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PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of July 2023.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



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Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

Section 2

Question with Answers

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Detailed Analysis of Events

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SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



National Doctor's Day 2023 – 1 July :-

National Doctor's Day is celebrated on July 1st every year in India to recognise the contributions of doctors and medical professionals towards society. It also aims to create awareness about the importance of doctors, their selfless service, and the valuable role they play in improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities. This year's theme for National Doctor's Day is "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands". This day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned physician, who dedicated his life to the medical profession.



World UFO Day 2023 – 2 July :-

World UFO Day is celebrated on July 2 and people around the world come together to raise awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and the existence of life beyond our planet. Due to certain reasons, World UFO Day was earlier commemorated on two different dates– June 24 and July 2. In a bid to clear off the confusion, the World UFO Day Organization (WUFODO) designated July 2 as the official date for the celebration.

The first UFO Day was celebrated by researcher Haktan Akdogan in 2001.



Guru Purnima – 3 July :-

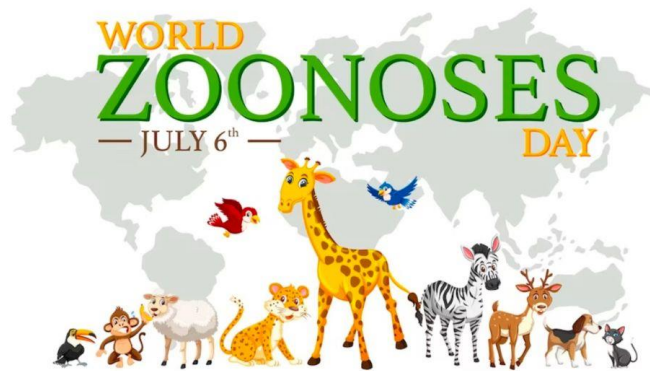
Guru Purnima is a revered Hindu festival celebrated to honour and express gratitude to our gurus, teachers, and mentors. It falls on the full moon day in the Hindu month of Ashadha. This year, Guru Purnima is being observed on Monday, July 3, 2023. Guru Purnima, also known as Vyasa Purnima, holds a special place in the hearts of millions, as it commemorates the birth anniversary of Ved Vyasa, the revered sage who is believed to have compiled the ancient Indian texts known as the Vedas.



Independence Day of USA – 4 July :-

America celebrated 'The Fourth of July' or American Independence Day which holds a special place in the hearts of Americans. This year, the day marks the 247th anniversary of the founding of the United States. On this day, the thirteen American colonies got freedom from British rule. The day is declared a holiday across the US.

The tradition of celebrating the Fourth of July goes back to the 18th century when the Second Continental Congress in the US embraced the Declaration of Independence.



World Zoonoses Day - 6 July :-

World Zoonoses Day is celebrated on 6 July every year to observe the special day when the first vaccination was developed to fight Zoonoses. Zoonotic diseases can be transmitted from animals or insects to humans. These diseases can range from minor, short-term ailments to severe, life-altering conditions. World Zoonoses Day honors the achievements of Louis Pasteur, a renowned French biologist who administered the inaugural rabies vaccine on this day in 1885, marking a significant milestone in zoonotic disease prevention.



National Fish Farmers Day : July 10 :-

Every year on July 10th, National Fish Farmer's Day (NFFD) is observed to recognise and acknowledge the essential contributions of fish farmers, aquaculture industry professionals, and other stakeholders to

maintaining a healthy and prosperous fisheries sector. On this day in 1957, Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. K. H. Alikunhi in the Indian fisheries sector guided the induced breeding and reproduction in Indian Major Carps by Hypophysation technique, which eventually led to a revolution in Inland Aquaculture.



World Population Day : 11 July :-

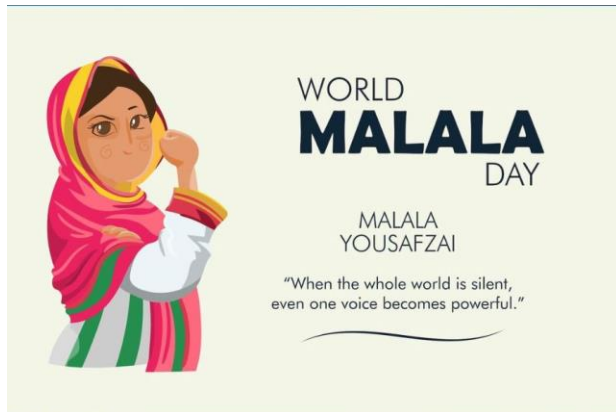
Around the world, July 11 is observed as World Population Day. The day was established in 1989 by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to draw attention to the urgency and relevance of population issues. According to the United Nations, it took hundreds of thousands of years for the world population to reach one billion, and then it surged sevenfold in just 200 years. The theme for this year's World Population Day is 'Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities.'



Paper Bag Day : 12 July :-

Every year on July 12, Paper Bag Day is observed to promote awareness about the advantages of using paper bags over plastic bags. The day also honours American inventor Francis Wolle's invention of the first paper bag machine in 1852. Francis Wolle (1817-1893) was an

American priest, botanist, and creator of the first mass-production paper bag machine. The paper bag production machine invented by Wolle was patented in 1852. The theme of World Paper Bag Day 2023 is "If You're 'Fantastic', Do Something 'Dramatic' To Cut The 'Plastic', Use 'Paper Bags'."



World Malala day : 12 July :-

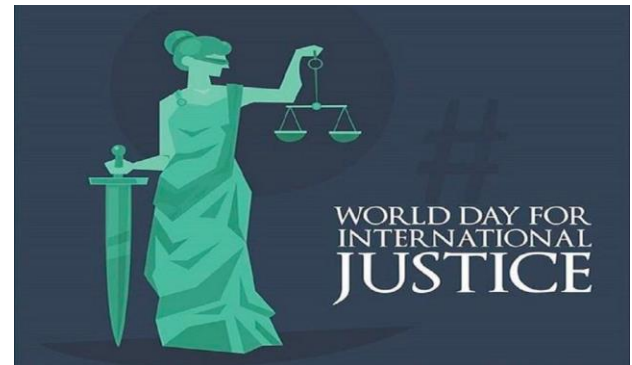
Every year on July 12, people throughout the world mark Malala Yousafzai's birthday. Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani education activist and Nobel laureate noted for her activism, notably for girls' education, and for her bravery in defying the Taliban in her birthplace of Mingora in Pakistan's Swat Valley. Malala was shot by a Taliban gunman, but she somehow survived the attack. All of this occurred on October 9, 2012, and Malala is now known for her advocacy as well as her perseverance.



World Youth Skills Day : July 15 :-

Every year on July 15, World Youth Skills Day is observed. On July 15, 2014, the United Nations announced World Youth Skills Day. Since then, the special day has been observed on the same day each year. The day was established to raise awareness among young people

about the need of having the necessary skill sets for the work at hand. The theme of this year's World Youth Skills Day is – “Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future.” This year, World Youth Skills Day aims to highlight the important role that teachers and trainers play in shaping the youth.



World Day for International Justice – 17 July 2023 :-

The World Day for International Justice, observed on July 17th each year, is dedicated to promoting and raising awareness about international justice. It serves as a reminder of the global community's commitment to upholding the principles of accountability, fairness, and the rule of law in addressing grave crimes committed against humanity. This day recognizes the importance of international justice mechanisms, such as international courts and tribunals, in ensuring that perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are held accountable for their actions.



Nelson Mandela International Day : 18 July :-

Nelson Mandela International Day is an annual international commemoration held on July 18th to honour Nelson Mandela, the former President of South

Africa and anti-apartheid activist. The goal of Nelson Mandela International Day is to motivate people to take action and make a difference in their communities and around the world. It is a day to honour Mandela's beliefs, particularly his devotion to social justice, reconciliation, and human rights. The theme of International Nelson Mandela Day for the year 2023 is: "The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food and Solidarity".



International Moon Day – 20 July :-

International Moon Day is an annual celebration of the Earth's sole natural satellite, the Moon! Every year on the 20th of July, it commemorates the day astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin famously stepped foot on the Moon in 1969. Because the Moon landing is still regarded as one of humanity's greatest achievements, International Moon Day is dedicated to celebrating the Apollo 11 mission while also teaching people about the Moon and astronomy. International Moon Day (IMD) was declared on 9 December 2021 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



World Brain Day : July 22 :-

Every year on July 22nd, the world celebrates World Brain Day. The day encourages education, research, and support for people living with brain-related diseases. This

day's goal is to raise public awareness of brain health and diseases in order to promote access and minimize equity inequities. Brain illnesses are avoidable, treatable, and recoverable. Education is the first step toward ensuring that everyone has access to expert care, treatment, rehabilitation, and assistive technology. Everyone has a human right to optimal brain health, no matter where they live. World Brain Day's 2023 theme is "Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind."



National Mango Day : July 22 :-

Every year on July 22, the National Day of the Mango is observed. In 1987, the National Horticulture Board of India proposed the International Mango Festival as a means to honor the beloved mango. Since then, it has grown into a much-anticipated annual event that draws mango aficionados from all over the country with bustling mango markets, colorful exhibitions, and a plethora of delectable sweets. The term "mango" is derived from the Malayan word "manna," and the fruit's seeds migrated from Asia to many other parts of the world, where they established a presence.



National Broadcasting Day : 23 July :-

Radio was the sole broadcasting medium prior to the advent of television. The Radio Club of Bombay launched India's first radio broadcast in June 1923. Following that,

on July 23, 1927, the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was established as the country's first radio company. This date is now observed as National Broadcasting Day in India, marking the beginning of radio broadcasting in the country. The IBC was created on July 23, 1927, but it only lasted three years. This closure, however, prepared the ground for the establishment of All India Radio (AIR).



Parents Day : last Sunday of July (23 July) :-

Every year on the fourth Sunday of July, India celebrates Parents' Day. This year, Parents' Day is observed on July 23. Every year, National Parents Day is observed to recognize our parents' efforts and contributions to our lives. The occasion invites individuals to express their love and gratitude to their parents or other parental figures in acknowledgment of the important role they play in their children's lives. National Parents' Day was established in 1994 by President Bill Clinton, who signed a Congressional resolution recognizing the fourth Sunday in July as an official day to honor parents.



Income Tax Day : July 24 :-

Every year on July 24, India celebrates Income Tax Day to commemorate the establishment of income tax in India on the same day in 1860. A variety of outreach programs and events are held to promote tax payments and educate future taxpayers about the importance of tax

payments on this day. By paying our taxes on time, we can help our country grow. On July 24, 1860, Sir James Wilson enacted Income Tax in India. The scheme was implemented to compensate the British rule for losses experienced during the 1857 Revolt.



National Thermal Engineer Day : July 24 :-

On July 24, National Thermal Engineer Day celebrates their hard work and dedication. Thermal engineers at Advanced Thermal Solutions, Inc (ATS) founded National Thermal Engineer Day in 2014. ATS engineers chose July 24 as the date to commemorate National Engineer Day, and the inaugural ceremony took place in 2015, gaining global prominence. ATS, which began as a consultancy firm in 1989, is now a world-renowned engineering and manufacturing firm specializing in electronics heat management.



World Drowning Prevention Day : July 25 :-

World Drowning Prevention Day is an annual global event celebrated on July 25th to honor drowning victims and raise awareness about water safety. World Drowning Prevention Day was declared in April 2021 by the United Nations General Assembly resolution, which invited the World Health Organization (WHO) to coordinate actions within the UN system on drowning prevention. This day is significant because drowning is a serious public health issue that has resulted in over 2.5

million deaths over the last decade, the majority of which have occurred in low- and middle-income nations. The World Drowning Prevention Day 2023 theme is "Do one thing to prevent drowning."



World Embryologist Day : July 25 :-

Every year on July 25, World Embryologists Day is held to recognize the efforts and achievements of embryologists worldwide. Embryologists play a vital role in treating infertility and assisting couples in having children through in vitro fertilization, or IVF process. The first IVF baby was born on July 25, 1978, in England, which is why the day was designated as World Embryologist Day, also known as World IVF Day. Embryologists perform a critical function in an IVF center. They are in charge of creating new life outside of a woman's body.



Kargil Vijay Diwas : 26 July:-

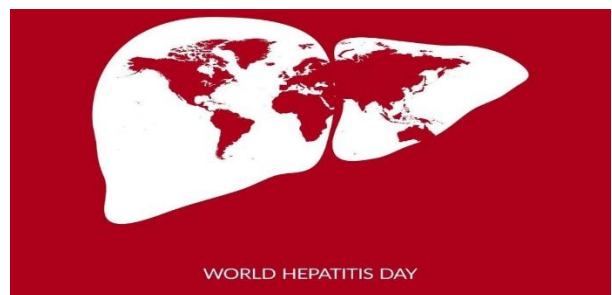
Every year on July 26, the country celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas. The day commemorates India's armed forces' victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War. The day is marked to pay respect to and honor the soldiers' bravery and sacrifice during the 1999 conflict. Operation Vijay is another name for the operation that took place throughout the war. This year, is going to mark the 24th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. The Pakistan and India

armed war began when Pakistani troops intruded into Indian territory in the Kargil district of then-Jammu and Kashmir (now in Ladakh UT). From May to July of 1999, the Kargil War raged.



International Day For the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem : 26 July :-

Every year on July 26, the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is marked to promote awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as "a unique, special, and vulnerable ecosystem." Mangroves benefit the well-being, food security, and protection of coastal populations all over the world. Furthermore, they maintain a diverse biodiversity and serve as a habitat for fish and crabs. According to the Forest Survey Report 2021, the country's overall mangrove cover is 4,992 square kilometers. Mangrove cover has increased by 17 square kilometers since the previous assessment in 2019.



World Hepatitis Day : 28 July :-

Every year on July 28, World Hepatitis Day is marked to raise awareness of the disease's negative impact on the liver. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that causes cell destruction. It is often caused by hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D, and E. Hepatitis is also caused by autoimmune illnesses, improper medication use, and the consumption of alcohol and hazardous substances. It is a widely

recognized disease in India, and liver diseases are the country's tenth leading cause of mortality. This year the World Hepatitis Day will be observed under the theme, "One Life, One Liver."



World Nature conservation day : 28 July :-

Every year on July 28, World Nature Conservation Day is observed. On this day, individuals raise awareness about the significance of environmental protection. Natural resources on Earth include air, minerals, plants, soil, water, and wildlife. Conservation refers to the care and protection of these resources in order to ensure their preservation for future generations. We began to over-exploit our resources as a result of overpopulation and human irresponsibility. If this trend continues, our future generations will have no resources. The theme for World Nature Conservation Day 2023 is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet."



International Tiger Day : 29 July :-

Every year on July 29, the world observes International Tiger Day or Global Tiger Day. International Tiger Day is held to highlight the world's diminishing tiger population. The drop occurred in the twentieth century, and the number is thankfully rising again as a result of people's persistent efforts. Project Tiger, a one-of-a-kind effort to conserve the world's tigers, was launched in India in 1973. There were 9 tiger reserves in its early years, but the Tiger Project now covers 50.



World Ranger Day : 31 July :-

Every year on July 31, the world celebrates World Ranger Day to recognize the contributions of Forest Rangers to the growth of the country and to pay tribute to these green crusaders who, at times, give their lives in the line of duty. A Forest Ranger is someone who is in charge of conserving and protecting forests and natural heritage. Forest Rangers have become incredibly important in protecting our environment in the face of climate change and poaching. The World Ranger Day 2023 theme is '30 by 30

2: Agreements

NOKIA



Nokia renews patent license agreement with Apple:-

Nokia on 30 June 2023 had signed a new long-term patent license agreement with Apple, as the current license between the companies expires at the end of 2023. While terms of the agreement remain confidential between the companies, it covers Nokia's inventions in 5G and other technologies. Nokia's patent portfolio is

built on more than 140 billion euros (\$152.70 billion) invested in research & development and is composed of around 20,000 patents, including over 5,500 declared essential to 5G.



India And Singapore Extend MoU On Cooperation For 5 Years :-

The Public Service Division, of the Republic of Singapore, and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions signed a protocol document recently, extending for five years the current memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of personnel management and public administration till 2028. The MoU was signed by V Srinivas, secretary on behalf of DARPG, and Simon Wong, high commissioner of Singapore to India.



India-UAE sign agreement on trade settlement in local currencies :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit of United Arab Emirates, in July 2023 signed agreements to start trade settlement in their respective national currencies – Rupee and Dirham – as well as to link their fast payment system... This aims to establish a Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS) to promote the use of rupee and the dirham bilaterally. It will cover all current and

permitted capital account transactions.cit would also help promote investments and remittances between the two countries.



Ministry Of Culture And Indian Navy Signed A MoU To Revive The Tankai Method :-

The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to resuscitate and maintain the 2000-year-old shipbuilding process known as the "ancient stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)." The Indian Navy will oversee the project's implementation and execution. The Indian Navy's cooperation assures flawless project management and adherence to the highest standards of safety and precision as stewards of maritime security and specialists in the sector.



Gujarat To Get Country's 1st 'Satellite Network Portal Site' :-

The Gujarat government has inked an a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish two 'Satellite Network Portal Sites' with the London-based company OneWeb and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. One of the venues will open in Jotana, Mehsana, Gujarat. The project's goal is to deliver high-speed, low-cost, and secure satellite internet connectivity across the country, with a

particular emphasis on villages, district panchayats, local administrative bodies, and government offices.



BHEL signed a Technical Assistance and License Agreement with General Electric Technology GmbH Switzerland for Gas Turbines :-

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) announced the signing of a Technical Assistance and License Agreement for Gas Turbines with General Electric Technology GmbH Switzerland. While BHEL has been manufacturing and selling GE-designed Gas Turbines to customers in India and around the world since 1986, this extension agreement grants it increased rights for current or upgraded turbines as well as new Gas Turbine models. In India, BHEL, in collaboration with GE, leads the market for gas turbines. It has so far provided 230 GE-designed gas turbines to Indian and international oil refineries, process companies, and utilities.



IFSCA and PIEDS BITS Pilani signed an MoU to support FinTech & TechFin entities:-

The International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and PIEDS BITS Pilani have signed a MoU at the BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator, Pilani Campus in Rajasthan. This MoU intends to provide a framework for cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator in order to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin

businesses. The IFSCA is in charge of the development and regulation of international financial services, including the insurance industry, in the IFSC, which is considered as a separate international financial jurisdiction distinct from the rest of India.



Saudi Arabia signed the ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC):-

Saudi Arabia officially became the 51st country to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) on the margins of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta. The signing of the TAC reflects Saudi Arabia's strong commitment to the ASEAN values and principles enshrined in the treaty. To promote peace and stability in Southeast Asia and beyond, the TAC urges for cooperation, collaboration, and adherence to international law. These ideals and concepts are becoming increasingly important in the context of present geopolitical events.



Juniper Green Energy signs MoU with Power Finance Corporation :-

To fund its renewable energy projects Juniper Green Energy has signed an MoU with state-owned Power Finance Corporation for Rs 5,000 crore. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) is for the funding of projects with capacities of 1200 MW. Juniper Green Energy has an existing portfolio of around 800 MW, an

under-construction capacity of 435 MW, and a development pipeline of over 3000 MW of solar, wind, and hybrid projects in various stages of development. Juniper Green Energy, a division of AT Group, has a \$2.4 billion asset portfolio.



Punjab Government Inks MoU with British Council to Start English Course for College Students :-

The Punjab government has inked an MOU with British Council Education India to launch an English language training program for government college students. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann stated that the 'English for Work' course focuses on all skills, including listening, reading, writing, and speaking, with an emphasis on grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. According to an official announcement, the course would be introduced as a pilot project in government colleges for 5,000 students beginning with the academic season 2023-24.

3: Appointments



Rohit Jawa takes charge as MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever :-

Rohit Jawa took charge as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL). Jawa has replaced Sanjiv Mehta who retired in June 2023. Mehta handed over the baton to Jawa from the close of business hours on June 26. Mehta was at the helm for almost a decade and was with the company for more than 30 years. Jawa will need to focus on revitalising volume-led growth, restoring gross margins, and mitigating the impact of sustained high costs.



Gernot Döllner Named New Audi CEO :-

The Volkswagen Group has announced a top-level managerial change at Audi with current CEO Markus Duesmann set to be replaced by Gernot Döllner. The change in management is the result of a resolution passed by Audi's Supervisory Board on June 29. Reports claim that senior management at Audi were not happy with the brand's performance in recent years with VW Group CEO Oliver Blume also recently highlighting the brand's slow progress on innovation as a concern. Audi has fallen behind rivals Mercedes-Benz and BMW in recent years, particularly in the push towards electrification.

**SBI appoints Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti as CFO:-**

State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with effect from July 1, 2023. Kodavanti replaced Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra who has resigned from the post. Kodavanti, who is a Chartered Accountant (CA), has been working with the Bank since August 1991. He has vast experience in Banking, Forex and Finance, and Accounting, According to the data released by SBI in May, the bank earned a net profit of 83 percent in the last quarter of FY23.

**Tushar Mehta reappointed as Solicitor General for 3 more years:-**

Senior advocate and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has been reappointed as the Solicitor General of India for a further period of three years. The decision was taken by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) as Mehta's term in the top court came to an end in June 2023. Mehta has been continuing as SG since October 2018. In addition, the ACC has also approved the re-appointment of ASG Chetan Sharma for the Delhi high court, ASG Satya Pal Jain for Punjab & Haryana high

court, ASG Devang Girish Vyas for Gujarat high court and ASG Krishna Nandan Singh for Patna high court.

**QU Dongyu of China re-elected as Director-General of FAO :-**

QU Dongyu was re-elected to a second term as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In ballot by FAO member countries, Qu received a total of 168 out of 182 votes deposited. Nominated by China, Qu was the only candidate to FAO's top position in today's election. His new term will run from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027. The election took place on the second day of the FAO Conference (1-7 July). FAO directors can hold the role for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

**Debadatta Chand appointed as MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda:-**

Debadatta Chand has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Baroda. He took over from Shri Sanjiv Chadha, whose tenure ended on June 30, 2023. Prior to his appointment as MD & CEO, Shri Chand served as the Executive Director at Bank of Baroda since March 2021. In his role as the Executive

Director, he oversaw Corporate & Institutional Credit, Corporate & Institutional Banking, Treasury & Global Markets, Mid-Corporate Business, and Trade & Foreign Exchange.



Cricketer Ajit Agarkar appointed chairman of Senior Men's Selection Committee :-

Ajit Agarkar, a former India fast-bowling all-rounder, has been chosen as the chairman of selectors for India's men's cricket squad. Ms Sulakshana Naik, Mr Ashok Malhotra, and Mr Jatin Paranjape of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) interviewed applications for the role of one selector on the Men's Selection Committee. Mr Ajit Agarkar has been unanimously recommended for the job by the CAC's three members. The former India all-rounder played 26 Tests, 191 ODIs, and four T20Is for the country, in addition to 110 first-class, 270 List A, and 62 T20 matches.



SBI Appoints Kameswar Rao Kodavanti As CFO :-

State Bank of India recently announced the hiring of Kameswar Rao Kodavanti as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He has been with the bank since 1991. Kodavanti takes over for Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra, who resigned from the position. "Kameswar Rao Kodavanti has been appointed as CFO of State Bank of India with effect from July 1, 2023," said the country's largest

lender in a stock exchange report. He has been with the State Bank of India since August 1991, and he has worked in banking, forex, finance, and accounting.



Aadhav Arjuna Elected As President Of The Basketball Federation Of India (BFI) :-

Aadhav Arjuna, the president of the Tamil Nadu Basketball Association (TNBA), emerged victorious in the election held at Nehru Stadium and secured the position of president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI). Out of 48 State Basketball Association Executives across India who were eligible to vote, 41 voted. Aadhav garnered an impressive 38 out of the 39 votes, defeating the incumbent president, K Govindaraj. Kulvinder Singh Gill, a former player and the president of the Madhya Pradesh Basketball Association, was elected as the secretary general.



B. Neeraja Prabhakar Named Oil Palm RAC Chairperson :-

Vice-Chancellor of the Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University B. Neeraja Prabhakar has been nominated chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR) at Pedavegi in Andhra Pradesh. According to university officials, Ms.Prabhakar has been made the RAC chairperson with retrospective effect from

June 13 and she will be heading the 10-member committee for a period of three years. The RAC will advise the IIOPR in terms of guiding the research in areas of problems faced by oil palm farmers in the country.



Google To Appoint Former Apple Executive As India Policy Head :-

Alphabet Inc’s Google is set to appoint a manufacturing and policy veteran as its top government affairs executive in India to tackle legal challenges and expand hardware assembly to the country. Sreenivasa Reddy, currently a senior engineering executive at Microsoft Corp, is likely to join Google toward the end of this year. He previously worked in senior positions at Apple Inc’s India regulatory team and headed government relations at the local unit of Swedish telecom-gear maker Ericsson AB, helping to drive domestic manufacturing at both companies.



G.K. Satish Appointed As A Board Member Of Russian Energy Giant Rosneft :-

Rosneft, the Russian oil giant, has added a former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) director to its board, indicating that it may be aiming to strengthen ties with India. According to a statement made by the Russian firm, G K Satish, who retired as director for business development at IOC in 2021, is one of three new faces nominated to Rosneft's

11-member board of directors. Satish, 62, is the first Indian selected to the Rosneft board of directors. His appointment is significant since Rosneft is now looking to do more business with Indian companies, including the selling of liquefied natural gas (LNG).



Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman Appointed As New IFSCA Chairman By Centre:-

The government has selected K Rajaraman, Telecom Secretary, as chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). He will succeed Injeti Srinivas, the regulatory authority's first chairperson, who was appointed in 2020. According to a gazette notification, Rajaraman's appointment is for three years, beginning on the day of assumption of charge and ending when he reaches the age of 65 or until further orders, whichever comes first. The International Financial Services Centres Authority Act of 2019 formed the IFSCA in April 2020.



ITC Board Reappoints Sanjiv Puri As Chairman & Managing Director:-

The ITC Board of Directors has proposed that Sanjiv Puri be reappointed as Chairman and Managing Director of the business for a five-year term beginning July 22, 2024. His current term expires on July 21, 2024. "The board, on

the recommendation of the committee, has also recommended for the approval of the members, re-appointment of Puri as a Director, not liable to retire by rotation, and as the Managing Director & Chairman of the company for a period of five years with effect from 22nd July, 2024,” the company said in its annual report.



SBI Appoints Abhijit Chakravorty As SBI Card's CEO:-

SBI Card announced the appointment of Abhijit Chakravorty as Managing Director and CEO of its parent company, State Bank of India (SBI). He will succeed Rama Mohan Rao Amara, who will step down as MD on August 11. SBI Card stated in a regulatory filing that Chakravorty's appointment would be effective August 12 and would last two years. Chakravorty began his banking career as a Probationary Officer with SBI in 1988 and is now the bank's Deputy Managing Director. Because to his relocation to SBI, incumbent MD & CEO Rama Mohan Rao Amara has offered his resignation. Amara will leave his position on August 11.



President Appoints Two New Judges In Supreme Court :-

On July 12, the President appointed Telangana Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Kerala Chief Justice S.

Venkatanarayana Bhatti to the Supreme Court. The appointments took place just a week after the Supreme Court Collegium, chaired by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, recommended their names to the government. The two fresh appointments bring the Supreme Court's judicial strength to 33, leaving only one vacancy. Justice Bhuyan, who was appointed to the Gauhati High Court on October 17, 2011, had been the Chief Justice of Telangana since June 28 of last year.



Australia has appointed Michele Bullock as the next central bank governor :-

Michele Bullock has been named as the new governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, replacing Philip Lowe. She is the first woman to lead the central bank. Bullock, who has been the RBA deputy governor since April 2022, was an “outstanding economist and leader with a deep understanding of the RBA's role and operations, built up over her long and distinguished career with the central bank. Her appointment strikes the optimal balance between providing exceptional experience and expertise and offering a fresh leadership perspective.



Joe Biden appoints Indian-American Shamina Singh to serve on Export Council :-

US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to appoint Shamina Singh, a prominent Indian-American business leader, to the President's Export Council, which serves as the principal national advisory committee on international trade. The Council advises the president of government policies and programmes that affect US trade performance, promotes export expansion and provides a forum for discussing and resolving trade-related problems among the business, industrial, agricultural, labour and government sectors.



Nivruti Rai appointed as MD and CEO of Invest India :-

Nivruti Rai has taken over the charge from Manmeet K Nanda, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on July 12, who had assumed this additional charge of MD and CEO ad-interim in March 2023. The new MD and CEO Rai is the recipient of the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar for her remarkable contributions in the field of technology. Invest India platform has been playing a key role in executing the government's flagship initiatives including Make in India, Startup India, National Single Window System and Innovation Advisory Council.

Centre Appoints IPS Officer Manoj Yadava As DG Railway Protection Force :-

Manoj Yadava, a Haryana cadre IPS officer, has been named the new Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) by the Union government. According to a Personnel Ministry order, Yadava, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1988 batch, would follow Sanjay Chander, who is set to retire on July 31. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved Yadava's nomination to the post of DG, RPF, till his retirement on July 31, 2025, according to a government notification.



Govt Appoints Sat Pal Bhanoo As Managing Director Of Life Insurance Corp:-

Sat Pal Bhanoo has been appointed as one of the managing directors of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) by the government. He takes the place of Siddhartha Mohanty, who was appointed head of the LIC in April. According to a regulatory filing, Bhanoo's appointment is valid from the date of assumption of charge until the day of his superannuation on December 31, 2025, or until further instructions, whichever is earlier. Sat Pal Bhanoo was recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) for the position of LIC's managing director.



Jaguar Land Rover Appoints Adrian Mardell As CEO For Three Years :-

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) Plc, UK, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors, has announced the appointment of Adrian Mardell as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a three-year tenure. When Thierry Bollore resigned for personal reasons in November 2022, Mardell was chosen as interim CEO. Previously, he was the Chief Financial Officer and a member of the JLR board. His duties as interim CFO included corporate finance, treasury, financial reporting, accounting, tax, internal control, and business support.



Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya Appointed As Chief Justice Of Bombay High Court:-

On July 24, the Centre issued a notification appointing Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya of the Allahabad High Court as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. This comes roughly eighteen days after the Supreme

Court Collegium, comprised of Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices SK Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna, recommended the promotion of Justice Upadhyaya as head of the Bombay High Court on July 5. CJ RD Dhanuka retired on May 30, and Justice Nitin M Jamdar was named Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.



Asian Paints Appoints Former Ashok Leyland MD R Seshasayee As Chairman:-

Asian Paints said that its board of directors has approved the appointment of R Seshasayee as chairman of the board and the firm, effective October 1, 2023. He will occupy the job until January 22, 2027. Deepak Satwalekar, whose term ends on September 30, will be replaced by Seshasayee. Seshasayee served as managing director of Ashok Leyland Limited from 1998 to 2011, as Executive Vice Chairman from 2011 to 2013, and as Non-Executive Vice Chairman from 2013 to 2016.

4: Awards



Mary Kom honoured with the Global Indian Icon of the Year award :-

Sporting legend and India’s first-ever Olympic medallist in women’s boxing, Mary Kom, has been honoured with the Global Indian Icon of the Year award at the annual UK-India Awards in Windsor, south-eastern England. The awards, now in their fifth year, recognise outstanding contributions of leaders in business, professional services, government, culture and social impact. The 40-year-old former Rajya Sabha member spoke of her 20-year journey of hard work and devoting her life to

boxing as she accepted the award from Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami.



Author Michael Rosen wins 2023 PEN Pinter prize :-

Michael Rosen, the author of more than 200 books for children and adults, has won the 2023 PEN Pinter prize for what judges called a “fearless” body of work that provides a “lesson in humanity.” Rosen will receive the prize during a ceremony at the British Library in October. Established in memory of English playwright Harold Pinter, the award honours a writer based in the UK, Ireland or the Commonwealth who – in the words of Pinter’s 2005 Nobel prize acceptance speech – shows a “fierce intellectual determination” to “define the real truth of our lives and our societies.”



Rajinder Singh Dhatt Received Points Of Light Award :-

Second World War veteran Rajinder Singh Dhatt has been honoured with the Points of Light award which recognises people making a change in their community. He received the award from prime minister Rishi Sunak at a Downing Street UK-India reception. Dhatt is one of

the last surviving Sikh soldiers who fought in the Second World War. Born in India in 1921, he joined the British-Indian Army and moved up the ranks and was later drafted in the Far East campaign to fight in northeast India and support the Allied Forces to help break through the Japanese defences.



NMDC wins ASSOCHAM Awards :-

NMDC Limited won the ‘Mineral Development Award’ and the ‘Employer Brand of the Year Award’ at ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023 in Kolkata in July. The awards were received by M Jayapal Reddy, Executive Director (RP&Env) on behalf of NMDC. As iron ore’s largest producer in the country and the sixth largest producer in the world, NMDC is a key player in the mineral’s development. The company’s state-of-the-art R&D Centre is dedicated to improve productivity, ensure zero-waste mining, and develop cutting-edge beneficiation technology.



Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashleigh Gardner Wins ICC 'Player Of The Month' Award :-

For their outstanding performances in June, Sri Lanka spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and Australian women's

team all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner were named ICC's 'Player of the Month'. Hasaranga won the title for his record-breaking performances in the World Cup Qualifier games in Zimbabwe. Ashleigh Gardner, the Women's Ashes hero, becomes the first player to earn three Player-of-the-Month awards. Hasaranga experienced several highlights throughout his fruitful month, taking 26 wickets at an average of ten per scalp.



ICC to now award equal prize money to men and women cricket teams:-

With the goal of achieving prize money equity by 2030, the ICC has announced equal prize money for both men's and women's teams at ICC tournaments, as well as modifications to over-rate sanctions in Test cricket. According to the council's recent resolution, teams would now receive equal prize money for finishing in similar positions at comparable events as well as the same amount for winning a match at those events.' The new decision will be effective beginning with the next cycle of ICC events, when the same prize money will be awarded to men's and women's winners and runners-up teams at global championships.



PM Modi gets France's highest award :-

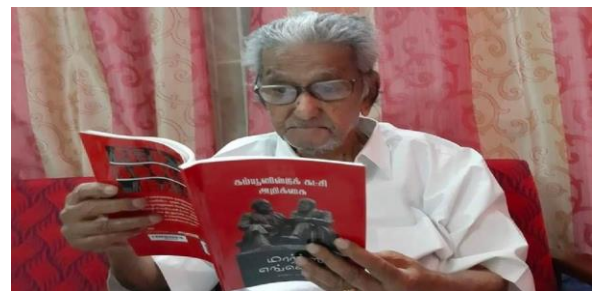
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the

Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron. In the past, this Honor has been received eminent personalities like South African President Nelson Mandela, King Charles, Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Former United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, among others.



