory guaranteed Prannoy his first-ever BWF World Championships medal and contributed to India's overall tally of 14 medals in the world championships.

List of five Indian male singles players who have secured a medal at the World Championships

S.No.	Player	Medal
1	Kidambi Srikanth	Silver
2	Lakshya Sen	Bronze
3	B Sai Praneeeth	Bronze
4	Prakash Padukone	Bronze
5	HS Prannoy	Bronze

Important

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

Important Days

August 2023

13 August : World Organ Donation Day 2023 (Date, Theme, Significance and History)

- World Organ Donation Day 2023 is observed on August 13, 2023. It is a global event that is observed to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to encourage people to become organ donors.
- Organ donation is the process of giving an organ or tissue to someone else who needs it to survive or improve their quality of life. Organs that can be donated include kidneys, livers, hearts, lungs, pancreases, and intestines. Tissues that can be donated include corneas, skin, bone, heart valves, and tendons.
- There are currently over 100,000 people in the United States waiting for an organ transplant. Every day, 22 people die while waiting for a transplant. In India, there are over 5 lakh people waiting for an organ transplant.



World Organ Donation Day 2023, Theme :

- The theme for World Organ Donation Day 2023 is "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".
- By becoming an organ donor, you can save the lives of others. Please consider becoming an organ donor today.

Sadbhavana Diwas 2023 (Date, Significance and History)

- Sadbhavana Diwas, also known as Harmony Day, is an annual celebration observed on 20th August in India. 20th August 2023 marks the 79th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This day commemorates the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a visionary leader who championed the cause of national integration, peace and public harmony among the diverse population of India.

The Meaning of Sadbhavana :

- The term "Sadbhavana" in English refers to "goodwill and bonafide". Being the youngest Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi's thought process was modern and different from others. He had the vision of a developed nation via many national as well as international projects that he pioneered. The main theme of Sadbhavana Diwas is to promote national integration and communal harmony among people of all religions and languages.



About Rajiv Gandhi: A Visionary Leader :

- Rajiv Gandhi, born on 20th August 1944, is the former Prime Minister of India. He held office from 1984-1989 and made significant contributions to the development of the country. He introduced several progressive policies aimed at modernizing India's education system and economy. Some of his notable achievements include:
- National Policy on Education: Rajiv Gandhi introduced a National Policy on Education in 1986 to modernize higher education plans and promote intellectual growth.
- Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya System: Rajiv Gandhi founded a central-government-based institution namely Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya System in 1986 for the upliftment of the rural section of the society providing them free residential education from 6th to 12th class.
- Telecommunications Development: Due to his efforts, MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) was established in 1986 and also created public call offices (PCOs) for spreading telephones in rural areas.
- Economic Reforms: In post-1990, he introduced measures for reducing License Raj allowing businesses and individuals to purchase capital, consumer goods and import bureaucratic restrictions.
- Youth Empowerment: Rajiv Gandhi introduced the voting age as 18 to encourage the youth involvement in the voting process. He emphasized the potential of the country's youth and introduced schemes like the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana to provide employment opportunities.

Significance of Sadbhavana Diwas :

- Sadbhavana Diwas serves as a reminder of Rajiv Gandhi's aspirations for India's development and progress. The celebration emphasizes the promotion of national unity, peace, empathy and communal harmony among people of different faiths and cultures. The central theme of the day is to foster goodwill and understanding among diverse communities, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and coordination.

Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award :

- The Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award was established in 1992 by the All-Indian Parliamentary Commission of the Indian National Congress to commemorate the former PM Rajiv Gandhi. This award is given annually to those who have devoted their lives to understanding and promoting the spirit of harmony. The awardees are provided with a prize of Rs.10 lakh and a prize. Some of the awardees are: Lata Mangeshkar, Shubha Mudgal, Sunil Dutt, Amjad Ali Khan, Mohammad Azharuddin, Gopalakrishna Gandhi and more.

