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INDIA'S NEW VERSION CURRENT AFFAIRS

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- The mission has been launched in collaboration with NITI Aayog, World Bank, Korean-World Bank and Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF).
- NITI Aayog, United Nations join hands to accelerate sustainable development in India.
- PM Modi chairs the 8th meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council held at the New Convention Center at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The meeting is focused on the theme of "Growth India @ 2047: Role of Team India".
- BVR Subrahmanyam was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Niti Aayog.
- The government has monetised assets worth ₹26,000 crore during FY23 against the target of ₹1.6 lakh crore for the current fiscal : NITI Aayog.
- NITI Aayog, the Indian government's policy think-tank, recently released a report titled "Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States/UTs of India." .
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), an initiative by NITI Aayog, has launched three new resources aimed at fostering innovation and creativity among India's youth.
- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)
- Founded : 1st January 2015
- Preceding : Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Suman K Bery
- CEO : BVR Subrahmanyam
- NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Q. India's tiger population estimated to 3,925 with annual growth rate of __ per annum.

A) 5.4%

B) 6.1%

C) 7.5%

D) 9.2%

Answer : B

- ✓ India's tiger population is estimated to be 3,925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum. This was revealed in a report released by Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar on the occasion of Global Tiger Day 29th July 2023.



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- ✓ Last year (2022) during the celebration of 50 years of the Project Tiger at Mysuru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared the minimum tiger population of 3 thousand 167, which is the population estimated from the camera-trapped area
- ✓ Akashvani correspondent reports that India currently harbors almost 75 percent of the world's wild tiger population.
- ✓ The largest population of tigers is found to be in Madhya Pradesh with 785 in numbers followed by 563 in Karnataka, 560 in Uttarakhand, and 444 tigers in Maharashtra.
- ✓ As per the report, the tiger abundance within the Tiger Reserves is the highest of 260 tigers in Corbett followed by 150 in Bandipur and 141 tigers in Nagarhole.
- ✓ The reports highlight that 35 percent of the tiger reserves urgently require enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration and subsequent tiger reintroduction.

Q. Ministry of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship jointly signed How Many MoUs in New Delhi?

- A) 106
- B) 100
- C) 96
- D) 90

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed 106 MoUs with various esteemed organizations and institutions in New Delhi.
- ✓ The event took place on the occasion of the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 and the 3rd anniversary of the National Education Policy. Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the MoUs aim to foster innovation, research, and knowledge exchange in multiple domains, promoting collaboration in education and industry-academia linkages. These partnerships involve both public and private entities and cover school education, literacy, and higher education.
- ✓ Under the CBSE, 15 MoUs were signed with organizations like Atal Innovation Mission, IBM, Intel, and Microsoft, among others, to focus on skill development and education.
- ✓ The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) signed 3 MoUs, including one with Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) to promote Indian Sign Language.



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Q. Which Indian won the gold medal in the 10m air rifle event at the World University Games?

- A) Divyansh Singh Panwar B) Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar
C) Arjun Babuta D) Saurabh Chowdhary

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian shooter Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar wins gold at FISU World University Games in Chengdu, China.
- ✓ Shooter Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal for India at the FISU World University Games in Chengdu, China.
- ✓ Competing in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions, Tomar shot a total of 461.7 in the final to secure the top podium position.
- ✓ With Tomar's win, India now has gold, silver and bronze medals in shooting at the Games.
- ✓ The Indian men's 25m pistol rapid fire team, consisting of Vijayveer Sidhu, Udayveer Sidhu and Adarsh Singh, won the silver medal.
- ✓ The mixed compound archery team of Aman Saini and Pragati also won gold in the competition.
- ✓ India has won a total of 17 medals including nine gold, three silver and five bronze at the Games, placing it second in the medals tally.
- ✓ **FISU World University Games:**
- ✓ The Universiade, formerly known as the Universiade, is an international multi-sport event organised by the International University Sports Federation (FISU) for university athletes.

Q. National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India has tied up with which e-commerce startup?

- A) Blinkit B) Magicpin
C) Flipkart D) Amazon

Answer : B

- ✓ Hyperlocal e-commerce startup Magicpin has recently entered into an agreement with the National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India (NCCF).
- ✓ Under this, tomatoes have been started selling at Rs 70 per kg through selected online platforms registered on government-backed ONDC.
- ✓ NCCF was established on 16 October 1965.



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- ✓ NCCF functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India

Q. How many medals did India win in the Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships?

- A) 11 B) 12
C) 13 D) 14

Answer : D

- ✓ India won 14 medals including 9 gold in Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships.
- ✓ India registered a remarkable success at the Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships, bagging a total of 14 medals including nine gold, four silver and one bronze.
- ✓ On the final day of the event at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo, Indian athletes added six medals to their tally
- ✓ **Gold Medalist:**
 - ✓ 4x400m Mixed Team Relay - Amoj Jacob, Aishwarya Mishra, Muhammad Anas, Himanshi Malik
 - ✓ 4x400m Women's Relay - Sonia Vaish, Aishwarya Mishra, Subha V, Himanshi Malik
 - ✓ 4x400m Men's Relay - Amoj Jacob, Muhammad Anas, Rajesh Ramesh, Muhammad Ajmal
 - ✓ Women's 3000m Steeplechase - Preeti
 - ✓ Men's 3000m Steeplechase - Bal Kishan
 - ✓ Women's 400m - Sonia Vaish
 - ✓ Men's Javelin Throw - Kishore Kumar Jena
 - ✓ Women's 10,000 Metres - Boundary
 - ✓ Men's 400m Hurdles - T Santosh Kumar
- ✓ **Silver Medalist:**
 - ✓ Men's pole vault - Shiva Subramani
 - ✓ Men's javelin throw - Shivpal Singh
 - ✓ Women's 400m - Jisna Mathew
 - ✓ 4x400m Mixed Team Relay - Nihal Joel William, Subha Venkatesan, Mizo Chacko Kurien, Vithya Ramraj
- ✓ **Bronze Medalist:**
 - ✓ 4x400m Women's Relay - Vithya Ramaraj, Jisna Mathew, WS Himaya Fernando (Sri Lanka), K. Shanika Lakshani (Sri Lanka)



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- ✓ India's gold medalist javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena received the coveted Best Male Thrower trophy.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Semicon India 2023 conclave in which state?

A) Rajasthan

B) Gujarat

C) Kerala

D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Semicon India 2023 conclave at Mahatma Mandir in Gujarat.
- ✓ The three-day conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to showcase India's semiconductor strategy and development in the field of Semiconductors.
- ✓ The theme of the Conference is 'Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem'.
- ✓ The government has identified more than 300 educational institutes that will provide academic courses dedicated to the semiconductor sector to create skilled engineers.

GUJARAT IN NEWS 2023

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Semicon India 2023 conclave at Mahatma Mandir in Gujarat.
- DPIIT and Government of Gujarat jointly launch 'One District One Product' wall.
- London-based company OneWeb and the Gujarat Government's Science and Technology Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today for the establishment of a 'Satellite Network Portal Site' in Gujarat.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah organized a virtual ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School.
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the best tourism facilities in the historical lighthouses of Gujarat.
- Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat.
- Gujarat government signs MoU with US chip maker firm Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Ahmedabad.
- Indian cabinet has given its approval to Micron Technology's plan to invest \$2.7 billion in setting up a semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat.
- Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet begins at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.



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- India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- BJP leader Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term.
- Madhvendra Singh has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Maritime Cluster by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited.
- First G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Dhordo in Kutch region of Gujarat.
- Former Gujarat governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Prakash Kohli passed away.
- Gujarat Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. The state was established on May 1, 1960.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has declared the last week of April as "Swagat Saptah" in commemoration of the completion of 20 years of the "State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology" (SWAGAT) initiative.
- Deakin University of Australia to set up campus in GIFT city.
- Two Australian Universities Wollongong and Deakin to set up Campuses in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- The Youth 20 India Summit will be held at the Maharaja Sayajirao University Vadodara in Gujarat.
- International Kite Festival 2023 begins in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched "Urea Gold"—a new variety of urea that is coated with sulphur in which state?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Rajasthan

D) Haryana

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched "Urea Gold"—a new variety of urea that is coated with sulphur in Rajasthan's Sikar.
- ✓ A bag of urea, which is sold in India at Rs 266, is being sold at Rs 800 in Pakistan, Rs 720 in Bangladesh, Rs 2,100 in China, and Rs 3,000 in the US."
- ✓ What is Urea Gold?
- ✓ It is a new variety of urea that is coated with sulphur, which is expected to address sulphur deficiencies in the soil.



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- ✓ The application of sulphur-coated urea, known as Urea Gold, will address sulphur deficiencies in the soil.
- ✓ This “innovative fertiliser” is more economical and efficient than neem-coated urea, “ensuring improved nitrogen use efficiency, reduced consumption, and enhanced crop quality.
- ✓ Urea coated with sulphur helps in slow release of nitrogen, therefore increasing its availability and uptake.
- ✓ Urea Gold has added humic acid to enhance longevity of the fertiliser. It will substitute urea consumption and also reduce fertiliser use.
- ✓ It is said that 15 kg of Urea Gold is comparable to 20 kg of conventional urea.

RAJASTHAN IN NEWS 2023

- Prime Minister Modi launched a new type of urea called "Urea Gold" during his visit to Rajasthan.
- Noor Shekhawat became the first transgender person in Rajasthan to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender.
- For the first time in India, the Rajasthan government introduced the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023.
- Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill to provide minimum guaranteed income to all adult citizens as part of a welfare package for the state.
- Rajasthan government is set to take stringent measures against recruitment exam paper leaks by introducing a bill in the upcoming assembly session.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 National Highway projects worth Rs 5600 crore in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan government has sanctioned Rs 13.48 crore to promote religious tourism at Nagaur, Jaisalmer, and Alwar regions of the state.
- PM Modi Launches Projects Worth Rs 5,500 Crore In Rajasthan, Including 114 Km Long Six-Lane Udaipur-Shamlaji Section Of NH-48.
- Lithium reserves have been discovered in Rajasthan's Degana following the recent discovery in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Jal Jan Abhiyan virtually on Abu Road in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan.
- Indian Air Force's MiG-21 crashes near Hanumangarh in Rajasthan.



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- ✓ Payment and banking company Razorpay has launched an account for Indian exporters, the MoneySaver Export Account (MSEA).
- ✓ With this product, Indian exporters will be now open a smart account in any country of their choice and receive payments locally via bank transfers on the Razorpay platform.
- ✓ The initiative allows exporters to receive international bank transfers from 160 countries.
- ✓ This will be India's first smart account to offer 50% savings on international bank transfers for exporters and help save them from high transfer costs, chargebacks and payment failures.
- ✓ The account can be opened and accessed via the Razorpay dashboard without any additional paperwork. The account comes with a single-click electronic Foreign Inward Remittance Statement (FIRS), accessible directly from the Razorpay dashboard.

Q. Syazrul Ezat Idrus has become the first cricketer to claim an elusive seven-wicket haul in the Men's T20 game against China. He belongs to which country?

- A) Indonesia
- B) Malaysia
- C) Afghanistan
- D) Australia

Answer : B

- ✓ Malaysia seamer Syazrul Ezat Idrus scripted history in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Asia Regional Qualifier B tournament, becoming the first player to record a seven-wicket against China in a Men's T20I game.
- ✓ The 32-year-old returned jaw-dropping figures of 7/8 in his four overs, a feat made even more remarkable by the fact that all seven of his victims were bowled.
- ✓ Riding on his stellar showing with the ball, his team posted a comfortable 8-wicket victory at Bayuemas Oval
- ✓ Nigerian Peter Aho held the previous record after returning figures of 6/5 against Sierra Leone in 2021.
- ✓ India's Deepak Chahar claimed 6/7 against Bangladesh in 2019 in what remains the best figures in a men's T20I contest between cricket's Test-playing nations. Overall, 12 bowlers have claimed six-wicket hauls in men's T20I.



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- ✓ According to a Sebi circular issued on Thursday, debt schemes — excluding passive, overnight, and gilt funds — will contribute 25 basis points (bps) of their assets under management towards the creation of the CDMDF.
- ✓ Conservative hybrid funds will also contribute to the fund. In addition, asset management companies (AMCs) will make a one-time contribution of 2 bps.
- ✓ The total collection will be around Rs. 3,300 crore. The fund can avail itself of credit for up to 10 times the initial corpus whenever needed.
- ✓ The circular also details the investment framework of the CDMDF and the pricing models.

Q. Which Indian-American has been appointed as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the US Finance Agency?

- A) Soumya Swaminathan B) Preeti Tandon
C) Nisha Biswal D) Geeta Gopinath

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian-American policy expert Nisha Biswal has been appointed as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the US Finance Agency.
- ✓ His appointment was recently confirmed by the US Senate.
- ✓ Biswal will serve as the Deputy CEO of the International Development Finance Corporation of the US.

Q. The World Lung Cancer Day is an annual celebration, which takes place on__

- A) Last Saturday of July B) First Sunday of August
C) 31 July D) 01 August

Answer : D

- ✓ Every year, World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1 to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and highlight the issues of lack of sufficient research funding for the ailment.
- ✓ The campaign was first organized in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) , in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and also the American College of Chest Physicians.
- ✓ The IASLC is the largest organization in the world of its kind that only deals with lung cancer.



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Q. The first week of August from 01 to 07, is dedicated to which of these observation every year?

- A) World Anti-Corruption Week B) World Allergy Week
C) World Breastfeeding Week D) World Tourism Week

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is marked every year in the first week of August, between 1 to 7 August, to raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants
- ✓ The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week 2023 is "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!"
- ✓ The week is organized by WABA, WHO and UNICEF since 1991.

Q. When is the Muslim Women's Rights Day observed in India?

- A) August 02 B) August 01
C) July 31 D) July 30

Answer : B

- ✓ In India, "Muslim Women's Rights Day" is celebrated across the nation on August 01 to celebrate the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq.
- ✓ The first Muslim Women's Rights Day was observed in 2020.
- ✓ The Government of India enacted the law against Triple Talaq on August 01, 2019 to make the social malpractice of Triple Talaq a criminal offense.
- ✓ The law is formally called the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019.
- ✓ It prohibits the practice of instant divorce by Muslim men and any violation of the law is punishable by a jail term of up to three years

Q. What is the theme of the World Breastfeeding Week 2023?

- A) Protect Breastfeeding:A Shared Responsibility
B) Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet
C) Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding
D) Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!

Answer : D



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Q. According to a research report by Standard Chartered Bank, the per capita income of India is likely to grow around 70% by which year?

A) 2030

B) 2025

C) 2040

D) 2035

Answer : A

- ✓ According to a research report by Standard Chartered Bank, the per capita income of India is likely to grow around 70% by 2030 and is expected to reach \$4,000 from current levels of \$2,450.
- ✓ The boost in income will help the country to become a middle-income economy with a GDP of \$6 trillion and half of it will be coming from household consumption.
- ✓ Since 2001, the per capita GDP grew from \$460 to \$1,413 in 2011 to \$2,150 in 2021.
- ✓ The primary factor propelling significant economic growth will be external trade, which is anticipated to nearly double to \$2.1 trillion by 2030.
- ✓ This substantial increase would be a remarkable jump from the \$1.2 trillion recorded in fiscal 2023 when the GDP stood at \$3.5 trillion.
- ✓ The report assumes an annual nominal GDP growth of 10% going forward.
- ✓ Telangana currently takes the top spot in the per capita income rankings with ₹2,75,443 (equivalent to \$3,360).
- ✓ Following closely are Karnataka with ₹2,65,623, Tamil Nadu with ₹2,41,131, Kerala with ₹2,30,601, and Andhra Pradesh with ₹2,07,771.
- ✓ Standard Chartered plc is a British multinational bank with operations in consumer, corporate and institutional banking, and treasury services.
- ✓ Headquarters
- ✓ London, England, UK

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023

- According to a research report by Standard Chartered Bank, the per capita income of India is likely to grow around 70% by 2030 and is expected to reach \$4,000 from current levels of \$2,450.
- The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.



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- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.
- UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- India sets target to become 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030
- Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.
- Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.

Q. Maharashtra government has decided to give the first 'Udyog Ratna' award to which personality?

A) Gautam Adani

B) Ratan Tata

C) Azim Premji

D) Mukesh Ambani

Answer : B

- ✓ Ratan Tata to get Maharashtra govt's first 'Udyog Ratna' award
- ✓ The Maharashtra government has decided to confer the first 'Udyog Ratna' award (Maharashtra Bhushan award) on veteran industrialist and chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata.



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- ✓ The award is the state's highest honor given to eminent individuals, has led the Maharashtra government to introduce Udyog Ratna Award from this year onward.
- ✓ The first recipient of this award will be the renowned industrialist, Ratan Tata.
- ✓ The award is a recognition of his outstanding achievements in the industrial sector.
- ✓ The 'Udyog Ratna' award is a state-level award given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the industrial sector of Maharashtra.
- ✓ Ratan Tata has been honoured with several prestigious awards for his contributions:
- ✓ He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2008 and the Padma Bhushan in 2000, both of which are India's highest civilian awards.
- ✓ In a recent remarkable achievement, Ratan Tata was conferred with the 'Order of Australia' award, Australia's highest civilian honour.

MAHARASHTRA IN NEWS 2023

- Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant will present the first 'Udyog Ratna' award to veteran industrialist and Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata.
- Maharashtra topped the list with the highest number of missing women in 2021, with a reported count of 56,498.
- Maharashtra's Economy will become a trillion dollar by 2028, said N Chandrashekar, president of the State Economy Development Council.
- Maharashtra Prisons Department has launched a "video call" facility for foreign nationals lodged in different jails across the state.
- NCP leader Ajit Pawar has been sworn in as the new Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra Government launched Namu Shetkari Mahasnanman Yojana.
- Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to approve Good Governance Regulations.
- Uttar Pradesh surpasses Maharashtra in sugar production this season.
- A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' started in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, is scheduled to present the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' Award to Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari, also known as Appasaheb Dharmadhikari, on April 16 for his notable work as a social worker and reformer.
- Maharashtra Government has introduced a 4% quota for employees with disabilities in promotions.



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- Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups in Pune.
- Ramesh Bais Appointed as the New Governor of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to pass the Lokayukta Bill.
- Recently a rare low altitude basalt plateau has been discovered in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra..
- Nilesh Sambre conferred with 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023' by Maharashtra State.
- Talon Grikspoor of the Netherlands won the singles title at the Maharashtra Open tennis tournament in Pune.

Q. James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea was elected as the new chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Nairobi, Kenya. He is from which country?

- A) United States B) United Kingdom
C) Germany D) France

Answer : B

- ✓ James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea of the United Kingdom was elected as the new chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ✓ Skea beat his nearest rival, Thelma Krug of Brazil, in a run-off. He won 90 votes while Krug won 69.
- ✓ The election took place at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, where the IPCC is holding its 59th Session.
- ✓ With nearly 40 years of experience and expertise in climate science, James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea will lead the IPCC through its seventh assessment cycle
- ✓ IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change):
- ✓ It was established in 1988 through a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ✓ Its main headquarters is located in Geneva

Q. India has signed a US\$ 200 million loan with ADB to enhance urban services in which state?

- A) Haryana B) Rajasthan
C) Maharashtra D) Gujarat

Answer : B



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- ✓ Govt of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing in Rajasthan.
- ✓ The project will incorporate various innovative and climate-resilient solutions for expanding basic urban services and incorporate nature-based solutions to rehabilitate heritage structures besides piloting public-private partnerships in the state's water and sanitation sector to deepen private sector engagement.
- ✓ A total of 1,451 km of water supply pipes, and 1,110 km of sewer pipes have been laid as part of the ongoing project, which was approved in September 2020, while 68,098 households have been connected to water services in selected secondary towns in the state.
- ✓ A new feature in ADB's support is the water facility development for urban resilience improvement and heritage-sensitive urban development in eight heritage.

ADB IN NEWS 2023

- ADB have signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing in Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$141.12 million loan agreement for the development of an industrial corridor in Andhra Pradesh.
- Pakistan is the largest recipient of ADB loans in Asia, Pakistan received loans of USD 5.58 billion.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced its plans to invest in non-convertible debentures valued at Rs 150 crore in Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL).
- ADB approves \$130 million loan to promote horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ADB to provide \$1.2 billion loan for infrastructure projects.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian?)
- Director of ADB for India : Takeo Konishi
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).



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- ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

Q. Which company has been appointed 'Puneet Chandok' to lead India operations, effective from September 1, 2023

- A) Tesla
B) Google
C) Microsoft
D) Amazon

Answer : C

- ✓ Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia, effective from September 1, 2023.
- ✓ He will take over operational responsibilities from Anant Maheshwari and will lead the integration of Microsoft's businesses across South Asia, including countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Aim : Puneet aims to strengthen Microsoft's presence in the region and focus on key industries through a customer-centric approach, with generative AI as a core technology.

MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2023

- Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia, effective from September 1, 2023.
- Microsoft has launched a new 'voice chat' feature to its AI-powered Bing Chat on the desktop.
- Microsoft and AirJaldi Partner to Expand Internet Connectivity in Rural India.
- Microsoft India has announced two new initiatives aimed at supporting small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) in their digital transformation journey.
- Microsoft has launched Jugalbandi, a generative AI-driven multilingual chatbot accessible via popular messaging platform, WhatsApp.



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- European Union regulators gave the green light for Microsoft's \$69 billion acquisition of Activision Blizzard, one of the world's largest gaming firms.
- MakeMyTrip collaborates with Microsoft to introduce voice assisted booking in Indian languages.
- Microsoft introduces 'Bing Image Creator' powered by OpenAI's DALL-E.
- Microsoft Invests \$10 Billion in ChatGPT Maker OpenAI.
- HDFC Bank collaborates with Microsoft as part of its digital transformation.
- Anant Maheshwari, the President of Microsoft India, has been appointed as the Chairperson of Nasscom for the period 2023-24, succeeding Krishnan Ramanujam.
- Microsoft inks licensing deal with cloud gaming provider Boosteroid.
- Google introduces AI chatbot 'Bard' to compete with Microsoft's ChatGPT.
- Elon Musk plans to launch "TruthGPT" AI platform to compete with Microsoft and Google.
- ISRO and Microsoft Signed MoU to Boost Indian Space Tech Ecosystem.
- Infosys Collaborates with Microsoft to Accelerate Industry Adoption of Cloud.
- Microsoft strikes a deal to make Xbox PC video games available on the Boosteroid cloud gaming platform.
- MICROSOFT
- Founded : 1975
- Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- Headquarters : Washington DC
- Chairman : Satya Nadella
- CEO : Satya Nadella
- President : Brad Smith

Q. Which Cabinet has approved Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a policy that aims at making the state a water tourism and adventure sports destination.



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- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy, 2023, will be valid for 10 years

Q. Who has inaugurated the 20th annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region?

- A) Draupadi Murmu B) Jagdeep Dhankar
C) Om Birla D) Rajnath Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla has inaugurated the 20th annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region.
- ✓ The conference will focus on discussing natural disasters and management strategies, particularly concerning the northeast region.
- ✓ He also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and connectivity through the Act East policy, as it can lead to enhanced regional integration at economic, and social levels in the North East.

Q. Who has launched the book titled 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Nirmala Sitharaman
C) Piyush Goyal
D) Amit Shah

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Home Minister, Amit Shah has launched the book titled 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram.
- ✓ This book is an English translation of the Tamil book 'Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai'. Written by two people closest to A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, his niece Dr. Nazema Maraikayar and the distinguished ISRO scientist Dr. Y.S. Rajan, who was a close confidante of Kalam.
- ✓ This is the story of how a small-town boy from Rameswaram ascended to the highest echelons of the Indian political world.
- ✓ The book is about the history of Indian rocketry, science, technology and innovation, beautiful representation of Indian politics and administrative system and description of many incidents related to wishes and imagination of Dr. Kalam



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Q. The Great Barrier Reef is located in which country?

- A) Brazil
B) Egypt
C) Peru
D) Australia

Answer : D

- ✓ A UNESCO heritage committee recently stopped short of listing Australia's Great Barrier Reef as a site that is "in danger" but warned the world's biggest coral reef ecosystem remained under "serious threat" from pollution and the warming of oceans.
- ✓ About Great Barrier Reef.
- ✓ Location: It lies in the Pacific Ocean off the northeastern coast of Queensland, Australia, in the Coral Sea.
- ✓ It is the longest and largest coral reef system in the world.
- ✓ It was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981.

Q. The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) is located in which state?

- A) Kerala
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Karnataka
D) Telangana

Answer : B

- ✓ A male tiger was recently discovered dead in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR), after getting ensnared in a trap intended for deer.
- ✓ About Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ It is located at the junction of the Eastern and the Western Ghats in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, in the Erode District of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Its area is contiguous with the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) and BR Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka).

Q. A new report has revealed that by which year Metaverse users will exceed 600 million due to generative artificial intelligence (AI)?

- A) 2030
B) 2025
C) 2026
D) 2027

Answer : C



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- ✓ A new report has shown that Metaverse users will surpass 600 million by 2026 due to generative artificial intelligence (AI).
- ✓ **About Metaverse:**
- ✓ It refers to a virtual or digital universe where people can interact with each other and digital objects in a shared online space.
- ✓ Origin of the term: The term “metaverse” first appeared in author Neal Stephenson’s 1992 science-fiction novel Snowcrash, which describes a future where millions of people use virtual avatars to participate in a cyberspace realm.

Q. Recently, the Prime Minister of India, in which edition of 'Mann ki Baat programme highlighted the business of 'bhojpatra calligraphy' by the women of Mana village near Badrinath?

- A) 102
- B) 101
- C) 104
- D) 103

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the Prime Minister of India, in 103rd edition of 'Mann ki Baat programme highlighted the business of 'bhojpatra calligraphy' by the women of Mana village near Badrinath.
- ✓ **About Bhojpatra Tree:**
- ✓ It is also known as Himalayan Birch and it is widely found in the Himalayas.
- ✓ It is a deciduous tree native to the Western Himalayas that grows at elevations of up to 4,500 metres
- ✓ It has a high freezing tolerance potential, allowing it to form a treeline in the Himalayan region.
- ✓ It is a long-lived species which can survive up to 400 years and the only angiosperm in the Himalaya which dominates an extensive area at sub - alpine altitudes.
- ✓ Distribution: It is widely distributed in the altitudinal range from 3100 - 3800 m in North-western Himalaya.
- ✓ **Mann Ki Baat' program**
- ✓ The program 'Mann Ki Baat' started on 3 October 2014 and is broadcast on the last Sunday of every month.
- ✓ It inspires millions of people to participate in India's development journey.
- ✓ The episodes aired between 2014 and 2019 were more general and motivational in nature, with the latter episodes discussing a lot of government policies and initiatives



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Q. Which of the following is the state bird of Himachal Pradesh?

- A) Sparrow
- B) Monal
- C) Peacock
- D) Western Tragopen

Answer : D

- ✓ There has been a gradual increase in the population of Western Tragopan at Himachal Pradesh's Sarahan pheasantry, the conservation breeding centre, bringing a glimmer of hope for its survival and growth.
- ✓ About Western Tragopan:
- ✓ It is also known as the western horned tragopan, is amongst the rarest of all living pheasants.
- ✓ Due to its beautiful plumage and large size, this bird is locally known as 'jujurana' or 'king of birds'.
- ✓ It is the state bird of Himachal Pradesh.

Q. ISRO launched seven satellites of which country with PSLV-C56 rocket?

- A) Israel
- B) Brazil
- C) Singapore
- D) Sri Lanka

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched seven satellites of Singapore with PSLV-C56 (PSLV-C56) rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- ✓ This is the 58th flight of PSLV and 17th flight of PSLV in Core Alone configuration.
- ✓ PSLV-C56 vehicle launched all seven satellites precisely into their intended orbits.
- ✓ DS-SAR, a radar imaging earth observation satellite is a primary satellite for the mission
- ✓ The 360-kg satellite, upon deployment at an altitude of 535 km into a Near-equatorial Orbit (NEO), would be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore

Q. World Wide Web Day is observed every year on which day?

- A) 31 July
- B) 01 August
- C) 02 August
- D) 30 July

Answer : B

- ✓ 1 August – World Wide Web Day



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- ✓ World Wide Web Day is an annual observance that celebrates the birth of the World Wide Web and its impact on the world.
- ✓ The World Wide Web, commonly referred to as the Web, was developed by British computer scientist Sir Tim Berners-Lee while he was working at CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research) in 1989.
- ✓ He proposed the idea of a global hypertext system that would allow information to be shared and accessed over the Internet.
- ✓ In March 1989, Berners-Lee submitted a proposal for a “distributed information system” to facilitate sharing and updating information among researchers at CERN
- ✓ The first web server, “httpd,” and the first web browser, “WorldWideWeb” (later renamed Nexus), were created by Berners-Lee and his colleague Robert Cailliau in 1990.
- ✓ On August 6, 1991, the world’s first website went live. It was a simple page that explained the World Wide Web project and provided information about how to access and use it.
- ✓ This website was hosted on Berners-Lee’s NeXT computer, which also served as the world’s first web server

Q. Which city is the host of the 5th World Coffee Conference?

- A) Chennai
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Bengaluru
- D) Mumbai

Answer : C

- ✓ India to host 5th World Coffee Summit in Bengaluru for the first time.
- ✓ India is all set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) for the first time from 25-28 September 2023 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. During the event, tennis player Rohan Bopanna will serve as the brand ambassador.
- ✓ The theme of the World Coffee Summit 2023 is "Sustainability through circular economy and regenerative agriculture".
- ✓ The conference will bring together growers, farmers, roasters, exporters, policy makers and researchers from over 80 countries to discuss important topics related to the global coffee sector.
- ✓ **About International Coffee Organization (ICO)**



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- ✓ The International Coffee Organization (ICO), established in 1963 under the auspices of the United Nations following the ratification of the first International Coffee Agreement in 1962, is the organising body behind the World Coffee Conference.
- ✓ ICO is headquartered in the UK, and currently has 75 member countries and top-level experts working towards building a circular coffee economy, promoting regenerative agriculture, promoting sustainability through consumption and increasing access to finance. work in.
- ✓ The World Coffee Conference is a high-level event held every four to five years, previously held in the United Kingdom (2001), Brazil (2005), Guatemala (2010) and Ethiopia (2016).
- ✓ Its main goal is to facilitate discussion on important issues affecting the global coffee industry.
- ✓ Brazil is the world's largest coffee producer.
- ✓ India is the sixth largest producer of coffee in the world.
- ✓ Karnataka is the largest coffee-producing state in India.

BENGALURU IN NEWS 2023

- Bengaluru becomes the first Indian city to join the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- India is all set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) for the first time from 25-28 September 2023 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Sberbank's branch in India has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an IT unit in Bengaluru.
- India's first 3D-printed post office to come up in Bengaluru.
- The second Trade and Investment Working Group meeting under the G20 India Presidency began in Bengaluru.
- Foxconn to invest nearly 1 billion USD in Bengaluru.
- Nitin Gadkari unveiled first methanol run buses in Bengaluru.
- India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023), being organised during India's G20 Presidency, will be held in Bengaluru between February 6 and 8, 2023. .
- The Union Ministry of Defence has announced on 27 November 2022 that the biennial air show AeroIndia-2023 will be held at the Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru's from 13-17 February, 2023. This would be the 14th edition of Aero India.



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- The first G-20 Environment meeting under the G-20 India Presidency will be held at the Taj West End in Bengaluru.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March inaugurated a 5-day cultural program "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru..
- The first meeting of the G-20 Energy Transition Working Group under the chairmanship of India will be held in Bengaluru from 5 to 7 February

Q. Which Indian-origin author debut novel on Booker Prize longlist 2023?

- A) Jhumpa Lahiri B) Chetna Maroo
C) Kiran Desai D) Preeti Shenoy

Answer : B

- ✓ London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' is among 13 books to make the cut for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist revealed
- ✓ Kenya-born Maroo's novel, set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu, has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions.
- ✓ The longlist comprises 13 books written by authors from various countries, including Ireland, Canada, the US, and the UK, explore universal and topical themes.
- ✓ The 2023 Booker Prize winner will be announced on November 26 at an award ceremony in London.
- ✓ The winner receives GBP 50,000 and a trophy named "Iris" in honour of the 1978 Booker Prize-winning Irish-British author Iris Murdoch

Q. Which city will host India's first International Athletic Union's Ageas Federation Life Insurance 50 km World Championship on November 2023?

- A) Bengaluru B) Hyderabad
C) Chennai D) Mumbai

Answer : B

- ✓ Hyderabad will host India's first International Athletic Union's Ageas Federation Life Insurance 50 km World championship on 5 November 2023.
- ✓ The competition will feature four categories - men and women in individual and team events - besides the Master's segment.



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- ✓ The event will also see three other runs - 21.1 half marathon, 10K and 5K Runs organized by NEB Sports.
- ✓ Top ultrarunners from the USA, Germany, Japan, Chinese Taipei, New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain, India, and other countries will participate.
- ✓ Bengaluru also successfully hosted the IAU 100km Asia Oceania Championship in July 2023.

HYDERABAD IN NEWS 2023

- Hyderabad will host India's first International Athletic Union's Ageas.
- Lloyds Banking Group, one of the UK's largest financial services organisations, said on 21st June 2023 that it is setting up a technology centre in Hyderabad.
- Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under the Union Ministry of AYUSH organized a mega 'Yoga Festival' at NCC Parade Ground, Hyderabad.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-feet tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- The G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting began on April 17 in Hyderabad.
- 'Grand start-up Conclave' on Animal Husbandry and Dairy in Hyderabad.
- The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- The seasoned Jean Eric Vergne of DS Penske automobiles won an action-packed Formula E Prix in Hyderabad.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar officially inaugurated the Integrated Biological Control Laboratory located in Hyderabad.
- two-day inception meeting of the Startup-20, the new engagement group of G-20 initiated by India, has begun in Hyderabad.
- Hyderabad host Street Circuit Car Racing before the India's first Formula E grand Prix to be held in February 2023.



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Q. Which Ministry is implementing the scheme of "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana"?

- A) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Answer : D

- ✓ The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the scheme of "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana(RVY)" with the objective to provide the senior citizens, suffering from any of the age related disability/infirmity, with assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/infirmity manifested such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and loco-motor disabilities.
- ✓ Funds are released to the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation(ALIMCO), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as a sole implementing agency of the scheme.
- ✓ The scheme was launched on 01.04.2017 for providing physical aids and assisted-living devices to senior citizens belonging to the Below Poverty Line(BPL) category. The scheme has been revised in the year 2020-21.
- ✓ After the revision, the assisted-living devices are being provided to the senior citizens belonging to the BPL category and also to the senior citizens with monthly income not more than Rs.15000/-.
- ✓ All the districts of the country have been selected for implementation of the RVY. The scheme is implemented in two steps in the districts:
 1. Assessment Camp : In the assessment camp, the ALIMCO identifies the beneficiaries, suffering from the age related disability/infirmity, for required aids & appliances.
 2. Distribution Camp : The aids & appliances are provided to the identified beneficiaries post assessment camp.
- ✓ This information was given by Minister of State for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment "Sushri Pratima Bhoumik" in a written reply in Lok Sabha 1st August 2023



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Q. How many loans have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) in Financial Year 2022-23?

- A) 3.78core
B) 5.91 core
C) 7.12 core
D) 6.23 core

Answer : D

- ✓ Over 6.23 core loans sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana
- ✓ Over 6 core 23 lakh loans have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) in Financial Year 2022-23.
- ✓ The Union Minister for State for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad, shared this information in a written reply during a Lok Sabha session.
- ✓ The objective of PMMY is to provide access to institutional finance to new or existing micro units or enterprises up to 10 lakh rupees.
- ✓ The complaints with regard to the implementation of PMMY are redressed in consultation with the respective Banks
- ✓ The complaints received at the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System are also being taken up with respective Banks for redressal within the prescribed timeline.
- ✓ Mudra loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) can be availed of from a nearby branch office of a bank.
- ✓ **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) – MUDRA Scheme**
- ✓ Definition : Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme to extend collateral free loans
- ✓ Maximum limit of loan is Rs 10 lakh
- ✓ Stands for Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd (MUDRA) Bank
- ✓ Founded : 8 April 2015
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai
- ✓ Chairman : S. Ramann
- ✓ It was converted as a wholly owned subsidiary of SIDBI and renamed as MUDRA (SIDBI) Bank
- ✓ MUDRA Portal : Borrowers can also now file online application for MUDRA loans on Mudramitra portal
- ✓ Mudra Yojana offers three type of product namely Shishu, Kishor and Tarun
- ✓ Shishu : covering loans upto 50,000/- (Single page application form for this product)
- ✓ Kishor : covering loans above 50,000/- and upto 5 lakh



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- ✓ Tarun : covering loans above 5 lakh and upto 10 lakh

Q. Which bank has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance?

- A) Punjab National Bank B) State Bank of India
C) Kotak Mahindra Bank D) Bank of Baroda

Answer : B

- ✓ SBI raises 10,000 cr via 15-year Infrastructure bonds
- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- ✓ The proceeds will be directed towards bolstering long-term resources for funding critical infrastructure projects and supporting the affordable housing segment.
- ✓ The bank attracted bids of Rs 21,698 crores, a staggering 4.34 times the base issue size, indicating robust demand for these financial instruments.
- ✓ The investors range from various sectors including provident funds, pension funds, insurance companies, mutual funds, corporates, etc.
- ✓ Bidding for the 15-year tenor bonds took place on July 31

SBI IN NEWS 2023

- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- State Bank of India will set up a new trustee company as its wholly-owned subsidiary for managing the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF).
- State Bank of India (SBI), Bengaluru Circle, recently launched 'Project Kuber' to meet the banking needs of its customers.
- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's biggest lender, has raised USD 750 million through bonds to fund offshore business growth.
- State Bank of India (SBI) launched a coffee table book titled "The Banker to Every Indian" and the book celebrates 75 years of Indian independence and 200 years of SBI's history.



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- SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits.
- The bank intends to launch two new variants of current accounts, one with a balance of ₹50,000 and another with a balance of ₹50 lakh. It also plans to introduce a new savings account called “Parivar” (family) account.
- State Bank of India (SBI) announced the completion of a \$1 billion syndicated social loan facility.
- The facility of \$1 billion was arranged through MLABs, MUFG bank and Taipei Fubon Commercial Bank Co.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with the NGO That’s Eco Foundation to donate ₹48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University in Bengaluru.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 3,717 crore through its third Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance in the current financial year at coupon rate of 8.25 per cent..
- SBI reintroduces 400 days ‘Amrit Kalash’ retail term deposit scheme and provides an interest rate of 7.6% for senior citizens.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its coffee table book named ‘The Banker to Every Indian’.
- Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) is a joint venture in Russia between SBI (60 per cent) and Canara Bank (40 per cent).
- SBI announces completion of \$1 billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility.
- Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) signed a memorandum (MoU) of understanding with State Bank of India to help farmers in getting low interest rate loans.
- According to the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA)’s report titled “EASE Reforms Index for the first quarter of FY23” the State Bank of India(SBI) was adjudged as the Best Bank in adopting reforms prescribed for Public Sector Banks(PSB).
- SBI on 5 December 2022 announced that its personal banking advances excluding high value home loans have crossed the Rs 5 lakh-crore mark as on 30 November 2022.
- State Bank of India (SBI), India’s largest lender, approved raising Rs 10,000 crore through infrastructure bonds during the financial year 2023 (FY23) including a greenshoe option of Rs 5,000 crore.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra



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- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- Tagline of State Bank of India
 - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
 - (2) With you all the way
 - (3) A bank of the common man
 - (4) The banker to every Indian
 - (5) The Nation banks on us.
- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

Q. Who has launched India's first Indigenously developed, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi?

A) Jitendra Singh

B) Manoj Sinha

C) Piyush Goyal

D) Anurag Thakur

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's first indigenously developed, affordable, lightweight, ultrafast, high field (1.5 Tesla), next generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner.
- ✓ Dr Jitendra said, as an indigenous MRI scanner is made available, the cost of MRI scanning is expected to reduce considerably for the common man thus allowing a wider access to the otherwise highly priced MRI scans

Q. Who has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors and a Constituency Director at BRICS' New Development Bank?

A) Raja Al Gurg

B) Aisha Bint Buti Bin Bisher

C) Maryam Buti Al Suwaidi

D) Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi

Answer : D

- ✓ BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB) has elected Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi, Director of International Financial Relations and Organisations Department at the UAE Ministry of Finance, as a member of its Board of Directors and a Constituency Director.



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- ✓ Alhashmi will become the first Emirati and Arab woman to assume a Director's position at the multilateral bank, established by the grouping by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) in July 2015.
- ✓ Her appointment followed an internal voting process during NDB's 8th annual meeting, held recently in Shanghai, China.
- ✓ NDB, also known as BRICS bank, is a multilateral financial institution set up by the five BRICS countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
- ✓ Egypt has been inducted as the fourth new member of the BRICS New Development Bank(NDB).
- ✓ New Development Bank approves UAE, Bangladesh and Uruguay as a new member
- ✓ New Development Bank (NDB)
- ✓ Founded : 2015
- ✓ Headquarters : Shanghai, China
- ✓ Membership (9) : Brazil ,Russia, India, China , South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE , Uruguay & Egypt.
- ✓ President : Dilma Vana Rousseff (Brazil)
- ✓ Vice President : Anil Kishora (Indian)
- ✓ The initial authorized capital of the bank is \$100 bln divided into 1 mln shares having a par value of \$100,000 each.
- ✓ The initial subscribed capital of the NDB is \$50 bln divided into paid-in shares (\$10 bln) and callable shares (\$40 bln).

Q. With whom has ALIMCO signed MoU for providing aids and assistive devices?

- A) GAIL
- B) NTPC
- C) NHPC
- D) SJVN

Answer : C

- ✓ NHPC Limited and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, under which NHPC will provide CSR support for distribution of aids and assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and North Eastern states.
- ✓ The MoU was signed at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad on August 1st 2023, under the CSR initiative of NHPC.



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- ✓ The MoU was signed by Group Deputy General Manager (HR), CSR & SD, NHPC and General Manager - Marketing, ALIMCO in the presence of Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC; Executive Director (CSR & SD), NHPC, and other senior officers from NHPC CSR&SD Division and ALIMCO

Q. Which country Tiger population has Increased by 27 percent since its last count in 2015?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Over a decade later on Global Tiger Day 2023, the Royal Government of Bhutan has announced that tiger populations continue to increase in the country, a fantastic achievement.
- ✓ The latest survey estimates there now to be 131 tigers in the country, a 27 percent increase from the last survey in 2015.
- ✓ It reflected the success of Tiger conservation efforts in the South Asian Himalayan landlocked nation situated between China and India.
- ✓ It was in 2010 that Bhutan continued its commitment to protecting its wildlife when the country joined the global effort to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022

Q. How Many Countries Responsible for 52% of the World's Mismanaged Plastic Waste?

- A) 12
B) 15
C) 17
D) 20

Answer : A

- ✓ The point at which the amount of plastics exceeds the global waste management capacity, according to Swiss-based research consultancy Earth Action (EA).
- ✓ Nearly 68,642,999 tonnes of additional plastic waste will end up in nature this year, noted the 2023 Plastic Overshoot Day Report by EA.
- ✓ India is among the 12 countries, along with China, Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand, Russia, Mexico, the United States, Saudia Arabia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran and Kazakhstan, which are responsible for 52 per cent of the world's mismanaged plastic waste, it pointed out.
- ✓ Under current scenarios, despite pledges and increased waste management capacity, increased production of plastics will lead to global plastics pollution tripling by 2040, it pointed out.



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- ✓ Of the 159 million tonnes of plastics (which can be used only for a short time) to be produced globally in 2023, 43 per cent (68.5 million tonnes) will end up causing pollution, the report pointed out.
- ✓ Three countries (followed by India) with the highest mismanaged waste — Mozambique (99.8 per cent), Nigeria (99.44 per cent) and Kenya (98.9 per cent) — belong to Africa, according to the document.
- ✓ India ranks fourth in the MWI, with 98.55 per cent of generated waste being mismanaged and fares poorly in the management of plastics waste, according to the EA report.
- ✓ According to CSE's report, The Plastic Life Cycle, India recycles 12.3 per cent of its plastic waste and incinerates 20 per cent. The centralised EPR portal developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change also suggests India has a cumulative capacity to process 14.2 million tonnes of plastic waste annually

Q. Which state has recently approved the concept of a vertical university campus?

- A) Gujarat
B) Maharashtra
C) Kerala
D) Rajasthan

Answer : B

- ✓ The state of Maharashtra will approve setting up Vertical University Campus (VUC) in Mumbai and Thane due to less space available in the city thus becoming the first state in the country to approve such campuses.
- ✓ This concept is adopted by the United States (US) and other Western countries as of now.
- ✓ In the previous policy, a private university can be established on a minimum land of 25-acre in rural areas, 15-acre in district headquarters and 10-acre in regional headquarters, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Pune Metropolitan Region (PMR).
- ✓ The idea of a vertical university campus was conceived to deal with the issue of land scarcity, which is common in major cities such as Mumbai and international metropolises like New York City, Washington DC and Tel Aviv, Israel

Q. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani has inaugurated the G20 EMPOWER Summit in which city?