Golden Peacock' Environment Management Award 2023 To Adani Transmission Limited:-

Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) has been awarded the 'Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023' in the Power Transmission Sector by the 'Institute of Directors.' In 2023, an evaluation group comprised of experts in the Environment, Health and Safety, Energy, and Climate Change evaluates over 520 applications. The award is presented for lowering the company's environmental footprint through programmes such as zero waste in landfills, single-use plastic free operations, water-positive operations, supporting renewable energy integration, and implementing best-in-class environmental management techniques.



Communist leader Sankaraiah awarded honorary doctorate by MKU :-

The Madurai Kamaraj University has conferred an honorary doctorate to 102-year-old Communist

veteran and freedom fighter N Sankaraiyah, as per the announcement made by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, in Madurai on July 15, the 102nd birthday of the leader. Sankaraiyah was conferred Tamil Nadu's supreme award, 'Thagaisai Tamil' award in 2021 when he turned 100. The award carried a citation and an amount of Rs 10 lakh. The veteran Communist leader donated the money to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.



Indian-American Congressman receives Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award :-

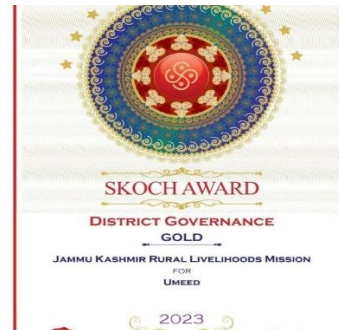
Dr Ami Bera, an Indian-American Congressman has received the Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award in recognition of his support to high-quality, affordable healthcare in the US. Bera, the longest-serving Indian-American Representative in Congress, was felicitated during Healthcare Leadership Council Innovation Expo 23 in Washington D.C. last week. Bera was first elected to represent Sacramento County in November 2012, and since then has served the community for more than two decades as a doctor.



Prof Thalappil Pradeep Wins The Prestigious International Eni Award:-

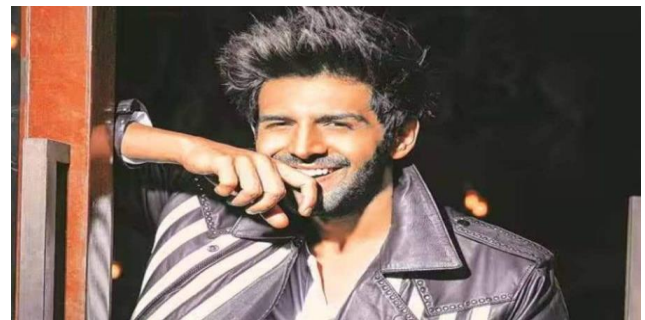
Indian scientist Professor Thalappil Pradeep of IIT Madras has received the prestigious Eni Award for his innovative studies in energy and the environment. The prize honours his groundbreaking breakthrough in

supplying affordable clean water through the use of sophisticated nanoscale materials. The prize will be presented to Professor Pradeep by the President of Italy in the near future. The Eni Award is well-known around the world, with former recipients including Nobel laureates and eminent scientists.



JKRLM Wins SKOCH Gold Award For Marketing Avenues To SHGs :-

The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) received the coveted SKOCH Gold Award under the theme "State of Governance India 2047." This award recognizes the organization's commitment to boosting livelihoods and empowering communities, and it is the organization's first since the program's commencement. The purpose of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission is to combat poverty by building strong grassroots institutions for the poor. It also provides access to government programs, allowing for a life of fulfillment, enjoyment, and dignity.



Kartik Aaryan To Be Honoured With The Rising Global Superstar Of Indian Cinema Award:-

Kartik Aaryan will be honored with the Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema award at the 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). According to the festival organizers, Kartik Aaryan will accept the prizes during the

festival's annual gala night on day one, August 11. The Governor of Victoria will bestow the prize, which recognizes Kartik's exceptional achievements and tremendous impact on the world of Indian cinema. The festival, which runs until August 20, promises to be a stunning celebration of Indian cinema and culture, with over 100 films in 20 languages.



Byculla Railway Station Gets UNESCO’s Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award :-

The UNESCO award was recently given to the heritage Byculla Railway station, which has been restored to its former glory. The prize was announced in November of last year. 'I love Mumbai,' an NGO founded by BJP leader and spokesperson Shaina NC, took on the restoration of the mentioned station with the assistance of heritage conservation architect Abha Lamba and Minal Bajaj of

the Bajaj Trust, who collaborated on the conservation effort. According to Shaina NC, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav received the UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award for Byculla Station.



Shankari Chandran Wins Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023:-

Shankari Chandran, an Australian of Sri Lankan heritage, has been named the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award winner for her work "Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens." The Miles Franklin Literary Award is offered annually to “a novel which is of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases”. The Miles Franklin Literary Award is one of Australia's most renowned literary honors. Previous award recipients include Thea Astley, Jessica Anderson, and Tim Winton, among others.

5: Banking



Housing finance major HDFC merged with its subsidiary HDFC Bank:-

Housing finance major HDFC will merge with its subsidiary HDFC Bank on Saturday as their respective boards have cleared the proposal on 30 June. Following the reverse merger, the 44-year-old institution HDFC Ltd ceased to exist from July 1 onwards. Termed as the biggest transaction in the history of India Inc, HDFC Bank on April 4, 2022, agreed to take over its parent, which is the largest pure-play mortgage lender, in a \$40-billion all-stock deal. The total business of the merged entity stood at ₹ 41 lakh crore at the end of March 2023.



Govt raises rates on select small savings schemes :-

The finance ministry has increased the small savings rates for the September quarter of FY24. Interest rates for the one-year and two-year deposits were raised by 10 basis points (bps) each to 6.9 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, while small savings rate for the five-year recurring deposit was raised by 30 bps to 6.5 per cent. The interest rates on key small deposit rates, such as public provident fund (PPF), Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY), and national savings certificate, were kept unchanged at 7.1 per cent, 8 per cent and 7.7 per cent, respectively.



RBI grants non-banking institution licence to Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 27 said it has granted non-banking institutions licence to Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank Ltd, Dharwad, Karnataka, after cancelling its banking permit. This will not stop the bank from conducting the business of 'banking' and acceptance of deposits from non-members with immediate effect. Further, the bank shall ensure to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by

it, whenever demanded, even after being notified as a non-banking Institution.



SBI launches 34 Transaction Banking hubs nationwide :-

State Bank of India has launched 34 Transaction Banking Hubs at 21 district centres across the country on 1 July with an aim to provide quick and efficient Transaction Banking solutions to customers. Dinesh Khara, the chairman of the SBI, inaugurated the hubs, on the occasion of the 68th foundation day of the bank. The newly launched hubs will be staffed by product specialists who will also assist business customers with their other financial service needs by leveraging the 'Power of One' within the SBI Group by enabling seamless connectivity with different business verticals.



IDFC to merge with IDFC First Bank :-

The Boards of IDFC First Bank Ltd and IDFC Limited on 3 July 2023 approved their merger with each other. The share exchange ratio for the amalgamation of IDFC Limited with IDFC First Bank shall be 155 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 of IDFC First Bank for every 100 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 of IDFC Limited. The merger

will lead to simplification of the corporate structure of IDFC FHCL, IDFC Limited and IDFC First Bank by consolidating them into a single entity and will help streamline the regulatory compliances of the aforesaid entities.



PNB Introduces IVR-Based UPI Solution: UPI 123PAY :-

The Punjab National Bank (PNB), an state-owned bank, has launched UPI 123PAY, a groundbreaking initiative an IVR-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service. This solution is in line with the bank's Digital Payment Vision 2025, which intends to provide all mobile phone users with equal access to digital transactions. Customers may now execute UPI transactions with ease using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology, even on basic feature phones. The effort intends to make digital payments available to millions of underserved clients.



Utkarsh Small Finance Ba Aapki Ummeed Ka Khaata

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank IPO Will Open On 12th July :-

The subscription period for Utkarsh Small Finance Bank's initial public offering (IPO) will begin on July 12. The deadline is July 14. Both markets are likely to list the company's shares. The issue is a completely new sale of 20 crore equity shares worth Rs 500 crore. Investors can place a bid of at least 600 equity shares and multiples

thereof. The net proceeds of the issuance will be used to expand its Tier-I capital base in order to meet future capital requirements and to pay off the issue.



Google Pay Launches UPI Lite :-

Google Pay has launched its UPI Lite features in India, in alignment with UPI Lite launched by the Reserve Bank of India in September last year. This feature allows users to make payment up to INR 200 and doesn't require PIN to initiate the transaction. The idea is to make UPI payments convenient and lighter. UPI Lite is also linked to bank accounts like the original UPI version, but the Lite feature does not rely on the issuing bank's core banking system in real-time. However, only one bank account can be connected to UPI Lite at a time.



RBI imposes curbs on National Coop Bank:-

In response to its deteriorating financial status, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued on July 25 a series of restrictions on one of Bengaluru's oldest institutions, The National Cooperative Bank, enabling it to pay only up to Rs 50,000 to depositors in all sorts of accounts. The RBI used its authority under the Banking Regulation Act of 1949 to issue the instructions to the 48-year-old bank. According to the RBI press release, eligible depositors are

entitled to a deposit insurance claim of up to Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.



RBI Includes 'NongHyup Bank' In The List Of Scheduled Banks Under Schedule II Of RBI Act, 1934 :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the addition of "NongHyup Bank" to the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 in a recent notification. This momentous move is a watershed moment for NongHyup Bank, which is based in Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea, and has been active in India since its inception in 2016. NongHyup Bank, established in 2012, emerged as a detached entity from its previous ownership and is currently owned by the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF).



Govt Approves 8.15% Interest Rate On Employees Provident Fund Deposits For 2022-23 :-

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization's (EPFO) Central Board of Trustees (CBT) recommended raising the interest rate on deposits in Provident Fund (PF) to 8.15%, and the Center has agreed. The new rate will be in effect for the current fiscal year. Retirement fund body

EPFO on March 28, 2023, had marginally raised the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits to 8.15 per cent for 2022-23 for its over six crore subscribers. Now the EPFO field offices will start the process of crediting the interest to subscribers' accounts.



Swiggy Launches Co-Branded Credit Card With HDFC Bank:-

Swiggy, a food delivery website, announced the launch of a co-branded credit card with HDFC Bank, adding to the bigger trend of ecommerce businesses releasing co-branded cards. Swiggy stated in a statement that customers of its co-branded credit cards will receive 10% cashback on its platform for spending on food delivery, quick commerce grocery delivery, and dining out. Cardholders will also receive 5% cashback on purchases made on major ecommerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart, Myntra, Nykaa, Ola, and branded fashion websites such as Nike, H&M, Adidas, and Zara, to name a few.



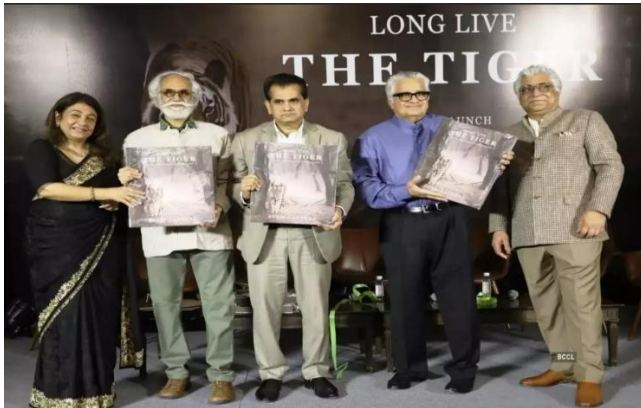
RBI Permits Banks To Open Vostro Accounts From 22 Countries For Trade In Rupee:-

According to the government, the Reserve Bank of India has authorized 20 domestic banks to open 92 Special

Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) of partner banks from 22 countries as part of efforts to increase bilateral trade in local currencies. Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply that an MoU was signed on July 15 between

the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of UAE. Exporters and importers would be able to invoice and pay in their respective native currencies, allowing the creation of a bilateral foreign exchange market.

6: Books and Author



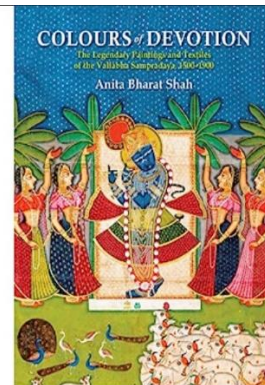
New coffee book on tigers by Sunil Gadhoke launched in Delhi :-

Entrepreneur and wildlife photographer, Sunil Gadhoke's new coffee table book on tigers titled 'Long Live the Tiger' was launched by Amitabh Kant- Sherpa at G20 India, Former CEO at NITI Aayog and author- at an event in Delhi on July 5, 2023. The book puts the spotlight on the iconic symbol of the Indian forests, and it also marks the golden jubilee year of Project Tiger in India. In 'Long Live the Tiger', Gadhoke aims to raise awareness among readers and advocates the preservation of tigers and their natural habitats.



Gandhi The Lawyer book released :-

At the Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai, Madras High Court Judge Justice R. Vijayakumar recently released a book titled Gandhi The Lawyer, which focuses on Mahatma Gandhi's career as a lawyer. Speaking on the occasion, Justice Vijayakumar stated that the book was appropriately titled Gandhi The Lawyer since Mahatma Gandhi exemplified what a lawyer should be. Advocate S. Srinivasa Raghavan received the first copy of the book authored by the Director of the National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi, A. Annamalai.



A Book Titled “Colours Of Devotion” By Anita Bharat Shah Released :-

A book titled “Colours of devotion” authored by Anita Bharat Shah has been released. 'Colours of Devotion' seeks to grasp the underlying connection of Pushti Marg Indian philosophical notions as put forth by the saint and founder Shri Vallabhacharya, which inspired the art made for use in the religious practises of the Vallabha Sampradaya. The book traces the origins of the most famous pre-Mughal manuscript, the Palam Dispersed Bhagavad Puran, as well as Golden and Kalamkari pichvais.



BTS celebrates ARMY DAY by releasing their first book 'Beyond The Story':-

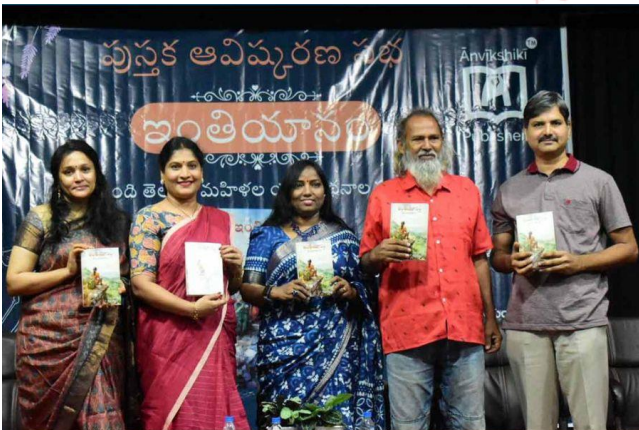
Icons of the world BTS recently celebrated ten years as a group. Their accomplishments have been unprecedented and one-of-a-kind. The group launched their first book "Beyond The Story: 10-Year Record of BTS" on ARMY DAY (the day the fandom's name was publicised and founded), which explores stories beyond what is already known. Members of BTS — RM, Jimin, J-hope, Jin, Suga, Jungkook and V, have co-authored the book. Journalist Myeongseok Kang is behind the narrative for the book.

Kilari. Adinarayana praised the book's endeavour and suggested that ladies try to compile their trip stories. Swarna Kilari, the book's editor, commended the female authors for sharing their travel stories.



Tamil translations of Homer's Greek epics The Illiad and The Odyssey released :-

M.P. Saminathan, Minister for Tamil Development, Information, and Publicity, released Tamil versions of Homer's The Iliad and The Odyssey. It was part of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's endeavour to translate and publish world classics into Tamil. The initiative is overseen by the International Institute of Tamil Studies. Professor Marudanayagam has translated The Iliad into Tamil in prose, whereas Pon Chinnathambi Murugesan, a former Secretariat employee, has translated The Odyssey into Tamil in verse.



Hyderabad: Book titled 'Inthiyanam' released at Telugu University:-

'Inthiyanam,' a collection of 45 Telugu women's travelogues published by Anvikshiki Publications, was recently released at Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University in Hyderabad. Adinarayana Machavarapu, a well-known travel writer, was the main guest at the book launch, which was also attended by writers Pingali Chaitanya, Surepally Sujatha, Madhav Mudumbai, and Swarna



A New Book Released 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode Of Rainbow' :-

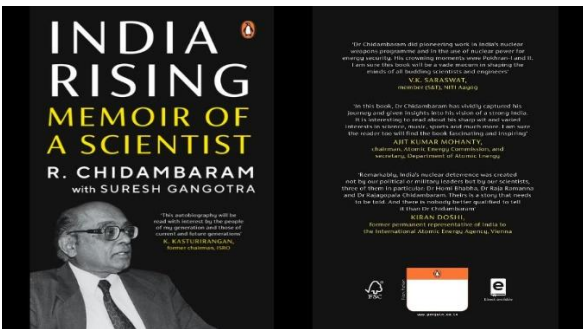
Vinod Mankara, a national award-winning filmmaker-writer, has launched his new book from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The SDSC-SHAR hosted the one-of-a-kind premiere of 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow,' a compilation of science papers, while preparations for the

country's much-anticipated Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 were underway. ISRO Chairman S Somanath handed over the book to Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) Director S Unnikrishnan Nair.



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Released A Book On The Importance Of Mangrove Ecosystems:-

Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav released a book on the importance of the mangrove ecosystem written by experts from the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF). The illustrated book titled 'Biodiversity and Importance of Mangrove Ecosystem' offers descriptions of mangrove species found throughout India, medicinal uses for mangroves, and a variety of animal critters that flourish in the ecosystem. The Minister, who launched the book at a mangrove plantation drive in Kovalam, emphasised the need of making such information available in Indian languages to the general public.



“India Rising Memoir of a Scientist” authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra :-

A Padma Vibhushan awardee, Chidambaram played an integral role in the design and execution of the peaceful Nuclear Explosion experiment at Pokhran in 1974 and led the team of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE),

which designed the nuclear devices and carried out in cooperation with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) the Pokhran tests in May 1998. The author has devoted two chapters to Pokhran and some details about the tests are sprinkled in the other chapters too.



"A Fool's Journey" Book by Sarika Bhardwaj :-

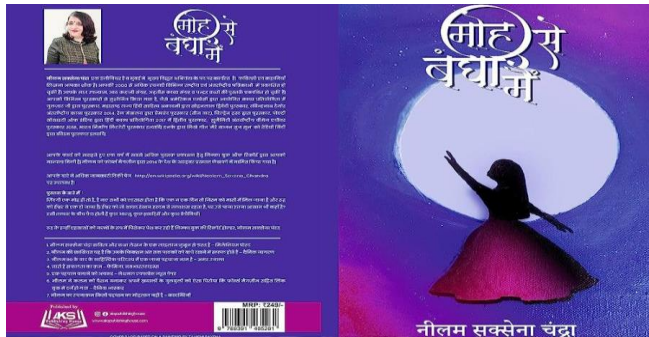
With a deep-rooted belief in the transformative power of storytelling to touch hearts and change lives, Sarika Bhardwaj’s new book promises to be an enlightening voyage of healing and spiritual growth for its readers. “A Fool’s Journey” is a captivating non-fiction work that delves into the depths of self-discovery and the quest for purpose in life. The launch event was held at Soul, The Ashok, Chanakyapuri. “A Fool’s Journey,” is published by NotionPress and Orient Digital Media.



“Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography” Authored By T.N. Seshan :-

‘Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography’ authored by T.N. Seshan, the former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, who made a significant difference to Indian elections was released recently. It was published by Rupa Publications India. This autobiography also covers his term as the CEC from 1990 to 1995 with a page

count of 368. It has been published 4 years after he passed away in 2019. T.N. Seshan is also the author of "An Undocumented Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election."



Neelam Saxena Chandra released "Moh se Bandhi Main," a Hindi poetry book :-

Neelam Saxena Chandra has announced the publication of a Hindi Poetry Book titled "Moh se Bandhi Main." Neelam's poems are based on various themes such as social, nature-based, motivational, philosophical, feministic, or simple meanderings of life. She is an internationally recognized poet and was named one of the most popular writers by Forbes in 2014. Neelam has over 71 books to her credit, and "Moh se Bandhi Main" is her fourteenth poetry collection. She is a bilingual writer who effortlessly moves between languages.

7: Defence



Tejas Mk-1 Completes Seven Years In-Service With The IAF :-

The indigenously developed Tejas Mk-1 completed seven years in-service with the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 1 July. The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) program was started in the early 1980s, with the Government of India (GoI) establishing the project in 1983 to replace Mig-21 fighters. Christened Tejas in 2003 by former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, the fighter aircraft was designed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), to perform the roles of air defence, maritime reconnaissance and strike, switching between roles with the press of a button.



Defence Ministry Inks Rs 458 Crore Deal With HAL :-

The defence ministry has signed a Rs 458-crore contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of two Dornier aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard. According to officials, the aircraft will be outfitted with innovative equipment such as a glass cockpit, maritime patrol radar, electro-optic infrared gadget, and mission management system. "The Dornier aircraft are being indigenously manufactured at HAL (Transport Aircraft Division), Kanpur and will significantly contribute in achieving Aatmanirbharta in defence" the ministry said.



India-US Joint Operation 'Broader Sword' Halts Illegal Drug Shipments Via International Mail System :-

More than 500 shipments of unapproved prescription pharmaceuticals and synthetic drug precursors were stopped from reaching American consumers as a result of a cooperative operation launched by India and the United States to prevent global exports of illegal drugs and medical equipment. According to the US embassy, "Operation Broader Sword" was a bilateral multi-agency enforcement campaign that especially targeted illicit drugs, devices, or precursor chemicals transported over the international mail system.



Indian armed forces likely to get their first Integrated Theatre Command in August:-

The Indian armed forces are undergoing their most significant restructure since independence, with plans to establish the first Integrated Theatre Command (ITC) nearing completion. "The Jaipur-headquartered South Western Command (SWC) will be the first theatre command, followed by Lucknow-based Northern Theatre Command," a defence source said. On Independence Day, an announcement in this regard is expected. The Western Integrated Theatre Command

will be responsible for defence and security concerning Pakistan.



North Korea Launches Unspecified Ballistic Missile Off East Coast:-

North Korea has launched an undisclosed ballistic missile off its east coast, the twelfth launch of the year. North Korea has recently made angry accusations over US military actions, accusing American spy planes of violating airspace in its economic zones and criticising an American nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine's recent visit to South Korea. North Korea has accused the US of unlawfully flying over the economic zone eight times and has threatened retaliation, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).



DAC Approves Procurement Of 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft And Additional Scorpene Submarines :-

According to a latest report, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the purchase of 26 Rafale fighter jets for its navy. There are 22 single-seater Rafale marine aircraft and four twin-seater trainer versions among them. It also approved the purchase of three new Scorpene class submarines for the Indian navy. According to the report, the transactions are likely to be worth over Rs 90,000 crore. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

(MDL) will manufacture the three Scorpene class submarines.



INS Sahyadri And INS Kolkata In Jakarta For Bilateral Maritime Exercise :-

The INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata, two frontline Indian Naval ships, landed in Jakarta, Indonesia, to participate in the Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Indonesian Navy. According to an Indian Navy news release, INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata, the mission deployed in the South Eastern IOR, were warmly welcomed by the Indonesian Navy. Following the completion of the operational turnaround, the two ships will participate in an MPX at sea with the Indonesian Navy to further strengthen the existing high level of interoperability between the two fleets, according to a news release.



Argentina To Acquire Light And Medium Utility Helicopters From HAL :-

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Argentina's Ministry of Defense have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on productive cooperation and the acquisition of Light and Medium Utility Helicopters for its armed forces. The LoI was signed by Argentinian Defence Minister Jorge Taiana, and HAL Chairman and Managing Director C B

Ananthkrishnan, the Bengaluru-headquartered PSU said in a statement. Ananthkrishnan and other senior company officers briefed the visiting dignitaries on various activities of HAL and a presentation was given on the occasion.



Ashok Leyland Bags Major Orders Worth Rs 800 Crore From Indian Army:-

Ashok Leyland, a Mumbai based commercial vehicle manufacturer, announced orders worth Rs 800 crore from the Indian Army. The contracts also include the purchase of the Field Artillery Tractor (FAT 4x4) and the Gun Towing Vehicle (GTV 6x6), according to Ashok Leyland. The vehicles will be supplied over the following 12 months to suit the Indian Army's needs, according to the business. According to the firm, the FAT 4x4 and GTV 6x6 are specialized trucks used by the artillery for towing light and medium guns, respectively.



Indian Army facing shortfall of more than 6,000 officers :-

The Indian Army has been battling to fill crucial jobs that have been vacant for some time. The army now faces a deficit of approximately 2094 Majors and 4,734 Captains. These ranks are critical for commanding soldiers in multiple operations. Doctors, dentists, and nurses are

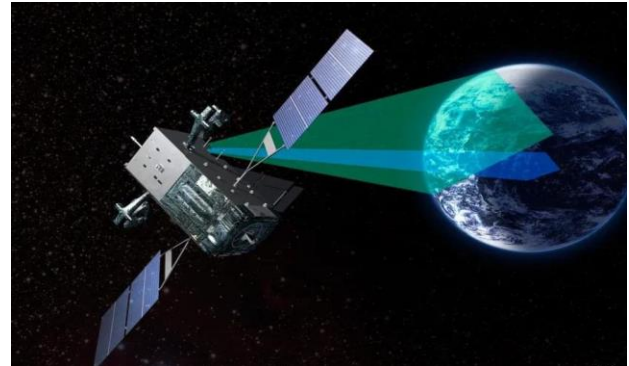
likewise in limited supply in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. According to Junior Defence Minister Ajay Bhatt's response to Rajya Sabha MPs Kumar Ketkar and Jebi Mather Hisham's questions, the reasons for the problem are "low intake" during the epidemic and limited recruiting in other cadre entry.



Australia's Largest Bilateral Military Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 Begins :-

Exercise Talisman Sabre, the largest bilateral military exercise between Australia and the United States, was formally launched with an opening ceremony aboard HMAS Canberra. Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023, which is currently in its tenth edition, is the greatest in terms of both its geographical scope and the number of participating partners. 13 nations will engage in advanced multi-domain warfare over the sea, land, air, cyber, and space over the course of the next two weeks.

The purpose of the exercise is to improve interoperability and forge close bonds between the participating military personnel.



Pixxel Secures Grant From Ministry Of Defence To Develop Satellites For Indian Air Force:-

Pixxel, a Bengaluru-based space firm, announced a multi-crore rupee grant from the Ministry of Defence's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) to develop miniaturized multi-payload satellites for the Indian Air Force (IAF). Pixxel will be able to create small satellites weighing up to 150 kg thanks to the grant. These satellites will be built with electro-optical, infrared, synthetic aperture radar, and hyperspectral imaging in mind. The funding is part of the SPARKS project, which is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mission DefSpace, which was announced last year.

8: Economy



IndiGo Becomes First Indian Airline to Cross Rs 1 Lakh Crore Market Cap :-

IndiGo operator InterGlobe Aviation's market capitalisation became the first Indian aviation company to cross Rs 1 trillion mark. Amidst the grounding of Go First, InterGlobe has gained the majority of market share to cement its number one position on the back of improvement in yields and passenger load factor. IndiGo has expanded its fleet to more than 300 aircraft, from a little over 100 in 2016. IndiGo is India's largest airline and

ranks 10th in market value among the world's top 10 listed aviation firms.



RBI Releases Draft Circular On Credit Card Network Portability :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has adopted a fresh rule that allows debit, credit, and prepaid card consumers to choose their preferred card network, a potentially game-changing breakthrough worldwide. This guideline contradicts current practise, in which card network options are controlled by agreements between issuers and networks. Card issuers will be barred from engaging into any arrangement or agreement with card networks that would prevent them from using the services of other card networks, according to a drafting circular from the RBI.



India Permits Potato Imports From Bhutan Till June 2024 :-

For one more year, till June 2024, India has allowed unlicensed importation of potatoes from Bhutan. It was previously permitted until June 30 of this year. In 2022-23, fresh or chilled potato imports totaled USD 1.02 million. In a separate notification, the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said that the import of 17,000

metric tonnes of fresh (green) areca nut without a minimum import price (MIP) condition from Bhutan will also be allowed through LCS (land customs station) Chamurchi (INCHMB).



India's Forex Reserves Rise By \$1.85 Billion To \$595.05 Billion :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$1.853 billion in the week ending June 30 to \$595.051 billion. In the preceding reporting week, the overall reserve fell by \$2.901 billion to \$593.198 billion. The country's foreign exchange reserves reached an all-time high of \$645 billion in October 2021. According to the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement for the week ending June 30, foreign currency assets, a major component of reserves, grew by \$2.539 billion to \$527.979 billion.



Net Direct Tax Collection Grows 16% To Rs 4.75 Lakh Crore In FY24: Income Tax Department :-

According to the Income Tax Department, India's net direct tax collection has increased by 16% this fiscal year to Rs 4.75 lakh crore. "Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs 4.75 lakh crore which is 15.87 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year." Refunds totaling Rs 42,000 crore were provided between April 1 and July 9,

2023, which is 2.55 percent more than refunds issued during the same time the previous year. Direct tax collection, which includes income and corporate taxes, increased 14.65% to Rs 5.17 lakh crore on a gross basis.



India's Retail Inflation Surges To 4.81% In June; May IIP Rises To 5.2% :-

Retail inflation climbed moderately in June after declining for four consecutive months, thanks to a strong increase in vegetable costs. However, industrial output jumped to a three-month high of 5.2% in May, providing some relief amid projections of sluggish economic growth this fiscal year. Consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation jumped to 4.81% year on year in June, up from 4.31% in May, according to newly released official statistics. In June 2022, retail inflation was higher at 7.01%. Consumer food price inflation increased to 4.49% in June, up from 2.96% in May.



RBI To Introduce UPI QR Codes For CBDC Transactions:-

Customers will be able to use QR codes from the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) network for digital currency transactions by the end of this month, according to T. Rabi Sankar, deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Sankar told bank and fintech executives at an

event hosted by the Indian Banks Association that interoperability of QR codes will stimulate more central bank digital currency (CBDC) transactions. Sankar has instructed banks to prepare for one million CBDT transactions per day by the end of this year.



Forex Reserves At Near 2-Month High, Rises By \$1.23 Billion To \$596.28 Billion:-

The Reserve Bank of India said on July 14 that India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.229 billion to USD 596.28 billion in the week ending July 7. The aggregate foreign reserves climbed by USD 1.85 billion to USD 595.05 billion in the preceding reporting week. The country's forex reserves reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion in October 2021. According to the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement for the week ending July 7, foreign currency assets, a major component of reserves, grew by USD 989 million to USD 528.968 billion.



Wholesale Price Index (WPI) For June 2023 Shows A Decline Of 4.12% :-

Wholesale price-based inflation in India fell for the third consecutive month in June, falling to 4.12 percent on an annual basis from 3.48 percent in May, according to Commerce Ministry data released on July 14. It was 16.23% in June of last year. In June, the WPI fell 0.40

percent month on month. It was 16.23% in June of last year. In a press release the government said, the decrease in the rate of inflation in June is mostly attributable to lower costs for mineral oils, food goods, basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas, and textiles.



Reliance Set To Buy Alia Bhatt's Brand Ed-A-Mamma :-

Reliance Brands Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries' retail arm Reliance Retail Ventures, is said to be in talks to buy actor Alia Bhatt's kidswear business Ed-a-Mamma for \$300-350 crore. According to a fresh source, talks between Reliance Brands and Ed-a-Mamma are nearing completion, and an agreement is expected within the next several days. Eternalia Creative and Merchandising, of which Alia Bhatt is a director, owns the Ed-a-Mamma brand. Ed-a-Mamma was founded in 2020 and specialised in giving affordable sustainable clothing solutions for children.



HCLTech Joins XR Startup Programme With MeitY, Meta:-

HCL Technology (HCLTech), based in Noida, has announced its participation in the XR Startup Programme, a collaboration between Meta and the

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub to find, develop, and accelerate extended reality (XR) technology start-ups in India. As a knowledge partner in this program, HCLTech will contribute to the creation of a vibrant ecosystem in which Indian start-ups can pioneer and develop innovative services, hardware, and software solutions with a focus on education, healthcare, and agri-tech, resulting in significant economic, social, and environmental impact, according to the company.



Lavasa, India's First Private Hill Station, Sold For Rs 1.8k Crore:-

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the sale of India's first private hill station, Lavasa, to Darwin Platform Infrastructure, resolving the disputes of hundreds of purchasers and lenders. The NCLT order approving the resolution plan submitted by Darwin came after the lenders voted in favour of the resolution plan. It envisages a payout of Rs 1,814 crore over eight years; it includes Rs 929 crore to lenders and spending Rs 438 crore on delivering fully constructed houses to home buyers.



PFRDA To Invest In Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs):

According to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), pension funds in India would be permitted to invest in sovereign green bonds (SGrBs). SGrBs are government-issued bonds that are used to fund environmental projects. According to PTT, the government plans to issue sovereign green bonds in the second half of the current fiscal year. With longer maturities, sovereign green bonds provide stability and long-term returns, making them suited for ordinary investors' pension needs.



India Bans Export Of Non-Basmati White Rice :-

According to a notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the Indian government has forbidden the export of non-basmati white rice. However, it will allow consignments of this rice to be exported under specific conditions, such as if loading of this rice on the ship began prior to this announcement. According to Bloomberg, the Indian government is considering prohibiting the export of most rice varieties. The prohibition may affect around 80% of India's rice exports, reducing rice prices within India, but may have a detrimental influence on global pricing.



CAIT And Meta Expand 'WhatsApp Se Wyapaar' Partnership :-

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Meta are expanding their 'WhatsApp Se Wyapaar' program to digitally train and upskill 10 million local traders using the WhatsApp Business App in an effort to empower small enterprises across the country. According to a Meta statement, the partnership's purpose is to localize digitalisation initiatives to unleash growth potential for businesses through hyper-local digital training in 11 Indian languages across all 29 Indian states. The collaboration will help advance CAIT's digital skilling mission for the trading community by providing access to the Meta Small Business Academy to 25,000 traders.



India's Forex Reserves Breach \$600 Billion-Mark, Hover Around 15-Month High :-

According to the Reserve Bank of India's statement on July 21, India's foreign reserves increased by \$12.74 billion to \$609.02 billion, the largest weekly increase in four months. Previously, currency reserves increased by \$1.23 billion for the week ended July 7. According to the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement, foreign currency assets (FCAs) increased by \$11.19 billion to \$540.17 billion. The FCAs are expressed in dollars and reflect the effect of non-US currency appreciation or depreciation in foreign exchange reserves such as the euro, pound, and yen.



Jio Financial And BlackRock Announce Joint Venture To Revolutionize India's Mutual Fund Market:-

Jio Financial Services Limited and BlackRock have established a 50:50 joint venture that would combine the two brands' powers to provide tech-enabled access to inexpensive, innovative investment products for millions of Indian clients. Jio BlackRock announced in its official release that JFS and BlackRock intend to contribute USD 150 million each in the joint venture. The alliance will introduce a new player to the India market with a unique combination of scope, scale, and resources, according to the company.



