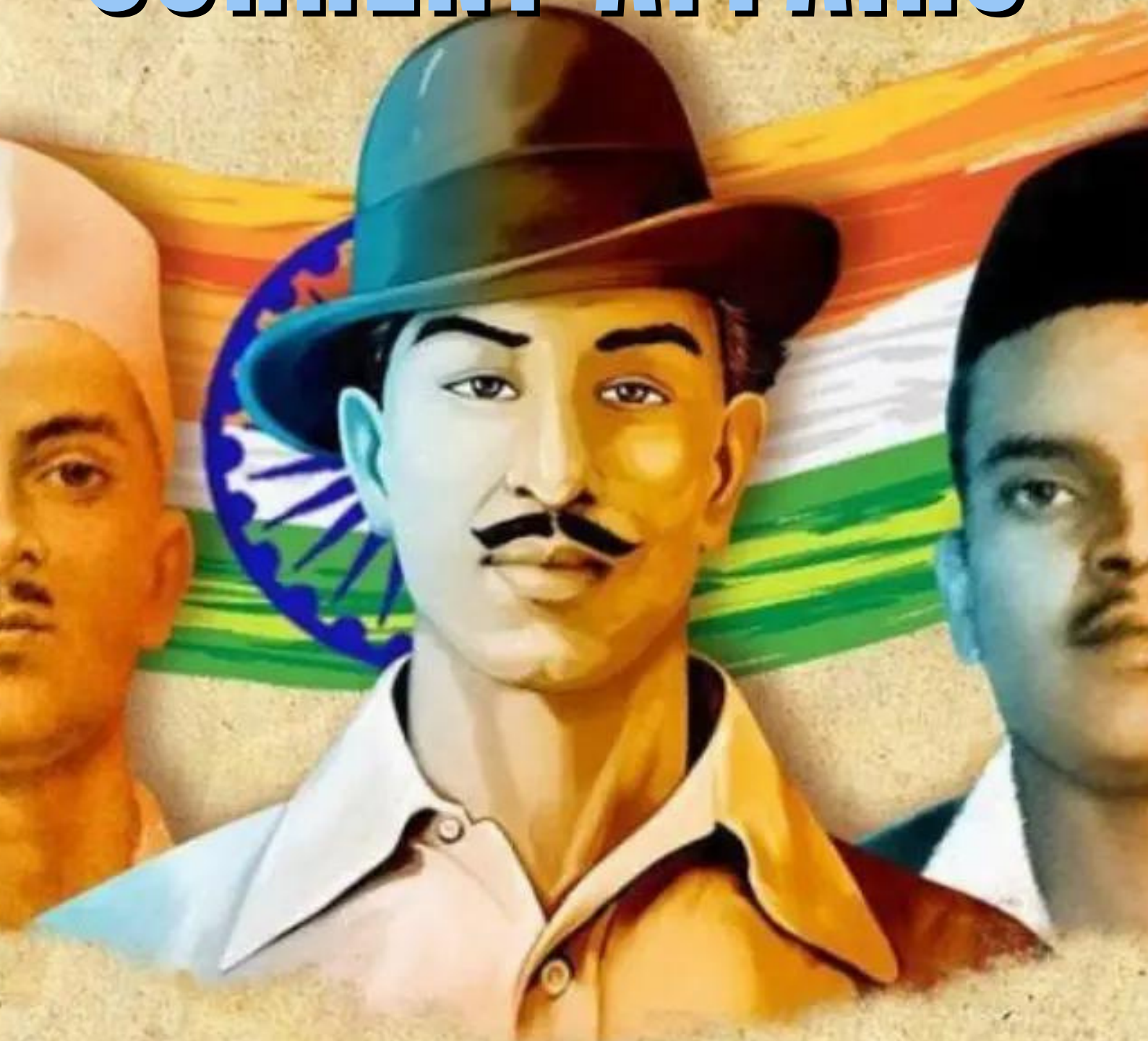


CURRENT AFFAIRS



150 PRACTICE QUESTIONS INCLUDED



MARCH 2023

**PRABHA IAS IPS
COACHING ACADEMY**

PREFACE

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

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

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

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

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

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event

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



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Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

Section 2

Question with Answers

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SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



Zero Discrimination Day : 01 March :-

Every year on March 1st, the United Nations and other international organisations observe Zero Discrimination Day. The observance is intended to promote equality and fairness before the law as well as in practise. The day was launched and first celebrated on March 1, 2014 by UNAIDS, the organisation that has championed the cause of dismantling systems of oppression against people with HIV/AIDS in UN member countries. It started out as a campaign by the same name in December 2013. This year, the theme for Zero Discrimination Day is "Save lives: Decriminalise".



World Civil Defence Day

World Civil Defence Day : 01 March :-

Every year on March 1st, people all over the world observe World Civil Defence Day. The International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO) declared this day a global holiday in 1990 to recognise the importance of civil defence and the personnel who have given their lives in its service. The ICDO is an intergovernmental

organisation that assists citizens in developing and maintaining their security while also safeguarding infrastructure and the environment. Surgeon-General George Saint-Paul founded the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO) in 1931. The theme for this year is "Uniting the world's leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations".



World Wildlife Day : 03 March :-

Over 8400 species of wild fauna and flora are critically endangered, according to data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Another 30,000 are thought to be endangered or vulnerable. According to this estimate, over a million species are on the verge of extinction. On March 3rd, World Wildlife Day is observed to draw attention to the conservation of the most critically endangered species, as well as to support the restoration of their habitats and ecosystems. World Wildlife Day 2023's theme is "Partnerships for wildlife conservation."



World Hearing Day : 03 March :-

The World Health Organization observes March 3 as World Hearing Day (WHO). It aims to raise awareness about how to prevent deafness and hearing loss, as well as to promote ear and hearing care worldwide. The day was established in 2007 in order to raise awareness about deafness, according to WHO. It was originally known as International Ear Day, but in 2016, the name was changed to World Hearing Day. According to the WHO, nearly 2.5 billion people will have some degree of hearing loss by 2050. The theme for this year is "Ear and hearing care for all!"

**National Safety Day : 04 March :-**

On March 4, we celebrate National Safety Day. The day's goal is to raise awareness about all safety protocols, including those in the workplace, on the road, and in the environment. On March 4, 1966, the Ministry of Labour of the Government of India (GOI) established the National Safety Council (NSC) to generate, develop, and sustain a voluntary movement on Safety, Health, and Environment (SHE) at the national level. Seven years later, on its founding day, 1972, the National Safety Day was observed for the first time. The theme for National Safety Day 2023 is "Our Aim – Zero Harm".

**World Obesity Day : 04 March :-**

World Obesity Day, observed on March 4, emphasises the importance of discussing obesity as a serious disease affecting a large portion of the global population. Obesity rates have nearly tripled since 1975, according to the World Health Organization, with a significant increase of nearly five times in children and adolescents. It affects people of all ages and from all socioeconomic backgrounds in both developed and developing countries. It is critical to raise awareness about obesity, which is quickly becoming the world's most serious health problem. The World Obesity Day 2023 theme is "Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity."

**Janaushadhi Diwas : 07 March :-**

The Centre is observing the Janaushadhi Diwas for a week starting March 1. The nationwide programme included customised vehicles that will cruise across several states and on March 7, state governments will partake in events. During the week, a Janaushadhi Pratigya was launched wherein 30 'Pratigya Yatra' were carried out across 30 cities nationwide. To mark the occasion with women-centric beneficiaries, women doctors also interacted with females on women's health issues on Day 3.



International Women's Day : 08 March :-

Every year on March 8, the world celebrates Women's Day. It is a day dedicated to women, a symbolic reminder of the historic journey they have taken around the world to improve their lives. The United Nations Charter became the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between men and women in 1945, but it wasn't until March 8, 1975, during International Women's Year, that the UN celebrated its first official International Women's Day. The UN theme for this year's International Women's Day is "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality".

**No Smoking Day (Second Wednesday of March) : 08 March :-**

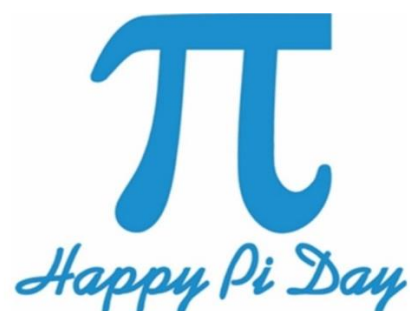
Every year on the second Wednesday of March, No Smoking Day is observed to encourage people all over the world to quit smoking. No Smoking Day, 2023 is being celebrated on March 08. The main goal of this day is to raise awareness about the harmful health effects of smoking and other forms of tobacco consumption. Even though the health risks are well known, thousands of adolescents aged 12 to 17 begin smoking every day.

**CISF Raising Day : 10 March :-**

The CISF is the country's central armed police force and one of India's six paramilitary forces. It reports to the Union Home Ministry. The CISF was set up under the act of the Parliament of India on March 10, 1969. Since then, March 10 has been designated as CISF Raising Day but this year the date got revised to 12 March. On March 12, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will hold its annual Raising Day celebrations in Hyderabad. According to officials, this will be the first time the CISF celebrates 'Raising Day' outside of the national capital, New Delhi.

**International Day of Action for Rivers : 14 March :-**

On March 14, the International Day of Action for Rivers is observed to raise awareness about the importance of rivers and climate change. The 26th anniversary of the day will be celebrated this year. The participants of the First International Meeting of People Affected by Dams held in March 1997 in Curitiba Brazil adopted the International Day of Action Against Dams and For Rivers, Water and Life. Representatives from 20 countries agreed that the International Day of Action would coincide with Brazil's Day of Action Against Large Dams on March 14.



Pi Day : 14 March :-

Pi Day is observed every year on March 14 to honour the mathematical constant, Pi. March is the third month of the year, which is also the initial number of the value. Pi is defined as the circumference to diameter ratio of a circle, and its value is 3.14. In 1988, physicist Larry Shaw recognised the day by organising a large-scale celebration at the San Francisco Exploratorium in the United States. The 40th General Conference of Unesco declared Pi Day to be the International Day of Mathematics in 2019. The theme for Pi Day 2023 is "Mathematics for Everyone."

**World Consumer Rights Day : 15 March :-**

Every year on March 15, World Consumer Rights Day is observed to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs. On this day, governments all over the world raise awareness about consumers' rights and needs. The government of India passed the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, which outlines some basic consumer rights. Every year on December 24, India observes National Consumers Rights Day. The theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2023 is "Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions."

**NATIONAL
VACCINATION
DAY**

**National Vaccination Day : 16 March :-**

Every year on March 16, India observes National Vaccination Day to raise awareness of the importance of vaccines in the human health system. The first oral polio vaccine dose was administered in India on March 16, 1995. As a result, the national immunisation day or vaccination day commemorates the government's pulse polio programme, which aims to eradicate polio completely from the country. The last case of polio was reported in Bengal in 2011, and subsequent vaccination campaigns against diseases such as tetanus, mumps, and tuberculosis were launched.