20th August : World Mosquito Day 2023 (Date, Significance, Celebration and History)

- Every year, World Mosquito Day is celebrated on August 20. This is done to commemorate the contributions of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross who was the first person to discover the connection between malaria and female anopheline mosquitoes. Every year, World Mosquito Day is celebrated to create awareness about the dangers of mosquitoes, the ways by which we can protect ourselves from these diseases, and to rise together to combat these insects. As we gear up to celebrate this day, here are a few facts to keep in mind.

Significance of World Mosquito Day 2023 :

- This day is also observed by raising awareness about the dangers of these diseases. Fundraising is done to explore the cure for malaria. The works of scientists such as Ronald Ross and others are also applauded on this day.

The History of World Mosquito Day :

- On August 20, 1897, a British doctor made a groundbreaking discovery. Sir Ronald Ross found that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. The parasite was located in the mosquito's stomach.
- To commemorate this moment in history, World Mosquito Day (WMD) was founded. Each year, WMD presents



us with an opportunity to raise awareness of the dangers posed by mosquito-borne diseases and the ongoing efforts to combat the world's deadliest creature.

Important Days in August 2023, All Days and Dates List

1 August – National Mountain Climbing Day

- National Mountain Climbing Day is observed in the United States on August 1 each year. The day was established in 2015 to honor Bobby Matthews and his friend Josh Madigan, who successfully climbed all 46 peaks of the Adirondack Mountains in New York. The duo reached the final peak, Whiteface Mountain, on August 1, 2015. National Mountain Climbing Day is a day to celebrate the challenges and rewards of mountain climbing. It is also a day to raise awareness of the importance of conservation and preservation of mountain ecosystems.
- There are many ways to celebrate National Mountain Climbing Day. You can go for a hike in your local mountains, climb a new peak, or simply learn more about mountain climbing. If you are new to mountain climbing, there are many resources available to help you get started.

1 August – Yorkshire Day

- Yorkshire Day is celebrated every year on 1st August. It is the UK's largest country. This day is celebrated to honor everything about the history of the country to its most memorable residents.
- 1-7 August – World Breastfeeding Week
- August 1-7 is World Breastfeeding Week, a global annual observance to promote breastfeeding and improve the health of babies, mothers, and families. The week is coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- The theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2023 is "Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility." This theme highlights the importance of everyone working together to protect breastfeeding and ensure that all babies have the opportunity to benefit from it.
- There are many benefits to breastfeeding for both mothers and babies. Breastfeeding helps to protect babies from infections, allergies, and asthma. It also helps to promote healthy growth and development. For mothers, breastfeeding can help to reduce the risk of postpartum depression and can help to lose weight after pregnancy.

6 August – Hiroshima Day

- Hiroshima Day is observed on August 6 to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, at the end of World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named "Little Boy", on the town of Hiroshima in Japan. 2023 marks the 78th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing. The day, which is observed at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Japan, highlights the effects of nuclear wars, pays respect to those who got killed, discourages nuclear proliferation and promotes world peace.

6 August (First Sunday of August) – Friendship Day

- Friendship Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of August and in 2021 it falls on 6 August. In 1935, a tradition of dedicating a day in honour of friends began in the US. Gradually Friendship Day gained popularity and various countries including India also celebrate this day.

7 August – National Handloom Day

- National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August every year to honor and celebrate the handloom weavers in the country. This day highlights the rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of traditional handloom textiles. The celebration aims to promote and support the handloom industry, which plays a crucial role in preserving the country's cultural diversity and providing livelihoods to numerous artisans. On this day, various events and programs are organized to raise awareness about the importance of supporting handloom products and recognizing the skills of the weavers who contribute significantly to India's textile heritage.

8 August – Quit India Movement Day

- Quit India Movement Day is observed on 8th August every year to commemorate the launch of the Quit India Movement on 8th August 1942 by Mahatma Gandhi. Also known as the August Movement or August Kranti, it was a significant civil disobedience movement against British colonial rule in India during World War II.
- During the Quit India Movement, Mahatma Gandhi gave the famous call of “Do or Die” to the Indian people, urging them to demand complete independence from British rule. The movement aimed to mobilize the masses and invoke non-violent resistance to achieve freedom.
- On this day, various events and programs are organized across India to remember the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and to reflect on the importance of the Quit India Movement in India’s struggle for independence. It serves as a reminder of the collective strength and determination of the Indian people in their quest for freedom and self-rule. Timeline of the Indian Freedom Movement from 1885 to 1947