Mahindra & Mahindra Confirms Buying 3.53% Stake In RBL Bank For ₹417 Crores :-

Mahindra and Mahindra announced the purchase of a 3.53% interest in RBL Bank for 417 crores. The company has discussed the prospect of additional investments up to a 9.9% ownership in the company. RBL, on the other

hand, stated that it was not aware of any additional stock purchases by Mahindra. "We have acquired a 3.53 % stake in RBL Bank as an investment at a cost of Rs. 417 crores. We may consider further investment subject to pricing, regulatory approvals and required procedures. However, in no circumstance will it exceed 9.9%" Mahindra and Mahindra said in a regulatory filing.



Banks Write Off Bad Loans Worth Rs 2.09 Lakh Crore In 2022-23:-

Banks wrote off bad loans worth over Rs 2.09 lakh crore (around US \$ 25.50 billion) in the fiscal year ended March 2023, bringing the total loan write-off by the banking sector to Rs 10.57 lakh crore (around \$ 129 billion) in the previous five years, according to a Right to Information (RTI) response from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to RBI data, banks have written down a massive Rs 15,31,453 crore (US \$ 187 billion) from FY2012-13. However, it should be noted that bank-written-off loans will stay on the bank's books as unrecovered loans.

9: International



Canada launches 'digital nomad strategy' for foreign workers :-

Canada has announced to launch its "digital nomad strategy" which will provide a temporary arrangement for foreigners to look for jobs in the country. Announcing the development, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser said that "digital nomad strategy" will allow workers with a foreign employer to stay and work in Canada for up to six months. In a bid to address Canada's skills shortage, the federal government is looking to poach talent from abroad through three new initiatives that were unveiled

at a technology conference. The conference was addressed by Fraser.



Suicides in Singapore at 22-year high :-

The Singapore recorded the highest number of suicide cases in over 20 years. Suicides in Singapore rose nearly 26 percent last year to their highest level in more than two decades, reflecting the "unseen mental distress" in the city-state. A total of 476 individuals killed themselves in 2022, "the highest recorded suicide deaths since 2000", up from 378 the year before. Globally, suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among those aged 15-29, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).



New Zealand bans thin plastic bags at supermarkets:-

New Zealand has become the first country to ban the thin plastic bags that supermarket customers use to collect their fruit and vegetables. The new ban will also extend to plastic straws and silverware, as the government expands a campaign against single-use plastics it started in 2019 when it banned the thicker plastic shopping bags that customers used to carry home their grocery items. These days, most customers bring their own reusable tote bags to stores. Officials estimate that on average,

each New Zealander sends more than three-quarters of a ton of waste to landfills every year.



Turkmenistan inaugurates 'Arkadag', a \$5 billion 'smart city':-

Turkmenistan has inaugurated Arkadag, a US\$5 billion "smart" city, built in honour of former strongman leader Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov. Serdar Berdymukhamedov, his son and current president, unveiled the city around 30km (18 miles) southwest of the capital, Ashgabat, during a grandiose ceremony. The new city – not yet populated – is built in the foothills of the picturesque Kopet-Dag mountains and named after Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, who ruled the country between 2006 and 2022 and now carries the title Hero Arkadag (Protector).



Scientists embarked on 'Sagar Nidhi' for joint ocean expedition :-

Scientists from Bangladesh, and Mauritius on embarked on board India's research vessel 'Sagar Nidhi' to participate in a joint ocean expedition spanning nearly 35

days. The expedition is being held under the framework of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) between the nations of the Indian Ocean Region. The cruise is conducted by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It is an outcome of the maiden CSC Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference held at Goa and Hyderabad in November 2022.



Iran becomes full member of SCO :-

Iran, one of India's neighbours in its extended neighbourhood, has formally become a full member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Iran originally requested to join the alliance 15 years ago. SCO follows a rigorous process of admission. At the end of the 21st Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), held in the Tajik capital Dushanbe, the leaders of the eight main members of the organisation agreed to change the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran from an observer member to a full member and signed the relevant documents.



SpaceX Gets Licenses In Mongolia To Offer High-Speed Internet :-

Mongolia has given Elon Musk's SpaceX two licences to operate as an internet service provider using low-orbit satellites. Millions of Mongolian internet customers will be able to connect to high-speed connections via Starlink, SpaceX's satellite communications service. Starlink has established a rapidly expanding network of over 3,500 low-Earth orbit satellites that can give connectivity in remote places. The Mongolian government and SpaceX began formal cooperation in February at the 2023 Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.



Taiwan To Establish Representative Office In Mumbai, Boosting India-Taiwan Ties :-

Taiwan said on July 5th that it would set up its third representative office in India in Mumbai, more than a decade after it last expanded its presence in India. Talks to open a Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) in Mumbai have been long in the works, following the opening of the TECC in Chennai in 2012, which has emerged as a hub for Taiwanese firms. "The TECC in Mumbai will help expand mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities between Taiwan and India," a statement said.



Dutch Government Collapses Over Migration Row :-

The Dutch government has collapsed due to a disagreement between coalition parties over asylum policies, according to Prime Minister Mark Rutte. The four parties were divided during crisis negotiations presided over by Mr Rutte. Coalition members objected to his proposal to limit the ability of immigrant families to reconnect. The current government was formed a year and a half ago, but the parties have long been opposed to migration.



Bangladesh And India Launch Trade Transactions In Rupees To Reduce Dollar Dependence:-

Bangladesh and India have begun a long-awaited trading transaction in rupees, with the goal of lessening reliance on the US dollar and bolstering regional currency and trade. This is the first time Bangladesh has conducted bilateral trade with a country other than the United States. Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder called the introduction of rupee-based trade settlement the "first step in a great journey." "The trade position between India and Bangladesh has seen remarkable growth, with both countries benefiting from their economic cooperation," he said.



India Wins 34th International Biology Olympiad :-

India won four gold medals at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2023, which was held in Al Ain, UAE, from July 3 to 11. For the first time in IBO history, India has produced an all-gold performance and led the medals tally. The student's team this year was Dhruv Advani (Gold) from Bengaluru, Karnataka, Ishan Pednekar (Gold) from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Megh Chhabda (Gold) from Jalna, Maharashtra, Rohit Panda (Gold) from Risali, Chhattisgarh. The team was accompanied by two leaders, Professor Madan M. Chaturvedi (Former Senior Professor, Delhi University) and Dr Anupama Ronad (Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education, TIFR).



Israel Parliament Approves Bill That Limits Supreme Court Power :-

The Israeli parliament gave preliminary approval to a bill that limits certain Supreme Court power, as part of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's relaunched judicial makeover, which has triggered a major political crisis. The effort by Netanyahu's ruling coalition of nationalist and religious parties to reform the justice system has prompted unprecedented protests, alarmed Israel's Western partners, and harmed the economy. The new bill attempts to limit the Supreme Court's ability to overturn judgements made by the government, ministers, and elected officials as unreasonable.



UAE Becomes First Arab Country To Get Observer Status On Asian-Pacific Money Laundering :-

The UAE is sending a delegation with observer status to the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), a Financial Action Task Force-style regional body (FSRB), which is meeting in Vancouver, Canada. The UAE is the first Arab country to be admitted as an observer to the APG. Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State in the UAE Cabinet, commended the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering Plenary's decision to grant the UAE observer status. The UAE delegation to the plenary is led by Hamid Al Zaabi, Director-General of the Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (EO AML/CTF).



Nigeria Declares a State of Emergency as Food Prices Surge :-

Nigeria declared a state of emergency that will allow the government to take exceptional steps to improve food security and supply, as surging prices cause widespread hardship. The move will trigger a range of measures,

including clearing forests for farmland to increase agricultural output and ease food inflation. It follows the president Bola Tinubu's removal of fuel subsidies and exchange-rate reform, which has seen the naira fall by 40%. Nigeria, Africa's leading economy, has been battling with inflation since January.



Admiral Lisa Franchetti Becomes First Woman To Lead US Navy:-

Admiral Lisa Franchetti has been nominated by President Joe Biden to lead the Navy, a historic step that would make her the first woman to command the service and become a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Biden's choice is unexpected. "Throughout her career, Admiral Franchetti has demonstrated extensive expertise in both the operational and policy arenas," Mr. Biden said in a statement, noting that she was just the second woman in U.S. Navy history to earn the rank of four-star admiral.



Twitter Replaces Iconic Bird Logo With 'X' :-

Elon Musk, the owner of Twitter, has modified the company's famed bird emblem to a "X." The switch from Twitter to X shows Musk's desire to transform the

platform into a "everything app." In a blog post, Twitter CEO Linda Yaccarino stated that X will be "centered on audio, video, messaging, payments/banking." She also mentioned that the platform would be powered by artificial intelligence. According to court records, the firm began its shift to X in April, when the name of Twitter Inc. was changed to X Corp.



India Is Considering Expanding Its Solar STAR-C To A Number Of Pacific Island Countries :-

According to those familiar with the situation, India is considering expanding its solar STAR-C initiative, which is operated by the International Solar Alliance, to a number of Pacific Island countries. The program's goal is to improve solar power ecosystems in the world's poorest countries. It is currently operational in Tonga in the Pacific. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in a Pacific Island meeting, India is trying to expand its diplomatic footprint in a region where China has increased its outreach. India's efforts will be focused mostly on economic development, connectivity, and climate change.



India's Nidhi Buley And Ritika Among Four Females To Enter BCCI Umpiring Panel:-

Former India cricketer Nidhi Buley has been appointed to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) umpiring panel. Her sister Ritika has also been added to the list, as a total of four females completed the BCCI's umpiring exam with distinction. Nidhi Buley first represented India at the international level in 2006, appearing in an ODI and a Test. Her sister Ritika, on the other hand, did not make it to the upper level, but she did play 31 first-class matches for Madhya Pradesh in domestic cricket.



The Bank Of Israel Joins The International Committee On Credit Reporting (ICCR):-

At the winter meeting of the International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR) in November 2022, a vote was held among the Committee's members, and it was overwhelmingly approved to confirm the Bank of Israel's membership in the organization. The World Bank has been taking internal measures to ratify the Bank of Israel's membership since November, and following the Committee's spring session in June, the World Bank granted an official permission for the Bank of Israel's entrance.



PFC Becomes First Member From India To Join Asia Transition Finance Study Group:-

Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has become the first Indian participant in the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG), a Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) initiative to promote sustainable transition finance in Asian countries. By participating in this project, PFC will not only give India's viewpoint, but will also work on developing policy considerations to promote efficient energy transition financing. ATFSG was founded in October 2021 by private financial institutions with the explicit goal of introducing and promoting the concept of Asian transition finance.



Cambodia's Hun Sen To Resign After Four Decades And Appoint Son As PM:-

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, one of the world's longest-serving leaders, has declared his intention to step down and hand over power to his son in early August. The announcement came three days after his party won all of the seats in another uncompetitive election. Hun Sen, 70, has become increasingly

autocratic in Cambodia after nearly four decades in power. Hun Sen's eldest son, Hun Manet, who was the head of the Royal Cambodian Army until recently, has long been groomed for the position. Hun Sen stated in his announcement that his son would be appointed Prime Minister on August 10th.



India, ADB Sign \$295 Million Loan To Upgrade State Highways In Bihar :-

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have agreed to a \$295 million loan to rehabilitate roughly 265 kilometers of state highways in Bihar with climate and disaster resilient design and road safety measures. The project contributes to the Bihar government's plan to widen all state highways to normal two-lane widths and increase road safety. The rebuilt roads will increase connection in some of Bihar's poorest rural regions, as well as promote access to health care, education, and markets, thereby improving people's lives.

10: Miscellaneous



Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

अतुल्य भारत की अमूल्य निधि
Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India

Seven handicraft products from Uttar Pradesh gets GI tag:-

The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has recently bestowed Geographical Indication (GI) tags on seven distinct products from Uttar Pradesh. The products are 'Amroha Dholak', 'Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip', 'Mainpuri Tarkashi', 'Sambhal Horn Craft', 'Baghpat Home Furnishings', 'Barabanki Handloom Product' and 'Kalpi Handmade Paper'. These products

represent the rich heritage and craftsmanship of the region. A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.



Kharchi Puja celebrated in Tripura. :-

Kharchi Puja also called the 'Festival of 14 Gods' is observed on the eighth day of the new moon in July or August every year in the Northeastern state of Tripura. This year, the auspicious festival began on June 26 and continued till July 2. The festival is centred around the worship of Chaturdasa Devata, the ancestral deity of the Tripuri people. The word 'Kharchi' is derived from two Tripuri words-'khar' or kharta meaning sin and 'chi' or si meaning cleaning. During the festival, the people of Tripura also worship the earth along with their 14 deities.



India experienced its warmest June since 1901 :-

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has revealed that southern peninsular India experienced its warmest June since 1901, with an average maximum temperature of 34.05 degrees Celsius. The rainfall over the homogeneous region of south peninsular India was also the lowest since 1901. In its monthly climate

summary, the IMD noted that the maximum temperature was above normal by 4.4 degrees Celsius in several regions, including East and Northeast India, South Peninsular India, and parts of Northwest and Central India.



Shraddha Kapoor Appoints As Brand Ambassador Of ASICS:-

ASICS has named Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor as their brand ambassador for India. With this collaboration, ASICS India continues to enhance its 'sound mind, sound body' philosophy while also establishing a stronger brand presence among Indian female fitness lovers. The actor will be promoting the brand's footwear and women's apparel. ASICS India will also strengthen its market presence as a result of the collaboration, with a common objective to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle while maintaining elegance and comfort.



National Law University Delhi Launches 'Eklavya' :-

Under its innovative academic initiatives, the National Law University (NLU) in Delhi has introduced Eklavya, a

'Research Affiliate' programme. This programme is offered to persons without a standard law degree. The institution hopes to stress its commitment to actively seek relationships outside of the university and to rely on their experiences and viewpoints in order to promote outstanding legal scholarship. The initiative is accessible to anyone with at least three years of verifiable experience working on challenges that have a significant legal interaction.



Dell Joins Intel To Launch AI Skills Lab In India :-

Dell Technologies and Intel have collaborated to demystify artificial intelligence for students at Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology in Telangana. The two businesses are integrating their "AI for Youth" programme into the institution's curriculum. The Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology hopes that this collaboration will help students become industry-ready and close the digital skills gap. This collaboration with Intel introduces a comprehensive AI preparedness programme to equip kids with the power of AI to be future-ready.



Archaeologists Uncover 3,000-Year-Old Sealed Corridor in Peruvian Temple :-

Archaeologists working in Peru uncovered a large ceramic piece inside a 3,000-year-old sealed corridor in what used to be a massive temple complex. The corridor has been dubbed "the condor's passageway" after the discovery of a large ceramic piece, weighing approximately 37 pounds, decorated with what appears to be a condor's head and wings was found in the passageway. A ceramic bowl was also unearthed in the corridor last May when the entrance to the corridor was uncovered by archaeologists at the Chavin de Huantar archaeological site.



CarTrade Tech To Acquire OLX India's Auto Business For ₹537 Cr :-

CarTrade Tech, a vehicle marketplace, would pay ₹537 crore to acquire OLX India's automotive unit, Sobek Auto India Private Ltd. CarTrade Tech stated in the filing that it will buy a 100% ownership in Sobek Auto, OLX India's automobile business, for a cash payment. The OLX automotive business includes classifieds, the internet, and transaction-based platforms. OLX is a subsidiary of the Dutch investment group Prosus. In January, the OLX Group announced that it will be reorganising and laying off 15% of its global staff, or more than 1,500 employees, including in India.



Skill India Project revives the dying Namda Art of Jammu and Kashmir:-

The Namda craft of Kashmir is being successfully revived under a Skill India’s Pilot Project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). Under this initiative, nearly 2,200 candidates have been trained in the art of Namda craft, representing a significant milestone in preserving this traditional craft and empowering the local weavers and artisans. The project has successfully trained individuals across six districts of Kashmir, namely Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam, and Anantnag.



Australia pulled out as Commonwealth Games Host :-

Australia’s Victoria has pulled out of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games on after costs ballooned. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said the cost of hosting the event had increased significantly, and he was not willing to divert funds from other government programs to cover the difference. The inaugural Commonwealth Games, then known as the British Empire Games, were held in Hamilton, Ontario in Canada

in 1930, and have only been canceled once previously following the outbreak of the Second World War.



DD Sports Secures Television Rights For FIFA Women’s World Cup 2023:-

DD Sports has teamed with 1Stadia to provide fans delight and excitement by broadcasting the highly anticipated 9th edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup. The competition, which begins on July 20, 2023, is the first time the World Cup has been co-hosted by two countries, namely Australia and New Zealand. Sub-licensing rights for streaming the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 have been granted to streaming platform FanCode, while television broadcasting rights have been granted to state broadcaster DD Sports.



Anshuman Jhingran Becomes Youngest Person To Cross North Channel :-

According to IANS, open water swimmer Anshuman Jhingran set a new record and is now the youngest person to traverse the North Channel. This achievement has won the 18-year-old from Navi Mumbai a place in the

Guinness Book of World Records. He is the 114th person to cross the English Channel since 1947. The North Channel, which connects Scotland and Northern Ireland, is thought to be the most difficult of the Ocean Seven Swims due to the exceptionally cold temperatures and the presence of countless extremely hazardous lion's mane jellyfish.



New Guidelines For Designation Of Senior Advocates In The SC:-

The Supreme Court has issued new guidelines for the identification of senior advocates who primarily practise before the Apex Court. These rules follow a May 12 judgement by a three-judge bench led by Justice SK Kaul in a case seeking to modify the conferment of 'senior advocate' designation guidelines set in a 2017 Supreme Court ruling. According to the revised standards, the minimum age to apply for the 'senior advocate' title is 45 years old. However, if the Committee, the Chief Justice of India, or a Supreme Court judge has suggested an advocate's name, this age limit may be modified.



Shah Rukh Khan Appointed As The Brand Ambassador Of ICC World Cup 2023:-

Shah Rukh Khan has been named the ICC World Cup 2023 brand ambassador. The most recent photograph of Shah Rukh Khan holding the coveted World Cup trophy implies that he recorded a special ad for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. The ODI World Cup will be held in India in 2023, between October 5 and November 19, with ten nations competing. India will open their campaign against Australia on October 8, followed by a match against Pakistan at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on October 15.



Harmanpreet Kaur Suspended For Code Of Conduct Breach:-

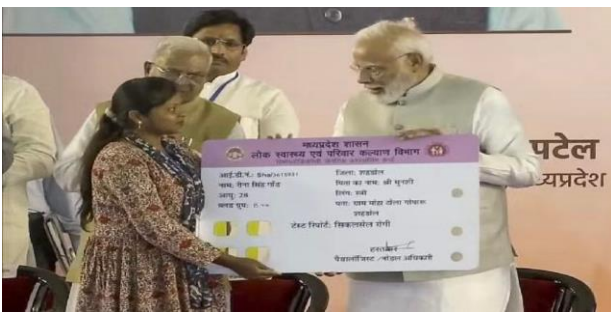
Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of the Indian women's team, has been suspended for the next two international matches for two different violations of the ICC Code of Conduct during the just concluded third ODI between India and Bangladesh. After being pronounced LBW in the match, Kaur destroyed her stumps with her bat and dubbed the umpiring "pathetic" in the post-match presentation. For the Level 2 offense, Kaur was fined 50% of her match money and given three demerit points on her disciplinary record.

11: National



Amarnath Yatra 2023 begins as LG flags off first batch of pilgrims :-

The inaugural group of pilgrims for the annual Amarnath Yatra was flagged off by J&K LG Manoj Sinha from the Bhagwati Nagar camp early morning on June 30. The initial batch of over 3,400 pilgrims, departed for the twin base camps in Kashmir to continue their journey towards the 3,880-meter-high cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the southern Himalayas of Kashmir. The 62-day pilgrimage officially began from Kashmir on 1 July, following the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal district.



PM Modi launched National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 July launched National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047 by unveiling a portal and also released a guideline for the management of the disease and different modules for its monitoring. On the occasion, PM Modi started the

distribution of more than 3 crore digital Ayushman cards in the country and one crore PVC Ayushman Bharat cards in MP. The National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission (NSCAEM), which aims to address the pressing health challenges posed by sickle cell disease, was announced in the Union Budget 2023.



Nagpur's Itwari Railway Station renamed after Subhash Chandra Bose :-

The Maharashtra government has changed the name of Itwari station in Nagpur district to 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari ' station. Nagpur East MLA Krishna Khopde said a notification was issued by the state's Home department in June, and a no-objection certificate to the name change had been received from the Ministry of Home Affairs. As per the procedure, an approval by the Central Government is mandatory before naming of a railway station. Therefore, State submitted the proposal for naming and to the Union Home Ministry promptly approved the matter.



India's first domestically built nuclear reactor starts commercial operations :-

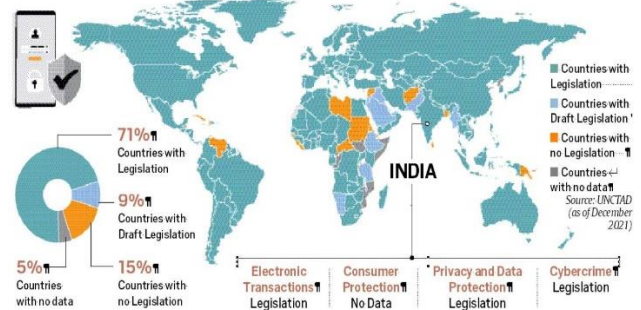
India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat started commercial operations on 30th June 2023 at 1000 Hrs. Presently, the unit is operating at 90 per cent of its total power. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is building two 700 MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar, which is also home to two 220 MW power plants. The NPCIL plans to build sixteen 700 MW PHWRs across the country and has granted financial and administrative sanction for the same.



PM Modi inaugurates Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi:-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 4 July inaugurated Sai Hira Global Convention Centre via video conferencing. Sai Hira Global Convention Centre is built by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries and devotees from around the world. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the new center will create an experience of spirituality and will become a focal point for discussions on spirituality and academic programs where scholars and experts will get together.

DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY LEGISLATION WORLDWIDE



Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023 Approved By The Cabinet :-

Nearly six years after the Supreme Court declared privacy to be a basic right, the Centre has undertaken a second attempt to write data protection legislation. A draft of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, which was floated in November, is scheduled to be tabled in Parliament's Monsoon Session, which begins on July 20. The Bill, once it becomes law, will play a crucial role in India's trade negotiations with other nations, and especially regions like the European Union, whose General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) are among the world's most exhaustive privacy laws.



NHB Operationalizes Rs 10,000-Crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund :-

The National Housing Bank (NHB) announced that the Rs 10,000-crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) introduced in this year's Budget for the building of urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities has been operationalized. The fund's initial corpus, handled by

NHB, is Rs 10,000 crore. The UIDF was established to augment state governments' efforts by providing a steady and predictable source of money for the development of urban infrastructure in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. The current interest rate on UIDF loans is bank rate minus 1.5 percent, or 5.25 percent.



India Unveils Draft And Roadmap For Green Hydrogen Ecosystem :-

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) of India has produced a preliminary R&D strategy for the green hydrogen ecosystem. The plan suggests R&D activities to improve the efficiency, dependability, and cost-effectiveness of green hydrogen generation, storage, and transportation as the country strives to become a global centre for green hydrogen. The draft roadmap—prepared by experts from the government, industry, and academia—recommends R&D priorities with respective performance targets under three categories: mission mode, grand challenge, and blue sky.



ONGC Becomes India’s First PSU To Achieve Anti-Bribery Management System Certification:-

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has made history by becoming India's first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to earn Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) certification recently. InterCert USA, an internationally accredited certification agency, gave the certification. ONGC’s commitment to combat bribery was previously demonstrated in 2005 when it became the first organization in India to adopt the Integrity Pact (IP) initiated by Transparency International.



21% Unorganised Workers Exit PM Pension Scheme :-

The government's pension system for unorganised workers, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM), saw approximately 21% of participants leave in less than six months, raising concerns about the scheme's viability. According to official data, the overall number of plan participants decreased to 4.43 million on July 11, down 1.19 million from an all-time high of 5.62 million on January 31. According to experts, this is due to strong inflation and rising living costs, which have made it impossible for unorganised workers to continue contributing to this voluntary pension programme or may even require them to remove their share of payment.



Bhupender Yadav organised Mangrove Plantation Drive In Chengalpattu :-

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India on 14 July organised a mangrove plantation program at Kovalam Panchayat in Chengalpattu District in Tamil Nadu. Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav led the plantation drive as part of the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme of Government of India, where in more than 100 people participated including students. The plantation drive was the part of ongoing "Hariyali Mahotsav" with a particular focus of Mangroves.



Govt Doubles Income Slab For EWS Under PMAY :-

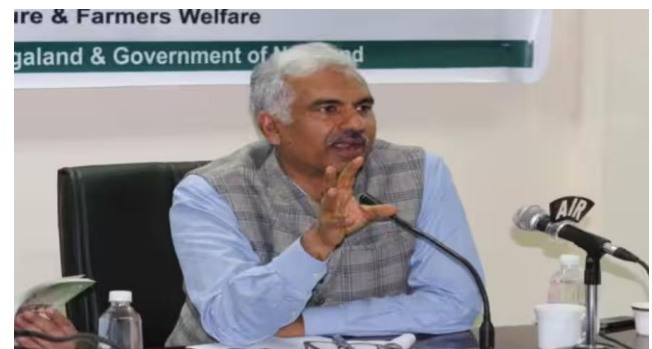
The Indian government has announced a significant measure to help the urban poor by increasing the income slab of the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) to Rs 6 lakh from Rs 3 lakh for housing schemes in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The decision was made in response to a letter from the Maharashtra government seeking that the union government raise the

income threshold for the EWS category for the affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) vertical of PMAY-U projects in the metropolitan zone.



Inauguration Of 'Sagar Sampark' DGNS By Sarbananda Sonowal :-

Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has launched an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNS) called Sagar Sampark in an effort to encourage digitisation in the maritime sector. According to the shipping ministry, it is an improvement system that "corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and provides more accurate positioning information." Sonowal stated that the implementation of Sagar Sampark in six sites will help the Director General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) provide radio aids to ships for marine navigation.



Manoj Ahuja Launched A New Campaign Called BHARAT For Banks Under Agri Infra Fund:-

Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, has launched BHARAT (Banks

Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation), a new initiative for banks under the Agri Infra Fund. This one-month campaign (from 15th July 2023 to 15th August 2023) with a target of Rs 7200 crore was launched via video conference attended by more than 100 Banking Executives from public and private sector commercial banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks, NBFCs, and select cooperative banks.



Nokia and TSSC launch 5G skill development centre in Gujarat:-

Finnish telecom gear maker Nokia and India’s Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) will train 300 people in 5G, IoT and allied skills at the Nokia Centre of Excellence which was inaugurated at ITI Kubernagar, Gujarat on 17 July 2023. The centre is setting up a skill lab for training of the candidates with the aim of providing placement offers within 4-6 weeks of course completion to at least 70% of learners. About 300 such candidates will benefit from the program in the first year of the project.



Opposition political parties have formed the INDIA coalition :-

The leaders of 26 Opposition political parties from across India have joined hands to form the INDIA coalition —

the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance — to take on the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP, in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The leaders discussed issues such as seat-sharing - how many seats each party would contest - and a common programme for the election in the two-day meeting which was held in Bengaluru city (formerly Bangalore) in the southern state of Karnataka on July 17-18.



Government Launches CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal To Help Sahara Depositors Get Refund:-

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'CRCS-Sahara restore Portal,' which aims to restore the hard earned money of crores of depositors in four Sahara Group cooperative societies within 45 days. On March 29, the government stated that money would be returned to 10 crore cooperative society investors within 9 months. Following a Supreme Court ruling requiring the payment of Rs 5,000 crore from the Sahara-Sebi refund account to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS), the notification was made.



Regional Rural Bank Mergers Exempted From CCI Approval :-

According to a senior official, the government has decided to remove mergers of regional rural banks (RRBs) sanctioned by it from the requirement of clearance from the Competition Commission of India, indicating that the next wave of consolidation of such lenders may be in the works. The exemption, designed to expedite such mergers, would be granted for five years, according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The latest decision comes at a time when the government is focusing more on modernizing RRBs in order to enhance credit development in distant areas and economic activity.

**Government To Face No-Confidence Motion In Parliament :-**

On July 26, the Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) filed notices requesting a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration in the Lok Sabha over the Manipur issue. The no-confidence motion against the government was approved. The date of the debate will now be soon announced by the Speaker. Since the opening day of the Parliament's monsoon session, opposition parties have pushed on PM Modi to address the violence in Manipur. On July 20, the Parliament's monsoon session officially began.

**Amit Shah inaugurates centralised security control centre for 66 airports under CISF cover:-**

Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, has opened a centralized aviation security control center in New Delhi that would keep an eye on all dangers and social media activity for the 66 public airports now guarded by the CISF. According to a statement from the force, the aviation security control centre (ASCC) will have access to "24x7 real-time data monitoring and trend analysis of passengers and air traffic." The governmental force responsible for protecting civil aviation is called the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is the national civil aviation protection force. It guards 66 passenger airports out of the total 134 operational in the country.

**Kargil Gets First Women Police Station In Ladakh:-**

An official announced on July 26 that the first women's police station had begun operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh, calling it a significant step toward empowering women and safeguarding their safety. S D Singh Jamwal, the additional director general of police in Ladakh, officially opened the police station that will

handle crimes against women, he added. "The station will operate round the clock to ensure immediate assistance and support for women in need. Additionally, it will act as a resource centre, providing guidance and counselling services for women facing challenging situations," the official spokesman said.



Govt tables registration of births and deaths amendment bill :-

The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023, has been introduced in the Lok Sabha by the government. This development is part of an amendment to the original 1969 Act that could streamline the birth and death registration processes. The Ministry of Home Affairs is proposing additional legislation that would make Aadhaar essential for tracking new births and deaths in any family. It proposes to create a database of births and deaths and use it to update every other database in the government, including the National Population Register, voter rolls, and ration card, passport, driving license, and Aadhaar databases.



PM Modi lays out India's plans for protecting 7 big cats and dolphins :-

According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has recently created the international large Cat Alliance to conserve the world's seven large cats. While addressing the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Ministerial Meeting via video conferencing, Modi said, "India has recently launched the international Big Cat Alliance for the conservation of 7 big cats on our planet. It is based on our learnings from Project Tiger, a pioneering conservation initiative. As a result of Project Tiger, 70% of the world's tigers are found in India. We are also working on Project Lion and Project Dolphin."



SC Extends ED Chief SK Mishra's Tenure Until Sept 15 :-

The Supreme Court granted Enforcement Directorate Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra an extension until September 15 for the ongoing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) assessment process in the "national interest." However, the Supreme Court made it clear that S K Mishra would not be granted any additional extensions under any circumstances. "Mishra shall cease to be director ED from midnight of Sept 15-16," a three-judge panel led by Justice B R Gavai said. Earlier in the hearing, the Supreme Court questioned the Centre's request for an extension and asked if the entire department is "full of incompetent people" except the incumbent chief.



Phangnon Konyak Becomes First Woman MP From Nagaland To Preside Over Rajya Sabha:-

S Phangnon Konyak of the BJP became the first woman from Nagaland to preside over the Rajya Sabha. She became the first woman Rajya Sabha member to be appointed to the panel of vice-chairpersons on July 17. "Marking a significant moment in history, the first woman member from Nagaland in the Rajya Sabha, S Phangnon Konyak presided over the House today," an official statement said. She is also the first woman from Nagaland to be elected to Rajya Sabha (April 2022), and the state's second woman to be elected to either house of Parliament or the state parliament.

12: Obituaries



Alan Arkin, Oscar-Winning Actor, Dies At 89 :-

Alan Arkin, a prominent US actor identified for his extraordinary talent and a six-decade career, died of heart failure. Arkin, who was nominated for many Academy Awards and Emmys, left an everlasting influence on the film and television industries. His outstanding performances in films such as "Catch-22," "Edward Scissorhands," and his Oscar-winning performance in "Little Miss Sunshine" won him fans. Alan Arkin was born in 1934 in New York to a Jewish immigrant family.



Renowned Marathi Writer Shirish Kanekar Passes Away:-

Shirish Kanekar, a veteran journalist and author, died of a heart attack. He was eighty years old. Shirish Kanekar was well-known for his amusing journalistic essays about movies and sports. He is well-known for his newspaper columns on topics ranging from cinema to cricket to politics. His books, such as Mazi Phillambaazi and Kanekari, are well-known. Shirish obtained his LLB from Mumbai University. Following that, he worked as a journalist for English news outlets such as Indian Express, Daily, Free Press Journal, and Syndicated Press News Agency.



Major Bakhtawar Singh Brar, one of oldest Army veterans, passes away at 109:-

Major Bakhtawar Singh Brar (ret'd), one of the oldest veterans of the Kumaon Regiment in the Indian Army, passed away on 03 July in the US. He was 109. The news about Major Brar's death was tweeted by author Jai Samota and confirmed by Colonel NN Bhatia (ret'd), a veteran of the Kumaon Regiment who is well-versed in the history of the regiment. Born in November 1913 in Faridkot district, Major Brar served in the Faridkot State Forces and then joined the 6 Kumaon Regiment, before retiring in 1963.



Well Known Painter And Sculptor Namboothiri Passes Away :-

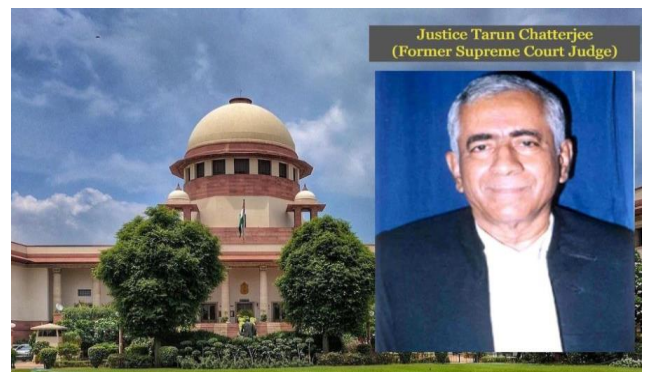
KM Vasudevan Namboothiri, a well-known illustrator, sculptor, and line sketch artist, died at the age of 97. KM Vasudevan passed away in a private hospital in Kottakkal. Namboothiri painted several popular figures for literary publications in the state during the course of his decades-long career. He has created characters based on doyens of Malayalam literature such as Jnanpith

laureates M T Vasudevan Nair, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, and S K Pottakkad, as well as legends such as Vaikom Muhammad Basheer.