- A) Hyderabad
B) Gandhinagar
C) Bengaluru
D) Chennai

Answer : B



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- ✓ Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani has inaugurated the G20 EMPOWER Summit in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The summit, organized around the theme- 'Women-Led Development: ensuring a Sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth', will witness the participation of delegates from across G20 nations, invited guest countries and international organizations in addition to many global experts, policymakers and stakeholders.
- ✓ The inaugural session launched of key outcomes under the G20 EMPOWER agenda this year including the G20 EMPOWER Tech Equity Digital Inclusion Platform, the Best Practices Playbook, the KPI Dashboard, and the adoption of the G20 EMPOWER Communique 2023.
- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for EMPOWER which is the G20 Alliance for Empowerment and Progress of Women's Economic Progression.

Q. Which university will launch an "Astrology OPD", where teachers and research students at the university's astrology department will check people's horoscopes for an hour every evening?

- A) Sampurnanand Sanskrit University
- B) Banaras Hindu University
- C) Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University
- D) Chaudhary Charan Singh University

Answer : A

- ✓ The Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Varanasi will launch an "Astrology OPD", where teachers and research students at the university's astrology department will check people's horoscopes for an hour every evening.
- ✓ For the 'Astro-OPD', minister of state Ravindra Jaiswal has sanctioned ₹25 lakh from the MLA fund. An OPD is an acronym for outpatient department.
- ✓ An OPD is an acronym for the outpatient department.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the Lokmanya Tilak National Award on the 103rd death anniversary of which freedom fighter?

- A) Subhas Chandra Bose
- B) Bhagat Singh
- C) Chandra Shekhar Azad
- D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak



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Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Maharashtra's Pune, on the 103rd death anniversary of freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- ✓ The award, according to the organizers, honours his extraordinary leadership, which helped India move up the progress ladder.
- ✓ PM Modi is the 41st recipient of this award.
- ✓ Every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, this award is bestowed upon individuals who have made remarkable and extraordinary contributions to the progress and development of the nation.
- ✓ **About Lokmanya Tilak National Award:**
- ✓ The award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust.
- ✓ This award is given every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, to persons who have made remarkable and extraordinary contributions, working for the progress and development of the nation.
- ✓ Who was Lokmanya Tilak?
- ✓ Bal Gangadhar Tilak, commonly known as Lokmanya Tilak, was a prominent Indian nationalist, freedom fighter, social reformer, and political leader during the Indian independence movement.
- ✓ He was one of the prime architects of modern India and probably the strongest advocate of Swaraj or Self Rule for India.
- ✓ He is known for his slogan, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."
- ✓ He was born as Keshav Gangadhar Tilak and his followers bequeathed upon him the title of 'Lokmanya', meaning he who is revered by the people.
- ✓ He was considered a radical Nationalist.
- ✓ The British Government termed him the "Father of Indian Unrest".
- ✓ He also helped found the All India Home Rule League in 1916–18 with G. S. Khaparde and Annie Besant.
- ✓ Tilak was a prolific writer and journalist. He used his newspaper, "Kesari" (meaning Lion) in Marathi and later "Maratha" in English to disseminate nationalist ideas.
- ✓ Lal-Bal-Pal: He had popular leaders such as Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai as his political companions, and the three were popularly known as the 'Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate.'



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Q. Who defeated Laura Siegemund to win a title in BNP Paribas Warsaw Open?

- A) Caroline Wozniacki B) Aryna Sabalenka
C) Iga Świątek D) Ons Jabeur

Answer : C

- ✓ Poland's tennis sensation and world No. 1 Iga Swiatek claimed her fourth title of the season with a 6-0, 6-1 win defeating Laura Siegemund in the final of the BNP Paribas Warsaw Open.
- ✓ Swiatek won the match and added it to her 15th career title.
- ✓ This season is turning out great for Swiatek as she already won Doha, Stuttgart, and Roland Garros.
- ✓ Laura Natalie Siegemund is a German professional tennis player.
- ✓ Iga Swiatek achieved a significant achievement by securing her fourth WTA title of the year .

Q. Taiwanese electronics contract manufacturer Foxconn has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with which state government for two projects with an estimated investment outlay of ₹5,000 crore?

- A) Telangana
B) Karnataka
C) Tamil Nadu
D) Kerala

Answer : B

- ✓ Karnataka govt, Foxconn sign Letter of Intent with Rs 5000 cr investment.
- ✓ Taiwanese electronics contract manufacturer Foxconn has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the government of Karnataka for two projects with an estimated investment outlay of ₹5,000 crore, expected to generate 13,000 jobs.
- ✓ These projects are in addition to the iPhone end assembly plant, which the company has planned to set up at Devanahalli with an investment of about ₹14,000 crore.
- ✓ The intended projects include a phone enclosure project for which Foxconn Industrialist Internet (FII), a Foxconn subsidiary will invest ₹3,000 crore and is estimated to create 12,000 jobs.
- ✓ Additionally, Foxconn will invest ₹2,000 crore for a semiconductor equipment manufacturing project. The project will be taken up in collaboration with Applied Materials and is expected to generate 1,000 jobs.



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- ✓ The location for this project is likely to be finalized at the Haraluru Muddenahalli – Hi-Tech Aerospace and Defence Park-Phase II in Bengaluru Rural district, where Foxconn has sought a 35-acre plot

KARNATAKA IN NEWS 2023

- Karnataka govt, Foxconn sign Letter of Intent with Rs 5000 cr investment.
- Siddaramaiah was sworn in as the 24th Chief Minister of Karnataka for his second term .
- The National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22 Karnataka, overall, is the most “innovative” State, followed by Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.
- According to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, which assesses the performance of states in terms of justice delivery, the state of Karnataka has achieved the top rank .
- World Bank has granted a loan of USD 363 million to the state of Karnataka in India, which will help to provide clean drinking water.
- Karnataka ended their 54-year wait to win the Santosh Trophy national football championship, beating Meghalaya .
- The Karnataka Government will build the country’s first Marina or a boat basin offering dockage, at Byndoor in Udupi district to promote coastal tourism in Karnataka.
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced that the fourth phase of the Sagar Parikrama program began in Karnataka.
- Karnataka bags National Award For Fasal Bima Yojana, implementing the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme.
- Karnataka Bank awarded ‘Prathista Puraskar for achieving highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions.
- Mysuru and Hampi are the two popular destinations in Karnataka to be promoted as a part of the new Tourism policy ‘The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme, which focuses on revving up destination tourism.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli in Karnataka.
- About Karnataka State
- Formation - 1 November 1956
- Capital- Bengaluru
- Chief minister : Siddaramaiah



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- Governor- Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Legislative Assembly seats- 224
- Lok Sabha seats- 28
- Jog Falls (Garsoppa) located in Karnataka is the highest waterfall in India which is on Sharavathi River.
- Yakshagana is the main folk dance of Karnataka.

Q. President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in which state?

A) Rajasthan

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Uttarakhand

Answer : B

- ✓ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Culture Department Madhya Pradesh along with Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Akademi of the Ministry of Culture is organizing this event from 3rd to 5th August.
- ✓ The international literature festival Unmesh is Asia's largest literary convention.
- ✓ 15 countries will participate in the Unmesh festival.
- ✓ Literature gave strength to the ideals of our freedom struggle. In every corner of the country, many writers gave expression to the ideals of freedom and renaissance

MADHYA PRADESH IN NEWS 2023

- President of India, Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- India's first online gaming academy launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
- Tiger State Madhya Pradesh is poised to get its 7th tiger reserve with the state government going forward with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries.



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- Madhya Pradesh received the first prize in the best State category, while the best district award went to Ganjam District in Odisha.
- Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC Ltd.) will construct a 525 MW pumped storage project near the Indira Sagar Dam in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana'.
- Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves 'Mukhya Mantri Sikho Kamao Yojana' for unemployed youth.
- Gond paintings from Madhya Pradesh have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition that protects and acknowledges the work of tribal artists.
- Madhya Pradesh government launched Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights Scheme.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village located in Bhopal district has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- Madhya Pradesh Government on 5 March launched Ladli Bahna scheme under which each woman will be given one thousand rupees per month..
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on March 4 to make Tehsil Mauganj of Rewa district the 53rd district of the state.

Q. Which bank has recently launched EXIM Current Account specially curated for customers involved in the import and export business?

A) HDFC Bank

B) ICICI Bank

C) South Indian Bank

D) IDFC First Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched SIB EXIM Current Account specially curated for customers involved in the import and export business.
- ✓ The current account is available in two variants SIB EXIM Silver and SIB EXIM Gold with the required Quarterly Forex Throughput (QFT) of \$15,000 and \$50,000 respectively.
- ✓ SIB EXIM Current Account offers competitive rates in trade finance transactions, free and unlimited NEFT/RTGS transactions through digital channels, unlimited free cash withdrawals from any SIB branches, free cash deposit limit of up to 15 times of previous month AMB, free issuance of international debit card and a lot more transactional benefits to cater the needs of this segment.



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- ✓ Moreover, South Indian Bank is also authorized by RBI as an Agency Bank for collection of customs duty through the ICEGATE portal.
- ✓ About South Indian Bank
- ✓ Founded : 1929
- ✓ Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala
- ✓ Chairman : Salim Gangadharan
- ✓ MD & CEO : Murali Ramakrishnan
- ✓ Tagline : Experience Next Generation Banking.

Q. India recently signed a MoU with which country to collaborate on the sharing of INDIA STACK?

- A) Papua New Guinea B) Ethiopia
C) Egypt D) Saudi Arabia

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of Papua New Guinea signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for sharing India Stack.
- ✓ **About India Stack:**
- ✓ It is a set of Application Programming Interface (APIs) that allows governments, businesses, startups and developers to utilise a unique digital Infrastructure.
- ✓ India Stack consists of three layers of open APIs: identity, payments, and data.
- ✓ Although the name of this project bears the word India, the vision of India Stack is not limited to one country.
- ✓ It can be applied to any nation, be it a developed one or an emerging one.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding ZARTH application

1. It is an augmented reality transient hunter application
2. It is developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2



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Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, a team of researchers at the Center for Data Driven Discovery, California Institute of Technology has developed ZARTH app that allows anyone with a smartphone to 'hunt' for transients
- ✓ **About ZARTH App:**
- ✓ The ZTF Augmented Reality Transient Hunter (ZARTH) is built along the lines of the augmented reality mobile game.
- ✓ It allows the user to do serious science while playing a game.
- ✓ The app uses the open-source Sky Map and adds data daily from the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF)'s robotic telescope at the Palomar Observatory in California.
- ✓ Palomar is also home to one of the oldest, largest, and most powerful telescopes in the world: the 200-inch Hale reflector.
- ✓ The ZTF scans the entire northern sky every two days and uses the data to make large area sky maps that have important applications in tracking near-earth asteroids and studying supernovae.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding National Education Policy.

1. It focuses on the Equitable and Inclusive Education for all children in India

2. The equitable and quality education for girl children is being met through specific provisions under Samagra Shiksha 2.0.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Minister of State for Education informed the Lok Sabha about the Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF), mentioned in the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
- ✓ About Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF):
- ✓ The fund will be utilised to ensure that all kids receive a high-quality education.
- ✓ It will also be used to guarantee that amenities such as secure and sanitary vending machines are included on GIF's infrastructure checklist.
- ✓ The NEP focuses on 'Equitable and Inclusive Education' which reverberates the idea that no child should be left behind in terms of educational opportunity because of their background and socio-cultural identities.



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- ✓ The minimum investment amount in an InvIT Initial Public Offering (IPO) is Rs 10 lakh, therefore, InvITs are suitable for high net worth individuals, institutional and non-institutional investors.

Q. With reference to the Red-headed vulture, consider the following statements

1. It is categorized as a critically endangered species under the IUCN Red List

2. It is only found in the Himalayan Region. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 Only

B) 2 Only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The conservationists to script India's first captive breeding success story of the Himalayan vultures inside the Assam State Zoo in Guwahati.
- ✓ **Why in news?**
- ✓ It is the second instance (First was in France) in the world and first in India where this species has been kept for breeding.
- ✓ The captive breeding was a joint project undertaken by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Assam forest department.
- ✓ **About Himalayan vulture:**
- ✓ The Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) or Himalayan griffon vulture is an Old World vulture.
- ✓ It is one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors.
- ✓ It is a typical vulture which has a bald white head, wings that are very wide and short tail feathers.
- ✓ Distribution: It is native to the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau and also found in the Central Asian mountains.
- ✓ These are diurnal and mostly solitary species.
- ✓ Conservation status
- ✓ IUCN: Near Threatened.
- ✓ Other Vulture species found in India
- ✓ India is home to 9 species of Vulture namely the Oriental white-backed, Long-billed, Slender-billed, Himalayan, Red-headed, Egyptian, Bearded, Cinereous and Eurasian Griffon



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding PM SWANidhi Scheme:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020.

2. It provided as collateral -free loan of Rs 10,000 with low rates of interest for a period of one year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 Only

B) 2 Only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry recently set a new target for its PM SVANidhi scheme for street vendors.
- ✓ **About PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme:**
- ✓ It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020.
- ✓ Purpose: To provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- ✓ It is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors with a collateral-free loan of Rs 10,000 with low rates of interest (below 12%) for a period of one year, aiding the vendors in getting back on their feet financially.
- ✓ The duration of the scheme initially was until March 2022. It has been extended till December 2024, with a focus on enhanced collateral-free affordable loan corpus, increased adoption of digital transactions and holistic socio-economic development of the Street Vendors and their families.
- ✓ **Who is Eligible for the Loan?**
- ✓ All vendors who have been vending from or before (March 24, 2020) and with a certificate of vending can avail the loan.
- ✓ As per the Street Vendors Act 2014, the Town Vending Committees(which comprises the local authorities and vendors from an area) issue a certificate of vending after a survey has been conducted of all the vendors.
- ✓ **Scheme Benefits:**
- ✓ Vendors can avail of a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
- ✓ On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on a quarterly basis.
- ✓ There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.



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- ✓ The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.
- ✓ The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.
- ✓ Implementation agency: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):

1. It was initially set up as a Cell in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in January 1978 on the recommendation of the Pande Committee

2. The aim of BCAS is to safeguard civil aviation operations against acts of unlawful interference

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 Only
- B) 2 Only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Aviation security body Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) recently informed all the airports across the country to not promote any kind of advertisement or commercial at security checks.
- ✓ **About Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):**
- ✓ It was initially set up as a Cell in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in January 1978 on the recommendation of the Pande Committee, constituted as a reaction to the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight on 10th September 1976.
- ✓ It was reorganized into an independent department under the Ministry of Civil Aviation on 1st April 1987.
- ✓ The aim of BCAS is to safeguard civil aviation operations against acts of unlawful interference.
- ✓ The main responsibilities of BCAS include laying down standards and measures with respect to the security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India.
- ✓ It is the authoritarian unit for civil aviation security in India. It is controlled by an officer of the rank of Director General of Police and is designated as Commissioner of Security.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi



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Q. Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2023 is the 19th edition of the Joint Military Training Exercise between Indian Army and ____

- A) United States
B) Singapore
C) Nepal
D) Sri Lanka

Answer : A

- ✓ Armies of India and the United States will begin another edition of their joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' at Fort Wainwright in Alaska.
- ✓ **About Yudh Abhyas:**
- ✓ It is a joint military exercise conducted annually between the armies of India and USA.
- ✓ It has been ongoing since 2004.
- ✓ It is designed to promote cooperation between the two militaries while sharing training, cultural exchanges, and building joint operating skills.
- ✓ Yudh Abhyas 2023:
- ✓ This marks the 19th edition of the joint exercise, which is hosted alternately between both countries.
- ✓ The training schedule focuses on the employment of an integrated battle group under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate.
- ✓ The schedule will include all operations related to peacekeeping and peace enforcement.
- ✓ The joint exercise will also focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- ✓ List of Exercises between India and USA:
- ✓ Army: Yudh Abhyas and Vajra Prahar
- ✓ Navy: MALABAR (Multilateral)
- ✓ Air Force: Cope India, Red Flag (Multilateral)

Q. 'eSanjeevani' telemedicine service has been integrated with which scheme?

- A) Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana
B) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
C) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
D) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

Answer : D



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- ✓ Union Health Minister recently informed the Rajya Sabha that the Centre's telemedicine application eSanjeevani has completed 14,17,81,384 teleconsultations.
- ✓ **About eSanjeevani:**
- ✓ It is a cloud-based integrated telemedicine solution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India.
- ✓ It is a telemedicine app that provides both doctor-to-doctor and doctor-to-patient telecommunication.
- ✓ It is being designed, developed, deployed, and maintained by The Centre for Development and Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mohali.
- ✓ **Two modules of eSanjeevani:**
- ✓ **eSanjeevani AB-HWC:**
- ✓ The doctor-to-doctor telemedicine platform, being implemented at all the Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) in the country under the Ayushman Bharat (AB) Scheme of Government of India.
- ✓ It operates on a Hub-and-Spoke model wherein the 'Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centers' (HWCs) are set up at the state level, which is connected with the hub (comprising MBBS/ Specialty/Super-Specialty doctors) at the zonal level.
- ✓ It was rolled out in 2019.
- ✓ **eSanjeevani OPD:**
- ✓ It is the Patient-to-Doctor remote consultation services rolled out in 2020 amid the first lockdown imposed to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, while the Outpatient Departments (OPDs) in the country were closed.
- ✓ It enables people to get outpatient services in the confines of their homes
- ✓ The National Health Authority (NHA) said that the 'eSanjeevani' telemedicine service has been integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

Q. Who has notified the creation of a new category of Ayush visa for foreign nationals for treatment?

- A) Ministry of Ayush B) Ministry of Finance
C) Ministry of External Affairs D) Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer : D

- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs recently notified the creation of a new category of Ayush visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine.
- ✓ **About Ayush Visa:**



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- ✓ It is specifically designed for foreign nationals looking to receive medical treatment in India through traditional Indian systems of medicine.
- ✓ This visa aims to cater to those interested in Ayurveda, Yoga, and other traditional forms of therapeutic care and wellness.
- ✓ A new chapter, e., Chapter 11A, Ayush Visa, has been incorporated after Chapter 11 - Medical Visa of the Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine, and accordingly, necessary amendments have been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019.
- ✓ The introduction of the Ayush Visa category is part of the country's roadmap for the Heal in India initiative.
- ✓ Heal in India initiative: It seeks to provide “integrated and holistic treatment” to the world in India and enhance patient mobility for access to world-class, affordable, and quality healthcare services”.
- ✓ **What is AYUSH?**
- ✓ AYUSH, which stands for Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Naturopathy, Siddha, and Homoeopathy, is an acronym devised in 2003 to change the name of the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM & H).
- ✓ ISM & H was created in March 1995 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ On November 9, 2014, the government elevated AYUSH to a separate ministry.
- ✓ The word AYUSH is derived from a Sanskrit phrase “ayusmanbhava” meaning long life

Q. ‘Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve’ is located in a region spanning across which states?

- A) Andhra Pradesh -Telangana B) Karnataka - Telangana
C) Tamil Nadu - Andhra Pradesh D) Kerala - Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) recently raised concern that cattle grazing in the forest and illegal fishing in the backwaters of Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar dams are posing a big threat to tigers in Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR).
- ✓ About Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR).
- ✓ Location: It is located in the Nallamala hill ranges(an offshoot of the Eastern Ghats) of Andhra Pradesh and spreads across the undivided districts of Guntur, Prakasam, and Kurnool.
- ✓ It attained the status of a Tiger Reserve in 1983.
- ✓ This is the largest tiger reserve in the country, spreading over an area of 5937 Sq. Km.



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- ✓ It is named after two major dams in the area, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and Srisailem Dam.
- ✓ Two wildlife Sanctuaries, namely Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary (GBM), constitute the Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ The river Krishna traverses through this Reserve for a linear distance of around 270 kilometres.

Q. Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection (MASI), which was seen in the news, is associated with which action?

- A) Monitoring of Child Care Institutions**
- B) Indian Railway e-Procurement System**
- C) trade-related payments to foreign**
- D) encourage inclusive growth and development of various sectors**

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Minister of Women and Child Development informed the Rajya Sabha about MASI Portal.
- ✓ About the MASI Portal:
- ✓ Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection (MASI) was developed for synchronous monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanisms across the country.
- ✓ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed this application.
- ✓ The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021).
- ✓ The app is linked to the monitoring Portal where the automatic reports are generated.
- ✓ This App enables unified inspections by Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), State Inspection Committees, District Inspection Committees, Members of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) as laid down under the JJ Act, 2015.
- ✓ Key Facts about National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- ✓ It is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- ✓ It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding JALDOST airboat

1. It is designed to remove excess aquatic weed and floating waste from water bodies.

2. It is developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 Only

B) 2 Only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) unveiled the JALDOST airboat.
- ✓ About JALDOST:
- ✓ It is an airboat that operates on water.
- ✓ It is designed to remove excess aquatic weed and floating waste from water bodies.
- ✓ It has a closed airtight pontoon type hull to make it inherently unsinkable.
- ✓ According to NAL, it has a hybrid propulsion system, comprising air propulsion and paddle wheel propulsion
- ✓ How it works?
- ✓ The ability to travel through weed makes JALDOST an ideal platform to collect them and bring them to the shore.
- ✓ A steel mesh belt conveyor system fixed in the front collects the waste. The collected waste falls on the horizontal deck conveyor.
- ✓ After reaching the shore, the collected waste is unloaded by a rear conveyor system to trucks or tractors.
- ✓ NAL has developed two versions of the airboat — JALDOST Mark-1 and an upgraded version JALDOST Mark-2.
- ✓ Key facts about National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)
- ✓ It is a constituent of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India, established in the year 1959.
- ✓ It is the only government aerospace R&D laboratory in the country's civilian sector.
CSIR-NAL is a high-technology-oriented institution focusing on advanced disciplines in aerospace.



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Q. The kuril Island dispute or Northern territories dispute is a dispute between Japan and ____.

- A) China
B) Russia
C) United States
D) Philippines

Answer : B

- ✓ In Japan, conservative voices are hinting that Russian and Ukraine war could give Japan a chance to take control of disputed Kuril Islands.
- ✓ About Kuril Islands:
- ✓ These are a set of four islands situated between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean near the north of Japan's northernmost prefecture, Hokkaido.
- ✓ Japan refers to them as Northern territories, Russia calls them the Kuril Islands and South Korea named them as Dokdo islands.
- ✓ These are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire belt and have over 100 volcanoes, of which 35 are said to be active volcanoes along with hot springs.
- ✓ Both Russia and Japan claim sovereignty over them though the islands have been under Russian control since the end of World War II.
- ✓ The Soviet Union had seized the islands at the end of World War II and by 1949 had expelled its Japanese residents.
- ✓ Tokyo claims that the disputed islands have been part of Japan since the early 19th century.
- ✓ What lies behind the dispute?
- ✓ According to Tokyo, Japan's sovereignty over the islands is confirmed by several treaties like the Shimoda Treaty of 1855, the 1875 Treaty for the exchange of Sakhalin for the Kuril Islands (Treaty of St. Petersburg), and the Portsmouth Treaty of 1905 signed after the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-05 which Japan had won.
- ✓ Russia, on the other hand, claims the Yalta Agreement (1945) and the Potsdam Declaration (1945) as proof of its sovereignty and argues that the San Francisco Treaty of 1951 is legal evidence that Japan had acknowledged Russian sovereignty over the islands. Under Article 2 of the treaty, Japan had "renounced all right, title and claim to the Kuril Islands."

Q. UNESCO has suggested adding which city to its list of world heritage centres in danger?

- A) Venice
B) Milan
C) Florence
D) Bologna



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Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, experts from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have stated in a new report that the Italian city of Venice should be added to a list of world heritage sites in danger.
- ✓ Venice in Italy is known as “Queen of the Adriatic,” because of its location on the Adriatic coast
- ✓ About UNESCO heritage danger list:
- ✓ The list highlights a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites which are threatened due to factors like armed conflict and war, earthquakes and other natural disasters, pollution, poaching, uncontrolled urbanisation and unchecked tourist development.
- ✓ The UNESCO also sets certain guidelines and criteria under the 1972 World Heritage Convention, which decide, whether or not, a property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger or threat.
- ✓ Key facts about UNESCO
- ✓ UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- ✓ It is specialized agency of the United Nations(UN).
- ✓ The constitution, which entered into force in 1946, called for the promotion of international collaboration in education, science, and culture.
- ✓ The agency’s permanent headquarters are in Paris, France.
- ✓ Parent Organisation - United Nations Economic and Social Council
- ✓ Goal: The primary goals of UNESCO are to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, and culture, and to promote sustainable development and intercultural dialogue.
- ✓ UNESCO believes that these areas are crucial for building a more just, peaceful, and inclusive world.

UNESCO IN NEWS 2023

- The historic Byculla Railway Station, located in Mumbai received the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award.
- United States will rejoin UNESCO, the United Nations cultural organization, in July 2023.
- Jagdish Bakan wins UNESCO’s 2023 Michel Batisse Award .
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre has recommended Santiniketan, the cultural site in West Bengal, India, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



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- According to a report published by UNESCO at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference in New York, 26 percent of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water.
- Former German chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded the Felix Houphouet-Boigny UNESCO Peace Prize in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast.
- Visva-Bharati University is expected to get the status of the world's first "Living Heritage University" from UNESCO.
- UNESCO listed Ukraine's Odesa a World Heritage Site in Danger.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the Centre has nominated the maidams of Ahom Kingdom in Charaideo to seek a UNESCO World Heritage Site tag.
- The historic maidams of Ahom Kingdom in Charaideo were chosen out of 52 sites for the UNESCO World Heritage Site tag.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193
- Total UNESCO sites in india : 40.

Q. Which state government has recently signed an MoU with the Badminton Association of India to set up the National Centre of Excellence for Badminton in the state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Haryana
C) Gujarat D) Assam

Answer : D

- ✓ Assam government has signed an MoU with the Badminton Association of India to set up the National Centre of Excellence for Badminton in the state.
- ✓ The MoU for the centre will be signed between the Assam government and the Badminton Association of India for 25 years, subject to renewal for a further 10 years.
- ✓ The centre will have world-class facilities to nurture and harness the potential of young badminton players across India.



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Q. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 1,974.07 crore to which state government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24?

A) Gujarat

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Rajasthan

D) Chhattisgarh

Answer : C

- ✓ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24.
- ✓ Rs 930.44 crore has been sanctioned for three rural drinking water supply projects in Ajmer, Jalore, and Kota districts.
- ✓ Further, Rs 926.48 crore was sanctioned for the construction of 676 rural roads in the desert and tribal areas of the state.
- ✓ Earlier, Rs 117.15 crore had been sanctioned for the construction of 104 veterinary hospitals and 431 sub-centres in all districts of the state.
- ✓ NABARD is also supporting the state government in bringing 4.28 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation with a support of Rs 740 crore from the Micro Irrigation Fund.
- ✓ About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- ✓ Founded : 12 July 1982
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ Chairman : K V Shaji
- ✓ NABARD established on the recommendations of B. Sivaramman Committee

RAJASTHAN IN NEWS 2023

- NABARD has sanctioned Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24.
- Noor Shekhawat became the first transgender person in Rajasthan to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender.
- For the first time in India, the Rajasthan government introduced the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023.
- Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill to provide minimum guaranteed income to all adult citizens as part of a welfare package for the state.



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- Rajasthan government is set to take stringent measures against recruitment exam paper leaks by introducing a bill in the upcoming assembly session.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 National Highway projects worth Rs 5600 crore in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan government has sanctioned Rs 13.48 crore to promote religious tourism at Nagaur, Jaisalmer, and Alwar regions of the state.
- PM Modi Launches Projects Worth Rs 5,500 Crore In Rajasthan, Including 114 Km Long Six-Lane Udaipur-Shamlaji Section Of NH-48.
- Lithium reserves have been discovered in Rajasthan's Degana following the recent discovery in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Jal Jan Abhiyan virtually on Abu Road in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan.
- Indian Air Force's MiG-21 crashes near Hanumangarh in Rajasthan.
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot has announced the launch of 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in Rajasthan.
- Presently there are 33 districts in the state.
- With the creation of these 19 new districts, the total number of districts in Rajasthan will increase to 52.

Q. Who has launched the mobile application Rajmargyatra '?

- A) Airports Authority of India (AAI) B) Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
C) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) D) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes a significant stride towards improving the highway user experience with the launch of 'Rajmargyatra' application.
- ✓ **About Rajmargyatra Application:**
- ✓ It empowers travellers with comprehensive information on Indian National Highways while also offering an efficient complaint redressal system.



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- ✓ This is user-friendly app which is now available for download on both Google Play Store and iOS App Store.
- ✓ The app is currently available in Hindi and English.
- ✓ **Features:**
- ✓ Comprehensive Highway Information:
- ✓ It serves as a one-stop repository of essential information for National Highway users.
- ✓ Get real-time weather conditions, timely broadcast notifications, and access to details about nearby toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels, and other essential services that ensure a seamless and safe journey on National Highways.
- ✓ With these improvements, 'Rajmargyatra' aims to create a seamless, user-friendly experience for highway users, fostering a safer and more enjoyable journey on Indian National Highways

Q. Recently researchers have discovered the fossil of Perucetus colossus whale in which country?

- A) Egypt
- B) Peru
- C) Canada
- D) Philippines

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, researchers have discovered fossils of Perucetus colossus whale in Peru.
- ✓ About Perucetus colossus:
- ✓ Based on a newly-described fossil of the whale Perucetus colossus dating to more than 38 million years ago.
- ✓ Scientists believe that it may have been heavier than a blue whale even though it may not have been as long.
- ✓ Researchers guess that the species weighed between 85 and a simply massive 340 tonnes.

Q. The headquarters of 'IN-SPACE' has been inaugurated in which city?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Ahmedabad

Answer : D

- ✓ Three private sector satellite makers are expected to send their earth observation satellites this fiscal, according to the sectoral regulator Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE).
- ✓ About Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE):



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- ✓ It is a single-window, independent, nodal agency that functions as an autonomous agency in the Department of Space (DOS).
- ✓ It is formed following the Space sector reforms to enable and facilitate the participation of private players.
- ✓ IN-SPACe is responsible to promote, enable authorize and supervise various space activities of non-governmental entities including
- ✓ building launch vehicles & satellites and providing space-based services;
- ✓ sharing space infrastructure and premises under the control of DOS/ISRO; and establishing of new space infrastructure and facilities;
- ✓ The agency acts as an interface between ISRO and Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) and assesses how to utilize India's space resources better and increase space-based activities.
- ✓ Headquarters: Bopal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q. Mahanadi river originates in which among the following states of India?

A) Chhattisgarh

B) Odisha

C) Manipur

D) Assam

Answer : A

- ✓ The Odisha government recently alerted the districts in the Mahanadi delta area as it apprehends a “medium” flood in the river system following heavy rains for three consecutive days in the state.
- ✓ **About Mahanadi River:**
- ✓ It is one of the major east-flowing peninsular rivers in India.
- ✓ Origin: The river originates from the Sihawa range of hills in the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh state.
- ✓ Length: It flows a total of 860 km by distance before it ends up in the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ **Course:**
- ✓ It flows in a southeastern direction through Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
- ✓ The catchment area of the basin extends over major parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Tributaries: The main tributaries of Mahanadi are Seonath River, Jonk River, Hasdeo River, Mand River, Ib River, Ong River and Telen River.
- ✓ **Hirakud Dam:**



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- ✓ The Hirakud Dam, the world's longest earthen dam (26km), is constructed across the Mahanadi River, about 15 km from Sambalpur in Odisha.
- ✓ Chilika Lake : Chilika, named wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, gets 61% of its inland flow from the Mahanadi river system, mainly from its distributaries - Daya and Bhargabi.
- ✓ It ranks second to the Godavari River among the peninsular rivers in respect of water potential.

Q. Which Ministry has launched the Study In India (SII) portal with a vision to promote Indian education to foreign students?

- A) Ministry of External Affairs B) Ministry of Civil Aviation
C) Ministry of Education D) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer : C

- ✓ The Education Ministry recently launched the Study In India (SII) portal with a vision to promote Indian education to foreign students.
- ✓ **About Study in India (SII) portal:**
- ✓ It is a dedicated website to provide information about higher education institutions (HEIs) in India.
- ✓ Aim: Establishing India as a global hub for education by welcoming students from diverse backgrounds.
- ✓ It will showcase the academic programmes in the HEIs covering undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes as well courses in Indian Knowledge System (IKS) such as Yoga, Ayurveda, classical arts and more.
- ✓ The portal will have information about the academic facilities, research support and related information available in the institutes.
- ✓ **Study in India (SII) programme:**
- ✓ It is a flagship project launched by the education ministry in 2018.
- ✓ Aim: Endorse India as a prime education hub for international students by inviting them to pursue higher education in the country and explore valuable educational opportunities enabled by top Indian universities.

Q. Indian Air Force recently received Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) anti-tank guided missiles. Which country manufactures the 'Spike Anti-Tank Missiles'?

- A) Russia B) Japan
C) Israel D) United States

Answer : C



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- ✓ The Indian Air Force recently received Israel's Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) anti-tank guided missiles.
- ✓ About Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) Anti-tank Guided Missile (ATGM):
- ✓ It is a fire-and-forget anti-tank and anti-personnel missile with a tandem-charge high-explosive warhead.
- ✓ It is developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, a defence technology company based in Israel.
- ✓ It is available in man-portable, vehicle-launched, and helicopter-launched variants.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It can hit targets from distances of up to 30 kilometres.
- ✓ Weight: 71 kg
- ✓ It uses an electro-optical seeker that enables the launch operator to clearly see targets, unlike missiles reliant on radar or infrared guidance.

Q. Which ministry has launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)?

- A) Ministry of Ayush
- B) Ministry of Environment and Forests
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Answer : D

- ✓ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).
- ✓ Objective: To reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance use with a focus on higher educational Institutions, university campuses & schools.
- ✓ NMBA was launched on 15th August 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and is being implemented in 372 identified most vulnerable districts

Q. Which of the following state has launched the “Amrit Brikshya Andolan ” web portal/mobile application?

- A) Odisha
- B) Assam
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) Jharkhand

Answer : B



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- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the Department of Forest & Environment's Amrit Brikshya Andolan web portal/mobile application and the Wood-based Industry (WBI) registration web portal, along with the theme song for the Amrit Brikshya Andolan.
- ✓ It is an initiative aimed at planting a total of 1 crore (10 million) commercially-viable saplings across the State by individuals from various walks of life on coming September 17.
- ✓ Individuals who register on the 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' app or portal and upload their geo-tagged photographs planting saplings will receive a reward of Rs 100 in their bank account, with an aim to encourage more people to participate in the tree plantation drive.

Q. India's first beauty and lifestyle festival NYKAALAND will be held in which city in November 2023?

- A) Hyderabad
B) Chennai
C) Bengaluru
D) Mumbai

Answer : D

- ✓ India's First Beauty and Lifestyle Festival NYKAALAND debuts In Mumbai.
- ✓ Omnichannel consumer tech company Nykaa has collaborated with Book My Show to give India its first beauty and lifestyle festival Nykaaland.
- ✓ The two-day event will be held in Mumbai on November 5 and 6 at the Royal Western India Turf Club in Mahalaxmi Racecourse.
- ✓ The inaugural beauty and lifestyle festival will see the participation of leading makeup brands, makeup artists, entrepreneurs, dermatologists, beauty experts, and content creators.

Q. Which city is set to become the first city in the country to be septic tank-free and have toilets in 100% of households soon?

- A) New Delhi
B) Guwahati
C) Ahmedabad
D) Navi Mumbai

Answer : D

- ✓ Navi Mumbai is set to become the first city in the country to be septic tank-free and have toilets in 100% of households soon.
- ✓ The NMMC has laid a network of sewage drains all over the city with 7 state-of-the-art sewage treatment plants being set up with the help of Central government funds.
- ✓ The treated water is being used by industries and watering gardens.



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- ✓ As per a survey done in 2015, as many as 5,744 families in the city defecated in the open. The NMMC has constructed 406 public toilets to eradicate the practice.
- ✓ Toilets have provided 4,340 seats for the residents. Toilets in the households in slums are also being constructed

Q. Which of the following has partnered with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A)'s startup incubator CIIE to support startups with meritorious ideas and technologies?

- A) RBI
- B) SEBI
- C) PFRDA
- D) SIDBI

Answer : D

- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution for MSMEs in the country has partnered with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A)'s startup incubator CIIE.
- ✓ Through this tie-up, SIDBI will set up a SIDBI Accelerator Fund at the incubator with an initial corpus of Rs 20 crore.
- ✓ Objective: To support startups with meritorious ideas and technologies important for India's goals for 2047 to become self-reliant

Q. The union government has recently launched which edition of the Vivad se Vishwas scheme for settling contractual disputes involving the government and government undertakings?

- A) 1st
- B) 2nd
- C) 3rd
- D) 4th

Answer : B

- ✓ The government has launched the Vivad se Vishwas-2 scheme for settling contractual disputes involving the government and government undertakings.
- ✓ The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24.
- ✓ The scheme aims to resolve the government's contractual disputes with private parties, clear the backlog of litigation, and improve the ease of doing business.
- ✓ The deadline for submitting claims under the scheme is 31 October 2023.



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- ✓ The scheme will apply to all domestic contractual disputes where one of the parties is either the Government of India or an organization operating under its control.
- ✓ The central government is aiming to resolve approximately 500 cases, involving an estimated Rs 1 trillion, under this new voluntary settlement scheme.
- ✓ The one-time settlement scheme will cover cases where the court order was passed by 30 April 2023, and the arbitral order was given by 30 January 2023

Q. The Union government has launched Digital Crop Survey (DCS) in how many states on a pilot basis from Kharif 2023 for better sowing data collection?

- A) 17 B) 12
C) 11 D) 15

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union government has launched Digital Crop Survey (DCS) in 12 states on a pilot basis from Kharif 2023 (summer-sown) season of this year for better sowing data collection.
- ✓ DCS reference application has been developed as an open source, open standard, and interoperable public good.
- ✓ The 12 states selected for the pilot on DCS are Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Assam.
The states have been selected based on the preparedness in respect of pre-requisite criteria for DCS i.e., geo-referencing of village map and digitized Record of Rights (RoR) with ownership extent.

Q. Who has won the men's singles title for Hamburg European Open 2023?

- A) Novak Djokovic B) Rafael Nadal
C) Alexander Zverev D) Daniil Medvedev

Answer : C

- ✓ Alexander Zverev won the Hamburg European Open for the first time by beating Laslo Djere 7-5, 6-3.
- ✓ It's the 26-year-old Zverev's first title since winning in Turin, Italy, in November 2021 and he achieved it without dropping a set at his hometown tournament.
- ✓ Dutch player Arantxa Rus won the women's title.



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Answer : D

- ✓ Banks have written off bad loans worth Rs 14.56 lakh crore in the last nine financial years starting 2014-15.
- ✓ Out of the total Rs 14,56,226 crore, written off loans of large industries and services stood at Rs 7,40,968 crore.
- ✓ Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) have recovered an aggregate amount of Rs 2,04,668 crore in written-off loans, including corporate loans, since April, 2014 and up to March, 2023, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply to Lok Sabha.
- ✓ Loans written-off during the financial year, net of recovery in written-off loans during the financial year (net write-off) in public sector banks (PSBs) was Rs 1.18 lakh crore in the financial year (FY) 2017-18, which has declined to 0.91 lakh crore in FY 2021-22 and to Rs 0.84 lakh crore (RBI provisional data) in FY 2022-23, he said in another reply.
- ✓ Net write-off loans by private sector banks stood at Rs 73,803 crore (RBI provisional data) in FY 2022-23,

Q. According to the SEBI report, Domestic companies raised from market in FY23.

- A) Rs 9.2 Lakh Crore B) Rs 9.8 Lakh Crore
C) Rs 10.6 Lakh Crore D) Rs 11.3 Lakh Crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Domestic companies raised Rs 9.8 lakh crore from capital markets in the fiscal 2022-23, which was 4.6 per cent higher than the amount raised in the fiscal 2022, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in its annual report.
- ✓ The capital markets regulator said that corporates or infrastructure entities raised funds via instruments such as equity (public, rights, preferential, QIP), debt (public and private placement), Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).
- ✓ Of the total resources mobilized, equity and debt segments accounted for Rs 9.2 lakh crore of capital formation, SEBI said in its annual report for 2022-23.
- ✓ In the debt segment, the primary source of resource mobilization was private placement of debt, which rose 28 per cent over funds raised in FY2022.
- ✓ SEBI said in FY2023, the commitment raised by AIFs logged a growth of 30 per cent to Rs 8.34 lakh crore from Rs 6.41 lakh crore at the end of 2021-22. The amount of funds raised and investment made increased by 16.5 per cent and 19 per cent respectively in the last fiscal.



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- ✓ The net asset value being managed by REITs stood at Rs 70,614 crore whereas for InvITs it was Rs 1,76,957 crore as on March 31, 2023. Total funds raised by InvITs during FY2023 stood at Rs 6,360 crore.

SEBI IN NEWS 2023

- SEBI has introduced a regulatory framework for online investment platforms that facilitate investments in commission-free mutual fund (MF) schemes.
- SEBI sets up intermediary advisory panel to be led by S Ravindran.
- SEBI Introduced Risk disclosure Framework for Trading by Individual Traders in Equity F&O Segment.
- SEBI introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers of non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments and security receipts.
- NDTV appoints former SEBI Chairman UK Sinha and business leader Dipali Goenka as Independent Directors.
- Sebi introduces Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) -like facility for secondary market trading in India.
- NSE gets the final SEBI approval to launch Social Stock Exchange.
- Markets regulator SEBI has launched an information database on municipal bonds.
- SEBI allowed Alternative Investment Funds(AIFs) to participate in the Credit Default Swaps(CDS) market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate the deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):
 - It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India established in 1988.
 - Its main objectives are to protect the interests of investors in securities and promote the development of the securities market in India by regulating intermediaries, ensuring transparency and accountability of listed companies, and promoting investor education.
 - It is owned by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, but functions as an autonomous body with its own governing board.
 - It has the power to issue guidelines, rules and regulations, investigate and punish fraudulent business practices.
 - It is the regulator of the Capital market and Commodities market in India.



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- ✓ Tamil Nadu bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation .
- ✓ Tamil Nadu leads all Indian states in organ donations with 1,705 people donating their organs and saving 6,247 human lives.

TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023

- Tamil Nadu bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation .
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister "Udhayanidhi Stalin" has unveiled the trophy and the 'Bomman' mascot for the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament to be held in Chennai.
- Muthamizh Selvi, first Tamil Nadu woman to scale Mt Everest.
- Tamil Nadu government declared Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state..
- Tamil Nadu becomes first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
- Tamil Nadu govt to launch five-year Tamil Nadu Millet Mission.
- In a first of its kind initiative in India, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced the 'Nilgiri Tahr Project'.

Q. Cabinet has approved an outlay of ___ crore for BharatNet Project .

- A) ₹1.10 lakh crore B) ₹1.39 lakh crore
C) ₹1.52 lakh crore D) ₹1.75 lakh crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Cabinet has approved a last-mile broadband connectivity plan for 6.4 lakh villages across the country under the BharatNet project with an outlay of Rs 1.39 lakh crore, according to sources.
- ✓ Around 1.94 lakh villages have been connected under the BharatNet project at present, and the balance is likely to be connected in two and a half years, they added.
- ✓ The last-mile connectivity will be provided by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), an arm of state-owned BSNL, in partnership with village level entrepreneur (VLE).



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Q. Which country has partnered with Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) to build 120 Vande Bharat trains?

- A) Japan
B) USA
C) Germany
D) Russia

Answer : D

- ✓ A joint venture between public sector company Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) and Russian engineering company Metrowagonmash is on course to manufacture and supply around 120 Vande Bharat trains to Indian Railways, at a cost of ₹120 crore per train.
- ✓ The blue-and-white trains, with AC sleeper coaches, are expected to be manufactured at a railway factory in Latur, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The RVNL wants a larger share of 69%, leaving 26% for Metrowagonmash and 5% for a third partner, Locomotive Electronic Systems.