**Ordnance Factories' Day : 18 March :-**

Every year on March 18, Ordnance Factory Day is observed to commemorate the establishment of the first Ordnance Factory in colonial India at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1801. This marked the beginning of the first industrial establishment of Ordnance Factories in India, which are still in operation today. The Indian Ordnance Factories, which are part of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), celebrate the day as an opportunity to showcase the research, development, production, and marketing logistics of the country's vast array of arms and ammunition.

**International Day of Happiness : 20 March :-**

The United Nations observes International Day of Happiness on March 20 each year. The International Day

of Happiness aims to raise awareness about the importance of happiness in one's life and the overall impact it can have on one's well-being. On July 12, 2012, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 20 as International Day of Happiness, recognising the importance of happiness and well-being as common aims and ambitions in the lives of people worldwide. The theme for International Day of Happiness 2023 is 'Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind.'



World Oral Health Day : 20 March :-

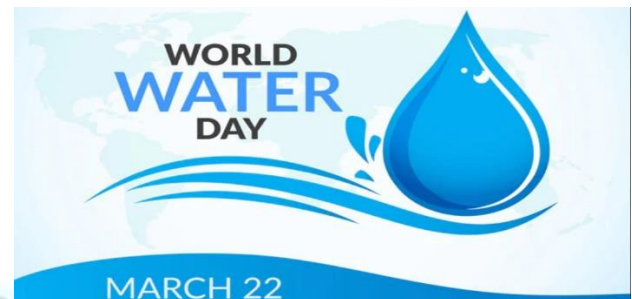
Every year on March 20, the world oral health day is observed to raise awareness about oral health by promoting oral hygiene, reducing risk factors for oral diseases, and increasing access to oral health services. Oral health is a broad term that refers to the overall health of the teeth, gums, and oral-facial system, which aids in smiling, speaking, and chewing. Oral health is an important indicator of overall health, happiness, and quality of life. The theme of the World Oral Health Day is 'Be Proud of Your Mouth' for 2021-2023.



International Day of Forests : 21 March :-

Every year on March 21, the world celebrates International Day of Forests. The day is observed to raise

awareness about the importance of various types of forests. In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21 to be International Day of Forests. The day serves as a reminder to people to value and protect forests, as well as the importance of forests in the lives of living creatures. On International Day of Forests, several countries around the world are inspired to take action to save the forests. The theme for 2023 is "Forests and health."



World Water Day : 22 March :-

On March 22, the world celebrates World Water Day to raise awareness about the importance of water and to educate people about how to conserve it. The United Nations General Assembly declared March 22nd to be World Water Day in 1992. The observation began the following year, in 1993. World Water Day also serves as a wake-up call to all of us to take action to address the global water crisis. The theme for the 2023 World Water Day is "accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis".



Martyr's Day : 23 March :-

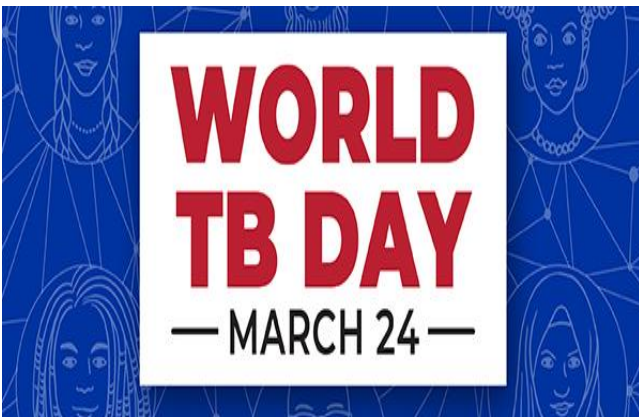
Shaheed Diwas, also known as Martyrs' Day, commemorates the bravery and commitment of those

who gave their lives in the service of their country. On this day in 1931, the British rulers of India hanged freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar. This day is dedicated to remembering those who gave their lives to free India from the rule of the British government. In India, Shaheed Diwas is observed on a number of occasions. Besides March 23, the day Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, January 30, is also marked as Shaheed Diwas.



World Meteorological Day : 23 March :-

Every year on March 23rd, the world celebrates World Meteorological Day. The day emphasises the importance of the earth's atmosphere and the behaviour of people who are interconnected. Every year on March 23rd, it commemorates the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization, a specialised agency formed by the United Nations, in 1950. The World Meteorological Organization plays a critical role in ensuring people's safety and well-being. Therefore, its work is important in providing food security, water resources, and transport.



World Tuberculosis (TB) Day : 24 March :-

Every year on March 24, World Tuberculosis Day is observed to increase efforts to end the global tuberculosis epidemic and to raise public awareness about the health, social, and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB). Because of the pale appearance of the patients, tuberculosis was dubbed "the white plague" in the 1700s. Dr. Robert Koch discovered the bacteria that causes tuberculosis on March 24, 1882. Despite being a preventable and curable disease, an estimated 9.9 million people became ill with tuberculosis (TB) and 1.5 million died from it globally in 2020, according to WHO. The theme for 2023 World Tuberculosis Day is "Yes! We can end TB!".



World Theatre Day : 27 March :-

On March 27, the world celebrates World Theatre Day, which honours the stage and the people who have spent years cultivating its art and beauty. The International Theatre Institute (ITI) started this celebration in 1961 because they wanted the rest of the world to understand the value and importance of theatre. Since then, the 27th of March has been designated as World Theatre Day. The first ITI conference was held in Helsinki, Finland, and the second in Vienna, Austria. The theme of the World Theatre Day 2023 is "Theatre and a Culture of Peace."

2: Agreements



University of Auckland, Tata Memorial Hospital sign MoU for cancer care :-

Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) in Mumbai and Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on cancer care for the long term. Tata Memorial Hospital is India's largest and most prestigious cancer care and research facility. The partnership's initial projects include a digital platform for clinical trials that will track study-related activities for patients, investigators, and regulators; a digital platform to improve outpatient clinic efficiency; and a digital method to improve prescription medicine safety.

establish the International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED) as part of the externally funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Phases II and III. ICED, Roorkee will provide specialised technical support in investigations, modelling, research and innovation, and technical support services to dam owners in India and around the world.



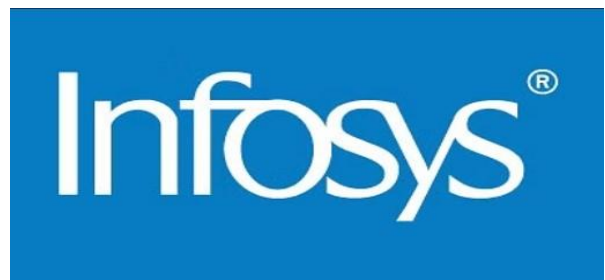
HDFC Bank, Lulu Exchange Ink Deal To Enhance Cross-Border Payments Between India-Gulf Region :-

HDFC Bank, a major private sector bank, and Lulu Exchange, based in the United Arab Emirates, have signed an agreement to strengthen cross-border payments between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. Lulu Exchange's expertise and regulatory framework will be used to launch a digital inward remittance service called 'RemitNow2India' in the first phase of the partnership. This will enable UAE residents to send money to any bank account in India via IMPS and NEFT via HDFC's digital banking channels.



Central Water Commission, IIT Roorkee To Develop International Centre Of Excellence For Dams :-

The Central Water Commission (CWC), Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IIT, Roorkee to



Infosys Collaborates With Microsoft To Accelerate Industry Adoption Of Cloud :-

Infosys, an Indian multinational information technology company, has announced a partnership with Microsoft to accelerate enterprise cloud transformation journeys around the world. According to the Infosys Cloud Radar, effective cloud adoption can generate up to \$414 billion in net new profits per year. According to the report, adopting cloud improved speed to market and the ability to discover new revenue streams, resulting in profit growth of up to 11.2 percent year on year.

**RBL Bank Signs An Agreement With Exim Bank For Trade Finance :-**

RBL Bank, a private lender, announced an agreement with the Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) under the Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) to support cross-border trade transactions. The Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) aims to facilitate India's exports globally by providing credit enhancement to trade instruments under the trade assistance programme (TAP) for cross-border transactions. "With Exim Bank's support, RBL Bank will be able to gain footholds in nations, where trade lines are constrained," said RBL Bank in its filing.

**Godrej & Boyce, Renmakch Sign MoU To Develop A 'Make-In-India' Value Chain For Indian Railways :-**

Godrej & Boyce announced that its Godrej Tooling division has signed an agreement with Renmakch to develop workshop equipment. Godrej Tooling will benefit from the collaboration with Renmakch on Machinery & Plant (M&P) projects for Railways and Metro Rail. In addition, the collaboration will bring the latest rail technology from Europe and other developed countries to India and indigenize it. Godrej & Boyce will now be able to provide a complete value chain for the Railways, from design to build, as well as bid on larger projects.

**Tata Steel Mining Signs MoU With GAIL To Get Clean Fuel :-**

Tata Steel Mining Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GAIL (India) Limited for the supply of natural gas to its Ferro Alloys Plant at Athgarh in Odisha's Cuttack district in order to reduce its carbon footprint. The MoU states that GAIL will supply the agreed-upon amount of natural gas via its pipeline from Gujarat to Athgarh. Natural gas emits less carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulphur oxides than furnace oil. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 968 tonnes.



NADA And NCERT Sign MoU To Strengthen Value-Based Sports Education Amongst School Children And Teachers :-

The Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have signed an agreement to strengthen value-based sports education among schoolchildren and teachers. The key activities that will be carried out under this MoU include the creation of accessible e-content on sports values and ethics. Under the terms of the agreement, the UNESCO Value-Based Sports Education toolkit will be promoted in all classrooms.



India, Mexico Ink MoU On Research, Technology And Innovation Collaborations :-

In New Delhi, India and Mexico signed an MoU on collaboration in research, technology, and innovation. It will concentrate on several key areas of technology, including aerospace, electronics, earth and ocean sciences and water, mining, minerals, clean energy, biotech, and healthcare. Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh assured Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard that India, through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and sister organisations, will provide tangible results in the three priority areas identified by the Mexican side: water, lithium, and vaccines.



India, US Signed Memorandum Of Understanding On Semiconductors :-

The United States and India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will pave the way for the establishment of a Semiconductor Sub-Committee under the Commercial Dialogue between the United States Department of Commerce and India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Ministry of Commerce. The two countries will collaborate to map the semiconductor supply chain and identify opportunities for joint ventures and technology partnerships, Gina Raimondo, US Commerce Secretary, stated.



RBI, Central Bank Of UAE Sign MoU To Promote Innovation In Financial Products And Services :-

In Abu Dhabi, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE) signed an MoU to strengthen cooperation and enable joint innovation in financial products and services. The two central banks will collaborate on various emerging areas

of FinTech, particularly Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), and will investigate interoperability between CBUAE and RBI CBDCs under the MoU. The MoU also provides for technical collaboration and knowledge sharing on matters related to Fintech and financial products and services.