Renowned Malayalam producer Achani Ravi passes away at 90 :-

K Ravindranathan Nair, better known as Achani Ravi, was a Malayalam cinema producer who died at the age of 90. He directed 14 films and acted in several others, notably the critically praised "Esthappan." Ravi got his nickname after he produced the popular film "Achani" and went on to build the Kollam Public Library and Sopanam Auditorium as a testament to its success. He also served on the National Film Awards, Central Board of Film Certification, and Film Development Corporation committees.



Former Supreme Court Judge Justice Tarun Chatterjee Passes Away :-

Justice Tarun Chatterjee, a former Supreme Court judge, has passed away. In January 1945, Justice Tarun Chatterjee was born in Calcutta to former Calcutta High

Court Judge Justice Purshottam Chatterjee. He enrolled as an Advocate in 1970 and practised in the High Court in Civil, Criminal, and Revenue issues. On August 6, 1990, he was appointed as a permanent Judge in the Calcutta High Court, and on January 31, 2003, he was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. Justice Chatterjee was appointed to the Supreme Court on August 27, 2004 and served till January 14, 2010.



Sita Dahal, wife of Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal passes away:-

According to the administrators of the private hospital in Kathmandu where she was hospitalised, Nepal's First Lady, Sita Dahal, the wife of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, died on 12 July Wednesday morning after suffering a heart arrest. According to the hospital, Sita Dahal had progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), a rare neurological condition. According to the Norvic International Hospital, she died at 8:33 a.m. Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) is an uncommon neurological illness that causes movement, walking, and balance issues, as well as eye movement problems.



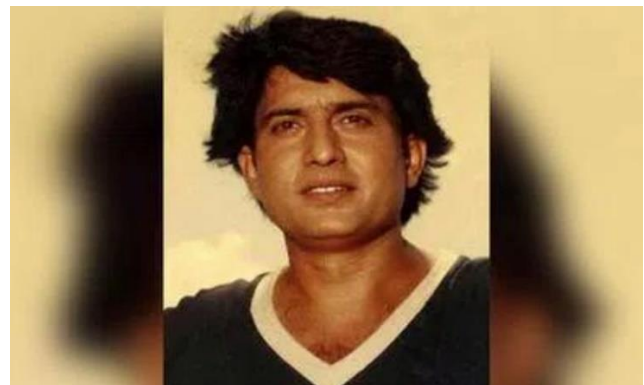
Chairman of the Sri Chaitanya Educational Institutions, B.S. Rao passed away:-

Boppana Satyanarayana Rao, Founder and Chairman of Sri Chaitanya Group of Educational Institutions, widely known as B. S. Rao, died on 13 July in a private hospital in Hyderabad while undergoing treatment after reportedly falling in the bathroom. He was 76. Dr. Rao and his wife, Jhansi Lakshmi Bai, founded Sri Chaitanya Educational Institute in a small way in 1986 and subsequently extended its branches. The Chaitanya group now encompasses over 500 colleges and 300 schools across the country.



Eighth Cheetah Dies in Kuno: Report :-

Cheetah Suraj, translocated from Namibia, died on July 14 at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, just a few days after the death of the seventh Cheetah imported from South Africa. He is the eighth Cheetah to pass away in the last five months. The cause of Suraj's death is unknown. On March 27, the first cheetah death was reported: female Cheetah Sasha died of a kidney disease. Uday, a male cheetah from South Africa, died of heart difficulties in April.



Veteran Marathi Actor Ravindra Mahajani Passes Away:-

Ravindra Mahajani, one of Marathi cinema's most popular actors, died at the age of 77. According to reports, the actor was discovered dead in a rented flat on the outskirts of Pune, where he had been living for the past several months. Mahajani, who was born in Belgaum and was the son of a writer, had several hits throughout his career. Kiran Shantaram's 1974 film 'Jhunj' launched him to popularity. After then, he acted in numerous popular films like 'Aaram Haram Hai', 'Lakshmi', 'Lakshmi Chi Pawlam', 'Devata'. His 'Gondhalat Gandal', 'Mumbai Cha Faujdaar' also turned out to be huge hits.

**Former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy Passes Away :-**

Former Kerala chief minister and Congress Working Committee member Oommen Chandy died on Tuesday (18 July) in a hospital in Bengaluru. He was 79. Chandy, a crowd-puller and one of Kerala's most popular political leaders, served as the state's chief minister from 2011 to 2016, as well as from 2004 to 2006. From 2006 until 2011, he was also the Opposition Leader in the Kerala Assembly. Chandy, renowned as a mass leader who loved to be among the people, was the Kerala Assembly's longest-serving legislator.

**Former Australia Wicketkeeper Brian Taber Dies Aged 83:-**

Former Australian wicketkeeper Brian Taber died recently at the age of 83. Taber was regarded as one of Australia's top wicketkeepers. In his Test debut against South Africa in Johannesburg, the former Australian great took seven catches and a stumping. During his career, he faced teams including as England, India, and the West Indies. During his domestic career, he appeared in over 100 games for New South Wales and is a member of the state's Hall of Fame.

**Legendary Punjabi singer Surinder Shinda passes away at 64:-**

Surinder Shinda, a well-known Punjabi singer, died on July 26. He was 64. The veteran vocalist had been struggling for some time. He was brought to the DMC hospital in Ludhiana, where he lost his battle to life. He had several hit songs, including "Jatt Jeona Morh," "Putt Jattan de," and "Truck Billiya." He also acted in Punjabi films such as 'Putt Jattan De' and 'Ucha Dar Babe Nanak Da'. Surinder Pal Dhammi was his given name. Many individuals, including artists and politicians, mourned Shinda's death.

13: Ranks & Reports



Kerala restaurant Paragon ranks 11th in 'world's most legendary' list :-

Kerala restaurant Paragon, has been named as one of the “world's most legendary restaurants”. The restaurant, located in the coastal city of Kozhikode, is 11th in the list of 150 dining spots across the globe published by online food guide TasteAtlas. The list also includes each restaurant's most iconic dishes, which is biryani in Paragon's case. The Indian restaurant, which has been around since 1939, has outlets in Al Nahda and Al Karama, Dubai, and serves traditional Malabar cuisine.



Chandigarh University claims top spot in India's private universities:-

Chandigarh University has achieved a significant milestone by securing the first rank among India's private universities in the latest edition of the coveted Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking. The university's overall score in this year's ranking is 15.2. As many as 45 Indian universities have featured in the 20th edition of the QS rankings and the all-India rank

of Chandigarh University is 20 – among all public and private institutes. The university also stood at 233rd spot in Asia.



Afghanistan least peaceful country in the world :-

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in the 'Global Peace Index 2022' said that Afghanistan is the “least peaceful country in the world for the fifth consecutive year, followed by Yemen, Syria, Russia and South Sudan.” All these countries have remained among the ten least peaceful nations for the past three years. According to IEP, Afghanistan recorded the largest reduction in deaths from armed conflict in 2022 with conflict deaths from almost 43,000 to just more than 4,000. The IEP noted that the perceptions regarding the criminality of Afghan nationals have improved slightly.



TN regains top spot in electronic exports in India :-

Surpassing Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu has regained the top spot in electronic exports in India in terms of value. Exports from the state are valued at USD 5.37 billion in the 2022-23 financial

year (FY) and consist of a 23% share in the electronics market. Setting up of major manufacturing facilities by Tata Electronics, Apple contract manufacturer Pegatron and the Union government’s production-linked incentives for electronic manufacturing among other things have been pointed out as key factors behind the rise in exports.



India’s Global Commercial Services Exports Share Doubles To 4.4%: WTO-World Bank Report :-

According to a World Bank and World Trade Organisation (WTO) report, India has more than quadrupled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4% in 2022 from 2% in 2005. "China and India doubled their share of global commercial services exports from 2005 to 2022, from 3.0% to 5.4%, and from 2.0% to 4.4%, respectively," it said. According to the 'Trade in Services for Development' report, jobs directly tied to cross-border service exports account for more than 10% of total services sector jobs in India, South Africa, and Türkiye.



2023 Global Peace Index Released :-

The 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) recently released its annual ranking of the most peaceful countries in the world. Put out by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the 17th edition of the GPI ranked 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness. As per the 2023 GIP, Iceland is the most peaceful country in the world – a title it has held since 2008. It is accompanied at the top by Denmark, Ireland,

New Zealand, and Austria. India has occupied the 126th spot in the rankings, two higher than its previous position.



Ministry Of Education Releases Report On Performance Grading Index 2.0 For States/UTs For The Year 2021-22 :-

Kerala has dropped to second place in the updated Performance Grading Index (PGI) report for school education in 2021-22. According to the newest report, dubbed PGI 2.0 and provided by the Union Ministry of Education, Kerala falls under the Prachesta-3 group, which is for scores ranging from 581-640. The state's score is 609.7. At the same time, Chandigarh returns to first place, while Punjab maintains first place, with both receiving the Prachesta-2 (for a score of 641-700). The survey divides the states and union territories into ten grades, with Daksh receiving the highest possible score of more than 940 out of 1,000.



4 Indian-Origin Biz Leaders In 2023 Forbes’ 100 Richest Self-Made Women List:-

Forbes ranked four Indian-origin women, including Jayshree Ullal and Indra Nooyi, among America's 100 richest self-made women, with a combined net worth of USD 4.06 billion. President and CEO of Arista Networks, a computer networking firm; Jayshree Ullal, co-founder

of IT consulting and outsourcing firm Synte; Neerja Sethi, co-founder and former chief technology officer (CTO) of cloud company Confluent; Neha Narkhede and PepsiCo's former chair and CEO Indra Nooyi made it to Forbes list of 'America's Richest Self-Made Women'.



India To Surpass US And Become World's 2nd Largest Economy By 2075: Goldman Sachs Report :-

According to a Goldman Sachs estimate, India will be the world's second largest economy by 2075, surpassing not just Japan and Germany, but also the United States. According to the investment bank analysis, when India's 1.4 billion-person population becomes the world's largest, its GDP is expected to grow substantially. India currently has the world's fifth-largest economy, following Germany, Japan, China, and the United States. Furthermore, the research stated that enhancing worker productivity and innovation will be critical for the world's fifth-largest economy.



NITI Aayog released the third edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022 :-

NITI Aayog has released the third edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States and UTs for the year 2022 on 17 July 2023. The report has details about India's export performance amid the prevailing global trade

context in 2021-22, followed by an overview of the country's sector-specific export performance. The report also highlights the need to develop districts as export hubs in the country and undertakes a district-level analysis of merchandise exports. It also highlights the achievements of states/UTs and encourages peer-learning to uphold the spirit of competitive federalism.



UN: Global Public Debt Hit \$92 Trillion In 2022 :-

The study, "A world of debt. A growing burden to global prosperity", was presented by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and issued a dire warning as the world's public debt approaches an all-time high of \$92 trillion in 2022. Since 2000, public debt levels have increased fivefold, necessitating rapid action to address the increasing issue hitting developing countries in particular. Guterres stressed: "On average, African countries pay four times more for borrowing than the US and eight times more than the wealthiest European economies."



Singapore's passport is now the most powerful in the world :-

As per the Henly passport Index, Singapore has overtaken Japan to boast of the world's most powerful

passport. Singapore passport allows holders visa-free entry to 192 destinations out of 227 in the world. The Indian passport improved by five places and is now ranked 80th and it provides visa-free access to 57 destinations. The global passport ranking for 2023 was conducted based on data provided by the International Air Transport Authority, or IATA, which ranks the world's passports based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.



Surat Diamond Bourse becomes the world's largest office building:-

A building in India's diamond city of Surat has surpassed The Pentagon to become the world's largest office. It is 81.9 metres tall and cost 32 billion rupees (\$38 million) to build. The 15-storey building has more than 7.1 million square feet of floor space, outdoing The Pentagon, the headquarters of the US defence department which has 6.5 million sq ft. The Diamond Bourse was designed by Delhi-based Morphogenesis and is based on the concept of Panchtatva. Surat in Gujarat state is known as the world's diamond capital, where 90 per cent of the precious stones are cut.



FIFA Ranking Announced, India Placed 99th In Latest Ranking :-

According to the most current FIFA Men's World Rankings update, India is ranked 99th. To climb up a rank, the Indian team recently won the Intercontinental Cup and the SAFF Championship. India won the 2023 Intercontinental Cup by defeating Lebanon 2-0 in the final, before going on to secure a second-consecutive and ninth SAFF title. India has attained the highest FIFA ranking of 94. That milestone was reached in February 1996. Argentina remained at the top of the standings, with France (2nd) and Brazil (3rd) rounding up the podium.



IMD Recently Launched The Heat Index On Experimental Basis:-

Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Earth Sciences, has announced that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has recently launched the Heat Index on an experimental basis. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, he stated that IMD has launched an experimental Heat Index to provide general guidance for regions within India where the apparent temperature/feel like temperature (considering the impact of humidity along with the temperature) are on the higher side, causing discomfort for the people.



Canara Bank Tops Public Sector Banks In Lending To State PSUs And Corporations For Fifth Consecutive Year:-

For the fifth year in a row, Canara Bank topped the list of public sector banks with the biggest loan to businesses and PSUs of states and union territories. In response to issues raised by MP Velusamy P, the Finance Ministry issued a formal statement. Canara Bank dominated the loan to government-backed enterprises in FY23, according to government data, with a total disbursement of ₹187,813 crore. Canara Bank's lending to state-run public sector firms and corporations alone amounted for more over 45 percent of all public sector banks' total lending.



India Set To Be Third-Largest Economy By FY28: SBI Research :-

According to SBI Research experts, India would become the third largest economy by FY28, two years earlier than expected. "The Indian economy continues to enjoy a period of sustained goldilocks," SBI Research researchers stated, noting that at the present growth pace, India will surpass Japan and Germany and account for 4% of world GDP. According to SBI experts, India would expand 8.1% in the first quarter of FY24, bringing the entire growth rate to 6.5%. India grew by 13.5% in the first quarter of FY23.



Bengaluru Becomes 1st Indian City To Join World Cities Culture Forum :-

Bengaluru is the first Indian city to join the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), a global network of cities that share knowledge and data and investigate the role of culture in future success. The network presently consists of 40 cities spread over six continents. Bengaluru, the most recent addition, is expected to join the ranks of cities such as New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Dubai, among others. Justine Simons OBE, London's Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, launched the global coalition in 2012.



HDFC Bank Surpasses SBI In CRISIL's Corporate Banking Ranking For 2023:-

HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, has surpassed State Bank of India (SBI) to achieve the top spot on CRISIL's Greenwich Market Share Leaders in Large Corporate Banking list for 2023. HDFC Bank has again topped the list of 2023 Leaders among local banks, joining ICICI Bank as the year's joint Greenwich Quality Leaders. According to CRISIL's Coalition Greenwich, much of the advantages for large private sector and

overseas banks came at the price of smaller banks, including several of India's public sector banks.



India's GDP To Reach \$6 Trillion By 2030: Standard Chartered Research :-

According to Standard Chartered Bank Research, India's GDP would nearly double in the next seven years to \$6 trillion, with per capita income reaching \$4,000 by 2030. India's GDP is currently over \$3.5 trillion, with a per capita income of \$2,450 in fiscal year 2022. While India's rise to the third largest economy by the end of the decade is a well-known story, the report claims that the country's possible transition to an upper-middle-income economy from a lower-middle-income economy is an under-appreciated theme.



Madhya Pradesh has the highest crime rate against Dalits :-

According to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data, Madhya Pradesh has the highest crime rate against people from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community in 2021. According to the data, Kerala topped the list for crimes against members of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in the same year. According to the report, MP had the highest crime rate against SCs in 2020, and it ranked second after Rajasthan the previous year. According to NCRB data, in 2021, MP had a crime rate of 63.6 against SCs, compared to the national average of 22.6.

14: Schemes & Committees



Union Cabinet approves PM-PRANAM Scheme:-

The Centre has approved a new scheme PM-PRANAM to incentivise states to promote alternative fertilisers and reduce the use of chemical fertilisers. It also decided to continue the current urea subsidy scheme for three years ending March 2025, with an outlay of ₹3.68 lakh crore.

PM-PRANAM stands for PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth. Under the scheme, the states, which will adopt alternative fertilisers will be incentivised with the subsidy that is saved by reducing the use of chemical fertilisers.



Draft notification out for trade in green credits:-

Union environment ministry has issued a draft notification to create a market-based mechanism to promote the Lifestyle for Environment movement and encourage climate-friendly behaviour in various sectors. The main objectives of the Green Credit Programme are to create a market based mechanism for providing incentives in the form of Green Credits to individuals, farmer producer organisations, cooperatives and others. Green credits earned by individuals & industries will be tradable via a proposed market platform.

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani on 3 July launched a scheme for pregnant minor victims of sexual assault who have no family support. The scheme aims to provide shelter, food, daily needs, safe transportation for attending court hearings and legal aid to minor girls who have been abandoned by their family due to forced pregnancy, either due to rape or due to any other reason, and have no other means to support themselves. In 2021, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported 51,863 cases under the POCSO Act.



‘Jagananna Amma Vodi’ scheme to Disburse Financial Aid of Rs 6,393 Cr:-

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy released financial assistance of ₹6,392.94 crore under Jagananna Amma Vodi scheme for the fourth year. He formally launched the programme at Kurupam of Parvathipuram Manyam district. The amount will be deposited into the bank accounts of 42,61,965 mothers. Under the Amma Vodi scheme, eligible mothers who send their children to schools will receive Rs 15,000 financial aid to meet the educational expenses. The state has credited a total of Rs 26,067 crore under Jagananna Amma Vodi scheme.



India Launches Bharat 6G Alliance :-

With the acquisition of over 200 patents for 6G technology, India has taken a huge step forward in the field of telecommunications. Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Communications and IT Minister, made the announcement at the opening of the Bharat 6G Alliance in New Delhi. The alliance, which includes industry, academia, and the government, aspires to lead all 6G-related projects in a systematic and scientific manner. This alliance's major goal is to go beyond technical requirements and grasp the business and societal implications of 6G technology.



Govt launches scheme for minor rape victims :-



Ministry Of Home Affairs Launches Scheme For Expansion And Modernization Of Fire Services In States :-

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has launched a scheme for expansion and modernization of fire services in the states from the earmarked allocation of preparedness and capacity building funding window under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for strengthening fire services in the states with a total outlay of Rs 5,000 crore. An amount of Rs 500 crore out of the total outlay has been earmarked for incentivizing the states on the basis of their legal and infrastructure-based reforms.



India Joins Champions Group Of Global Crisis Response Group :-

India has joined the Global Crisis Response Group's (GCRG) Champions Group. India's decision follows an invitation from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the GCRG's Sherpa. The UNSG established the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) in March 2022. The Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) was established to address urgent and important global concerns related to interconnected crises in food security, energy, and finance, and to coordinate a worldwide response.



Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) Loans Witness 23% Disbursal Increase In Q1 FY24 :-

Loans disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in India have increased significantly, reaching Rs 81,597 crore in the first quarter of FY24. This is a 23% increase over the Rs 62,650 crore disbursed in the same quarter previous year. The increase in disbursements might be linked to increased demand for Tarun loans, among other causes. It is the largest rise in disbursements during the first quarter since the scheme's inception. Small business loan disbursements under PMMY hit an all-time high of Rs 4.50 lakh crore in FY23.



Nari Adalats: Women-Only Courts For Alternative Dispute Resolution :-

The Centre is initiating a one-of-a-kind programme to establish village-level women-only courts as an alternative conflict resolution forum for concerns such as domestic violence, property rights, and opposing the patriarchal system. From August, the scheme will be piloted in 50 villages in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir before being expanded to the rest of the country over the next six months. It will handle individual issues, increase awareness about social programmes, collect feedback, educate people about their legal rights, and resolve cases that come under its jurisdiction.



First Ever “Credit Guarantee Scheme” For Livestock Sector Launched :-

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying (DAHD) has launched the 'Credit Guarantee Scheme' under the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to assist the livestock sector's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) without the need for collateral security. The scheme aims to strengthen the credit delivery system and ensure smooth access to finance for entrepreneurs engaged in the Livestock sector. The main objective is to encourage lenders to focus on the viability of projects and provide credit facilities based on the primary security of the assets being financed.



CM Sukhu Launched Scheme To Economically Empower Women :-

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, has launched a collateral-free credit scheme for women. The 'Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojna' is a Himachal

Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (HPSCB) project that would provide loans to women to pursue their entrepreneurial goals, engage in livelihood activities, meet their day-to-day requirements, and uplift their families, according to a statement published here. Sukhu stated that the initiative intends to empower women by requiring applicants to furnish no assets or collateral as security for the loan amount.



Gruha Lakshmi Scheme: Benefits, Registration Started:-

The Karnataka government introduced the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme Karnataka, which grants Rs 2,000 per month to women heads of families. The scheme's registration commenced on July 19 and would go into effect on August 17. According to officials, the money will be paid into the bank accounts of around 1.28 crore women heads of households in the state each year, making it one of the country's largest such programs. Women heads of families, as indicated on ration cards, will be entitled for Rs 2,000 in government cash assistance each month under the scheme.

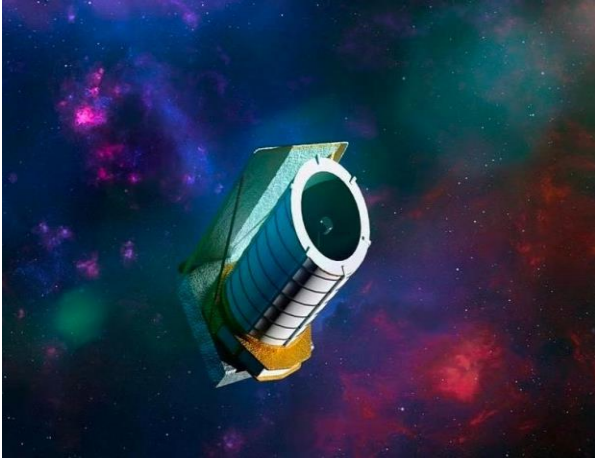
15: Science & Technology



Union Minister Parshottam Rupala Launches “Report Fish Disease” App :-

Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala and Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. L Murugun launched Report Fish Disease App. The app designed for the aquaculture sector enables quick reporting of disease cases and also provides timely advice to farmers associated with aquaculture. With the help of this app, the farmers will be able to connect directly to district

fisheries officers and scientists. Farmers associated with aquaculture will get quick responses with the help of this app in cases of diseases found in fish.



Euclid Telescope launched to make the biggest 3D map of the universe:-

The European Space Agency (ESA) has launched Euclid Telescope to explore the dark universe. Euclid is named after an ancient Greek mathematician. It launched successfully from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on July 1, 2023. The mission's goal is to create the largest, most accurate 3D map of our universe. Also, scientists will use it to observe galaxies out to 10 billion light-years, covering more than 1/3 of the sky. These observations should help astronomers to better understand the universe's expansion and structure over time.



Virgin Galactic completes first manned mission to space :-

Virgin Galactic, the space venture established by British entrepreneur Richard Branson, has achieved a significant

milestone as it successfully completed its first manned mission to the edge of space. The inaugural commercial flight, which took place on June 29. The mission featured two Italian Air Force personnel who were funded by the organisation. Colonel Walter Villadei, who is also slated for a future paid SpaceX mission to orbit, and Lieutenant Colonel Angelo Landolfi, a physician trained as a crew surgeon for Russian cosmonauts, were among the passengers.



US government approves world's 1st flying car :-

US-based automotive and aviation company Alef Aeronautics has announced that its electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) vehicle has received a Special Airworthiness Certification from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Unveiled in October 2022, the Alef Model A can be driven on public roads and is claimed to have vertical takeoff and landing capabilities. It has a driving range of 200 miles (322 kilometres) and a flying range of 110 miles (177 kilometres) on a single full charge, with one to two occupants.



India's First 'Police Drone Unit' Launched In Chennai :-

The Greater Chennai City Police (GCP) has established a 'Police Drone Unit' to conduct aerial surveillance over large areas and quickly uncover criminal activity. C. Sylendra Babu, Director General of Police (DGP) and Chief of Police Force, inaugurated the newly established special unit on Besant Avenue in Adyar. The unit is housed in a two-story facility and is staffed by more than 20 professional police officers. In this Drone Police Unit, a total of nine drones under three categories namely — Quick response surveillance drones; heavy lift multirotor Drone and long range survey wing plane — are available.

**Scientists Embark On Expedition Onboard India's Research Vessel Sagar Nidhi :-**

Scientists from Bangladesh and Mauritius embarked onboard India's research vessel Sagar Nidhi on June 29 to participate in a joint ocean expedition, the Ministry of Earth Sciences announced. The event took place under the framework of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) between the nations of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The expedition will last nearly 35 days. The cruise is conducted by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

**RBI Launches Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) For Enhanced Data Management :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has embarked on a major change in its information management framework for handling the massive data flow, aggregation, analysis, public dissemination and data governance following the launch of its Centralised Information Management System (CIMS), Governor Shaktikanta Das said. The Governor observed that the new system, which is RBI's next generation data warehouse, is starting with reporting by scheduled commercial banks and will be gradually extended to urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

**Elena Introduces India's First NavIC :-**

Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based startup, has introduced the country's first hand-held navigation device based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC), marking a significant step towards self-reliance in navigation apps and services. The gadget is designed to offer precise instructions for a variety of infrastructure projects, including railways, land surveys, telecommunications, and hydrocarbon exploration. It

costs Rs 6,000 and can be readily connected to cellphones via an on-the-go (OTG) adapter, allowing users to get data from any mapping programme or satellite source.



CMV And ToMV Virus Hit Tomato Crop In Maharashtra And Karnataka :-

Tomato growers in Maharashtra and Karnataka cited two separate viruses for output losses earlier this year. Farmers in Maharashtra reported cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) assaults harmed their tomato production, while growers in Karnataka and other South Indian states blamed tomato mosaic virus (ToMV) for crop losses. Over the last three years, growers of tomato have complained of increased infestation with these two viruses, leading to partial to complete crop losses.



Chandrayaan-3 sets off on a long journey to the Moon:-

The first stage of India's third moon craft's difficult 40-day mission was successfully launched on 14 July afternoon from Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota spaceport. The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) built Chandrayaan 3 at a cost of about 600 crore, and it was launched at 2.35pm from the Satish Dhawan Space

Centre using a Launch Vehicle Mark-3, formerly known as the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III. The spacecraft carried a rover (Pragyan) and a lander (Vikram) that will attempt to be the first to land on the moon's south pole.



Megasiphon Thylacos, A New Fossil Species Of Tunicate Discovered :-

Palaeontologists have made an exciting discovery a tunicate fossil dating back 500 million years in Utah's landlocked Marjum Formation. This discovery offers valuable knowledge regarding the sedentary, filter-feeding habits of early tunicates, as well as their transformation from larval forms resembling tadpoles. Megasiphon thylacos resided on the seafloor, engaging in filter feeding throughout the day, before becoming preserved in the fossil record for an impressive span of 500 million years, including the remarkable preservation of its soft tissues.



India & France to jointly develop engines for combat aircraft :-

India and France will extend their "ground-breaking" defence cooperation in advanced aeronautical technologies by supporting the joint development of a combat aircraft engine and an engine for the Indian Multi

Role Helicopter (IMRH), which is being designed and developed by the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The development comes a month after the US-based General Electric (GE) Aerospace signed an agreement with HAL to produce F414 engines for the IAF's Light Combat Aircraft Mk2 jets with an 80 per cent technology transfer.



Meta and Microsoft Introduce the Next Generation of Llama :-

Meta and Microsoft announced an expanded artificial intelligence partnership with the release of their new large language model (LLM), Llama 2, free for research and commercial use. This marks the latest trend toward an open LLM development and training approach. Microsoft's Azure cloud service will be used to deploy the AI model and its updated Llama 2 successive iterations, which will run on the Windows operating system. Llama

may come out to be an excellent substitute for costly proprietary models like ChatGPT and Google Bard.



600 Million Year Old River Droplets Found In Himalayas :-

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Niigata University in Japan have identified water droplets in mineral deposits that are thought to be from an ancient ocean that existed 600 million years ago. The IISc stated in a press statement that investigation of the deposits indicated calcium and magnesium carbonates. This result prompted the scientists' team to speculate that there may have been a large oxygenation event in Earth's past. Scientists estimate that between 700 and 500 million years ago, the Earth was covered by huge sheets of ice.

16: Sports



Tamil Nadu win Senior Women's National Football title for second time :-

Tamil Nadu came back from a goal down in the second half to defeat Haryana 2-1 and clinch their second Hero Senior Women's National Football Championship title at the Guru Nanak Stadium in Amritsar, on Wednesday, June 28, 2023. AIFF President Mr. Kalyan Chaubey presented the prizes. Mr. Priya Thapar, Vice President, Punjab Football Association, was present on the occasion. Haryana started both halves with a better tempo, while Tamil Nadu took some time to get their momentum.



Neeraj Chopra wins Lausanne Diamond League 2023:-

Neeraj Chopra won the men’s javelin throw event at the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 in Switzerland on 1 July 2023. The Lausanne meet was Neeraj Chopra’s second competition of the season and the first since the Doha Diamond League. Neeraj won the javelin throw event at the season-opening Doha leg with an 88.67m attempt in May, picked up his second successive victory with an 87.66m effort. Weber’s final throw of 87.03m handed him the second position while Czech Republic’s Jakub Vadlejch finished third with an 86.13m mark.



India won Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023:-

India emerged champions of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 by beating Iran in the final in Busan, Korea on 30 July. Iran started aggressively, but India stood tall in the all-important final. Indian captain Pawan Sehrawat led from the front with a super 10. India kept building pressure on the Iranians and claimed 42-32 win. Six teams - India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong - participated in the Asian Kabaddi

Championships.. This is India’s eight Asian Kabaddi title, with Iran winning only on one occasion.



Dream 11 becomes Indian team's principal jersey sponsor :-

Fantasy gaming platform Dream 11 has replaced Ed-Tech major BYJU’s as the principal jersey sponsor of the Indian cricket team. BYJU’s had quit after the end of the last financial cycle. In case of principal jersey sponsors, the money given for every bilateral fixture where the sponsors name is in the middle of the shirt is three times more compared to what it pays for an ICC fixture where the centre of the jersey carries the country name and sponsors logo doesn't get a vantage positioning. Earlier this year, Adidas came on board as India’s kit sponsors in a deal until March 2028



Yuki Bhambri wins maiden ATP doubles title in Spain :-

Yuki Bhambri clinched his maiden title on the ATP World Tour, winning the doubles trophy at the Mallorca Championships with South African partner Lloyd Harris. The duo defeated the Dutch-Austrian combo of Robine

Hasse and Philipp Oswald 6-3 6-4 in the final of the grasscourt event Bhambri, who is ranked 75, moved up to career-best 58. His singles career marred by injuries, Bhambri had decided to switch to doubles on the Tour to prolong his tennis career. He mostly played with compatriot Saketh Myneni. They won two Challenger titles this season -- in Nonthaburi and Girona.



India win SAFF Championship 2023 :-

The Indian men's football team won the SAFF Championship 2023 title after beating Kuwait 5-4 in a thrilling penalty shootout at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on 4 July 2023. India, who are 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, won their ninth SAFF Championship 2023 in 14 editions. This was India's second silverware on the trot after clinching the Intercontinental Cup last month. Sunil Chhetri won the Golden Boot & Golden Ball. Nepal won the Fair Play Award for showing the greatest spirit of the game.



Haryana won the Women's Youth Nationals Boxing Championship :-

The Indian Defending champions Haryana continued their domination in the Women's Youth Nationals,

clinching 9 medals to conclude the 6th youth women's national boxing championship in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Haryana pulled off a phenomenal show on the final day as all of their 8 finalists ended up winning the gold medal. With 63 points, 8 gold and 1 bronze medal Haryana finished top of the table. Uttarakhand and Delhi claimed the second and third spot with 32 and 20 points respectively.



132nd Durand Cup Tournament To Be Organized In Kolkata :-

The 132nd edition of the Durand Cup, India's oldest football event, will be held in Kolkata from August 3 to September 3, 2023. The tournament's Trophy Tour, which began on June 30, 2023, is a key milestone in the Durand Cup's history. With the return of foreign clubs after a 27-year absence, this year's tournament is set to be an amazing sight for football fans. From August 3 to September 3, 2023, 24 teams will fight for the famous cup in four cities: Guwahati and Kokrajhar in Assam, Shillong in Meghalaya, and Kolkata in West Bengal.



SAFF Championship 2023 Final: India Wins 9th Title :-

The Indian men's football team won a thrilling penalty shootout against Kuwait 5-4, securing the SAFF Championship 2023 title at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava

Stadium. Ranked 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, India triumphed in their ninth SAFF Championship out of 14 editions. This victory marked their second consecutive triumph after winning the Intercontinental Cup the previous month. India, serving as the hosts, remained undefeated throughout the SAFF Championship 2023.



Lallianzuala Chhangte Wins AIFF Men's Footballer Of The Year Award For 2022-23 :-

Winger Lallianzuala Chhangte and forward Manisha Kalyan of India and Mumbai City FC were crowned AIFF Men's and Women's Footballer of the Year for the 2022-23 season for their outstanding efforts during the season. The 26-year-old attacker, Chhangte becomes only the second player from Mizoram, following Jeje Lalpekhlua in 2016, to be bestowed with the men's Player of the Year award. Meanwhile, Akash Mishra has been named the Men's Emerging Player of the Year for the season by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) after its Annual General Meeting.



Netherlands Men Team Wins Second Hockey Pro League Title :-

The Netherlands men's team finishes their fourth season with 35 points, making them the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 winners. With this victory, the Netherlands

became the first men's team to win a second title. With 30 points from 16 games, the Indian men's hockey team finished fourth in the FIH Pro League 2022-23. This was India's second fourth-place finish in the FIH Pro League, having finished fourth in their inaugural season in 2020-21. With 18 goals, India captain Harmanpreet Singh finished first in the FIH Pro League 2022-23.



India Bags 11 Medals In World Archery Youth Championships, 2023 :-

The 2023 World Archery Youth Championships were recently conducted in Limerick, Ireland. India finished second in the competition with 11 medals, including six gold, one silver, and four bronze. South Korea took the top spot with 11 medals, including six gold and four silver. The Youth Championships in recurve and compound archery were held for the Under-18 and Under-21 age groups. The international event drew more than 500 archers from 58 countries. India had sent 12 archers from each age group.



Carlos Alcaraz beats Novak Djokovic in Wimbledon 2023 Final :-

Carlos Alcaraz ended Novak Djokovic's 34-match winning streak at Wimbledon by beating him 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1, 3-

6, 6-4 in an engaging, back-and-forth final on 16 July 2023, claiming his first championship at the All England Club and second Grand Slam trophy overall. The No. 1-ranked Alcaraz prevented Djokovic from what would have been a record-tying eighth title, and fifth in a row, at the grass-court tournament. Djokovic also was kept from claiming his 24th career major. Alcaraz, who is 20-year-old from Spain, became the third-youngest to win the Title.