Q. India's largest state in terms of area is Rajasthan which covers how many sq. km?

- A) 342,239 sq. km
B) 353,239 sq. km
C) 361,239 sq. km
D) 369,239 sq. km

Answer : A

- ✓ India is a country with many different states, each having its own special qualities.
- ✓ As of 4th August 2023, among 28 states of India, Rajasthan is the India's largest state with the total area of 342,239 sq. km and at the 8th position in terms of population.
- ✓ Largest State in India in terms of Area :
- ✓ India's largest state in terms of area is Rajasthan which covers 342,239 sq. km area, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Here is the list of largest states of India in terms of area till 4th August 2023



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Rank	Country	Population
1	India	1,428,627,663
2	China	1,425,671,352
3	United States	339,996,563
4	Indonesia	277,534,122
5	Pakistan	240,485,658
6	Nigeria	223,804,632
7	Brazil	216,422,446
8	Bangladesh	172,954,319
9	Russia	144,444,359
10	Mexico	128,455,567

Q. PM Modi to Launch __ Crores Revamp of 508 Railway Stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme.

- A) ₹16,750 Crores B) ₹20,280 Crores
C) ₹24,470 Crores D) ₹28,500 Crores

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations spread across the country in a virtual manner on 6th August 2023.
- ✓ According to the Ministry of Railways, the redevelopment work has been done at an estimated cost of ₹24,470 crore.
- ✓ Currently only 508 stations are being taken up for revival under the Amrit Bharat scheme launched for redevelopment of 1,309 stations



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Q. Cabinet Secretary "Rajiv Gauba" has been granted extension for how many years by the central government?

- A) 1 Year B) 2 Years
C) 3 Years D) 5 Years

Answer : A

- ✓ The Central government relaxed key rules to give a one-year extension to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba beyond August 30, 2023, his extension was extended, as per a government order.
- ✓ With this extension, Rajiv Gauba now becomes the longest-serving cabinet secretary.
- ✓ Before Rajiv Gauba, BD Pande had been the longest-serving cabinet secretary from November 2, 1972, to March 31, 1977

FAMOUS SECRETARY IN NEWS

- Sanjay Malhotra : Revenue Secretary
- Aramane Giridhar : Defence Secretary
- Rajiv Gauba - Cabinet Secretary
- Vivek Kumar - Private Secretary to PM
- Vinay Mohan Kwatra - Foreign secretary
- Tarun Kapoor - Advisor to PM
- T V Somanathan - Finance Secretary.
- Ajay Seth - Economic Affairs Secretary.
- TV Somanathan - Expenditure Secretary.
- P Praveen Siddharth - Private Secretary to President.
- Kapil Dev Tripathi - Secretary to President

Q. What is the title of the short film made by the Sports Authority of India on the athletes participating in the Asian Games?

- A) Khelo India B) Halla Bol
C) Chak De India D) Namaste India

Answer : B



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- ✓ Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games bound athletes to motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.
- ✓ The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is the Apex National Sports Body of India, established in 1984 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India for the development of sports in India

Q. Which State Cabinet approved the proposal of a high-level committee to form 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in the State?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Rajasthan government has greenlit the formation of 19 new districts and 3 new divisions. The proposal put forward by a high-level committee was approved by the Ashok Gehlot-led Rajasthan cabinet.
- ✓ The western state will now have 50 districts - up from 33 - and 10 divisions.
- ✓ Jaipur district has been divided into Jaipur and Jaipur Rural, and Jodhpur district into Jodhpur and Jodhpur Rural.
- ✓ The other new districts are Apoonagarh, Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Dudu, Gangapur City, Kekri, Kotputli-Behror, Khairthal-Tijara, Neem ka Thana, Phalodi, Slumber, Sanchoore and Shahpura.
- ✓ The new divisions are Banswara, Pali and Sikar.

Q. Who has been appointed Tesla's Chief Financial Officer (CFO)?

- A) Vaibhav Taneja
B) Kamal Bali
C) Masakazu Yoshimura
D) P Harish Chand Jain

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down.

Q. When is National Javelin Day celebrated annually?

- A) August 5
B) August 6
C) August 7
D) August 8

Answer : C



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- ✓ According to a press release by the company, Mistry, with over 4 decades of experience, is one of the most respected professionals in the Indian Financial Services industry. He had served as the CEO and Vice Chairman of HDFC Ltd from 2010 till its merger with the HDFC Bank Ltd
- ✓ Serum Institute of India (SII)
- ✓ Founded: 1966
- ✓ Headquarters : Hadapsar, Pune
- ✓ Founder / Chairmam : Cyrus S. Poonawalla
- ✓ CEO: Adar Poonawalla

Q. India has handed over ___ million in advance to Sri Lanka to fund its unique digital identity project in Aug 2023.

- A) INR 350 million B) INR 400 million
C) INR 450 million D) INR 500 million

Answer : C

- ✓ Colombo, India has handed over INR 450 million in advance to Sri Lanka to fund its unique digital identity project, the most crucial step in the island nation's digitalisation programme being implemented through the Indian grant assistance.

SRI LANKA IN NEWS 2023

- India gives Lanka Rs 450 mn in aid for unique digital identity project.
- World Bank approves \$700 million for crisis-hit Sri Lanka.
- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off India's first international cruise vessel - MV Empress, from Chennai to Sri Lanka.
- Bharti Airtel has announced its plan to merge its Sri Lanka operations with Dialog Axiata, the largest telecom provider in Sri Lanka.
- The 10th annual SLINEX-2023 bilateral maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka has commenced in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka assent to Adani Green's \$442 Million Wind Power Project.
- India will support Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan as the island nation looks to trim its huge public expenditure to win approval for a crucial bailout from the International Monetary Fund.



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- India has supplied 50 buses to Sri Lanka on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of independence.
- Indian High Commission signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to establish a Hindi Chair.
- India & Sri Lanka inaugurate exhibition 'Geoffrey Bawa' in New Delhi.
- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited announced a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka-headquartered Maliban Biscuit Manufactories Limited.
- SRI LANKA
- Capital : Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative)
- Colombo (executive and judicial)
- Currency : Rupee
- President : Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Prime Minister : Dinesh Gunawardena
- Mitra Shakti Military Exercise : India and Sri Lanka
- Slinex Navel Exercise : India and Sri Lanka
- Parliament : parliamenthua (225 seats)
- National day : 4 February 1948

Q. Who to hold Public Hearing on Adani Kattupalli Port Expansion Amid Controversy?

- A) KAPCB
- B) MHPCB
- C) TNPCB
- D) APPCB

Answer : C

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) is set to conduct a public hearing on the proposed expansion of Adani group's Kattupalli Port in Tiruvallur district.
- ✓ The public hearing for the Kattupalli Port expansion by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), which is investing Rs 53,031 crore, to ramp the port's capacity from 24.65 million tonnes (mt) per annum to 320 mt, will be held at 10 am on September 5, 2023



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Q. Which State has introduced the 'Shubhayatra' scheme to support and facilitate Overseas Emigrants?

A) Goa

B) Kerala

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Uttarakhand

Answer : B

- ✓ State government of Kerala has launched a groundbreaking scheme called 'Shubhayatra'. The scheme aims to provide much-needed financial support to first-time overseas emigrants from Kerala, facilitating a positive and productive migration ecosystem.
- ✓ In support of the 'Shubhayatra' scheme, the Kerala government has allocated ₹2 crore in the current financial year for providing tax holidays and interest subvention to emigrants

KERALA IN NEWS 2023

- Kerala has launched a groundbreaking scheme called 'Shubhayatra'.
- Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre.
- Piramal Finance opened the first all women branch named "Maitreyi" at Thripunithura near Kochi to cater to the unique needs of women customers.
- Kerala has become the first state in the country to launch its own internet service.
- Kerala has become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet services.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- Kerala has adopted a water budget, the first of its kind in the country, to deal with the problem of water scarcity in summer.
- Dharmadam, Kerala becomes first complete library constituency in India.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project.
- India's first Graphene Innovation center to be set up in Kerala.
- Recently, a group of researchers discovered a butterfly subspecies from the fringes of Akkulam and Vembanad lakes in Kerala.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th April flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod at Thiruvananthapuram Central Station.
- Kerala declared first State to enable digital banking service.



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- M T Vasudevan Nair was awarded the "Kerala Jyoti", the highest civilian honour in Kerala.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd G20 Empower meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the theme "Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy".
- Kerala to become first State to use robotics tech extensively for manhole cleaning.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes, listed as Ramsar sites.



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- SEBI has granted approval for a change in control of HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) due to the amalgamation of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.
- As part of the amalgamation, existing shareholders of HDFC Ltd will hold a 41% stake in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank has launched a retail banking initiative called 'Vishesh' aimed at customers in semi-urban and rural areas.
- HDFC Bank partners Manipal Global to build up a talent pipeline.
- SEBI has granted approval for a change in control of HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) due to the amalgamation of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.
- HDFC Bank has signed a "Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement" with Export-Import Bank of Korea for a USD 300 million line of credit.
- HDFC Bank recommends re-appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan MD, CEO for 3 yrs.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is 'BS Banker of the Year 2022'.
- HDFC Bank, IRCTC launch India's most rewarding co-branded travel credit card.
- HDFC Bank, Lulu Exchange ink deal to enhance cross-border payments between India-Gulf region.
- HDFC Bank collaborates with Microsoft as part of its digital transformation.
- Reserve Bank of India said SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs).
- India's first Electronic Bank Guarantee issued by HDFC Bank.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

Q. Which state government will set up a 'Rhino Task Force' to propose measures to restart the rhino conservation plan under the National Rhino Conservation Plan?

A) Assam

B) Bihar

C) Odisha

D) Jharkhand



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Answer : B

- ✓ The Bihar government will set up a 'Rhino Task Force' to propose measures to restart the rhino conservation plan in 'Valmiki Tiger Reserve' (VTR) located in West Champaran district.
- ✓ At present there is only one rhino in VTR and 14 rhinos in Patna Zoo.
- ✓ The VTR has seen a significant increase in the tiger population, prompting state wildlife officials to focus on reviving the rhino population in the region.
- ✓ Valmiki Tiger Reserve has been selected as a potential site under the National Rhino Conservation Plan.
- ✓ This national-level scheme allows rhinos to be introduced into Valmiki Tiger Reserve from other reserves across the country to boost their conservation.
- ✓ India plays a critical role in the conservation of the one-horned rhinoceros species. Approximately 75% of the world's rhino population is found in India.
- ✓ Notably, over 93% of India's rhino population resides in just one protected area, the Kaziranga National Park in the state of Assam

Q. King Norodom Sihamoni has been appointed as new Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Egypt
- B) Ethiopia
- C) Nigeria
- D) Cambodia

Answer : D

- ✓ Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni has appointed former Prime minister Hun Sen's son – Hun Manet – as the new prime minister of the country.
- ✓ A royal decree was issued by the King stating that he appoints Dr. Hun Manet as the prime minister.
- ✓ While the King has appointed Hun Manet as the PM, the leader and his cabinet must win the confidence vote on August 22 to assume office.
- ✓ During the Cambodian Elections 2023, Hun Sen's party – the Cambodian People's Party – won with a landslide victory



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NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS 2022 – 23

- Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani : Qatar
- Li Qiang : China
- Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM : Equatorial Guinea
- Chris Hipkins : 41st PM of New Zealand
- Anwar Ibrahim : Malaysia
- Benjamin Netanyahu : Israel
- Rishi Sunak : 57th PM of United Kingdom (UK)
- Ulf Kristersson : Sweden
- Mohammed bin Salman : Saudi Arabia
- Ana Brnabic : Serbia
- James Marape : Papua New Guinea
- Dinesh Gunawardena : Sri Lanka
- Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al Salem : Kuwait
- Hamza Abdi Barre : Somalia
- Anthony Albanese : Australia
- Emmanuel Macron : France
- Robert Golob : Slovenia
- Patrick Achi : Ivory Coast
- Shehbaz Sharif : Pakistan
- Viktor Orban : Hungary
- Robert Abela : Malta
- Antonio Costa : Portugal
- Mia Mottley : Barbados
- Alikhan Smailov : Kazakhstan
- Petr Fiala : Czech Republic
- Jonas Gahr Store : Norway
- Fumio Kishida : Japan



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Q. Who ministry has launched Port Health Organization (PHO) module under Sagar Setu – National Logistics Portal (Marine)?

- A) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D) Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Answer : D

- ✓ The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched Port Health Organization (PHO) module under Sagar Setu – National Logistics Portal (Marine).
- ✓ PHO will conduct disease surveillance, health inspection, and quarantine measures to safeguard citizens and port workers.
- ✓ The launch of the PHO module is yet another step towards the digitalization and modernization of our systems which will further the ease of doing business in the country.
- ✓ The Port Health Organization module has been envisaged as a part of 'Ease of Doing Business' by covering features like requests for PHO clearance certificates, approval by PHO, online certification generation, tracking of request status, etc

Q. Which ministry has implemented the 'Naya Savera' scheme also known as the 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme recently?

- A) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- B) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- C) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- D) Ministry of Minority Affairs

Answer : D

- ✓ The Ministry of Minority Affairs implemented the 'Naya Savera' scheme also known as the 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme.
- ✓ Objective – To assist students/candidates belonging to the six minority communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations.
- ✓ The coaching period under the scheme ranged from 3 months to 2 years.
- ✓ Preparing for qualifying examinations for admission into technical/professional courses like engineering, medical, law, management, information technology, etc., and language/apptitude examinations required for seeking admission to foreign universities.



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Q. Which company has signed an MoU with Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt Ltd for potential collaboration opportunities in Green Hydrogen and derivatives in the Hydrogen Value Chain?

- A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
- B) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

Answer : A

- ✓ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has signed an MoU with Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd. for “potential collaboration opportunities in Green Hydrogen and derivatives in the Hydrogen Value Chain.
- ✓ This partnership will pave the way for collaboration in the Hydrogen value chain, contributing towards the ‘National Hydrogen Mission’ of the Government of India, making India ‘Atmanirbhar’.
- ✓ The collaboration between BHEL and Greenstat Hydrogen India aims to focus on establishing a framework for cooperation between the two organizations to explore and develop projects related to the production, marketing, and use of green hydrogen.

Q. Who has been appointed as the President and CEO of Honeywell High Growth Region?

- A) Anant Maheshwari
- B) Dilip Shanghvi
- C) Sunil Mittal
- D) Karsanbhai Patel

Answer : A

- ✓ Former Microsoft India Head, Anant Maheshwari has been appointed as the President and CEO of Honeywell High Growth Region, effective from September 4, 2023.
- ✓ In his new role, Maheshwari will oversee operations in China, India, Southeast Asia, Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, and Latin America, driving strategic growth initiatives across these key markets.
- ✓ Maheshwari previously served the company from 2004 to 2016 in various leadership roles and ultimately became President of Honeywell India.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)?

- A) Rabindra Narayan
- B) Sahil Jindal
- C) Preet Pal Thakur
- D) Sanjay Kumar Agarwal



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Answer : D

- ✓ Union govt has appointed Sanjay Kumar Agarwal as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) after the superannuation of Vivek Johri.
- ✓ Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, a 1988 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) official as the Chairman of CBIC with the status of special secretary to the government of India.
- ✓ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- ✓ Founded : 1944
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Chairperson : Sanjay Kumar Agarwal

Q. Who has become the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final 2023 in Berlin?

- A) Deepika Kumari B) Aditi Swami
C) Tarundeep Rai D) Dola Banerjee

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian archer, Aditi Swami has become the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final 2023 in Berlin.
- ✓ 17-year-old Aditi, became the senior world champion when she defeated Andrea Becerra of Mexico, 149-147 in the summit clash of the compound women's event.
- ✓ Conversely, India's Ojas Deotale also created history after defeating Lukasz Przybylski of Poland in a thrilling final to become the new world champion in Men's Individual compound event.

Q. Who has been appointed as President of Qualcomm India?

- A) Savi Soin B) Rajen Vagadia
C) Ravi Shankar D) Umesh Sinha

Answer : A

- ✓ Qualcomm India appoints Savi Soin as President
- ✓ The leading smartphone processor manufacturer, Qualcomm appointed Savi Soin as the President of Qualcomm India.
- ✓ He will be responsible for guiding the company's strategy in the Indian market.



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- ✓ Savi Soin, who has been with Qualcomm for more than two decades, previously served as the head of strategy and business development at Qualcomm Technologies' semiconductor division.
- ✓ He will replace Rajen Vagadia.

Q. Who will be honoured with Diversity in Cinema Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM)?

- A) Ankita Bhakat
B) Mrunal Thakur
C) Rahul Banerjee
D) Chekrovolu Swuro

Answer : B

- ✓ Actor Mrunal Thakur will be honoured with Diversity in Cinema Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).
- ✓ The "Sita Ramam" star will be honoured with the award in recognition of "her outstanding performances across diverse roles and languages in the world of Indian cinema.
- ✓ The actor, who made her film with "Love Sonia", and then featured in movies such "Super 30", "Toofan", "Jersey", will receive the award during the annual gala night on August 11 in the Australian city.
- ✓ The 14th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne will run from August 11 to 20

Q. Which company has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash – the Next Generation Weapon System to Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)?

- A) ICOMM Tele Limited
B) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)
C) Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)
D) Antrix Corporation Ltd (ACL)

Answer : C

- ✓ The Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash – the Next Generation Weapon System to Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- ✓ Seeker is a critical and technology-intensive subsystem used in Surface-to-Air Missiles and Air-to-Air Missiles for target tracking in the terminal phase.
- ✓ The RF Seeker has been designed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, and produced by BDL at its state-of-the-art Seeker Facility Centre set up at BDL, Kanchanbagh Unit in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The establishment of the Seeker Facility Centre at BDL has enabled India to achieve self-reliance in the field of RF seeker production and contribute greatly towards realizing the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ✓ Chairman and Managing Director of BDL – A Madhavarao



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Q. Which edition of the Malabar River Festival opens at Thusharagiri in Kozhikode, Kerala?

- A) 8th
- B) 9th
- C) 6th
- D) 7th

Answer : B

- ✓ The ninth edition of the Malabar River Festival opens at Thusharagiri in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- ✓ The three-day event, organised by the Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society and the Kozhikode District Tourism Promotion Council will be held at Iruvanjhipuzha and Chalipuzha rivers at Thusharagiri.
- ✓ Besides Indian Kayakers, paddlers from ten countries including the US, UK, Israel, Kazakhstan, and South Africa are participating in the event.
- ✓ The competition will be held in Kayak Slalom, Boardercross, and Down River events. The National Whitewater Kayaking Championship will also be held as part of the Malabar River Festival this year.

Q. Who is the author of a book titled 'Monsoon'?

- A) Abhay K
- B) Vijay Tendulkar
- C) Ruskin Bond
- D) Samvad Kaumudi

Answer : A

- ✓ Poet-diplomat Abhay K launched his new book 'Monsoon' at Kathika Cultural Centre in Old Delhi.
- ✓ The book-length poem takes readers on a journey through the monsoon.
- ✓ This poem actually takes you along the real path of the monsoon and introduces you to various things; monuments, biodiversity, cuisine, languages, and so on.
- ✓ The book is a poetic symphony that transcends cultural boundaries and captures the beautiful emotions evoked by monsoons. The book creates a poetic tapestry out of love, reflection, and nostalgia.
- ✓ His translation of the 1st Magahi novel 'Phool Bahadur' by Jayanath Pati will be published by Penguin in Jan 2024

FAMOUS BOOKS AND AUTHORS IN NEWS 2033

- Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow : Vinod Mankara
- "Finance Ministers of India: From Independence to the Emergency (1947-1977)" : A.K. Bhattacharya
- Master Residential Real Estate : Ashwinder R Singh.



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- The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life Ruskin Bond
- Ringside Vijay Darda
- Guts Amidst Bloodbath: The Anshuman Gaekwad Narrative Aditya Bhushan
- "The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces" :Feroze Varun Gandhi.
- Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise" : Amitabh Kant .
- Milk and Honey : Rupri Kaur .
- Collective Spirit, Concrete Action : Shashi Shekhar Vempati.
- "Reflections" : Narayanan Vaghul.
- Jaidip Mukerjea : Autobiography titled "Crosscourt".
- 'Sachin@50'- Celebrating A Maestro : Boria Majumdar.
- "The Great Bank Robbery: NPAs, Scams and the Future of Regulation" : Pattabhi Ram & Sabyasachee Dash.
- "Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta" : Piyush Babele.
- "Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire" : Nandini Das.
- "War & Women" : Dr MA Hasan.
- 'Why can't Elephants be Red?' : Vani Tripathi Tikoo.
- Phoolange : Lekhnath Chhetri.
- Pyre : Perumal Murugan.
- Ghulam Nabi Azad's Autobiography 'Azaad' .
- "A Matter of the Heart: Education in India" : Anurag Behar.
- Snakes in the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0 : Shri Rajiv Malhotra and Vijaya Viswanathan.
- "Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform" : Rachna Biswat Rawat.
- Ambedkar a Life : Shashi Tharoor.
- "The World: A Family History of Humanity," : Simon Sebag Montefiore.
- "Revolutionaries In India's Freedom Struggle:" : Sanjeev Sanyal.
- "India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn" : Ashwin Fernandes.
- "The Light We Carry Overcoming In Uncertain
- Times" : Michelle Obama.
- Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian
- History : Vikram Sampath.



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- Freedom at Midnight, "City of Joy" : Dominique Lapierre.
- Forks in the Road My Days at RBI and Beyond : Chakravarthi Rangarajan.
- 'The World: A Family History' : Simon Sebag.
- Winning the Inner Battle : Shane Watson.
- Nuclearization of Asia : Rene Naba.
- From dependence to Self-Reliance : Bimal Jalan.
- The Philosophy of Modern Song : Bob Dylan
- India's Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era : P. Jyothimani.
- "As Good as My Word" : KM Chandrasekhar..
- 'Victory City' : Salman Rushdie
- "The Poverty of Political Economics" : Meghnad Desai

Q. Jose Paulino Gomes, touted as the world's oldest man, passes away at age 127. He was from which country?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Brazilian supercentenarian, Jose Paulino Gomes, touted as world's oldest man, passes away at age 127.
- ✓ Gomes possessed a marriage certificate dating back to 1917, which indicated his birth on August 4, 1895, making him a witness to two world wars and three pandemics.
- ✓ A legal adviser from the civil registry, responsible for maintaining people's records, confirmed the accuracy of Jose's details and verified that he was indeed born before 1900.

Q. Centre owes ___ crores in MGNREGS wages to 18 States and Union Territories

- A) ₹5,413 Crores
- B) ₹5,768 Crores
- C) ₹6,010 Crores
- D) ₹6,366 Crores

Answer : D



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- ✓ The Union Ministry of Rural Development informed Parliament that it owes ₹6,366 crore under the wage component of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to States.
- ✓ There are a total of 14.42 crore active MGNREGS workers, most of whom are women, dependent on the wages to supplement their family's income. Of the total sum, ₹2,770 crore is owed to West Bengal alone.
- ✓ Invoking Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the Centre has blocked payment of over ₹7,500 crore to West Bengal for "non-compliance of directives of the Central government" since December 2021.
- ✓ MGNREGS aims : To enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to unskilled manual work

Q. Who have signed MoU with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for the first time ever?

- A) SASES
- B) SMSES
- C) MSSES
- D) SSMES

Answer : B

- ✓ For the first time ever, Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) signed 2nd August 2023 MoU with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at the grassroots level.
- ✓ SMSES, which has been conducting the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament since 1960, will form a Subroto XI (eleven) team under Junior Boys (Under-17) from this edition onwards.
- ✓ Addressing media in New Delhi, Air Vice Marshal and SMSES member Alok Sharma announced that the team will also participate in AIFF Youth Competition from the 2023-24 season.
- ✓ Clubs from the Indian Super League, Indian Women's League, and I-League will also pick up players from the Subroto Cup

Q. India is ___ amongst spacefaring countries in the world.

- A) 3rd
- B) 4th
- C) 5th
- D) 6th

Answer : C

- ✓ India is the fifth amongst spacefaring countries in the world having end-to-end capabilities in Space Research and Development (R&D).



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Q. When is the Hiroshima Day celebrated every year?

- A) 03 August B) 05 August
C) 06 August D) 04 August

Answer : C

- ✓ Hiroshima Day takes place every year on August 6 to commemorate the day in August 1945 when an atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6 by United States, followed a few days later by another drop on the city of Nagasaki on August 9.
- ✓ Although these bombings effectively ended World War II, the two cities were terribly destroyed and casualties were estimated at around 200,000, mostly civilians.
- ✓ This was the first time in the history of warfare when a nuclear bomb was used against a nation.
- ✓ The Day is observed to advocate, pray and work for a ban on all nuclear weapons and an end to war and violence through anti-war and anti-nuclear discussions and demonstrations around the world.
- ✓ **2023 marks the 78th anniversary of the world's first atomic bomb**
- ✓ On 6th August 1945, a US bomber dropped the uranium fission bomb, codenamed Little Boy, on Hiroshima, a city in Japan
- ✓ Three days later it dropped another bomb codenamed Fat Man, on Nagasaki

Q. The Federation of Economic Development Association (FEDA) hosted the International Education Summit & Conference 2023 in which city?

- A) Paris B) Dubai
C) London D) New York

Answer : B

- ✓ The Federation of Economic Development Association (FEDA) hosted the International Education Summit & Conference 2023 at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University (HBMSU) in Dubai.
- ✓ The event was attended by more than 120 participants from various academic disciplines.
- ✓ The summit was aimed at providing a platform for ambitious minds to showcase academic excellence. It featured a conference on the topic of Innovative Research In Economics Management, Information Technology and Legal Studies



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Q. The Padma Bhushan awardee, N Vittal passed away recently in Chennai. He was the former __.

- A) Central Vigilance Commissioner
- B) Solicitor General of India
- C) National Security Advisor of India
- D) Director Central Bureau of Investigation

Answer : A

- ✓ The Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, 1960 batch, N Vittal passed away in Chennai.
- ✓ He was a former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- ✓ His experience of more than 40 years covered a wide spectrum with focus on industrial administration, science and technology, and security.
- ✓ As Chairman of the Telecom Commission, he also initiated the process of liberalization in the telecom sector and played a major role in getting the National Telecom Policy 1994 approved.
- ✓ He authored a book titled Corruption in India – The Roadblock to National Prosperity.

Q. Who has become the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final 2023 in Berlin?

- A) Deepika Kumari
- B) Aditi Swami
- C) Tarundeep Rai
- D) Dola Banerjee

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian archer, Aditi Swami has become the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final 2023 in Berlin.
- ✓ 17-year-old Aditi, became the senior world champion when she defeated Andrea Becerra of Mexico, 149-147 in the summit clash of the compound women's event.
- ✓ Conversely, India's Ojas Deotale also created history after defeating Lukasz Przybylski of Poland in a thrilling final to become the new world champion in Men's Individual compound event.

Q. Guyana will purchase two Dornier 228 aircraft from which Indian company?

- A) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
- B) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- C) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)



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Answer : D

- ✓ Guyana to the purchase of two Dornier 228 aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ✓ Guyana is also interested in purchasing patrol vessels, a fleet of armoured vehicles, and radar systems.
- ✓ Guyana and India will also step-up personnel training to improve military-to-military contacts and Guyana is collaborating with India on cybersecurity and IT operations.
- ✓ India and Guyana will improve military-to-military contacts through personnel training.

HAL IN NEWS 2023

- Guyana to the purchase of two Dornier 228 aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Argentina to acquire light and medium utility helicopters from HAL.
- Ministry of Defence has recently signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of two Dornier Aircraft, aimed at enhancing the aerial surveillance capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). With an overall cost of Rs 458 crore.
- United States, General Electric (GE) Aerospace has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a state-run Indian aerospace company. The MoU paves the way for the joint production of fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and signifies a new era in the India-US partnership.
- HAL received approval from DGCA for indigenously developed 'black boxes'.
- The defence ministry sealed a deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to procure six Dornier aircraft at a cost of Rs 667 crore for the Indian Air Force.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has unveiled the Hindustan Lead-in Fighter Trainer (HLFT-42) design of the scale model at the 14th edition of Aero India 2023 held in Bengaluru.
- Union Cabinet approved the procurement of 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The approval was given to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The procurement would cost around Rs 6,828 crore.
- Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL), an aerospace company in India, and EDGE, the top defence company in the UAE, inked a Memorandum of Understanding at the International Defense Exhibition and Conference (IDEX).
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL):
- Establishment: 23 December 1940 (Aircraft manufacturing started from 1942).



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- ✓ Implementation: The NTTM has been approved with an implementation period of four years starting from FY 2020-21 till FY 2023-24. The total outlay of the mission is INR 1480 Cr.
- ✓ Target : The Mission has a target to take the domestic market size of the technical textile sector to \$ 40-50 Bn by the year 2024 with an average growth rate of 15-20% per annum

Q. Indian Army inducted the lighter and more compact version of the developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M) called "Swathi Mountains" in the Army. It is developed by which company?

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited B) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**
C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited D) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Army inducted the lighter and more compact version of the indigenously developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M) called "Swathi Mountains."
- ✓ **About Swathi Mountains.**
- ✓ The Swathi Mountains WLR is an advanced electronically scanned phased array radar.
- ✓ It is specifically designed for operations in mountainous and high-altitude areas.
- ✓ It was developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru.
- ✓ **What is a Weapon Locating Radar?**
- ✓ The WLR stands as a critical asset for modern militaries, employing advanced signal processing techniques to autonomously detect and track hostile artillery, mortars, and rocket launchers.
- ✓ It even tracks friendly fire trajectories, enabling precise calculations for more accurate artillery strikes.
- ✓ The radar's sophistication lies in its ability to detect and track small projectiles across the battlefield while factoring in environmental conditions for precise launch and impact point estimations.
- ✓ A hallmark of the WLR is its high mobility and swift deployment capabilities, allowing it to adapt to changing operational requirements efficiently.
- ✓ Its slewable platform further enhances its agility, enabling the scanning of different areas without the need for physical repositioning.
- ✓ The WLR also acts as a potent friendly force multiplier by providing critical information on enemy weapon systems.
- ✓ Swathi Palins vs. Swathi Mountains.
- ✓ The Swathi radar comes in two versions: the Swathi Plains (WLR) and the Swathi Mountains (WLR-M).



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- ✓ The Swathi Plains version is primarily designed to locate hostile guns, mortars, and rockets, and it can also track the fall of shot from friendly weapons for corrective measures on flat terrains like Plains, as the name of the version suggests

Q. Which state government is planning to build a dam in the state at a cost of Rs 6,134 crore?.

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Rajasthan

C) Haryana

D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ The Haryana government is planning to build a dam at a cost of 6,134 crore rupees.
- ✓ It will have a 14-km-long reservoir and will be built 4.5 km upstream from the Hathnikund Barrage in Yamunanagar district.
- ✓ Once the project is completed, the state will have greater availability of irrigation water, groundwater recharge, and aquaculture, apart from the generation of 250 MW of electricity.
- ✓ Its reservoir will have a capacity of 10.82 lakh cusecs. This is likely to prevent floods caused by the Yamuna in Delhi and in adjoining areas of the river in Haryana. The dam area also shares borders with Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh

HARYANA IN NEWS 2023

- Haryana government is planning to build a dam at a cost of 6,134 crore rupees.
- Haryana has won the 6th Youth Women's National Boxing Championships in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Startup20 Shikhar summit begins in Haryana's Gurugram.
- India's first hydrogen-powered train will start its journey from Jind district of Haryana.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 4 National Highway projects at Sonapat, Karnal, and Ambala in Haryana.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal has announced Rs 10,000 monthly pension for Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan winners of the state under a monthly pension scheme.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal will inaugurate the integrated Water Resources Action Plan-2023-25 under the Amrit Jal Kranti initiative.



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- Haryana has launched a special campaign to raise awareness about door-to-door waste collection and segregation.
- A tiger has been spotted in a camera trap at Kalesar National Park in Yamunanagar district of Haryana.
- Haryana becomes first state in India to have 100% electrified railway network.
- First nuclear power plant in North India would be built in Gorakhpur, Haryana

Q. 'Maya' is in the news recently, what is it?

A) ISRO's Satellite

B) Drone System

C) Operating System

D) Missile System

Answer : C

- ✓ The Defence Ministry recently decided to drop the Microsoft operating system and go for a local one named Maya operating system.
- ✓ **About Maya OS:**
- ✓ It is a new Operation System (OS) based on an open-source platform.
- ✓ It has the interface and all functionality like Windows and users will not feel much difference as they transition to it.
- ✓ Maya was developed by government development agencies within six months.
- ✓ Aim: To prevent malware attacks and other cyberattacks which had seen a steep increase.
- ✓ Currently, Maya is being installed only in Defence Ministry systems and not on computers connected to the networks of the three Services.
- ✓ **What is an Operating System (OS)?**
- ✓ An OS is a software program that acts as an intermediary between computer hardware and the computer user.
- ✓ It provides a user-friendly interface and manages the hardware and software resources of a computer system.
- ✓ In essence, an operating system enables a user to interact with a computer and run applications efficiently.
- ✓ An OS, after being initially loaded into the computer by a boot program, manages all of the other application programs in a computer



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Q. 'Luna 25' is the name of the Lunar Mission of which country?

- A) Israel
B) Russia
C) Japan
D) China

Answer : B

- ✓ Russia is set to launch its first lunar landing spacecraft in nearly half a century on August 11.
- ✓ Luna 25 (Luna-Glob lander) is a planned lunar lander mission by Roscosmos.
- ✓ About Luna-25
- ✓ It is also designated as the Luna-Glob-Lander which is a Russian lunar lander mission.
- ✓ It is targeted to the south polar region of the Moon.
- ✓ There are two primary scientific objectives of the mission: to study composition of the polar regolith, and to study the plasma and dust components of the lunar polar exosphere.
- ✓ It will take off from the Vostochny cosmodrome.
- ✓ Russia to launch first moon lander Luna-25 days ahead of Chandrayaan-3 landing
- ✓ Lander structure:
- ✓ Luna 25's lander features a four-legged base housing landing rockets and propellant tanks.
- ✓ An upper compartment contains solar panels, communication equipment, onboard computers, and scientific instruments.
- ✓ Payloads:
- ✓ It carries eight science instruments, including gamma-ray and neutron spectrometers, infrared spectrometers, mass spectrometers, and imaging systems.
- ✓ Landing Site:
- ✓ The primary landing site for Luna 25 is near the lunar south pole, with a reserve site located southwest of the Manzini crater.
- ✓ Russia has unveiled a new series of space Lunar missions. The first of those missions, named as "Luna 25", is scheduled to launch this October.
- ✓ The country had a 45-year drought of moon landings.
- ✓ The lander has been designed to study the ice permanently frozen below the moon's surface.
- ✓ The scientists will also evaluate the dangers posed by sharp fragments of lunar dust.



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Q. North East Venture Fund is registered as a Category I Venture Capital Fund under which entity?

- A) RBI
B) SEBI
C) IRDAI
D) SIDBI

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister for Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region informed Lok Sabha about the North East Venture Fund.
- ✓ **About North East Venture Fund**
- ✓ It is registered as a Category I Venture Capital Fund under Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) Regulations, 2012.
- ✓ An independent committee (Investment Committee) comprising of experienced professionals from the field of venture funding, private equity, developmental banking etc takes the investment decision.
- ✓ As a regulatory requirement, periodic reporting on the operation/compliances of regulation is placed before the contributors of NEVF and other concerned bodies in a structured manner.
- ✓ In addition, fund operation is also monitored by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in the form of periodic audit.
- ✓ It was established as a close ended fund with a target corpus of Rs. 100 crore.
- ✓ It has already received its targeted corpus with contribution of Rs. 30 crore from North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi), Rs. 25 crore from Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Rs. 45 crore from Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).
- ✓ However, the contribution of MDoNER was given to NEDFi as interest free loan to be repayable in lump sum at the end of 15 years.

Q. Which insurance company has launched the 'Direct Incentive Disbursement' for its sales force in the Delhi and Uttarakhand circles?

- A) Max Life Insurance
B) Postal Life Insurance
C) Bajaj Allianz Insurance
D) Bharti AXA Insurance

Answer : B

- ✓ Recognising the pivotal role of its sales force, the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) introduced the pilot program for "Direct Incentive Disbursement" in the Delhi and Uttarakhand Circles.
- ✓ **About Direct Incentive Disbursement Program.**



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- ✓ This programme will recognize the role of PLI's sales force which is the driving force behind the department's accomplishments.
- ✓ It will impact around two lakh sales force members across the nation, including Gramin Dak Sevaks, Direct Agents, Field Officers, and Departmental Employees.
- ✓ Key benefits of pilot program.
- ✓ Swift and Secure Transactions: Sales force receives incentives directly in their Post Office Savings Bank accounts.
- ✓ Convenience and Motivation: Sales force can conveniently manage their funds, and immediate rewards drive optimal performance.
- ✓ Simplified Administration: Automated payouts reduce administrative costs, enabling a greater focus on delivering client service.
- ✓ Key facts about Postal Life Insurance
- ✓ It is the oldest life insurer in this country which was introduced on 1st February 1884.
- ✓ It started as a welfare scheme for the benefit of postal employees and was later extended to the employees of the Telegraph Department in 1888.
- ✓ In 1894, PLI extended insurance cover to female employees of the erstwhile P & T Department at a time when no other insurance company covered female lives.

Q. United States has officially given the nod for the delivery of M1 Abrams Tank to which country?

A) Pakistan

B) Afghanistan

C) Ukraine

D) Egypt

Answer : C

- ✓ The United States has officially given the nod for the delivery of Abrams tanks to Ukraine.
- ✓ About M1 Abrams Tank.
- ✓ It is the United States main battle tank.
- ✓ The first M1 tank was manufactured by General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) in 1978 and was delivered to the US Army in 1980.
- ✓ It was named in honor to General Abrams, commander of US forces during the Vietnam War.
- ✓ The export version of the Abrams is used by the armies of Australia, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Poland, and Saudi Arabia.



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✓ Features:

- ✓ It uses a powerful and complex turbine engine that produces 1,500 horsepower and requires four persons to operate.
- ✓ It is one of the heaviest tanks in service at nearly 62 metric tons.
- ✓ The M1 tanks have a maximum speed of 45.
- ✓ Armament: The Abrams is armed with a 120 mm main gun and .50 caliber and 7.62 mm machine guns.
- ✓ It can destroy tank-size targets at a range of 2 km while firing on the move.
- ✓ In modern versions of the Abrams tank, there are layers of depleted uranium armour which provides substantial protection to those inside.

Q. Which ship recently participated in PASSEX 2023 with Royal Saudi Navy?

- A) INS Vikramaditya B) INS Vikrant
C) INS Kolkata D) INS Chennai

Answer : D

- ✓ INS Chennai recently deployed in the Red Sea undertook Passage Exercise (Passex) with Royal Saudi Naval Ship HMS Al Jubail.
- ✓ About INS Chennai.
- ✓ It is the Indian Navy's indigenously designed and constructed guided missile destroyer.
- ✓ It is the third and last ship of the Kolkata-class stealth-guided missile destroyers (Project 15A).
- ✓ It was constructed by the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) at Mumbai.
- ✓ INS Chennai was commissioned into the Indian Navy on November 21, 2016.
- ✓ Key Facts about Red Sea.
- ✓ It is a semi-enclosed inlet (or extension) of the Indian Ocean between the continents of Africa from Asia.
- ✓ It is connected to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to the south through the Gulf of Aden and the narrow strait of Bab el Mandeb

Q. IIT-Roorkee and Geological Survey of India (GSI) have discovered the oldest fossil remains of dicraeosaurid dinosaur in which city?

- A) Jodhpur B) Jaisalmer
C) Hanumangar D) Dungarpur



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Q. Which state government has recently implemented the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme with a grant of 58 crores rupees to promote its indigenous products at the international level?

A) Madhya Pradesh

B) Gujarat

C) Haryana

D) Uttarakhand

Answer : B

- ✓ Gujarat Govt implement One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.
- ✓ The government of Gujarat has implemented the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme with a grant of 58 crores rupees to promote its indigenous products at the international level.
- ✓ Under this scheme, more than 25 handicraft products have been selected from 21 districts of the state.
- ✓ **About One District One Product (ODOP) programme.**
- ✓ It was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in 2018.
- ✓ Objective: To help districts reach their full potential, foster economic and socio-cultural growth, and create employment opportunities, especially, in rural areas.
- ✓ This initiative aims to turn every district in India, into an export hub through promotion of the product in which the district specialises.
- ✓ The initiative plans to accomplish this by scaling manufacturing, supporting local businesses, finding potential foreign customers and so on, thus helping to achieve the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision.
- ✓ The ODOP Initiative has identified a total of 1102 products from 761 districts across the country.
- ✓ This initiative is carried out with the 'Districts as Exports Hub' initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce

GUJARAT IN NEWS 2023

- London-based company OneWeb and the Gujarat Government's Science and Technology Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today for the establishment of a 'Satellite Network Portal Site' in Gujarat.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah organized a virtual ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School.
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the best tourism facilities in the historical lighthouses of Gujarat.



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- Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat.
- Gujarat government signs MoU with US chip maker firm Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Ahmedabad.
- Indian cabinet has given its approval to Micron Technology's plan to invest \$2.7 billion in setting up a semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat.
- Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet begins at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- BJP leader Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term.
- Madhvendra Singh has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Maritime Cluster by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited.
- First G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Dhordo in Kutch region of Gujarat.
- Former Gujarat governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Prakash Kohli passed away.
- Gujarat Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. The state was established on May 1, 1960.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has declared the last week of April as "Swagat Saptah" in commemoration of the completion of 20 years of the "State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology" (SWAGAT) initiative.
- Deakin University of Australia to set up campus in GIFT city.
- Two Australian Universities Wollongong and Deakin to set up Campuses in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- The Youth 20 India Summit will be held at the Maharaja Sayajirao University Vadodara in Gujarat.
- International Kite Festival 2023 begins in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q. A special art exhibition dedicated to G-20 member countries commenced in which state?

A) Bihar

B) Kerala

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Karnataka

Answer : A

✓ A special art exhibition titled "Together We Art" begins at Bihar Museum, Patna.



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- ✓ a special art exhibition dedicated to the G-20 member countries in Bihar titled "Together We Art" will open at the Bihar Museum in Patna.
- ✓ The exhibition will run for two months starting today and will end on 7th October 2023.
- ✓ Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will inaugurate the exhibition.
- ✓ The event is organised by the Union Ministry of Art and Culture as part of India's chairmanship of G-20 countries.
- ✓ A total of 29 countries including India are participating in the exhibition.
- ✓ To mark the foundation day, the Bihar Museum Biennial 2023 will also begin, which will run for five months.
- ✓ BIHAR
- ✓ Formation - 22 March 1912
- ✓ Capital - Patna
- ✓ District - 38
- ✓ Governor - Rajendra Arlekar
- ✓ Chief Minister - Nitish Kumar
- ✓ Deputy Chief Minister - Tejashwi Yadav
- ✓ Rajya Sabha - 16 seats
- ✓ Lok Sabha - 40 seats

Q. Which bank has partnered with the state government for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation to ramp up the state tourism department's payment solutions?

- A) State Bank of India B) Bandhan Bank
C) ICICI Bank D) HDFC Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Bandhan Bank has partnered with the state government for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation to ramp up the state tourism department's payment solutions.
- ✓ The bank has provided Point of Sale (PoS) machines to facilitate card payments by tourists.
- ✓ Prime locations including Puri, Bhubaneswar, Konark, Chilka, and Gopalpur will be covered under this tieup.



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- ✓ The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (World Tribal Day) is observed on 9 August annually to protect the rights of the world's indigenous population and recognize the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.
- ✓ The day was recognised by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994.
- ✓ The date to marks the day of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982.
- ✓ The theme picked for World Tribal Day 2023 is "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."

Q. Which nationwide campaign has been started in honor of the martyred brave soldiers of the country?

- A) Desh ke Veer Saput
- B) Desh ke Veer Jawan
- C) Meri Mati Mera Desh
- D) Mera Bharat Mahan

Answer : C

- ✓ Nation -wide “Meri Mati Mera Desh” Campaign will be launched on 9th August 2023, to pay tribute to the ‘Veers’ who laid down their lives for the country.
- ✓ From 9th to 30th August , 2023, the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign will include programs at the village, and block levels , by local urban bodies, as well as state and national level.
- ✓ The campaign will include various programs across the country to remember the bravehearts (Veers). Shilaphalakams (memorial plaques) commemorating them will be installed in village panchayats.
- ✓ This campaign is the concluding event of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav,' which began on 12th March , 2021, and has witnessed widespread public participation(Jan Bhagidari) with over 2 lakh programs organized across India.
- ✓ Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, recently announced this campaign during his Mann Ki Baat broadcast. The campaign aims to honour the brave freedom fighters and bravehearts who sacrificed their lives for the country.
- ✓ An 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' will be conducted, carrying soil from all corners of the country in 7500 kalash to create an 'Amrit Vatika' in Delhi. This 'Amrit Vatika' will symbolize the commitment to 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.'