Government Signs MoU With 27 Steel Companies, Kickstarting Rs 6,322-Crore PLI Scheme :-

The government has signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with 27 companies, kicking off the Rs 6,322-crore production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme for specialty steel, which is expected to generate up to Rs 30,000 crore in investment over the next five years. Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Steel Authority of India, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, and Jindal Steel & Power are all participants in the scheme, either directly

or through subsidiaries. According to the Indian Steel Association (ISA), the scheme will generate 55,000 new jobs.



L&T Signs Agreement With France-Based McPhy For Electrolyzer Manufacturing :-

Larsen & Toubro (L&T), an Indian multinational engaged in EPC Projects, Hi-Tech Manufacturing, and Services, has signed an Electrolyzer Manufacturing Binding Agreement with McPhy Energy, a leading electrolyzer technology and manufacturing company based in France, for a long-term partnership to explore the opportunities emerging in the emerging Green Hydrogen market. McPhy will grant L&T an exclusive licence of its pressurised alkaline electrolyzer technology for the manufacture of electrolyzers, including future product upgrades, as part of this collaboration.

3: Appointments



Tata Motors VP Rajan Amba Named As MD Of Jaguar Land Rover India :-

Part of Tata Motors, Jaguar Land Rover India, has appointed Rajan Amba, Vice President - Sales, Marketing and Customer Care, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles. Amba will be taking up his new position in JLR from 1st March 2023, as per sources. Rajan was a key contributor to the development of the commercial teams, the new zone organization, the network expansion, the improvement of the customer experience, and the growth of TMPV's market share over the past two and a half years.



CAG GC Murmu Selected As External Auditor Of International Labour Organization :-

Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), has been appointed as External Auditor of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva for a four-year term beginning in 2024 and ending in 2027. Following a thorough selection process, the decision was made. CAG will take over from the incumbent External Auditor of ILO, Supreme Audit Institution of Philippines. CAG's appointment reflects its international standing, as well as its professionalism, high standards, global audit experience, and strong national credentials.



Shailesh Pathak Named FICCI Secretary General :-

Former bureaucrat Shailesh Pathak has been appointed as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) new secretary-general. "In a career spanning 37 years, Pathak has spent time in the government as an IAS Officer as well as helmed large companies in the private sector. His extensive international exposure includes an Eisenhower Fellowship in 2000 as an emerging Indian Leader, an EU Visitor Programme hosted by the European Commission

2003, and a Chevening scholarship at the University of Oxford in 2011," FICCI stated.



Rajesh Malhotra Named Principal Director General Of PIB :-

According to a government order, Rajesh Malhotra, a senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). Malhotra, a 1989 batch officer, replaces Satyendra Prakash, who recently retired. He will be the primary spokesperson for the Indian government. In June of last year, Malhotra was promoted to a higher level of IIS and appointed as the Principal Director General of the Central Bureau of Communication. He continued to oversee the Ministry of Finance's publicity in the Press Information Bureau.



IPS Officer Rashmi Shukla Named Director-General Of SSB :-

Rashmi Shukla, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), according to a government order. The SSB is a border-guarding force stationed along

the Nepal-Bhutan border. The Cabinet Appointments Committee has approved Shukla's appointment as Director General, SSB, until June 30, 2024, the date of her superannuation, according to the statement. Ms. Shukla, a Maharashtra cadre IPS officer from the 1988 batch, was assigned to the Central Reserve Police (CRPF).



Jishnu Barua Appoints As New Chairperson Of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission:-

Jishnu Barua has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). Barua served as Assam's chief secretary from October 2020 to August 2022. Prior to this, he served as the state's additional chief secretary, overseeing various departments from August 2017 to October 2020. Post-retirement, Barua held the charge of chairperson of Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd. Barua holds M.Phil degree in Defence and Strategic Studies, PG (History) Degree and Graduation (Philosophy) degree.



Pankaj Gupta Named As MD And CEO Of Pramerica Life Insurance :-

Pankaj Gupta has been named MD & CEO of Pramerica Life Insurance. Gupta was HDFC Life's Group Head of

Distribution Strategy and Alliances. Pankaj takes over as MD & CEO from Kalpana Sampat. Pankaj has previously held senior leadership positions at Citigroup, ICICI Bank, and TCS. Pramerica Life Insurance Limited is a joint venture between DIL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited, and Prudential International Insurance Holdings, Ltd. (PIIH), which is wholly owned by Prudential Financial, Inc. (PFI).



S.S. Dubey Takes Charge As New Controller General Of Accounts :-

Shri S.S. Dubey was recently appointed Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in New Delhi. Shri Dubey is the 28th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) of the Government of India's Ministry of Finance. Shri Dubey, an Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer from the 1989 batch, has been appointed by the Government of India as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from March 6, 2023. Prior to becoming CGA, Shri Dubey served as Additional Controller General of Accounts, Public Financial Management System (PFMS).



B Gopkumar Named As Axis Mutual Fund's MD And CEO :-

Axis Mutual Fund announced the appointment of B Gopkumar as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) following the resignation of Chandresh Nigam as MD & CEO. The board agreed to Nigam's request not to renew his appointment after April 30, and Gopkumar was appointed to lead the organisation. Gopkumar is the current MD and CEO of Axis Securities. Nigam joined Axis AMC in July 2009 as head of equities and was appointed MD & CEO in May 2013. He led the fund house for two terms totaling ten years.



Rohit Jawa Named As HUL's CEO:-

Rohit Jawa would take over as the Managing Director and CEO of the company from Sanjiv Mehta on June 27, 2023 Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has announced. As executive vice president for north Asia and chairman for Unilever China, Jawa led a "significant transformation" of the market into a "competitive, profitable, and consistent business, now Unilever's 3rd biggest globally", the company said in a statement. He also has extensive expertise in the home care, personal care and food industries.



Tech Mahindra Named Former Infosys President Mohit Joshi As MD And CEO :-

Mohit Joshi, who left Infosys after more than two decades, has been named MD and CEO of Tech Mahindra. He will succeed C P Gurnani, the current MD and CEO, who is retiring on December 19. Joshi, the CEO of Infosys' Financial Services and Healthcare/Life Sciences divisions, resigned on March 11. Joshi will be with Infosys until June 9, 2023, Infosys said in a regulatory filing. He oversaw the banking platform, the AI / Automation portfolio, Sales Operations, Transformation, the CIO function, and the Infosys Knowledge Institute at Infosys.



Gol Appoints Siddhartha Mohanty As Interim Chairman Of LIC :-

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced that Siddhartha Mohanty, the Corporation's managing director, has been appointed interim chairperson with effect from March 14, 2023. The government has approved the appointment of Siddhartha Mohanty as interim chairman of LIC for three months beginning March 14, according to a statement from the insurer. The change comes after Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar stepped down as Chairman of the Corporation on March 13.



LIC Appoints Tablesh Pandey And M Jagannath As New MDs :-

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed M Jagannath and Tablesh Pandey as managing directors (MD), following the appointment of former MD Siddhartha Mohanty as interim chairman for three months. Pandey, who is currently an executive director, will take over for BC Patnaik on April 1, 2023, while Jagannath will take over immediately. Jagannath was previously the Zonal Manager (in-charge) of Hyderabad's South Central Zone, which included Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.

direction, the demerger of NMDC Steel Ltd from NMDC Ltd was completed on time. His areas of expertise include project management, digital initiatives, and policy formulation.



Honeywell Appoints Vimal Kapur As CEO :-

Vimal Kapur, who has over three decades of experience leading the diversified manufacturer's various businesses, will succeed Darius Adamczyk as CEO of Honeywell International. The 57-year-old Kapur will take over the top role on June 1, roughly 10 months after he was appointed Honeywell's president and chief operating officer. He has held several key positions in the company, including CEO of its building technologies as well as performance materials and technologies units.



Amitava Mukherjee Assumes Additional Charge As NMDC CMD :-

Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance) at National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), has been appointed Chairman-Cum-Managing Director. Mukherjee, an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer from the 1995 batch, is also a Cost Accountant with a Master's Degree in Commerce from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Bilaspur. Under his



K Krithivasan Appointed CEO Designate Of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) :-

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd has named company veteran K Krithivasan as CEO designate, following the resignation of Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Rajesh Gopinathan. Gopinathan,

who completed six years as CEO of the Indian IT behemoth in January, was reappointed CEO last year until 2027. According to the IT firm, Gopinathan will remain with the company until September 15, 2023 to provide transition and support to his successor. The Tata Consultancy Services Ltd Board of Directors has appointed K Krithivasan as CEO designate, effective March 16, 2023.



Deepak Mohanty Appointed As PFRDA Chairman :-

Deepak Mohanty has been appointed chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) by the government. He took over for Supratim Bandyopadhyay, whose term expired in January. Mohanty, a former executive director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), previously served as a member of PFRDA. The central government hereby appoints Deepak Mohanty, former whole-time member, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), to the post of chairperson, PFRDA, a government notification dated March 14, 2023 said.



FSIB Suggests Ashwani Kumar Name As MD And CEO Of UCO Bank :-

The FSIB, the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, has recommended Ashwani Kumar, executive director of Indian Bank, for the position of managing director of UCO Bank. Prior to joining Indian Bank, Kumar was the chief general manager of Punjab National Bank's (PNB) Mumbai Zone. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) said in a statement that it interviewed 11 candidates from various public sector banks (PSBs) for the upcoming positions of MD and CEO in PSBs.



Lalit Kumar Gupta Named As CMD Of Cotton Corporation Of India (CCI) :-

Lalit Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the CMD of Cotton Corporation of India Limited. An order by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet read: "Lalit Kumar Gupta, Director (Finance), Cotton Corporation of India Limited has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) in the scale of pay of Rs. 1,60,000-2,90,000/- with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post for a period of five years, or till the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest."



G Krishnakumar Appointed As Bharat Petroleum Corporation's Chairman :-

According to the company, G Krishnakumar has been appointed as the new chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). Krishnakumar, an electrical and electronics engineer from the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, and a postgraduate in finance management from the Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies in Mumbai, was the company's executive director prior to his promotion. Krishnakumar succeeds Arun Kumar Singh, who will step down as chairman in October 2022. Following that, Gupta was given additional authority over the chairman.

**Anup Bagchi Named MD & CEO Of ICICI Prudential Life :-**

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has appointed Anup Bagchi as MD and CEO of life insurance company for a five-year term beginning June 19, 2023. He will succeed NS Kannan, who will retire from the company after his appointment expires on June 18, 2023. Anup Bagchi is presently Executive Director, ICICI Bank and non-executive director of the company. And, to ensure a seamless transition, Bagchi has been appointed Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer with effect from May 1, 2023.