Wimbledon 2023 Women's Final : Marketa Vondrousova Beats Ons Jabeur :-

Marketa Vondrousova won the Wimbledon championship in 2023 after defeating last year's runner-up Ons Jabeur in the finals 6-4, 6-4. Jabeur held the break of serve lead twice in the opening set of the women's singles final on Centre Court before the unseeded Marketa Vondrousova bounced back to win 16 of the last 18 points, and four straight games, to grab the opening set 6-4. She set three times in the first set. In 2023, Wimbledon will award an all-time high of 44.7 million pounds.



Indian contingent won 27 medals at Asian Athletics Championship :-

The Indian contingent won a total of 27 medals, comprising six gold, 12 silver and nine bronze, to finish

third in the overall rankings behind China and Japan, at the 25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023, that concluded on July 16 in Bangkok, Thailand. Jyothi Yarraji was the star of the show for India, as she clinched two medals - gold in women's 100m hurdles and silver in women's 200m finals. This is India's best performance ever at the continental level. The previous best was in 2017 at Bhubaneswar, where India won nine gold, six silver and 12 bronze.



Satwiksairaj smashes Guinness world record for fastest badminton hit :-

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy broke a decade-old Guinness world record for the fastest shot ever in badminton with an astonishing 565 km/hour smash. The speed greatly exceeded the previous world record of 493 km/hour which was achieved by Malaysian badminton player Tan Boon Heong, a former Asian Games doubles champion, in May 2013. To put Satwiksairaj Rankireddy's astonishing hit into context, the fastest speed recorded by a Formula 1 car is 397.48 km/hour while the fastest tennis serve maxes out at 263 km/hour.



Indian GM Praggnanandhaa Wins Super GM Chess Tournament In Hungary:-

In an incredible feat, 17-year-old Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa won the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial

Super GM chess competition 2023 in Budapest, Hungary. Praggnanandhaa finished the 10-player event with 6.5 points, one point ahead of M Amin Tabatabaei of Iran and Sanan Sjugirov of Russia. Praggnanandhaa had remarkable talent and dedication throughout the competition, winning five games, drawing three, and losing only one game in the fifth round to Amin Tabatabaei.



Virat Kohli Becomes 10th Cricketer To Make 500 International Appearances:-

During India's second and final Test match against the West Indies at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Indian cricketing stalwart Virat Kohli became only the tenth cricketer to reach 500 international appearances. Kohli is the fourth Indian to be named to this limited list, including Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and MS Dhoni. Kohli has played 274 ODIs, 115 T20Is, and 111 Tests for India, including this one against the West Indies. With 664 appearances, Tendulkar leads the list, which is dominated by Asian batters.



Virat Kohli Becomes 5th Highest Run-Scorer In International Cricket :-

Virat Kohli, the star Indian batter, has eclipsed South Africa's Jacques Kallis as the fifth-highest run-scorer in

international cricket history. Kohli made this ascension in the batting statistics during India's second Test against the West Indies in Port of Spain. Notably, he is the tenth player and fourth Indian cricketer to accomplish the momentous milestone of 500 international matches played. Kohli's achievement cements his place as one of the game's modern-day greats. Virat has currently scored 25,548 runs at an average of 53.67 in 500 matches.



Virat Kohli Equals Sir Don Bradman's Record Of Most Test Centuries :-

Virat Kohli, India's run machine, who is playing his 500th international match, extended his outstanding form in the series against the West Indies with a superb century on the second day of the second Test in Port of Spain. Kohli has now equalled the legendary Sir Don Bradman in terms of most Test hundreds. Bradman had 29 hundreds in 52 Tests, while Kohli achieved the feat in his 111th. Virat scored his 76th international century, which included 46 ODI centuries and one T20 century.



Lahiru Thirimanne Announces Retirement From International Cricket :-

After a long career, Sri Lanka batter Lahiru Thirimanne confirmed his retirement from international cricket. The 33-year-old batted for Sri Lanka in 197 international

matches, scoring 5573 runs with seven hundreds and 31 fifties. Thirimanne made his international debut in 2010 and has since played 44 Tests, 127 ODIs, and 26 T20 Internationals. He played in two One-Day International World Cups and three T20 World Cups, including Sri Lanka's win in 2014. He also captained Sri Lanka in five One-Day Internationals. He praised his coaches, teammates, physios, and fans for their support and encouragement throughout his 13-year adventure with cricket.



Satwik-Chirag Win Korea Open For Year's Fourth Title :-

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty extended their unbeaten streak by winning the Korea Open badminton title on July 23. The third seeds won their fourth title of the year and their first in Korea, defeating Indonesia's world No. 1 Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto 17-21, 21-13, 21-14. This was the Indians' third straight triumph over the Indonesians, who won silver at the Asian Games and bronze at the World Championships thrice. The Indians have won all four of their finals appearances.



Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard Has Won 110th Edition Of The Tour De France :-

Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard of the Dutch professional bicycle racing team Jumbo-Visma has won the 110th Tour de France for the second year in a row on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, France. The Tour de France (Tour of France) is an annual multi-stage bicycle race for men that takes place largely in France. Vingegaard finished the 21-day race 7 minutes and 29 seconds ahead of Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, the champion in 2020 and 2021. The winning margin for Vingegaard (7 minutes and 29 seconds) was the greatest since 2014.



Aditya Samant Becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster At Biel Chess Festival:-

Aditya Samant became India's 83rd Grandmaster after winning his third GM norm at the Biel International Chess Festival's Master Tournament (MTO). Last August, the Maharashtra player earned his first norm to become a grandmaster at the Abu Dhabi Masters. His second norm was earned at the 3rd El Llobregat Open in December of last year. According to the most recent reports, Aditya has already surpassed 2500 in live ratings. He only needed to play his 9th round game against Aryan Chopra to attain his third norm.



Sports Ministry Accords Recognition To Handball Association Of India :-

According to a communication from Union Secretary to Government of India Sudhir Kumar Gupta, the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to recognize Handball Association of India (HAI) as a National Sports Federation (NSF) for the promotion and regulation of the sport in the country with immediate effect. "While deciding to recognise HAI as NSF for handball, the Ministry has taken into account the fact that HAI is duly affiliated to the International governing body for the sport, International Handball Federation, the Asian Handball Federation and also the Indian Olympic Association," he said in the letter addressed to the HAI.



India Ranked Second At ISSF Junior World Championship In South Korea 2023:-

The ISSF Junior World Championships 2023 were held in Changwon Shooting Range in the Republic of Korea from July 16 to 24. The junior shooting world championships, now in their third year, saw 90 Indian shooters compete for medals in pistol, rifle, and shotgun categories for

those under the age of 21. India, behind China finished second overall at the ISSF Junior World Championships 2023, with 17 medals (six gold, six silver, and five bronze). Seven Indians managed to bag more than one medal. India, with 43 medals including 17 golds, had topped the medals tally at the last junior world championships held in Lima, Peru.



Tripura's Asmita Dey Wins Gold At Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023 :-

Tripura's Asmita Dey won gold in the Junior Asia Cup Judo Championships in Macau, China, with a demonstration of technique and commitment. Asmita Dey competed in the women's 48 kg weight class at the "Macau Junior Judo Championship 2023," which was held in Macau, China. Competing against formidable opponents from 27 different countries, including Korea, Bhutan, America, Iraq, Kosovo, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Turkey, she exhibited strong determination and prowess to conquer each challenge that came her way.

17: State



Ajit Pawar took oath as Maharashtra's deputy chief minister :-

NCP leader and leader of opposition in Maharashtra assembly Ajit Pawar on 2 July 2023 took oath as deputy chief minister along with nine NCP MLAs. Ajit resigned as LoP early on the same morning. The nine other NCP MLAs who took oath along with Ajit are Chagan Bhujbal, Dilip Walse-Patil, Hasan Mushriff, Dhananjay Munde, Dharmaraj Atram, Aditi Tatkare, Sanjay Bansode and Anil Patil. The swearing-in ceremony took place at Raj Bhavan in the presence of CM Eknath Shinde, deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and governor Ramesh Bais.



Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone of IWT Terminal at Dibrugarh :-

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal to be developed at Bogibee in Dibrugarh, by the bank of the River Brahmaputra (National Waterways 2) in Dibrugarh, Assam. The tourist-cum-cargo IWT terminal will be developed at a cost of ₹46.60 crores and is scheduled to be completed by February, 2024. Once developed, this terminal is likely to play a pivotal role in rejuvenating inland waterways transportation in the region.



Gujarat Government Doubles Insurance Cover :-

From July 11th, the state government of Gujarat has increased the insurance cover under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Beneficiaries of PMAY will now receive an insurance cover of Rs 10 lakhs rather than the previous 5 lakhs. State Health Minister Rushikesh Patel told the reporters that the decision will help almost 1.78 crore Ayushman Bharat card members in the state. Under PMAY, beneficiaries would receive free medical treatment at approximately 2,000 government institutions and 795 private hospitals in the state.



UP Govt Approves Two Thermal Power Projects With NTPC :-

The Uttar Pradesh government approved two 'Obra D' thermal power plants of 800 MW each to be developed in Sonbhadra's Obra at a cost of Rs 18,000 crore, with the goal of delivering cheaper electricity to the people of the state. The 'Obra D' thermal power plants were approved during a Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanah, according to an official statement. The government would carry out the projects in a 50:50 cooperation with the federal government-owned power generator NTPC.



Numaligarh Refinery In Assam Upgraded To 'Schedule A' Category Enterprise :-

The Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in Assam has been elevated by the Centre from 'Schedule B' to 'Schedule A' category Central Public Sector Enterprises, in a significant milestone. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced the upgrade to 'Schedule A' on July 4, 2023. The upgradation to Schedule A will now make NRL eligible to achieve the status of Navratna which in turn will give higher financial autonomy. The Navratna companies have the autonomy to invest up to

Rs 1,000 crore without seeking approval from the central government.



Authoor Betel Leaves From Tamil Nadu Receives GI Certificate:-

Four months after the Geographical Indications Registry notified the Thoothukudi district administration of the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Authoor betel leaves, the registry recently issued the GI certificate to the district administration. The Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and NABAD Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum assisted in the creation of the tag, which was registered under the name Authoor Vattara Vetrilai Vivasayigal Sangam. Thamirabrani river nurtures the betel leaves, called locally as Vetrilai.



Project Gajah Kotha Launched In Assam:-

Assam initiated the 'Gajah Kotha' initiative to cultivate tolerance in order to alleviate the growing human-elephant conflict (HEC). The campaign focuses on HEC-affected villages in eastern Assam, educating them on elephant habits, ecology, and cultural connections to the region, as well as the need of elephant conservation. Aaranyak and the British Asian Trust are conducting this initiative as part of their efforts to cultivate coexistence, in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department and with funding from the Darwin Initiative.



Nagaland Govt Bans Single Use Plastic :-

The Nagaland government banned single use plastic (SUP) in the state to eradicate the serious environmental and ecological challenges posed by the rampant use of plastic. This is in compliance with the directives from the Central Pollution Control Board and subsequent directives from the Urban Development Department Nagaland (UDD) as per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of carry bags made of mod, virgin, or recycled plastic, irrespective of the thickness in microns, are prohibited.



Tripura launches 'school boat' service to ferry school students :-

The school education department of Tripura has introduced a free 'School Boat' service to transport underprivileged students residing on the islands of Dumbur Lake in Gumati district to their schools. Due to financial constraints, underprivileged children living on the islands of Dumbur Lake face difficulties in accessing education as they lack the resources to afford boat ride fares. Particularly during the monsoon season, their journey to school becomes extremely challenging through water bodies.



Madhya Pradesh government launches 'CM Rise' schools :-

Madhya Pradesh government has announced the establishment of 9,000 'CM Rise' schools across the state. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made this announcement during his visit to Shajapur district on 17 July 2023. During the visit, Chief Minister Chouhan inaugurated a CM Rise School in Gulana village and revealed that it would be named after the esteemed jurist and social reformer, Babasaheb Ambedkar. The chief minister also relaunched the 'School Chale Hum' campaign, which was initially initiated under the prime ministership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee 23 years ago.



Andhra Pradesh Released 10 Million Gambusia Fish To Control Malaria, Dengue :-

The government of Andhra Pradesh recently released millions of Gambusia fish into bodies of water in order to combat malaria, dengue fever, and other mosquito-borne ailments. Andhra Pradesh has seen 2,339 dengue cases and 1,630 malaria cases in the recent six months. To combat the state's escalating malaria and dengue outbreaks, the Andhra Pradesh government released approximately 10 million Gambusia Fish into state water bodies. The introduction of Gambusia fish can only be

part of a comprehensive strategy that includes other approaches such as chemical spraying.



Gujarat To Host 69th Edition Of Filmfare Awards In 2024:-

Gujarat will host the 69th Filmfare Awards in 2024, according to officials, and the state government's tourism organization has signed an agreement with entertainment and lifestyle content business Worldwide Media (WWM) to host the event and market the state as a film destination. The Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd (TCGL) and WWM inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Gandhinagar in the presence of state Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Times Group Managing Director Vineet Jain.



Jyotiraditya M Scindia Inaugurates Heli Summit 2023 And UDAN 5.2 In Khajuraho :-

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, has inaugurated the Heli Summit 2023 in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. During the ceremony, he also released RCS UDAN 5.2 and the HeliSewa-App. The Ministry of Civil Aviation conducted the 5th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit (Heli Summit 2023) in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and

Industry (FICCI). According to the government, the introduction of UDAN 5.2 would improve connectivity to the country's remote and neglected areas.



Rajasthan clears bill granting social security to gig workers :-

The Rajasthan parliament has enacted the country's first bill granting social security coverage to gig workers. The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023 aims to register all gig workers and aggregators in the state, make social security available to gig workers, and provide a forum for them to express their problems. The establishment of a welfare board, termed The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board, is a critical component of the law, with two members each from gig workers and aggregators to be nominated by the state government, as well as two civil servants.



Tamil Nadu CM Inaugurates Registration Camp For Applicants To Avail Rs 1,000 Monthly Assistance Scheme :-

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin recently inaugurated a camp to facilitate women's registration for the Rs 1,000 monthly basic income scheme, a hallmark program of the incumbent DMK regime slated to begin

in September. Stalin examined the biometric registration process before launching the registration activity, and authorities announced that the first phase of the special camp for Dharmapuri district will be held from July 24 to August 4, encompassing 2,21,484 family card holders.



Newly Constructed National Martyr's Memorial Unveiled At Jagjivan RPF Academy Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh :-

Sanjay Chander, Director General of the Railway Protection Force, dedicated the newly built National Martyr's Memorial and National Railway Protection Museum at Jagjivan RPF Academy in Lucknow on July 24, 2023. This martyr's memorial covers an area of 4800 square meters, and the names of 1014 martyred RPF personnel from 1957 to the present have been etched on it, and tribute has been paid to them on behalf of the RPF. The museum provides visitors with a full understanding of the Railway Protection Force's history, origin, accomplishments, duties, and responsibilities.



India's First Online Gaming Academy Set To Launch In MP :-

The Madhya Pradesh Sports Department will open India's first 'online gaming academy' in August. A talent hunt will take place at the MP State Junior Esports

Championship that is scheduled from July 23 to August 7. Over the last decade, the esports business has evolved significantly and has become an important part of the entertainment and sports industries. There are numerous video game tournaments with large prize

money (up to \$45 million) and a massive fan base. This 10-day competition will be attended by children aged 12 to 17, according to Sports Minister Yashodhara Raju Scindia.

18: Summits & Conferences



PM Modi inaugurates 17th Indian Cooperative Congress :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day 17th Indian Cooperative Congress on July 1 in the national capital and launched an e-commerce platform NCUI Haat for cooperative products. Modi also unveiled a cooperative extension and advisory services portal, focusing on a 'learning management system'. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah presides over the inaugural session of the Congress organised by the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) - that will focus on the theme "Amrit Kaal - Prosperity through cooperation for a vibrant India".

The UAE-India Economic Summit, themed “Fostering Synergies–Uniting the Falcon and Tiger Economies,” took place on July 3, 2023, at the ADGM Auditorium in Al Maryah Island, Abu Dhabi. The event, jointly hosted by SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAPS) and Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), brought together industry leaders from India and the UAE, and marked the official opening of SBICAPS ADGM Branch Office. Dinesh Khara, Chairman of SBI, Sunjay Sudhir, Indian Ambassador to UAE, Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei, CEO of ADGM Registration Authority attended the summit.



Startup20 Shikhar Summit Under India's G20 Presidency Held In Gurugram :-

The Startup20 Shikhar summit under India's G20 presidency held in Gurugram, Haryana on 03 July. The Startup20 Engagement Group is hosted the two day Startup20 Shikhar summit. Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Prakash said, startup-20 strives to create a conducive business environment across G20 nations and assist such talents from diverse background to commercialize, scale up and innovation further. On the occasion, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said, in India, the total investment in startups has gone up to 19 times.



UAE-India Economic Summit held in Abu Dhabi :-



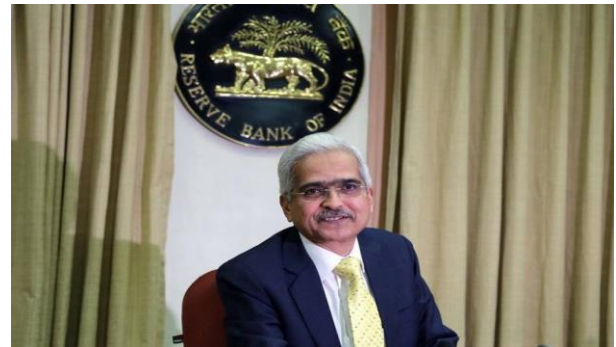
International Conference On Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023) Held In New Delhi :-

As part of its quest towards energy transition, the government has brought together stakeholders from India and across the world, in order to explore how we can establish a Green Hydrogen ecosystem and foster a systemic approach for meeting the global goals for decarbonization through Green Hydrogen. The three-day International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023), was organized during 5th – 7th July 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by the Government of India, was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh.



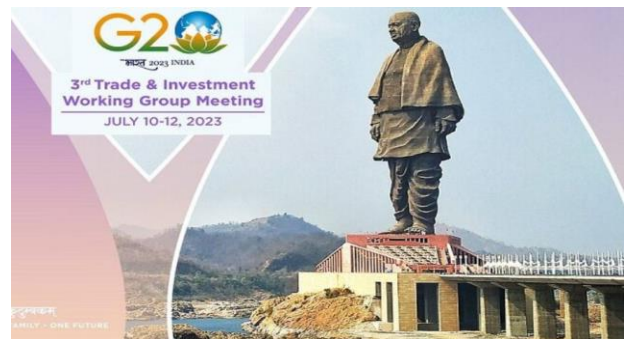
World Famous Shravani Mela Inaugurated In Deoghar:-

This year's Shravani Mela, which lasts two months, was opened by State Agriculture Minister Badal Patralekh by performing prayers on the occasion of 'Ashadha Purnima' at Baba Baidyanathdham temple in Deoghar. According to Mr Badal, the two-month-long Shravani Mela will include eight Mondays this year. The State government has made enough provisions for Kanwariyas to perform Baba Baidyanath's Jal Abhishek puja. The Shravani Mela will be held from July 3rd to September 7th.



Reserve Bank Holds 33rd Conference Of State Finance Secretaries :-

At the 33rd conference of state finance secretaries in Mumbai, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasised the importance of state governments' debt sustainability and assessed their market borrowings."He emphasized on the need for the states to focus on fiscal consolidation, improving quality of expenditure and other issues related to the fiscal health of states such as contingent liabilities/guarantees, etc," the RBI said in a statement. Aside from market borrowing, the meeting also discussed the administration of the consolidated sinking fund and the guarantee redemption fund.



3rd Trade and Investment Working Group meeting Held In Kevadia, Gujarat :-

Following the successful conclusion of two Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meetings, the third meeting was held from July 10th to July 12th, 2023 in Kevadia, Gujarat. More than 75 participants from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groups, and international organisations attended the three-day meeting. The meeting's main goal was to reach an agreement on implementing the Indian Presidency's

action-oriented initiatives on global trade and investment concerns.



PM Modi To Be Guest Of Honour For French Military Parade :-

Every year on July 14, France celebrates its National Day, also known as Bastille Day. It is one of the most significant days in French history, commemorating the fall of the Bastille fort on July 14, 1789, which signalled the end of monarchy in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received a special invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to attend the Bastille Day parade as the guest of honour. A tri-service contingent of Indian Armed forces will also participate in the parade.



The 50th GST Council Meeting Held In New Delhi :-

On July 11, the GST Council held its 50th meeting in New Delhi, recognising an important milestone in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) journey. The council, led by Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, made numerous major suggestions, including revisions to GST tax rates, trade facilitation measures, and streamlining of compliance processes. Significant changes in GST rates for items include lowering the rate on uncooked/unfried snack pellets from 18% to 5%.



India To Host ASEAN Countries Conference On Traditional Medicines :-

On July 20, the Ministry of Ayush will hold the Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries, with cooperation from the Ministry of External Affairs. The Conference on Traditional Medicines seeks to strengthen the platform for India and ASEAN countries to discuss best practises and chart a course for future collaboration in the field of Traditional Medicines. Union Minister for Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The multi-dimensional relationship between India and ASEAN stands on a strong foundation of shared geographical, historical, and civilizational links which is far older that goes back to more than two millennia."



G20: Finance Ministers And Central Bank Governors Meeting In Gujarat :-

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Dr Shaktikanta Das will jointly chair a meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) to be held on July 17-18 in Gandhinagar where 66 delegations will be in attendance, officials said. The meeting a range of issues

related to global economy and international financial architecture will come up for discussion. These meetings are being held under India's presidency of Group of Twenty or G20, an influential bloc that comprises 19 countries and the European Union.



SemiconIndia 2023 Exhibition Inaugurated In Gandhinagar, Gujarat:-

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated a Semicon India-2023 exhibition at Gandhinagar's Mahatma Mandir in the presence of Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information and Technology Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar. The CM urged Gujarat's industrialists to use this exhibition to better understand the needs of the semiconductor industry and to expand their business in this expanding sector by exploring opportunities to become supply partners for other companies such as Micron Technology and others that will be visiting India and Gujarat in the future.



SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Cheetah Project Steering Committee set up by NTCA?

- A) Gagandeep Singh Bedi
- B) Ashwini Vaishnav
- C) Jitendra Singh
- D) Rajesh Bansal

2. Chite Lui River flows through which state/UT?

- A) Goa
- B) Manipur
- C) Sikkim
- D) Mizoram

3. What is the name of the 'Electronic signage systems' that have been installed in High Courts of India?

- A) Court Clocks
- B) NITI Clocks
- C) Justice Clocks
- D) None of the above

4. 'Manav Sampada Portal' is associated with which state/UT?

- A) Kerala
- B) Goa
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Bihar

5. The 'Bhopal Gas Tragedy' happened in which year?

- A) 1980
- B) 1981
- C) 1978
- D) 1984

6. Kyriakos Mitsotaki has been elected as the Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Japan
- B) France
- C) China
- D) Greece

7. Which bloc has conducted a joint military drill named 'Solidarity Exercise'?

- A) G-20
- B) BIMSTEC
- C) EU
- D) ASEAN

8. Utah Mountains, which were seen in the news for Watermelon Snow, is situated in which country?

- A) India
- B) France
- C) USA
- D) None of the above

9. Which organisation approved USD 255.5 million loan for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in India?

- A) SBI
- B) RBI
- C) World Bank
- D) IMF

10. What is the rank of India in 'WCC's Global Competitiveness Index'?

- A) 45
- B) 13
- C) 15
- D) 40

11. Which country amended its Election Act to limit the disqualification of lawmakers to five years with retrospective effect?

- A) Japan
- B) France
- C) China
- D) Pakistan

12. Which company is set to buy the Danske Bank's IT centre in India?

- A) SBI
- B) BOI
- C) TCS
- D) Infosys

13. When is the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' observed?

- A) June 28
- B) June 30
- C) June 26
- D) None of the above

14. Which institution leads the 'Trans-Asia Railway (TAR) network'?

- A) SBI
- B) WEF
- C) UN
- D) IMF

15. Which institution is set to deploy 10 million brushless direct current motor (BLDC) fans across the country from September?

- A) NASSCOM
- B) Atomberg
- C) Philips
- D) EESL

16. In which state/UT, the two-day Hemis Tsechu Festival was recently (in June '23) celebrated by Hemis Gompa (monastery) to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava?

- A) Bihar
- B) Assam
- C) Goa
- D) Ladakh

17. Name the life insurance company that has recently (in June '23) introduced Industry's 1st digital payments via WhatsApp and Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI).

- A) SBI
- B) BOI
- C) TCS
- D) Tata AIA Life Insurance

18. Which company has recently (in June '23) partnered with Shriram Finance to increase digital Financial Services?

- A) GPay

- B) PhonePe
- C) Paytm
- D) None of the above

19. Which of the following became fastest team in test history to achieve 100-run mark in Test cricket?

- A) Australia
- B) India
- C) Pakistan
- D) Sri Lanka

20. Name the personality who has been recently (in June '23) honoured with the India Global Forum (IGF) United Kingdom (UK) Special Award: Global Indian Icon of the Year award (2023) at the 5th annual UK -India Awards (2023).

- A) PV Sindhu
- B) Neeraj Chopra
- C) Subman Gill
- D) Mary Kom

21. Which state/UT hosted the 'Vitasta' program to spread its art culture and literature?

- A) Bihar
- B) Assam
- C) Goa
- D) Jammu and Kashmir

22. Which Union Ministry presented the inaugural report on "Critical Minerals for India"?

- A) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- D) Ministry of Mines

23. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Report Fish Disease(RFD)' App?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Science and Technology
- C) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- D) None of the above

24. Which institution approved the '6G Vision Framework'?

- A) NASSCOM
- B) WEF
- C) ITU
- D) IMF

25. Who has recently (in July '23) took oath as the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra?

- A) PV Sindhu
- B) Neeraj Chopra
- C) Subman Gill
- D) Ajit Pawar

26. Which Indian Armed Force is the host of 'Tarang Shakti' multinational air exercise?

- A) Coastal gaurd
- B) Navy
- C) Army
- D) Indian Air Force

27. What is the name of the type of electricity tariff which includes lower tariff during daytime and higher rates during peak hours?

- A) Static Electricity Tariff
- B) Dynamic Electricity tariff
- C) Peak power Tariff
- D) Differential time-based tariff

28. Which institution is set to release a consultation paper on 'Finfluencers'?

- A) SBI
- B) RBI
- C) SEBI
- D) None of the above

29. Gustav Klimt, who is renowned for 'The Kiss' painting, is from which country?

- A) India
- B) France
- C) Austria
- D) Nepal

30. 'National Space Mission for Earth Observation' is associated with which country?

- A) India

- B) USA
- C) Germany
- D) Australia

31. The first IIT campus outside India will be set up in which of the following country?

- A) Egypt
- B) Kenya
- C) South Africa
- D) Tanzania

32. Which of the following Indian pair won gold in the junior mixed team compound event at the World Archery Youth Championships 2023?

- A) Atanu Das and Dola Banerjee
- B) Priyansh and Avneet Kaur
- C) Tarundeep and Avneet Kaur
- D) Tarundeep and Deepika Kumari

33. Who among the following was named as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year 2023?

- A) Deepak Kumar
- B) Lalanzuala Changte
- C) Ravi Dahiya
- D) Sunil Chhetri

34. Who among the following has been appointed as the President of Basketball Federation of India?

- A) Adhav Arjuna
- B) Ajay Sinha
- C) Arjun Mohanty
- D) Riya Singh

35. As per the 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) which of the following is the most peaceful country in the world?

- A) New Zealand
- B) Ireland
- C) Iceland
- D) Denmark

36. Which of the following country emerged as the champion of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season?

- A) Belarus

- B) Belgium
- C) India
- D) Netherlands

37. India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) along with which of the following country for Electoral Corporation?

- A) Panama
- B) Kenya
- C) Brazil
- D) Argentina

38. Which of the following country has become the new permanent member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- A) Belarus
- B) Iran
- C) Mongolia
- D) Sri Lanka

39. Which of the following team clinched the title of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship 2023?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) Pakistan
- C) Kuwait
- D) India

40. Who among the following was appointed as the chief selector of the Indian men's cricket team?

- A) Ajit Agarkar
- B) Sourav Ganguly
- C) Venkatesh Prasad
- D) Virender Sehwag

41. NCC has signed an MoU with which bank for opening bank accounts of cadets?

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) Canara Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) State Bank of India

42. Which ministry organized the International Conference on Green Hydrogen?

- A) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

- B) Ministry of Textiles
- C) Minister of Finance
- D) Ministry of Agriculture

43. IIT Madras' global campus will be established in which country?

- A) Belarus
- B) Tanzania
- C) Mongolia
- D) Sri Lanka

44. Which of these has planned to set up Representative Office in Mumbai?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) Ukraine
- C) Kuwait
- D) Taiwan

45. Namboothiri, who passed away at the age of 97, was related to which field?

- A) Art
- B) Sports
- C) Politics
- D) Agriculture

46. Who among the following took charge as the new Chairman and managing director of Coal India?

- A) Ajay Sinha
- B) Jitin Prasad
- C) PM Prasad
- D) Rahul Anand

47. In which of the following state Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has recently inaugurated the Rs 5,600 crore National Highway Project?

- A) Assam
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Uttar Pradesh

48. Who among the following has resigned from the post of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) chairman?

- A) Ajay Kumar
- B) Harsh Chauhan

- C) Murli Manohar Singh
D) Ravi Suman

49. In partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas which of the following ministry has organised the International Conference on Green Hydrogen?

- A) Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
B) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
D) Ministry of Women and Child Development

50. In which of the following country the FDI inflows was rose by 10% in 2022?

- A) Pakistan
B) India
C) China
D) Bangladesh

51. India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) has started commercial operations in which of the following state?

- A) West Bengal
B) Odisha
C) Jharkhand
D) Gujarat

52. Which of the following bank became the first bank to officially launched Mahila Samman Savings Certificate 2023?

- A) Bank of Baroda
B) Bank of India
C) Indian Bank
D) Punjab National Bank

53. Along with Park+ which of the following Payments Bank has collaborated to enable FASTag-based parking solution at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, Varanasi?

- A) Paytm Payment Bank
B) India Post Payments Bank
C) Fino Payments Bank
D) Airtel Payments Bank

54. Which of the following company has launched the country's first hand-held navigation device based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC)?

- A) Antrix Corporation
B) Data Patterns (India) Limited
C) Elena Geo Systems
D) NewSpace India Limited

55. Which of the following country has reached the staff-level agreement (SLA) of USD 3 billion with IMF?

- A) Thailand
B) Pakistan
C) Iran
D) Afghanistan

56. Which edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) was conducted in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh?

- A) 04
B) 05
C) 06
D) 07

57. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled license of which of the following cooperative bank recently?

- A) Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita
B) Malkapur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd
C) Kalapur Commercial Co-operative Bank
D) Both A & B

58. To facilitate personal loans for its customers Flipkart has partnerd with which of the following bank?

- A) Axis Bank
B) HDFC Bank
C) ICICI Bank
D) YES Bank

59. To enhance mental health support for distressed people which of the following state/UT has launched India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot?

- A) Telangana
B) Maharashtra

- C) Jammu and Kashmir
D) Delhi

60. Who has become the first Indian male archer to win gold in the recurve category of the Youth World Championships?

- A) Atanu Das
B) Jayant Talukdar
C) Limba Ram
D) Partha Salunkhe

61. Which of the following fintech company recently launched its Point-of-sale (POS) device that enables merchants to accept payments via debit cards, credit cards and UPI?

- A) BharatPe
B) Freecharge
C) Paytm
D) PhonePe

62. Threads app, a new text-based microblogging platform was launched by which of the following company?

- A) Google
B) Meta
C) Microsoft Corporation
D) Twitter

63. To provide technical services for road safety, which of the following company has signed an MoU with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)?

- A) Afcons Infrastructure Limited
B) HG Infra Engineering
C) Larsen & Toubro Limited
D) THDC India Limited

64. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) named a minor planet after which of the following Indian astrophysicist?

- A) Aswin Sekhar
B) Jayant Vishnu Narlikar
C) Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan
D) Shrinivas Kulkarni

65. Who among the following was appointed as the acting chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

- A) Amit Sthalekar
B) Arun Kumar Tyagi
C) Dinesh Kumar Singh
D) Sheo Kumar Singh-I

66. The USA in collaboration with India conducted which of the following operation to identify illicit and illegal medical products shipped using the International Mail System?

- A) Lionfish
B) Broader Sword
C) Bluebird
D) Blue Lotus

67. To improve water efficiency in India, which of the following organisation has signed an MoU with Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) recently?

- A) Finolex Industries
B) Indian Plumbing Association
C) Prince Pipes and Fittings Pvt. Ltd
D) Supreme Industries

68. Which of the following country has joined the champions group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) recently?

- A) Russia
B) India
C) France
D) Brazil

69. Which company was awarded with the Rising Star Award to enhance procurement through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal in FY 2022–23?

- A) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
B) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
C) GAIL India Limited
D) Coal India Limited

70. Which of the following life insurance company has won the Insurer Innovation Award 2023 for the Asia Pacific (APAC)?

- A) Tata AIA Life Insurance
- B) Max Life Insurance
- C) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- D) Exide Life Insurance

71. Along with India which of the following country has started bilateral trade in rupees recently?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

72. According to the Global Firepower report what is the rank of India in the world's most powerful armies?

- A) Fifth
- B) Fourth
- C) Second
- D) Third

73. Who among the following has become the first Indian ever to be named the 'Best Asian Under-20 Male Athlete of the Year'?

- A) Avinash Sable
- B) Eldoz Paul
- C) Murli Sreesankar
- D) Selva Prabhu Thirumaran

74. Who among the following clinched the gold medal in the 40kg Youth Category of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship?

- A) Aarti Sinha
- B) Asmita
- C) Jyotsna Sabar
- D) Komal kohar

75. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recognized the first Flying Training Organization (FTO) of which of the following state recently?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Uttarakhand

76. Which of the following Act is proposed to be amended by the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023?

- A) Environmental Protection Act, 1986
- B) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- C) Indian Forest Act, 1927
- D) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

77. When the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was established?

- A) 1958
- B) 1955
- C) 1952
- D) 1950

78. Which of the following Indian state attracted the highest FDI inflows in FY 2023?

- A) Delhi
- B) Gujarat
- C) Karnataka
- D) Maharashtra

79. As per data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), which country was the top investor in India in terms of FDI inflows in FY 2023?

- A) US
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) Singapore
- D) Mauritius

80. By which of the following year is India expected to surpass the US to become the world's second-largest economy, according to the Goldman Sachs report?

- A) 2075
- B) 2060
- C) 2040
- D) 2030

81. By the end of year 2023 what is the RBI's target for daily central bank digital currency (CBDC) transactions?

- A) 1 million
- B) 10,000

- C) 100,000
D) 500,000

82. Where did the 50th Meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was held?

- A) Rajasthan
B) New Delhi
C) West Bengal
D) Punjab

83. Which of the following country topped medal tally at the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships?

- A) China
B) India
C) South Korea
D) US

84. PM Modi was awarded which of the following country's highest award 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour' recently?