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CAMPAIGN IN NEWS 2023

- 'Meri Mati Mera Desh Abhiyan' is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Union Minister Anurag Thakur flagged off "Bharat in Paris" campaign.
- Federal Bank launches 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me' campaign.
- Union Minister Hardeep S Puri launched the campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shahar' in New Delhi.
- RBI Launches '100 Days 100 Pays' Campaign to Settle Unclaimed Deposits.
- Union Minister Giriraj Singh launched the SAMARTH campaign to promote digital transactions at the Gram Panchayat level.
- A 100-day "Uttar Pradesh Global City" campaign has been launched by the 'Uttar Pradesh Government' ahead of the Global Investors Summit and G-20 Summit.
- UAE's Sharjah Police launched a traffic campaign called "Stay in Your Lane" to tackle road violations..
- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2023-24 on 3rd May at NASC Complex New Delhi.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav participated in G20 Mega Beach Clean Up campaign at Juhu Beach in Mumbai.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav on 4 February launched the 'Save Wetlands Campaign'.
- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh, who is also the vice president of CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research), on 17 December announced the launching of "One Week, One Lab" countrywide campaign from January 6, 2023.
- Meta Launches #DigitalSuraksha campaign in partnership with MeitY for the G20 campaign.
- Uttar Pradesh Government Launched 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' Campaign.
- Bandhan Bank launched the 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign along with the bank's brand ambassador Sourav Ganguly.
- WhatsApp launches 'Stay Safe' campaign to educate on online safety.
- The 'Catch the Rain 2023' campaign was introduced by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi.



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- ✓ The report's findings showed India well on the way to meeting a commitment to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to reduce emissions intensity by 45% from the 2005 level by 2030.
- ✓ India's rate of emissions intensity – the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted for every unit increase of gross domestic product (GDP) – fell by 33% from 2005 to 2019, officials privy to the preparations of the Third National Communication (TNC) report .
- ✓ Many countries are preparing their TNC reports to update the UNFCCC on their efforts to mitigate emissions.
- ✓ India's average rate of reduction in emissions increased to 3% annually in the period 2016-2019, from just about 1.5% in the period 2014-2016.
- ✓ As of 2019, forests and trees covered 24.56%, or 80.73 million hectares, of India.
- ✓ Recently, India has also been trying to promote green hydrogen, manufactured by splitting water molecules using renewable energy.
- ✓ Central Electricity Authority data shows that non-fossil fuel-based power – including hydro, nuclear and renewable energy – accounted for 25.3% of India's total power generation in the fiscal year that ended in March, up from 24.6% three years earlier.
- ✓ Thermal power stations still provide 73% of the electricity consumed, down from about 75% in 2019.

Q. What is the rank of India in Internet Resilience Index?

- A) 5th
- B) 6th
- C) 7th
- D) 8th

Answer : B

- ✓ India, a rapidly developing nation in the realm of technology and connectivity, has achieved an overall score of 43 percent in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI).
- ✓ This achievement positions India as the sixth-ranked country in the South Asian region.
- ✓ The IRI, developed by the global non-profit organization Internet Society, provides a comprehensive assessment of a country's internet ecosystem, taking into account factors such as security, performance, infrastructure, and market readiness.
- ✓ Security Stepping Up: India's IPv6 Adoption :



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- ✓ He further informed that earlier this year in March Basohli Painting of Kathua and Ladakh Wood Carving of Ladakh got GI tag through NABARD support.
- ✓ Further 05 more products of J&K are in the final stages of getting GI Tag.
- ✓ Chikri is a pale, honey-coloured, fine grained softwood found in hill ranges of Rajouri district of Jammu province.
- ✓ The Chikri woodcraft of Rajouri is characterized by intricate carving and detailing.

Q. What is the current repo rate after the third bi-monthly monetary policy for FY24?

- A) 4.5% B) 7.5%
C) 5.5% D) 6.5%

Answer : D

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the third bi-monthly monetary policy for FY24.
- ✓ The three-day meeting of the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI was held from August 8 to 10.
- ✓ The RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%. Since May 2022, the central bank has raised the repo rate by 250 basis points (bps).
- ✓ Interest Rates
- ✓ Repo rate unchanged at 6.5%
- ✓ Standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25%
- ✓ Marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate maintained at 6.75%
- ✓ CRR at 4.5%
- ✓ SLR at 18.00%
- ✓ Reverse Repo Rate is 3.35%
- ✓ Real GDP growth projection for FY224 retained at 6.5%
- ✓ The Reserve Bank is planning to artificial intelligence (AI) in UPI payments. Near Field Communication (NFC) technology will be deployed in offline payments via in UPI-Lite
- ✓ RBI proposes to enhance transactions limits for small value digital payments to ₹500 from ₹200 in UPI Lite



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- ✓ To absorb surplus liquidity generated by various factors, including return of ₹2000 notes to the banking system, RBI has asked banks to maintain an incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (ICRR) of 10 per cent on the increase in their deposits between May 19 and July 28.
- ✓ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has announced that the cash reserve ratio (CRR) remains unchanged at 4.5 per cent.
- ✓ Next meeting of the RBI rate setting panel (MPC) will be held October 4-6.
- ✓ The MPC has 6 members: three RBI officials and three externals. The three external members of MPC are: Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R Varma. Besides governor Shaktikanta Das, the other RBI officials in MPC are Rajiv Ranjan (executive director) and Michael Debabrata Patra (deputy governor).

Q. Which Small Finance bank has launched a 24x7 of Video Banking Service, providing customers with real-time video calls for banking services?

- A) AU Small Finance Bank B) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
C) Equitas Small Finance Bank D) Capital Small Finance Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ AU Small Finance Bank has launched 24x7 for 365 days of Video Banking, providing customers with real-time video calls for banking services.
- ✓ AU Small Finance Bank is the first bank in India to launch this type of service.
- ✓ This facility is available to the bank's customers irrespective of the type of their banking relationship (credit card, loan, savings, digital savings, basic service savings, current account, etc).
- ✓ Even Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan account holders of AU SFB can avail of this video banking service for free.
- ✓ This 24X7 video calling feature deployed an advanced encryption layer for transmitting data between the customer's device to the bank's servers.
- ✓ As of 2023, there are 12 Small Finance Banks in India.
- ✓ AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- ✓ Founded :1996
- ✓ Founder : Sanjay Agarwal
- ✓ Headquarters : Jaipur, Rajasthan
- ✓ MD & CEO : Sanjay Agarwal
- ✓ Tagline : Chalo Aage Badhein



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SMALL FINANCE BANK IN NEWS 2023

- AU Small Finance Bank, the largest small finance bank in India, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of their innovative 24×7 video banking platform.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank has entered into a partnership with IBM Consulting to develop and construct a digital banking platform.
- Arya.ag announces partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to drive farmers' financial inclusion.
- AU Small Finance Bank has announced that it has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an authorized dealer in foreign exchange. The bank has received a license to operate as an Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999.
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank announced the launch of 'Blossom Women's Savings Account' with 7 percent per annum interest rate with monthly interest credit.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Hello Ujjivan- India's first voice, visual, vernacular banking app.
- ESAF Small Finance Bank has bagged the prestigious Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022 for its contributions in advancing the goal of financial inclusion and supporting inclusive growth.
- Reserve Bank of India gave its approval to SBI Funds Management Ltd to acquire up to 9.99% stake in Equitas Small Finance Bank through the schemes of SBI Mutual Fund.
- AU Small Finance Bank introduces RuPay credit card for self-employed Customers

Q. Who has been appointed as the sole head coach of Badminton Association of India's Guwahati National Center of Excellence?

A) Mulyo Handoyo

B) Ivan Sazonov

C) Tony Gunawan

D) Pullela Gopichand

Answer : A

- ✓ Indonesian Mulyo Handoyo has been appointed as the singles head coach at the National Center of Excellence in Guwahati, with the Badminton Association of India (BAI) also roping in two more foreign coaches for the newly-constructed facility.



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- Kerala declared first State to enable digital banking service.
- M T Vasudevan Nair was awarded the "Kerala Jyoti", the highest civilian honour in Kerala.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd G20 Empower meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the theme “Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy”.
- Kerala to become first State to use robotics tech extensively for manhole cleaning.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes, listed as Ramsar sites.

Q. Who has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court?

- A) Justice Prem Prakash Sinha B) Justice Deepak Kumar Mishra
C) Justice Daya Shankar Pandey D) Justice Subhasis Talapatra

Answer : D

- ✓ Justice Subhasis Talapatra, Judge of the Orissa High Court, took oath as the 33rd Chief Justice of the High Court consequent upon the superannuation of its former Chief Justice Dr. S. Muralidhar. He was administered oath by Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Governor of Odisha.

Q. Who has launched the e-portal of 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilp Kosh'?

- A) Amit Shah B) Narendra Modi
C) Droupadi Murmu D) Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer : B

- ✓ During the National Handloom Day celebration held at Bharat Mandapan in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the e-portal 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilp Kosh - A Repository of Textiles and Crafts.'
- ✓ The portal has been developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles. It aims to create a comprehensive catalogue of India's diverse clothing on a single platform.
- ✓ Speaking at the event, the Prime Minister highlighted how the rich tapestry of Indian clothing and textiles is a mirror of the country's vibrant cultural heritage.
- ✓ During the event, the PM also informed that the turnover of the khadi and village industries has reached more than Rs 1.3 lakh crore, as compared to around Rs 30,000 crore 9 years ago.



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- ✓ The celebration of National Handloom Day was initiated by the government 8 years ago, with the first one taking place on August 7, 2015.

Q. Central government has approved to Build Research Parks at __ IITs, IISc Bangalore in August 2023.

- A) 8 Indian Institute of Technology (IITs)
- B) 9 Indian Institute of Technology (IITs)
- C) 10 Indian Institute of Technology (IITs)
- D) 11 Indian Institute of Technology (IITs)

Answer : A

- ✓ The Central government has approved the setting up of research parks at 8 Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore to augment the research ecosystem in the country, according to the Union Education Ministry.
- ✓ To strengthen the country's research ecosystem, the government will build research parks at IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Guwahati, and IIT Kanpur as well as IISc Bangalore.

Q. India will contribute __ USD from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to the Tuvalu project in August 2023.

- A) 500,000 USD
- B) 600,000 USD
- C) 700,000 USD
- D) 800,000 USD

Answer : C

- ✓ According to a statement from India's Permanent Mission to the UN, the country will contribute 700,000 USD from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to the Tuvalu project to store and provide clean water in schools.
- ✓ Notably, the only public school in Tuvalu is called "Motufoua Secondary School."
- ✓ With a 760 metric cube capacity, the proposed concrete water cistern will store and supply clean water to students, teachers, and school staff, fostering good hygiene and lowering the incidence of water-borne illnesses.



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Q. Which country will launch the BRICS start-up forum 2023 during BRICS Meeting?

- A) Russia
B) India
C) South Africa
D) China

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal represented India at the virtual 7th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Industry Minister's Meeting, hosted by South Africa
- ✓ During the meeting, Goyal announced India's plans to launch the BRICS Startup Forum in 2023.
- ✓ The minister while highlighting the transformation that has taken place in India, also commented on the expanding Startup India initiative that has led to the creation of nearly 100,000 startups in the country.
- ✓ He focused on "Transforming Production Systems" and the support India can offer to other BRICS members and the wider international community.
- ✓ They also re-emphasized the need for digitalization, industrialization, innovation, inclusiveness, and investment among BRICS countries.
- ✓ The BRICS group of nations comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It accounts for more than 40% of the world's population and about 26% of the global economy.
- ✓ About BRICS
- ✓ The full form of BRICS is Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ✓ Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC (without South Africa) in 2001.
- ✓ He claimed that by 2050, the four BRIC economies would dominate the global economy by 2050.
- ✓ South Africa was included in the list in 2010.
- ✓ The presidency of the Forum is rotated annually among the members.
- ✓ BRICS accounts for about 40% of the world's population.
- ✓ It accounts for 30% of the world's GDP (Gross Domestic Product).
- ✓ In the year 2014, during the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, the BRICS leaders signed an agreement to establish a New Development Bank (NDB).

Q. Who has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of SBI Life Insurance Company?

- A) Amit Jhingran
B) Debadatta Chand
C) J Packirisamy
D) Mallikarjuna Rao



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- ✓ United States dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan and was codenamed “Fat Man” due to the design of the bomb as it had a wide, round shape.
- ✓ The atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima (August 6) forced Japan to surrender, thus ending World War II.

Q. August 10 is dedicated to observing which of these days?

- A) World Elephant Day B) World Lion Day
C) World Tiger Day D) World Fish Day

Answer : B

- ✓ World Lion Day is observed globally on August 10 every year with the following objective:
- ✓ raise awareness of lion and the issues that the species faces in the wild.
- ✓ find ways to protect the big cat’s natural environment
- ✓ educate people who live near wild cats on the dangers and how to protect themselves
- ✓ The World Lion Day was launched in 2013.
- ✓ The big cat is listed as an endangered species in the IUCN Red List.

Q. Which bank will acquire the remaining 7 percent stake in Max Life Insurance for Rs 1,612 crore?

- A) HDFC Bank B) Axis Bank
C) Yes Bank D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Axis Bank to acquire balance 7% stake in Max Life for Rs 1,612 crore
- ✓ Axis Bank, along with its subsidiaries will acquire the remaining 7 percent stake in Max Life Insurance.
- ✓ Acquisitions, Divestments, and Merger Committee has approved infusion of Rs 1,612 crore in Max Life through preferential allotment.
- ✓ The combined weight of Axis Bank, Axis Securities, and Axis Capital has already provided them with a significant 12.02 percent stake in Max Life.
- ✓ With the acquisition of the additional 7 percent stake, the collective holdings of Axis Entities will surge to a slightly over 19.02 percent stake in Max Life.
- ✓ Notably, this strategic move will also see an increase in Axis Bank’s direct stake in Max Life to 16.22 percent.



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AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023

- Axis Bank to acquire balance 7% stake in Max Life for Rs 1,612 crore.
- Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards.
- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.
- Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.
- Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.
- Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd announce strategic partnership under the co-lending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- AXIS BANK
- Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

Q. 5.33 crore subscribers have so far enrolled in Atal Pension Yojana (APY), the government told in Lok Shaba. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is administered by which organisation?

A) PFRDA

B) RBI

C) LIC

D) IRDAI

Answer : A

- ✓ 5.33 crore subscribers have so far enrolled in Atal Pension Yojana (APY), the government told in Lok Shaba.
- ✓ It aims to deliver old age income security to all citizens of India, particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector.
- ✓ Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched on 9 May 2015 and was operationalized from 1 June 2015.



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- Odisha becomes the first state to notify a committee for conservation of seeds preserved by tribal farmers.
- Odisha government launched the 'Mo Ghara' (My Home) housing scheme.
- PM Modi launches railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha.
- Odisha government has expanded the jurisdiction of Special Development Councils (SDCs) from nine to 23 districts to improve the lives of 84 lakh tribal people.
- Odisha has its 88th foundation day on 1st April 2023.
- World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 100 million loan under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Program.
- Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state.
- Aska police station of Odisha's Ganjam district became the country's number one police station.
- Gangapur police station in Odisha's Ganjam district has been awarded the second best police station award.
- Gold Deposits Found at Different Location in Three Districts of Odisha , including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the Odisha government aims to make Odisha slum-free by the end of 2023

Q. Who has launched the e-portal of 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilp Kosh' – a Repository of Textiles and Crafts developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)?

- A) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar B) Narendra Singh Tomar
C) Dharmendra Pradhan D) Narendra Modi

Answer : D

- ✓ PM Modi launched 'Bhartiya Vastra Evam Shilp Kosh' E-Portal
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the e-portal of 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilp Kosh' – a Repository of Textiles and Crafts developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).
- ✓ The launch was held on the 9th National Handloom Day celebration at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Delhi.



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- ✓ The programme was attended by over 3000 handloom and khadi weavers, artisans, and stakeholders from the textile and MSME sectors.

Q. Which state government will organize 'Khel Maharan' from November 1 to January 10 to identify and nurture sports talents at the grassroots level?

- A) Odisha
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Assam

Answer : D

- ✓ Assam government will organize 'Khel Maharan' from November 1 to January 10 to identify and nurture sports talents at the grassroots level.
- ✓ More than 50 lakh sportspersons will participate and compete in five sporting disciplines – Athletics, Football, Kabaddi, Volleyball, and Kho-Kho.
- ✓ To ensure fair competition, the 'Khel Maharan' initiative has categorized events into four age groups: Under 19 (Men), Under 19 (Women), Above 19 (Men), and Above 19 (Women).
- ✓ State-level events will be held at Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Kokrajhar, and Diphu

Q. Bajaj Finance has partnered with which general insurance company to provide car and two-wheeler insurance plans on the platform Bajaj Finance Insurance Mall?

- A) United India Insurance
- B) ICICI Lombard General Insurance
- C) SBI General Insurance
- D) Bharti AXA General Insurance

Answer : B

- ✓ Bajaj Finance has partnered with ICICI Lombard General Insurance along with other partners to provide car and two-wheeler insurance plans on the platform Bajaj Finance Insurance Mall.
- ✓ These policies can be bought instantly on the platform through an all-digital and seamless customer experience journey.
- ✓ The ICICI Lombard Car and Two-wheeler Insurance policies offer comprehensive damage coverage, including third-party cover and various add-on benefits to vehicle owners.

Q. How many gold medals has won by India at World Cadet Wrestling Championship 2023 in Istanbul, Turkey?

- A) 2
- B) 1
- C) 4
- D) 5



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- ✓ GeM has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering positive change, and its journey over the past seven years has been marked by remarkable achievements that have propelled it to become one of the largest public procurement portal in terms of both transaction value and the breadth of the buyer-seller ecosystem
- ✓ In an astonishingly short span of time, GeM has surpassed the achievements of renowned public procurement platforms such as South Korea's KONEPS and Singapore's GeBIZ.
- ✓ In 2023, GeM achieved a milestone of INR 2 lakh crore in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) for the fiscal year 2022-23.
- ✓ GeM is India's online marketplace for public procurement. Launched in 2016, GeM facilitates transparent and efficient procurement for government departments, organizations, and PSUs

Q. Who has been awarded the Tech Startup of the Year (AI) at the 13th Annual Entrepreneur India Awards?

- A) Cred
- B) Jio Haptik
- C) Dream 11
- D) Bharti Airtel

Answer : B

- ✓ Jio Haptik has been honored with the Tech Startup of the Year (Artificial Intelligence) award at the prestigious 13th Annual Entrepreneur India Awards.
- ✓ Swapan Rajdev, Haptik's co-founder & CTO, received the award as the ceremony organized by Entrepreneur India, in media partnership with Entrepreneur magazine and Entrepreneur.com, was held at the Hotel JW Marriott, Aerocity, New Delhi.
- ✓ Jio Haptik emerged as the winner of the Tech Startup of the Year in AI from 1000 other entries for the same award, highlighting the company's distinctive contribution to the technology landscape. It is testament to Jio Haptik's commitment to developing groundbreaking AI-driven solutions that set the industry benchmark for innovation and transformation.
- ✓ Aakrit Vaish, CEO and co-founder of Jio Haptik, was elated as he said: "We are humbled and thrilled to be named the Tech Startup of the Year in Artificial Intelligence



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Q. Which state assembly has passed a resolution urging the Center to change the name of the state?

- A) Bihar
B) Assam
C) Kerala
D) Punjab

Answer : C

- ✓ Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Central Government to change the name of the state from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'.
- ✓ The resolution was moved by CM Pinarayi Vijayan who stated that the name 'Keralam' is used in the Malayalam language.
- ✓ The resolution said, "The name of our state in Malayalam is Keralam. States were formed on the basis of language on November 1, 1956. That day is also observed as Kerala formation day.
- ✓ The demand for a united Kerala for all Malayalam-speaking communities has been strongly raised right from the days of the freedom struggle.
- ✓ However, the name of our state in the First Schedule of the Constitution has been written as Kerala. This Assembly is unanimously requesting the Union Government to take immediate steps under Article 3 of the Constitution to change the name of the state to Keralam

Q. India's first post office near LoC has been inaugurated in which district of Jammu and Kashmir?

- A) Rajouri
B) Kupwara
C) Kishtwar
D) Udhampur

Answer : B

- ✓ INDIA'S 'first' Post Office bearing PIN code 193224 is located on the banks of the Kishanganga river, the de facto Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's "Kupwara" district with Pakistan-occupied territory just across the stream at a stone's throw.
- ✓ It was known as the last Post Office of the country until recently, when the signboard near it described it as the "First Post Office of India", as it is the first one from the LoC or border in terms of distance

Q. Which Country leader has replaced its Chief of General Staff, 'Pak Su II'?

- A) North Korean
B) Russia
C) China
D) South Korean

Answer : A



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will be operated as a national facility for detecting Gravitation Waves and Research in related areas of Astronomy.

- ✓ Kulasekarapattinam will be used by private companies to launch small satellites into orbit.
- ✓ On the new launch pad that ISRO is building at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district along the coast in Tamil Nadu, SIRO Chairman S Somanath said that nearly 99 per cent of the 2,000 acres has been transferred to ISRO by the Tamil Nadu government.
- ✓ **Space Industrial Park**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government is planning to set up Space Industrial Park and Propellants Park near Thoothukudi to take advantage of the Centre's move to build the Kulasekarapattinam spaceport.

Q. Mushkbudji Rice of which state has recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

A) Maharashtra

B) Karnatata

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, Mushkbudji Rice received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ **About Mushkbudji Rice:**
- ✓ It is short bold aromatic rice grown in higher reaches of Kashmir valley.
- ✓ The cooked rice is unique and possesses a harmonious blend of taste, aroma and rich organoleptic properties.
- ✓ It is mainly is grown in areas of Sagam, Panzgam and Soaf Shali of district Anantnag and Beerwah belt of district Budgam.
- ✓ The consumption of aromatic rice in Kashmir has now been limited to special occasions, marriages, and festivals.

GI TAG IN NEWS 2023

- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- Tamil Nadu's Authoor betel leaves get Geographical Indication (GI) certificate.
- Geographical Indications Registry, in June 2023, accorded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Kari Ishad mango predominantly grown in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada in Karnataka .
- Mircha rice variety from West Champaran district of Bihar has recently been granted the GI tag.



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- With the recently added products in GI tag lists, has made the total number of GI tags in India 2023 to over 430.
- The products included are Tandur red gram of Telangana, gamocha of Assam, Alibag white onion of Maharashtra, and Raktsey Karpo apricot of Ladakh among others.
- After getting GI tag for three more One District One Product (ODOP) crafts, Uttar Pradesh has now come second in the country in terms of maximum number of items with Geographical Indication tag.
- The ODOP crafts which have got GI tag include Mainpuri Tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura Stone Craft and Sambhal Horn Craft.
- Tamil Nadu leads with 55 GI-tags, followed by UP and Karnataka with 48 and 46 GI products, respectively.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- Ladakh wood carvings, also known as 'Ladakh Shingskos', have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The GI tag was granted to Tamil Nadu's famous Cumbum Paneer Thirachai, also known as Cumbum Grapes.
- Gond paintings from Madhya Pradesh have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Banarasi paan has been awarded the GI tag, which signifies its unique identity and origin. Three other foods from the Varanasi region, including Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal), and Adamchini rice, have also received the GI tag.
- Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj rice variety gets geographical indication tag.
- Gamocha', a symbol of the culture and identity of Assam, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- European Commission (EC) has recently granted Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status to Kangra tea, a unique variety of tea grown in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh in India.
- The Central Government has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana, Bihar.
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
- GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



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- Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.
- The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.
- Kerala has topped among Indian states for having most number of products securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in financial year 2022-23.
- What is GI tag?
- 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.

Q. NASA's Curiosity Rover recently captured the crepuscular rays on which planet?

A) Saturn

B) Jupiter

C) Neptune

D) Mars

Answer : D

- ✓ NASA's Curiosity Mars rover recently spotted distinctive hexagonal mud cracks on Mars that scientists speculate may offer the first evidence of wet-dry cycles on the planet.
- ✓ About Mars Curiosity Rover:
- ✓ It is a S. robotic vehicle designed to explore the surface of Mars.
- ✓ It was launched aboard an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida on Nov. 26, 2011, and landed on Aug. 5, 2012, after taking eight months and 10 days to reach the Red Planet.
- ✓ The rover is currently roaming Mars' landscape looking for signs of life and learning about the Red Planet's unique environment.
- ✓ The rover is part of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission which tested a novel landing method that saw the spacecraft descend on a parachute before its landing system fired up its rockets and hovered as the rover was lowered down onto the surface.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It is about 3 metres long and weighs about 900 kg.



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- ✓ It does not rely on solar cells for its energy needs but rather draws its electric power from a thermoelectric power generator, with the heat source being the radioactive decay of plutonium and the heat sink being Mars's atmosphere.
- ✓ According to NASA, Curiosity has four main science goals in support of the agency's Mars exploration program:
 - ✓ Determine whether life ever arose on Mars.
 - ✓ Characterize the climate of Mars.
 - ✓ Characterize the geology of Mars.
 - ✓ Prepare for human exploration.
- ✓ What is NASA's Perseverance rover?
- ✓ It is a robotic explorer to land on Mars as part of NASA's ongoing Mars 2020 Mission.
- ✓ Main Job: Seek signs of ancient life and collect samples of rock and regolith (broken rock and soil) for possible return to Earth.
- ✓ The rover will collect samples of rock and soil, encase them in tubes, and leave them on the planet's surface to be returned to Earth at a future date.
- ✓ Launch: It was launched on July 30, 2020 from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- ✓ Landing: Successfully landed on the surface of Mars's Jezero Crater on Feb. 18, 2021.

Q. Bandhavgarh Forest Reserve, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ A seven-month-old female tiger cub was found dead under suspicious circumstances at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ About Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve:
 - ✓ Location:
 - ✓ It is located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ It is spread over the Vindhya hills.
 - ✓ Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968 and then became Tiger Reserve in 1993.



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- ✓ It derives its name from the most prominent hillock in the area, which was said to be given by Hindu Lord Rama to his brother Lakshmana to keep a watch on Lanka. Hence the name Bandhavgarh (Sanskrit: Brother's Fort).
- ✓ It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India as well as in the world.
- ✓ Topography: Varies between steep ridges, undulating forests and open meadows.

TIGER RESERVE IN NEWS 2023

- A seven-month-old female tiger cub was found dead under suspicious circumstances at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.
- Bihar government to constitute 'Rhino Task Force' for suggesting measures for the reintroduction of rhino conservation scheme in 'Valmiki Tiger Reserve' in West Champaran district.
- India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population.
- A photo of an elephant taken at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Tamil Nadu has emerged as the winner of the Siena Drone Photo Awards 2023.
- According to the latest tiger census data released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the number of tigers in India is set to reach 3,167 in 2022.
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka completed 50 years as a Project Tiger Reserve 1 April 2023.
- Tiger Safari in Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) in Rajasthan's Bundi district is expected to be open in July.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana..
- Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav informed that Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan has been notified as the 52nd Tiger Reserve of India.
- The new butterfly park at Anamalai Tiger Reserve emphasises the need to conserve indigenous species.
- It was earlier known as Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park and as Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It is located in Tamilnadu.



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- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched on April 1, 1973 by the Government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure.
- Madhya Pradesh has the most number of tiger reserves with six in total.
- The national animal of India is the magnificent Royal Bengal Tiger. Its scientific name is Panthera .

Q. Which institution releases the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) output data?

- A) National Statistical Office
- B) National Sample Survey Organisation
- C) Labour bureau
- D) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion

Answer : A

- ✓ India's Index of Industrial Production in India declined to a three-month low of 3.7 per cent in June, mainly due to poor showing by the manufacturing sector.
- ✓ **About Index of Industrial Production:**
- ✓ It is one of the Prime indicators of economic development for the measurement of trends in the behavior of Industrial Production over a period of time with reference to a chosen base year.
- ✓ It indicates the relative change of physical production in the field of industries during a specified year as compared to the previous year.
- ✓ It is computed and published by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on a monthly basis.
- ✓ **Base Year:**
- ✓ The base is always given a value of 100.
- ✓ The current base year for the IIP series in India is 2011-12.
- ✓ So, if the current IIP reads as 116, it means that there has been 16% growth compared to the base year.
- ✓ **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):**
- ✓ ICI measures the collective and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.
- ✓ The objective of the ICI is to provide an advance indication of production performance of industries of 'core' nature before the release of IIP by the Central Statistics Office.
- ✓ These industries are likely to impact general economic activities as well as industrial activities.



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- ✓ The Index is compiled and released by the Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.
- ✓ Index of Industrial Production (IIP) helps us to understand the growth of various sectors of the Economy. It is released monthly by CSO.
- ✓ IIP(Index of Industrial production) was released for the first time in 1950. It was released by CSO. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups in a fixed period of time.

Q. For the first time in history, which of the following spacecrafts has touched the corona of the Sun?

- A) Hinode
- B) Parker Solar Probe
- C) TRACE
- D) Explorer 33

Answer : B

- ✓ NASA's Parker Solar Probe recently executed a short maneuver that kept the spacecraft on track to reach the aim point for the mission's sixth Venus flyby.
- ✓ About Parker Solar Probe
- ✓ It is a NASA spacecraft designed to study the Sun and its atmosphere.
- ✓ It was launched on August 12, 2018, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, and is currently orbiting the Sun in a highly elliptical orbit that takes it closer to the Sun than any previous spacecraft.
- ✓ The mission objectives of the Parker Solar Probe are to study the structure and dynamics of the Sun's corona, the Sun's magnetic field, and the solar wind.
- ✓ To achieve this, the probe will make a total of 24 close approaches to the Sun over the course of its mission, getting as close as 3.83 million miles from the Sun's surface, which is about 7 times closer than any previous spacecraft.
- ✓ In December 2021, the Parker Probe reached the atmosphere of the sun. Since then, it's been looping around the sun, drawing closer each time, and sending back tons of data about everything it encounters.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Mass: 685 kilograms at launch.
- ✓ Scientific Instruments: Fields Experiment (FIELDS), Integrated Science Investigation of the Sun (ISIS), Wide Field Imager for Solar Probe (WISPR), Solar Wind Electrons Alphas and Protons (SWEAP).



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- ✓ Parker Solar Probe and its instruments are protected from the Sun by a 4.5-inch-thick (11.43 cm) carbon-composite shield, which can withstand temperatures reaching nearly 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,377 Celsius).

Q. With reference to Carbon Enhanced Metal-Poor (CEMP) stars, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are primarily characterized by diverse heavy elements and abundance patterns.**
- 2. Their formation was from the ejected material of the first stars that formed after the Big Bang.**
- 3. At the evolutionary stages, these Stars cannot produce elements heavier than iron.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA, Bangalore) under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, have discovered a unique star named HE 1005-1439 classified as a carbon-enhanced metal-poor (CEMP) star.
- ✓ **Key findings:**
- ✓ The researchers used high-resolution spectroscopic data acquired using High Dispersion Spectrograph (HDS) attached to SUBARU telescope (Japan) to analyze the star's surface chemical composition.
- ✓ The team found that the iron content of the star is thousand times less than that of the sun and it is heavily enriched with neutron-capture elements.
- ✓ The star which defies previous classifications and challenges previous understanding of star formation processes shows signs of having been formed through the combination of two different neutron-capture processes - the slow (s-) and intermediate (i-) neutron-capture processes.
- ✓ The slow (s-) process is believed to occur in low-mass stars during the asymptotic giant branch (AGB) phase and the rapid (r-) process is believed to occur in Supernovae and Neutron Star mergers.
- ✓ One of the proposed sites for intermediate (i-) process is low-metallicity low-mass AGB stars.
- ✓ Understanding the relative contributions of these processes to the elemental composition of stars is important for understanding the chemical evolution of galaxies and the origins of the elements in the universe.
- ✓ **Key facts Carbon-enhanced metal-poor (CEMP) star:**



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- ✓ These stars are characterized by diverse heavy elements abundance patterns and are primarily classified into four groups, based on which groups of heavy elements are more abundant.
- ✓ These are mostly dwarf stars, sub-giant stars, or giant stars, and stars that belong to these evolutionary stages cannot produce elements heavier than iron.

Q. Which Union Ministry manages the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)?

- A) Ministry of Steel B) Ministry of Rural Development
C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs D) Ministry of Communications

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, in a step towards financial literacy, Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) launched two Investor Awareness Vans titled “Niveshak Sarathi as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- ✓ About Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)
- ✓ It was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, of 2013.
- ✓ The Authority is entrusted with
- ✓ The responsibility of administration of the Investor Education Protection Fund (IEPF).
- ✓ Make refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, matured deposits/debentures etc. to investors and promote awareness among investors.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Q. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited has secured a coveted place in the esteemed Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Global Standard Index, effective from__.

- A) 1st September 2023 B) 1st January 2024
C) 1st December 2023 D) 1st October 2023

Answer : A

- ✓ Rural Electrification Corporation Limited under the Ministry of Power, has secured a coveted place in the esteemed Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Global Standard Index, effective from 1st September 2023.
- ✓ **About MSCI Index:**
- ✓ It is owned by the multinational investment management and financial services company Morgan Stanley.



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- ✓ It is an investment research firm that provides stock indexes, portfolio risk and performance analytics, and governance tools to institutional investors and hedge funds.
- ✓ It is a leading provider of critical decision support tools, including stock indexes, and services for the global investment community.
- ✓ MSCI indices facilitate the construction and monitoring of portfolios in a cohesive and complete manner, avoiding benchmark misfit. It has over 160,000 indices in its portfolio.
- ✓ MSCI has indexes for countries, regions, emerging markets, developed markets, small cap, all cap and even Islamic indexes.
- ✓ It selects stocks for its equity indexes that are easily traded and have high liquidity, with companies having high free float getting more weightage.
- ✓ What is MSCI India Index?
- ✓ The MSCI India Index is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid-cap segments of the Indian market.
- ✓ With 113 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the Indian equity universe.
- ✓ The index is reviewed quarterly

Q. What is PUSHp?

- A) A portal for surplus power trading
- B) A platform for demand-response management
- C) A marketplace for energy storage solutions
- D) An online community for energy sector professionals

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the National Power Committee (NPC) has asked States to provide suggestions for offering incentives to buyers and sellers on the surplus power portal PUSHp.
- ✓ About PUSHp portal:
- ✓ A High Price Day Ahead Market (HP-DAM) and Surplus Power Portal (PUSHp) was launched by the Ministry of Power.
- ✓ It was launched to ensure greater availability of power during the peak demand season at a price higher than the ceiling of Rs 12 per unit by certain category of sellers.



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- ✓ The power distribution companies (DISCOMs) will be able to indicate their surplus power in block times / days / months on portal.
- ✓ Those DISCOMs who need power will be able to requisition the surplus power.
- ✓ The new buyer will pay both variable charge (VC) and fixed cost (FC) as determined by Regulators. Once power is reassigned, the original beneficiary shall have no right to recall as entire FC liability is also shifted to the new beneficiary.
- ✓ This will reduce the fixed cost burden on the DISCOMs, and will also enable all the available generation capacity to be utilized.

Q. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, which were seen in the news, are located in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Chhattisgarh
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Bihar

Answer : C

- ✓ Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) has embarked on an ambitious journey by formulating its inaugural 'five-year-plan' to safeguard turtles, conduct species identification and estimate their populations both within and outside the reserve.
- ✓ About Pilibhit Tiger Reserve:
- ✓ It is located in Pilibhit District, Lakhimpur Kheri District and Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ It lies along the India-Nepal border in the foothills of the Himalayas and the plains of the 'terai' in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The river Gomti originates from the reserve, which is also the catchment of several others like Sharda, Chuka and Mala Khannot.
- ✓ The Sharda Sagar Dam extending up to a length of 22 km (14 mi) is on the boundary of the reserve.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS 2023

- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to organize a campaign under Road Safety Fortnight from July 17 to 31.
- Uttar Pradesh Police Department has launched 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and mafias in the state.



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- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to cancel all Traffic Chalan for private and commercial vehicle owners pending from 2017 to 2021.
- UP holds 2nd position in GI tagged products.
- After getting GI tag for three more One District One Product (ODOP) crafts, Uttar Pradesh has now come second in the country in terms of maximum number of items with Geographical Indication tag.
- The ODOP crafts which have got GI tag include Mainpuri Tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura Stone Craft and Sambhal Horn Craft.
- Tamil Nadu leads with 55 GI-tags, followed by UP and Karnataka with 48 and 46 GI products, respectively.
- The state government has given green signal to the project of setting Uttar Pradesh a state's first Pharma Park in Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand.
- Uttar Pradesh introduces "School Health Program" digital health cards for children.
- The online rural education initiative 'Pahal' was officially launched by Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra at Government UP Sainik Inter College in Sarojini Nagar.
- Uttar Pradesh on track to be first Indian state with 100% EVs in govt depts.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the India's first urban transport ropeway on March 24, 2023, in Varanasi.
- Uttar Pradesh government has launched the portal for the creation of 'Family ID – One Family One Identity'.
- Uttarakhand won the first prize for its tableau, followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in the second and third positions respectively.
- Uttar Pradesh came in third with its tableau commemorating Ayodhya's Deepotsav.
- Uttar Pradesh Government Launched 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' Campaign.
- Uttar Pradesh tops charts for mobile gaming destination in India.
- Taj Mahotsav Starts In Agra of Uttar Pradesh.
- UP first all-woman PAC battalions formed by Uttar Pradesh Govt.
- Uttar Pradesh tops in India, 8462 lakes developed under Mission Amrit Sarovar.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurates north India's first data centre at Greater Noida.
- Uttar Pradesh bags top honours at PMAY-U Awards 2021.



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- Agriculture Minister of India, Narendra Singh Tomar, has introduced a new platform called 'DigiClaim' on the national crop insurance portal.
- Kannuj will be developed into a tourist destination as per the decision taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- Centre has approved the setting up of the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER) at Dudhwa-Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh. The Terai Elephant Reserve is the 3rd Elephant Reserve in India.
- Uttar Pradesh cabinet has gave a green signal for the development of the first tiger reserve in the Bundelkhand region

Q. What is the aim of the National Social Assistance Programme?

- A) To provide financial assistance to women**
- B) Old-age pension to very poor**
- C) To provide education and training to the weaker sections of the society**
- D) To provide financial security to the vulnerable sections of society**

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India submitted the report on the performance audit of the National Social Assistance Programme from 2017-18 to 2020-21.
- ✓ About National Social Assistance Programme:
- ✓ It was launched on 15th August, 1995.
- ✓ Objective
- ✓ It is a social security and welfare programme to provide support to aged persons, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on death of primary bread winner,
- ✓ belonging to below poverty line households.
- ✓ Eligibility
- ✓ For getting benefits under NSAP the applicant must belong to a Below Poverty Line (BPL) family according to the criteria prescribed by the Govt. of India.
- ✓ The other eligibility criteria and the scale of central assistance under the sub - schemes of NSAP are as follows.
- ✓ Presently NSAP comprises of five schemes, namely –



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- ✓ Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): The eligible age for IGNOAPS is 60 years. The pension is Rs.200 p.m. for persons between 60 years and 79 years. For persons who are 80 years and above the pension is Rs.500/ - per month.
- ✓ Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): Widow aged 40 years will get pension is Rs.300 per month. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary will get Rs.500/ - per month.
- ✓ National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) : In the event of death of the bread – winner Rs. 20000/ - will be given as a lumpsum assistance to the bereaved household. The breadwinner should have been between 18-60 years of age.
- ✓ Annapurna: The scheme aims at provide food security to meet the requirements of those eligible old aged persons who have remained uncovered under the IGNOAPS. Under this programme 10 kgs of food grains (wheat or rice) is given per month per beneficiary.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development

Q. What is Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)?

- A) The fraction of the deposits that commercial banks lend to the customers.
- B) The fraction of the deposits that RBI must keep with commercial banks.
- C) The fraction of the deposits that commercial banks must keep with RBI.
- D) The fraction of the deposits that commercial banks must keep with the central government.

Answer : C

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently asked Indian banks to set aside a larger share of incremental deposits under the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR).
- ✓ About Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):
- ✓ Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the share of a bank's total deposit that is mandated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to be maintained with the latter as reserves in the form of liquid cash.
- ✓ The bank cannot use this amount for lending and investment purposes and does not get any interest from the RBI.
- ✓ CRR applies to scheduled commercial banks, while the regional rural banks and NBFCs are excluded.
- ✓ Key objectives of the Cash Reserve Ratio:
- ✓ CRR helps control inflation. In a high-inflation environment, RBI can increase CRR to prevent banks from lending more.



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- ✓ CRR also ensures banks have a minimum amount of funds readily available to customers even during huge demand.
- ✓ CRR serves as the reference rate for loans. Also known as the base rate for loans, the banks cannot offer loans below this rate.
- ✓ Since CRR regulates the money supply, it boosts the economy whenever required by lowering the CRR.
- ✓ How is CRR Calculated?
- ✓ CRR is calculated as a percentage of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL).
- ✓ This percentage is fixed by the RBI and is changed from time to time by the central bank itself.
- ✓ NDTL for banking refers to the aggregate savings account, current account and fixed deposit balances held by a bank.
- ✓ Currently, the CRR is fixed at 4.50%. This means that for every Rs 100 worth of deposits, the bank has to keep Rs 4.5 with the RBI.
- ✓ Key Facts about Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):
- ✓ SLR is a minimum percentage of deposits that a commercial bank has to maintain in the form of liquid cash, gold or other securities.
- ✓ It is basically the reserve requirement that banks are expected to keep before offering credit to customers.
- ✓ However, these deposits are maintained by the banks themselves and not with the RBI.
- ✓ The SLR is fixed by the RBI.

Q. Which State government has launched scheme to improve banking penetration in 4,373 Panchayats?

A) Odisha

B) Jharkhand

C) West Bengal

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ Odisha Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved to open banking outlets in 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats at a cost of Rs 500 crore in Aug 2023.
- ✓ Aim : To improve financial inclusion, will be implemented in coordination with six public sector banks in a phased manner.
- ✓ The Odisha government will provide rent-free banking space for five years. It will also bear one-time expenses for fixed cost and recurring expenses for a period of three years.



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- ✓ The day was designated by the United Nations in 1999.
- ✓ The first IYD was observed on 12 August, 2000.
- ✓ National Youth Day is celebrated in India every year on 12 January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The day was declared by the Government of India in 1984 while the event was first celebrated in 1985.

Q. When is the World Elephant Day observed globally?

A) 13 August

B) 11 August

C) 10 August

D) 12 August

Answer : D

- ✓ World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12 globally for the preservation and protection of the global elephants.
- ✓ The main objective of World Elephant Day is to create awareness on elephant conservation, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better protection and management of wild and captive elephants.
- ✓ The day is being officially celebrated since 2012.
- ✓ Save the Elephant Day is celebrated on April 16 every year to raise awareness about the dangers elephants face and various difficulties they have to overcome to live.
- ✓ Asia's 'longest-tusked' elephant Bhogeshwara dies of natural causes.
- ✓ Interesting facts about Elephant
- ✓ Project Elephant : 1992
- ✓ Elephas Maximus : Elephant Scientific Name
- ✓ India's first Elephant Hospital Opens In Mathura
- ✓ India's 1st Elephant Rehabilitation Centre to Open in Kottor Kerala
- ✓ India's 1st water clinic for elephants has opened in Mathura
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has got its first elephant colony in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- ✓ Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049)
- ✓ Botswana has world's largest elephant population
- ✓ Elephant : State animal of Jharkhand, Kerala and Karnataka
- ✓ Singphan Elephant Reserve Nagaland 30th elephant reserve
- ✓ Bholu (Elephant) is the official mascot of Indian Railways



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Q. What is the theme of the 2022 International Youth Day (IYD)?

- A) Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages
- B) Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health
- C) Youth Engagement for Global Action
- D) Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World

Answer : D

- ✓ The theme for International Youth Day in 2023 is 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World'

Q. The Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in which state for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Telangana

Answer : C

- ✓ The Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- ✓ The Indian Space Policy 2023 has the provision for the utilization of a spaceport for carrying out launch activities by Non-Government Entities (NGEs), subject to technical feasibility and range safety constraints.
- ✓ The Indian Space Policy 2023 has the provision for the utilization of a spaceport for carrying out launch activities by Non-Government Entities (NGEs), subject to technical feasibility and range safety constraints.
- ✓ The Policy opens up the sector for enhanced participation of NGEs across the entire value chain of the space economy, while clearly delineating the roles of various stakeholders like IN-SPACe, ISRO, New Space India Limited and Department of Space.
- ✓ The Government has set up the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) as a single-window agency for promotion and authorization of space activities.
- ✓ The budget allocations for IN-SPACe are 2023-24 ₹95 crore; 2022-23 ₹33 crore and 2021-22 ₹10 crore.



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ISRO IN NEWS 2023

- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- ISRO has successfully conducted the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- ISRO has successfully launched India's largest Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) rocket/OneWeb India-2 Mission with 36 satellites onboard from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ISRO successfully launched a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle -C52(PSLV-C52) on 14 February 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The PSLV-C52 rocket carried three satellites EOS-04 ,INSPIR Esat-1and INS-2TD).
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- Under a commercial agreement with NewSpace India Ltd, will launch 72 satellites of UK-based Network Access Associates Ltd and place them in low Earth orbit.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently successfully carried out a controlled descent of its 12-year-old low earth orbit satellite Megha Tropiques-1 (MT-1) into the Pacific Ocean.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently released images of Earth captured by the EOS-06 satellite.
- Earth Observation satellite (EOS-6) is the third-generation satellite in the Oceansat series.
- Indian Space Research Organization has launched its smallest rocket SSLV-D2 into space from Satish Dhawan Space Center (Sriharikota).
- ISRO's SSLV-D2 flew into space carrying three satellites with it.