9 August – Nagasaki Day

- The second atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Japan was Fat Man, which was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. The bomb was dropped by the B-29 bomber Bockscar, commanded by Major Charles Sweeney. The bomb exploded over Nagasaki at 11:02 am local time, killing an estimated 80,000 people instantly and another 35,000 people from radiation exposure in the following months. Fat Man was a plutonium implosion bomb, and it was much more powerful than the uranium bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima. The blast from Fat Man was equivalent to 21 kilotons of TNT, which is about 13 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.
- The bombing of Nagasaki was a turning point in the war. The Japanese government was already considering surrender, but the bombing of Nagasaki convinced them that they could not continue the war. On August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allies.
- The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were a horrific event, and they are a reminder of the destructive power of nuclear weapons. However, they also played a role in ending the war in the Pacific, and they helped to save countless lives.

9 August – International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples

- Every year International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on 9 August to encourage people from around the world to spread the UN’s message on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples.

10 August – World Lion Day

- It is observed on 10 August annually. The objective is to spread awareness and educate people about lions and their conservation.

10 August – World Biofuel Day

- It is observed on 10 August to spread awareness about unconventional sources of fuels that could work as an alternative to fossil fuels.

12 August – International Youth Day

- International Youth Day is celebrated on 12 August around the globe to focus on the development and protection of youth in society.
- 12 August: World Elephant Day
- It is observed on 12 August annually to make people understand to preserve and protect the giant animal elephant. This is the way to bring the world together to help elephants.

13 August – International Lefthanders Day

- Every year on 13 August Lefthanders Day is observed. It raises awareness about the problems and difficulties that left-handed persons faced.

13 August – World Organ Donation Day

- World Organ Donation Day is observed on 13 August to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation.

14 August – Youm-e-Azadi (Pakistan Independence Day)

- Youm-e-Azadi or Pakistan Independence Day is observed annually on 14 August. On this day Pakistan achieved Independence and was declared a sovereign nation following the end of British rule in 1947.

15 August – National Mourning Day (Bangladesh)

- On 15 August, National Mourning Day in Bangladesh is observed. On this day Bangladesh's first President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with most of his family members.

15 August – Independence Day in India

- Every Year on 15 August, India celebrates Independence Day. As of this day, India got freedom from British rule. It makes us remind about a new beginning, the beginning of a new era free from British colonialism of more than 200 years. Independence Day is a national holiday in India, and is celebrated with great fanfare. The day begins with flag hoisting ceremonies at government buildings and schools across the country. The Prime Minister of India gives a speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi, and there are parades and cultural events in major cities.

19 August – World Photography Day

- World Photography Day is observed on 19 August annually to raise awareness about the importance of photography.

19 August – World Humanitarian Day

- World Humanitarian Day is observed annually on 19 August around the world to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service. This day also honours the work of women in crises throughout the world.

20 August – World Mosquito Day

- World Mosquito Day is observed on 20 August every year to commemorate the British doctor, Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that 'female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans'.

20 August -Sadbhavna Diwas

- Sadbhavna Diwas, also known as Harmony Day, is observed on 20th August every year to commemorate the memory of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India. The term "Sadbhavna" translates to goodwill and bonafide in English, and this day is dedicated to promoting the values of peace, harmony, and unity among the people of India.
- Rajiv Gandhi, who was known for his efforts to bridge communal and social divides, is honored on Sadbhavna Diwas for his contributions to national integration and fostering a sense of brotherhood among the diverse communities in the country. On this day, various events, seminars, and cultural programs are organized to promote the ideals of tolerance, non-violence, and communal harmony.
- Sadbhavna Diwas serves as a reminder to the nation about the importance of embracing diversity, respecting each other's differences, and working together for the progress and prosperity of India as a united and inclusive nation. It encourages people to uphold the values of peace and goodwill in their interactions and to strive towards building a more harmonious and cohesive society.