**Jayanti Chauhan To Lead Bisleri After TCPL Withdraws Acquisition Plan :-**

Bisleri International chairman Ramesh Chauhan's daughter Jayanti Chauhan will lead the bottled water company now that Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) has withdrawn from the acquisition process. Jayanti Chauhan, 42, is currently the vice chairperson at the company that her father promoted and built. According to people with knowledge of the matter, she will work with the professional management team led by Angelo George. The 82-year-old Chauhan sold the brand to the Tata Group earlier this year for an estimated Rs 7,000 crore.

**Manmeet K Nanda Appointed As MD & CEO Of Invest India :-**

Ms. Manmeet K Nanda, IAS, West Bengal Cadre (2000 Batch), has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO (Addl charge) of Invest India until a full-time regular appointment is made. Ms. Nanda takes over after Mr. Deepak Bagla resigns. Further, the board "appreciates Deepak Bagla for his exceptional leadership and commitment in establishing Invest India, a shining example of the government's unique experiment, as the

world's most awarded Investment Promotion Agency, in a short span of eight years," the ministry said.



Arnab Banerjee Named As MD & CEO Of CEAT :-

Following Anant Goenka's appointment as Vice Chairman of tyre major CEAT, Arnab Banerjee has been appointed as the company's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and MD. CEAT said that that appointment of Arnab Banerjee as CEO and MD of CEAT will be effective April 1, 2023. Banerjee is currently working as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the company. An alumnus of the Harvard Business School, Banerjee has an experience of 30 years, during which he worked at CEAT, Marico and Berger Paints.

4: Awards



Karthik Subramaniam Of Indian Origin Wins National Geographic's 'Pictures Of The Year' :-

Karthik Subramaniam, an Indian-origin engineer turned hobbyist photographer, has won National Geographic's 'Photo of the Year' Contest 2023, beating out over 5000 entries. His photo, titled "Dance of the Eagles," was taken at the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in Alaska and won first place in the contest. Karthik, a software engineer from California, began wildlife photography as a hobby in 2020. His 'Dance of the Eagles' photograph will grace the cover of National Geographic's May issue.



President Droupadi Murmu Conferred Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships And Awards :-

President Droupadi Murmu recently bestowed the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2019, 2020, and 2021 at a ceremony in New Delhi. Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships were awarded to eight eminent personalities in the field of performing arts, while Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards were given to 128 artists in the fields of music, dance, theatre, traditional, folk, and puppetry. Three joint Akademi Awards are presented in this year's Akademi Awards. The President stated on the occasion that music and arts transcend language and geographical boundaries.



JSW Chairman Sajjan Jindal Named 'Entrepreneur Of The Year 2022' :-

Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Group was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2022 and will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) at Monte Carlo in June 2023. The 7-member jury, led by former ICICI Bank chairman K V Kamath, chose Sajjan Jindal as the EOY 2022 winner for transforming the conglomerate with a diverse presence in the steel, cement, infrastructure, energy, and paints sectors into a highly successful business with \$22 billion in revenue.



SS Rajamouli's 'RRR' wins five trophies at HCA Film Awards :-

RRR, a Telugu blockbuster directed by SS Rajamouli, won five awards at the 2023 Hollywood Critics Association (HCA) Film Awards, including best international film, best action film, and the honorary HCA Spotlight Award. The film also won the best stunts award at the Hollywood Critics Association (HCA) ceremony, and its Oscar-nominated track Naatu Naatu was named best original song. Rajamouli accepted the award for best stunts and

thanked the film's crew for putting their best foot forward in his speech.



FIFA Awards 2022: Lionel Messi Wins 'Best FIFA Player Of 2022':-

Lionel Messi, of Argentina and Paris Saint-Germain has been named men's player of the year at the 2022 Best Fifa Awards. The 35-year-old won ahead of French forwards Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema. Messi led Argentina to World Cup victory in Qatar, scoring 27 goals in 49 games for club and country in 2021-22. Alexia Putellas of Barcelona was named women's player of the year. Lionel Scaloni, who led Argentina to their third World Cup title, was named men's coach of the year at the ceremony in Paris.



J&K Won Best Adventure Tourism Destination Award :-

Jammu and Kashmir Tourism has won the best adventure tourism award in the India Today Tourism Survey. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs, presented the awards in New

Delhi. The award was given to the J&K Tourism Department in recognition of its efforts in promoting 'Gulmarg' as a world-class adventure destination. Arvind Singh, Union Tourism Secretary, provided an overview of the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve the tourism sector in his address.



HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan Is 'BS Banker Of The Year 2022' :-

Sashidhar Jagdishan, MD and CEO of HDFC Bank, has been named Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022, as the lender maintained its strong performance while successfully navigating technological challenges under his leadership. An eminent five-member jury, chaired by former RBI deputy governor S S Mundra, picked the CEO of the largest private sector bank of the country as the winner. Jagdishan took charge of HDFC Bank on October 27, 2020, after his illustrious predecessor Aditya Puri demitted office upon attaining the age of 70 years.



RRR song "Naatu Naatu" has won the Best Original Song Oscar at the 95th Academy Awards :-

The Oscar for Best Original Song went to RRR's "Naatu Naatu" at the 95th Academy Awards. The song, composed by MM Keeravani, with lyrics by Chandrabose and vocals by Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava, went viral shortly after its release in March 2022. After the film's OTT release, it gained a global audience, and the song has since received a lot of love from foreign audiences as well. Naatu Naatu won in the same category at the Golden Globes earlier this year. It also received Best Song nominations from the Critics' Choice Awards and the Hollywood Critics Association.



Union Health And Family Welfare Ministry Gets Porter Prize 2023 In Managing COVID-19 :-

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been awarded the Porter Prize 2023. It acknowledged the government's strategy for managing COVID-19, as well as the approach and involvement of various stakeholders, particularly ASHA workers in the industry to create PPE Kits. The award was presented at Stanford University during The India Dialog. The country's contribution to vaccine development and manufacturing was also recognised. The Porter Prize honours award-winning economist Michael E. Porter.



Writer Vinod Kumar Shukla Wins 2023 PEN/Nabokov Lifetime Achievement Award :-

Vinod Kumar Shukla, 87, recently received the PEN America award for lifetime achievement in literature, one of the most coveted literary prizes in the world, after decades of writing acclaimed novels such as *Naukar Ki Kameez* (1979) and poetry collections such as *Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega* (1992). Shukla, whose works incorporate magic-realist elements and have won the Sahitya Akademi award and the Atta Galatta–Bangalore Literature Festival Book Prize, was born on January 1, 1937 in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh (then Madhya Pradesh).

**BHEL Wins CBIP Award 2022 For 'Best Contribution In Solar Energy' :-**

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has received the CBIP Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'. On CBIP Day, Dr. Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, and Ms. Renuka Gera, Director (IS&P), BHEL received the award from Sh. R.K. Singh, Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy. CBIP awards are conferred for outstanding contribution to the development of water, power and renewable energy sectors. The award stands as testimony to BHEL's enduring contribution to the generation of solar power in the country.

**Mirabai Chanu Won BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year For 2022 :-**

Mirabai Chanu, a silver medalist in weightlifting at the Tokyo Olympic Games, has been named the 2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year' award following a public vote. After winning the award again in 2021, the 28-year-old weightlifter from Manipur became the first athlete to do so twice in a row. She had become the first Indian to win a silver medal in the sport at the Tokyo Olympics. She went on to win gold at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last year. In 2022, she also won a silver medal at the World Weightlifting Championships.



was named Professional Photographer of the Year, while Shri Arun Saha was named Amateur Photographer of the Year. The theme for the Professional category was "Life and Water", while in the Amateur category the theme was "Cultural Heritage of India".



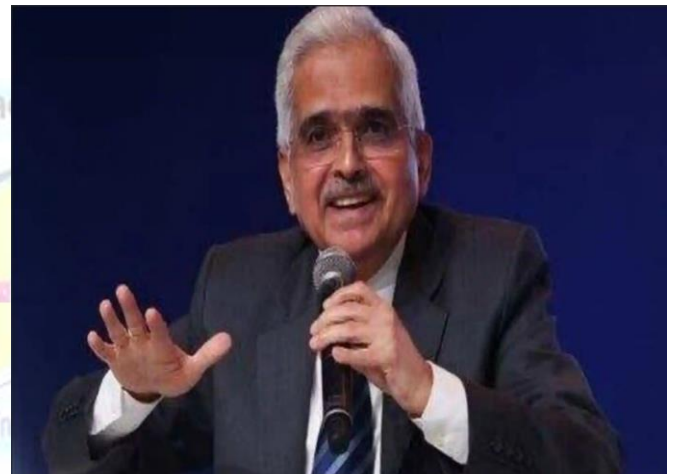
Oscars 2023: The Elephant Whisperers Wins In Best Documentary Short Category :-

Directed by Kartiki Gonsalves and produced by Guneet Monga 'The Elephant Whisperers' has written history by winning the Oscar for Best Documentary Short Film. The film is 41 minutes long and was released on Netflix on December 8, 2022. The Elephant Whisperers was nominated in the category of Documentary Short Film, alongside Haul Out, How Do You Measure A Year, The Martha Mitchell Effect, and Stranger At The Gate. The Elephant Whisperers is a story about an orphaned elephant calf named Raghu who is cared for by an indigenous couple, Bomman and Belli, in the Mudumalai National Park.



India Received Golden & Silver Star At Golden City Gate Tourism Awards :-

The Government of India's Ministry of Tourism received a Golden and Silver Star at the International 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023' in the 'TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International' Category at ITB, Berlin 2023. The Ministry created the promotional films and television commercials that won the awards as part of its Post Covid Promotional Global Campaign on India's Reopening. The Ministry of Tourism has created new Incredible India brand films to welcome foreign tourists to the country following the pandemic.



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor Of The Year' By Central Banking :-

Shaktikanta Das, governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been named Governor of the Year by the Central Banking Awards 2023. He has received praise for his leadership and handling of multiple crises that have occurred during his tenure. Das took office in December 2018, just as India's financial sector was on the verge of collapse and the coronavirus was in its first and second waves. He oversaw the resolution of several failed non-bank financial institutions as well as the steady improvement of the banking sector, which had long been a drag on growth.



INS Dronacharya Receives Prestigious President's Colour Award :-

President Droupadi Murmu paid a visit to INS Vikrant and presented the President's Colours to INS Dronacharya, the Indian Navy's gunnery school in Fort Kochi. The President's Colour, also known as the Nishan, is the highest honour bestowed by the Supreme Commander, President of India, on a unit for exceptional service to the nation. On the occasion, the Governor of Kerala, the Chief Minister of Kerala, the Chief of the Naval Staff, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command, and other senior service and civilian dignitaries were also presented.



Renowned Tamil Writer Sivasankari Honored With Saraswati Samman 2022 :-

The KK Birla Foundation announced that Tamil writer Sivasankari received the Saraswati Samman 2022 for her 2019 memoir Surya Vamsam. Sivasankari's writing career spans five decades. She has written 36 novels, 48 novellas, 150 short stories, 15 travelogues, seven essay collections, and three biographies, one of which is about former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. According to the

foundation, Surya Vamsam, which means "daughter of a blazing sun," is unique among Sivasankari's works.