- A) Australia
B) Brazil
C) France
D) Germany

85. Who among the following became the first Indian athlete to win the women's 100m hurdles event at the Asian Athletics Championships?

- A) Dutee Chand
B) Hima Das
C) Jyoti Yarraji
D) MR Poovamma

86. India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project has started commercial operations recently. In which state the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) is located?

- A) Gujarat
B) Jharkhand
C) Odisha
D) West Bengal

87. For Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC) of INS-Shankush, the Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with which of the following company?

- A) Bharat Electronics Limited
B) Defence Research and Development Organisation
C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
D) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

88. National Space Mission for Earth Observation of which of the following country was axed recently?

- A) Australia
B) India
C) Russia
D) USA

89. In which of the following states the 2,000 Mega Watt Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project is being built?

- A) Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
B) Gujarat and Rajasthan
C) Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
D) Arunachal Pradesh and Assam

90. After a gap of seven years which of the following organisation has released the 'Ozone-UV bulletin'?

- A) WMO
B) UNEP
C) NASA
D) FAO

91. Who among the following clinched the men's title of Wimbledon 2023?

- A) Carlos Alcaraz
B) Daniil Medvedev
C) Novak Djokovic
D) Rafael Nadal

92. IIT Delhi is set to open its first global campus in which of the following city?

- A) Abu Dhabi
B) Dubai
C) Havana
D) Muscat

93. Along with Indian Army which of the following country is participating in 'Nomadic Elephant- 2023' military exercise?

- A) Thailand
- B) Mongolia
- C) Indonesia
- D) France

94. Who among the following clinched bronze medal in ISSF Shotgun World Cup Lonato 2023?

- A) Manu Bhaker
- B) Prithviraj Tondaiman
- C) Saurabh Chowdhary
- D) Vijay Kumar

95. The 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023' was recently released by _____.

- A) Ministry of Agriculture
- B) Ministry of Finance
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) NITI Aayog

96. Which organization is responsible for manufacturing the 'Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III' helicopters?

- A) HAL
- B) ISRO
- C) DRDO
- D) BEL

97. On which date is India's 'Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day' observed annually?

- A) July 1
- B) June 30
- C) July 15
- D) July 10

98. Which institution exclusively issues 'Electoral bonds' in India?

- A) CBDT
- B) RBI
- C) SBI

D) BOI

99. Which Union Ministry launched the 'National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)'?

- A) Ministry of MSMEs
- B) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C) Ministry of Education
- D) Ministry of labour & Employment.

100. What was the theme of 'Digital India Week 2022'?

- A) Indian Startup
- B) GrowUp India
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Local to Global

101. What is the interest rate offered by IDBI Bank for fixed deposits under the "Amrit Mahotsav FD" scheme for elderly individuals?

- A) 6.75%
- B) 7%
- C) 6.8%
- D) 6.5%

102. How often does the committee, responsible for scrutinizing senior advocate applications, meet to review the candidates?

- A) Twice a year
- B) Once a year
- C) Thrice a year
- D) Quarterly

103. Who is responsible for conducting the interview of shortlisted candidates for senior advocate designation?

- A) The Committee
- B) Full Court comprising all judges
- C) Bar representative
- D) CJI

104. What award did Moksha Roy receive for her efforts in helping the environment?

- A) Padma Shri
- B) British Prime Minister's Points of Light award
- C) Padma Bhushan
- D) Nobel Prize

105. What amount did India donate to the United Nations for promoting the Hindi language?

- A) \$10,000
- B) \$100,000
- C) \$1 Million
- D) \$500,000

106. Which of the following became the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) by InterCert USA?

- A) Coal India Limited
- B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- D) Power Grid Corporation of India

107. The Odisha Television Limited (OTV) has launched India's first regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) news anchor named _____ recently.

- A) Manav
- B) Lisa
- C) Shalu
- D) Tina

108. To launch its first international payment gateway in Malaysia which of the following company has collaborated with Curlec?

- A) BharatPe
- B) Paytm
- C) PhonePe
- D) Razorpay

109. To offer insurance products which of the following insurance company has partnered with the DCB Bank?

- A) Exide Life Insurance
- B) HDFC Life Insurance
- C) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- D) Max Life Insurance

110. For the term of 2023-2027 who among the following was elected as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)?

- A) Mahmoud Khosravivafa

- B) Randhir Singh
- C) Roy de Silva
- D) Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah

111. A 45-day fintech accelerator program 'inFINity' was launched by which of the following company in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) India?

- A) Freecharge
- B) PayU
- C) Pine Labs
- D) Razorpay

112. Which of the following became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?

- A) UK
- B) Spain
- C) Germany
- D) Denmark

113. Which of the following country became the 51st country to sign the ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)?

- A) United Arab Emirates
- B) Türkiye
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Israel

114. Which of the following Institute has signed an MoU with International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) to support FinTech & TechFin entities?

- A) Piloni Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Society (PIEDS)
- B) Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science
- C) Both A & B
- D) None of the above

115. Which of the following company has introduced its UPI LITE payment feature recently?

- A) BharatPe
- B) Freecharge
- C) Google Pay

D) PhonePe

116. Which of the following company has received a contract worth Rs 800 crore from the Indian army recently?

- A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- B) Ashok Leyland
- C) Mahindra & Mahindra Limited
- D) Tata Motors Limited

117. Congress veteran leader Oommen Chandy the former Chief Minister of which of the following state has passed away recently?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Telangana

118. A new book titled 'Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography,' was authored by which of the following author?

- A) A K Joti
- B) Gopalaswami
- C) Sushil Chandra
- D) T.N. Seshan

119. Aapda Rahat Kosh-2023 website was launched by which of the following state government to help the disaster-affected people?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra

120. Which of the following organisation has signed an MoU with the Absolute® to strengthen the government of India's flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)?

- A) United Nations Environment Programme
- B) United Nations Development Programme
- C) International Fund for Agriculture Development
- D) Food and Agricultural Organisation

121. How much stake in the Patanjali Foods Limited has been acquired by the Florida-based GQG Partners through the offer of sale (OFS) process?

- A) 6.28%
- B) 5.96%
- C) 4.65%
- D) 3.21%

122. To provide social security to individuals and households which of the following state government has passed the Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023 recently?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat

123. To set up nation's first private 'Satellite Network Portal Site' which of the following state government has signed an MoU with OneWeb India Communications?

- A) Odisha
- B) Kerala
- C) Gujarat
- D) Andhra Pradesh

124. Which edition of NABARD Foundation Day was observed in 2023?

- A) 25
- B) 35
- C) 42
- D) 50

125. Under the Indian Presidency the 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was held in which of the following city?

- A) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- B) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- C) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- D) Bengaluru, Karnataka

126. To promote the indigenous crafts and artisans of the state, which of the following state government has collaborated with the One District One Product (ODOP) program?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Uttar Pradesh

127. Along with India which of the following country has signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) for semiconductor supply-chain ecosystem recently?

- A) Argentina
- B) Brazil
- C) China
- D) Japan

128. Which of the following country became the first Arab country to be granted observer status of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)?

- A) Yemen
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Qatar

129. Which of the following organisation has launched a separate sub-category for ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investments recently?

- A) SIDBI
- B) SEBI
- C) RBI
- D) IRDAI

130. To invest Rs 20,000 crore over five years, along with Avaada Group which of the following company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently?

- A) GAIL India Limited
- B) NTPC Limited
- C) Power Finance Corporation Ltd
- D) REC Limited

131. By which of the following year the government extended the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) recently?

- A) 30 June 2027
- B) 30 June 2026
- C) 30 June 2025

- D) 30 June 2024

132. To promote innovation and entrepreneurship among the stakeholders, India's first Construction Innovation Hub (CIH) was launched in which of the following city?

- A) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- B) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- C) Kochi, Kerala
- D) Mumbai, Maharashtra

133. The Indian Army has partnered with which of the following company to launch a Tri-Services All Women Motorcycle Rally – 'Nari Sashaktikaran Motorcycle Rally' recently?

- A) Bajaj Auto
- B) Hero MotoCorp Limited
- C) Royal Enfield India
- D) TVS Motors

134. To strengthen its retail deposit portfolio, which of the following bank has launched "Resources Acquisition Centres (RAC)"?

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Punjab National Bank
- C) Indian Bank
- D) Bank of India

135. Who among the following was appointed as the CMD of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)?

- A) A Madhavarao
- B) Anurag Bajpai
- C) Narayana Murthy
- D) Sanghamitra Mishra

136. Who among the following was appointed as the Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)?

- A) Ranvijay Singh
- B) Rakesh Pal
- C) Mahesh Sharma
- D) Ajay Sinha

137. The Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 was inaugurated by which of the following union minister?

- A) Anurag Thakur
- B) Mansukh Mandaviya
- C) Rajnath Singh
- D) Smriti Irani

138. Who among the following was appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of SBI Capital Markets Limited?

- A) Rajay Kumar Sinha
- B) Ravi Tyagi
- C) Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- D) Vinay Mohanty

139. Who among the following won the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023, in Hungary?

- A) Adhiban Bhaskaran
- B) Nihal Sarin
- C) Parimarjan Negi
- D) R. Praggnananda

140. Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has elected who among the following as the new Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha?

- A) Abhishek Awasthi
- B) Kuldeep Singh
- C) S Phangnon Konyak
- D) Smriti Irani

141. Authoor betel leaves of which of the following state has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh

142. Which of the following company has tested its Raman-II engine at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Tamil Nadu?

- A) Boeing India Private Limited

- B) Bharat Electronics Limited
- C) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- D) Skyroot Aerospace

143. To report the violation of the sale of E-cigarettes, which of the following ministry has launched a portal?

- A) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

144. Who among the following recently became the second-highest wicket-taker for India in international cricket?

- A) Ravindra Jadeja
- B) Ravichandran Ashwin
- C) Jasprit Bumrah
- D) Bhubaneswar Kumar

145. The Former vice president of India M Venkaiah Naidu has released a new book titled "As the wheel turns" authored by _____.

- A) Atish Mathur
- B) Jayant Kumar
- C) Mritunjaya Singh
- D) Ranjit Pratap

146. In the year 2021, which of the following state recorded highest crime rate against Scheduled Caste (SC) groups?

- A) Assam
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Uttar Pradesh

147. Which of the following railway station has received the Asia Pacific cultural heritage award from UNESCO?

- A) Agra Fort Railway Station
- B) Byculla railway station
- C) Howrah Railway Station
- D) Lucknow Charbagh Railway Station

148. Who among the following took additional charge of the post of MD of the National Agricultural

Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)?

- A) Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat
- B) Dileep Sanghani
- C) Ritesh Chauhan
- D) Sunil Kumar Singh

149. Who among the following won ATP Challenger men's singles title after winning the final of Tampere Open 2023 in Finland?

- A) Sumit Nagal
- B) Sriram Balaji
- C) Rohan Bopanna
- D) Mukund Sasikumar

150. When the Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed?

- A) 26 July
- B) 24 July
- C) 23 July
- D) 22 July

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: D

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has constituted an 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee. Rajesh Bansal, the Secretary General of Global Tiger Forum, has been appointed as its Chairman, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said in a statement.

2. Correct Answer: D

The Chite Lui River in Aizawl is at risk as it is being transformed into a site for dumping waste. The Chite Lui River flows through the city for approximately 20 km before joining River Tuirial, originating from the Bawngkawn range in north Aizawl. The Chite Lui River has turned into a small stream due to encroachments on its banks. Plastic makes up most of the solid waste in Chite Lui River.

3. Correct Answer: C

Electronic signage systems known as Justice Clocks have been installed across the court complexes of High Courts. The initiative will inform stakeholders about court-related key parameters and bring awareness among public by providing an overview of court-related data.

4. Correct Answer: C

The Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to upload the yearly records of Group A and B officials, including appointments, transfers, and leaves, on the

Manav Sampada Portal. This step aims to improve the efficiency and usefulness of the portal while promoting transparency in governance and providing convenience to employees.

5. Correct Answer: D

According to a recent study, the devastating health consequences stemming from the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy persist and affect generations who were not directly exposed to the toxic gas. Even after nearly forty years since the tragedy, subsequent generations suffer from disabilities and cancer.

6. Correct Answer: D

Kyriakos Mitsotakis has achieved a majority and has been re-elected for a second term as the Prime Minister of Greece. New Democracy, led by Mitsotakis, secured over 40 percent of the votes, guaranteeing them a minimum of 158 seats out of the total 300 seats in parliament, based on the preliminary count of approximately 96 percent of the votes.

7. Correct Answer: D

'Solidarity exercise' is a joint military drill involving the ASEAN nations -Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines. This year, Indonesia holds the rotating chair of the regional bloc. The military exercise has been planned amid the tensions with China.

8. Correct Answer: C

Watermelon snow is a natural occurrence found in mountainous regions worldwide, where the vibrant color of the snow is caused by a green algae bloom that thrives in cold, snowy conditions. This phenomenon can give the appearance of the snow changing color, but it is actually due to the presence of the algae. This was recently reported in the Utah Mountains, USA.

9. Correct Answer: C

World Bank recently approved USD 255.5 million loan for the Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education Project. Its aim is to improve technical education in India. This funding will support approximately 275 selected government-run technical institutions over the course of the next five years.

10. Correct Answer: D

Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland have been named the top three among 64 economies in the 2023 Global Competitiveness Index. India has been placed at the 40th position in the same index. The 2023 IMD World Competitiveness Ranking was published by the World Competitiveness Center for the 35th consecutive year.

11. Correct Answer: D

In Pakistan, the National Assembly has passed a bill seeking an amendment to the Elections Act 2017, aimed at limiting the disqualification of lawmakers to five years with retrospective effect. The Act- titled Elections (Amendment) Bill 2023 – also aims to empower the Election Commission of Pakistan to announce election dates unilaterally without having to consult the President.

12. Correct Answer: D

Infosys has announced a long-term collaboration with Danske Bank. The projected agreement worth USD 454 million for a 5-year term has the possibility to renew for an extra year up to three times. As part

of this agreement, Infosys will also buy Danske Bank's IT centre in India, which employs over 1,400 people. Danske Bank, headquartered in Denmark, provides banking services to individuals and businesses, as well as large corporations and institutions.

13. Correct Answer: C

The United Nations General Assembly in 1987, decided to observe June 26 as International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. This year's theme is 'People first: Stop stigma and discrimination; strengthen prevention'. Every year, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) issues the World Drug Report.

14. Correct Answer: C

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is set to provide 400 million US dollars in loans to Bangladesh for the construction of 102 kilometers long dual gauge railways between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar to promote trade, investment and tourism. Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Railway is part of the Trans-Asia Railway (TAR) network, an initiative led by the United Nations, aiming to provide seamless rail links between Asia and Europe to better connect people and markets.

15. Correct Answer: D

The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has plans to bolster the market towards energy-efficient fans by deploying 10 million brushless direct current motor (BLDC) fans across the country from September. EESL is a joint venture of PSUs of the Ministry of Power. This plan is a part of its efforts to reduce energy consumption. It is also designed to support the country's nationally determined contributions (NDC) targets.

16. Correct Answer: D

The annual two day Hemis Tsechu Festival is celebrated by Hemis Gompa (monastery) from 28th June to 29th June 2023 in Leh, Ladakh on the birth

anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava to commemorate his life and works, who is referred to as Guru Rinpoche.

17. Correct Answer: D

Tata AIA, the life insurance arm backed by Tata Group, has introduced a first of its kind feature in the insurance industry by enabling digital payments through WhatsApp and Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI).

18. Correct Answer: C

Paytm announced a strategic partnership with Shriram Finance, a non-banking finance company (NBFC) of the Chennai (Tamil Nadu)-based Shriram group, to extend financial services to its users, including loan products. Under this partnership, Shriram Finance products will be made available on Paytm's platform digitally.

19. Correct Answer: B

The Indian cricket team created history on July 23 on the fourth day of the second Test match of the series between India and the West Indies. India reached the 100-run mark in just 12.2 overs, which is the fastest ever a team (per balls faced) has taken to complete the first 100 runs in the history of Test cricket.

20. Correct Answer: D

On 29th June 2023, Former Rajya Sabha member and India's first-ever Olympic medallist in women's boxing, Mary Kom (40 years old) has been honoured with the India Global Forum (IGF) United Kingdom (UK) Special Award: Global Indian Icon of the Year award (2023) at the 5th annual UK -India Awards (2023) held in Fairmont Windsor Park, Windsor, UK.

21. Correct Answer: D

The Vitasta program was conducted with the aim of spreading the diverse art, culture, literature, craft, and cuisine of Kashmir to every corner of the country. This series of events, which commenced in Chennai and concluded in Srinagar, witnessed a

remarkable level of interest among the youth in understanding and embracing the vibrant Kashmiri culture.

22. Correct Answer: D

The Minister of Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi, has officially presented the inaugural report on "Critical Minerals for India." The report was prepared by a team of experts appointed by the Ministry of Mines. This list, for the first time in India, has identified the comprehensive list of critical minerals while considering the requirements of sectors like defence, agriculture, energy, pharmaceutical, telecom etc.

23. Correct Answer: C

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala launched the 'Report Fish Disease(RFD)' App. The app has been developed by ICAR-NBFGR under National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD), funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. It is a centralized platform that integrates fish farmers, field-level officers, and fish health experts.

24. Correct Answer: C

The 6G Vision Framework has been officially approved by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, representing India, has played a pivotal role in formulating this framework. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had released India's 6G Vision "Bharat 6G Vision" document on March 23, 2023

25. Correct Answer: D

On 2nd July 2023, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) by Ramesh Bais, Governor of Maharashtra, in a ceremony at the Raj Bhawan in Mumbai, Maharashtra in the presence of Maharashtra's Chief Minister(CM) Eknath Shinde.

26. Correct Answer: D

The Indian Air Force is making preparations for a large-scale multinational exercise called Tarang Shakti, which will involve the air forces of 12 nations, with six nations joining with their aircraft and the remaining six as observers. This exercise is set to be the largest air exercise held in India. It aims to strengthen military cooperation among participating air forces and enhance interoperability and synergy in joint operations.

27. Correct Answer: D

The government has indicated its intention to introduce differential time-based electricity tariffs, involving lower prices during an eight-hour period in the daytime and higher rates during peak power consumption hours. The Ministry of Power recently announced amendments to the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, which include the incorporation of provisions for time-of-day (ToD) tariffs.

28. Correct Answer: C

Finfluencers are individuals who utilize their public social media platforms to provide guidance and share anecdotes regarding money, finance, and stock investments. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chief Madhabi Puri Buch talked about the growing number of finfluencers and inducements in the market. SEBI's plan to publish a consultation paper consisting of a set of rules to be followed by the financial influencers.

29. Correct Answer: C

At a London auction held by Sotheby's, the final portrait created by Austrian artist Gustav Klimt was sold for USD 108.4 million or 885 crores, making it the highest-priced artwork ever sold at a European auction. Regarded as one of the most influential decorative painters of the 20th century, Gustav Klimt's oil on canvas painting, "The Kiss," created between 1907 and 1908, depicts two lovers in an embrace and is recognized as one of his most iconic masterpieces.

30. Correct Answer: D

Due to budget constraints, Australia was forced to abandon National Space Mission for Earth Observation. The main goal of the program was to develop, build, and operate a set of four satellites, scheduled for launch between 2028 and 2033, with the purpose of collecting crucial Earth observation data.

31. Correct Answer: D

The first IIT campus outside India will be established in Zanzibar, Tanzania, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. IIT Madras, the Government of India, and Tanzania's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has signed an MoU in this regard.

32. Correct Answer: B

Indian archers Priyansh and Avneet Kaur won gold in the junior mixed team compound event, defeating Israel in the final of the World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland. India's Manav Jadhav and Aishwarya Sharma also won a bronze medal defeating Mexico in the cadet mixed compound event.

33. Correct Answer: B

India and Mumbai City FC winger Lallianzuala Chhangte has been named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year, on the back of his impressive performance in the Indian Super League (ISL) and for the national team. He beat national team-mates Nandhakumar Sekar and Naorem Mahesh Singh to the coveted award.

34. Correct Answer: A

Aadhav Arjuna from Tamil Nadu has been selected as the president of the Basketball Federation of India. Out of 48 State Basketball Association Executives across India who were eligible to vote, 41 voted. Aadhav Arjuna won by securing 38 votes.

35. Correct Answer: C

The 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) recently released its annual ranking of the most peaceful countries in

the world. As per the 2023 GIP, Iceland is the most peaceful country in the world – a title it has held since 2008.

36. Correct Answer: D

Netherlands men team finish their season four campaign on 35 points, making them champions of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season. With this win, Netherlands become the first team in the men's competition to win a second title.

37. Correct Answer: A

The Election Commission of India and Electoral Tribunal (ET) of Panama has signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Panama City to establish the institutional framework for their ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration.

38. Correct Answer: B

Iran became the new permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at an India-hosted virtual summit of the grouping. In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the people of Iran on the country becoming a full member of the influential grouping.

39. Correct Answer: D

Hosts India clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship title for the ninth time after beating Kuwait 5-4 in a tense penalty shootout after both sides were deadlocked 1-1 in 120 minutes in the summit clash at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

40. Correct Answer: A

Ajit Agarkar has been appointed as the new Team India chief selector and replaced Chetan Sharma in the role. Chetan had resigned from the top spot after a TV Sting operation.

41. Correct Answer: D

NCC and State Bank of India (SBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of Raksha Mantri to open zero balance accounts of all NCC Cadets with debit card, chequebook & passbook facility under SBI's "Pahli Udaan" scheme.

42. Correct Answer: A

The Valedictory Session of the Conference on Green Hydrogen was jointly organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, CSIR, and the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor,

43. Correct Answer: B

The first IIT campus to be set up outside India will be in Zanzibar, Tanzania. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 5 July 2023, in the presence of H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India.

44. Correct Answer: D

Taiwan announced plans to enhance its official presence in India by setting up a new representative office in Mumbai. Besides the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC) in New Delhi, Taiwan set up an office in Chennai in December 2012.

45. Correct Answer: A

KM Vasudevan Namboothiri, a renowned artist known for his literary illustrations and sculptures, passed away at the age of 97. He received widespread acclaim for his illustrations in the works of famous writers and was honored with various awards for his contributions to the field of art.

46. Correct Answer: C

PM Prasad has assumed charge as the Coal India's chairman and managing director (CMD). He succeeds Pramod Agrawal who stepped down on 30 June on attaining the age of superannuation.

47. Correct Answer: C

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 National Highway projects worth Rs 5,600 crore in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan. The foundation stones for seven projects costing Rs 1,850 crore with a total length of 221 km were also laid.

48. Correct Answer: B

In a surprising move, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) chairman and a social rights activist Harsh Chouhan resigned with eight months left for his term to end. This has left the tribal rights body headless and functioning with a lone member.

49. Correct Answer: B

The conference was organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

50. Correct Answer: B

During 2022, FDI inflows to India rose by 10% on an annual basis to \$49 billion, while China registered a 5% yearly growth to \$189 billion. Singapore and UAE grew by 8% and 10% to \$141 billion and \$23 billion, respectively.

51. Correct Answer: D

India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat started commercial operations, a senior official said. Presently, the unit is operating at 90 per cent of its total power, he said.

52. Correct Answer: B

Bank of India, one of the largest Public Sector Banks in India has announced that it has officially launched the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, 2023. The roll-out ceremony was inaugurated by the MD & CEO Rajneesh Karnatak through a VC (Video Conference).

53. Correct Answer: D

Airtel Payments Bank, a FASTag issuer, has collaborated with Park+ to enable FASTag-based smart parking solution at Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport. The FASTag-based smart parking solution enables automatic cashless payments at airport parking, making vehicle movement in the parking zone frictionless and time efficient.

54. Correct Answer: C

Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based firm, has launched the country's first hand-held navigation device based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC). The device aims to provide precise directions for various infrastructure projects such as railway, land survey, telecoms, and hydrocarbon exploration.

55. Correct Answer: B

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reached the staff-level agreement (SLA) of USD 3 billion. The decision came after the IMF staff team led by Nathan Porter held in-person and virtual meetings with the Pakistani Authorities under an IMF Stand-by Arrangement (SBA).

56. Correct Answer: D

The seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) hosted by the Indian Navy was conducted at Visakhapatnam from July 5-10. This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012

57. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has cancelled the banking of two co-operative banks in Maharashtra and Karnataka. The licenses of Malkapur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Buldhana and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita, Bengaluru have been cancelled.

58. Correct Answer: A

Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has entered into a strategic

partnership with Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks, to facilitate personal loans for its valued customers, adding additional convenience and enhanced benefits to its 450 million customers.

59. Correct Answer: C

India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot, which will start an instant conversation with people in distress, was launched in Jammu and Kashmir on July 5. This year Kashmir saw the highest number of distress calls to the Tele-Manas centre.

60. Correct Answer: D

Parth Salunkhe became the first Indian male archer to win a gold in the recurve category of the Youth World Championships. The 19-year-old from Satara in Maharashtra won gold by defeating a Korean in the Under-21 men's recurve individual final.

61. Correct Answer: D

PhonePe has announced the launch of its Point-of-sale (POS) device that enables merchants to accept payments via debit cards, credit cards and UPI. The launch of one-stop POS solution by PhonePe will intensify the competition for strong rival Paytm.

62. Correct Answer: B

Meta has officially debuted its Twitter-like messaging app Threads, which the company is pitching as Instagram's "text-based conversation app." Mark Zuckerberg, Meta's CEO and co-founder, announced the debut of Threads, marking the official release of the social networking giant's new text-focused messaging app.

63. Correct Answer: D

State-owned power producer THDCIL said it will provide technical services to NHAI under an agreement. "THDC India Limited (THDCIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to provide technical services as the technical consultant," the company said in a statement.

64. Correct Answer: A

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has honoured Indian astrophysicist Aswin Sekhar by naming a minor planet after him. The honour was conferred on him at the 2023 edition of Asteroids Comets Meteors Conference, which took place in Arizona on June 21, 2023.

65. Correct Answer: D

The Centre has appointed Justice Sheo Kumar Singh-I, a judicial member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), as its acting chairperson. The union ministry of environment, forest and climate change, in a notification, said Justice Singh would act as the chairperson until an appointment is made to the post.

66. Correct Answer: B

The United States of America in collaboration with Indian Government's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) carried out 'Operation Broader Sword', a special bilateral multi-agency enforcement operation targeting illicit pharmaceuticals, devices, or precursor chemicals shipped using the international mail system.

67. Correct Answer: B

The Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) and Indian Plumbing Association (IPA) have signed an MoU with the aim of achieving a Water Positive India. The MoU focuses on creating awareness and promoting rainwater harvesting structures, low-flow fixtures and sanitary ware, treatment of grey and black water, and water audit of the built environment.

68. Correct Answer: B

India has joined the champions group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) following an invitation from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The GCRG was set up by the UN Secretary General (UNSG) in March last

year to address urgent and critical global issues such as food and energy security challenges.

69. Correct Answer: D

Coal India Limited (CIL) is the recipient of the Rising Star Award in appreciation of its outstanding efforts to enhance procurement through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal in FY 2022–23. Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Textile, Commerce and Industry presented the award to CIL.

70. Correct Answer: C

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has won the Insurer Innovation Award 2023 for the APAC region at The World's Digital Insurance Awards. The award, hosted by TDI - The Digital Insurer, acknowledges Bajaj Allianz Life's ground-breaking WhatsApp Conversational Platform - empowering customers to digitally services their policies seamlessly.

71. Correct Answer: A

Bangladesh and India recently launched a much-anticipated trade transaction in rupees, a move aimed at reducing dependence on the US dollar and strengthening regional currency and trade. This is the first time Bangladesh has done bilateral trade with a foreign country in addition to the US dollar.

72. Correct Answer: B

The United States has the strongest military force in the world, with Russia and China in second and third and India in fourth place, according to Global Firepower, a data website that tracks global defence-related information. The report lists 145 countries and also compares each nation's year-on-year ranking changes.

73. Correct Answer: D

Indian triple-jumper Selva Prabhu Thirumaran became the first Indian ever to be named "Best Asian Under-20 Male Athlete of the Year" by Asian Athletics Association (AAA). Selva, 18, won silver at the World U20 Athletics Championships in Colombia last year.

74. Correct Answer: C

India has won three gold medals in the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships opening day at the Gautam Budh University, Greater Noida. Athlete Jyotsna Sabar has clinched gold in 40kg Youth Category, Asmita in 45kg Youth & Junior Category, and Komal Kohar in 45kg Senior category.

75. Correct Answer: C

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave its nod to EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd that will be based at Salem Airport. This will be the first flying training organisation (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.

76. Correct Answer: B

A Parliamentary committee, set up to examine controversial proposed amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, has endorsed the amendment Bill in its entirety. The report prepared by the 31-member joint committee on the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 is expected to be tabled in Parliament ahead of the monsoon session on July 20.

77. Correct Answer: D

Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences a year later. The Secretariat, headquartered in Geneva, is headed by the Secretary-General.

78. Correct Answer: D

According to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade data, FDI inflows into Maharashtra went up by 19 per cent year-on-year to ₹85,186 crore during the April-December of the current fiscal. The State received ₹71,858 crore of FDI inflows during the same period of FY22.

79. Correct Answer: C

Foreign direct equity investments into India in fiscal 2023 shrank 21.67% from the previous year to

\$46.03 billion. Singapore emerged as the top investor with \$17.2 billion in FDI in the fiscal year, followed by Mauritius at \$6.1 billion and the US at \$6.04 billion.

80. Correct Answer: A

India will become the second largest economy in the world by 2075 surpassing not only Japan and Germany but also the US, stated a Goldman Sachs report. According to the report, as India's population of 1.4 billion people becomes the world's largest, its GDP is forecast to expand dramatically.

81. Correct Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is aiming to scale up the number of central bank digital currency (CBDC) transactions to one million per day by the end of 2023, Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said. Currently, around 5,000-10,000 transactions are being done per day using retail CBDC.

82. Correct Answer: B

The 50th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, under the chairpersonship of the Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. To mark the milestone of 50th meeting of the GST Council, Chairperson released a short video film titled 'GST Council- 50 steps towards a journey'.

83. Correct Answer: C

India was second most successful country at the competition, with a total of 11 medals -- six gold, one silver and four bronze. South Korea topped the charts with 11 medals, including six gold and four silver medals.

84. Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour', France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron.

85. Correct Answer: C

Jyothi Yarraji made history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win the women's 100m hurdles event at the Asian Athletics Championships. Her victory marked India's first gold medal in a major international event.

86. Correct Answer: A

India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat started commercial operations, a senior official said. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is building two 700 MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar, which is also home to two 220 MW power plants.

87. Correct Answer: D

Ministry of Defence has signed a contract for Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC) of Sub-Surface Killer (SSK) Class of Submarine "INS Shankush" with M/S Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai. Delivery of Submarine post MRLC will be in 2026.

88. Correct Answer: A

Australia has announced the cancellation of 'National Space Mission for Earth Observation'. The decision to axe the programme has been taken as the nation tries to cut costs, and deal with financial constraints caused by an economic downturn and high cost of living.

89. Correct Answer: D

The 2,000 Mega Watt Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project is located in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. NHPC Limited has informed that more than 90% of the total work of the project has already been completed.

90. Correct Answer: A

The stratosphere ozone layer is slowly recovering and the recovery will be complete in most parts of the atmosphere in the coming decades, according to

the latest bulletin by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The bulletin with the updated status of the ozone layer by WMO-Global Atmosphere Watch bulletin returned after a gap of seven years.

91. Correct Answer: A

In a massive showdown, Carlos Alcaraz defeated seven-time champion Novak Djokovic to claim his first Wimbledon title, shattering the Djokovic's dream of a equalling Roger Federer's record. The Spaniard recovered from dropping the first set and saving a set point in the second to come through 1-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

92. Correct Answer: A

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi. The MoU was signed in the presence of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

93. Correct Answer: B

The 15th edition of the exercise 'Nomadic Elephant-2023' between India and Mongolia is being conducted in Mongolia. The exercise is scheduled at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from July 17-31.

94. Correct Answer: B

India shooter Prithviraj Tondaiman bagged the bronze medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup Lonato 2023 in Italy. Prithviraj Tondaiman's bronze was India's only medal at the Lonato shooting meet.

95. Correct Answer: D

India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of multidimensionally poor, from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021, according to the 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023'. The report was released by the Niti Aayog in New Delhi.

96. Correct Answer: A

HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) manufactures the 'Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III' helicopters.

97. Correct Answer: A

India celebrates 'Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day' on July 1st each year, marking the anniversary of the implementation of GST in the country.

98. Correct Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the sole institution authorized to issue 'Electoral bonds' for making donations to political parties.

99. Correct Answer: B

The 'National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)' is an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to promote apprenticeship training in various industries.

100. Correct Answer: D

The theme of 'Digital India Week 2022' was 'Local to Global', highlighting the role of digital technologies in elevating Indian innovations and start-ups to a global level.

101. Correct Answer: A

IDBI Bank offers an interest rate of 6.75% for fixed deposits under the "Amrit Mahotsav FD" scheme for elderly individuals.

102. Correct Answer: A

The committee responsible for scrutinizing senior advocate applications meets twice a year to review the candidates.

103. Correct Answer: B

The Full Court comprising all judges is responsible for conducting the interview of shortlisted candidates for senior advocate designation.

104. Correct Answer: B

Moksha Roy received the British Prime Minister's Points of Light award for her efforts in helping the environment.

105. Correct Answer: D

India donated \$500,000 to the United Nations for promoting the Hindi language.

106. Correct Answer: C

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation became the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) by InterCert USA, an internationally accredited certification body. ONGC has always been at the forefront of promoting integrity.

107. Correct Answer: B

In a significant milestone for the AI industry, Odisha TV, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled "Lisa," India's first regional AI news anchor. Lisa's introduction marks a groundbreaking moment in TV broadcasting and journalism, with the potential to revolutionize the industry.

108. Correct Answer: D

Razorpay has launched its first international payment gateway for the Malaysian market with Curlec, now known as 'Curlec By Razorpay'. The collaboration will help both companies to transform the digital payments system in Malaysia.

109. Correct Answer: D

Max Life Insurance has partnered with DCB Bank to provide a variety of life insurance products to the latter's customers. Term, savings, and retirement plans will be offered under this partnership.

110. Correct Answer: D

Kuwait's Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been elected as the new President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) recently. The 58-year-old Sheikh Talal beat Kuwaiti Husain Al-Musallam, the organisation's director general and President of

World Aquatics, at the OCA General Assembly in Bangkok by 24 votes to 20.

111. Correct Answer: B

Payments service provider PayU has announced the launch of a 45-day fintech accelerator program, inFINity for early-stage Indian startups in collaboration with AWS India (Amazon Web Services) and venture capital firm Chiratae Ventures. The program aims to support the growth of early-stage fintech startups by providing access to mentorship from industry experts, curated resources, and AWS Activate credits.