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- These include ISRO's satellite EOS-07, Chennai-based space startup Spacekidz's satellite Azad SAT-2 and American company Antaris's satellite JANUS -1.
- All these three satellites will be placed in circular orbit 450 km apart.
- An Earth-observation satellite jointly developed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and ISRO will be sent to India in late February 2023 for a possible launch in September.
- India's first ever private Vikram-S (Suborbital) rocket was launched on 18 November from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- Vikram-S, designed by Skyroot Aerospace.
- ISRO has successfully launched its heaviest rocket LVM3-M2, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota spaceport, Andhra Pradesh on 23 October 2022. The mission, which was named LVM3-M2/OneWeb India-1, carried 36 broadband communication satellites of OneWeb Company.
- ISRO will launch 36 satellites of OneWeb, the UK's global communications network, on October 23, 2022.
- The name of the rocket is LVM3, it was earlier called GSLV Mk III.
- ISRO 'Shukrayaan I' mission to planet Venus reportedly shifted to 2031.
- ISRO is doing to boost the use of 'NAVigation with the Indian Constellation' (NavIC), India's version of GPS.
- ISRO has unveiled spectacular images of the Earth taken by its Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-06), also known as Oceansat-3.

Q. Which payments bank has launched an eco-friendly debit card for its customers with savings bank accounts?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank Launched India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card
- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank has launched an eco-friendly debit card for its customers with savings bank accounts, underlining the company's 'commitment to sustainability and promoting eco-friendly practices within the financial sector.'



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- ✓ The company will manufacture these debit cards from r-PVC (recycled polyvinyl chloride) material, which it claims to be eco-friendly.
- ✓ Moreover, the payments bank stated that every batch of 50,000 cards produced would reduce carbon emissions by 350 kilograms, compared to conventional PVC cards in the market.
- ✓ Producing these eco-friendly debit cards will also diminish petroleum consumption during manufacturing, cutting hydrocarbon usage by 43 percent. This manufacturing approach will conserve 6.6 million litres of water for every batch of r-PVC produced.
- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank is developing two cards under the classic variant; a personalized Classic card and an Insta Classic card.
- ✓ The former can be ordered through the Airtel Thanks app, while the latter will be available at select neighbourhood banking points by the end of the current quarter.
- ✓ The cards come with rewards including e-commerce benefits of up to Rs 10,000 and complimentary dining experiences under the 'One Dines Free' programme across major cities of India.
- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank
- ✓ Founded : 2017
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ MD & CEO : Anubrata Biswas
- ✓ Stake : Bharti Airtel Limited(80.01%) & Kotak Mahindra Bank(19.9%)
- ✓ Subsidiaries : YTS Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank became the first entity in India to receive a payments bank license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Q. Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC) has signed an MoU with which bank to scale up Indian startups?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC) has signed a MoU with YES Bank.



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- ✓ The partnership aims to enable IIITD-IC to strengthen its mentoring initiatives for startups, gain access to experts across the industry, as well as identify newer investment and funding opportunities that can benefit startups.
- ✓ In this collaboration, YES Bank aims to provide banking services to startups in the developmental phase at IIITD-IC through the Bank's specialized YES Head Startup programme.
- ✓ YES Bank has brought the bank to Startups, adopting a horizontal approach and bundling up the most lucrative features possible.

YES BANK IN NEWS 2023

- Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC) has signed a MoU with YES Bank.
- YES Bank Partners with IIT Kanpur to Transform Startups and Red Hat to Redefine Mobile Banking Experience.
- Cashfree Payments partners with YES Bank to offer Global Collections service for exporters.
- YES Bank has collaborated with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG).
- Reliance General becomes first insurer to accept CBDC in tie-up with YES Bank.
- Yes Bank, Turtlefin Launched Online Insurance Services platform 'EasyNsure.
- Yes Bank has signed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), acquiring a 9.9 percent stake in the ARC at Rs 11.43 per share.
- YES BANK
- Founded : 2004
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- Tagline : Experience our Expertise

Q. RBI has increased the per transaction limit for UPI Lite from existing Rs 200 to how much rupees to promote digital transactions?

- A) 500
- B) 1000
- C) 2000
- D) 5000



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Answer : A

- ✓ RBI has increased the offline transaction limit from 200 rupees to 500 rupees but the overall limit of small value digital transaction limit is kept unchanged at 2,000 rupees.
- ✓ These initiatives will further deepen the reach of digital payments in the country.
- ✓ Central Bank has also proposed to use Near Field Communication (NFC) technology in UPI transactions.
- ✓ What is UPI Lite?
- ✓ UPI Lite is an 'on-device wallet' feature that will allow users to make real-time small-value payments without using a UPI PIN.
- ✓ How to use UPI Lite?
- ✓ First, you have to add funds to or load money into the wallet on the app, from your bank account. Then, you can use those pre-loaded funds to pay from the wallet via UPI Lite.
- ✓ Do note that the total limit of UPI Lite balance for an on-device wallet will be Rs 2,000 at any point in time.
- ✓ In many remote areas, the data network is patchy and RBI's move of increasing the limit on UPI lite transactions will help travellers in doing digital transactions.
- ✓ Further, RBI to introduce Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to facilitate offline payments. To promote the use of UPI Lite, it is proposed to facilitate offline transactions using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology.
- ✓ This feature will not only enable retail digital payments in situations where internet/telecom connectivity is weak or not available, but it will also ensure speed, with minimal transaction declined.

Q. Which state government has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF)?

- A) Himachal Pradesh B) Telangana
C) Rajasthan D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
- ✓ It is developed as a digital public infrastructure (DPI) for the agriculture sector. The ADeX is a collaboration between the Telangana Government, the World Economic Forum, and the Indian Institute of Science.



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- ✓ Both ADeX and ADMF provide the right platform to ensure fair and efficient usage of agricultural data by the industry and startups and provide a big boost to the data economy specifically in the agriculture sector.

TELANGANA IN NEWS 2023

- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
- Telangana achieves 100% coverage of PMJDY.
- Telangana govt launches first of its kind State Robotics Framework.
- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. The 400 feet tall structure will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore.
- The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-foot tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- IAS 'Shanti Kumari' becomes first woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting began on April 17 in Hyderabad.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of Pongal on 15 January, virtually flagged off the Vande Bharata Express train connecting Secunderabad with Vishakhapatnam.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a nation-wide financial inclusion program of Government of India.
- It was announced by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on 15 August 2014.
- Slogan Mera Khatha, Bhagya Vidhatha ("My account brings me good fortune")
- Age of Eligible Beneficiaries 18-65 Years
- Overdraft facility up to Rs.10000 after satisfactory operation of the account for 6 months



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Q. Which of the following has won Gold Award under Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Complaints?

- A) Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System
- B) Next Generation Identification
- C) National Automated Fingerprint Identification System
- D) Interpretable Fingerprint Identification System

Answer : C

- ✓ National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) Team won Gold Award under Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Complaints in Aug 2023.
- ✓ The award for its excellence in delivering e-governance is a recognition of the dedication the entire NAFIS team has put into creating a fool-proof fingerprint identification system, in pursuit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's vision of a secure India.
- ✓ Ministry of Home Affairs communiqué said that NAFIS has created a central database of fingerprints of criminals, which can be accessed by users from all States, Union Territories, and Central Agencies.
- ✓ This has resulted in a qualitative improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal detection and investigation process.
- ✓ About NAFIS
- ✓ NAFIS helps in the quick and easy disposal of cases with the help of a centralized fingerprint database.
- ✓ It assigns a unique 10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) to each person arrested for a crime

Q. Which state government has allotted 12 hydropower projects to three Central Government PSUs by signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with them at State Banquet Hall?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Tripura

Answer : C

- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh government allotted 12 hydropower projects to three Central Government PSUs by signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with them at State Banquet Hall in Itanagar.
- ✓ The projects will be implemented by NHPC Ltd., SJVN Ltd., and NEEPCO Ltd.



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- ✓ The total operational capacity of these 12 projects will be to the tune of 11,517 MW.
- ✓ These projects were initially allotted to independent power developers but remained stalled due to various reasons. To unlock this potential, the Central and the State Governments made joint and concerted efforts over the last two years

ARUNACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2023

- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Chachin Grazing Festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh launched an app named 'Arunpol App' of Arunachal Pradesh Police..
- Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have signed an agreement for the settlement of an inter-state boundary dispute between the two States.
- A tripartite committee recommended that some areas be transferred from Assam to Arunachal..
- Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on 10 April launched the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' at Kibithu, a border village in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh.
- A fish museum, the first of its kind in the Northeast, would soon be built in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, inaugurated the newly renovated Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhaxhang (Gonpa) at Gyangkhar, his native village in Tawang district.
- February 20, 2023, Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating its 37th Statehood Day.
- A bipartisan resolution was passed by the US, formally recognizing the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and India's Arunachal Pradesh.
- The trailer of 'Love in 90s', the first film made in Tagin language of Arunachal Pradesh.

Q. Who has launched the Direct Benefit Transfer in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme in New Delhi?

A) Dharmendra Pradhan

B) Narendra Modi

C) Draupadi Murmu

D) Amit Shah

Answer : A



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- ✓ The Odisha Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik gave nod to open CSP Plus banking outlets in 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) at a cost of Rs 500 crore.
- ✓ The CSP (customer service point) Plus banking outlets will be opened in coordination with six public sector banks (PSBs).
- ✓ Six PSBs — State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and Bank of India will help in opening the facilities in 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats.
- ✓ The cabinet also approved an additional budget of Rs 2,687 crore for a special programme for developing and creating awareness for millets in four years from 2023-24 to 2026-27.

Q. Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023 will be held in which city from 17 to 19 October?

- A) Chennai
B) Hyderabad
C) New Delhi
D) Mumbai

Answer : C

- ✓ Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS), 2023 is slated for October 17 to October 19 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The meeting, with participation from more than 40 countries, including 21 Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Deputy High Commissioners, Trade Commissioners, and 23 other diplomats, underscored the global interest in the upcoming GMIS 2023.
- ✓ GMIS 2023 is a premier maritime sector focussed event to bring together pivotal figures from the industry to explore opportunities, understand challenges, and stimulate investment within India's maritime sector.

Q. The Uttar Pradesh government will set up the country's largest IT hub in which city of state?

- A) Rae Bareli
B) Varanasi
C) Lucknow
D) Meerut

Answer : C

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government will set up the country's largest IT hub in Lucknow.
- ✓ The IT hub will be located on 40 acres of land in the Nadarganj Industrial Area of Amausi on Kanpur Road.
- ✓ The hub will be divided into three parts: IT Park, Business Park, and International Incubation Facility Center.
- ✓ The IT Park will be constructed on 11.47 acres.



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Q. Who has laid the foundation stone for the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited Nano Urea Plant at Gandhidham in Kutch?

- A) Piyush Goyal
B) Dharmendra Pradhan
C) Rajnath Singh
D) Amit Shah

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone for the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited Nano Urea Plant at Gandhidham in Kutch, Gujarat.
- ✓ India needs another green revolution in the form of natural farming under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which aims to ensure the highest value addition to farmers and protect farmlands from degradation.
- ✓ The nano urea plant will provide multi-dimensional benefits to the agricultural economy. It will also help conserve the nutrients of the soil and ensure judicious use of fertilizers.

Q. Which state government has launched the 'Sinh Suchna' Web App on the occasion of World Lion Day?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
B) Gujarat
C) Maharashtra
D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : B

- ✓ On the occasion of World Lion Day, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel has virtually launched Lion Anthem' and unveiled the 'Sinh Suchna' Web App.
- ✓ The application will help the state forest department track the movement of lions through the information shared by common people using the app.
- ✓ Using the 'Sinh Suchna' app, common people can directly inform the state forest department about the movement of lions in their area so that timely steps can be taken.
- ✓ This mobile will help us in locating lions in real-time and also help the authorities in avoiding human-animal conflicts," Patel said after launching the app.
- ✓ The central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a budget of Rs 2,900 crore under 'Project Lion' for the conservation of Asiatic Lions, which are found only in Gujarat.



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Q. World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on which day?

A) 13 August

B) 12 August

C) 10 August

D) 14 August

Answer : A

- ✓ World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on 13 August.
- ✓ Objective – To raise awareness about the importance of and help people understand organ donation.
- ✓ Theme 2023 – Donate Organs, Save Lives
- ✓ Organ donation is quite similar to giving someone another chance at life. The first ever successful living donor organ transplant was performed in 1954 in the US. A man named, Ronald Lee Herrick donated his kidney to his identical brother, Richard Lee Herrick.
- ✓ The doctor who performed this surgery was named Joseph Murray. He won the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1990 for successfully carrying out this kidney transplant.



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Aparchit August 3rd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Which state has become the first Indian state to give free In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) treatment in government hospitals?

- A) Goa
B) Kerala
C) Tamil Nadu
D) Karnataka

Answer : A

- ✓ Goa has become the first Indian state to offer free in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment.
- ✓ The inauguration of this service, alongside assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), was done by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at the Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim.
- ✓ Depending on the hospital and the kind of IVF treatment, the cost of IVF in India comes between Rs 70,000 to Rs 3 lakh per cycle

GOA IN NEWS 2023

- Goa has become the first Indian state to offer free in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment.
- GI tags for Goan mangoes and bebinca, crafts from Rajasthan and U.P.
- The products are 'Jalesar Dhatu Shilp' (a metal craft), 'Goa Mankurad Mango', 'Goan Bebinca', 'Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft', 'Bikaner Kashidakari Craft', 'Jodhpur Bandhej Craft', and 'Bikaner Usta Kala Craft'.
- 'India's First Village Atlas' Is Of Mayem In Goa.
- The tourism department of the Goa government is set to hold the 'Heritage Festival 2023' from April 28 to 30 at Saligao village in North Goa.
- Bharti Institute of Public Policy, a renowned think tank under the Indian School of Business (ISB), and the Government of Goa have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a knowledge partnership.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, holds the position of Chair of the Supreme Audit Institutions-20 (SAI20) Engagement Group during India's G20 Presidency. The SAI20 Summit is scheduled to take place in Goa from 12th to 14th June 2023.



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Q. Which IT company has bagged a €€1.5 billion (\$1.64 billion) deal from Liberty Global to build and scale the entertainment and connectivity platforms of the digital communications firm?

A) Wipro Limited

B) Larsen & Toubro Infotech Limited

C) Infosys

D) Tata Consultancy Services

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian IT services company, Infosys has bagged a €€1.5 billion (\$1.64 billion) deal from Liberty Global to build and scale the entertainment and connectivity platforms of the digital communications firm.
- ✓ The agreement has an initial tenure of five years which can be extended to eight years, which would take the deal value to €€2.3 billion (\$2.5 billion).
- ✓ Infosys' deal follows, HCLTech, which last week a bagged a \$2.1- billion contract from Verizon.
- ✓ Three months back, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)-led consortium also received an order of Rs 15,000 crore (\$1.8 billion) from BSNL, for the deployment of a 4G network across India.
- ✓ Last month, even L&T Technology Services announced that it has won \$50 million deal in the same vertical.
- ✓ INFOSYS
- ✓ Founded : 1981
- ✓ Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- ✓ Chairman : Nandan Nilekani
- ✓ MD & CEO : Salil Parekh

Q. According to Soumya Kanti Ghoshon, Group Chief Economic Adviser of State Bank of India (SBI), India is likely to become the third largest economy by which year?

A) 2030

B) 2027

C) 2035

D) 2028

Answer : B

- ✓ The Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- ✓ Indian economy is currently ranked fifth and is behind the US, China, Japan, and Germany.
- ✓ In 2014, India was the 10th largest economy. In 2022, India became the fifth-largest economy overtaking the UK. And most likely in the next couple of years, by 2027, India will become the third largest economy, just after US and China.



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- ✓ India to become a developed country by 2047. And that is actually a true reflection of unity in diversity. And that is possibly the best gift that India could get in its hundred years of independence

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023

- Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.
- UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- India sets target to become 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030
- Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.
- Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.



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- ✓ The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Rs 57,613 crore PM-eBus Sewa initiative to augment the use of electric buses in 169 cities.
- ✓ The scheme will augment city bus operations, under which priority will be given to cities having no organized bus service.
- ✓ Out of the Rs 57,613 crore outlined for the scheme, support of Rs 20,000 crore will be provided by the Centre.
- ✓ The scheme will cover cities with 300,000 and above population, according to Census 2011.
- ✓ These include all the capital cities of Union Territories (UTs), northeastern and hill states. The e-buses will be provided under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode for 10 years.
- ✓ A total of 181 cities will also be supported for the development of charging infrastructure under the Green Urban Mobility Initiatives.
- ✓ The move aims to help the Centre's plan to deploy 50,000 e-buses under the National Electric Bus Program and achieve 40 percent e-bus penetration by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2070.

Q. Union Cabinet has approved how many multi-tracking projects targeted at Indian railways with an outlay of Rs 32, 500 crore?

A) 6

B) 8

C) 9

D) 7

Answer : D

- ✓ The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved seven multi-tracking projects targeted at Indian railways with an outlay of Rs 32, 500 crore.
- ✓ The projects will be built completely on Engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) mode, and will add 2,339 kilometres to the existing network of Indian Railways.
- ✓ The projects will receive 100 percent funding from the central government. They will cover 35 districts across Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal
- ✓ The projects will provide employment of 7.06 crore person-days to the people of the selected states.
- ✓ The government is also planning to introduce a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for train component makers as part of its efforts to attract foreign manufacturing firms and reduce dependence on imports, people aware of the matter said



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Q. Which state government has launched the Annapurna Food Packet Scheme, which aims to distribute food packets free of cost to over 10.4 million families every month?

A) Odisha

B) Bihar

C) Rajasthan

D) Chhattisgarh

Answer : C

- ✓ Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has launched the state government's Annapurna Food Packet Scheme which seeks to distribute food packets to more than 10.4 million families for free every month.
- ✓ The scheme is part of the ₹19,000 crore 'Inflation Relief Package', which was announced by the chief minister in February during the state budget for 2023-24 to provide relief to the public from rising prices.
- ✓ Under the scheme, each food packet will contain one kilogram each of chana dal, sugar, salt, one litre soybean refined edible oil, 100 gm each of chilli powder and coriander powder, and 50 gm of turmeric
- ✓ The chief minister also urged the Centre to regularly implement the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana – providing 5kg free dry rations to 800 million poor every month – instead of extending it for six months each time.

RAJASTHAN IN NEWS 2023

- NABARD has sanctioned Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24.
- Noor Shekhawat became the first transgender person in Rajasthan to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender.
- For the first time in India, the Rajasthan government introduced the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023.
- Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill to provide minimum guaranteed income to all adult citizens as part of a welfare package for the state.
- Rajasthan government is set to take stringent measures against recruitment exam paper leaks by introducing a bill in the upcoming assembly session.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 National Highway projects worth Rs 5600 crore in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan government has sanctioned Rs 13.48 crore to promote religious tourism at Nagaur, Jaisalmer, and Alwar regions of the state.



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- ✓ The ABHA number would help identify the insured in a digital environment and facilitate seamless healthcare and insurance service delivery.

Q. Which of the following will launch a pilot project for Public Tech Platform (PTP) for frictionless credit?

- A) NPCI
- B) RBI
- C) SEBI
- D) SIDBI

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will launch the pilot project for Public Tech Platform (PTP) for frictionless credit.
- ✓ The same will be done via the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- ✓ The platform will enable the delivery of frictionless credit by facilitating a seamless flow of required digital information to lenders.
- ✓ How will the platform work?
- ✓ The end-to-end digital platform will have an open architecture, open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and standards, to which all financial sector players will be able to connect seamlessly in a 'plug and play' model".
- ✓ During the pilot, the platform will focus on products such as Kisan Credit Card loans up to Rs 1.6 lakh per borrower, Dairy Loans, MSME loans (without collateral), personal loans and home loans through participating banks.
- ✓ The platform will also enable linkage with services such as Aadhaar e-KYC, land records from onboarded State Governments (Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra), Satellite data, PAN Validation, Transliteration, Aadhaar e-signing, account aggregation by Account Aggregators (AAs), milk pouring data from select dairy co-operatives, house/property search data etc.

Q. Alex Chriss has been appointed as the new CEO of which of the following company?

- A) PayPal
- B) RazorPay
- C) Easebuzz
- D) PayU

Answer : A



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- ✓ Alex Chriss has been appointed as the new CEO of PayPal.
- ✓ He will replace its longest-serving chief executive officer Dan Schulman.
- ✓ He currently serves as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of Intuit's Small Business and Self-Employed Group,
- ✓ Schulman became PayPal's CEO after the split from eBay in 2015, and he notified the company of his decision to retire at the end of December last year.

Q. Chingam is the first day of the new year of which traditional calendar used in Kerala?

- A) Odia calendar
- B) Telugu calendar
- C) Tamil calendar
- D) Malayalam calendar

Answer : D

- ✓ Malayalam New Year Chingam was observed on 17th August 2023. In 2023, it's being celebrated on August 17.
- ✓ Chingam 1 is the first day of the new year of the traditional Malayalam calendar used in Kerala.
- ✓ Chingam 1 is also known as Chingam Month or Chingam Masam and it's followed by the Onam festival.
- ✓ The Malayam Calendar is based on the solar calendar system and every year, the date of Chingam 1 varies.
- ✓ Chingam 1 marks the beginning of the harvest season in Kerala and is considered an auspicious day.

Q. India has signed MoU with which country to share 'India Stack' Collaboration?

- A) Kenya
- B) Maldives
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Trinidad and Tobago

Answer : D

- ✓ India and Trinidad and Tobago have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sharing INDIA STACK — a collection of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to facilitate identity, data, and payment services on a large scale, the Ministry of Electronics and IT informed on August 17, 2023.
- ✓ As per the statement, both sides have agreed to cooperate in the areas of digital transformation by means of capacity building, training programmes, exchange of best practices, exchange of public officials and experts, development of pilot or demo solutions, among others.



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Q. ADB has approved USD 40.5 million loan for childhood development in Which State?

A) Meghalaya

B) Nagaland

C) Manipur

D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 40.5 million loan for integrated early childhood development and maternal mental health in the northeastern state of Meghalaya.
- ✓ The Meghalaya government is contributing USD 15.27 million to the project.
- ✓ The project is expected to strengthen home-based childcare (children 0-1.5 years) and center-based childcare (1.5-6 years) through daycare (Anganwadi) centers in Meghalaya.
- ✓ Project Aim : To improve access to nurturing care, including a component of maternal mental health care and group-based parenting programs to enable the inclusion of fathers in caregiving

ADB IN NEWS 2023

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 40.5 million loan for integrated early childhood development and maternal mental health in the northeastern state of Meghalaya.
- ADB have signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing in Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$141.12 million loan agreement for the development of an industrial corridor in Andhra Pradesh.
- Pakistan is the largest recipient of ADB loans in Asia, Pakistan received loans of USD 5.58 billion.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced its plans to invest in non-convertible debentures valued at Rs 150 crore in Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL).
- ADB approves \$130 million loan to promote horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ADB to provide \$1.2 billion loan for infrastructure projects.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)



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- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian?)
- Director of ADB for India : Takeo Konishi
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

Q. The Government clears __ Crore deal to build five warships in August 2023.

- A) Rs 15000 Crore B) Rs 16500 Crore
C) Rs 18000 Crore D) Rs 20000 Crore

Answer : D

- ✓ The government has cleared a Rs 20,000 crore deal to manufacture fleet support vessels (FSVs) which are urgently required by the Indian Navy.
- ✓ Vizag-based Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) will manufacture five of the 45,000-tonne warships, the largest ship of its class being built at the defence ministry-owned yard
- ✓ The Indian FSV project was initially given a go-ahead in 2016 after the Indian Navy projected a requirement for ships that could carry fuel and other supplies for warships at sea.

Q. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library has been renamed as?

- A) Patel Museum and Library
B) Gandhi Memorial Museum and Library
C) Chandra Bose Museum and Library
D) Prime Ministers' Museum and Library

Answer : D

- ✓ The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) has officially been renamed the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society recently.



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- ✓ About Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML) Society.
- ✓ Status: It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- ✓ Location: It is housed in the historic Teen Murti campus located south of Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ✓ PMML is dedicated to the objective of promoting advanced research on Modern and Contemporary India.
- ✓ History:
- ✓ Designed by Robert Tor Russel and built in 1929-30 as part of Edwin Lutyens' imperial capital, Teen Murti House was the official residence of the Commander-in-Chief in India.
- ✓ PMML has four major constituents, namely-
- ✓ Memorial Museum;
- ✓ Library on modern India;
- ✓ Centre for Contemporary Studies;
- ✓ Nehru Planetarium;
- ✓ Administration: The General Council and the President and the Vice-President of the PMML Society are nominated by the Central Government

RECENTLY RENAMED IN NEWS 2023

- Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society renamed as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society, New Delhi.
- Central government renamed the Mughal Gardens in New Delhi's Rashtrapati Bhavan as 'Amrit Udyan'.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village located in Bhopal district has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- Ahmednagar renamed Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar, Maharashtra.
- Coastal Road in Mumbai renamed after Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, Maharashtra.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) renamed as Promotion of Prime Minister's Heritage (PM Vikas) Scheme.
- IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (AMC) to be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund as SEBI approves change in ownership.
- Maharashtra's Bandra-Versova sea route in Mumbai will be renamed as 'Veer Savarkar Bandra-Versova Sagari Setu'.



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- Churchgate Railway Station in Mumbai will now be known as First Indian RBI Governor CD Deshmukh.
- Union Government Approved Renaming of Aurangabad & Osmanabad in Maharashtra.
- Philips Domestic Appliances has announced the change of its company name to Versuni.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village, situated in the Bhopal district, has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- On Parakram Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participate in a ceremony to name 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Edelweiss General Insurance rebranded itself as Zuno General Insurance.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)?

A) R. Doraiswamy

B) Vibha Padalkar

C) Anup Bagchi

D) Rakesh Jain

Answer : A

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), a public sector insurance firm, has announced the appointment of Doraiswamy Ramachandran as the Managing Director, effective from September 1, 2023.
- ✓ Currently, Doraiswamy is serving LIC as the Executive Director at the head office in Mumbai. He will be taking over from Mini Ipe, who is retiring as CEO and MD this month, after around 35 years of service
- ✓ Now, LIC has 4 MDs: Doraiswamy Ramachandran, Sat Pal Bhanoo; M Jagannath and Tablesh Pandey.

LIC IN NEWS 2023

- SatPal Bhanu has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024.
- LIC Raises Stake in Tech Mahindra to 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions.
- Ratnakar Patnaik appointed as new Chief Investment Officer of LIC.
- Tablesh Pandey and M. Jagannath have been appointed as the managing directors of the Life Insurance Company (LIC).



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- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched LIC Jeevan Azad Plan.
- The minimum basic sum assured under LIC Jeevan Azad Plan is Rs 2 lakh and the maximum basic sum assured is Rs 5 lakh. The policy can be taken for term of 15 to 20 years.
- LIC to divest 60.72% share in IDBI Bank.
- LIC presently has four managing directors
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- Founded : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Chairman : Siddhartha Mohanty
- It is India's largest life insurance company and also the country's largest investment company.
- Authorised Capital of LIC - Rs 25,000 Crore.
- At Rs 21,000 crore, LIC is India's largest IPO.

Q. From when till when the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is being organised?

- A) 11-15 August 2023 B) 12-15 August 2023
C) 13-15 August 2023 D) 14-15 August 2023

Answer : C

- ✓ The government is celebrating Har Ghar Tiranga from 13-15 August 2023, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Har Gar Tiranga campaign launched by the Ministry of Culture has transformed into a people's movement with increasing jan-bhagidari
- ✓ The idea behind this is to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the essence of collaborative participation.

Q. Who has been elected as the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan?

- A) Mamnoon Hussain B) Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar
C) Asif Ali Zardari D) Imran Khan

Answer : B



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- ✓ Pakistan on their Independence day got their caretaker Prime Minister in little known senator from Baluchistan- Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.
- ✓ Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif dissolved the parliament last week as its five-year term came to an end. Usually, such a step is a formality and a general election would typically have to be held within 90 days.

Q. With whom is the Ministry of AYUSH organizing the Global Summit on Traditional Medicine?

- A) UNICEF B) NITI Aayog
C) World Health Organization D) United Nation

Answer : C

- ✓ A first-of-its-kind global summit on Traditional Medicine, organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, is set to take place on August 17-18, 2023, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The summit will take into account the vast experience and expertise of the country and this highly anticipated event will serve as a platform for experts and practitioners to delve into the latest scientific advancements and evidence-based knowledge in the sector, with the ultimate goal of ensuring health and well-being for all.
- ✓ The esteemed Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, will inaugurate the event in the presence of Minister of Health Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

Q. How Many Countries That Celebrate Independence Day on August 15?

- A) 1 B) 2
C) 4 D) 5

Answer : D

- ✓ August 15 is a day of celebration for many countries around the world.
- ✓ It is the day on which they gained their independence from colonial rule.
- ✓ India, South Korea, North Korea, Bahrain, and Liechtenstein all celebrate their independence on August 15.
- ✓ India gained its independence from British rule in 1947.
- ✓ This was a momentous occasion for the Indian people, who had long struggled for freedom.
- ✓ The day is celebrated with parades, flag hoisting ceremonies, and cultural events.



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Q. Who has selected the McKinsey, Accenture to use AI, ML to Improve Regulatory Supervision

- A) RBI
B) SBI
C) ADB
D) IMF

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank has selected global consultancy firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India to develop systems using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) for its supervisory functions.
- ✓ The RBI is looking to extensively use advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to analyse its huge database and improve regulatory supervision over banks and NBFCs. For this purpose, the central bank plans to hire external experts.

Q. Who has launched the One District One Product 'ODOP Wall'?

- A) Piyush Goyal
B) Charanjit Singh
C) Som Parkash
D) Sunil Barthwal

Answer : B

- ✓ One District One Product (ODOP) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) joined hands to launch 'ODOP wall'.
- ✓ Launching the 'ODOP Wall', Shri Charanjit Singh, Additional Secretary, Rural Livelihoods, Ministry of Rural Development, GoI said that such convergence is one more step forward towards realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of showcasing the uniqueness of Indian Craft before the world.
- ✓ The One District One Product (ODOP) program, an initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, aims at manifesting the vision of the Prime Minister to make the country and its people self-reliant by fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country.

Q. Who has laid the foundation stone of Sant Ravidas Temple in Madhya Pradesh?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Amit Shah
C) J. P. Nadda
D) Rajnath Singh

Answer : A



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- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Sant Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial that will be constructed in more than ₹100 crores at Badtuma village of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The memorial is steeped in the spirit of 'Samrasta' as the soil of more than 20,000 villages and 300 rivers have been used in it.
- ✓ Families from Madhya Pradesh have sent grain for 'Samrast Bhoj' and five yatras also concluded here at Sagar.
- ✓ These yatras mark a new era of social harmony.

Q. The Union Cabinet has approved the expansion of 'Digital India Project' with an outlay of Rs. ____.

A) Rs. 14,503 crores

B) Rs. 14,903 crores

C) Rs. 15000 crores

D) Rs. 15120 crores

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the launch of an extended version of the Digital India programme, aimed at further accelerating the country's digital transformation journey. The extended programme encompasses a wide range of initiatives spanning technology, education, governance, and innovation with an additional outlay of Rs 14,903 crore.
- ✓ **1. DIGILOCKER EXTENSION**
In a bid to streamline documentation and enhance digital record-keeping, an extension of the DigiLocker platform will be introduced, specifically tailored for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and other organisations. This move is anticipated to improve operational efficiency and facilitate seamless access to important documents.
- ✓ **2. FUTURESILLS PRIME PROGRAMME**
Acknowledging the rapidly evolving technological landscape, the FutureSkills Prime Programme is set to re-skill and up-skill around 6.25 lakh IT professionals. The initiative aims to equip them with the necessary expertise to excel in emerging technologies and contribute to the nation's digital prowess.
- ✓ **3. ISEA PROGRAMME**
Under the Information Security & Education Awareness Phase (ISEA) Programme, 2.65 lakh individuals will undergo comprehensive training in information security. This effort seeks to bolster the nation's cybersecurity framework and create a more secure digital environment for all citizens.



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✓ 4. UMANG APP EXPANDS SERVICES

The Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) app, which already offers over 1,700 services, is set to enhance its offerings with an additional 540 services. This expansion aims to simplify access to government services and information through a single, user-friendly platform.

✓ 5. NATIONAL SUPERCOMPUTING MISSION GROWS

To further advance scientific research and computational capabilities, the National Supercomputing Mission will see the addition of 9 new supercomputers. This expansion builds upon the existing 18 supercomputers already deployed across the country.

✓ 6. BHASHINI

The AI-enabled multi-language translation tool, Bhashini, currently available in 10 languages, will be extended to cover all 22 Schedule 8 languages. This move is expected to break language barriers and foster better communication across diverse linguistic communities

✓ 7. MODERNISATION OF NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

The National Knowledge Network, which interconnects 1,787 educational institutions, will undergo modernisation to provide enhanced connectivity and collaboration opportunities for students and researchers.

✓ 8. SUPPORTING STARTUPS

Under the extended version of the Digital India programme, 1,200 startups in tier 2 and 3 cities will receive support, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship beyond metropolitan areas

✓ 9. CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR AI APPLICATIONS

Three Centres of Excellence will be established, focusing on developing AI applications for health, agriculture, and sustainable living in urban areas. These centres are poised to drive technological advancements for societal benefit.

✓ 10. CYBERSECURITY AND CYBER AWARENESS INITIATIVES

A significant emphasis will be placed on cybersecurity and cyber awareness. Cyber awareness courses will be made available for 12 crore college students, while initiatives will be taken to boost CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team - India) and take this organisation to the next level. The programme will also introduce new cybersecurity tools and integrate more than 200 sites with the National Cyber Coordination Centre.



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KERALA IN NEWS 2023

- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at a function in Maker Village Kochi, Kerala.
- Kerala has launched a groundbreaking scheme called 'Shubhayatra'.
- Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre.
- Piramal Finance opened the first all women branch named "Maitreyi" at Thripunithura near Kochi to cater to the unique needs of women customers.
- Kerala has become the first state in the country to launch its own internet service.
- Kerala has become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet services.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- Kerala has adopted a water budget, the first of its kind in the country, to deal with the problem of water scarcity in summer.
- Dharmadam, Kerala becomes first complete library constituency in India.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project.
- India's first Graphene Innovation center to be set up in Kerala.
- Recently, a group of researchers discovered a butterfly subspecies from the fringes of Akkulam and Vembanad lakes in Kerala.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th April flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod at Thiruvananthapuram Central Station.
- Kerala declared first State to enable digital banking service.
- M T Vasudevan Nair was awarded the "Kerala Jyoti", the highest civilian honour in Kerala.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd G20 Empower meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the theme "Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy".
- Kerala to become first State to use robotics tech extensively for manhole cleaning.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes, listed as Ramsar sites.



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AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023

- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.
- Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has launched a new app called BLR Pulse to provide hassle-free experience to the commuters at Kempegowda International Airport.
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has launched a new facility called 'DigiYatra' which enables passengers to avail of its services without downloading a mobile application.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport is the first in India to offer a free reading lounge to the passengers, with a huge collection of literature.
- Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi ranked 9th busiest airports globally in 2022, as per Airports Council International (ACI). United States-based Atlanta airport has retained its position as the world's busiest airport.
- According to the Airport Council International (ACI), Delhi International Airport has been ranked among the cleanest airports in Asia-Pacific.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 February 2023 launched the newly built Shivamogga airport along with various development projects worth over Rs 3,600 crore in Shivamogga, Karnataka.
- Bangalore's Kempegoda International Airport and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport both ranked second and seventh in Cirium's list of the world's best-performing airports for 2022.
- Mopa International Airport Goa named after former CM Manohar Parrikar.
- Jaipur International Airport Limited has received the Aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- Union Cabinet has given its approval for the naming of the new Greenfield Airport at Hollongi, Itanagar, the State Capital of Arunachal Pradesh as "Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar".

Q. The 15th summit of the BRICS group is being held under the chairmanship of which country?

A) South Africa

B) India

C) Brazil

D) China



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Answer : A

- ✓ The Republic of South Africa from 22-24 August 2023 at the invitation of H.E Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, to attend the 15th BRICS Summit being held in Johannesburg under the South African Chairmanship.
- ✓ BRICS has been pursuing a strong cooperation agenda across various sectors. We value that BRICS has become a platform for discussing and deliberating on issues of concern for the entire Global South, including development imperatives and reform of the multilateral system.
- ✓ This Summit will provide a useful opportunity for BRICS to identify future areas of cooperation and review institutional development.

Q. Which Country Environment Ministry has launched a program to combat desertification using artificial intelligence (AI)?

- A) Qatar
B) Saudi Arabia
C) Kuwait
D) United Arab Emirates

Answer : B

- ✓ The Saudi Environment Ministry has launched a program to combat desertification using artificial intelligence (AI).
- ✓ The program, which is a collaboration between the ministry, the National Center for Vegetation Development and Combating Desertification, and the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.
- ✓ Aim : To study the status of vegetative cover in the Kingdom and contribute to the goals of afforestation projects and the "Green Saudi" initiative.

Q. Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated India's first medical technology expo 'India MedTech Expo 2023' in which city?

- A) Kolkata
B) Chennai
C) Gandhinagar
D) Hyderabad

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated India's first medical technology expo, 'India MedTech Expo 2023', in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The inaugural event was organized on the sidelines of the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting.



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- ✓ India has been recognized as the 'Pharmacy of the World'. It is now time for India to take the lead in the medical devices sector and become the leader in the manufacturing of affordable, innovative, and quality Medical Devices
- ✓ The "MedTech Expo 2023 draws inspiration from PM Modi's vision of making India Aatmanirbhar.
- ✓ The Expo is set to become an unparalleled and comprehensive platform for demonstrating the capabilities and promise of the Indian Medical Devices ecosystem.
- ✓ Gujarat's pharmaceutical industry ranks number one in India with a 33% share in drug manufacturing and 28% share of drug exports.

GANDHINAGAR IN NEWS 2023

- Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated India's first medical technology expo, 'India MedTech Expo 2023', in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit is set to unfold on August 17 and 18, 2023, in the city of Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.
- The second edition of 'SemiconIndia 2023' in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel.
- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated SemiconIndia 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. With the theme "Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem".
- The Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) meeting, held during the Indian G20 Presidency, is slated to occur in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from July 17th to 18th, 2023.
- The first 15 meetings of the Business 20 (B20) India Inception Meeting will be held in Gandhinagar from January 22nd to 24th, 2023.

Q. Which IT services company has launched a centre of excellence on generative artificial intelligence in partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi)?

- A) Tata Consultancy Services
- B) Infosys
- C) Wipro
- D) HCL Technologies

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian IT services company Wipro has launched a centre of excellence on generative artificial intelligence in partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi).



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- ✓ This centre has been set up on the premises of the Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence at IIT Delhi, and this Centre of Excellence (CoE) will support applied research in generative AI.
- ✓ The aim of this centre is to encourage and better the research and development capabilities in several emerging areas such as generative AI and then connect the candidates with a talent pool.
- ✓ Wipro CoE teams will jointly work on building innovative solutions using AI, Machine Learning (ML), and other technologies.
- ✓ Wipro
- ✓ Founded : 1945
- ✓ Founder : Azim Premji
- ✓ Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ✓ Chairman : Azim Premji

Q. Which country has signed an agreement with the Indian government for sharing the India Stack?

- A) **Trinidad and Tobago** B) **Nigeria**
C) **Morocco** D) **Senegal**

Answer : A

- ✓ India signs MoU with Trinidad and Tobago on sharing INDIA STACK
- ✓ Trinidad and Tobago has signed an agreement with the Indian government for sharing the India Stack, which is a collection of open application programming interfaces and digital public goods for identity.
- ✓ The agreement was signed in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), the National E-Governance Division, and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✓ A similar agreement was signed with Papua New Guinea also last month, while the UPI — part of India Stack — has been accepted in France, UAE, Singapore and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of Papua New Guinea signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for sharing India Stack.
- ✓ Trinidad and Tobago
- ✓ Capital : Port of Spain
- ✓ Currency : Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TTD)
- ✓ President : Christine Kangaloo



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Q. In which city did Power Minister, RK Singh dedicate to the nation the 660 MW unit of NTPC's Super Thermal Power Project?

- A) Darlipali B) Barh
C) Barauni D) Dadri

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy RK Singh has dedicated to the nation a 660 MW unit of NTPC's Barh Super Thermal Power Project in Barh, Bihar.
- ✓ The 660 MW unit being inaugurated is Unit 2 of Stage I of the project. The commissioning of this unit would be another milestone in the government's endeavour to provide reliable and affordable power to the nation.
- ✓ The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy also lay the foundation stone for the extension of POWERGRID's (Power Grid Corporation of India Limited) 400/132 kV Lakhisarai Sub-station.
- ✓ As part of the project, 220 kV GIS will be constructed in existing sub-station premises along with the installation of two transformers of 500 MVA capacity. The extension of the substation at Lakhisarai will lead to improved power availability in Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Munger and Jamui districts and will also ease supply of power to meet future energy demand.

Q. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has planted the 4 Croreth tree under the All-India Tree Plantation Campaign of the Ministry of Home Affairs in which city?

- A) Lucknow
B) Gurugram
C) Greater Noida
D) Ghaziabad

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has planted the 4 Croreth tree under the All-India Tree Plantation Campaign of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the CRPF Group Center in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Amit Shah also inaugurated 15 newly constructed buildings, built at a cost of Rs 165 crores, across 8 different campuses of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ✓ The campaign is an initiative of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) to plant 5 crore trees by Dec 2023.



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- Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant will present the first 'Udyog Ratna' award to veteran industrialist and Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata.
- Maharashtra topped the list with the highest number of missing women in 2021, with a reported count of 56,498.
- Maharashtra's Economy will become a trillion dollar by 2028, said N Chandrashekar, president of the State Economy Development Council.
- Maharashtra Prisons Department has launched a "video call" facility for foreign nationals lodged in different jails across the state.
- NCP leader Ajit Pawar has been sworn in as the new Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra Government launched Nammo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana.
- Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to approve Good Governance Regulations.
- Uttar Pradesh surpasses Maharashtra in sugar production this season.
- A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' started in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, is scheduled to present the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' Award to Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari, also known as Appasaheb Dharmadhikari, on April 16 for his notable work as a social worker and reformer.
- Maharashtra Government has introduced a 4% quota for employees with disabilities in promotions.
- Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups in Pune.
- Ramesh Bais Appointed as the New Governor of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to pass the Lokayukta Bill.
- Recently a rare low altitude basalt plateau has been discovered in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra..
- Nilesh Sambre conferred with 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023' by Maharashtra State.
- Talon Grikspoor of the Netherlands won the singles title at the Maharashtra Open tennis tournament in Pune.

Q. Who won the gold medal in the women's 76kg freestyle at the U20 World Wrestling Championships 2023 in Jordan?

A) Sakshi Malik

B) Vinesh Phogat

C) Priya Mallik

D) Sonam Malik



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- ✓ The company has secured 510 MW solar project capacity in the CPSU Scheme Phase-II Tranche-III, floated by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) through competitive bidding.
- ✓ The 300 MW solar project capacity is under execution at Barsingsar, Bikaner District, Rajasthan.
- ✓ The EPC (engineering procurement construction) contract for the project has been awarded to TATA power solar systems through competitive bidding.
- ✓ The power usage agreement (PUA) for the 300 MW Solar project was signed between NLC India Ltd and Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (RUVNL) on August 17, 2023, in Jaipur by DK Jain, Director (Finance), RUVNL and DP Singh, GM (PBD) of NLC India for the supply of solar power to Rajasthan for the next 25 years..

Q. Which state Government has launched the India's First-Ever Night Street Racing Circuit?

- A) Karnataka**
- B) Kerala**
- C) Tamil Nadu**
- D) Andhra Pradesh**

Answer : C

- ✓ A new street circuit, which will also hold night races, was launched by the Tamil Nadu government and RRPL here on Wednesday (16th August 2023).
- ✓ The state government has partnered with Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL) for the project. RRPL is also the promoter of the Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship.
- ✓ Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development of Tamil Nadu, Udhayanidhi Stalin, launched the circuit.
- ✓ As for the track, it is a 3.5km layout, located around the Island Grounds that resides in the heart of the city.
- ✓ The track would be stretched across the Island Grounds, Victory War Memorial and the Napier Bridge with elevation changes, along with the view of the Marina Beach Road and the Bay of Bengal. It will also have 19 corners with multiple chicanes.
- ✓ The newly launched track is set to host a couple of events - the F4 Indian Championship and the Indian Racing League on December 9-10, 2023.
- ✓ According to its press release, the SDAT will be investing Rs 42 crore to host the event.