Indian Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata Appointed In 'Order Of Australia' For Distinguished Service :-

Ratan Tata, an Indian industrialist and philanthropist, has been appointed as an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to the Australia-India bilateral relationship, particularly in trade, investment, and philanthropy. The announcement was made by Australia's Governor-General, according to Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell. Ratan Tata is the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, the former Chairman of the Tata Group, and one of the world's richest entrepreneurs.



Bombay Jayashri Chosen For Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2023 By Music Academy :-

The Music Academy will bestow the Sangita Kalanidhi on renowned Carnatic vocalist and musician Bombay Jayashri. Jayashri is a multi-talented musician in the Carnatic tradition. Bombay Jayashri comes from a musical family with a long history, and she is the fourth

generation. She is a vocalist, singer, and musician who has performed in films in Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Tamil. Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, was also bestowed upon her for her outstanding contributions as a musician.



Nepali Cricketer Asif Sheikh Wins 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit Of Cricket Award :-

Aasif Sheikh of Nepal has won the 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award for his sportsmanship in a T20 international. Sheikh refused to run out Andy McBrine of Ireland after he was tripped up by bowler Kamal Airee. The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and the BBC established the Spirit of Cricket Award in 2013 in memory of former MCC president and BBC Test Match Special commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins (CMJ), who was passionate about promoting the spirit of the game.

5: Banking



Kotak Mahindra Bank Takes Corporate Digital Banking Portal 'Kotak Fyn' Live :-

Kotak Mahindra Bank, a private sector lender, recently launched 'Kotak fyn,' an integrated portal designed to provide comprehensive digital banking and value-added services to its business banking and corporate clients. The portal will provide services for all products, including trade and services, account services, payments, and collections, and will make banking more convenient for the bank's customers. It is expected to reduce customer complexity and friction. The portal will guarantee paperless transactions and will allow data to be unified across multiple product-specific portals.



SBI Permits Real-Time Bhim Payments With Singapore :-

A day after both countries established a real-time payments system linkage using the UPI platform, State Bank of India (SBI) announced a partnership with PayNow—online Singapore's payment system—for cross-border payments. The facility offered through SBI's Bhim SBIPay app will allow fund transfers from India to Singapore through registered mobile numbers, and from Singapore to India using the UPI ID. The initiative closely aligns with the G20's priorities of driving faster, cheaper, and more transparent cross-border payments.



Saraswat Bank Partners Tagit To Deploy Omnichannel Banking :-

To implement omnichannel digital banking solutions for its retail and corporate customers, Saraswat Bank has partnered with Tagit. The bank will use Tagit's Mobeix Digital Banking platform to enhance customer experience by offering a comprehensive set of digital services securely, anytime, anywhere under the agreement. The Mobeix platform will provide the bank's retail and business banking customers with seamless orchestration of services across mobile and web, comprehensive features, outstanding UX and robust security.



Karnataka Bank Inked Co-Lending Pact With Paisalo Digital :-

Karnataka Bank and Paisalo Digital Ltd, a non-deposit-taking NBFC registered with the Reserve Bank of India, have entered into a co-lending agreement to provide financial assistance to the low-income segment of the country and to boost the micro and small enterprise sector. According to a bank press release, the agreement will leverage Karnataka Bank's low cost of funds and end-to-end digital capabilities, as well as Paisalo, to assist in the sourcing, servicing, and recovery of small-ticket priority sector loans.



HDFC Bank, IRCTC Launch India's Most Rewarding Co-Branded Travel Credit Card :-

IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation), an Indian Railway-backed catering services provider, has partnered with HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector lender, to launch one of the country's most rewarding co-branded travel credit cards. The co-branded card will be known as the "IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card" and will be available in a single variant only on NPCI's Rupay network. The card, according to a statement, combines the strength of two leading Indian brands to provide superior value and an enhanced customer experience to travellers.



SBI Announces Completion Of \$1 Billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility :-

State Bank of India (SBI) announced the completion of a \$1 billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility, which is significant for SBI and the Indian ESG financing market. According to SBI, it is the largest ESG loan made by a commercial bank in Asia Pacific and the second-largest social loan in the world. MLABs, MUFG Bank, and Taipei

Fubon Commercial Bank Co. Ltd. arranged the \$1 billion facility. This first ESG transaction demonstrates SBI's long-standing commitment to green and social projects in India.



Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Launches ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan :-

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has introduced the ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan, a non-linked non-participating individual savings life insurance plan that provides guaranteed regular income beginning as early as the end of the first policy month and a lump-sum benefit at maturity. ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan combines financial security and wealth creation by allowing policyholders to meet their immediate liquidity needs without risk.



SBI Raises Rs 3717cr From Its Third AT1 Bond Sale :-

State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, raised Rs 3,717 crore through an additional tier 1 bond sale. The bank stated that this is the third Basel III compliant

additional tier 1 (AT1) bond sale, with the most recent issue closing at an 8.25 percent coupon rate. The proceeds will be used to supplement the bank's additional tier 1 capital as well as its overall capital base, as well as to strengthen capital adequacy in accordance with RBI guidelines. These perpetual bonds have a call option after ten years and on each subsequent anniversary.



IDFC Mutual Fund Has Rebranded Itself As Bandhan Mutual Fund :-

IDFC Mutual Fund has rebranded as Bandhan Mutual Fund as of March 13. All of the fund house's schemes will be renamed Bandhan instead of IDFC. The rebranding includes a name and logo change. According to the fund house, the name and ownership changes will have no impact on the schemes' investment strategy or processes. The proposed acquisition of IDFC Mutual Fund by a Bandhan-linked consortium in December 2022 was approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.



Suryodaya Small Finance Bank Launched Blossom Women's Savings Account :-

Suryodaya Small Finance Bank has launched a new savings account called the Blossom Women's Savings Account for women customers , which includes a debit card with

rewards and cashback, one complementary account for a child, and many other features. According to a press release issued by the bank, the Blossom Women Savings Account offers a monthly interest credit and an annual interest rate of 7%. It also includes a RuPay Platinum Debit Card, which was designed specifically to provide discounts for shopping and online purchases, among other things.



RCB Ropes In Equitas Small Finance Bank As Banking Partner For IPL 2023 :-

Equitas Small Finance Bank has announced their partnership with Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) as their 'Proud Banking Partner' for the T20 League season 2023. The Equitas Small Finance Bank logo will appear on the lead trousers as part of the RCB team's jersey. This partnership campaign will aim to communicate that Equitas has been playing a progressive role in transforming the lives of individuals through lending and social responsibilities of 'Beyond Banking,' according to a company press release.



IDFC FIRST Bank Partners With Mumbai Indians As Official Banking Partner :-

The IDFC FIRST Bank and the Mumbai Indians have announced a three-year partnership. The company stated in a press release "The partnership between IDFC FIRST Bank and Mumbai Indians brings together two strong brands with a shared commitment to values, ethical practices, social responsibility and digital innovation. Together, IDFC FIRST Bank and Mumbai Indians can leverage their strengths and expertise to create unique experiences for their customers and fans. The partnership also aims to promote social initiatives and drive positive change."



Canara Bank Introduces Rupay Credit Card On UPI

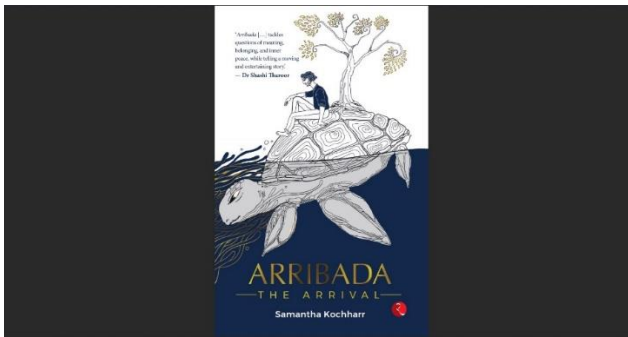
Canara Bank, in collaboration with NPCI, has launched the Rupay Credit Card via UPI using the BHIM app. Canara Bank customers can now link their active Rupay Credit Card to UPI and make merchant payments without using a card, similar to account-based UPI transactions. This will give customers more opportunities to use their credit card limits, while merchants without POS machines can accept credit card payments from customers who have a Rupay Credit Card linked to UPI using the scan and pay through QR mode.



ICICI Bank Offers Ecosystem Banking For Indian Startups :-

ICICI Bank has announced that it will provide a comprehensive suite of digital and physical solutions to startups at various stages of development. As part of the 'Startup Ecosystem Banking,' the Bank has established a

dedicated team for startups, who are served by an extensive network of branches. According to a press release, the bank provides innovative solutions through its domestic and international network, as well as its branch at GIFT City, Gujarat's emerging global financial and IT services hub.

6: Books and Author**Samantha Kochhar's debut book 'Arribada' launched in New Delhi :-**

Samantha Kochhar, Managing Director of Blossom Kochhar Group, had debut book, Arribada, unveiled by the author, her mother Dr Blossom Kochhar, at an event held at Olive Bar and Kitchen in Delhi. 'Arribada: The Arrival' follows a man named Joy and a turtle named Ollie as they navigate life and embark on an unusual journey of discovery and healing. Following the book launch, Samantha, Blossom, and Vinita Dawra Nangia, Executive Editor- The Times of India & Director- Times Literature Festivals & Write India, had an interesting conversation.

**Abhay K. gets KLF Book Award for 'The Book of Bihari Literature' :-**

Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal presented the Kalinga Literature Festival Book Award to Abhay K. during a ceremony at the Kalinga Literature Festival in Bhubaneswar. The Kalinga Literary Festival Book Awards 2022 have awarded 'The Book of Bihari Literature,' edited by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K. and published by HarperCollins India, in the KLF Lifestyle/Biography/Environment & Emerging Trend Book Award - Category. Abhay K. has written a dozen poetry collections, including Celestial, Stray Poems, Monsoon, The Magic of Madagascar, and The Alphabets of Latin America.

**Goa Governor To Sponsor Books Of First-Time Writers :-**

Goa's Raj Bhavan has introduced a book-sponsorship scheme aimed at promoting young writers from the coastal State who are eager to have their first literary works published, in a boost to local literary production. The scheme, dubbed 'Navi Pahal,' is open to books

written not only in Konkani, the local language, but also in Marathi, Sanskrit, and Hindi. According to sources, the scheme, which is said to be the brainchild of Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, aims to assist talented local writers by publishing their first books, with the Raj Bhavan covering all printing costs.