20 August -Indian Akshay Urja Day

- Indian Akshay Urja Day is celebrated on 20 August annually to raise awareness about the development of renewable energy in India. It is a campaign that is celebrated since 2004. This day commemorates the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

23 August – International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

- This day is observed on 23 August every year to remind us of the tragedy of the slave trade in memory of all people that is about the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade. It provides a chance to think about the historic causes and the consequences of the slave trade.

23 August – European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism

- This day is observed on 23 August every year as a remembrance day for victims of totalitarian regimes mainly Communism, Fascism, Nazism, etc. It is also known as Black Ribbon Day in some countries. This day also symbolises the rejection of “extremism, intolerance, and oppression”.

26 August – Women’s Equality Day

- This day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted the women right to vote. In 1971, the U.S. Congress officially recognized August 26 as Women’s Equality Day.

26 August: International Dog Day

- It is celebrated on 26 August to recognise the number of dogs that need to be rescued each year.

29 August – National Sports Day

- National Sports Day is celebrated on 29 August every year to honour the birthday of Dhyan Chand a field hockey player. National Sports Day is also known as Rashtriya Khel Divas.

30 August – Small Industry Day

- Small Industry Day is observed on 30 August every year to support and promote small-scale industries. Do you know that small-scale industries are privately owned small corporations or manufacturers with limited resources and manpower?

31 August- Sanskrit Diwas

- World Sanskrit Day, also known as Vishva-Sanskrita-Dinam, is an annual event focused on the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit that incorporates lectures about the language and is aimed to promote its revival and maintenance

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

1. Rajiv Gauba, who has been in the news, holds which position in India?
 [A] NITI Aayog Vice Chairman [B] Cabinet Secretary
 [C] Home Secretary [D] Chief Election Commissioner
2. The first instance of captive breeding of the Himalayan vulture in India at which state?
 [A] Assam [B] West Bengal
 [C] Odisha [D] Uttarakhand
3. Which country signed the Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CIS-MOA) with the U.S.?
 [A] Russia [B] Pakistan
 [C] China [D] Papua New Guinea
4. Which institution has established a standard definition for 'Water Neutrality'?
 [A] Ministry of Jal Shakti [B] NITI Aayog
 [C] WAPCOS [D] Indian Navy
5. Which institution releases the 'Rice Price Index'?
 [A] NITI Aayog [B] FAO
 [C] IMF [D] US Federal Reserve
6. Which Indian state is conducting a caste-based survey across the state?
 [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Bihar
 [C] Tamil Nadu [D] Kerala
7. Which Union Ministry has set up a panel to revisit its regulations on anti-discrimination in higher educational institutions?
 [A] Ministry of Social Justice [B] Ministry of Education
 [C] Ministry of Culture [D] Ministry of Skill Development
8. As per the Supreme Court, who/ which institution retains power to scrap Article 370?
 [A] Prime Minister of India [B] President of India
 [C] Rajya Sabha [D] Lok Sabha
9. In FY 2022-23, Government e-marketplace (GeM) registered its highest ever Gross Merchandise value of?
 [A] ₹ 1.01 lakh crore. [B] ₹ 2.01 lakh crore.
 [C] ₹ 3.01 lakh crore. [D] ₹ 4.01 lakh crore.

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

10. What is the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on full face value of online gaming?
 [A] 5% [B] 12% [C] 18% [D] 28%
11. What is India's GST collection for the month of July 2023?
 [A] Rs 1.05 lakh crore [B] Rs 1.15 lakh crore
 [C] Rs 1.65 lakh crore [D] Rs 1.95 lakh crore
12. Which state/UT launched the 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' app?
 [A] Assam [B] West Bengal
 [C] Odisha [D] Gujarat
13. 'Unmesha' and 'Utkarsh' festivals were inaugurated in which state/UT?
 [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Goa
 [C] Gujarat [D] Maharashtra
14. Which Union Ministry has recently introduced a fresh visa category named 'Ayush Visa'?
 [A] Ministry of Home Affairs [B] Ministry of External Affairs
 [C] Ministry of Ayush [D] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
15. Starlab station is a joint venture of Voyager Space and which institution?
 [A] Boeing [B] Airbus
 [C] SpaceX [D] Dhruv
16. 'MPOWER Measures', which are seen in the news, are associated with which organisation?
 [A] UN Women [B] World Health Organization
 [C] World Bank [D] International Monetary Fund
17. Which state/UT has approved 'Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy, 2023'?
 [A] Gujarat [B] Maharashtra
 [C] Uttar Pradesh [D] Goa
18. What is DCS, that has been launched by the Union Agricultural Ministry?
 [A] Digital Crop Survey [B] Durable Crop Survey
 [C] Doubling Crop Survey [D] Distributive Crop Survey
19. UNESCO has suggested adding which city to its list of world heritage centres in danger?
 [A] New Delhi [B] Rome
 [C] Venice [D] Paris
20. 'FALCON Shield-2023' is a military exercise participated by which countries?
 [A] India and USA [B] China and UAE
 [C] China and Russia [D] India and UAE