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TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023

- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- Tamil Nadu's Authoor betel leaves get Geographical Indication (GI) certificate.
- Tamil Nadu bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation .
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister "Udhayanidhi Stalin" has unveiled the trophy and the 'Bomman' mascot for the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament to be held in Chennai.
- Muthamizh Selvi, first Tamil Nadu woman to scale Mt Everest.
- Tamil Nadu government declared Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state..
- Tamil Nadu becomes first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
- Tamil Nadu govt to launch five-year Tamil Nadu Millet Mission.
- In a first of its kind initiative in India, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced the 'Nilgiri Tahr Project' .

Q. With reference to UDGAM Portal, consider the following statements:

1.It is a platform designed to promote environmental conservation by encouraging the use of single-use/biodegradable plastics and disposable products in everyday life.

2.It has been launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ Statement 1 is incorrect. UDGAM Portal stands for Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access information. Its aim is to aid users to identify their unclaimed deposits/ accounts and enable them to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operative at their respective banks.
- ✓ Statement 2 is correct. The portal has been launched by the RBI.



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- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently launched a Centralised Web Portal, UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation), for the public to search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.
- ✓ **About UDGAM Portal**
- ✓ It has been developed by RBI for use by members of public to facilitate and make it easier for them to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.
- ✓ Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and participating banks have collaborated on developing the portal.
- ✓ The portal will enable users to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operative at their respective banks.
- ✓ **Procedure:**
- ✓ Customers can register on the 'Udgam' platform using their mobile number.
- ✓ Once registered, they can search for unclaimed deposits under their name and provide additional inputs such as PAN, voter ID, driving licence and passport number.
- ✓ Customers can then retrieve their deposits by completing a KYC process with their branch.
- ✓ In case the deposit-holder has passed away, their nominee will be required to submit documents
- ✓ **What are Unclaimed Deposits?**
- ✓ According to RBI, "Unclaimed Deposits" refers to funds held in savings or current accounts that have remained inactive for a duration of 10 years, or in the case of fixed deposits (FDs), have not been withdrawn within 10 years from the maturity date.

Q. India's first 3D-printed post office built with a robotic printer using 3D printing technology has been opened in which city?

- A) Hyderabad
- C) Chennai

- B) Bengaluru
- D) Mumbai

Answer : B

- ✓ India's 1st state-of-the-art 3D-Printed post office opens in Bengaluru
- ✓ India's first 3D-printed post office built with a robotic printer using 3D printing technology that deposits concrete layer-by-layer in accordance with computerized 3D model drawing input was inaugurated in Bengaluru.



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- ✓ The entire construction activity was completed in a period of 45 days as compared to about six to eight months taken by the conventional method.
- ✓ Cost and time savings make 3D-concrete printing technology a viable alternative to conventional building practices.
- ✓ The post office building was constructed by construction company Larsen & Toubro Limited while IIT Madras provided technical guidance.

BENGALURU IN NEWS 2023

- India's 1st state-of-the-art 3D-Printed post office opens in Bengaluru.
- Bengaluru becomes the first Indian city to join the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- India is all set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) for the first time from 25-28 September 2023 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Sberbank's branch in India has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an IT unit in Bengaluru.
- India's first 3D-printed post office to come up in Bengaluru.
- The second Trade and Investment Working Group meeting under the G20 India Presidency began in Bengaluru.
- Foxconn to invest nearly 1 billion USD in Bengaluru.
- Nitin Gadkari unveiled first methanol run buses in Bengaluru.
- India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023), being organised during India's G20 Presidency, will be held in Bengaluru between February 6 and 8, 2023. .
- The Union Ministry of Defence has announced on 27 November 2022 that the biennial air show AeroIndia-2023 will be held at the Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru's from 13-17 February, 2023. This would be the 14th edition of Aero India.
- The first G-20 Environment meeting under the G-20 India Presidency will be held at the Taj West End in Bengaluru.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March inaugurated a 5-day cultural program "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru..
- The first meeting of the G-20 Energy Transition Working Group under the chairmanship of India will be held in Bengaluru from 5 to 7 February



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Q. RBI has launched a centralized web portal "UDGAM" to help citizens search for their unclaimed deposits. What is the full form of UDGAM?

- A) Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Account inforMation
- B) Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Allied inforMation
- C) Unclear Deposits Gateway to Account inforMation
- D) Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access inforMation

Answer : D

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a centralized web portal to help citizens search for their unclaimed deposits known as UDGAM.
- ✓ UDGAM stands for Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access inforMation.
- ✓ The portal has been developed by the central bank for the public to help them search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.
- ✓ How will the UDGAM portal work?
- ✓ The launch of the web portal will help users identify their unclaimed deposits/accounts and enable them to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operative at their respective banks.
- ✓ Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS) and participating banks have collaborated on developing the portal.
- ✓ Users would be able to access the details of their unclaimed deposits in respect of seven banks presently available on the portal.
- ✓ These banks are the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, South Indian Bank, Central Bank of India, Dhanlaxmi Bank, DBS Bank India, CitiBank N.A.
- ✓ The RBI said the search facility for the remaining banks on the portal would be made available in a phased manner by October 15, 2023.

RBI PORTAL IN NEWS

- RBI launched UDGAM portal to track unclaimed deposits.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has planned to launch a secured web-based centralised portal named 'PRAVAAH' to simplify and streamline application processes.
- RBI to launch PRISM platform to strengthen compliance by supervised entities.
- RBI develops portal FLAIR for reporting of Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA).



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- ✓ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) will manufacture the remaining three frigates, INS Himgiri, Dunagiri and Vindhyagiri.
- ✓ These ships are follow-on versions of the three Project-17 vessels, also known as the Shivalik class frigates in the Indian Navy.

Q. Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services has launched which app for seafarers?

- A) SAGAR
- B) MAHASAGAR
- C) SAMUDRA
- D) SETHUSAMUDRAM

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) launched a new mobile application called SAMUDRA for seafarers and the fishing community.
- ✓ About SAMUDRA App:
- ✓ Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories (SAMUDRA) application offers comprehensive information on all ocean related services.
- ✓ It is a cutting-edge tool helping users to navigate the marine domain with confidence on their safety, and profitable fishing operations.
- ✓ It embodies the institute vision and mission in serving the nation with ocean data, information, and advisory services.
- ✓ It will catalyse sustainable ocean activities, thus enabling a way forward for the Blue Economy,
- ✓ It empowers users with real-time updates and critical alerts on oceanic disasters such as tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, and swell surge alerts, for the individuals and communities to stay informed and take necessary precautions towards the protection of lives and property.
- ✓ What is INCOIS?
- ✓ It was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- ✓ Mandate: To provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvements through systematic and focused research



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Q. Who has launched to the FloodWatch mobile app for real-time flood forecast situations across the country?

- A) Kushvinder Vohra
- B) Raj Kumar Singh
- C) Giriraj Singh
- D) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Answer : A

- ✓ Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri Kushvinder Vohra today launched the mobile application, "FloodWatch" with the aim of using mobile phones to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.
- ✓ **About Floodwatch App:**
- ✓ This app gives information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.
- ✓ The in-house developed user-friendly app has readable and audio broadcast and all the information is available in 2 languages, viz. English and Hindi.
- ✓ Other feature of the app includes real-time flood monitoring where users can check up-to-date flood situation throughout the country.
- ✓ The app utilizes near real-time river flow data from various sources.
- ✓ The app also provides flood forecast at nearest location where users can check the flood advisory at the station nearest to them on the Home Page itself.
- ✓ The app will also provide State-wise/Basin-wise Flood Forecast (up to 24 hours) or Flood Advisory (up to 7 days) which can be accessed by selecting specific stations, state wise or basin wise from the dropdown menu.
- ✓ This app utilizes advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling, and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts.
- ✓ Key facts about Central Water Commission
- ✓ It is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources.
- ✓ It is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation



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Q. Which bank has recently introduced the Jeevan Dhara saving bank account for pensioners?

- A) Karnataka Bank B) Dhanlaxmi Bank
C) Canara Bank D) Federal Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Canara Bank has introduced Canara Jeevan Dhara, a special savings bank account for pensioners, and prospective pensioners.
- ✓ All the employees who retired on a voluntary basis or normal retirements are also eligible.
- ✓ The primary benefit of this account for senior citizens is that it is a zero-balance savings account. With this savings account, senior citizens do not have to maintain a minimum balance and there are no maintenance charges.
- ✓ The bank offers two variants depending on the pension credit. Diamonds account is for up to Rs 50,000 and Platinum account is for above Rs 50,000.
- ✓ The interest rate on Jeevan Dhara savings account will be same as regular savings account which ranges from 2.90% to 4% depending on the balance in the account

CANARA BANK IN NEWS 2023

- Canara Bank has introduced Canara Jeevan Dhara, a special savings bank account for pensioners, and prospective pensioners.
- Public sector bank Canara Bank will be signing a ₹3,000 crore IT transformation deal to revamp and enhance its tech infrastructure.
- Canara Bank Tops Public Sector Banks in Lending to State PSUs and Corporations for Fifth Consecutive Year.
- Canara Bank, in partnership with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), has introduced a new customer-friendly service called “Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H,” which is aimed at enhancing customer satisfaction.
- Canara Bank, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has announced that its customers can now utilize their RuPay Credit Cards on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.
- Canara Bank and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) have collaborated to launch a service that allows Indians residing in Oman to make payments for their bills in India.



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- Canara Bank said it plans to sell its stake in Russian Joint Venture(JV) Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) to the other venture partner State Bank of India (SBI) for about Rs 114 crore.
- CIBL, incorporated in 2003, is a joint venture in Russia between SBI (60 per cent) and Canara Bank (40 per cent).
- K Satyanarayana Raju named as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank.
- He will be replacing L V Prabhakar.
- CANARA BANK
- It is a leading commercial bank of India.
- It was established in 1906, by Sri Ammembal Subba Rao Pai.
- Syndicate Bank was merged with Canara Bank on 1 April 2020. After this merger, Canara Bank has become the fourth largest bank in the country.
- Headquarters Bangalore, Karnataka
- MD & CEO : K. Satyanarayana Raju

Q. Who has been appointed as MD and CEO of South Indian Bank, with effect from 1st October 2023?

A) PR Seshadri

B) B. Ramesh Babu

C) N. Kamakodi

D) Abhijit Chakravorty

Answer : A

- ✓ PR Seshadri appoints as MD and CEO of South Indian Bank
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of PR Seshadri as Managing Director & CEO of the South Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from 1 October 2023.
- ✓ He is currently mentoring businesses both at an operating level as well as at the board level at various companies.
- ✓ He has served, amongst other positions, as managing director & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank, managing director & regional sales and distribution head of Citibank N.A
- ✓ South Indian Bank
- ✓ Founded : 1929
- ✓ Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala
- ✓ Chairman : Salim Gangadharan



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- ✓ This scheme aimed to offer medical coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to poor and vulnerable families.
- ✓ The scheme covers over nearly 40% of the population targeted towards poorest and the vulnerable.
- ✓ What is the Role of National Health Authority (NHA)?
- ✓ NHA is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme - Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ It has been entrusted with the role of:
- ✓ designing strategy, building technological infrastructure and
- ✓ implementation of National Digital Health Mission to create a National Digital Health Eco-system.
- ✓ To implement the scheme at the State level, State Health Agencies (SHAs) in the form of a society/trust have been set up by respective States.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of Nepal?

- A) Anil Kumar Sinha B) Ishwor Prasad Khatiwada
C) Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha D) Ananda Mohan Bhattarai

Answer : C

- ✓ Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel appointed Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha as the Chief Justice of Nepal.

Q. The World Photography Day is celebrated on which day?

- A) 16 August B) 17 August
C) 18 August D) 19 August

Answer : D

- ✓ World Photography Day is celebrated on 19 August every year to promote photography as a hobby and also inspire photographers around the globe to share a single photo with the rest of the world.
- ✓ Theme 2023 – LANDSCAPES
- ✓ The first official World Photo Day was observed on August 19, 2010.
- ✓ The origin of World Photo Day comes from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837.



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- ✓ It was on August 19, 1939 that the French government purchased the patent of Daguerreotype process and announced the invention as a gift “free to the world”.

Q. Which day in the year is celebrated as World Humanitarian Day?

- A) 19 August
- B) 20 August
- C) 18 August
- D) 17 August

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed every year on 19 August to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service.
- ✓ Theme 2023 – No matter what
- ✓ In 2023 we are celebrating the 14th WHD.
- ✓ World Humanitarian Day was commemorated for the first time on 19 August 2009, after it was formally recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009.
- ✓ Why 19 August?
- ✓ 19 August marks the day on which the then Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq, Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 of his colleagues were killed in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad.

Q. When is the World Mosquito Day observed globally?

- A) 20 August
- B) 19 August
- C) 18 August
- D) 17 August

Answer : A

- ✓ World Mosquito Day is observed on 20 August annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented.
- ✓ The day also commemorates the discovery made by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
- ✓ In 1902. Ross won Nobel Prize for Medicine becoming the first British person to receive the award.



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Q. Sadbhavana Diwas is observed in India annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of which Indian leader?

- A) Syama Prasad Mukherjee B) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel D) Rajiv Gandhi

Answer : D

- ✓ Every year India observes Sadbhavana Diwas on August 20 to commemorate the birth anniversary of late erstwhile Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ 'Sadbhavana' means goodwill and bonafide.
- ✓ August 20, 2023 marks the 79th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi who was the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40.
- ✓ The day aims to promote National Integration and Communal Harmony among people of all religions, languages and regions and stop violence.
- ✓ Rajiv Gandhi was the 6th Prime Minister of India, serving from 1984 to 1989.

Q. In India, when is the Akshay Urja Diwas celebrated?

- A) 19 August B) 20 August
C) 18 August D) 17 August

Answer : B

- ✓ Akshay Urja Diwas (Renewable Energy Day) is observed every year on 20 August since 2004 to raise awareness about the developments and adoption of renewable energy in India.
- ✓ The Akshay Urja Day was initiated by the Indian Ministry for New & Renewable Energy Sources in 2004.
- ✓ The energy such as Biogas, Solar Energy, Wind energy, hydroelectrical power are few example of Akshay Urja.
- ✓ The main motive of Akshya urja Diwas is to make people aware that they have to think about the renewable energy (Akshya Urja) apart from tradition energy.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)?

- A) Virat Kohli B) Rohit Sharma
C) Rahul Dravid D) Sachin Tendulkar



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Answer : C

- ✓ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), the second-largest Indian oil marketing company (OMC), has announced Rahul Dravid as its latest brand ambassador.
- ✓ Rahul Dravid's remarkable sportsmanship, role model status, integrity, dependability, and trustworthiness perfectly reflect the values we stand for and make him the perfect fit for brand BPCL.
- ✓ Rahul Dravid will represent BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and its range of MAK lubricants.
- ✓ CMD of BPCL – G. Krishnakumar

LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023

- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023
- Shradha Kapoor: Asics India Private Limited
- Rashmika Mandanna : Printer company Epson India
- Smriti Mandhana : Wrangler
- Hrithik Roshan : Zebronic TV
- Sachin Tendulkar : Smile Ambassador
- Sania Mirza : Sony Sports Network
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism
- Virat Kohli : Duroflex
- Alia Bhatt : Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy
- Ayushman Khurana : Wakefit
- Rishabh Pant : Star Sports
- Rohit Sharma : JioCinema
- Virat Kohli : HSBC India
- Ranveer Singh : Star Sports Network
- Shreya Ghodawat : India's ambassador for She Changes Climate
- MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar : Brand ambassadors of IBA Women's World Championships 2023
- Sachin Tendulkar : World's first 'Hand Ambassador' for Savlon India
- Ranveer Singh : Pepsi
- Ayushmann Khurrana : UNICEF India child rights



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- Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh Thakur : Hyundai Motor India Ltd
- Vir Das : Plant-based meat brand UnCrave
- Harmanpreet Kaur : Puma
- Nikhat Zareen : National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
- Saurav Ganguly : Bandhan Bank 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign
- Anushka Sharma : Puma
- Deepika Padukone : Pottery Barn
- Virat Kohli : Smart watch Noise
- Prasoon Joshi : Uttarakhand State
- Lionel Messi : Byjus

Q. Which bank has set up 10 startup cells across different centres in the country to serve its specialized banking requirements?

A) Canara Bank

B) Bank of Baroda

C) Indian Bank

D) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Public sector Indian Bank has set up 10 startup cells across different centres in the country to serve its specialized banking requirements.
- ✓ The startup cells have been set up in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Chennai, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Mumbai.
- ✓ It includes offering payment gateways, corporate credit cards and credit facilities apart from the existing products of the bank.
- ✓ The launch of the startup cells is a major milestone in Indian Bank's journey to support the growth of the startup ecosystem in India.
- ✓ The startup cell branches would have dedicated relationship managers, who would partner with them and build lifecycle engagement with the start-ups.
- ✓ Indian Bank has also launched 'IND SPRINGBOARD' — a customised loan product for startups to address their unique financial challenges.
- ✓ Indian Bank



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Answer : C

- ✓ State-owned hydro power giant NHPC has inked an initial pact with Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) to construct railway siding for a 2,880 MW Dibang multipurpose project in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ "NHPC signed an MoU with RITES for Construction of Railway Siding at Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh) for NHPC's 2,880 MW Dibang Multi Purpose Project at NHPC Corporate Office on 21st August 2023," a company statement said.
- ✓ According to the statement, the agreement was signed by General Manager (Civil) Dibang and Executive Director, RITES, in the presence of Biswajit Basu, Director (Projects) NHPC at corporate office of NHPC.
- ✓ NHPC's total installed capacity is 7,097.2 MW of renewable power (including wind and solar) through its 25 power stations, including 1,520 MW through its subsidiary.
- ✓ RITES Ltd is a leading player in the transport consultancy and engineering sector in India, having diversified services across sectors and geographical reach.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2023

- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Chachin Grazing Festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh launched an app named 'Arunpol App' of Arunachal Pradesh Police.
- Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have signed an agreement for the settlement of an inter-state boundary dispute between the two States.
- A tripartite committee recommended that some areas be transferred from Assam to Arunachal..
- Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on 10 April launched the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' at Kibithu, a border village in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh.
- A fish museum, the first of its kind in the Northeast, would soon be built in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, inaugurated the newly renovated Shar Nyima
- Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa) at Gyangkhar, his native village in Tawang district.



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- ✓ However, if the account holder wishes to get a chequebook, he/she will have to fulfil the minimum balance criteria.
- ✓ The account holders under this scheme will be given a RuPay debit card which can be used across all ATMs for cash withdrawal.
- ✓ Individuals opening a Jan Dhan account are subject to be recipients of certain benefits. They are
- ✓ **Accidental Insurance Cover:**
- ✓ It provides accidental insurance of ₹1,00,000 to the holders of non-premium cards, while those with premium cards can avail up to ₹2,00,000.
- ✓ People holding a RuPay Debit Card under PMJDY will be eligible for this insurance.
- ✓ **Life Cover Insurance:**
- ✓ The holders of a RuPay Debit Card under the scheme can also receive life cover insurance up to ₹30,000.
- ✓ It will only apply to people opening bank accounts for the first time under Jan Dhan Yojana with a debit card.
- ✓ The person should also be the head of the family or a major earning member.
- ✓ This scheme will be liable to a single payment of ₹30,000 upon the death of a beneficiary.
- ✓ Overdraft Facility: Beneficiaries can avail of an overdraft facility for up to ₹10,000. However, this is only available against one account per household.
- ✓ This scheme also provides loans of up to ₹5,000 to beneficiaries after completing six months of account transactions

Q. Who has won the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships held in Dalian, China?

A) Akanksha Salunke

B) Sunayna Kuruvilla

C) Anahat Singh

D) Tanvi Khanna

Answer : C

- ✓ India's Anahat Singh clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships held in Dalian, China.
- ✓ The 15-year-old Anahat defeated Hong Kong's Ena Kwong 3-1 in the final on 20th August 2023 to win the gold medal.
- ✓ She had beaten Malaysian players Doyce Lee and Whitney Isabelle Wilson in the quarterfinal and semifinal, respectively.



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- ✓ Last year in Thailand, the Delhi-based Anahat had won her first gold medal of this event.
- ✓ Earlier this year, Anahat emerged winner in the U-15 category of the British Junior Open Squash, beating Sohaila Hazem of Egypt in the final

Q. Who has been elected as the new 30th Prime Minister of Thailand?

- A) Chan-o-cha used B) Shretha Thavisin
C) Yingluck Shinawatra D) Abhisit Vejjajiva

Answer : B

- ✓ Thailand's parliament voted for real estate tycoon Srettha Thavisin to be the country's next prime minister, bringing an end to three months of political deadlock.
- ✓ Srettha, 60, was the sole candidate put forward by the populist Pheu Thai Party and received 482 votes out of a possible 747 in Thailand's bicameral parliament.

Q. 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting will begin in Which City?

- A) Bengaluru B) Varanasi
C) Chennai D) Mumbai

Answer : B

- ✓ The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting will begin 23rd August 2023 in Varanasi. It will culminate in the Culture Ministers' Meeting (CMM) on 26th August 2023.
- ✓ Delegates from G20 member nations, invitee countries, and various international organizations will attend it. Building upon the success of the previous three CWG meetings in Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar, and Hampi, as well as the four Global Thematic Webinars,
- ✓ Aim : The 4th CWG meeting in Varanasi aims to arrive at actionable outcomes while positioning culture at the heart of policy-making.
- ✓ The delegates will have the opportunity to experience the world-renowned Ganga Aarti on the banks of the river Ganga and explore the beautiful history of the lion capital of Sarnath.
- ✓ The G20 Global Orchestra performance titled "Sur Vasudha" celebrating the rich musical knowledge and heritage of G20 member nations and invitee countries will be presented in Varanasi.



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Q. The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has partnered with which institute for a faculty development programme on artificial intelligence (AI) and data science?

- A) Indian Institute of Science B) Jawaharlal Nehru University
C) Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham D) Jio Institute

Answer : D

- ✓ The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has partnered with Jio Institute for a faculty development programme on artificial intelligence (AI) and data science.
- ✓ The partnership aims to upskill and reskill faculty members from AICTE-approved institutions. It will also explore emerging opportunities within the technological landscape.
- ✓ The collaborative initiative aims to empower academic leaders and senior faculty members with a deep understanding of AI and data science while also emphasizing the ethical considerations of utilizing AI tools for immersive learning.

Q. Which state government will host the first-ever Pro Govinda League in the state?

- A) Maharashtra B) Gujarat
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ The Maharashtra government will host the first-ever Pro Govinda League in Mumbai.
- ✓ The Pro Govinda League would be held on 31 August on the lines of the Pro Kabaddi League.
- ✓ The Pro Govinda League would be held at the National Sports Club of India at Worli in Mumbai.
- ✓ Around 50,000 Govindas, including 3,500 from Mumbai, would be participating in the event.
- ✓ The first prize comprises a whopping Rs 11 lakh, second Rs 7 lakh, third Rs 5 lakh, and fourth Rs 3 lakh
- ✓ Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde recognized Dahi-Handi as a sport in Maharashtra in 2022 on the occasion of Janmashtami.

Q. Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh have been appointed as whole-time members of which of the following recently?

- A) RBI B) SEBI
C) SIDBI D) IRDAI

Answer : B



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

Q. Executive Vice President of which company Sandeep Navlakhe resigned from the key post in the company recently?

A) JSW Energy

B) Adani Transmission

C) NHPC

D) Tata Projects

Answer : D

- ✓ Tata Projects Executive Vice President Sandeep Navlakhe, who played a crucial role in the construction of the new Parliament, has resigned from the key post in the company.
- ✓ He has been responsible for buildings, factories, and airports business unit at the company.
- ✓ A BITS Pilani alumina, Navlakhe has 32 years of experience in the construction industry, having previously worked at Larsen and Toubro (L&T) for more than two decades.
- ✓ Tata Projects is a leading technology-led engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) company in India.

Q. The World Senior Citizen Day is marked every year on which day?

A) 20 August

B) 21 August

C) 22 August

D) 23 August

Answer : B



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- ✓ World Senior Citizen Day is observed globally on August 21 every year to raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honor and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements.
- ✓ The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1990.
- ✓ The day was officially founded by the former President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan in 1988 to dedicate a day to older adults and their issues.

Q. Who has been designated as a “national icon” by the Election Commission (EC) to encourage greater voter participation in the electoral process?

- A) Mahendra Singh Dhoni B) Sachin Tendulkar
C) Kapil Dev D) Sourav Ganguly

Answer : B

- ✓ Cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar has been designated as a “national icon” by the Election Commission (EC) to encourage greater voter participation in the electoral process.
- ✓ A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Tendulkar and the poll panel. As part of the three-year agreement, Tendulkar will spread voter awareness.
- ✓ This collaboration would mark a significant step towards leveraging Tendulkar’s unparalleled impact with the youth for increasing voters’ participation in the forthcoming elections, especially in general elections (to Lok Sabha), 2024.
- ✓ Last year, the commission had recognized actor Pankaj Tripathi as a national icon.
- ✓ Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, stalwarts such as MS Dhoni, Aamir Khan and Mary Kom had been the EC’s national icons.

SACHIN TENDULKAR IN NEWS 2023

- Sachin Tendulkar has been designated as a “national icon” by the Election Commission (EC) to encourage greater voter participation in the electoral process.
- A new book titled ‘Sachin@50’- Celebrating A Maestro by Boria Majumdar.
- Sachin Tendulkar now ‘smile ambassador’ for Maharashtra govt under the state’s ‘Swachh Mukh Abhiyan’.
- Savlon India appoints Sachin Tendulkar as world’s first ‘Hand Ambassador’.



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- Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar has turned 50 this year on 24 April and to honour him the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia has unveiled a set of gates named after him.
- In honor of Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday, the West Stand at the renowned Sharjah cricket stadium has been renamed as the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.'
- 10 yrs post-retirement, a life-size statue of Sachin Tendulkar at Wankhede stadium Mumbai

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

- A) Advait Thakur
- B) Trishneet Arora
- C) Utkarsh Kawatra
- D) Prakash Shrivastava

Answer : D

- ✓ Former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- ✓ The Cabinet Appointments Committee of the Central Government approved the appointment of Justice Prakash Srivastava as the Chairman of the NGT.
- ✓ NGT was set up under the National Green Tribunal Act in 2010.
- ✓ Earlier, Justice Shiv Kumar Singh was appointed as the executive chairperson after the retirement of the then NGT Chairman Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel in July.
- ✓ About National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- ✓ Founded – 18 October 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- ✓ Headquarters- Delhi
- ✓ Chairman – Prakash Shrivastavs
- ✓ Regional Offices – 4 (Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai)
- ✓ Tenure- Term of 3 years or till the age of 65 years and not eligible for reappointment.
- ✓ Objective- To speed up disposal of environmental issues
- ✓ India is the third (first developing) country in the world after Australia and New Zealand to set up a Special Environment Tribunal.



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Q. Which bank has launched its state-of-the-art mobile banking app 'iris' to offer digital banking solutions in India?

A) Axis Bank

B) Yes Bank

C) ICICI Bank

D) HDFC Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Private lender YES Bank has launched its state-of-the-art mobile banking app 'iris' by YES Bank.
- ✓ The iris app has a sleek and intuitive user interface that aims to offer a simplified banking experience for users of all age groups, and backgrounds.
- ✓ Designed to cater to both existing and new customers, the app offers access over 100 features and services in just a few clicks on a single platform.
- ✓ It also ensures utmost safety of the customers' financial data by incorporating best-in-class safety features like – Biometric Authentication, Sim-Binding as well as a 2-factor Verification

YES BANK IN NEWS 2023

- YES BANK launched 'iris' to offer digital banking solutions in India.
- YES Bank Partners with IIT Kanpur to Transform Startups and Red Hat to Redefine Mobile Banking Experience.
- Cashfree Payments partners with YES Bank to offer Global Collections service for exporters.
- YES Bank has collaborated with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG).
- Reliance General becomes first insurer to accept CBDC in tie-up with YES Bank.
- Yes Bank, Turtlefin Launched Online Insurance Services platform 'EasyNsure'.
- Yes Bank has signed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), acquiring a 9.9 percent stake in the ARC at Rs 11.43 per share.
- YES BANK
- Founded : 2004
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- Tagline : Experience our Expertis



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Q. Who is the author of the book titled “Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir”?

- A) Anne Frank
B) Vipul Rikhi
C) Christopher Paolini
D) Alexander Pope

Answer : B

- ✓ A new book titled “Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir” is written by Vipul Rikhi.
- ✓ A new book aims to capture the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision and his poetry that has been quoted and translated extensively.
- ✓ This book was published by HarperCollins India and presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved in popular imagination.

Q. Which state government has approved nine industrial projects worth Rs 873.57 crore which will create employment opportunities for 251,600 people in the state?

- A) Assam
B) Odisha
C) Rajasthan
D) Gujarat

Answer : B

- ✓ The Odisha government has approved nine industrial projects worth Rs 873.57 crore which will create employment opportunities for 251,600 people in the state.
- ✓ The projects include Petronet LNG Limited’s Compressed Bio Gas and Fermented Organic Manure plant.
- ✓ With an annual capacity of 33,065 MT, this project promises a dual advantage of chemical production and renewable energy, Located in Deogarh, this initiative is set to transform the landscape.
- ✓ Pearl Precision Products Pvt Ltd joins the ranks with their plan for a cutting-edge Plastic Faucet, Water Tank, Pipes, and Fittings manufacturing unit. This project will be coming up in Paradeep Plastic Park, Jagatsinghpur.

ODISHA IN NEWS 2023

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the ‘Mo Jungle Jami Yojana’ for indigenous people of the state to ensure individual and community rights over forest land for eligible beneficiaries.
- India’s biggest natural arch formed 184 million years ago discovered in Odisha by Geological Survey of India (GSI).



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- Odisha becomes the first state to notify a committee for conservation of seeds preserved by tribal farmers.
- Odisha government launched the 'Mo Ghara' (My Home) housing scheme.
- PM Modi launches railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha.
- Odisha government has expanded the jurisdiction of Special Development Councils (SDCs) from nine to 23 districts to improve the lives of 84 lakh tribal people.
- Odisha has its 88th foundation day on 1st April 2023.
- World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 100 million loan under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Program.
- Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state.
- Aska police station of Odisha's Ganjam district became the country's number one police station.
- Gangapur police station in Odisha's Ganjam district has been awarded the second best police station award.
- Gold Deposits Found at Different Location in Three Districts of Odisha , including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the Odisha government aims to make Odisha slum-free by the end of 2023

Q. Which bank has recently launched the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile application as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project?

- A) Kotak Mahindra Bank B) Canara Bank
C) Indian Overseas Bank D) Indian Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Canara Bank has launched the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile application as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project.
- ✓ It is the first bank in both the public and commercial sectors to offer this feature via its CBDC mobile app called the Canara Digital Rupee app.
- ✓ With the introduction of this feature, customers can scan merchant UPI QR codes using the Canara Digital Rupee app and pay through digital currency.



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- ✓ Minister of Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the CSIR Prima ET11, which is claimed to be the first indigenous e-tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur.
- ✓ Jitendra Singh focused on the role of Agri StartUps in India's economy and called for the adoption of new and AI-driven technologies in Agriculture.
- ✓ An increasing number of new startups are venturing into the agriculture sector, focussing on niche technologies including e-tractor, recycling garbage, drip irrigation, and genome-sequenced farming such as Mango and Lotus among others

Q. Which state government has launched Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana means the 'Chief Minister's Learn-Earn' scheme in the state?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh's Chief Minister Shivraj Singh has inaugurated Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana means 'Chief Minister's Learn-Earn' scheme in the state.
- ✓ The scheme has facilitated on-the-job training on the lines of 'learn and earn along with skill development.
- ✓ The state government is targeted to include one lakh youth in the first phase of the 'Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao' scheme. However, more than 8 lakh 69 thousand youths have already registered themselves so far.
- ✓ A total of 16 thousand 450 establishments have also been registered. These establishments have published around 69 thousand posts for the registered youth. Out of them, contracts have also been signed for more than 14 thousand posts
- ✓ The 'Mukhyamantri Sikho-Kamao' scheme has been started for the youth in the age group of 18 to 29 years. Under the scheme, the selected youth will be given training according to the requirements of the industries and also get an 8 to 10 thousand rupees stipend.

Q. Who has recently launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP)?

- A) Piyush Goyal B) Rajnath Singh
C) Nitin Gadkari D) Narendra Modi

Answer : C



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- ✓ Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has launched the much-awaited Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP).
- ✓ Bharat NCAP is a significant step forward in the government's commitment to improve road safety by raising the safety standards of motor vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes in India.
- ✓ The programme aims to provide a tool to the car customers to make a comparative assessment of crash safety of motor vehicles available in the market.
- ✓ Under this programme, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars tested as per Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197
- ✓ Based on the performance of the car in the tests, the car will be awarded star ratings for Adult Occupants (AOP) and Child Occupant (COP). Potential car customers can refer to these star ratings to compare the safety standards of different vehicles and accordingly make their purchase-decision.

Q. Who has been appointed as the part-time chairperson of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)?

A) Nandan Reddy

B) Deepak Ravindran

C) Neelkanth Mishra

D) Divya Gandotra Tandon

Answer : C

- ✓ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the nodal body in charge of issuing Aadhaar numbers, has appointed Neelkanth Mishra as its part-time chairperson.
- ✓ Mishra is the Chief Economist and Head of Global Research at Axis Bank Ltd.
- ✓ The UIDAI board consists of a chairperson, two part-time members, and the CEO, who also serves as the member secretary.
- ✓ The three appointments are for a period of three years or up to the age of 65 years old, whichever is earlier.

Q. Who has been appointed as the CEO of Viacom 18 for digital business?

A) Sreelakshmi Suresh

B) Trishneet Arora

C) Farrhad Acidwalla

D) Kiran Mani

Answer : D

- ✓ Viacom 18 has appointed Google's Kiran Mani as CEO overseeing digital business operations.
- ✓ Currently, Mani is Google's General Manager and MD for Android and Google Play for the Asia Pacific region.



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Answer : B

- ✓ India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal in this regard.
- ✓ This is Rajasthan's fifth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra Hills and Ramgarh Vishdhari.
- ✓ Giant leap for wildlife conservation in Rajasthan. Happy to announce that the state has got yet another Tiger Reserve
- ✓ The number of tigers in India has increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022, an annual rise of 6 per cent, according to government data.
- ✓ With a 50 per cent increase in the last four years, Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number of tigers in the country (785), followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444).
- ✓ The number of tigers in Rajasthan has increased from 32 in 2006 to 88 in 2022

TIGER RESERVE IN NEWS 2023

- India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal
- A seven-month-old female tiger cub was found dead under suspicious circumstances at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.
- Bihar government to constitute 'Rhino Task Force' for suggesting measures for the reintroduction of rhino conservation scheme in 'Valmiki Tiger Reserve' in West Champaran district.
- India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population.
- A photo of an elephant taken at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Tamil Nadu has emerged as the winner of the Siena Drone Photo Awards 2023.
- According to the latest tiger census data released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the number of tigers in India is set to reach 3,167 in 2022.
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka completed 50 years as a Project Tiger Reserve 1 April 2023.
- Tiger Safari in Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) in Rajasthan's Bundi district is expected to be open in July.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana..



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- Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav informed that Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan has been notified as the 52nd Tiger Reserve of India.
- The new butterfly park at Anamalai Tiger Reserve emphasises the need to conserve indigenous species.
- It was earlier known as Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park and as Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It is located in Tamilnadu.
- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched on April 1, 1973 by the Government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure.
- Madhya Pradesh has the most number of tiger reserves with six in total.
- The national animal of India is the magnificent Royal Bengal Tiger. Its scientific name is Panthera.

Q. Which institution has recently approved USD 25 million proposal submitted by the India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying?

A) ADB

B) IMF

C) World Bank

D) G20 Pandemic Fund

Answer : D

- ✓ The G20 Pandemic Fund has approved a \$25 million proposal submitted by India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India on "Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response".
- ✓ The G20 Pandemic Fund was established under Indonesia's G20 Presidency, which finances critical investments to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities at national, regional, and global levels of low- and middle-income countries.
- ✓ Historical Background of G20 Summit
- ✓ The Group owes its origin to the Financial Crisis in 1997-98 of the Asian Tigers (Countries of East and Southeast Asia), which caused its establishment in 1999. It worked first as a forum for the Central Bank Governors and Finance Ministers of the major industrialised and developing economies to discuss global economic and financial stability
- ✓ G20 Countries List



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- ✓ G20 comprises 19 countries, namely Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- ✓ These members account for around 85% of the world GDP, 75% of the total international trade, and two-thirds of the global population.
- ✓ In addition to these member countries, the G20 each year invites guest countries and international organisations such as the United Nations, World Bank, IMF, OECD, ASEAN, etc., to participate in its meetings
- ✓ The G20 consists of two parallel tracks called the Finance Track and the Sherpa Track
- ✓ **India's G20 Priorities**
- ✓ Green Development, Climate Finance and Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE).
- ✓ Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth.
- ✓ Accelerating progress on SDGs.
- ✓ Technological Transformation and Digital Public Infrastructure.
- ✓ Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century.
- ✓ Women-led Development.

Q. Which country is the organiser of 'Army 2023: 9th International Military-Technical Forum'?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ India, China and Iran have set up pavilions at the ongoing Army 2023, the 9th International Military-Technical Forum organised by Russia.
- ✓ The India pavilion, which has stalls by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and three Defence Public Sector Undertakings including Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

RUSSIA IN NEWS 2023

- India, China and Iran have set up pavilions at the ongoing Army 2023, the 9th International Military-Technical Forum organised by Russia.



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- India and Russia to Explore Acceptance of RuPay and Mir Payment Cards for Cross-Border Transactions.
- Sberbank's branch in India has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an IT unit in Bengaluru.
- St. Petersburg, Russia, hosted the Second Summit of Russia–Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum.
- “India-Russia Business Dialogue” 2023 took place in New Delhi, and it was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.
- Russian Arms Supplies to India Worth \$13 bn in past 5 years.
- Financial crime watchdog FATF suspends Russia's membership due to Ukraine conflict.
- Sberbank, Russia's top lender, has announced that individuals can now open accounts in Indian rupees, as the bank looks to decrease its reliance on the US dollar and euro.
- International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin over Ukraine war crimes.
- Russia's first lunar mission in nearly five decades, Luna-25, crashed into Moon a day after it had spun into uncontrolled orbit
- RUSSIA
- Capital : Moscow
- Currency : Ruble
- PM : Mikhail Mishustin
- President : Vladimir Putin
- 'Roscosmos' Space Agency : Russia
- AVIAINDRA Air Exercise : India and Russia
- INDRA Military Exercise : India and Russia

Q. North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with an Approved Outlay of ___ Crores

A) Rs. 7526.50

B) Rs. 7892.50

C) Rs. 8139.50

D) Rs. 8578.50



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Q. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has reconstituted the Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) which conducts the first-level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative by agencies such as the CBI. The reconstituted APBFF will be chaired by __.

A) Abhijit Sen

B) M Rajeshwar Rao

C) Suresh N Patel

D) Abid Hussain

Answer : C

- ✓ The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has reconstituted the Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) that conducts the first-level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative by agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ✓ The reconstituted APBFF will be chaired by Suresh N Patel, the former Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- ✓ Besides the Chairman, there are four Members and the tenure of the Chairman/ Members would be for two years with effect from August 21, according to an order issued by the CVC.
- ✓ The four Members of the advisory board are Ravikant, a retired IAS officer; Rajnikant Mishra, former Director General, BSF; David Rasquinha, former MD of Exim Bank; and Partha Pratim Sengupta, former MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
- ✓ The ABBFF has been empowered to examine the role of officials/ wholetime directors (including ex-officials/ ex-wholetime directors) in public sector banks, public sector insurance companies; and public sector financial institutions in case of frauds amounting to ₹ 3 crore and above.
- ✓ The CVC has now stipulated that all PSBs, public sector insurance companies, and public sector financial institutions should refer all matters of frauds involving ₹3 crore and above to the board for advice

COMMITTEE IN NEWS 2023

- Government of India has constituted an expert panel headed by former Law Secretary TK Vishwanathan to propose reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and reduce the burden on the courts.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has established an 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Rajesh Gopal, secretary general of Global Tiger Forum, has been appointed as its chairman.



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- Government of India has constituted a Peace Committee in Manipur under the Chairpersonship of Governor, Manipur Anusuiya Uikey.
- IRDAI has recently constituted a five-member expert committee comprising medical experts and insurers to advise on matters related to mental health and insurance; Headed By : Pratima Murthy.
- Razorpay forms 4-member advisory board to strengthen corporate governance; Head-former RBI deputy governor NS Vishwanathan.
- Ministry of Finance has set up of a four-member committee forms panel to suggest changes to National Pension Scheme (NPS); Headed By- Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has set up a 14-member committee to look into stalled real estate projects; Headed By – Amitabh Kant.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has constituted a nine-member task force to make India a ‘product developer and manufacturing nation’. Chaired By - Bhuvnesh Kumar.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has formed an expert committee to create a roadmap to encourage Indian startups/fintech domiciled abroad to relocate to the GIFT City in Gujarat. Chaired By - G. Padmanabhan.
- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) will now be made by a high-power committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.
- The five-judge Constitution Bench was headed by Justice K M Joseph.
- Supreme Court has formed a six-member expert committee to examine Hindenburg Research firm’s report on the Adani Group and probe the stock price crash in Adani stocks. Headed By - AM Sapre.
- Government of India (GoI) constituted a 16-member inter-ministerial committee to analyse the need for a separate law for competition in the digital market and to draft a digital competition act within three months. Headed By - Manoj Govil.
- The Shipping Ministry has formed a committee to draft revised Guidelines for operationalization of Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) and Roll on-Passenger (Ro-Pax) ferry service. Headed By- Sanjay K. Mehta.



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Q. How many new countries will join the BRICS alliance from 1 January 2024?

- A) 5
B) 6
C) 8
D) 4

Answer : B

- ✓ 6 Countries to join BRICS from 1 January 2024
- ✓ In a significant geopolitical development, the BRICS alliance has announced the inclusion of six new member countries.
- ✓ These countries are Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Argentina, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, and will join Brazil, Russia, China, India, and South Africa. The membership will take effect from 1 January 2024.
- ✓ President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, the host nation of the recent BRICS summit, made a historic announcement on August 24th, revealing the names of the new entrants to the alliance.
- ✓ This move not only diversifies the alliance but also provides a platform for emerging economies from different regions to align their interests on the global stage
- ✓ The BRICS group of nations comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It accounts for more than 40% of the world's population and about 26% of the global economy.
- ✓ About BRICS
- ✓ The full form of BRICS is Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ✓ Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC (without South Africa) in 2001.
- ✓ He claimed that by 2050, the four BRIC economies would dominate the global economy by 2050.
- ✓ South Africa was included in the list in 2010.
- ✓ The presidency of the Forum is rotated annually among the members.
- ✓ BRICS accounts for about 40% of the world's population.
- ✓ It accounts for 30% of the world's GDP (Gross Domestic Product).
- ✓ In the year 2014, during the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, the BRICS leaders signed an agreement to establish a New Development Bank (NDB).

Q. 26th National Conference on e-Governance to begin in Which City?

- A) Bhopal
B) Mumbai
C) Indore
D) Bengaluru



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USA IN NEWS 2023

- Seventh edition of the Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX was conducted at Kochi, Kerala.
- The United States is celebrating its 247th Independence Day this year on 4th July.
- United States of America announces its intention to rejoin UNESCO in July.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the United States from June 21 to June 24 is one of the most important diplomatic visits of 2023.
- PM Modi will lead the International Yoga Day celebrations at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.
- India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) was launched at an 2-day event in Washington DC which was co-organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence (DoD).
- Indian Economic Trade Organization appoints Nutan Roongta as Director of USA East Coast.
- Serbia's men and the United States women won the FIBA 3×3 World Cup 2023, which took place in Vienna, Austria.
- UNITED STATES (US)
- Capital : Washington, D.C.
- Largest city : New York City
- Currency : Dollar
- First President : George Washington
- 46th President : Joe Biden
- 49th Vice President : Kamala Harris
- India ambassador to US : Taranjit Singh Sandhu.
- Exercise Tiger Triumph (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise)
- Exercise Vajra Prahar (Special Forces' Exercise)
- Cope India (Air Force).
- Malabar Exercise (Quadrilateral naval exercise of India, USA, Japan and Australia).
- Red Flag (US' multilateral air exercise)



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- ✓ India is currently among the fastest-growing civil aviation markets in the world and these aircraft will help IndiGo consolidate its position in the region.
- ✓ BOC Aviation is a leading global aircraft operating leasing company with a fleet of 652 aircraft owned, managed, and on order. Its owned and managed fleet was leased to 91 airlines in 42 countries and regions worldwide as of June 30, 2023
- ✓ IndiGo
- ✓ Founded : 2005
- ✓ Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana
- ✓ Chairman : Venkataramani Sumantran
- ✓ MD : Rahul Bhatia
- ✓ CEO : Pieter Elbers (Netherlands)
- ✓ Founders : Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal
- ✓ IndiGo is India's biggest airline by market share

Q. Which of the following company has become the first Indian EV company to start Production in Africa?

- A) TVS iQube Electric
- B) Hero Electric Photon
- C) Okinawa Ridge Plus
- D) One Electric

Answer : D

- ✓ One Electric Motorcycles announced that the company has started manufacturing its flagship electric motorcycle "KRIDN" locally in Africa.
- ✓ The company has entered into a JV with a local established vehicle manufacturing entity.
- ✓ One Electric has provided complete components, technology, and know-how for the assembly of its motorcycles.
- ✓ One Electric also has plans to set up a battery manufacturing plant in Africa by end of the current year as volumes soar. After consolidation in Africa, the company is already in talks to expand into other markets like South America and Southeast Asia.