Books By Young Manipur Authors Launched At World Book Fair :-

The National Book Trust (NBT) launched two books at the World Book Fair 2023 in New Delhi, one called Loyanganba and written in Meetei Mayek by Pradium Moirangthem, and another called "Ode to the Mother" by Chanamthabam Ronika. The two books were written as part of Prime Minister Young Upcoming and Versatile Author (YUVA) mentorship scheme. The World Book Fair 2023, which had France as its guest country this year, also had on its guest list Annie Ernaux, the 2022 Nobel Prize winner. It was concluded on March 5.



Jean-Claude Perrier's 'Like Barbarians in India' launched at Alliance Francaise du Bengale :-

"I keep coming back to India because of its people. Their warmth and affection is something that keeps pulling me back," said Jean-Claude Perrier at the launch of 'Like Barbarians in India' at Alliance Francaise du Bengale in Kolkata. Originally written in French by Perrier in 2014, the book was translated into English by Sriparna Chatterjee and published this year by Niyogi Books. Perrier, who first visited India as a 24-year-old journalist in 1981, recalled how the country had a profound impact on him due to its "civilisational spirit."



Author-entrepreneur Ram K Sharma's book "Karma and You" launched by Prabha Khaitan Foundation in Kolkata :-

The crux of the interaction with author and entrepreneur Ram K Sharma at the launch of his book "Karma and You: Create Your Own Destiny" at a special function organised by Kolkata-based non-governmental organisation, Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF), was how our actions or Karma affect the various aspects of our life. The book was formally launched by the Chief Guest Aroop Biswas, West Bengal Minister of Power, Housing, Youth Services and Sports, and Guest-of-Honour, Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director, ITC.



First Comprehensive Field Guide To Birds Of Gujarat Launched:-

Nityanand Srivastava, Gujarat's principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) and chief wildlife warden, launched "A FIELD Guide to The Birds of Gujarat," a handbook of 616 species recorded in the state so far, at a ceremony in Ahmedabad. This is the first comprehensive field guide to the birds of Gujarat including colour-photos for easy identification and maps mapping distribution of bird species. The book has been jointly authored by Dr Bakul Trivedi, Prasad Ganpule, Dr Maulik Varu and Anuj Raina.

**Book On 65 Gandhian Women Launched :-**

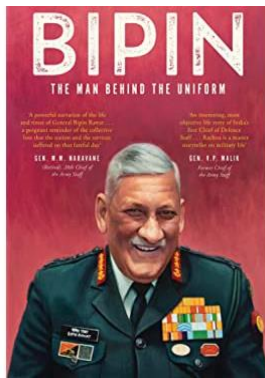
A book containing information about 65 Gujarati women who worked with Mahatma Gandhi and his ideology was recently released at a function at Gujarat Sahitya Parishad in Ahmedabad. Anmol Prakashan is the publisher. Gaurang Jani from Anmol Prakashan, who is also a noted sociologist of Gujarat, said, "The writer (Mosam Trivedi) had written a column on known-unknown women of Gujarat in a Gujarati newspaper for three years."

**Book by ex-RAW chief Amarjit Singh Dulat released :-**

Amarjit Singh Dulat, spymaster and former RAW chief, released his memoir "A Life in the Shadows: A Memoir" at the Chandigarh Golf Club. The book was released by former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, SS Sodhi, and former IPS officer and Governor of Manipur, Gurbachan Jagat, among others. The former head of the Intelligence Bureau and the RAW has written about his childhood, his years as a young intelligence officer, Kashmir and Kashmiriyat, and anecdotes about his travels as a security officer with former Indian President Giani Zail Singh on official trips abroad.

**Book released on freedom struggle in Gandhian era :-**

The book "India's Struggle for Independence - Gandhian Era" was released by Supreme Court Justice V. Ramasubramanian. The book, written by P. Jyothimani, former Judge of the Madras High Court, and G. Balan, former professor of history at Pachaiyappa's College, and published by Vanathi Pathipagam, was launched at the University of Madras. Justice V. Ramasubramanian stated that the book covers topics such as Mahatma Gandhi's relevance today and that the book needs to reach out to the younger generation in order to improve people's lives.



“Bipin: The Man Behind The Uniform” Written By Rachna Biswat Rawat Launched :-

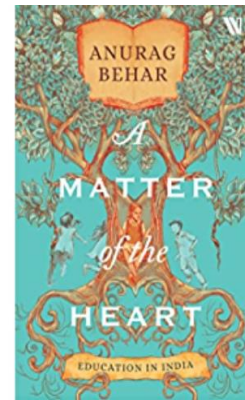
Rachna Biswat Rawat, an Indian journalist and writer, recently authored a book titled "Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform." The book, published by Penguin Veer, a Penguin Random House imprint, focuses on General Bipin Rawat's life, personality, and principles. Until his tragic death in a helicopter crash in 2021, Rawat was India's first Chief of Defence Staff and one of the country's most notable military leaders. The author presented the book to India's Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh.



“Women And Men In India 2022” Launched By MoSPI Rao Inderjit Singh :-

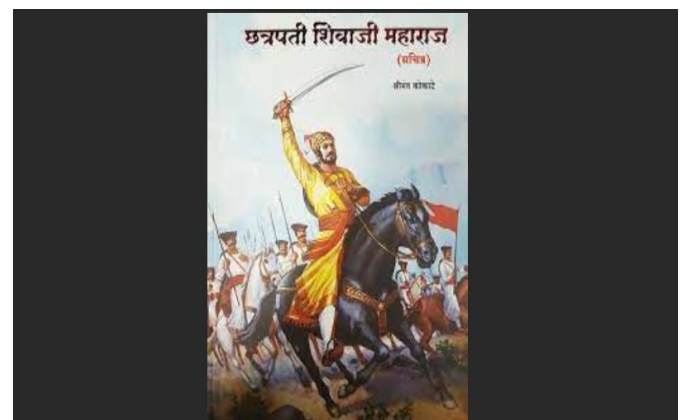
Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), launched the 24th edition of "Women and Men in India 2022" in New Delhi. This publication provides comprehensive information on a variety of topics, including political participation,

employment, and health, as well as gender-disaggregated data that can aid in understanding the differences between various groups of men and women living in rural and urban areas across India.



Anurag Behar Authors The New Book “A Matter Of The Heart: Education In India” :-

The CEO of Azim Premji Foundation and founding vice-chancellor of Azim Premji University, Anurag Behar, has authored a new travel book titled “A Matter of the Heart: Education in India”. The book is a collection of 110 stories based on Behar's work at the foundation that sheds light on the state of education in India outside of the major cities. Behar's writing pays tribute to the educators who are shaping the country's future. Westland Nonfiction, a division of Nasadiya Technologies Pvt Ltd, published the book.



Shrimant Kokate's 1st Book In English “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj” Released :-

Well-known Marathi author and historian, Shrimant Kokate has recently released his first English book titled “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (illustrated)”, which Dilip Chavan translated. Amol Kolhe, a popular MP and actor known for his portrayals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

and Sambhaji Maharaj in Marathi TV series, released the book. Kokate is well-known for his four books on Shivaji, all of which have received positive reviews and are widely read. He has written ten books on various subjects.

7: Defence



Rolls-Royce Marine North America And Kalyani Strategic Service Inks An Agreement :-

Rolls-Royce Marine North America announced an initial agreement for naval marine propulsors with Pune-based Bharat Forge subsidiary Kalyani Strategic Service Limited (KSSL). Rolls-Royce said in a statement that the agreement may include, but is not limited to, design and development, licenced manufacturing, pre-sales and sales support; installation, commissioning, testing, and aftermarket services and support. Bharat Forge's wholly owned subsidiary, Kalyani Strategic Service Limited (KSSL), is based in Pune.



Bharat Electronics Signs MoUs With ADA, DRDO For Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft Programme :-

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) for the fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme. The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is a fifth Generation, multi-role, all-weather fighter aircraft designed with high survivability and stealth capability. The fighter jet will be capable of carrying out air superiority, ground strikes, suppression of enemy air defences and electronic warfare missions.



Indian Navy Inks MoU with Seychelles On Maritime Awareness :-

The Indian Navy-affiliated IFC-IOR (Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean region) has signed an MoU with the Seychelles-based Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) to expand the information sharing network and strengthen existing maritime security cooperation. “The MoU signed by Capt Rohit Bajpai,

Director, IFC-IOR and Capt Sam Gontier, Director, RCOC aims to promote collaboration between the two Centres towards enhancing maritime domain awareness, information sharing and expertise development”, informed the Indian Navy in a statement.



Australia To Conduct Malabar Naval Exercise For First Time This August :-

For the first time this year, Australia will host the Malabar multilateral naval exercise, which will include India, Australia, Japan, and the United States. The two countries' high level of bilateral engagement will continue, with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong scheduled to visit India in early March, during which officials expect major defence initiatives to be announced. Ms. Wong is scheduled to attend the G-20 Foreign Ministers meeting on March 1 and 2 and Mr. Albanese is scheduled to visit India on March 8 on a bilateral visit.



Navy Chief Awarded On-The-Spot Unit Citation INS Nireekshak For Salvage Operation :-

In a first for the Indian Navy, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Harikumar presented a 'on the spot' Unit Citation to

INS Nireekshak in Kochi for deep sea diving and undertaking salvage operations under the most difficult conditions. Admiral Harikumar, the chief of the Indian Navy, also commended the crew involved in the salvage operation. Admiral Harikumar praised the ship's crew for their dedication to the deep diving operations during his address to the crew. He exhorted the undaunted spirit of the 'Men Behind the Machine'.



Abu Dhabi Defence Firm Inked MOU With India's HAL At UAE's Defence Expo :-

At the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX), EDGE, the UAE's leading defence group, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's aerospace firm Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL). The Memorandum of Understanding was signed to explore areas of cooperation such as joint design and development of missile systems and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones). Furthermore, both companies will investigate the use of HAL's small gas turbine engines on EDGE's guided weapons. The agreement was signed at IDEX 2023 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, one of the world's largest tri-service defence exhibitions.



Fourth Edition Of Biennial Training Exercise DUSTLIK Concluded On 05th March :-

As part of a military-to-military exchange program between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army, the fourth edition of biennial training Exercise DUSTLIK (2023) was concluded on 5th March, 2023 in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. Exercise DUSTLIK was started from 20 February 2023. The Indian contingent was represented by the 14th Battalion, The GARHWAL RIFLES, part of Western Command in this bilateral exercise. The Uzbekistan Army was represented by troops of the North Western Military District of Uzbekistan Army.



BrahMos Missile: What is it? :-

Supersonic cruise missiles like the BrahMos can be fired from a variety of platforms, including submarines, ships, airplanes, and land. BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya, created the missile, which is presently the fastest supersonic missile in the world. The Brahmaputra in India and the Moskva in Russia are the names of two rivers that the missile is called after. The ship-launched BrahMos missile was safely tested recently by the Indian Navy. An homegrown seeker and booster were used to test the missile in the Arabian Sea. Notably, the Andaman and Nicobar Command and the Navy simultaneously tested its anti-ship version in April 2022.