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

21. Which institution released the publication titled '75 Endemic Birds of India'?
- [A] NITI Aayog [B] Zoological Survey of India
[C] UNEP [D] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
22. 'Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre' is being constructed in which country?
- [A] Myanmar [B] Sri Lanka
[C] Nepal [D] Thailand
23. India provides financial assistance of Rs 45 crore to support digital identity project of which country?
- [A] Bangladesh [B] Sri Lanka
[C] Laos [D] Cambodia
24. Which Indian player finished as runner-up at the Australian Open badminton tournament?
- [A] Lakshya Sen [B] HS Prannoy
[C] K Srikanth [D] Chirag Shetty
25. Which institution released the 'Still Unprepared' Report?
- [A] Oxfam International [B] World Bank
[C] NASSCOM [D] Risk Horizons
26. Which state launched the 'Gruha Jyothi scheme'?
- [A] Kerala [B] Karnataka
[C] Odisha [D] Madhya Pradesh
27. Kuttikkanam Palace, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?
- [A] Karnataka [B] West Bengal
[C] Kerala [D] Tamil Nadu
28. Where is the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) located?
- [A] Bengaluru [B] Mahendra Giri
[C] Cochin [D] Sikkim
29. What is the outlay of the BharatNet project?
- [A] Rs 0.59 lakh crore [B] Rs 0.79 lakh crore
[C] Rs 1.39 lakh crore [D] Rs 3.39 lakh crore
30. Which institution signed MoUs with 35 institutions for promoting collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment?
- [A] NITI Aayog [B] BIS
[C] NASSCOM [D] PIB
31. 'National Moth Week' is observed in which month?
- [A] June [B] July [C] August [D] September

21-B 22-C 23-B 24-B 25-D 26-B 27-C 28-A 29-C 30-B
31-B

32. As per recent Home Ministry data, which state recorded the most number of missing girls between 2019 and 2021?
 [A] Gujarat [B] Madhya Pradesh
 [C] Manipur [D] Uttarakhand
33. What number of Income Tax Returns were filed for AY 2023-2024 in India?
 [A] 4.77 crore [B] 5.77 crore
 [C] 6.77 crore [D] 7.77 crore
34. Which institution barred intermediaries for annuities business?
 [A] RBI [B] SEBI [C] PFRDA [D] IRDAI
35. Foxconn subsidiary inked ₹1,600 crore deal with which state to set up electronic components manufacturing facility?
 [A] Maharashtra [B] Gujarat [C] Tamil Nadu [D] Karnataka
36. Which Union Ministry launched the 'ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative'?
 [A] Ministry of Education [B] Ministry of Finance
 [C] Ministry of Corporate Affairs [D] Ministry of MSME
37. The book titled 'Memories Never Die, was launched as a tribute to?
 [A] Atal Bihari Vajpayee [B] Abdul Kalam
 [C] Pranab Mukherjee [D] Manmohan Singh
38. Which badminton player has clinched the Japan Open 2023 singles men's title?
 [A] Kidambi Srikanth [B] Viktor Axelsen
 [C] Lakshya Sen [D] Chen Long
39. BARI Chinabadam-12, which was launched recently, is a new variety of which crop?
 [A] Mango [B] Ground-nut [C] Paddy [D] Cotton
40. Benisagar, which is in the news recently, is a place located in which state?
 [A] Jharkhand [B] Maharashtra [C] Gujarat [D] Haryana
41. As per Health Ministry data, which state recorded the most deaths due to heatwaves till June-end?
 [A] Bihar [B] Rajasthan [C] Kerala [D] Gujarat
42. Which Union Ministry has set up a working group to decriminalise laws to further promote ease of doing business?
 [A] Ministry of Finance [B] Ministry of MSME
 [C] Ministry of Commerce and Industry [D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
43. Which institution releases Digital Payments Index (DPI) in India?
 [A] RBI [B] NPCI
 [C] NITI Aayog [D] Finance Ministry