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Communication and Writing Skills, Interview and Group Discussion Skills, Mathematical Skills, Behavioral Etiquette, English Language Proficiency, and the Development of Emotional-Mental Abilities Training.

Q. Which company has acquired 6.660 percent stake in Jio Financial Services owing to the de-merger action by Reliance Industries?

- A) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance B) Life Insurance Corporation Of India
C) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance D) Bharti AXA General Insurance

Answer : B

- ✓ The Life Insurance Corporation of India has acquired 6.660 percent stake in Jio Financial Services owing to the de-merger action by Reliance Industries.
- ✓ Jio Financial de-merged from Reliance Industries on July 13, as a part of which shareholders of RIL were allotted one share of Jio Financial for every share held.
- ✓ The cost of acquisition is equivalent to 4.68 percent of the pre-de-merged cost of Reliance Industries. The country's largest insurer held 6.49 percent stake in RIL at the end of June 2023.

Q. Which bank has launched a first-of-its-kind multi-branded credit card – 'IndusInd Bank Avios Visa Infinite Credit Card' for all customers, in partnership with British Airways Executive Club and Qatar Airways Privilege Club?

- A) IndusInd Bank B) Bank of Baroda
C) Punjab National Bank D) Canara Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ IndusInd Bank launches multi-branded credit card with Qatar Airways
- ✓ IndusInd Bank has launched a first-of-its-kind multi-branded credit card – 'IndusInd Bank Avios Visa Infinite Credit Card' for all customers, in partnership with British Airways Executive Club and Qatar Airways Privilege Club.
- ✓ This credit card aims to offer best-in-class rewards and benefits to customers, across travel, wellness, and lifestyle experiences.
- ✓ The card is available in a sleek 'metal card' variant, tailored to meet the needs of our valued customers.
- ✓ Customers can opt for their preferred airline loyalty programme at the time of the application as well as select their preferred international destination to maximise the opportunity to collect Avios, the rewards



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Aparchit August 4th Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Who is the Best Actor Award at the 69th National Film Awards 2023?

- A) Prabhas
B) Allu Arjun
C) Vijay Deverakonda
D) Nagarjuna

Answer : B

- ✓ Best Actor - Allu Arjun (Pushpa)
- ✓ Best Actress - Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi) and Kriti Sanon (Mimi)

Q. Which film recently won the best feature film award in the 69th National Film Award?

- A) Rocketry
B) The Kashmir Files
C) Sardar Udham
D) Pushpa

Answer : A

- ✓ Best Feature Film - R Madhavan's Rocketry

Q. Who won the award for Best Direction in the 69th National Film Award?

- A) R Madhavan
B) Nikhil Mahajan
C) Sanjay Leela Bhansali
D) Sriram Raghavan

Answer : B

- ✓ Best Direction - Nikhil Mahajan - Godavari (Marathi)

Q. Which film won the award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment in the 69th National Film Award?

- A) Rocketry
B) Sardar Udham
C) RRR
D) The Kashmir Files

Answer : C

- ✓ Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment - RRR



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Q. Which film won the award for Best Hindi Film in the 69th National Film Award?

A) Sardar Udham

B) Rocketry

C) RRR

D) The Kashmir Files

Answer : A

- ✓ Best Feature Film - Hindi - Sardar Udham
- ✓ The 69th National Film Awards was announced on Thursday during a press conference by the Jury at the National Media Center New Delhi.
- ✓ The Jury members for National Film Awards handed over the list of awardees for feature, non-feature and best script category to Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur.
- ✓ A total of 280 films from 28 languages were submitted for the awards in year 2021. 31 categories in Feature film, 24 in non-feature and 3 in script writing on cinema.
- ✓ 69th National Film Awards 2023
- ✓ Best Feature Film- Rocketry
- ✓ Best actor – Allu Arjun (Pushpa)
- ✓ Best actress – Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi) & Kriti Sanon (Mimi)
- ✓ Best Director – Nikhil Mahajan Godavari
- ✓ Best Popular Film – RRR
- ✓ Nargis Dutt award for best film on national integration – Kashmir Files
- ✓ Best Supporting Actor – Pankaj Tripathi (Mimi)
- ✓ Best Supporting Actress – Pallavi Joshi (Kashmir Files)
- ✓ Best Music Direction (Background Music) – MM Keeravaani (RRR)
- ✓ Best Male Playback Singer – Kaala Bhairava (RRR)
- ✓ Best Female Playback Singer – Shreya Ghoshal (Iravin Nizhal)
- ✓ Best Choregraphy – RRR
- ✓ Best Hindi Film – Sardar Udham
- ✓ Best Gujarati Film – Chhello Show
- ✓ Best non feature film – Ek Tha Gaon
- ✓ Special Jury Award- Shershaah, Vishnuvardhan
- ✓ Special Jury Award (Non-feature film) – Shekhar Bapu Rankhambe, Rekha



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MOST IMPORTANT FLIMFARE AWARDS IN NEWS 2023

- **69th NATIONAL FILM AWARDS**
- Best Feature Film : Rocketry
- Best actor : Allu Arjun (Pushpa)
- Best actress : Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi) & Kriti Sanon (Mimi)
- Best Director : Nikhil Mahajan Godavari
- Best Popular Film : RRR
- Best Hindi Film : Sardar Udham
- **INTERNATIONAL INDIAN FILM ACADEMY AWARDS (IIFA) 2023**
- Best Film: Drishyam 2
- Best Director: R Madhavan for Rocketry: The Nambi Effect
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female): Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male): Hrithik Roshan for Vikram Vedha
- **68TH FILMFARE AWARDS, (also known as HYUNDAI FILMFARE AWARDS 2023)**
- Best Film: Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Actor : Rajkummar Rao for Badhaai Do
- Best Actress : Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi.
- **95TH ACADEMY AWARDS (OSCAR AWARDS 2023)**
- Best Picture : Everything Everywhere All At Once
- Best Actress : Michelle Yeoh (Everything Everywhere All at Once)
- Best Actor : Brendan Fraser (The Whale)
- Best Director : Daniel Kwan and Daniel Schienert (Everything Everywhere All at Once)
- Best Original Song : "Naatu Naatu" (RRR)
- Best Documentary Short Film : 'The Elephant Whisperers' by Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga
- **76TH BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS (BAFTAs)**
- Best Film : All Quiet on the Western Front
- Best Actress : Cate Blanchett, (Tar)
- Best Actor : Austin Butler, (Elvis)



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- ✓ Bhopal came fifth with 181 points and Jabalpur seventh with 172 points.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has secured two of the first five positions for cities with a population of more than 10 lakhs.
- ✓ Indore stood first, Agra second, Thane third, Srinagar fourth and Bhopal fifth.

Q. Which state government has recently introduced additional textbooks of the State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) which incorporate the topics that were recently deleted from the NCERT textbooks?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Kerala unveils additional books to include portions deleted by NCERT
- ✓ The Kerala government has introduced additional textbooks of the State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) which incorporates the topics that were recently deleted from the NCERT textbooks.
- ✓ Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his government's concern over the exclusion of chapters by NCERT under the pretext of rationalization for the 2023-24 academic year. He emphasized that the omitted chapters were deemed crucial and should not have been removed
- ✓ The government views the exclusion of chapters seriously as they believe those chapters excluded are important.
- ✓ In class 11 and 12, 12 subjects with 44 textbooks are from NCERT. Students of 11 and 12 are getting textbooks prepared by NCERT.

KERALA IN NEWS 2023

- Kerala unveils additional books to include portions deleted by NCERT.
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at a function in Maker Village Kochi, Kerala.
- Kerala has launched a groundbreaking scheme called 'Shubhayatra'.
- Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre.
- Piramal Finance opened the first all women branch named "Maitreyi" at Thripunithura near Kochi to cater to the unique needs of women customers.
- Kerala has become the first state in the country to launch its own internet service.



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- Kerala has become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet services.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- Kerala has adopted a water budget, the first of its kind in the country, to deal with the problem of water scarcity in summer.
- Dharmadam, Kerala becomes first complete library constituency in India.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project.
- India's first Graphene Innovation center to be set up in Kerala.
- Recently, a group of researchers discovered a butterfly subspecies from the fringes of Akkulam and Vembanad lakes in Kerala.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th April flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod at Thiruvananthapuram Central Station.
- Kerala declared first State to enable digital banking service.
- M T Vasudevan Nair was awarded the "Kerala Jyoti", the highest civilian honour in Kerala.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd G20 Empower meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the theme "Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy".
- Kerala to become first State to use robotics tech extensively for manhole cleaning.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes, listed as Ramsar sites.

Q. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) recently switched to indigenously developed "COPSYSS" software for psychological screening of personnel prior to their induction in dignitary protection teams. What is the full form of COPSYSS?

- A) Commercial Psychological Screening System
- B) Computerized Psychological System Screening
- C) Computerized Psychological Survey System
- D) Computerized Psychological Screening System

Answer : D



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- ✓ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) recently switched to indigenously developed software for psychological screening of personnel prior to their induction in dignitary protection teams.
- ✓ Computerised Psychological Screening System (COPSYSS) is a software designed and developed by the Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ The indigenous physiological test system will help in the selection of candidates for escorting dignitaries.
- ✓ The force has a tough system in place for physical fitness but this test will ensure sharp mental fitness.
- ✓ However, the Special Protection Group (SPG) has been undergoing the Vienna Test System (VTS) for at least 15 years, and the National Security Guard (NSG) has switched to VTS in 2017.

Q. What is the theme of B20 Summit India 2023 which started recently in New Delhi?

A) RAISE

B) Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

C) One Earth, One Family, One Future

D) Realising Opportunities of the 21st Century for

Answer : A

- ✓ The B20 Summit India 2023 commences in New Delhi.
- ✓ During the three days Summit, Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, Dr. S Jaishankar, G20 India Sherpa Amitabh Kant, Trade Ministers of various countries, and several business leaders will share their ideas on the issues concerning businesses globally.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the special session on the 27th of this month as Chief Guest.
- ✓ First day of the Summit, seven sessions were organized including B20 India priorities and recommendations from India for the world, aligning global priorities, Artificial Intelligence for business and societies, opportunities and regulations, inclusive global value chain for resilient global trade and investment and Trade Ministers' Session.
- ✓ The Summit is based on the theme of B20 India R.A.I.S.E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses.
- ✓ Chairperson of the Tata Group, N Chandrasekaran was appointed the chair of B20 India, to lead the business agenda during India's G20 presidency. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is appointed as the B20 India Secretariat by the Centre to lead the B20 India process.



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Q. Tech giant Infosys onboards __ as ambassador for the brand and Infosys' Digital Innovation.

- A) Novak Djokovic B) Rafael Nadal
C) Alexander Zverev D) Daniil Medvedev

Answer : B

- ✓ Tech giant Infosys has extended its partnership with Tennis star Rafael Nadal as an ambassador for the brand and Infosys' Digital Innovation.
- ✓ To mark Nadal's first-ever collaboration with a digital services company, Infosys and Nadal's coaching team are developing an AI-powered match analysis tool.
- ✓ Globally acknowledged as one of the legends in sports, he also has had the ability to change with the changing rigors of tennis over the years.

Q. ISRO is preparing a new Moon Mission in association with which country's space agency which has been named LUPEX or Lunar Polar Exploration?

- A) Israel B) USA
C) France D) Japan

Answer : D

- ✓ ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam
- ✓ With Chandrayaan-3 successfully landing on the Moon's surface, decks have been cleared for ISRO to unveil the next stage of its lunar exploration programme.
- ✓ As of now, ISRO is preparing for one more lunar mission, this one in collaboration with Japanese space agency (JAXA).
- ✓ This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25. But there would be more in the Chandrayaan series as well.
- ✓ The rover will carry not only the instruments of ISRO and JAXA but also those of US space agency NASA and European Space Agency (ESA).
- ✓ Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX) is a collaborative venture between Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the Bengaluru-headquartered Indian space agency.
- ✓ According to JAXA, the LUPEX mission is aimed at exploring lunar polar region suitability for establishing a base on the Moon for sustainable activities; obtaining knowledge regarding the availability of lunar water-



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ice resources, and demonstrating lunar and planetary surface exploration technologies such as vehicular transport and overnight survival.

- ✓ Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), an autonomous unit of the Department of Space, has proposed multiple instruments in the LUPEX mission mainly to carry out measurements on the surface and subsurface near the permanently shadowed polar region of the Moon.
- ✓ The objective of one of the proposed instruments – Permittivity and Thermo-physical investigation for Moon's Aquatic Scout (PRATHIMA) – is in-situ detection and quantification of water-ice mixed with lunar surface and sub-surface soil using a rover/lander platform.
- ✓ The LUPEX mission is slated to be launched in the year 2025.

Q. Who has inaugurated 33 Khelo India Centres (KIC) in the State of Rajasthan at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur?

- A) Anurag Singh Thakur B) Rajnath Singh
C) Nirmala Sitharaman D) Narendra Modi

Answer : A

- ✓ The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur has inaugurated 33 Khelo India Centres (KIC) in the State of Rajasthan at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
- ✓ He also announced that a National Center of Excellence with a sports science center will be set up in Rajasthan along with an additional 18 KIC, thus taking the total number of KIC in the State to 51.
- ✓ The total number of KICs across India is 960, out of which 715 are operational KICs.
- ✓ Currently, over 17,000 Athletes are getting trained in KICs and 699 Past Champion Athletes are already hired across the country.
- ✓ These KICs are specific training centres looking after sports disciplines like cycling, basketball, wushu, hockey and more

Q. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has a brand tie-up with which company for the upcoming Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to be held in India between 5 October and 19 November 2023?

- A) Mastercard B) Visa Inc
C) Paytm D) VIVO

Answer : A

- ✓ Mastercard inks brand partnership with ICC for upcoming World Cup



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- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has a brand tie-up with Mastercard for the upcoming Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to be held in India between 5 October and 19 November 2023.
- ✓ Under this tie-up, Mastercard will be a global partner for the World Cup.
- ✓ With this, Mastercard joins ICC's other global partners MRF Tyres, Booking.com, Aramco and Emirates.
- ✓ The ICC has three categories of sponsors — global partners, official partners and category partners. Sponsors get multiple benefits like media integration, in-stadium branding, tickets, and hospitality.
- ✓ Incidentally, MasterCard was also the title sponsor for all bilateral matches played in India until March. It was paying Rs 3.8 crore per match as the Indian cricket board's title sponsor.
- ✓ **MASTERCARD**
- ✓ **Founded : 1966**
- ✓ **Headquarteres : New York, U.S**
- ✓ **Executive Chairman : Ajay Banga**
- ✓ **President and CEO : Michael Miebach**

Q. Who has won the Cincinnati Open 2023 title after defeating Carlos Alcaraz of Spain?

- A) Novak Djokovic**
- B) Rafael Nadal**
- C) Alexander Zverev**
- D) Daniil Medvedev**

Answer : A

- ✓ Serbia's Novak Djokovic secured the title of Cincinnati Open 2023 after defeating Carlos Alcaraz of Spain.
- ✓ The win delivered Djokovic his 95th career title and 39th Masters 1000 crown.
- ✓ The Spaniard is currently ranked at number one in the ATP Tour rankings, with Djokovic ranked just behind him at number two.
- ✓ Djokovic is the only player in tennis history to be the reigning champion of all four majors at once across all three different surfaces.
- ✓ Serbian Tennis Player, Novak Djokovic has won the French Open 2023 men's singles final, clinching his 23rd Grand Slam title.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of men's singles match of the Australian Open 2023.



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Q. Who has launched HSBC India's Green Hydrogen Partnerships?

- A) Rajnath Singh B) S. Jaishankar
C) Nirmala Sitharaman D) Piyush Goyal

Answer : C

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched HSBC India's strategic partnerships to enable innovation in green hydrogen, partnering with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), the bank said in a statement
- ✓ These two partnerships, with total grant support of ₹15 crore (\$2 million), the bank said, will focus on innovation projects that will help prioritize green hydrogen as a strategic alternative fuel and help build a robust green-hydrogen economy.
- ✓ Sitharaman said the government is focused on driving growth through a range of green reforms. "This will provide a roadmap towards reducing carbon intensity in the economy and enable the creation of green job opportunities.
- ✓ The National Hydrogen Energy Mission, announced in the union budget 2021-22, is a step towards a greener future that will lay down the roadmap for tapping alternative sources of energy in India.
- ✓ Tucker said HSBC is committed to helping deliver a net-zero global economy by 2050 or earlier, in line with the Paris Agreement goals..

Q. Which IIT Receives donation of 18.6 million for Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub?

- A) IIT Delhi
B) IIT Madras
C) IIT Kharagpur
D) IIT Bombay

Answer : D

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- ✓ This landmark contribution will redefine the Institute's role in addressing the global climate crisis.
- ✓ To be located within a state-of-the-art academic building on the IIT Bombay campus, the focus of this hub extends to critically important areas



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IIT IN NEWS 2023

- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray.
- Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.
- IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme .
- IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras will be provided a grant of Rs 242 crore over a period of five years to carry out research on Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD).
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology by the QS World University Rankings for 2023.
- IIT Indore, in partnership with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Researchers have developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
- IIT Kanpur to Host Youth20 Consultation under G20 Presidency of India.
- IIT Bombay's SHUNYA secures second place in 'Solar Decathlon' Build Challenge in US.
- Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore won an award of AED (Emirates Dirham) 1 million along with a gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai.
- IIT Indore Students Awarded with Global Best M-GOV Awards by Egyptian President.
- Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has entered into a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.



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- ✓ Currency : Euro
- ✓ President : Katerina Sakellaropoulou
- ✓ Prime Minister : Kyriakos Mitsotakis
- ✓ The Olympic Games have their origins in ancient Greece, where the first Olympic Games were held in Olympia in 776 BC.
- ✓ Greece also hosted the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.
- ✓ **STATE HONOURS GIVEN TO NARENDRA MODI**
 15. PM Modi conferred with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour
 14. Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour : France's highest civilian and military honour
 13. Order of the Nile : Egypt's highest honor (2023)
 12. Companion of the Order of Logohu: the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea (2023)
 11. Companion of the Order of Fiji: Highest honour of Fiji (2023)
 10. Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau (2023)
 9. Order of the Dragon King is the highest civilian honour of Bhutan (2021)
 8. Legion of Merit is a military award of the USA (2020)
 7. Order of Zayed is the highest civilian honour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (2019)
 6. Order of St. Andrew is the highest civilian honour of Russia (2019)
 5. Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddin is the highest honour of the Maldives (2019)
 4. King Hamad Order of the Renaissance is the highest honour of Bahrain (2019)
 3. Grand Collar of the State Of Palestine is the highest civilian order of Palestine (2018)
 2. Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud is the Highest honour of Saudi Arabia (2016)
 1. Amir Amanullah Khan Award is the highest civilian award of Afghanistan (2016)

Q. Gond' paintings are from which region of India?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A) Western | B) Northeastern |
| C) Southern | D) Central |

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, during the BRICS meeting, the Prime Minister of India gifted a Gond painting to the Brazilian president Lula da Silva.
- ✓ About Gond Painting



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- ✓ It is a famous folk art of the Gond tribal community of central India.
- ✓ It is done to preserve and communicate the culture of the Gond tribal community.
- ✓ Themes: Gond tribes are highly interlinked with nature, and this appears in their paintings too. They include animals, the mahua tree, mythological stories, Hindu gods, local deities and folktales, etc.
- ✓ The artist uses his distinctive pattern and style to fill the images. These style signatures are used in collages to make a complete picture, such as dots, fine lines, curved lines, dashes, fish scales, etc.
- ✓ Gond paintings were created by the aboriginals from Central Indian region like Madhya Pradesh. These paintings depict the day to day lives of their community and are rich with images of plants and animals
- ✓ **Key facts about the Gond Tribe**
- ✓ The Gonds are the largest Adivasi Community in India and can be traced to the pre-Aryan era.
- ✓ The word Gond comes from Kond, which means green mountains.
- ✓ They are a heterogeneous group spreading over large areas from the Godavari gorges in the south to the Vindhya Mountains in the north.
- ✓ They live in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha.
- ✓ The majority speak various mutually unintelligible dialects of Gondi.

Q. Who has won the Chess World Cup Final 2023?

A) Garry Kasparov

B) Magnus Carlsen

C) R Praggnanandhaa

D) Fabiano Caruana

Answer : B

- ✓ The Norwegian chess grandmaster, Magnus Carlsen won the Chess World Cup Final 2023 title for the first time, after defeating India's chess grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa in a tie-breaker.
- ✓ Magnus Carlsen Norwegian chess grandmaster who is a five-time World Chess Champion.
- ✓ Carlsen has held the No. 1 position in the FIDE world chess rankings since 1 July 2011.
- ✓ Carlsen became World Chess Champion in 2013 by defeating Viswanathan Anand.
- ✓ R Praggnanandhaa (18) was the youngest World Cup finalist ever and the youngest World Cup winner.
- ✓ He managed to secure the silver medal after defeating Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana.
- ✓ He also became the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to enter the Chess World Cup.
- ✓ The Chess World Cup 2023 was a 206-player single-elimination chess tournament that took place in Baku, Azerbaijan from 30 July to 24 August 2023. It was the 10th edition of the Chess World Cup
- ✓ India's Viswanathan Anand and Levon Aronian have won the FIDE World Cup title 2-2 times



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CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023

- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.
- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023 .
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) won the 2023 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland
- Telangana's Vuppala Prraneeth became India's 82nd Grandmaster.
- Ding Liren has become 17th world chess champion – the first from China – defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker.
- Global Chess League (GCL) announced Dubai as the inaugural edition of the world's largest and first franchise-based chess league. The league is a joint venture between FIDE and Tech Mahindra.
- Ding Liren became China's first world chess champion after defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker.
- Sayantan Das from West Bengal has become India's 81st Chess Grandmaster.
- Vignesh NR became the 80th Grandmaster of the country.
- Dutch player Anish Giri, five times the runner-up in Wijk aan Zee, has won Tata Steel Masters 2023.
- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh Wins Title At World Chess Armageddon Asia And Oceania Event.
- 16-year-old from Tamilnadu, M Pranesh became India's 79th chess grandmaster .
- Kolkata-based chess player, Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster.

Q. Who signs MoU with NRL for Export of Petroleum Cargo via National Waterways-2 (Brahmaputra) and Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route?

A) IWAI
C) IWGI

B) IWNI
D) IBAI

Answer : A

- ✓ The Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) on signed an MoU with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for transporting petroleum products to Bangladesh and southeast Asian countries from Assam.
- ✓ The memorandum of understanding was signed here by NRL's Chief General Manager (Marketing) Subrata Das and IWAI Director A Selva Kumar in the presence of Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and



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- ✓ While its spread had fallen during the pandemic, there was a 333% surge from 2020 to 2021 and a 21% rise in number of cases between 2021 and 2022, according to the National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control.
- ✓ Besides IIL, at least two other Indian companies – Serum Institute of India and Panacea Biotec – are working to develop a dengue vaccine.

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023

- Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026.
- Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.
- UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- India sets target to become 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030
- Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.



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- Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.

Q. AR4 Tech has partnered Sodian Energy of which country to make sodium-ion battery packs for domestic and export markets?

- A) Indonesia
B) Malaysia
C) Singapore
D) Japan

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, AR4 Tech has partnered Sodian Energy of Singapore to make sodium-ion battery packs for domestic and export markets
- ✓ **About Sodium-Ion Battery:**
- ✓ These types of batteries generate electricity through a chemical reaction.
- ✓ These are made up of an anode, cathode, separator and electrolyte.
- ✓ In a sodium-ion battery, lithium ions are replaced with sodium ions in the battery's cathode, and lithium salts are swapped for sodium salts in the electrolyte

Q. Which of the following has imposed a penalty on Platinum Trust for Gun Jumping?

- A) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
B) National Anti-Doping Agency of India (NADA)
C) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
D) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a penalty on Platinum Trust for Gun Jumping.
- ✓ **About Gun Jumping:**
- ✓ It essentially means acting before the appropriate time and refers to situations where a party or parties to a combination (M&A deal) consummate a transaction before CCI approves the transaction, thereby violating standstill obligations.
- ✓ It is all about competition and merger control.



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- ✓ Gun Jumping in competition jurisprudence occurs when parties to Mergers and acquisitions consummate the transaction without keeping the competition authorities informed.
- ✓ Most competition regimes, including India, require pre-merger notification (in India, it is the CCI).
- ✓ The concept of gun-jumping has not been expressly defined in the Competition Act of 2002.
- ✓ The law requires parties to a deal satisfying certain monetary thresholds, to first notify the CCI about the impending transaction.
- ✓ Parties are then obligated to conform to the standstill provisions — wait for 210 days from the date of notifying or till CCI approval happens, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ During the standstill period, the parties are required to continue to operate their businesses as independent entities.
- ✓ If the parties fail to notify CCI before the consummation of the deal or violate standstill obligations, this is typically referred to as gun jumping.
- ✓ Penalties:
- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has the power to penalise parties for Gun Jumping under Section 43A of the Competition Act 2002.
- ✓ The penalty can be as high as 1 per cent of the total turnover or 1 per cent of the assets, whichever is higher, of the combination

Q. Kaliveli Bird Sanctuary, which was named a bird sanctuary recently, is located in which state?

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Rajasthan

D) Telangana

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has withheld the environmental clearance granted for fishing harbours at Alamparaikuppam and Azhagankuppam, located in the intertidal area of Kaliveli bird sanctuary.
- ✓ About Kaliveli Bird Sanctuary:
- ✓ This wetland is the second-largest brackish water lake in South India after Pulicat Lake.
- ✓ The first declaration was issued by the Villupuram District Administration in Tamil Nadu under Section 18 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, for setting up this sanctuary.



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- ✓ How is Bidriware made?
- ✓ Bidri Ware is manufactured from an alloy of copper and zinc (in the ratio 1:16) by casting.
- ✓ The zinc content gives the alloy a deep black colour.
- ✓ The craftsman uses small chisels to engrave the design over the freehand etching.
- ✓ Fine wire or flattened strips of pure silver are then carefully hammered into these grooves.

TELANGANA IN NEWS 2023

- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
- Telangana achieves 100% coverage of PMJDY.
- Telangana govt launches first of its kind State Robotics Framework.
- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. The 400 feet tall structure will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore.
- The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-foot tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- IAS 'Shanti Kumari' becomes first woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting began on April 17 in Hyderabad.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of Pongal on 15 January, virtually flagged off the Vande Bharata Express train connecting Secunderabad with Vishakhapatnam.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a nation-wide financial inclusion program of Government of India.
- It was announced by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on 15 August 2014.



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- Slogan Mera Khatha, Bhagya Vidhatha (“My account brings me good fortune”)
- Age of Eligible Beneficiaries 18-65 Years
- Overdraft facility up to Rs.10000 after satisfactory operation of the account for 6 months
- Account holder will get RuPay Debit card with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh.
- Life insurance cover of Rs 30,000

Q. Which of the following isare true about Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)?

- A) Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) consists of securities and other financial assets passively held by foreign investors.**
- B) It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of financial assets.**
- C) Foreign portfolio investment differs from foreign direct investment (FDI).**
- D) All of the above**

Answer : D

- ✓ SEBI recently proposed allowing increased participation from NRIs and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) in the Indian securities market through the Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) route.
- ✓ **About Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI):**
- ✓ FPI refers to the purchase and holding of a wide array of foreign financial assets by investors seeking to invest in a country outside their own.
- ✓ Foreign portfolio investors have access to a range of investment instruments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, derivatives, fixed deposits, etc.
- ✓ FPI generally intends to invest money into the foreign country’s stock market to generate a quick return.
- ✓ **Who regulates FPI in India?**
- ✓ In India, foreign portfolio investment is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ FPI in India refers to investment groups or FIIs (foreign institutional investors) and QFIs (qualified foreign investors).
- ✓ **Advantages:**
- ✓ It offers investors the freedom to diversify their portfolios internationally.



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✓ **About Insurance Surety Bonds:**

- ✓ These bonds can be defined in their simplest form as a written agreement to guarantee compliance, payment, or performance of an act.
- ✓ These are instruments where insurance companies act as 'Surety' and provide the financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfil its obligation as per the agreed terms.
- ✓ Surety is a unique type of insurance because it involves a three-party agreement.
- ✓ The three parties in a surety agreement are:
 - ✓ Principal: The party that purchases the bond and undertakes an obligation to perform an act as promised.
 - ✓ Surety: The insurance company or surety company that guarantees the obligation will be performed. If the principal fails to perform the act as promised, the surety is contractually liable for losses sustained.
 - ✓ Obligee: The party who requires and often receives the benefit of the surety bond. For most surety bonds, the obligee is a local, state or federal government organisation.

Q. The Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary (JWS) is located in which state?

- A) Kerala
- B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Gujarat State Board for Wildlife (GSBWL) deferred a decision on a proposal of the Gujarat State Minerals Development Corporation (GSDMA) seeking more land for "removing manganese dump" from the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary in Panchmahal district.
- ✓ About Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ It is located in Gujarat's south-central part.
- ✓ Vegetation: It contains Grasslands, water-borne plants, medicinal herbs, dry southern tropical rain forests, dry deciduous mixed and secondary forests, and dry scrubs of the deciduous type.
- ✓ What are Eco-Sensitive Zones?
- ✓ Land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ).
- ✓ While the 10-km rule is implemented as a general principle, the extent of its application can vary.
- ✓ The Union government can also notify areas beyond 10 km as ESZs if they hold larger ecologically important "sensitive corridors".



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Q. Which company signs women's tennis champ Iga Swiatek as brand ambassador?

- A) TATA
B) Infosys
C) Jio
D) Wipro

Answer : B

- ✓ Infosys announced on has entered into a multi-year partnership with women's tennis World No. 1 Iga Świątek, making her its global brand ambassador to promote Digital Innovation and inspire women worldwide.
- ✓ This news comes a day after the IT major signed up Rafael Nadal for the same role

Q. Which State Cabinet Approves 18 'Atal Residential' Schools, to Cost Rs 1,250 Crore?

- A) Maharashtra
B) Karnataka
C) Uttarakhand
D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved developing 18 Atal Residential Schools along the lines of the centre-run Navodaya Vidyalayas at a cost of Rs 1,250 crore.
- ✓ The capacity of these schools will be 1,000 students, including 500 girls and as many boys. It will have classes from six to 12. Children whose studies were affected by Covid-19 pandemic can also get admission to these schools.

Q. Recently, which of the following crop was accorded with Geographical Indication (GI) Tag?

- A) Chokuwa rice of Assam
B) Tur dal of Gulbarga
C) Cotton of Raichur
D) Wheat of Bidar

Answer : A

- ✓ Chokuwa rice recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- ✓ About Chokuwa rice.
- ✓ It is also known as Magic rice cultivated in Assam.
- ✓ It is a part of Assam's culinary heritage; this unique rice has been a staple of the troops of the mighty Ahom dynasty.



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- ✓ This unique and healthy rice is cultivated around the Brahmaputra River area.(In several parts of Assam like Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, etc.)
- ✓ It is basically semi-glutinous winter rice, known as Sali rice.
- ✓ The sticky and glutinous variety is categorised as Bora and Chokuwa based on their amylose concentration.
- ✓ The low amylase Chokuwa rice variants are used to make soft rice, which is known as Komal Chaul or soft rice.
- ✓ This whole grain can be consumed after soaking the rice in cold or lukewarm water. This rice variety is widely consumed for its convenience of preparation and nutritional value.
- ✓ This unique rice variety is consumed with curd, sugar, jaggery, and bananas to name a few.
- ✓ This rice is also used in making several Assamese delights like Pithe and other local dishes.

GI TAG IN NEWS 2023

- Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- Tamil Nadu's Authoor betel leaves get Geographical Indication (GI) certificate.
- Geographical Indications Registry, in June 2023, accorded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Kari Ishad mango predominantly grown in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada in Karnataka .
- Mircha rice variety from West Champaran district of Bihar has recently been granted the GI tag.
- With the recently added products in GI tag lists, has made the total number of GI tags in India 2023 to over 430.
- The products included are Tandur red gram of Telangana, gamocha of Assam, Alibag white onion of Maharashtra, and Raktsey Karpo apricot of Ladakh among others.
- After getting GI tag for three more One District One Product (ODOP) crafts, Uttar Pradesh has now come second in the country in terms of maximum number of items with Geographical Indication tag.
- The ODOP crafts which have got GI tag include Mainpuri Tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura Stone Craft and Sambhal Horn Craft.



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- Tamil Nadu leads with 55 GI-tags, followed by UP and Karnataka with 48 and 46 GI products, respectively.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- Ladakh wood carvings, also known as 'Ladakh Shingskos', have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The GI tag was granted to Tamil Nadu's famous Cumbum Paneer Thirachai, also known as Cumbum Grapes.
- Gond paintings from Madhya Pradesh have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Banarasi paan has been awarded the GI tag, which signifies its unique identity and origin. Three other foods from the Varanasi region, including Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal), and Adamchini rice, have also received the GI tag.
- Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj rice variety gets geographical indication tag.
- Gamocha', a symbol of the culture and identity of Assam, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- European Commission (EC) has recently granted Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status to Kangra tea, a unique variety of tea grown in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh in India.
- The Central Government has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana, Bihar.
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
- GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.
- The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.
- Kerala has topped among Indian states for having most number of products securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in financial year 2022-23.
- What is GI tag?



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- 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.

Q. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has sent a contingent to participate in Exercise Bright Star-23, a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise held in which country?

- A) Australia
B) Egypt
C) Singapore
D) Japan

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, an Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent departed to participate in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23, scheduled to be held at Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt, from 27 August to 16 September 2023.
- ✓ About EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR-23:
- ✓ It is a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise.
- ✓ This multinational exercise was launched in 1980 as part of the US-brokered peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.
- ✓ This is the first time that IAF is participating in Ex BRIGHT STAR-23.
- ✓ Participating countries: United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force contingent will consist of five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130 and two C-17 aircraft.
- ✓ India and Egypt have had an exceptional relationship and deep cooperation wherein the two jointly undertook the development of aero-engine and aircraft in the 1960s, and training of Egyptian pilots was done by Indian counterparts

Q. Which bank has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy to launch the 'Marriott Bonvoy Credit Card'?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ HDFC Bank launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card with Marriott
- ✓ HDFC Bank has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy, the esteemed travel program by Marriott, to launch 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card'.
- ✓ This pioneering co-branded card will operate on the Diners Club platform, which is a part of the globally recognized Discover Global Network.



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- ✓ The newly launched credit card comes packed with travel benefits, designed to elevate cardholders' travel journeys.
- ✓ Cardholders are entitled to Silver Elite Status with Marriott Bonvoy, ushering in a range of privileges including priority late checkouts, exclusive member rates, and bonus points, among other perks.

HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023

- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, has achieved a significant milestone by entering the \$100 billion market-capitalization club as world's 7th largest lender.
- HDFC emerges as fourth largest bank in the world after merger.
- According to Bloomberg, with a valuation of \$172 billion, the merger will place HDFC in the fourth position in equity market capitalisation behind JP Morgan Chase & Co., Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd. and Bank of America Corp.
- Deepak Parekh has announced his decision to step down as HDFC chairperson after serving as the chairman for 46 years.
- HDFC Bank introduced a new credit card named 'Millennia Credit card' which offers cashback over e-commerce platforms and multiple benefits.
- SEBI has granted approval for a change in control of HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) due to the amalgamation of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.
- As part of the amalgamation, existing shareholders of HDFC Ltd will hold a 41% stake in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank has launched a retail banking initiative called 'Vishesh' aimed at customers in semi-urban and rural areas.
- HDFC Bank partners Manipal Global to build up a talent pipeline.
- SEBI has granted approval for a change in control of HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) due to the amalgamation of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.
- HDFC Bank has signed a "Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement" with Export-Import Bank of Korea for a USD 300 million line of credit.



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- HDFC Bank recommends re-appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan MD, CEO for 3 yrs.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is 'BS Banker of the Year 2022'.
- HDFC Bank, IRCTC launch India's most rewarding co-branded travel credit card.
- HDFC Bank, Lulu Exchange ink deal to enhance cross-border payments between India-Gulf region.
- HDFC Bank collaborates with Microsoft as part of its digital transformation.
- Reserve Bank of India said SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs).
- India's first Electronic Bank Guarantee issued by HDFC Bank.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

Q. Foxconn subsidiary inked ₹1,600 crore deal with which state to set up electronic components manufacturing facility?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Karnataka

Answer : C

- ✓ Taiwanese firm Foxconn Technology Group, a key supplier to Apple Inc., signed a letter of Intent with the Tamil Nadu government to invest ₹1,600 crore to establish a manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram district.
- ✓ The letter of intent was signed in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Foxconn Chairman Young Liu.
- ✓ The facility will potentially employ 6,000 people.



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TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023

- Taiwanese firm Foxconn Technology Group, a key supplier to Apple Inc., signed a letter of Intent with the Tamil Nadu government to invest ₹1,600 crore to establish a manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram district.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- Tamil Nadu's Authoor betel leaves get Geographical Indication (GI) certificate.
- Tamil Nadu bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation .
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister "Udhayanidhi Stalin" has unveiled the trophy and the 'Bomman' mascot for the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament to be held in Chennai.
- Muthamizh Selvi, first Tamil Nadu woman to scale Mt Everest.
- Tamil Nadu government declared Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state..
- Tamil Nadu becomes first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
- Tamil Nadu govt to launch five-year Tamil Nadu Millet Mission.
- In a first of its kind initiative in India, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced the 'Nilgiri Tahr Project'.

Q. What is the name of the Invoice Incentive Scheme launched by the Government of India recently?

- A) 'Mera Bill Mera Haque' B) 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar'
C) 'Mera Bill Nai Pahal' D) None of these

Answer : B

- ✓ Government of India is starting an 'Invoice Promotion Scheme' named 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar' to encourage the initiative of customers seeking bills for all purchases. It is being taken forward in collaboration with all the state governments. This pilot scheme will be launched on September 1, 2023. It will be initially launched in the states of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Assam, Gujarat and Haryana.



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Q. President Smt. Draupadi Murmu released a postal stamp in whose memory?

- A) Parkash Singh Badal B) Arun Jaitley
C) Grandmother Prakashmani D) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Answer : C

- ✓ President Smt. Draupadi Murmu released a postal stamp in the memory of Grandmother Prakashmani, former head of Brahma Kumaris at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. This postage stamp was released under the 'My Stamp' initiative of the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, on the occasion of the 16th death anniversary of Dadi Prakashmani.

Q. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has tied up with whom to explore business opportunities in the civil aviation sector?

- A) Go Air B) Air India
C) Hevas Aerotech India D) Indigo

Answer : C

- ✓ Aircraft services provider Hevas Aerotech India has signed a pilot agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to explore business opportunities in the civil aviation sector, both in the domestic and international markets.
- ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is an Indian public sector aerospace and defense company headquartered in Bangalore

Q. Which country has become the first country in the world to reach the South Pole of the Moon?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Creating history, India has become the first country in the world to land a lander on the south pole of the Moon.
- ✓ Recently Vikram Lander has landed near the south pole of the Moon. With the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3, India has become the fourth country in the world to make a soft landing on the moon.
- ✓ America, China and the former Soviet Union (now Russia) have been successful in soft landing on the moon. Now India has also joined this list.



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- ✓ The IOA had appointed a panel on April 27 and the committee had to conduct elections within 45 days.

Q. Professor Kalyampudi Radhakrishna Rao passed away recently, he was associated with which field?

- A) Medicine
B) Space
C) Statistics
D) Journalism

Answer : C

- ✓ Professor Kalyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, one of the eminent statisticians, has passed away. He was also known as CR Rao.
- ✓ CR Rao was 102 years old and lived in America.
- ✓ The Government of India honored CR Rao with the Padma Bhushan in the year 1968 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001, India's second highest civilian award

Q. What name has ISRO given to the rover sent with Chandrayaan-3 mission?

- A) Vikram
B) Gyan Ganga
C) Jigyasha
D) Pragyan

Answer : A

- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched by ISRO on 14 July 2023 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ ISRO has named the lander of Chandrayaan-3 mission as 'Vikram' and 'rover' as 'Pragyan' which is a scientific payload.
- ✓ 'Pragyan' is a robotic vehicle which translates to 'knowledge' in Sanskrit.
- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 mission is a follow-up to the 2019 Chandrayaan-2 mission. Chandrayaan-2's Vikram Lander crashed on the surface of the Moon

Q. Who was honored with the first 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Government of Maharashtra?

- A) Ratan Tata
B) Mukesh Ambani
C) Gautam Adani
D) Adar Poonawala

Answer : A

- ✓ Renowned industrialist Ratan Tata was honored with the first 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Government of Maharashtra.



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- Neeraj Chopra is on top with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Anderson Peters of Granada.
- The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) accepted Neeraj Chopra's proposal to train in Kuortane, Finland.
- The men's javelin must weigh at least 800g and be 2.6m-2.7m long while the women's javelin must weigh 600g and be 2.2m-2.3m long.
- Neeraj Chopra presently holds the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army.
- Neeraj Chopra is from Khandra village, Panipat district, Haryana

Q. Neeraj Chopra has won the gold medal in the men's Javelin Throw at the World Athletics Championships 2023 with a throw of _.

A) 88.17 meters

B) 89.57 meters

C) 86.67 meters

D) 87.47 meters

Answer : A

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian to win gold at World Athletics
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra achieved another historic feat, becoming the first Indian athlete to win World Athletics Championships gold medal during the men's javelin throw final event in Budapest.
- ✓ Chopra's second attempt in the final saw him launch the javelin to a distance of 88.17 meters, which remained the highest in the event.
- ✓ Neeraj's achievement marked a significant improvement from the 2022 edition of the Worlds, where he secured a silver medal.
- ✓ Chopra's compatriot from Pakistan, Arshad Nadeem finished second as he finished marginally behind the Indian gold medallist at 87.82m. The Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch took the bronze in 86.67m.
- ✓ Chopra, the current no.1 in the javelin world rankings, had won the Olympic gold in Tokyo 2020 but finished with a silver at the worlds in Eugene last year, as Anderson Peters had clinched the gold.
- ✓ The only other Indian to win a medal at the worlds was Anju Bobby George, who took bronze in the women's long jump in 2003 in Paris
- ✓ India's superstar javelin thrower also became only the third in history to simultaneously hold the Olympics and World Championships titles in the sport, after the iconic Jan Zelezny of Czech Republic and Andreas Thorkildsen of Norway



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- ✓ Zvezdny clinched Olympics gold in 1992, 1996 and 2000 while winning World Championships title in 1993, 1995 and 2001. Thorkildsen won gold in 2008 Olympics and 2009 World Championships

Q. What is the name of the specific spot where Chandrayaan-2 was landed on the Moon?

- A) Shivshakti
- B) India Point
- C) Shakti Point
- D) Tiranga Point

Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared August 23 as the National Space Day to commemorate the remarkable achievement of Chandrayaan-3's landing on the moon.
- ✓ The specific spot where Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon will be named 'Shivshakti', and the spot where Chandrayaan-2 landed will be called 'Tiranga Point'.
- ✓ PM Modi made this announcement during his visit to the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ On 23 August 2023, Chandrayaan-3 achieved a historic feat by becoming the first mission to land on the South Pole of the Moon.
- ✓ Mission goals included a safe lunar landing, rover maneuverability, and the performance of scientific experiments on-site.
- ✓ India has now joined the ranks of the United States, Russia, and China in successfully landing on the Moon.