Germany Pursue An Agreement With India To Build 6 Submarines For \$5.2 Billion :-

During the visit of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Germany advanced a \$5.2 billion deal with India to jointly build six conventional submarines in the country, according to two Indian and two German sources. The naval project is the latest Western military manufacturing power's attempt to wean New Delhi off its reliance on Russia for military hardware. India is looking to replace its ageing submarine fleet, with 11 of its 16 conventional submarines having been in service for more than two decades, and to counter China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean.



IAF Participated in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with Japan Air Self Defense Force:-

On the sidelines of a joint Army exercise between India and Japan, Dharma Guardian, the Indian Army has participated in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF). In this year's edition of the air exercise, the Indian Air Force's contingent was represented by one C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. Meanwhile, the JASDF has participated in the exercise with C-2 transport aircraft. During the two-day exercise, both Air Forces took part in various activities divided into two phases.



Indian Army To Buy 310 Indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System :-

The Indian Army has proposed acquiring indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) capable of being deployed at high altitudes and filling critical capability gaps. According to people familiar with the situation, the defence ministry is expected to approve a proposal to acquire 310 such towed guns, after which orders can be placed. If the normal course of procurement is followed, the two companies - which are developmental partners of DRDO - will be invited to submit commercial bids.



Indian Air Force (IAF) Participating In Multilateral Air Exercise 'Exercise Cobra Warrior' :-

An Indian Air Force contingent comprising 145 Air Warriors is participating in Exercise Cobra Warrior at the Waddington Air Force Base of the Royal Air Force in United Kingdom. The exercise is scheduled from 06 Mar 23 to 24 Mar 23. The Exercise Cobra Warrior is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, United States of America and Singapore would also be participating alongside Royal Air Force and IAF. The aim of the exercise is to participate in diverse fighter aircraft engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces.



In Ladakh, Colonel Geeta Rana Is The First Woman To Command An Army Battalion :-

Colonel Geeta Rana of the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers has become the first woman officer to take command of an independent field workshop in the Eastern Ladakh sector with China, after the Indian Army recently cleared women officers for command roles. The officer has taken over the command of the EME independent workshop after the Army cleared 108 vacancies for women officers for taking command of independent units in the Corps of Engineers, Ordinance, EME and other branches.



GRSE launched the 'Most Silent Ship' INS Androth :-

In Kolkata, the INS Androth, the second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), was launched. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata constructs it. "These ships are also capable of full-scale subsurface surveillance of coastal waters and various surface platforms and coordinated ASW operations with aircraft. These ships may be smaller in size but will pack a lethal punch," GRSE said in a press release. The Androth and its companion ship will be outfitted with hull-mounted sonar as well as a low frequency variable depth sonar.



Annual Bilateral Maritime Exercise Konkan 2023 :-

The annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, Konkan 2023, was held in the Arabian Sea off the Konkan coast. The exercises covered all aspects of maritime operations, including gunnery shoots on the surface inflatable target 'Killer Tomato,' helicopter operations, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), ship manoeuvres, and personnel exchange. The exercise provided excellent training value to both navies' personnel.

8: Economy



NSE Gets The Final SEBI Approval To Launch Social Stock Exchange :-

According to an official release, the NSE has received approval from the capital markets regulator to launch its Social Stock Exchange. Last December, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) gave National Stock Exchange (NSE) in-principle approval to establish the exchange. The concept of a social stock exchange was first proposed in the Union Budget 2019-20 to allow entities involved in social activities, such as charitable trusts and non-profit organisations (NPO), to raise funds from the capital market.



Amazon Will Join The ONDC Network In India :-

Amazon has announced that it will join the Indian government's ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) platform, integrating its Smart Commerce and logistics services as part of the initial collaboration. Amazon stated that it will continue to investigate potential opportunities for deeper integration with the ONDC network. ONDC is a non-profit organisation founded by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of the Commerce Ministry to democratise e-commerce services.



Singapore Airlines Receives 25.1% Stake In Air India Group After Investing \$267 Mn :-

The agreement between Singapore Airlines and Tata Sons (Tata) will inject an additional SGD 360 million (USD 267 million) into Air India. Following Tata's takeover and merger with Vistara Airlines, it will give SIA a 25.1% stake in the enlarged Air India group. One of the key strategic initiatives for future growth mentioned in the quarterly financial report is the November 2022 agreement between Singapore Airlines and Tata Sons to inject

another USD 267 million into Air India. Regulatory approval is still required for this agreement.



1,49,577 Crore Gross GST Revenue Collected In February 2023 :-

The gross goods and service tax (GST) revenue collection in February 2023 was Rs 1,49,577 crore, an increase of about 12% year on year. With this, monthly GST revenues have remained above Rs 1.4 lakh crore for 12 consecutive months, according to a statement from the Finance Ministry. "During the month, revenues from import of goods was 6% higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 15% higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year," the ministry said.



Axis Bank Completes Deal To Buy Citibank's India Consumer Business :-

Axis Bank, India's fourth-largest private-sector lender in terms of market capitalization, announced the completion of its acquisition of Citibank India's consumer businesses in India for a total consideration of Rs 11,603

crore. Through this acquisition, the bank will gain 2.4 million Citi customers and Rs 39,900 crore in deposits. The entire integration process will take 18 months to complete. The sale, first announced by Citi and Axis in March 2022, includes credit cards, retail banking, wealth management, and consumer loans, as well as the transfer of approximately 3,200 Citi employees.



RBI Launches Two Surveys To Gather 'Useful Inputs' For Monetary Policy :-

The Reserve Bank of India has launched two important surveys, the results of which will provide "useful inputs" for the central bank's bi-monthly monetary policy. One survey will determine household inflation expectations, while the other will gauge consumer confidence. According to the Reserve Bank of India, the March 2023 round of the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) in 19 cities aims to capture subjective assessments on price movements and inflation based on their individual consumption baskets.



RBI Imposes Restrictions On Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a Rs 5,000 limit on individual customer withdrawals from Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank in Tamil Nadu, as part of a series of restrictions imposed on the lender due to its deteriorating financial condition. The restrictions on the lender will remain in force for six months from the close of business on March 3 and are subject to review, the RBI said in a statement. With curbs in place, the cooperative bank, without approval of the RBI, cannot grant loans, make any investment, and disburse any payment.



Daily UPI Transactions Jump 50% To 36 Crore: RBI :-

Payments through UPI (unified payment interface) have grown exponentially in the last 12 months, according to Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das, with daily transactions crossing 36 crore, up 50% from 24 crore in February 2022. The governor told reporters that these transactions are worth Rs 6.27 lakh crore, a 17 percent increase from Rs 5.36 lakh crore in February 2022. He also stated that during the previous three months, total monthly digital payment transactions exceeded Rs 1,000 crore.



RBI Accords 'Infra Finance Company' Status To IREDA :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has designated Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) as a "Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)". IREDA was previously classified as a "Investment and Credit Company" (ICC). According to a statement from the union ministry of new and renewable energy, with the IFC status, IREDA will be able to take higher exposure in renewable energy financing. The IFC status will also allow the company to reach a larger investor base for fund mobilisation, resulting in competitive fund raising rates.



CCI Clears Reliance's 2850 Cr Buy Of Metro's Local Business :-

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) Rs 2,850-crore acquisition of German retailer Metro AG's Indian business. The agreement, which was announced nearly three months ago, will assist Reliance in strengthening its wholesale format. Metro has been active in the Indian market since

2003, reporting sales of approximately 7700 crore rupees for the fiscal year ending September 2022. It has 31 stores in 21 cities and primarily serves restaurants and small businesses.



India's Forex Reserves Fall \$2.40 Billion To 3-Month Low Of \$560 Billion :-

According to Reserve Bank of India data, India's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$2.397 billion, bringing the position to a three-month low of \$560 billion on March 10, 2023. India's foreign exchange reserves had risen for the first time in five weeks, to USD 562.40 billion as of the week ended March 3. According to data, India's foreign currency assets fell by around \$2.2 billion to \$494.86 billion. As of March 10, India's gold reserves and SDR holdings had both decreased by \$110 million and \$53 million, respectively.



National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Approves HDFC And HDFC Bank Merger :-

The merger of HDFC and HDFC Bank has been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). HDFC Ltd

has already received approvals from the Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the PFRDA, the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and India's stock exchanges (BSE and NSE). The NCLT has also given permission to hold a shareholders' meeting in order to obtain approval for the proposed merger. The merger of HDFC and HDFC Bank is expected to be completed in the second or third quarter of FY24.



Ashneer Grover Launched Cricket Fantasy Sports App 'CrickPe' :-

Third Unicorn, the new venture of former Shark Tank India judge and BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover, has launched CrickPe, a cricket-focused fantasy sports app. Ashneer Grover's venture, Third Unicorn Pvt. Ltd., has received approximately \$4 million in seed funding. Anmol Singh Jaggi, Anirudh Kedia, and Vishal Kedia, among others, were among the over two dozen angel

investors who participated in the funding round. Notably, the cricket app has been launched to compete with competitors such as Dream11, the Mobile Premier League (MPL), and Games24x7's My11Circle.



Canara Bank Sells Stake In Russian Joint Venture To SBI For Rs 121 Crore :-

Canara Bank announced the sale of its stake in the Russian joint venture Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) to the other venture partner State Bank of India (SBI) for approximately Rs 121.29 crore. CIBL, founded in 2003, is a Russian joint venture between SBI (60%) and Canara Bank (40%). Canara Bank stated in a regulatory filing that it received the full consideration amount of Rs 121.29 crore for the sale of its stake. On November 11, 2022, the Bengaluru-based state-owned bank entered into a sale agreement.

9: International



Qatar Lifts Ban On Frozen Seafood From India :-

Qatar has lifted its temporary ban on the import of frozen seafood from India, paving the way for increased exports and improved bilateral relations with the West Asian country, according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The ban was imposed last November, just before the FIFA World Cup, following the alleged detection of Vibrio cholera in a few consignments from India, according to the statement.

After acknowledging India's assurances about source control, Beijing lifted the suspension of 99 Indian seafood-processing exporters on February 14.



Meghana Pandit Appoints As CEO Of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust :-

Meghana Pandit, an Indian-born professor, has been named the first woman of colour to lead Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Foundation Trust. Meghana, who was appointed on a temporary basis in 2022, has now been appointed permanently following a rigorous and competitive process that culminated in an extensive national and international recruitment search. Meghana received her MBBS from the University of Bombay and trained in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Oxford Deanery before becoming a visiting lecturer in Urogynaecology at the University of Michigan in the United States.