32-B 33-C 34-C 35-C 36-A 37-B 38-B 39-B 40-A 41-C
 42-C 43-A

44. Which state/ UT saw the highest number of deaths due to rabies in the country in 2022?
 [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] West Bengal
 [C] New Delhi [D] Maharashtra
45. Which country has granted Pakistan a two-year rollover on USD 2.4 billion loan?
 [A] China [B] USA [C] Russia [D] Germany
46. Which Union Ministry is associated with Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill?
 [A] Ministry of Finance [B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 [C] Ministry of MSME [D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
47. The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill proposes which personality as the 'Visitor' to all the IIMs?
 [A] Prime Minister [B] President
 [C] Vice President [D] Union Education Minister
48. Micron is set to establish India's first semiconductor plant in which state?
 [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Gujarat
 [C] Maharashtra [D] Uttar Pradesh
49. Indian companies have been allowed to list on foreign exchanges through which institution?
 [A] SEBI [B] IFSC [C] RBI [D] NSE
50. What is the name of the motorsport championship for electric cars?
 [A] Formula 2 [B] Formula E
 [C] EC Formula [D] EC Racing
51. Which institution approved the Guidelines for Institutional Development Plan (IDP) for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)?
 [A] NITI Aayog [B] UGC [C] AICTE [D] CBSE
52. How many deaths were recorded due to manual scavenging in the last five years in India?
 [A] 25 [B] 15 [C] 10 [D] 0
53. Which state has announced the establishment of 'Mangrove Cell'?
 [A] Kerala [B] Tamil Nadu [C] West Bengal [D] Assam
54. The child helpline is being integrated with which Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) pan-India number?
 [A] 101 [B] 112 [C] 1200 [D] 1800

44-C 45-A 46-B 47-B 48-B 49-B 50-B 51-B 52-D 53-C
 54-B

55. Which company is preparing to launch the world's largest privately-owned satellite called JUPITER-3?
 [A] Space X [B] Virgin Galactic
 [C] Blue Origin [D] Boeing
56. Khongsang railway station, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?
 [A] Manipur [B] Assam
 [C] Sikkim [D] Arunachal Pradesh
57. What is the new logo of Twitter after replacing the iconic bird logo?
 [A] Alphabet 'X' [B] Rocket
 [C] Tesla Car [D] Chat symbol
58. Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate who was seen in the news, is from which country?
 [A] India [B] Pakistan
 [C] Bangladesh [D] Sri Lanka
59. Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, the chair of World Trade Organisation's 13th Ministerial Conference, is from which country?
 [A] Israel [B] UAE [C] Indonesia [D] Iran
60. Karman Kaur Thandi is associated with which sports?
 [A] Tennis [B] Badminton [C] Squash [D] Table Tennis
61. What is the name of the new scheme launched to augment city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses on PPP model?
 [A] Bharat eBus Sewa [B] PM eBus Sewa
 [C] City eBus Sewa [D] Central eBus Sewa
62. What is the total outlay of the expansion of 'Digital India programme'?
 [A] ₹4,903 crores [B] ₹11,903 crores [C] ₹14,903 crores [D] ₹24,903 crores
63. Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC) signed Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with which country?
 [A] USA [B] UK [C] Australia [D] Germany
64. Which country is the host of international conference on 'Preserving Information Integrity and Public Trust in Elections'?
 [A] India [B] Brazil [C] France [D] Australia
65. Which Indian city is the 'G20-Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) Summit'?
 [A] Varanasi [B] Bengaluru [C] Pune [D] Chennai
66. Matangini Hazra, who was seen in the news, was a woman freedom fighter from which state?
 [A] Assam [B] West Bengal [C] Karnataka [D] Odisha