Q. Which day has been announced to be celebrated as National Space Day?

- A) 22 August
- B) 23 August
- C) 24 August
- D) 25 August

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to celebrate August 23 as 'National Space Day'.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 made a successful soft landing on the South Pole of the Moon on 23 August. To make this day historic, it has been declared as National Space Day.
- ✓ Also, the point (surface) of Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram Lander on the Moon's south pole was named as 'Shiv Shakti Point'.
- ✓ The point at which the hard landing of Chandrayaan-2 took place in 2019 has been named as 'Tiranga' point.
- ✓ PM Modi made this announcement during his visit to the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex in Bengaluru, Karnataka



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- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 Achievements:
- ✓ On 23 August 2023, Chandrayaan-3 achieved a historic feat by becoming the first mission to land on the South Pole of the Moon.
- ✓ Mission goals included a safe lunar landing, rover maneuverability, and the performance of scientific experiments on-site.
- ✓ India has now joined the ranks of the United States, Russia, and China in successfully landing on the Moon.
- ✓ Objectives of Chandrayaan-3:
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 is set to operate on the lunar surface for one lunar day (equivalent to 14 Earth days).
- ✓ The Pragyan rover will detect, conduct experiments, and transmit the data to the lander within a radius of 500 meters around the landing site.
- ✓ The Vikram lander will relay data and images to the orbiter, which will then transmit them back to Earth.
- ✓ Both the lander and the rover carry advanced scientific instruments for a variety of lunar investigations including terrain analysis, mineralogical composition, surface chemistry, atmospheric studies, and water/resource exploration.
- ✓ Additional Payloads and Studies:
- ✓ The propulsion module that propelled the lander and rover into a 100 km lunar orbit contains the SHAPE payload.
- ✓ SHAPE (Spectro-Polarimetry of the Habitable Planet Earth) is designed to study the spectral and polarimetric characteristics of Earth from the orbit of the Moon.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-1
- ✓ Chandrayaan-1 was the first Indian lunar probe launched by ISRO.
- ✓ It was part of the Chandrayaan program and was launched in October 2008 and the mission lasted till August 2009.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-1 consisted of a Lunar Orbiter and an Impactor.
- ✓ The Lunar Orbiter conducted scientific research and collected data about the Moon.
- ✓ The objective of the mission was to make a detailed map of the Moon's surface and study its composition.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-1 had advanced instruments to test the presence of water ice and minerals.
- ✓ The spacecraft carried both Indian and international scientific payloads.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-1 made important discoveries including evidence of water molecules on the lunar surface.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2:



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- ✓ Tele-law services are being integrated with legal representation services under the Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono) program.
- ✓ This integration streamlines access to legal advice, assistance, and representation through a unified registration process on the Tele-Law platform.
- ✓ Screening of a documentary showing the journey of tele-law from 2017 to 2022.
- ✓ "Tele-Law-2.0" is being launched, which combines the Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu apps, Also an e-tutorial has been released.
- ✓ Unveiling of "Voices of Beneficiaries", a compilation of firsthand experiences shared by people who have benefited from Tele-Law.
- ✓ Presenting the "Achievers Catalogue", which acknowledges outstanding performers such as Paralegal Volunteers, Village Entrepreneurs, Panel Lawyers, and State Coordinators for the years 2022-2023 and April to June 2023.

Q. Which State government has announced Ladli Behna Yojana aid hike, 35% job reservation for women?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Karnataka
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections draw nearer, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced big benefits for women voters.
- ✓ Citing the holy month of 'sawan', Chouhan increased the financial assistance provided to women under the Ladli Behna government scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month.
- ✓ He also announced 35% reservation for women in government jobs and the provision of petrol cylinders for Rs 450.
- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, women make up 7.07 lakh of the 13.39 lakh new voters and whose increase in electoral list numbers is at 2.79 per cent compared to 2.30 percent for men.



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MADHYA PRADESH IN NEWS 2023

- President of India, Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- India's first online gaming academy launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
- Tiger State Madhya Pradesh is poised to get its 7th tiger reserve with the state government going forward with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Madhya Pradesh received the first prize in the best State category, while the best district award went to Ganjam District in Odisha.
- Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC Ltd.) will construct a 525 MW pumped storage project near the Indira Sagar Dam in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana'.
- Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves 'Mukhya Mantri Sikho Kamao Yojana' for unemployed youth.
- Gond paintings from Madhya Pradesh have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition that protects and acknowledges the work of tribal artists.
- Madhya Pradesh government launched Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights Scheme.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village located in Bhopal district has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- Madhya Pradesh Government on 5 March launched Ladli Bahna scheme under which each woman will be given one thousand rupees per month..
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on March 4 to make Tehsil Mauganj of Rewa district the 53rd district of the state.

Q. Which bank has partnered with commodities trader Maptrusco for the completion of the first “live” transaction of electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) for shipments?

A) HSBC Bank

B) DBS Bank

C) Citibank

D) Standard Chartered Bank



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Answer : B

- ✓ DBS Bank has partnered with commodities trader Maptrusco for the completion of the first “live” transaction of electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) for shipments between Singapore and India.
- ✓ With this first shipment, businesses across Singapore and India can participate in the TradeTrust network via their respective choice of TradeTrust-enabled platforms to enable the digital trade finance of live shipments of goods between the two countries.
- ✓ The transaction was implemented under the TradeTrust framework, an initiative by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and supported by Enterprise Singapore.
- ✓ The project leverages the United Nation’s Model Law for Electronic Transferable Records and aims to drive cross-border document and title exchanges.
- ✓ The successful transaction ushers in a new chapter of more efficient, and interoperable digital bills of lading and is a key milestone in the digital transformation of trade financing.
- ✓ Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank
- ✓ Founded : 1968
- ✓ Headquarters : Singapore
- ✓ Chairman : Peter Seah
- ✓ CEO : Piyush Gupta

Q. Indian women’s blind cricket team has won the gold medal after defeating which country in the IBSA World Games 2023?

A) England

B) Pakistan

A) Australia

D) South Africa

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian women’s blind cricket team created history as it defeated Australia in the finals by 9 wickets and won the gold medal at the IBSA World Games.
- ✓ The women’s cricket team showed exceptional resilience in the rain-spoiled match and ultimately became the first-ever cricket winners at the IBSA World Games.
- ✓ The Indian men’s blind cricket team earned a silver medal at the IBSA World Games 2023 after losing to Pakistan in the men’s T20 cricket final held at Edgbaston, Birmingham.



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- ✓ The inclusion of cricket in the IBSA World Games began and both the Indian men's and women's blind cricket teams reached the finals, ensuring medals for India.
- ✓ The team became the first-ever cricket winners at the IBSA World Games

Q. Which state has been awarded the best 'State Award' for 2022?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Rajasthan
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ Indore bagged the best "National Smart City Award", followed by Surat and Agra.
- ✓ The central government announced the India Smart Cities Awards for 2022.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has won the best 'State Award' and Tamil Nadu bagged the second spot. Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were in the third spot jointly.
- ✓ Chandigarh has been ranked the number one in the Union territory category.
- ✓ Among the 100 smart cities in the country, Indore bagged the top spot, Surat in Gujarat the second place, and Agra the third spot.
- ✓ In October last year, Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the sixth time in a row.
- ✓ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said that while 66 winners in different categories were announced the awards would be presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony in Indore on September 27.
- ✓ It includes 35 in Project Award, six in Innovation Award, 13 in the National/Zonal City Award, five in State/UT Award and seven in Partner Award.

Q. Who has released books based on speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" at the Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Centre in Bhopal?

- A) Anurag Thakur B) Nirmala Sitharaman
C) Smriti Irani D) Rajnath Singh

Answer : A

- ✓ Shivraj Singh & Anurag Thakur releases books based on speeches of PM Modi
- ✓ Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan have released books based on speeches of Prime



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Minister Narendra Modi titled “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas” at the Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Centre in Bhopal.

- ✓ The speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are always connected with the public, make relations, create motion, and are based on Nation-First policy and that is why they are perfect and reach the heart of the public.
- ✓ The second volume of the book covers 86 speeches from the second year of Mr. Modi’s second term in the Prime Minister’s Office, i.e. from June 2020 to May 2021.
- ✓ Whereas, the third volume is a collection of 80 speeches from June 2021 to May 2022, the third year of Mr. Modi’s second term in the Prime Minister’s Office.

Q. Who has acquired the title sponsorship rights for the domestic matches of the Indian cricket team?

- A) Master Card
- B) Star Sports
- C) IDFC First Bank
- D) Paytm

Answer : C

- ✓ IDFC First Bank has bagged the title sponsorship rights for all the domestic matches of the Indian cricket team.
- ✓ Under this, the bank will have to pay an amount of ₹ 4.2 crore for each international match.
- ✓ BCCI said that this contract will be for a long period of three years which will start with the India-Australia ODI series
- ✓ IDFC First Bank
- ✓ Founded : October 2015
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ Non-Exe. Chairman : Rajiv Lall
- ✓ MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan
- ✓ Tagline : Always You First.

Q. Who has been appointed as the first woman field director of Kaziranga National Park?

- A) Rita Chauhan
- B) Dr. Sonali Ghosh
- C) Aditi Sinha
- D) Premlata Thakur

Answer : B



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- ✓ As the first woman Field Director of Kaziranga National Park, Dr. Sonali Ghosh has been appointed.
- ✓ She will replace Indian Forest Service officer Field Director Jatindra Sarma who is retiring on August 31.
- ✓ Dr. Sonali will assume her charge from 01 September.
- ✓ According to a forest department official, she will be the first woman to take charge as the director of the 118-year-old Kaziranga National Park.
- ✓ About Kaziranga National Park:
- ✓ Location: It is located in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam.
- ✓ It was declared a national park in 1974.
- ✓ It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and houses two-thirds of the total world population of greater one-horned rhinoceros.

Q. Which Indian player won the bronze medal in the World Badminton Championship 2023?

- A) Shrikant Kidambi B) Lakshya Sen
C) H. S. Prannoy D) Parupalli Kashyap

Answer : C

- ✓ India's star badminton player H. S. Prannoy has won bronze medal in BWF World Championship 2023.
- ✓ He has become the fifth Indian to win a medal in the men's singles matches of the World Championships.
- ✓ India has so far won one silver and 4 bronze in men's singles in the history of the World Badminton Championships.
- ✓ Kidambi Srikanth is the only Indian to reach the men's singles final (in 2021) of the same event.
- ✓ The 28th edition of BWF World Badminton Championships 2023, sponsored by TotalEnergies, was held at Royal Arena, Copenhagen, Denmark from 21st to 27th August.
- ✓ Copenhagen has been chosen as the host for the BWF World Championships for the fifth time.
- ✓ India's star shuttler HS Prannoy won the gold medal in the Malaysia Masters Badminton Championship 2023 played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Q. Which country has created a new Asian record in the men's 4x400m relay team event at the World Athletics Championships?

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



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Q. Who is the President of Zimbabwe who has been re-elected for a second five-year term?

- A) Emmerson Mnangagwa B) Robert Pereiro
C) Jacob Zuma D) Tino Janakika

Answer : A

- ✓ Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been re-elected for a second and final five-year term after the results of Zimbabwe's presidential election were announced.
- ✓ By the way, there has been a history of irregularities in elections in Zimbabwe, with the help of which former President Robert Mugabe remained in power for almost four decades.
- ✓ Zimbabwe is a South African country, whose capital is Harare.
- ✓ About Zimbabwe
- ✓ It is a landlocked country in Southern Africa.
- ✓ The Zambezi River flows through Zimbabwe and is home to Victoria Falls.
- ✓ Victoria Falls plunges 108 meters down the Batoka Gorge.
- ✓ Downstream of the Zambezi River are the Matusadona and Mana Pools National Parks.
- ✓ Capital - Harare
- ✓ Currency - United States Dollar

Q. Which Indian state is the first to launch 'Breakfast Scheme' for students of Government schools?

- A) Kerala B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Bihar D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : D

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the expanded form of the state government's breakfast scheme for government schools.
- ✓ Stalin launched the expansion at a school at Tirukkuvalai in Nagapattinam district. He served food to students to mark the launch.
- ✓ Video from the launch showed Stalin sitting on the floor and eating the meal with the children.
- ✓ The scheme was initially launched last year for 1,545 government primary schools, but has now been expanded to 31,000 schools across the state.
- ✓ Here we explain what's Tamil Nadu's CM Breakfast Scheme and how it has performed so far



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- ✓ The report also revealed that there has been an increase of about 1.42 million in MI schemes as compared to the previous census..

Q.22. Which Country has handed over the B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 in 2024?

- A) India
- B) Canada
- C) Maldives
- D) Australia

Answer : A

- ✓ India has handed over the B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 in 2024. B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran said that India's B20 Presidency under the its G20 Presidency worked under the theme of Vasudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future).
- ✓ B20 Summit India 2023 began in New Delhi on 25 August.
- ✓ Eminent leaders including Tata Sons Executive Chairman and B20 India Chairman N Chandrasekaran, Mastercard CEO Michael Meibach, and World Economic Forum President Borge Brende will be present.
- ✓ The theme of the summit is "B20 India R.I.S.E." which is a symbol of responsible, agile, innovative, sustainable, and equitable businesses.

Q. Which country has hosted the first 'Karnataka Cultural Festival'?

- A) Maldives
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Thailand
- D) Bhutan

Answer : B

- ✓ Sri Lanka hosts 'Karnataka Cultural Festival' for the first time.
- ✓ Sri Lanka hosted the Karnataka Cultural Festival on August 27, 2023
- ✓ This program is organized by the International Cultural Council of India, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center, and M.E. Organized in association with the Global Peace Foundation.
- ✓ The festival featured a variety of performances from over 30 artists from Karnataka: traditional dances, folk music, multilingual poems, ballet, and puppet shows
- ✓ The focus was on highlighting the cultural heritage and heritage of Karnataka.
- ✓ The cast included lead artist Madhuri Bondre and her troupe.



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FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023

- Karnataka Cultural Festival : Sri Lanka
- Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Festival of Libraries 2023 : New Delhi
- Chachin Grazing Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Harela Festival : Uttarakhand
- Bonalu Festival : Telangana
- Kharchi Puja : Tripura
- Palkhi festival : Maharashtra
- Raja festival : Odisha
- Kheer Bhawani Mela : Jammu and Kashmir
- Great Prayer Festival : Ladakh
- Sinthan Snow Festival : Jammu and Kashmir
- Heritage Festival : Goa
- Thawe Festival : Bihar
- Bohag Bihu festival : Assam
- 49th Khajuraho Dance Festival : Madhya Pradesh
- Yaoshang festival : Manipur
- Purple Fest : Goa
- Orange Festival : Nagaland
- Kala Ghoda Arts Festival : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Losar Festival : Ladakh
- 23rd Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Gaan Ngai festival : Manipur
- Cherchera Festival : Chhattisgarh
- 26th National Youth Festival 2023 : Hubbali, Karnataka
- International Yoga Festival 2023 : Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- Tribal Dance Festival & Military Tattoo : New Delhi



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- **Mongeeet Festival : Assam**
- **International Kite Festival 2023 : Ahmedabad, Gujarat**
- **Vigyanika Science Literature Festival : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**
- **Baisakhi is a harvest festival : Punjab and Haryana**

Q. Which company has successfully manufactured the first set of indigenous SCR Catalysts for limiting NOx emissions from thermal power plants?

- A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)**
- B) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**
- C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)**
- D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**

Answer : A

- ✓ BHEL develops India's first catalyst set to curb NOx emissions in power plants
- ✓ State-owned engineering firm Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has successfully manufactured the first set of indigenous SCR Catalysts for limiting NOx emissions from thermal power plants.
- ✓ SCR Catalysts were earlier imported in line with the 'Make in India' initiative.
- ✓ The initial batch of indigenous SCR Catalyst was manufactured for 5×800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station in Telangana.
- ✓ BHEL set up a manufacturing facility at its Solar Business Division unit to produce SCR catalysts for reducing NOx emissions in thermal power plants
- ✓ Burning coal converts its nitrogen content into nitrogen oxides (NOx), a major air pollutant that includes substances such as NO, NO₂, and N₂O
- ✓ Other orders for SCR units came from Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO), West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC), and NALCO for various thermal power stations
- ✓ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL):
- ✓ It is a major Central Public Sector Enterprise in India.
- ✓ It has the distinction of being the largest manufacturer of power generation equipment under government ownership.



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- ✓ BHEL works as a part of the Government of India and comes under the purview of the Ministry of Heavy Industry.
- ✓ Establishment - 1956
- ✓ Headquarters - New Delhi

Q. Which bank has launched a Customer Service Points (CSPs) functionality that allows customers to enroll for social security schemes through Aadhaar Card?

- A) Punjab National Bank B) Indian Overseas Bank
C) State Bank of India D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Public sector lender the State Bank of India has launched a Customer Service Points (CSPs) functionality that allows customers to enroll for social security schemes through Aadhaar Card.
- ✓ Chairman Dinesh Khara introduced the feature which will be availed at the bank's CSPs that aims to make the process of enrolling in various social security schemes simpler.
- ✓ The customers visiting CSPs will need only their Aadhaar to enroll in social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- ✓ They will no longer need to carry passbooks to the CSP outlet for enrolment.
- ✓ With the feature, the bank aims to strengthen its offerings and extend the benefits of crucial schemes to the masses.
- ✓ This technology-driven enhancement is a testament to SBI's commitment to improve financial inclusivity and social welfare through digitization.

SBI IN NEWS 2023

- State Bank of India has launched a Customer Service Points (CSPs) functionality that allows customers to enroll for social security schemes through Aadhaar Card.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- State Bank of India will set up a new trustee company as its wholly-owned subsidiary for managing the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF).



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- State Bank of India (SBI), Bengaluru Circle, recently launched 'Project Kuber' to meet the banking needs of its customers.
- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's biggest lender, has raised USD 750 million through bonds to fund offshore business growth.
- State Bank of India (SBI) launched a coffee table book titled "The Banker to Every Indian" and the book celebrates 75 years of Indian independence and 200 years of SBI's history.
- SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits.
- The bank intends to launch two new variants of current accounts, one with a balance of ₹50,000 and another with a balance of ₹50 lakh. It also plans to introduce a new savings account called "Parivar" (family) account.
- State Bank of India (SBI) announced the completion of a \$1 billion syndicated social loan facility.
- The facility of \$1 billion was arranged through MLABs, MUFG bank and Taipei Fubon Commercial Bank Co.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with the NGO That's Eco Foundation to donate ₹48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University in Bengaluru.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 3,717 crore through its third Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance in the current financial year at coupon rate of 8.25 per cent..
- SBI reintroduces 400 days 'Amrit Kalash' retail term deposit scheme and provides an interest rate of 7.6% for senior citizens.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its coffee table book named 'The Banker to Every Indian'.
- Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) is a joint venture in Russia between SBI (60 per cent) and Canara Bank (40 per cent).
- SBI announces completion of \$1 billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility.
- Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) signed a memorandum (MoU) of understanding with State Bank of India to help farmers in getting low interest rate loans.
- According to the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)'s report titled "EASE Reforms Index for the first quarter of FY23" the State Bank of India(SBI) was adjudged as the Best Bank in adopting reforms prescribed for Public Sector Banks(PSB).
- SBI on 5 December 2022 announced that its personal banking advances excluding high value home loans have crossed the Rs 5 lakh-crore mark as on 30 November 2022.



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- State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, approved raising Rs 10,000 crore through infrastructure bonds during the financial year 2023 (FY23) including a greenshoe option of Rs 5,000 crore.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- Tagline of State Bank of India
- (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
- (2) With you all the way
- (3) A bank of the common man
- (4) The banker to every Indian
- (5) The Nation banks on us.
- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

Q. The 3rd International Conference on Structural Integrity (ICONS 2023) has been inaugurated in which city?

A) Mamallapuram

B) Thiruvananthapuram

C) Kozhikode

D) Kochi

Answer : A

- ✓ The 3rd International Conference on Structural Integrity (ICONS 2023) began virtually at Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ ICONS 2023 is jointly organized by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and the Society for Failure Analysis, in association with Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Indian Society for Non-destructive Testing, Kalpakkam Chapter, Indian Institute of Metals Kalpakkam Chapter and Indian Structural Integrity Society.



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- ✓ ICONS 2023 was attended by around 250 delegates from India and abroad, including mechanical engineers, materials scientists, academicians, industry experts, plant managers and regulatory personnel.

Q. Hindustan Shipyard Inks ___ Crore Deal With Ministry of Defence for Procurement of Five Fleet Support Ships (FSS).

- A) ₹15,000 Crore B) ₹16,500 Crore
C) ₹18,000 Crore D) ₹19,000 Crore

Answer : D

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence has signed a significant contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam on August 25, 2023, for the acquisition of five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy. Valued at approximately Rs 19,000 crore, this step advances the goal of self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- ✓ The ships in the 44,000-tonnes category will be the first of their kind to be built in India by an Indian shipyard

Q. Which state government has Issues Notification Banning Plastic Water Bottles Below 1 Litre from 2 October 2023?

- A) Bihar B) Odisha
C) Assam D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ The Assam Environment and Forest Department has taken a significant step by announcing the ban on the use and production of plastic water bottles below 1000 ml capacity within the state.
- ✓ This transformative initiative, set to be enforced from 2nd October 2023, reflects Assam's commitment to combat plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices.
- ✓ Recognizing the environmental hazards posed by such smaller plastic bottles, the Assam government's decision aligns with its commitment to safeguard the state's natural beauty and biodiversity.

BAN IN NEWS 2023

- Indian sprinter Dutee Chand gets four-year ban for failing dope test.
- Assam Govt Issues Notification Banning Plastic Water Bottles Below 1 Litre.
- FIFA lifts ban on Sri Lanka Football Federation.



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- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) in India has recently cracked down on over 150 websites and YouTube-based news channels since May 2021.
- These actions were taken in response to the production of content deemed “anti-India” and in violation of Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act.
- India bans export of non-basmati white rice.
- New Zealand becomes first country to ban plastic produce bags.
- After ChatGPT, Italy plans to ban English language.
- Seattle created history becomes first city in US to ban caste discrimination.

ASSAM IN NEWS 2023

- Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches ‘Amrit Brikshya Andolan’ app.
- Assam Govt Issues Notification Banning Plastic Water Bottles Below 1 Litre
- Project Gajah Kotha Launched in Assam.
- Assam launched "Gajah Kotha" campaign to address the growing problem of Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC).
- Assam's first underwater tunnel to be constructed between Numaligarh and Gohpur.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal received the first over dimensional cargo (ODC) transported via waterways at Numaligarh Refinery jetty (Assam).
- Indian Army's Gajraj Corps, along with other disaster management groups, conducted a joint flood relief drill, 'Exercise Jal Rahat', at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River in Assam.
- India's first International Multi Modal Logistics park in Jogighopa, Assam.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the Ayushman Assam Scheme under the Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya (MMJA) in Guwahati.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28th April virtually commissioned 91 FM Transmitters of capacity of 100 Watt at Diphu in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.
- World Bank's Executive Board of Directors has approved USD 108 million loan for Assam, to help the state improve disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting.



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Q. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched the world's first 100 percent Ethanol-fueled car in which city?

- A) Pune
B) Bengaluru
C) New Delhi
D) Hyderabad

Answer : C

- ✓ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched the world's first 100 percent Ethanol-fueled car in New Delhi.
- ✓ The world's first BS-VI (Stage-II), electrified flex-fuel vehicle has been launched which can function fully on ethanol-based fuel.
- ✓ With the implementation of 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol, the country will save 35 thousand crore rupees annually as import bill.
- ✓ India has achieved 10 percent of ethanol blending five months in advance of the initial target of 2022.
- ✓ With the ethanol blending process the farmers have earned 82 thousand crores rupees so far and the country's import bill has reduced.
- ✓ The flex fuel is a technology that allows an engine to utilise ethanol-blended petrol or gasoline beyond 20 percent. The aim is to reduce carbon footprint, improve sustainable mobility and decrease the country's dependency on traditional fuel sources.

Q. Which bank has launched a co-branded Corporate Credit Card in collaboration with spend management platform Zagle to empower businesses?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Yes bank partnered with fintech Zagle for next-gen corporate credit card
- ✓ Yes Bank has launched co-branded Corporate Credit Card in collaboration with spend management platform Zagle, to empower businesses to reimagine their payment processes, streamline reconciliation, and efficiently manage company expenditures.
- ✓ The new card 'YES BANK Zagle Corporate Credit Card', provides businesses direct control over company expenditures.



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- ✓ This includes the ability to set individual spending limits, apply merchant category restrictions, and implement diverse controls.
- ✓ Additionally, cardholders gain access to an array of exclusive benefits, spanning rewards, golf privileges, lounge access, and travel insurance.
- ✓ The partnership with Zagggle enables businesses to bring in operational efficiencies by allowing them to undertake banking transactions, manage company expenditures as well as keep track of all business-related overheads on a single platform

YES BANK IN NEWS 2023

- Yes bank partnered with fintech Zagggle for next-gen corporate credit card.
- YES BANK launched 'iris' to offer digital banking solutions in India.
- YES Bank Partners with IIT Kanpur to Transform Startups and Red Hat to Redefine Mobile Banking Experience.
- Cashfree Payments partners with YES Bank to offer Global Collections service for exporters.
- YES Bank has collaborated with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG).
- Reliance General becomes first insurer to accept CBDC in tie-up with YES Bank.
- Yes Bank, Turtlefin Launched Online Insurance Services platform 'EasyNsure.
- Yes Bank has signed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), acquiring a 9.9 percent stake in the ARC at Rs 11.43 per share.
- YES BANK
- Founded : 2004
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- Tagline : Experience our Expertis

Q. Which insurance company has tied up with Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd in its effort to increase the penetration of life insurance through the Bancassurance channel?

- A) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance B) Life Insurance Corporation Of India
C) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance D) Bharti AXA General Insurance



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Answer : B

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India has tied up with Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd in its effort to increase the penetration of life insurance through the Bancassurance channel in Mumbai.
- ✓ Saraswat Cooperative Bank is India's largest Urban Cooperative Bank.
- ✓ Citizens in general and customers of Saraswat Bank, in particular, will now have the opportunity to fulfill their life insurance protection needs through the Bank itself by purchasing insurance products.
- ✓ The Bank has a vast network of 294 Branches as at 31 March 2023 spread over 6 states and is catering to over 2 million customers. It has also got the distinction of being India's largest Urban Cooperative Bank.
- ✓ Being the premier insurer of the country, LIC has plans for all segments of the society under its product basket of Annuity, ULIP, Term Insurance and Savings category.
- ✓ Recently LIC has launched a close-ended Guaranteed Benefit plan "Dhan Vriddhi" which is available till 30th September 2023 only, to persons of all age ranging from 90 days to 60 years.

LIC IN NEWS 2023

- Life Insurance Corporation of India has tied up with Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd in its effort to increase the penetration of life insurance through the Bancassurance channel in Mumbai.
- SatPal Bhanu has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024.
- LIC Raises Stake in Tech Mahindra to 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions.
- Ratnakar Patnaik appointed as new Chief Investment Officer of LIC.
- Tablesh Pandey and M. Jagannath have been appointed as the managing directors of the Life Insurance Company (LIC).
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched LIC Jeevan Azad Plan.
- The minimum basic sum assured under LIC Jeevan Azad Plan is Rs 2 lakh and the maximum basic sum assured is Rs 5 lakh. The policy can be taken for term of 15 to 20 years.
- LIC to divest 60.72% share in IDBI Bank.
- LIC presently has four managing directors
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- Founded : 1956



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- Maharashtra's Economy will become a trillion dollar by 2028, said N Chandrashekar, president of the State Economy Development Council.
- Maharashtra Prisons Department has launched a "video call" facility for foreign nationals lodged in different jails across the state.
- NCP leader Ajit Pawar has been sworn in as the new Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra Government launched Namu Shetkari Mahasnanman Yojana.
- Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to approve Good Governance Regulations.
- Uttar Pradesh surpasses Maharashtra in sugar production this season.
- A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' started in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, is scheduled to present the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' Award to Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari, also known as Appasaheb Dharmadhikari, on April 16 for his notable work as a social worker and reformer.
- Maharashtra Government has introduced a 4% quota for employees with disabilities in promotions.
- Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups in Pune.
- Ramesh Bais Appointed as the New Governor of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to pass the Lokayukta Bill.
- Recently a rare low altitude basalt plateau has been discovered in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra..
- Nilesh Sambre conferred with 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023' by Maharashtra State.
- Talon Grikspoor of the Netherlands won the singles title at the Maharashtra Open tennis tournament in Pune.

Q. Who has launched HSBC India's partnerships aimed at innovation in Green Hydrogen?

A) **Nirmala Sitharaman**

B) **Piyush Goyal**

C) **Narendra Modi**

D) **Rajnath Singh**

Answer : A

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched HSBC India's partnerships aimed at innovation in Green Hydrogen.
- ✓ That includes partnerships with IIT Bombay and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation to pursue technological advancements to make green hydrogen more efficient, cost-effective, and scalable.



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- Sberbank's branch in India has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an IT unit in Bengaluru.
- India's first 3D-printed post office to come up in Bengaluru.
- The second Trade and Investment Working Group meeting under the G20 India Presidency began in Bengaluru.
- Foxconn to invest nearly 1 billion USD in Bengaluru.
- Nitin Gadkari unveiled first methanol run buses in Bengaluru.
- India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023), being organised during India's G20 Presidency, will be held in Bengaluru between February 6 and 8, 2023. .
- The Union Ministry of Defence has announced on 27 November 2022 that the biennial air show AeroIndia-2023 will be held at the Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru's from 13-17 February, 2023. This would be the 14th edition of Aero India.
- The first G-20 Environment meeting under the G-20 India Presidency will be held at the Taj West End in Bengaluru.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March inaugurated a 5-day cultural program "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru..
- The first meeting of the G-20 Energy Transition Working Group under the chairmanship of India will be held in Bengaluru from 5 to 7 February

Q. Which state government has distributed land rights certificates to the 65,000 poor families living in the slums?

A) Assam

B) Odisha

C) Madhya Pradesh

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has distributed land right certificates to the 65,000 poor families living in the slums of five metropolitan cities including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, and Rourkela.
- ✓ Odisha is the only state in the country to give land rights to slum dwellers



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- ✓ On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that “financial assistance will also be provided for the construction of houses.
- ✓ The second phase of the certificate will be issued next October. This campaign will continue till all the poor families of the city get land rights.
- ✓ The Chief Minister inaugurated 1010 colonies which have transformed into Biju Model Colonies and honoured the cities of Cuttack, Khordha, Koraput and Jajpur for their outstanding work in the construction of Biju Adamas Colony

ODISHA IN NEWS 2023

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has distributed land right certificates to the 65,000 poor families living in the slums of five metropolitan cities including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, and Rourkela.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the ‘Mo Jungle Jami Yojana’ for indigenous people of the state to ensure individual and community rights over forest land for eligible beneficiaries.
- India’s biggest natural arch formed 184 million years ago discovered in Odisha by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- Odisha becomes the first state to notify a committee for conservation of seeds preserved by tribal farmers.
- Odisha government launched the 'Mo Ghara' (My Home) housing scheme.
- PM Modi launches railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha.
- Odisha government has expanded the jurisdiction of Special Development Councils (SDCs) from nine to 23 districts to improve the lives of 84 lakh tribal people.
- Odisha has its 88th foundation day on 1st April 2023.
- World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 100 million loan under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Program.
- Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state.
- Aska police station of Odisha's Ganjam district became the country's number one police station.
- Gangapur police station in Odisha's Ganjam district has been awarded the second best police station award.



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- Gold Deposits Found at Different Location in Three Districts of Odisha , including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the Odisha government aims to make Odisha slum-free by the end of 2023

Q. Who has won the gold medal in the 3000 meters steeplechase final of the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest Hungary?

- A) Winfred Mutile Yavi B) Parul Chaudhary
C) Beatrice Chepkoech D) Conor McGregor

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian athlete Parul Chaudhary finished in the eleventh position in the 3000 meters steeplechase final of the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest Hungary.
- ✓ She broke the national record in the World Athletics Championships and qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- ✓ Brunei athlete Winfred Mutile Yavi clinched the gold medal, Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech won silver and another Kenya athlete Faith Cherotich achieved winning bronze.

Q. Who has been awarded the ET Leadership Excellence Awards?

- A) Parmeet Singh Sood B) Deepinder Goyal
C) Byju Raveendran D) Bhavish Aggarwal

Answer : A

- ✓ Parmeet Singh Sood felicitated at "ET Leadership Excellence Awards
- ✓ The Economic Times honored the achievements of leaders and change-makers who have made significant contributions in their respective fields.
- ✓ The Economic Times honored the achievements of leaders and change-makers who have made significant contributions in their respective fields.
- ✓ Parmeet Singh Sood, Managing Director of Climax Overseas Pvt. Ltd. was awarded the "Excellence in Manufacturing Of Automobile Parts" and felicitated by the well-known Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh along with Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva.



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- ✓ Earlier this month, the RBI had proposed facilitating offline transactions using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to promote UPI-Lite. Transactions through NFC do not require PIN verification

Q. Which of the following former cricket player has recently joined 'Midwicket Stories' as principal advisor?

- A) Sunil Gavaskar B) Ravi Shastri
C) Rahul Dravid D) Chetan Sharma

Answer : A

- ✓ Former Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar has joined 'Midwicket Stories' as principal advisor.
- ✓ Also known by the nicknames 'Sunny' and 'Little Master', Gavaskar is among the greatest Indian cricketers to have graced the gentleman's game.
- ✓ The concept of 'Midwicket Stories' is where former players come together and talk about their time, talk about things that happened during their time.
- ✓ Gavaskar is a distinguished member of India's maiden World Cup winning squad of 1983, Gavaskar once held the record for scoring the most centuries in Tests.

Q. Dev Kohli passed away recently in Mumbai. Who was he?

- A) Poet B) Theatre artist
C) Social Worker D) Historian

Answer : A

- ✓ Veteran lyricist and poet Dev Kohli passed away in Mumbai
- ✓ He had penned over a hundred songs for Bollywood films such as Baazigar, Hum Aapke Hain Koun, Maine Pyaar Kiya, Shoot Out At Lokhandwala, among many others.
- ✓ Kohli is famed for his songs over 100 films including 'Maine Pyaar Kiya,' 'Baazigar,' 'Judwaa 2,' 'Musafir,' 'Shoot Out At Lokhandwala,' and 'Taxi No. 9211.' He has collaborated with music directors like Anu Malik, Raam Laxman, Anand Raaj Anand, Anand Milind among others.
- ✓ Dev Kohli was born on November 2, 1942, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. He moved to Delhi in 1949 and spent his childhood in Dehradun.
- ✓ He wrote lyrics for several hit songs like 'Aate Jaate Hanste Gaate,' 'Kabootar Ja Ja Ja,' 'Aaja Shaam Hone Aayee,' 'Maine Pyar Kiya' and 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun'



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5. Priyanka Chopra : 2000

6. Manushi Chhillar : 2017.

➤ List of Miss Universe winners from India

1. Sushmita Sen : 1994

2. Lara Dutta : 2000

3. Harnaaz Sandhu : 2021.

➤ Reita Faria is the first Indian to win the Miss World in 1966.

➤ Sushmita Sen first Indian to win the Miss Universe title in 1994.

➤ Nicole Faria became the first Indian to win the 'Miss Earth' in 2010

Q. Warship 'Mahendragiri' has been built by which Shipbuilders Limited?

A) Goa Shipyard Limited

B) Cochin Shipyard Limited

C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

D) ABG Shipyard Limited

Answer : C

- ✓ The wife of the Vice President will launch India's latest warship, Mahendragiri, at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- ✓ About Mahendragiri Frigate:
- ✓ It is the seventh and last stealth frigate of Project 17A Frigates.
- ✓ It is named after a mountain peak in Eastern Ghats located in Odisha.
- ✓ The ship is being built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.
- ✓ What is Project 17A?
- ✓ The project was launched by the defence forces of India to construct a series of stealth guided-missile frigates.
- ✓ Under the Project 17A programme, four ships by Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) are being built.
- ✓ These warships follow the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class) and boast enhanced stealth features, advanced weapons, sensors, and platform management systems.
- ✓ Project 17A ships have been designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau WDB.
- ✓ As much as 75% of the orders for equipment and systems of Project 17A ships are from indigenous firms, including MSMEs.



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- ✓ The first six ships of the project have been launched so far by MDL & GRSE between 2019-2023.

Q. ADB and Fourth Partner Energy Collaborate for Solar Power Plant in Which State?

- A) Kerala
B) Karnataka
C) Tamil Nadu
D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million) to construct and operate a 25-megawatt solar photovoltaic-based power plant to increase clean and low-cost energy supply to commercial and industrial customers.
- ✓ The power plant, located in Tirunelveli district in the state of Tamil Nadu in India, is expected to generate about 50.7 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually and will directly sell power to commercial and industrial users. India's progressive open access renewable energy policy allows a group of consumers to purchase electricity directly from an Independent Power Producer (IPP).

TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023

- Taiwanese firm Foxconn Technology Group, a key supplier to Apple Inc., signed a letter of Intent with the Tamil Nadu government to invest ₹1,600 crore to establish a manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram district.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- Tamil Nadu's Authoor betel leaves get Geographical Indication (GI) certificate.
- Tamil Nadu bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation .
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister "Udhayanidhi Stalin" has unveiled the trophy and the 'Bomman' mascot for the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament to be held in Chennai.
- Muthamizh Selvi, first Tamil Nadu woman to scale Mt Everest.
- Tamil Nadu government declared Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state..
- Tamil Nadu becomes first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
- Tamil Nadu govt to launch five-year Tamil Nadu Millet Mission.



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- In a first of its kind initiative in India, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced the 'Nilgiri Tahr Project'.

Q. Who developed 'Nabhmitra' device for fishers' safety successfully tested at Neendakara?

- A) ISRO
B) DRDO
C) IIT Madras
D) IIT Bombay

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing its innovative device named 'Nabhmitra'.
- ✓ This device, developed at ISRO's Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad, aims to enhance the safety of fishermen during their sea expeditions.
- ✓ The successful testing took place at Neendakara, where the device was installed on a fishing vessel, and its capabilities were assessed in the presence of both scientists and officials from the Fisheries department.
- ✓ Nabhmitra operates on the basis of advanced satellite communication technology, allowing seamless two-way messaging between fishing boats and maritime authorities stationed at sea.

Q. Which Govt announced 27% reservation for OBCs in local bodies like panchayats, municipalities, and civic corporations?

- A) Maharashtra
B) Gujarat
C) Punjab
D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ In Gujarat, the state government 29th August 2023 announced a 27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local bodies like panchayats, municipalities, and civic corporations.
- ✓ * Briefing media in Gandhinagar, minister and government spokesperson Rushikesh Patel said the decision was taken based on the basis of the Jhaveri Commission report.
- ✓ * The announcement, seats in panchayats municipalities and municipal corporations will be kept reserved for OBC candidates in 27 percent proportion when elections are held.



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GUJARAT IN NEWS 2023

- London-based company OneWeb and the Gujarat Government's Science and Technology Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today for the establishment of a 'Satellite Network Portal Site' in Gujarat.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah organized a virtual ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School.
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the best tourism facilities in the historical lighthouses of Gujarat.
- Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat.
- Gujarat government signs MoU with US chip maker firm Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Ahmedabad.
- Indian cabinet has given its approval to Micron Technology's plan to invest \$2.7 billion in setting up a semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat.
- Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet begins at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- BJP leader Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term.
- Madhvendra Singh has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Maritime Cluster by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited.
- First G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Dhordo in Kutch region of Gujarat.
- Former Gujarat governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Prakash Kohli passed away.
- Gujarat Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. The state was established on May 1, 1960.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has declared the last week of April as "Swagat Saptah" in commemoration of the completion of 20 years of the "State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology" (SWAGAT) initiative.
- Deakin University of Australia to set up campus in GIFT city.
- Two Australian Universities Wollongong and Deakin to set up Campuses in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- The Youth 20 India Summit will be held at the Maharaja Sayajirao University Vadodara in Gujarat.



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- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lisa Franchetti becomes 1st woman to be top Navy officer in US history.
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.
- Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.
- New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- Sheenu Jhavar becomes first woman president of TiE Rajasthan.
- American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat, From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- Shalija Dhami becomes first woman officer to command a fighter unit in Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Colonel Geeta Rana became the first woman officer to command a field workshop.
- Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the first women officer to be operationally deployed in the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareli's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.



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- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year .
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.
- FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match.
- PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

Q. Who has taken over as Principal Director General of All India Radio and NSD?

- A) Dr. Vasudha Gupta B) Meenakshi Lekhi
C) Abhirup Sharma D) Ramesh Singh

Answer : A

- ✓ Dr. Vasudha Gupta, a senior officer of the 1989 batch of the Indian Information Service, has taken over as the Principal Director General of All India Radio and News Services Division (NSD).
- ✓ Prior to this, she was working on the post of Director General in All India Radio.
- ✓ He has also served as the Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB).

Q. In Assam, the state's longest flyover was inaugurated, what is its length?

- A) 2.00 km B) 2.15 km
C) 2.63 km D) 3.00 km

Answer : C

- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the longest flyover in the state, which has been named Nilachal flyover after the Nilachal hills.
- ✓ Its total length is 2.63 kilometers and it has been built from Maligaon Chariali to Kamakhya Gate in Guwahati.
- ✓ It has been constructed at a cost of ₹420.75 crore and was built in a period of 35 months



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Q. Which Ministry and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) signed an MoU for 2023-25?

- A) Ministry of Tribal Affairs B) Ministry of Home Affairs
C) Ministry of Labour and Employment D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Answer : D

- ✓ A momentous collaboration has been cemented as the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- ✓ This strategic partnership aims to enhance the socio-economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis, Manual Scavengers, Waste Pickers and their dependants.
- ✓ NSKFDC also provides loans upto Rs.1.00 lacs under its Mahila Samridhi Yojana and Micro Credit Finance Scheme. The overall rate of interest is 4% and 5%, respectively. The other loan schemes are General Term Loan and Green Business Schemes under which loans upto Rs.15.00 lacs and upto Rs.30.00 lacs respectively are provided with rate of interest at 6% and 1% rebate for women beneficiaries.
- ✓ NSKFDC has provided Skill development Training to 20686 sanitation workers and their dependents under SRMS and PM DAKSH Yojana during FY 2022-23.

Q. Who has announced that 1,000 Khelo India Centres will be established within a year in the country?

- A) Jagdeep Dhankhar B) Anurag Singh Thakur
C) Amit Shah D) Dharmendra Pradhan

Answer : B

- ✓ Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that 1000 Khelo India Centres will be established within a year in the country.
- ✓ Launching key initiatives on Indian Sports in New Delhi on the occasion of National Sports Day on 29 Aug 2023, the Minister said that it will not only provide employment opportunities to former athletes but also give budding sportspersons a chance to take guidance from the veterans.
- ✓ Mr Thakur also informed that the each player will receive five lakh rupees to procure equipments for their centres and per year another five lakh rupees for operational expenses.



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- NITI Aayog released the Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix) framework for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in India .
- NITI Aayog has recently released the Export Preparedness Index 2022.
- This time Tamil Nadu has achieved the top rank by leaving behind Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched the Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem (EVOLVE) mission.
- The mission has been launched in collaboration with NITI Aayog, World Bank, Korean-World Bank and Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF).
- NITI Aayog, United Nations join hands to accelerate sustainable development in India.
- PM Modi chairs the 8th meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council held at the New Convention Center at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The meeting is focused on the theme of "Growth India @ 2047: Role of Team India".
- BVR Subrahmanyam was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Niti Aayog.
- The government has monetised assets worth ₹26,000 crore during FY23 against the target of ₹1.6 lakh crore for the current fiscal : NITI Aayog.
- NITI Aayog, the Indian government's policy think-tank, recently released a report titled "Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States/UTs of India." .
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), an initiative by NITI Aayog, has launched three new resources aimed at fostering innovation and creativity among India's youth.
- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)
- Founded : 1st January 2015
- Preceding : Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Suman K Bery
- CEO : BVR Subrahmanyam
- NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry



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Q. Which Countries have signed a MoU to boost cooperation in civil aviation in New Delhi?

- A) India and Australia B) India and Switzerland
C) India and United Kingdom D) India and New Zealand

Answer : D

- ✓ India and New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation in civil aviation. This will cover the scheduling of new routes, codeshare services, traffic rights, and capacity entitlement.

Q. When is World Sanskrit Day celebrated every year?

- A) 28 August B) 29 August
C) 30 August D) 31 August

Answer : D

- ✓ World Sanskrit Day is celebrated globally on 31 August every year.
✓ World Sanskrit Day is celebrated in ancient India to raise awareness about the language used by scholars and sages in many prestigious books, especially religious teachings.

Q. The amount of Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Yojana has been increased, it is related to which state?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced to increase the amount fixed for the beneficiaries of Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000.
✓ Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Yojana was started in the year 2019.
Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to girls to complete their education and have a better future

Q. In which city will the Miss World 2023 event be organized?

- A) Kolkata B) Mumbai
C) New Delhi D) Kashmir



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Answer : D

- ✓ The 71st Miss World 2023 contest will be held in Kashmir later this year, in which 140 countries will participate.
- ✓ Julia Morley, CEO of Miss World Organization has given information about this.
- ✓ Sini Shetty will represent India in Miss World 2023.
- ✓ This prestigious international beauty pageant is being organized in India after 27 years