112. Correct Answer: A

The UK has formally signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade bloc, a move it says will help grow the country's economy and provide access for British businesses to a market of over 500 million people.

113. Correct Answer: C

Saudi Arabia has become the 51st country to sign the ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The signing was conducted on the sidelines of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM).

114. Correct Answer: A

International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and PIEDS BITS Pilani, have signed a MoU at BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator, Pilani Campus in Rajasthan. This MoU aims to put in place a framework for cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities.

115. Correct Answer: C

Google Pay has finally introduced UPI Lite on its platform. It allows users to send money up to Rs 200 with a single tap from their UPI Lite account, without entering a PIN. UPI Lite is a digital payment service

designed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

116. Correct Answer: B

Ashok Leyland, the Indian flagship of the Hinduja Group has received significant orders from the Indian army which is valued at INR 800 Crores in the defence sector. The contracts awarded also include the procurement of the Field Artillery Tractor (FAT 4x4) and the Gun Towing Vehicle (GTV 6x6).

117. Correct Answer: C

Congress veteran and former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy has passed away recently. He was 79. Oommen Chandy served as the Kerala chief minister twice - from 2004-06 and 2011-16.

118. Correct Answer: D

A new book titled 'Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography,' was authored by Mr TN Seshan the former chief election commissioner of India. His autobiography, Through the Broken Glass, has been published four years after he passed away in 2019.

119. Correct Answer: B

Chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the Aapda Rahat Kosh-2023 website, initiating a digital platform aimed at aiding the disaster-affected people of Himachal Pradesh. Individuals can donate money in Aapda Rahat Kosh-2023 from anywhere.

120. Correct Answer: B

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Absolute®, a bioscience company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the government of India's flagship Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and enhance the resilience of the farmers.

121. Correct Answer: B

Florida-based GQG Partners has invested around Rs 2,400 crore in Baba Ramdev-led FMCG company Patanjali Foods. In the offer of sale (OFS), NRI Rajiv

Jain-led GQG picked a 5.96% stake or about 2.15 crore shares of Patanjali.

122. Correct Answer: B

The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023, passed with voice vote, gives a guarantee for giving 125 days of employment in a financial year to all families residing in the rural and urban areas and a minimum pension of ₹1,000 every month to the elderly people, specially abled people and widows and single women.

123. Correct Answer: C

OneWeb India Communications signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Gujarat to build India's first satellite network portal. OneWeb has 648 satellites orbiting at 1,000-1,200 km making 13 orbits per day, covering the entire globe.

124. Correct Answer: C

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 42nd Foundation Day on 12 July 2023. NABARD came into existence on 12 July 1982 by transferring the agricultural credit functions of RBI and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC). It was dedicated to the service of the nation by the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi on 05 November 1982.

125. Correct Answer: C

The Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Indian Presidency was held during 17-18 July 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The meeting was jointly chaired by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, and Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das.

126. Correct Answer: A

One District One Product (ODOP) program, an initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of

Commerce & Industry, launched its first collaboration with the Government of Gujarat in New Delhi to promote the indigenous crafts and artisans of the State.

127. Correct Answer: D

After multiple rounds of discussions between the Indian and Japanese government, the two nations have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to build a resilient semiconductor ecosystem. The MoC signed between India and Japan will cover semiconductor development, manufacturing, research, design and talent development.

128. Correct Answer: B

A delegation from the UAE took part with observer status in the plenary of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), a Financial Action Task Force-Style regional body (FSRB), took place in Vancouver, Canada. The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted observer status at the APG.

129. Correct Answer: B

Capital market regulator Sebi has decided to introduce a separate sub-category for ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investments under thematic category of equity schemes. Any scheme under the ESG category can be launched with one of the strategies such as Exclusion, Integration, Best-in-class & Positive Screening, Impact investing, Sustainable objectives, and Transition or transition related investments.

130. Correct Answer: D

Avaada Group said that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with REC under which the State-run company will invest ₹20,000 crore in the renewable energy solutions company over the next five years. "This agreement ushers in a massive surge of support for Avaada's diverse energy transition ventures with the total investment reaching an impressive ₹20,000 crore," Avaada Group said.

131. Correct Answer: D

The government has extended the unemployment scheme, the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY), under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for a period of two years up to June 30, 2024. This is the third extension to the scheme with two extensions given each in 2020 and 2021 to financially support ESIC beneficiaries who had lost jobs during the pandemic.

132. Correct Answer: C

Kerala got the country's first Construction Innovation Hub (CIH) in Kochi that seeks to promote affordable and sustainable building facilities so as to foster collaboration, innovation and knowledge-sharing among the stakeholders. Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) will be responsible for the CIH's overall programme management.

133. Correct Answer: D

Nari Sashaktikaran women biker rally comprising a contingent of 25 all-women bikers was flagged off from Srinagar on July 24. For this Rally, the Indian Army has partnered with TVS Motor Company and the participants will be riding on TVS Ronin motorcycles.

134. Correct Answer: C

Public sector Indian Bank has launched Resources Acquisition Centre (RAC). The primary objective of the initiative is to strengthen the retail deposit portfolio, which encompasses current deposit, savings bank and term deposit accounts.

135. Correct Answer: A

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has announced that the Ministry of Defence has approved the appointment of A Madhavarao as its chairman and managing director, with effect from 19 July 2023. He had joined BDL in March 2020 as executive director and was currently holding the post of Director (technical) with additional charge of Director (production).

136. Correct Answer: B

DG Rakesh Pal has been appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). He is an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy and joined Indian Coast Guard in January 1989. The Officer holds the recognition of being the First Gunner of ICG.

137. Correct Answer: B

The Global Food Regulators Summit was inaugurated on 20th July, 2023 by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. It brought together food regulators from around the world to exchange perspectives and knowledge on crucial issues related to food safety systems.

138. Correct Answer: A

Rajay Kumar Sinha, has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAPS). He has taken charge at the wholly owned subsidiary and investment banking arm of State Bank of India (SBI), from July 14, as per the company press release.

139. Correct Answer: D

Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa emerged champion in the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023, in Hungary. Praggnanandhaa posted five wins, drew three games and suffered only one defeat in the tournament, at the hands of Amin Tabatabaei in the fifth round.

140. Correct Answer: C

Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on July 20 reconstituted the panel of vice-chairpersons of Parliament's Upper House. Among the Rajya Sabha members who are the new vice-chairpersons are P. T. Usha, S. Phangnon Konyak, Fauzia Khan, Sulata Deo, V. Vijaysai Reddy, Ghanshyam Tiwari, L. Hanumanthaiah and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

141. Correct Answer: A

Four months after the Geographical Indications Registry notified Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Authoor betel leaves, the registry recently issued the

GI certificate to the Thoothukudi district administration. The tag was facilitated by the Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and NABAD Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum.

142. Correct Answer: D

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has enabled a successful rocket-engine test conducted by Skyroot, a Hyderabad-based space start-up, at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. Going forward, a series of additional tests are planned to further validate and refine the Raman-II engine's capabilities.

143. Correct Answer: C

Despite the ban imposed by the Union government in 2019, e-cigarettes continue to be sold on e-commerce sites, even to children below 18, warn experts working in the area of tobacco control. Now to curb this, the Health Ministry has launched an online portal, www.violation-reporting.in, to facilitate reporting of violations.

144. Correct Answer: B

Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on July 15 surpassed Harbhajan Singh to become the second-highest wicket-taker for India in international cricket. Ashwin did so during the first Test of two-match series against West Indies in Dominica. Ashwin has 709 wickets in 271 international matches.

145. Correct Answer: D

Former Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu has released a book named "As the wheel turns". The Managing Director of Rayala Corporation, Ranjit Pratap has authored the book.

146. Correct Answer: B

Madhya Pradesh had the highest crime rate against people belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) groups in 2021, the latest year for which National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data is available. The state also had the highest crime rate against SCs in 2020,

and was ranked second (behind Rajasthan) in 2019, the data shows.

147. Correct Answer: B

The 169-year-old, India's oldest railway station at Byculla, located in central Mumbai has received the Asia Pacific cultural heritage award from UNESCO. Railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw presented the UNESCO award for the restoration of the Byculla railway station to its original glory in the national capital.

148. Correct Answer: C

Ritesh Chauhan (IAS) has been appointed as Managing Director (MD) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED). According to an order issued from the

Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), he has been given additional charge of the post for a period of three months with effect from May 1, 2023.

149. Correct Answer: A

Sumit Nagal clinched ATP Challenger men's singles title after winning the final of Tampere Open 2023 in Finland. Sumit Nagal, 25, won his second ATP Challenger event of the year, defeating Czech Republic's Dalibor Svrčina 6-4, 7-5 in the final.

150. Correct Answer: A

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26 to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War in 1999. The day honours the bravery and sacrifice made by Indian soldiers during the intense war.



SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

Maitree Super Thermal Power Project



Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), a state-owned engineering firm, achieved a major milestone in Bangladesh. The 660-MW Unit-2 of the 1,320-MW Maitree Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) was successfully synchronized with the electricity grid in Bangladesh.

Maitree Super Thermal Power Project

- Rampal, Mongla, Bagerhat, Bangladesh is home to the 1,320 MW Maitree STPP power plant.
- Joint Venture: The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and NTPC Ltd. are a 50:50 joint venture, and BHEL is in charge of constructing the power plant.
- Infrastructure Priority: The project is a priority infrastructure development endeavor for Bangladesh and serves as a symbol of the productive partnership between India and Bangladesh.
- Establishing a dependable and affordable base-load power production system in Bangladesh is the project's main objective.

BHEL's Technological Prowess and Global Leadership:

- The 660-MW Unit-2's successful synchronization highlights BHEL's knowledge and technological prowess in the power industry.
- This achievement strengthens BHEL's status as a major player on the international stage offering reliable and sustainable energy solutions.

Environment & Diversity

Places in news: Ubinas Volcano



Peru declared a state of emergency for sixty days in areas around the Ubinas volcano. The volcano has been spewing ash and gas and is probably set to erupt.

Ubinas Volcano

- About 60 kilometers to the east of Arequipa, in the Moquegua Region of southern Peru, is the active stratovolcano known as Ubinas.
- It is situated at a height of 5,672 meters above sea level and is a part of the Central Volcanic Zone of the Andes.

Geological Characteristics

- Ubinas is distinguished by its stratovolcano structure, which is made up of layers of ash, lava, and other volcanic materials that have hardened through time.

- **Caldera and Crater:** The volcano's top is home to a crater that is less than 1.4 kilometers across and 150 meters deep. The geological significance of the volcano is increased by this distinctive feature.
- **Ubinas I and Ubinas II:** The volcano has a distinctive notch on its southern flank and a form resembling an upward-steepening cone. Different phases of the volcano's geological history are represented by the names Ubinas I and II, which correspond to the lower and steeper top portions, respectively.

Volcanic Activity

- Ubinas is considered to be Peru's most active volcano, with a history of minor to major explosive eruptions and continuous degassing.
- **Important Eruptions:** The volcano has had significant eruptions in the past, including the 2006–2007 event, which caused ash fall, health concerns, and evacuations in the area.
- **Recent Activity:** From 2013 to 2017, the crater of Ubinas saw lava flow and ash falls, which prompted more evacuations in neighboring communities.

Eruption and Impact

- Volcano Ubinas is currently pouring ash and gas into the atmosphere.
- **Affected Areas & Smoke Cloud:** Up to 10 kilometers away from the volcano, towns have been affected by the smoke cloud produced by the eruption. This has prompted worries for the safety of almost 2,000 residents of the impacted communities.
- The area where Ubinas is located is part of the "Ring of Fire," a region encircling the Pacific Ocean known for its intense seismic and volcanic activity.

Turtle Rehabilitation: A Crucial Element in Ganges Conservation



As part of a collaborative effort between the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the Forest and Wildlife Department, and the Namami Gange Program, hundreds of turtles will be released into the river. These turtles, which were hatched at a Varanasi breeding and rehabilitation facility, hope to help the holy Ganges become cleaner and more vibrant.

Turtle Rehabilitation Center: A Crucial Element in Ganges Conservation

- **Meaning:** The Varanasi turtle rehabilitation center, which was built as part of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in the late 1980s, is essential to the Ganges River's conservation.
- **Achievements:** From the center, about 40,000 turtles have been released, with over 28,000 of those released during the GAP's first phase.
- **Refocus:** The Namami Gange Programme, the Central government's flagship initiative to fight pollution and restore the natural balance of the river, was introduced in 2014, and since then the center has attracted new interest and support.

Strengthening the Ganges Clean-up Efforts

- **Turtle population:** The facility supports over a dozen different kinds of turtles, including herbivores and carnivores that are essential to the preservation of a healthy ecology.
- **Turtle eggs** are collected by the Forest and Wildlife Department from the Chambal region's coastal zones.

- **Controlled Hatching:** The eggs are carefully watched for 70 days in a room that has been created specifically for hatching. They are interred in wooden boxes filled with sand that are set on a watery surface and covered with bricks.
- **Monitoring and Care:** The turtles are watched over and raised in an artificial pond for two years following their June–July hatching in order to make sure they are healthy and ready to be released into the river.

Role of Turtles in Ganges Restoration

- **Impact on Water Quality:** By consuming the meat and waste materials that are present in the Ganges, turtles help to improve the river's quality.
- **Positive Significance:** The Namami Gange Programme's water quality studies show improvements in the levels of dissolved oxygen (DO), faecal coliform (FC), and biochemical demand (BOD).
- **Governmental Conclusions:** The Uttar Pradesh Government stated that while DO, BOD, and FC levels have improved at 16, 14, and 18 out of 20 locations, respectively, the pH levels at several locations, including Varanasi, fulfill bathing water quality guidelines.

Long-Term Implications and Future Analysis

- **Time-Dependent Results:** It will take several years of ongoing monitoring to determine the long-term effects of turtle rehabilitation on the Ganges ecosystem.
- **Microbial Analysis:** Ongoing microbial analysis will provide us more information about how different turtle species contribute to the ecological balance and health of the river.

Lightning not a Natural Disaster: Centre



A senior government official stated that lightning deaths can be prevented through education and awareness, and thus, the government is against declaring it a natural disaster.

Why discuss this?

- **State Requests:** A number of states, including West Bengal and Bihar, have asked that lightning-related fatalities be classified as natural disasters so that the victims may receive financial assistance from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- **Increasing the number of fatalities:** In 2021, lightning was responsible for 2,880 deaths, or 40% of all accidental deaths attributable to "forces of nature."

What is Lightning?

Lightning is a rapid and powerful discharge of electricity in the atmosphere, often directed towards the Earth.

- **Genesis:** Huge, moisture-rich clouds several kilometers in height are where lightning discharges take place.
- When temperatures fall below 0°C, water vapor in the clouds condenses into tiny ice crystals.
- Collisions between ice crystals cause the release of electrons, which sets off a chain reaction that creates a positive and negative charge within the cloud.

- Types: Inter- and intra-cloud lightning can happen within clouds, as well as cloud-to-ground lightning.

Intensity of Lightning Strikes

- Voltage and Amperage: A typical lightning flash can reach around 300 million volts and 30,000 amps, significantly higher than household current.
- Comparisons: Household current is 120 volts and 15 amps, highlighting the immense power of lightning.

Mitigating Lightning Incidents

- Lightning Early Warning System: India has set up a lightning early warning system, saving many lives.

- Focus on Rural Areas: Since over 96% of lightning-related fatalities happen there, efforts for prevention and education must specifically target these areas.
- Installation of Protection Devices: More inexpensive lightning protection equipment needs to be installed, particularly in rural regions.
- Similar to heat action plans, states are urged to create and implement lightning action plans in order to reduce dangers associated with lightning.
- International Center for Excellence: To improve lightning detection and early warning systems, efforts are being made to establish an international center for excellence in lightning research.

Governance

Nari Adalat



The government is launching a unique initiative ‘Nari Adalat’ to establish women-only courts at the village level.

Nari Adalat

- The goal of Nari Adalat is to offer an alternative platform for resolving disputes over matters including domestic violence, property rights, and challenging patriarchal norms.
- Assam and Jammu and Kashmir will each have 50 villages participate in the trial initiative, with

plans to roll it out nationally over the following six months.

Structure and Functioning

- Each Nari Adalat will have 7-9 members, half of whom will be elected gram panchayat members and the other half will be socially prominent women like teachers, doctors, and social workers.
- Its goals are to handle individual cases, spread knowledge of social programs, gather comments, increase understanding of legal rights, and adjudicate disputes that fall under its purview.
- Services Offered: For accessible and inexpensive justice, the platform will provide alternative dispute resolution, grievance redress, counseling, evidence-based decision making, pressure group tactics, negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation.

Implementation and Collaboration

- The Sambal sub-scheme of Mission Shakti, which is devoted to the safety, security, and

empowerment of women, will be implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- Collaboration: The Common Service Centers of the Ministries of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Electronics and Information Technology will work together on the implementation process.
- Routine Business Procedures: In order to ensure uniformity and the efficient operation of Nari Adalats, comprehensive protocols for all states have been established and will be made public.

Inception of the idea

- Initiatives from the Past: The program was modeled after the Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats (People's Court of Women), which were run by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in the past.
- Focus Areas: These courts handled cases involving family concerns, marriage disputes, bigamy, succession, and labor-related disputes arising from automobile accidents.
- A discontinued plan Before the program was terminated in 2014–15, the NCW-supported Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats held a total of 298 sessions.

Need for such scheme

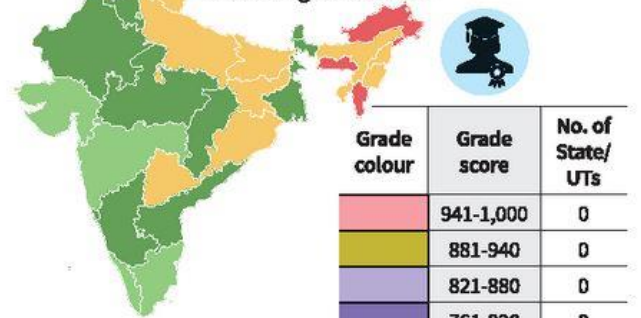
- Persistent Gender Bias: Women's only courts provide a fair and non-discriminatory setting for women's cases, countering gender bias in regular judicial systems.
- Cultural and Social hurdles: By providing a culturally sensitive environment in which they are free to participate, these courts remove the cultural and social hurdles that prohibit women from seeking justice.
- Women's only courts give women the agency and empowerment to stand up for their rights, question patriarchal standards, and independently seek justice.

- Addressing Particular Issues: These courts concentrate on the special problems faced by women, such as domestic abuse, property rights, and gender discrimination.
- Women's only courts, which are situated in rural areas, provide women who have difficulty accessing mainstream courts due to transportation issues and other logistical issues with better access to justice.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): These courts provide options for mediation and bargaining, which are more successful and non-adversarial ways to settle disagreements, notably in family and community problems.
- Women-only courts establish legal precedents and increase public awareness of women's rights, affecting societal norms and fostering positive change.

Performance Grading Index (PGI) released for 2021-22

Grading education

None of the States/Union Territories attained the highest grade (941-1,000) in the Performance Grading Index. The top-most grade was achieved by only two States/Union Territories, Punjab and Chandigarh, in the range of 641-700



■ The PGI score is the aggregate score of six domains of educational attainment of States/Union Territories: Learning outcomes, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity, governance processes and teacher education & training

Grade colour	Grade score	No. of State/UTs
Red	941-1,000	0
Orange	881-940	0
Yellow	821-880	0
Light Green	761-820	0
Green	701-760	0
Dark Green	641-700	2
Light Blue	581-640	6
Blue	521-580	13
Dark Blue	461-520	12
Red	401-460	3

The Union government ranks the performance of States and Union Territories in school education for the academic year 2021–2022, according to the yearly Performance Grading Index (PGI). Although Chandigarh and Punjab came out on top, none of the states or UTs received the top grade, Daksh, indicating that there is space for improvement on all fronts.

Performance Grading Index (PGI)

- The Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) has designed the PGI to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education.

Key Parameters of the PGI

- Evaluating the achievement of students in disciplines including language, math, science, and social science.
- Evaluation of the net enrolment ratio, retention rates, changes in educational levels, and mainstreaming of out-of-school children are all aspects of access to education.
- Infrastructure: Considering the presence of science labs, computer labs, book banks, vocational education courses, mid-day meal supplies, working drinking water facilities, and the availability of uniforms and free textbooks.
- Equity includes taking into account the performance difference between disadvantaged groups and the general population as well as the availability of accessible facilities like ramps and restrooms for the physically challenged.
- Assessing digital attendance data, the prevalence of elementary schools with just one teacher, job openings in the education field, inspections, and teacher evaluations.

PGI Grades and Rankings

- Daksh: The PGI grade with the highest score, surpassing 940 out of 1,000.
- The lowest grade, Akanshi-3, has a maximum point total of 460.
- Top Performers: Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu came in at Prachesta-3, the eighth-highest grade, followed closely by Chandigarh and Punjab at Prachesta-2.
- Update Required: Thirteen states were classified as Akanshi-1 states, with significant opportunity for improvement, including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh.

Action for Improvement

- Domain-Wise Action: The report highlights that states can take specific actions in each domain to improve their overall score in the PGI.

SC upholds Extensions for CBI and ED Directors



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) directors can now extend their terms of office thanks to legislative changes that have been affirmed by the Supreme Court. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, the current director of the ED, was also ordered by the court to quit four months before the third extension he has received expires in November.

Amendments and Tenure Extensions

- Chiefs of the CBI and ED are typically appointed for a specified period of time of two years.
- The Fundamental Rules, the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, and the Central Vigilance Commission Act were all amended in 2021. Directors' terms may now be extended by a maximum of three times annually, going beyond the previous two-year restriction.
- Defying the court's order: The revisions were adopted soon after the Supreme Court ordered the government to stop extending Sanjay Kumar Mishra's leave of absence. These changes made it possible for the government to give Mishra two further extensions.

Supreme Court's Ruling

- Decision on consecutive service extensions: The Supreme Court ruled that Mishra's consecutive service extensions in 2021 and 2022 were unlawful.
- timeframe for resignation: The court mandated Mishra's resignation by July 31 in order to facilitate a seamless handoff of duties to his replacement. The ED Director position has been held by Mishra for five years.
- Conflict with the amicus curiae The court rejected the arguments put out by its own amicus curiae, who requested that the revisions be rejected. The amicus curiae stated that the possibility of service extensions could persuade the directors to act in a way that would undermine the independence of the agencies by causing them to work to the government's requirements.

High-Level Committees and Justification

- High-Level Committees' Function: The amendments mandate that they nominate directors for service extensions.
- Composition and recommendations of the committee: Depending on the agency, the

committees may include members like the Central Vigilance Commissioner, Vigilance Commissioners, Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, and Chief Justice of India. If an extension is necessary in the interest of the public, these committees provide recommendations.

- Reasons for suggestions should be noted: The committees are required to justify their recommendations in writing.

Constitutionality of Amendments

- Legislative power: The court noted that because Parliament passed the revisions, they cannot simply be ruled unlawful.
- Election of representatives: According to the court, the revisions were approved by representatives who are familiar with the demands and interests of the populace.
- Judicial restraint: The court noted that, absent a blatant constitutional breach, it should not call into doubt the judgment of the elected officials.

Annapurti: The grain ATM



The recent demonstration of the Automated Multi-Commodity Grain Dispensing Machine, Annapurti,

during the 'National Conference of Food Ministers of States/UTs,' showcased an innovative solution developed by the World Food Programme (WFP) India.

What is Annapurthi?

- Through the Public Distribution System, Annapurthi, also known as the Grain ATM, offers a quick, efficient, and accurate way to distribute grain subsidies to recipients.
- It is an automated multi-commodity dispensing technology created by WFP India that guarantees effective access to commodities including rice, wheat, and cereals.
- Following biometric authentication, beneficiaries can safely access their benefits through Annapurthi.

Key Features

- With Annapurthi, spillage, waste, and erroneous weighing are all eliminated while providing full entitlements around-the-clock.
- With a low mistake rate of 0.01 percent, the system can dispense one or two grain commodities, weighing up to 50 kilos, in five minutes.

Advantages and Potential Applications

(1) Ensuring Food Security:

- The potential for food-based safety nets in Annapurthi is substantial, ensuring that recipients receive their subsidized grains on time each month.
- The machine's accuracy and dependability ensure that no losses occur and that everyone receives their due parts.

(2) Emergency Food Grain Distribution:

- In times of need, such as in the event of a natural disaster or a humanitarian crisis, Annapurthi can help with the prompt and effective distribution of food to the affected populations.
- Its automated technology speeds the procedure, minimizing errors and dependence on manual labor.

(3) Market Access for Smallholder Farmers:

- Smallholder farmers can benefit greatly from increased market access thanks to Annapurthi.
- Farmers can sell their produce directly to Annapurthi, ensuring fair rates and reducing middlemen, by providing a dependable and effective distribution channel.

Sustainable and Modular Design

(1) Energy Efficiency:

- Annapurthi is designed to prioritize food security while ensuring efficient energy consumption.
- With a consumption rate of only 0.6 Watt per hour, it offers an environmentally friendly solution.

(2) Modular Design:

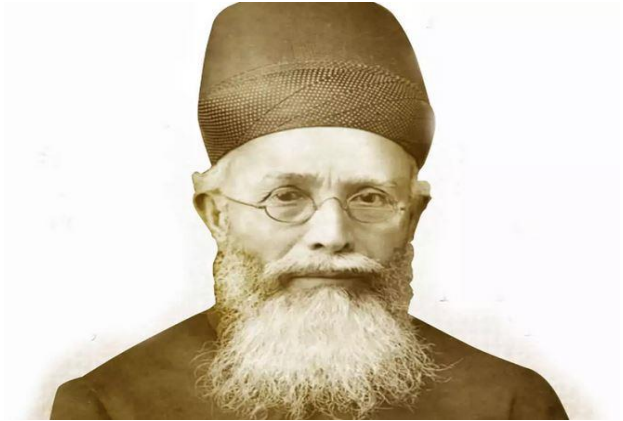
- Based on available space, Annapurthi's modular design enables flexibility and expansion.
- The storage unit and its parts are simple to put together and may be altered to meet specific needs.

(3) Integration with Renewable Energy:

- Elevators, inverter batteries, and solar panels can all be combined with Annapurthi to provide automatic refueling.
- By minimizing reliance on traditional energy sources, this integration improves the system's sustainability.

History

Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917)



Dadabhai Naoroji, the first Indian member of the British Parliament, played a significant role in India's anti-colonial struggle. His scholarly work exposed the economic exploitation of India under British rule.

Who was Dadabhai Naoroji?

- **Early Years:** Naoroji was born into a Parsi Zoroastrian household in Navsari, Gujarat. He attended Elphinstone Institute School for his studies.
- **Social Reforms:** To advance Parsi social reforms and elucidate Zoroastrian ideas, he launched the Rast Goftar newspaper and the Rahnumai Mazdayasan Sabha.
- **Political activism:** Naoroji co-founded the East India Association and the London Indian Society, fighting for the political rights of Indians and dispelling inaccurate preconceptions.
- **Indian National Congress:** He was a key figure in the organization and three times served as its president.
- **British Parliament:** From 1892 until 1895, Naoroji served as the first Indian member of the British House of Commons, representing Finsbury Central.

- **Economic criticism:** His work "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India" revealed the flow of income from India to Britain and how it affected India's progress.

His proposition of Drain Theory and Poverty

- **The wealth drain is attributed to six issues,** including foreign governance, a lack of immigration, and unequal employment possibilities, according to Naoroji's theory.
- **Impact of Drain:** According to Naoroji, 200–300 million pounds were lost from India to Britain, which slowed down India's economic development.
- **Rail transportation:** According to Naoroji, India paid for services like rail transportation, but the revenues were taken out of the nation and contributed to economic imbalances.
- **Exploitative Trade:** Indian commodities were discounted, which allowed for economic exploitation, while British workers in India were urged to repatriate their gains.

Major works

- Began publishing the Anglo-Gujarati newspaper Rast Goftar in 1854.
- The Parsees' manners and practices (Bombay, 1864)
- The races of Europe and Asia (London, 1866)
- Indian Civil Service admission of educated natives (London, 1868)
- India's Needs and Resources, London, 1876
- India's state (Madras, 1882)

Legacy and Views

- Naoroji's Importance: He was a key figure in the Indian independence movement and a supporter of good governance and national sovereignty.
- Naoroji's writings had an impact on Mahatma Gandhi, who regarded him as a father figure for the Indian people.
- Admiration: Bal Gangadhar Tilak complimented Naoroji's leadership and asserted that if given the chance, Indians would overwhelmingly elect him.
- Recognition: Naoroji's efforts are honored through the numerous streets, awards, and highways that bear his name.

Who was Nawab Wajid Ali Shah (1822-1887)?



An exhibition, heritage walk, and talk will be held in Kolkata to commemorate the bicentenary year of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, the last king of Awadh.

Nawab Wajid Ali Shah

- The eleventh and last King of Awadh, Mirza Wajid Ali Shah (30 July 1822 – 1 September 1887), ruled from 13 February 1847 to 11 February 1856.
- He is remembered for his work as a writer, poet, dancer, and patron of the arts while he was in power.

Reign and fall

- Wajid Ali Shah ascended to the throne in February 1847, taking the throne as the kingdom of Awadh was in a state of collapse.
- Two days before the ninth anniversary of Wajid Ali Shah's coronation, on February 11, 1856, the British East India Company seized Awadh. He was then banished to Garden Reach in Metiabruz, close to Kolkata, where he is now surviving off of his pension.

Patron of the Arts

- Contributions to Music: Wajid Ali Shah was a gifted composer and a kind music supporter. He developed the light classical form of thumri and supported the Lucknow Gharana of Kathak dance. He had a significant influence on Hindustani music by creating ghazals and introducing new ragas.
- Kathak dance: Wajid Ali Shah's support improved Lucknow's Kathak dance. He placed a strong emphasis on artistic expression by fusing theater, feeling, and literature. Kathak became promoted by the king as a court dance and was made available to the general populace.
- Hindustani Theater: The king founded the Jogia Jashan, an elaborate pageant, and produced Rahas (dance-dramas) that featured poetry, lyrical music, and Kathak performances. His contributions provided the groundwork for Hindustani theater's growth.

Literary Pursuits

- Wajid Ali Shah was a prominent Persian and Urdu writer of both prose and poetry. His writings addressed a wide range of topics, including history, literature, and introspection. Two notable pieces are "Bani," a treatise on

music and dancing, and "Huzn-i-Akhtar," an autobiographical composition.

- Patronage of Writers: Mirza Ghalib was one of several poets and writers who enjoyed the king's patronage. He supported the creation of works that reflected the culture and way of life of the time and provided pensions to well-known literary figures.

Exile Years and Legacy (1856-1887)

- Metiabruz exile: After losing his empire, Wajid Ali Shah relocated to Metiabruz, which is close to Kolkata. He continued to live a life of luxury while building a tiny duplicate of Lucknow. A spectacular complex called Matiya Burj served as a reminder of his beloved hometown.
- Impact that endures: Wajid Ali Shah's songs, such as the well-known thumri "Babul Mora Naihara Chhooto Jaay," continue to have an impact and are frequently played by different musicians. His contributions to literature, dance, music, and theater have continued to influence culture and uphold his legacy.

Conclusion

- The final ruler of Awadh, Mirza Wajid Ali Shah, ruled from 1847 to 1856 before being banished.
- His support of the performing, visual, literary, and performing arts had a lasting impression on Awadh's cultural legacy.
- Wajid Ali Shah's artistic accomplishments and lasting legacy continue to inspire and enhance the region's cultural identity despite the difficulties he experienced and the loss of his kingdom.

National Broadcasting Day 2023: How the Radio came to India



This July 23, commemorated 100 years of radio broadcast in India. All India Radio (AIR) started broadcasting in 1923 via 2 private stations called the Radio Club of Bombay and Calcutta Radio Club.

About All India Radio

- The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was established on July 23, 1927, but it was in danger of going out of business three years later.
- In August 1935, Lionel Fielden, a BBC producer, was chosen to serve as the first Controller of Broadcasting in an effort to revitalize the IBC.
- All India Radio replaced the Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS) in June 1936.
- The Central News Organization (CNO), a division of the Department of Information and Broadcasting, was established in August 1937.

Expansion and Name Change

- India had six radio stations in 1947, serving 11% of the people and 2.5% of the country's total territory. Three radio stations operated in Pakistan.
- The National Broadcaster was given the moniker "AKASHVANI" in 1956, which was used synonymously with AIR and was largely utilized for Hindi broadcasts.
- Walter Kaufmann, who joined AIR in 1937 and made a significant contribution to Indian music, wrote the renowned jingle for the station.

Current Status of AIR

- Today, AIR has a network of about 260 radio stations that serves almost all of the country's population and covers almost 92% of its total territory.
- It is a broadcasting powerhouse in India because it transmits in 23 languages and 146 dialects.

Controversies

- Launched in 1957, the Vividh Bharati Service featured famous film music as a significant element.
- Because of BV Keskar's ban on film music, Radio Ceylon became well-liked by fans of Hindi film music in 1952 because to programs like Geetmala.
- Film Industry Reaction: The lack of film music on the radio was caused by the film industry's withdrawal of music rights from AIR.

International Relations

EAM attends BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Meet



The first-ever Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) commenced in Bangkok, Thailand.

Understanding BIMSTEC

- **Origins and Membership:** The Bangkok Declaration, which founded BIMSTEC, formerly known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation), was signed in 1997.
- **newest participants:** Bhutan and Nepal joined in 2004 after Myanmar did so in 1997.
- **GDP and population:** The group's seven members, who are all located in the Bay of

Bengal region, account for about 22% of the world's population. Nearly \$2.7 trillion is the GDP of the member countries as a whole.

- **Sectoral Focus:** At first, the six sectors of trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism, and fisheries were the main areas of collaboration between BIMSTEC members.
- **Security, anti-terrorism, transnational crime, disaster management, and energy** are some of India's sectoral duties within BIMSTEC.

Significance of BIMSTEC as a Regional Forum**(A) Revitalization and Engagement:**

- BIMSTEC received limited attention until India reinvigorated its engagement in October 2016, following the terrorist attack in Uri.
- India hosted an outreach summit with BIMSTEC leaders alongside the BRICS summit in Goa.

(B) Regional aspirations

Each BIMSTEC member has strategic incentives for the organization's growth.

1. Bangladesh aims for regional prominence
2. Sri Lanka wants to establish ties with Southeast Asia and develop as an important hub for the Indo-Pacific region.
3. Bhutan and Nepal want to go to the Bay of Bengal region.

- By increasing their ties with India, Myanmar and Thailand seek to counterbalance China's influence in Southeast Asia.

India and BIMSTEC

- BIMSTEC offers India a platform to prioritize its foreign policy goals of "Neighborhood First" and "Act East".
- This is longer run seeks to connect South and Southeast Asia, as well as the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal.