55-A 56-A 57-A 58-C 59-B 60-A 61-B 62-C 63-C 64-B
 65-B 66-B

67. India has settled its first-ever crude oil payment to which country in local currency?
 [A] UAE [B] Russia [C] Iran [D] Malaysia
68. Lake Ohrid, which was seen in the news, is located in which continent?
 [A] Asia [B] Europe [C] North America [D] Australia
69. What is the proposed outlay of the Vishwakarma Yojana scheme, which was recently announced?
 [A] Rs 10000 crore [B] Rs 15000 crore [C] Rs 20000 crore [D] Rs 25000 crore
70. Bindeshwar Pathak, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?
 [A] Politics [B] Social Work [C] Sports [D] Science
71. What is the Wholesale inflation recorded in India in July 2023?
 [A] (-)1.36% [B] (+)1.36% [C] (-)3.36% [D] (-)3.36%
72. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged irregularities in which scheme?
 [A] PM KISAN [B] Bharatmala programme [C] Sagarmala programme [D] PM DISHA
73. Maui Island, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?
 [A] UK [B] Indonesia [C] USA [D] Japan
74. What is the name of the Project 17A frigate recently inaugurated by the Indian President in 2023?
 [A] Vindhyagiri [B] Kailashgiri [C] Arunagiri [D] Shivgiri
75. Which country launched the 'Sponge City Initiative' in 2015?
 [A] Japan [B] China [C] USA [D] Australia
76. As per the recent monetary policy committee announcement, what is the repo rate as of August 2023?
 [A] 5.5 % [B] 6.5 % [C] 7.5 % [D] 8.5 %
77. Which country is the host of Malabar 2023 multilateral naval exercise?
 [A] India [B] Australia [C] UAE [D] Sri Lanka
78. Reliance Jio recently completed the work related to connecting which country with a High-Speed Optic Fibre cable?
 [A] Cambodia [B] Maldives [C] Indonesia [D] Sri Lanka
79. 'One District One Product' launched its collaboration with which Union Ministry?
 [A] Ministry of Rural Development [B] Ministry of MSME
 [C] Ministry of External Affairs [D] Ministry of Women and Child Development
80. Which country is the host of 'Zayed Talwar 2023' exercise?
 [A] Iran [B] Israel [C] UAE [D] Pakistan

67-A 68-B 69-B 70-B 71-A 72-B 73-C 74-A 75-B 76-B
 77-B 78-B 79-A 80-C

81. Rajouri Chikri woodcraft, which was seen in the news, is associated with which state/UT?
 [A] Karnataka [B] Jammu and Kashmir [C] Goa [D] Himachal Pradesh
82. An ancient 'Crystal quartz weighing unit' has been found in which archaeological site in India?
 [A] Hampi [B] Keeladi [C] Dholavira [D] Lothal
83. The World Bank announced a halt on new public finance projects in which country, after its Anti-Homosexuality Act?
 [A] Israel [B] Iran [C] Uganda [D] Afghanistan
84. What is the new name of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE)?
 [A] IIM Mumbai [B] IIM Thane [C] IIM Pune [D] IIT Thane
85. Which city is the host of the 'National Conference on Nalanda Buddhism'?
 [A] Guwahati [B] Patna [C] Leh [D] Shillong
86. Which Union Ministry released the 'State of Elementary Education in Rural India' report?
 [A] Ministry of Education [B] Ministry of Rural Development
 [C] Ministry of MSME [D] Ministry of Women and Child Development
87. Mediation Bill, 2023, aims to cut down the time to complete the mediation proceedings to how many days?
 [A] 90 days [B] 120 days [C] 180 days [D] 270 days
88. Which state granted 32% quota for tribals in schools?
 [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Gujarat [C] Chhattisgarh [D] Jharkhand
89. Who is the head of the all-woman panel appointed by the Supreme Court to oversee relief in Manipur?
 [A] Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg [B] Justice Sonia Sotomayor
 [C] Justice Gita Mittal [D] Justice Gyan Sudha Misra
90. India's Defence Ministry has decided to replace Microsoft Operating System with which Operating system?
 [A] Maya [B] macOS [C] Kuku [D] Haiku
91. Which company is set to launch 'India's first kerosene-oxygen-powered rocket'?
 [A] Agnikul Cosmos [B] Dhruv Cosmos [C] Pixxel Cosmos [D] Orbit Cosmos
92. 'Vidhayak Ksetra Vikas Nidhi Yojana' is associated with which state/UT?
 [A] Gujarat [B] Himachal Pradesh [C] Assam [D] West Bengal
93. Which institution launched Centralised Web Portal 'UDGAM'?
 [A] RBI [B] NITI Aayog [C] NHAI [D] NASSCOM