China's Role and India's Agenda

- Chinese Influence and Concerns: Due to the Belt and Road Initiative, China's influence in South and Southeast Asia is growing, and as a result, so is its interest in the Bay of Bengal region.
- Act of counterbalancing: India uses BIMSTEC as a venue to balance out Chinese investments.
- Promoting Connectivity: India can use BIMSTEC to support connectivity initiatives that are in line

with international standards and compete with Chinese initiatives that are thought to flout these standards.

- India might portray the Bay of Bengal as a region of openness and peace, drawing attention to the difference with China's actions in the South China Sea.
- Regional Stability: BIMSTEC might create guidelines for regional freedom of passage and push for a Bay of Bengal Zone of Peace to restrict the military actions of extra-regional countries.

Conclusion

- BIMSTEC has the potential to support economic growth, peace, and stability throughout the Bay of Bengal area and beyond.
- To utilize BIMSTEC to its full potential and realize shared objectives, member states must continue to work together and put in effort.

Polity

Electoral Bonds chief source of donations for parties: Report



In India, electoral bonds have become the main source of funding for political parties, with the BJP controlling the majority. According to a report by the Association of Democratic Reforms, national and regional parties collected an overall donation of \$9,188.35 crore through electoral bonds between 2016–17 and 2021–22. While

other national parties earned a combined total of 1,783.93 crore, the BJP received 5,271.97 crore.

Political Donations under Electoral bonds scheme

- Donation breakdown: Over the course of six years, the 31 political parties that were studied received donations totaling 16,437.63 crore. This was made up of 55.9% electoral bonds, 28.07% corporate bonds, and 16.03% miscellaneous sources.
- BJP is in the lead: Through electoral bonds, the BJP reported donations totaling 5,271.97 crore, exceeding the combined donations of all other national parties.
- Regional parties and the Congress: With 952.29 crore (61.54% of total donations), the Congress earned the second-highest sum through electoral bonds. Of all donations, Trinamool Congress received 767.88 crore (93.27%).

- Bond dependency by regional parties: Electoral bonds accounted for a sizable share of the overall donations collected by regional parties including the BJD, DMK, and TRS.
- rise in bond donations: Between 2017–18 and 2021–22, national parties received a 743% rise in donations made through electoral bonds, while corporate donations only increased by 48%.

Key features of Electoral Bonds Scheme

- Introduction of the Electoral Bond Scheme: During the critical time period examined in the report, the 2018 Electoral Bond Scheme was created for the purpose of supporting elections.
- Removing the donation cap: The Finance Act of 2017 did away with the previous ceiling on political donations, which was 7.5% of a company's average three-year net profit.
- Purchase and Donation: Selected State Bank of India branches are selling Electoral Bonds for sale to Indian citizens and Indian corporations. Bonds are available in amounts of \$1, 000, \$10,000, \$100,000, and \$1 million. The buyer can then give the bonds to a preferred qualifying political party.
- Qualifications and Know Your Customer (KYC): In order to purchase electoral bonds, a buyer must meet the KYC requirements and pay from a bank account. The scheme is only open to people and businesses with Indian citizenship or incorporation.
- Election bonds are valid for 15 days, which prevents them from serving as a parallel currency.
- Anonymity and Disclosure: Donors who make Electoral Bond contributions to political parties of less than 20,000 are not required to divulge personal information about themselves, such as their Permanent Account Number (PAN). However, the bank is aware of the donor's identity.

- Ineligible Parties and Redemption: To be eligible to receive Electoral Bonds, a political party must be registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and must have received at least one percent of the votes in the most recent general election. Only a bank account with the authorised bank can be used to cash out the bonds.

Issues with the Scheme

- Lack of Transparency: The plan has come under fire for allowing mysterious political donations. While the donor's identity is recorded, neither the party nor the general public are made aware of it, restricting transparency.
- Limited Tax Benefits: Because Electoral Bond donations could not be eligible for income tax benefits, contributors might be less inclined to support the programme.
- Privacy issues: Since the bank will be aware of the donors' identities, their privacy may be jeopardised.
- Differential Benefits: Because the government has access to information about the donors and the monies received, the plan may favour political parties in power.
- Unrestricted Donations: The Finance Act of 2017 amendments permit unrestricted contributions to political parties from individuals and foreign corporations without declaring the sources of funding, raising questions about the role of money in politics.

Short Duration Discussions in Parliament



The Opposition called for the suspension of all other business under Rule 267 to discuss the Manipur issue, while the government preferred a “Short Duration Discussion” under Rule 176.

Rule 267: Suspension of Business

- Rajya Sabha members are permitted to pause all listed business and hold discussions about issues of national significance under Rule 267.
- In accordance with the Rajya Sabha's Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, any member may ask the Chairman's permission to suspend the application of a rule that is relevant to the day's listed business.
- In the event that the motion is approved, the relevant rule is momentarily suspended.

Short Duration Discussions under Rule 176

- Short-Duration Discussions: Up to two and a half hours may be allotted for discussions under Rule 176 in the Rajya Sabha.
- Notice and Explanatory Note: Members of Parliament who wish to debate pressing public issues must notify the Secretary-General in writing and include an explanation that justifies their request.
- Procedure: The discussion is scheduled by the Chairman, in consultation with the Council Leader, without any formal motions or votes.
- Statement and Response: The member who issued the notice makes a brief statement, and the Minister responds quickly.

Contention Surrounding Rule 267

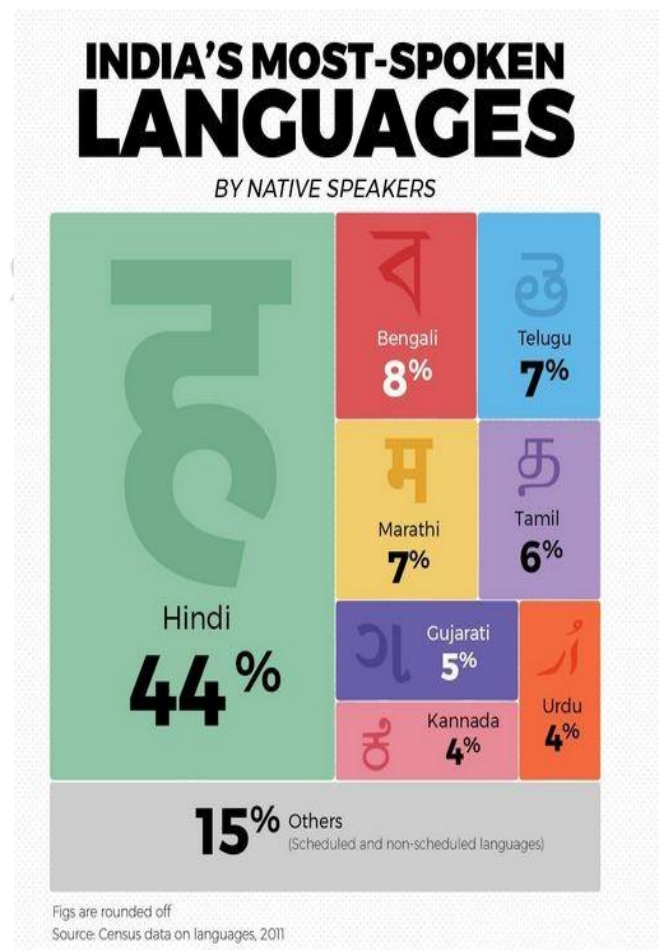
- Dissatisfaction of the opposition: The opposition complains that its notices under Rule 267 have not received recent attention.
- Previous debates: Under this regulation, several debates on various topics have taken place in the past during the terms of various Chairmen.
- Misuse of Rule: According to experts, Rule 267 is being used improperly to replace the

adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, where debates involve motions including censure-related provisions that do not apply to the Rajya Sabha.

Why discuss this?

- Debates in the legislature are valuable for resolving urgent concerns and talking about topics that are important to the country.
- They offer a forum for representatives of diverse political parties to have educated conversations, which results in better governance and more efficient decision-making.

Eighth Schedule of Indian Constitution



The Supreme Court said it cannot direct the Centre to include Rajasthani as an official language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

About Eighth Schedule

- The official languages of the Republic of India are listed in the Eighth Schedule.
- The Constitution has clauses pertaining to the Eighth Schedule in Articles 344(1) and 351.
- Hindi and English, the Union's official languages, were originally intended to benefit from it by having representation on the Official Languages Commission.
- Candidates taking public service exams are allowed to use any language from the Eighth Schedule to complete the exam questions.

Languages included

- 22 languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.
- Classical Languages among these: Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

Chronological Additions

- 1950: The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution first listed 14 languages.
- 1967: The 21st Constitutional Amendment Act included Sindhi.
- 1992 saw the 71st Constitutional Amendment Act include Konkani, Manipuri (Meitei), and Nepali.
- By virtue of the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, the Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santali languages were added in 2003.
- The 96th Constitutional Amendment Act changed the spelling of "Oriya" to "Odia" in 2011.

What is No-Confidence Motion?



Opposition parties belonging to the new Alliance INDIA plan to move a no-confidence motion against the government to force the PM to speak on Manipur unrest.

Motion of No-Confidence

- A motion of no-confidence is incredibly important in determining the strength and accountability of the government in the Indian legislative system.
- With the passage of this motion, the Council of Ministers will be challenged by opposition parties or any member, setting off a big political event.

Procedure for No-Confidence Motion:

- The process for a no-confidence motion is outlined in Rule 198 of the Lok Sabha's rules of procedure and conduct.
- Absence of Grounds: This does not call for mentioning any particular grounds in the motion, and even if they are, they do not become a part of the motion.
- Exclusive to the Lok Sabha: The Rajya Sabha is not permitted to propose this.
- Any Lok Sabha member may introduce a motion of no confidence by giving written notice prior to 10 am.
- Acceptance and Discussion: A minimum of 50 members must back the motion in order for it to pass. Within 10 days after the motion's

acceptance, the Speaker makes the date for its discussion public.

- Voting: Voting can be done orally, in divisions using slips, a voting box, or technological devices, or by secret ballot.

Implications of Voting

- Majority Decision: After a vote, the motion's fate is decided by the group that received the most votes.

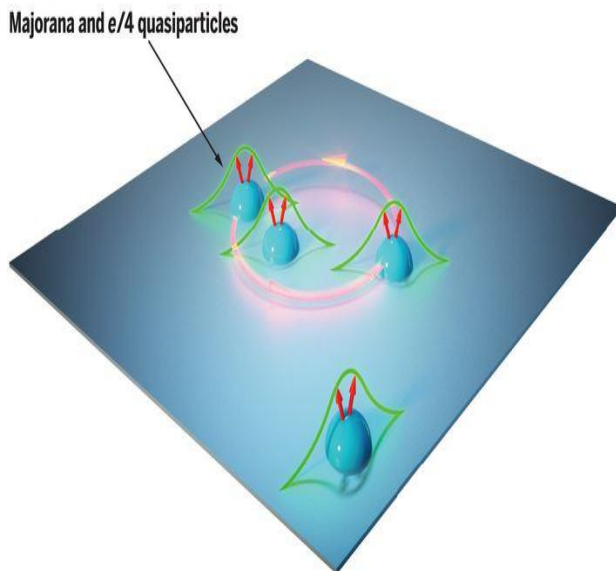
- Role of the Speaker: In the case of a tie, the Speaker casts the decisive ballot to break the deadlock.

Outcomes

- Government Resignation: The government is required to cede power if it is unable to demonstrate that it has a majority in the House.
- A successful motion of no confidence could result in dramatic political shifts and a reorganization of the government.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Quantum Supercomputer using Majorana Zero Modes



Majorana zero modes are a sort of particle that have the potential to revolutionize quantum computing, and Microsoft researchers have made substantial advancements in their synthesis. Majorana zero modes, which are their own antiparticles, have special features that may improve the robustness and computing performance of quantum computers.

Majorana Fermions: A conceptual backgrounder

- All subatomic particles that make up matter are known as fermions, and each fermion has a corresponding antiparticle that annihilates when the two come into contact.
- Ettore Majorana, an Italian physicist, discovered in 1937 that some particles, known as Majorana fermions, can meet certain requirements and be their own antiparticles.
- Potential Majorana Fermions from Neutrinos: Although actual proof is still awaited, physicists believe that neutrinos, among other subatomic particles, may show Majorana fermion behavior.

Understanding Majorana Zero Modes

- All particles have four quantum numbers, and the quantum spin is the only one with half-integer values for fermions. Due to this characteristic, any fermion can be identified as a fermion, including big objects like atoms.
- Bound states with two constituent particles are also referred to as fermions if their combined quantum spin has a half-integer value.
- Majorana Zero Modes: For many years, physicists have been interested in Majorana zero modes, which are bound states that are their own antiparticles and do not easily decohere.

Potential Benefits for Computing

- **Enhanced Stability:** Majorana zero modes provide qubits, the basic building blocks of information in quantum computing, with improved stability. The entire qubit can be safeguarded and retain encoded data even if one item in the bound state is disrupted.
- Topological quantum computing, which makes use of non-Abelian statistics, is made possible by Majorana zero modes. These statistics give an extra level of flexibility, allowing algorithms to produce varied results depending on the sequence in which steps are carried out.

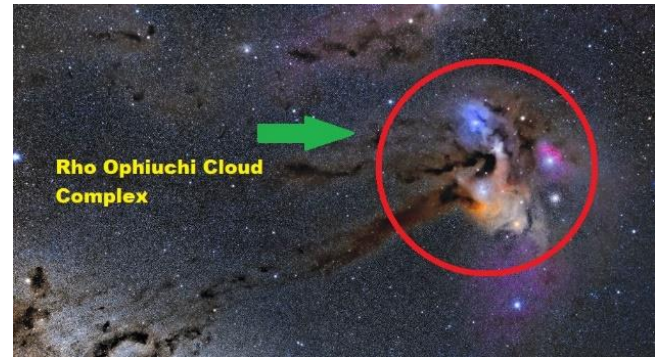
Challenges and Future Prospects

- Scientists have been investigating several configurations, such as topological superconductors, to produce Majorana zero modes. The fact that they must be deduced indirectly from the impacts on the materials around them makes it difficult to confirm their existence.
- **Recent Developments by Microsoft Researchers:** Using an indium arsenide semiconductor and an aluminum superconductor, Microsoft researchers have created a topological superconductor. Their device successfully completed a rigorous protocol, indicating a high likelihood that it contains Majorana zero modes.

Future prospects

- Despite the importance of this accomplishment, Majorana fermions' existence and their potential for topological quantum computing still require independent verification.
- To obtain the desired topological gap for coherent operations, further advancements in simulation, growth, fabrication, and measurement skills are required.

What is Rho Ophiuchi Cloud Complex?



NASA recently released an image obtained by the James Webb Space Telescope, showcasing the Rho Ophiuchi cloud complex, which is the closest star-forming region to Earth. This image marked one year since NASA unveiled the telescope's first scientific results.

What is Rho Ophiuchi Cloud Complex?

- A molecular cloud called the Rho Ophiuchi Cloud Complex can be found in the Ophiuchus constellation.
- It spans other regions of the constellation and is centered 1° south of the star Ophiuchi.
- It is one of the nearest star-forming areas to the Solar System, located at a distance of around 140 parsecs, or 460 light years.
- It is made up of a number of black nebulae, which are large areas of interstellar gas and dust that obstruct light from background stars.
- Numerous young stellar objects, including protostars, young stars, and brown dwarfs, can be found in the cloud complex.
- These stellar objects are created as new stars are created as a result of the cloud's dense material collapsing due to gravity.

Observations from the Image

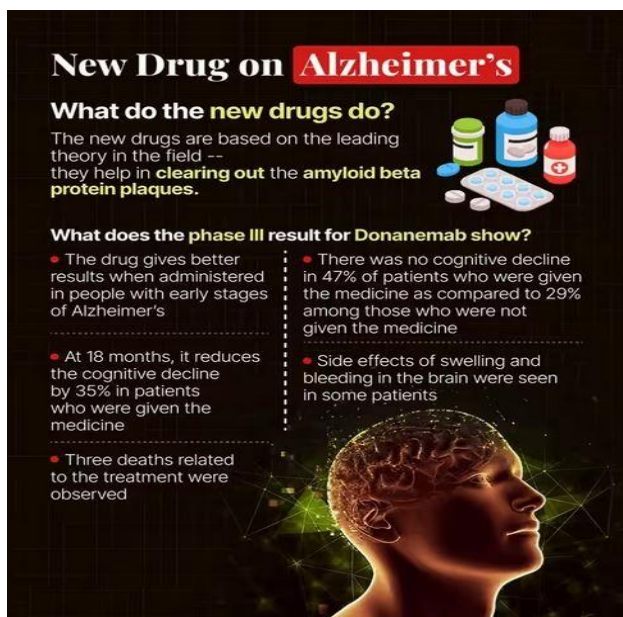
- The image shows the interaction between the material jets coming from newborn stars and the surrounding gas and dust while illuminating the molecular hydrogen.
- One portion of the image depicts a star inside a blazing cave that its stellar winds have carved out in space.

- incredible Nebula with Bright Young Stars: The picture shows an incredible nebula at the top with three bright young stars, displaying the scale and detail of the jets and outflows.

Insights from the new findings

- The Rho Ophiuchi image shows the birth of new suns and planet-forming disks, simulating what the early solar system would have looked like more than 4.5 billion years ago, according to scientific theory.
- Violent Outbursts and Dusty Cocoons: The graphic shows the formation of stars and planetary systems as well as the disruption of dusty cocoons by violent outbursts, which are represented as red jets piercing the cloud.
- The Rho Ophiuchi core is typically hidden by thick layers of dust, rendering it opaque to telescopes that use visible light, such as the Hubble telescope. JSWT, however, penetrates the dust, exposing the newborn stars therein and offering perceptions into the initial phases of star formation.

Donanemab: A promising drug for Alzheimer's



New Drug on Alzheimer's

What do the new drugs do?
The new drugs are based on the leading theory in the field -- they help in **clearing out** the **amyloid beta protein plaques**.

What does the phase III result for Donanemab show?

- The drug gives better results when administered in people with early stages of Alzheimer's
- At 18 months, it reduces the cognitive decline by 35% in patients who were given the medicine
- Three deaths related to the treatment were observed
- There was no cognitive decline in 47% of patients who were given the medicine as compared to 29% among those who were not given the medicine
- Side effects of swelling and bleeding in the brain were seen in some patients

Donanemab, a drug in trials has shown significant potential in slowing cognitive decline in individuals with early Alzheimer's.

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

- Alzheimer's disease is an incurable and progressive brain condition.
- In Alzheimer's patients, beta-amyloid, a protein essential for brain function, becomes toxic, creating clumps that damage brain cell connections and cause cognitive difficulties such as memory loss.
- These protein deposits impede neuron communication, causing degeneration and death.
- Forgetfulness, difficulty finding words, problem-solving difficulties, bewilderment, and disorientation are early warning symptoms.
- The actual etiology of Alzheimer's disease is unknown, however genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors are thought to play a role.
- Risk factors include family history, genetic mutations, head injuries, cardiovascular disease, and certain lifestyle factors.

Donanemab: An antedote

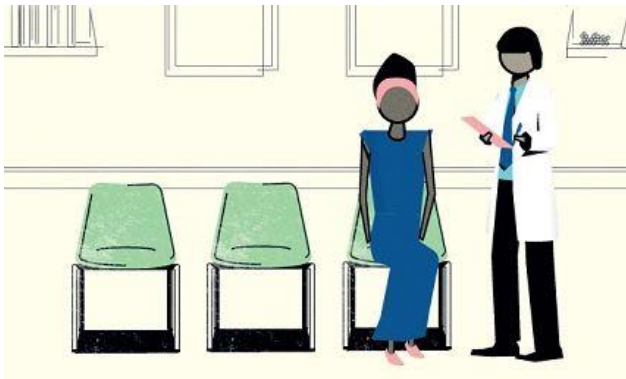
- Donanemab is a medication developed by Eli Lilly that intends to treat people with early Alzheimer's disease.
- Amyloid Plaques: The medicine targets amyloid plaques in the brain, which are a prevalent feature of Alzheimer's disease.

Breakthrough in Slowing Cognitive Decline

- With an estimated 14 million instances of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, projected in India by 2050, the need for effective therapies is critical.
- Donanemab showed excellent outcomes in a phase III trial, reducing cognitive deterioration by 35% compared to a placebo.

- **Significance:** This is an important milestone in Alzheimer's research because it is the second medicine in a year to show efficacy in slowing cognitive loss in people with early-stage Alzheimer's disease.
- **Limitations:** It is critical to remember that Donanemab and the preceding medicine do neither prevent or reverse Alzheimer's disease. Slowing cognitive decline, on the other hand, can greatly improve the quality of life for affected persons and their family.

Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS) in India



India has made the initial move toward implementing Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS), a research approach that is frequently utilized in other nations for the development of vaccines and treatments. The Bioethics Unit of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has created a consensus policy statement that is available for public discussion and addresses the necessity, advantages, and moral difficulties of CHIS.

What is Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS)?

- CHIS, commonly referred to as human challenge trials, are controlled scientific experiments that intentionally expose healthy human volunteers to infectious pathogens.
- These research' main goals are to better understand the behavior of the pathogens, the human immune system, and to evaluate novel

vaccinations, therapies, or infection prevention strategies.

Key points about Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS) include:

1. Volunteers in the CHIS program are required to give their informed permission after carefully considering the advantages and potential dangers of taking part.
2. **Pathogen Types:** CHIS can be used to research a range of infectious agents, including bacteria, viruses, and parasites like malaria, cholera, dengue fever, and typhoid.
3. CHIS provides controlled conditions to evaluate the effectiveness of potential vaccines and their capacity to elicit protective immune responses, which is an essential part of vaccine development.
4. **Controversy:** The use of CHIS has raised ethical discussions regarding how to weigh participant risks and potential public health benefits.

Ethical Concerns Surrounding CHIS in India

- **Delicate Ethical Balance:** Due to worries about purposeful injury to participants, appropriate pay, third-party risks, withdrawal from the study, and the inclusion of vulnerable people, CHIS is seen as ethically sensitive.
- **Streamlined ethical assessment:** The International Committee on Medical Research (ICMR) recognizes the necessity for a specialized ethical assessment procedure with extra supervision and protections to protect study participants.
- Technical, clinical, ethical, and legal difficulties prevented India from using CHIS sooner; this was partially due to the nation's distinctive socio-cultural setting.

Potential Benefits of CHIS in India

- **High Disease Burden:** Infectious diseases cause a sizable portion of morbidity and mortality in

India, accounting for around 30% of the disease burden in the nation.

- **Novel Insights and Efficiency:** CHIS allows for quicker and more cost-effective results with smaller sample sizes than major clinical trials while providing unique insights into illness pathophysiology.
- **Social Value:** CHIS can support community empowerment, increased pandemic preparedness, healthcare policy, economic gains, and public health response.

Encouraging Collaboration and Expertise

- **Complexity of CHIS:** The ICMR emphasizes the complexity of CHIS and proposes that in order to ensure that the necessary knowledge is accessible, partnerships between researchers, institutions, organizations, and nations may be required.
- **Important Function in Promoting Scientific Understanding:** The consensus policy statement from the ICMR Bioethics Unit seeks to address ethical issues with CHIS while embracing its potential to advance knowledge of infectious illnesses and hasten the development of treatment options.

Meri Maati Mera Desh Initiative



The Union government has launched the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign as a grand culmination of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,' celebrating 75 years of Indian Independence.

Meri Maati Mera Desh

- This initiative aims to honor and commemorate the sacrifices of martyrs.
- It includes freedom fighters, defense personnel, and members of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and State Police, who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

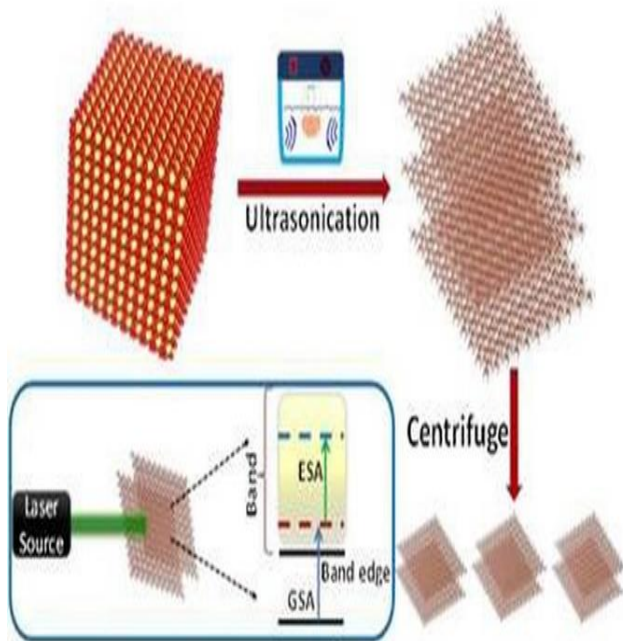
Five-Point Agenda

1. **Installation of the Shilaphalakam:** Memorials will be built and inscribed with the names of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the country. The bravehearts (veers) will be revered and remembered for their enormous contribution to the freedom, cohesion, and integrity of the nation.
2. **Pledge of Commitment:** At the memorial locations, attendees will solemnly swear to remain steadfastly committed to the country and its ideals.
3. **Vasudha Vandhan:** To revitalize Mother Earth and create Amrit Vatikas (Eternal Gardens), every gram panchayat or village shall take part in "Vasudha Vandhan" by planting 75 saplings of indigenous species.
4. **Veeron Ka Vandan:** Freedom fighters, as well as their families, will be honored and congratulated. The families of those who lost their lives while doing their duties, as well as retired members of the defense force, the CAPF, and the State Police, will also be honored for their essential contribution to the country.
5. **Hoisting of the National Flag:** The National Flag will be raised with pride, and the National Anthem will be played simultaneously, infusing the atmosphere with patriotism and pride.

Implementation and Events

- From panchayat and village to block, urban local bodies, state, and national levels, events will be staged at various levels.
- Young volunteers will gather soil from every panchayat and hamlet and bring it to the block, where 'Mitti Kalash' (pots of soil) would be ceremoniously conveyed to Delhi.
- The gathered soil will be used to build the Amrit Vatika, a special garden celebrating national integrity and the warriors of the Indian freedom struggle, near Delhi's Kartavya Path.

Hematene Nanoflakes



Researchers have made a groundbreaking discovery of nanoflakes of a material known as hematene, extracted from iron ore. These nanoflakes have demonstrated exceptional capabilities in withstanding and shielding against high laser intensities.

What is Hematene?

- Hematite, a common iron mineral, was used to create the unique 2D substance known as hematene.

- It is a single-layer, thin material with distinctive qualities that make it promising for a variety of uses, particularly in optics.
- Hematene nanoflakes are advantageous for optical limiting applications since they have shown excellent skills in withstanding and shielding against high laser intensity.
- Researchers and scientists have developed a keen interest in the material due to its stability and potential for use in cutting-edge technology.

How is it made?

- Hematite, which is a naturally occurring mineral form of iron oxide, is converted into hematene via a process that includes sonication, centrifugation, and vacuum-assisted filtration.
- It displays increased photocatalysis efficiency despite having a thickness of only 3 atoms.
- It has magnetic qualities because it is ferromagnetic, like ordinary magnets.
- Notably, it has a remarkable capacity for withstanding strong laser intensities and acting as a shield in their presence.

Applications of Hematene Nanoflakes

- Hematene nanoflakes are proven to have remarkable optical limiting properties, making them useful for shielding delicate optical equipment, such as sensors, detectors, and other optical devices, from intense laser beams.
- The development of high-performance photodetectors, which are used to recognize and transform light signals into electrical signals, is a good use for hematene due to its unique features. There is potential for this application in optical communications, photography, and telecommunications.
- Hematene's distinctive electrical and electrochemical properties make it a candidate for use in energy storage systems like batteries and super-capacitors.
- Optoelectronics: The material's characteristics make it suitable for optoelectronic devices, such

as light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and photovoltaic cells, which involve the interplay of light and electricity.

- **Photothermal treatment:** Photothermal treatment, a medical procedure that employs light to cure illnesses like cancer, may benefit from hematene's capacity to endure and guard against high laser intensities.
- **Environmental Applications:** Hematene may be useful in environmental applications, such as water purification and pollution control, due to

its stability and potential for usage in a variety of conditions.

- **Sensors:** The special characteristics of the material can be used to create high-performance sensors for a variety of uses, such as gas sensing and environmental monitoring.
- Hematene's surface qualities and electronic properties could be investigated for catalytic applications, which would encourage chemical reactions in many industrial processes.

Security Issues

Exercise SALVEX



The Indian Navy and the US Navy recently concluded the seventh edition of the Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, known as SALVEX.

Exercise SALVEX

- SALVEX has facilitated the sharing of knowledge and the development of capabilities in marine salvage and EOD operations since its founding in 2005.

- In order to build confidence and cooperation between India and the United States, the IN-USN SALVEX exercise has established itself as a pillar of bilateral naval cooperation.
- Along with crews from both fleets' specialist diving and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) divisions, INS Nireekshak and USNS Salvor participated in the exercise.

Key outcomes

- **Shared Learning on Maritime Salvage:** The diving teams from the two nations engaged in a discussion of their successes, failures, and top tips for conducting maritime salvage operations.
- **Training Synergies on EOD Operations:** The exercise offered a perfect setting for cooperative training activities, enabling divers and EOD crews to improve their communication and technical proficiency.
- **Mastery of Mine Detection and Neutralisation:** The participating divers received in-depth instruction in mine detection and neutralisation, allowing them to minimise possible dangers in underwater environments.
- **Techniques for Effective Wreck Location and Salvage:** The exercise concentrated on improving the teams' capacity to find and salvage wrecks, a crucial ability for assuring safe navigation and a successful disaster response.

Trivia

India to buy Rafale Marine Jet from France

Current Fleet and Need for Additional Fighters

The 90,000-cr deal will include 26 Rafale M aircraft consisting of 22 single-seater and 4 double-seater trainer versions

Indian Navy has expressed preference for Rafale Marine over US F-18 Super Hornet

WHAT'S THE DEAL?
The deal to buy 26 Rafale M jets and three additional Scorpene submarines is expected to be announced during PM Modi's visit to France



Two different versions of the aircraft have 80% common features

Indian Navy has been exploring options to replace its ageing MiG-29K

IAF has already acquired 36 Rafale fighters; the commonality of fleet reportedly tilted the scale in favour of Dassault's Rafale Marine

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared proposals to procure 26 Rafale Marine fighter jets and three Scorpene submarines for the Indian Navy.

Rafale Marine Fighter Jets

- The Indian Air Force operates 36 Rafale Marine fighters, which are the navy variant of the Rafale jet.
- Modern Twin-Engine Multirole Fighter Jets: The Rafales are cutting-edge twin-engine multirole fighter jets produced by Dassault Aviation. They are outfitted with cutting-edge sensors, radar, and armament systems.
- India-Specific Enhancements: The aircraft have been upgraded specifically for India and are equipped to handle a variety of tasks.
- The navy model has folding wings, a larger airframe for carrier landings, a tail hook for arrested landings, and stronger landing gear appropriate for aircraft carriers' conditions. The marine version differs in several ways.
- Rafale Marine fighters feature increased weaponry, including the ability to carry anti-ship and air-to-surface missiles, as well as specialised radar for marine missions.

- MiG-29Ks: MiG-29Ks are carrier-based multirole fighter aircraft that are now flown by the Indian Navy out of the INS Vikramaditya.
- Additional deck-based fighters were required to meet operational needs until the indigenous Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) was developed because some MiG-29Ks are projected to retire in ten years and the Navy currently has two operating carriers.
- Selection criteria: Only the Boeing F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet and the Rafale-M from Dassault Aviation satisfied the Navy's requirements, with the Rafale-M having the edge due to shared spare parts and maintenance with the Rafale fighters used by the Indian Air Force.

Export and Usage of Rafale Jets

- The Rafale plays a significant role in France's nuclear deterrence capability.
- France has purchased 192 Rafales in total, with 153 of those already having been delivered as of the end of 2022.
- upcoming orders: Plans are in the works for an extra order of 30 fighters and more Rafales to balance out those that were sold to Greece and Croatia.
- Flight and Operational Hours: The aircraft has completed 405,000 flight hours in total, with 63,500 of those hours since 2007 being flown by French pilots.

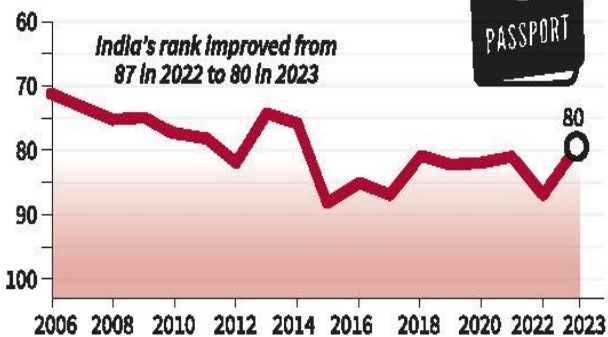
Conclusion

- The Rafale Marine planes will improve the Navy's fleet of deck-based fighters thanks to their cutting-edge features and increased weapon capabilities.
- This purchase decision is a further step in strengthening India's defence readiness and manufacturing independence.

India secures 80th rank on Henley Passport Index

Slight uptick

A look at India's ranking over the years, according to the Henley Passport Index



India has seen an improvement in its ranking on the Henley Passport Index 2023, climbing seven places to the 80th position from 87 last year. However, despite the rise in ranking, the number of countries allowing visa-free access to Indian passport holders remains the same.

What is Henley Passport Index?

- The strength and value of passports from various nations are evaluated and ranked using the Henley Passport Index.
- It is released by the global residency and citizenship advice company Henley & Partners.
- The index offers an annual ranking of passports depending on how many nations and territories their owners can visit visa-free or with visas available at the airport.

How is it derived?

- It incorporates information from dependable sources like the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

- The index lists 227 travel destinations and 199 passports.
- Each passport is given a "visa-free score" that indicates the number of places that can be visited without a prior visa.
- The stronger the passport, the higher the visa-free score.

India's Passport Performance in 2023

- In 2023, India is ranked 80th.
- 52 countries in 2014 granted Indian passport holders visa-free travel, placing India at position 76.
- With positions of 88th (2015), 85th (2016), 87th (2017), 81st (2018), 82nd (2019 and 2020), and 81st (2021), its ranking has changed over time.
- India was ranked 94th out of 97 countries in the Henley Openness Index, which counts the number of countries that allow visa-free travel, because it only allows travel to four other countries.

Global scenario

- Singapore Takes the Lead: With visa-free access to 192 of the world's 227 vacation destinations, Singapore has surpassed Japan as the nation with the most powerful passport.
- Germany, Italy, and Spain tie for second place among other top nations. Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea, and Sweden all tie for third place.
- Position of Japan: Japan, which had previously held the top spot for five years, is now ranked third on the Henley Passport Index.
- Pakistan stands at number 100 on the list despite its reputation for terrorism and its recent economic difficulties. Only 33 nations allow Pakistani nationals to travel without a visa.

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