81-B 82-B 83-C 84-A 85-C 86-A 87-C 88-C 89-C 90-A
 91-A 92-B 93-A

94. Which country is the organiser of 'Army 2023: 9th International Military-Technical Forum'?
- [A] Russia [B] China [C] India [D] UAE
95. When was the 'Maritime State Development Council' constituted in India?
- [A] 1957 [B] 1977 [C] 1997 [D] 2007
96. What is the share provided by the Centre in implementation of projects under "North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme" (NESIDS)?
- [A] 100% [B] 75% [C] 50% [D] 25%
97. India has partnered with which country for the MeitY- National Science Foundation (NSF) research collaboration?
- [A] Japan [B] UK [C] USA [D] South Korea
98. Which institution has recently approved USD 25 million proposal submitted by the India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying?
- [A] AIIB [B] World Bank [C] G20 Pandemic Fund [D] NDB
99. Which country is the host of 'World Water Week 2023' event?
- [A] Sweden [B] USA [C] Sri Lanka [D] Bangladesh
100. India's first indigenous e-Tractor Prima ET11 is developed by which institution?
- [A] L&T [B] DRDO [C] CSIR [D] IIT Madras

94-A 95-C 96-A 97-C 98-C 99-A 100-C



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(Interview Panelist)



Sandip Patil
GA & GK
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GK - GS
(GST Inspector)



Bhuvanesh Chaudhary
Advance Maths
(Customs Officer)



Amit Kinna
Reasoning
(Railways Officer)



Sanjeet Ahlawat
Advance Maths
(Exe. Asst. CGST)



Shishir Ranjan
Maths



N. Kumar Ingole
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Manohar Patil
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(Interview Panelist)



Sandip Patil
GA & GK
Current Affairs



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GK - GS
(GST Inspector)



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Amit Kinna
Reasoning
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SBI SO



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Vishal Bhatnagar
LIC SO



Munishkant Parit
SPO SSB



Ashray Patil
LIC SO



Ekshita Ghosh
Bank of India



Sumit Bhatnagar
SBI SO - Probationary Officer PO



Samriddhi Gadhikar
SBI SO



WAGH MINKA
SBI SO



ADARSH TAMBUR
SBI SO - Probationary Officer PO



VIKAS SINGH
SBI SO - Probationary Officer PO



ANURAG
SBI SO - Account Clerk



Shivani Ghosh
Bank of India SO



Shikha Tawade
SBI SO - Account Clerk



Amay Kulkarni
SBI SO



Pooja Ghosh
SBI SO - Deputy Manager



Sona Singh
SBI SO - Assistant Manager



Garvav Mehta
SBI SO - Clerk



Shivani Ghosh
Bank of India SO



Ritesh Vekhasia
SBI SO - Assistant Manager



Ravi Pankaj
SBI SO - Assistant Manager



Shankar Bhatnagar
Jr. Electric Supervisor



Rishabh Ghosh
S. Section Engg. Railway



Manish Kumar Singh
PNB - Clerk



Nanda Babu
Union Bank of India - Clerk



Mohan Kumbhare
SBI SO - Assistant Manager



Prestesh Saini
Bank of India - Clerk



Faizan Bhatnagar
SBI SO - Assistant Manager



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