Seattle Created History Becomes First City In US To Ban Caste Discrimination :-

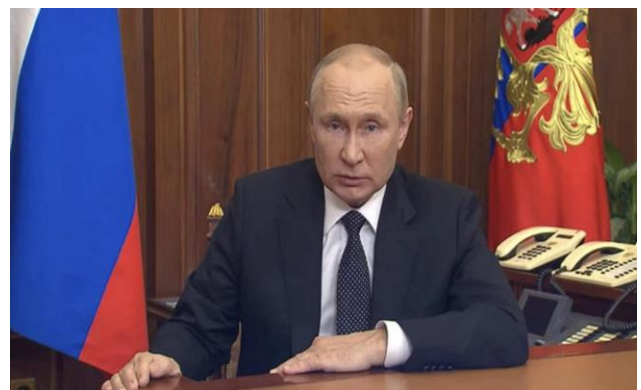
Seattle has become the first city in the United States to outlaw caste discrimination, following the passage of a

resolution by an Indian-American politician and economist to include caste in its non-discrimination policy. Kshama Sawant's resolution was approved by the Seattle City Council by a vote of six to one. "It's official: our movement has won a historic, first-in-the-nation ban on caste discrimination in Seattle! Now we need to build a movement to spread this victory around the country," said Ms Sawant.



Ex-Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga Nominated By US President To Lead World Bank :-

Former Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga has been nominated by the Washington to lead the World Bank said US President Joe Biden, after current CEO David Malpass announced plans to step down early. Banga, 63, is an Indian-American vice chairman at the private equity firm General Atlantic. He was previously the CEO of Mastercard. Banga has "critical experience mobilizing public-private resources to tackle the most urgent challenges of our time, including climate change," said Biden in a statement.



Financial Crime Watchdog FATF Suspends Russia's Membership Due To Ukraine Conflict :-

According to an official statement, Russia's membership in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was recently suspended for its "illegal, unprovoked, and unjustified" full-scale military invasion of Ukraine. The global watchdog on terror financing said it is also deeply concerned by the reports of arms trade between Russia and United Nations sanctioned jurisdictions, and malicious cyber-activities emanating from Russia. The Russian Federation remains accountable for its obligation to implement the FATF standards.

**India Joins Agriculture Innovation Mission For Climate :-**

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, India has joined a global platform launched by the United States and the United Arab Emirates to accelerate investment and support for climate-smart agriculture and food system innovation. The two countries launched the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) in November 2021. Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, signed a letter expressing India's intention to join the AIM4C on the sidelines of the I2U2 – Israel, India, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates – Business Forum in Abu Dhabi.

**Joint Military Exercise Frinjex-2023 Indo-France to commence in Thiruvananthapuram :-**

On March 7 and 8, 2023, the Indian Army and the French Army will hold their first joint military exercise, FRINJEX-23, at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The two militaries are participating in this configuration for the first time, with each contingent consisting of a Company Group from the French 6th Light Armoured Brigade and Indian Army troops stationed in Thiruvananthapuram. The purpose of the practice is to improve tactical interoperability, coordination, and cooperation between the two forces. The exercise's objectives include setting up an internally displaced person (IDP) camp, moving disaster relief supplies, and operationalizing a joint command post to secure an area where joint humanitarian aid and disaster relief will be provided.

**What is IMX/CE-23? :-**

The Gulf area will host the International Maritime Exercise/Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23) from February 26 to March 16, 2023. With participation from more than 50 countries and international maritime organizations, the exercise aims to improve maritime security and guarantee safe sea lanes for maritime trade. One of the biggest international maritime maneuvers is taking place. Indian Navy ship INS Trikand is taking part in IMX/CE-23. After taking part in Operation Sea Sword 2 in November 2022, this is the Indian Navy's second exercise with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and first involvement in IMX. Participation in such drills improves communication, interoperability, and collective maritime capability while also enabling positive contributions to regional stability and security in the Indian Ocean area.



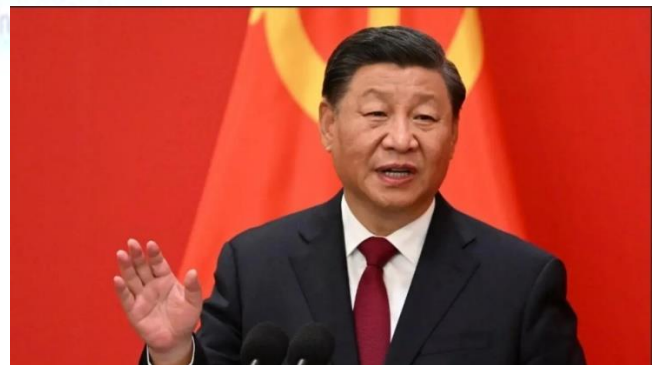
India And Australia Sign A Framework Mechanism For Mutual Recognition Of Qualifications :-

India and Australia have signed a Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications, which will facilitate student and professional mobility between the two countries. While the two countries will recognise the degrees, professional registrations of engineering, medicine and law pass outs will remain outside the framework's ambit. The agreement was signed following a bilateral meeting between Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and his Australian counterpart Jason Clare.



Vietnam Parliament Elects Vo Van Thuong As New President :-

In a reshuffle of the country's top leadership amid an anti-graft campaign, Vietnam's National Assembly has elected Vo Van Thuong as the country's new President. After the ruling Communist Party nominated Thuong as President, lawmakers confirmed him in an extraordinary session. Thuong's election comes after his predecessor, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, resigned unexpectedly in January, accusing him of wrongdoing. Thuong is the Party's youngest member of the Politburo, the country's highest decision-making body.



Xi Jinping Elected For A Third Term As China's President :-

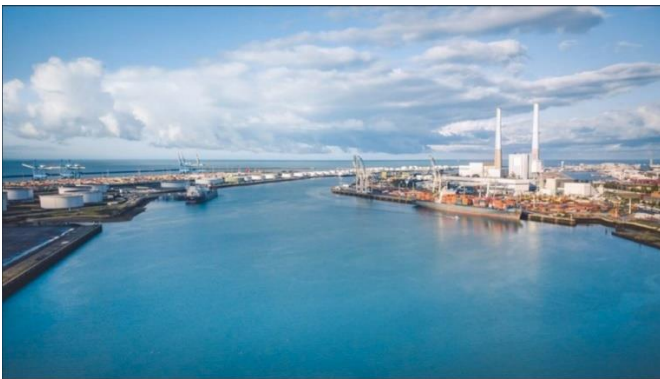
Xi Jinping has won a record-breaking third five-year term as China's president, a largely ceremonial role that will keep him in power for the rest of his life. The nearly 3,000 members of China's largely ceremonial National People's Congress (NPC) voted unanimously for Xi after the

constitution was changed to remove the traditional two-term limit for the post. Over the course of about an hour, the NPC, whose members are appointed by the ruling Communist party, cast 2,952 votes for Xi. No one voted against him.



Nepal Elects Ram Chandra Paudel As Its Next President :-

Ram Chandra Poudel of the Nepali Congress was elected as Nepal's third president. Poudel, a common candidate of an eight-party alliance that included the Nepali Congress and the CPN (Maoist Center), received the support of 214 legislators and 352 provincial assembly members. The total number of voters in the presidential election is 882, which includes 332 members of Parliament and 550 members of the provincial assemblies of the seven provinces. This is Nepal's third presidential election since it became a republic in 2008.



Denmark, The First Country To Import CO2 And Bury It Undersea :-

Denmark has launched a project to bury imported CO2 1,800 metres beneath the North Sea, making it the first country in the world to do so. The CO2 graveyard is located on the site of an abandoned oil field, where carbon is injected to prevent further warming of the atmosphere. The "Greensand" project, led by British chemical giant Ineos and German oil company Wintershall Dea, is expected to store up to eight million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030. It received an operating permit in December to begin its pilot phase.



FIFA President Gianni Infantino Re-Elected For Another Term :-

Gianni Infantino was re-elected as FIFA president for another four years after running unopposed at the organization's congress. It is his first re-election since taking over the remainder of the term of his suspended predecessor, Joseph Blatter, in 2016. According to FIFA statutes, he can run for re-election in 2027 until 2031. Infantino has also announced a projected income of \$11 billion in the four years leading up to 2026, up from \$7.5 billion in the previous four-year cycle ending in 2022.



Eric Garcetti Appointed As US Ambassador To India

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The United States has finally named its ambassador to India, former Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who was named to the position more than two and a half years ago. According to Garcetti's website, the 52-year-old was raised in the San Fernando Valley and received his BA and MA from Columbia University. He attended Oxford and the London School of Economics as a Rhodes Scholar and taught at Occidental College and USC. He was an officer in the US Navy reserve for 12 years and is an avid jazz pianist and photographer, the website says.

**ICC Issues Arrest Warrant For Vladimir Putin Over Ukraine War Crimes :-**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes in connection with the alleged abduction of Ukrainian children. On similar charges, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova, the Russian Federation's Commissioner for Children's Rights in the President's Office. President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed the ICC announcement as a "historic decision" in war-torn Ukraine.

**US Recognized McMahon Line As International Border :-**

The United States formally recognised the McMahon Line as the international border between India's Arunachal Pradesh and China, rejecting Beijing's claim that the northeastern state is Chinese territory. A bipartisan resolution, first introduced in the US Senate last month, recognised Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India and backed India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The resolution also condemned Chinese provocations in the region, such as the use of military force to alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control.

**India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline jointly inaugurated by PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina:-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP) virtually. Both Prime Ministers laid the groundwork for the pipeline's construction in September 2018. Since 2015, Numaligarh Refinery Limited has supplied petroleum products to Bangladesh. This is the second cross-border energy

pipeline between India and its neighbours. Cooperation in the power and energy sector has become one of the hallmarks of India-Bangladesh relations.



Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav Becomes Nepal's Third Vice President :-

a senior leader from the Madhes region, Ram sahaya Prasad Yadav, has been elected as Nepal's Vice President, in a further boost to the coalition government headed by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. Ram sahaya Prasad Yadav of the Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP) easily defeated CPN-UML candidate Ashta Laxmi Shakya to become the Himalayan nation's third Vice President and the first from the Madhes region, which borders India. Yadav, 52, secured 30,328 votes against 16,328 secured by Shakya, according to the Election Commission.



The 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda :-

The Ugandan parliament has recently passed the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023, which proposes stringent penalties for anyone engaging in sex with a person of the same gender. The punishments range from

imprisonment to capital punishment, and even entities like media groups, journalists, and publishers can be convicted of promoting homosexuality. The Bill has been met with widespread condemnation and calls for its veto. Under the new Bill, anyone who "tries" to have same-sex relations will face seven years of imprisonment.



Bangladesh Commissions Its First Submarine Base :-

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Bangladesh's first submarine base, the 'BNS Sheikh Hasina,' in Pekua, Cox's Bazar. The Prime Minister described the newly inaugurated naval base as a "ultra modern submarine base," and called the event a "proud chapter in the history of the Bangladesh navy." Prime Minister Hasina, speaking virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban in Dhaka, said the newly commissioned submarine base would help the navy increase its operational capacity to secure the vast marine resources.



Egypt Joins BRICS Bank As New Member Weeks After President Sisi's India Visit :-

Egypt has become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), just weeks after President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi paid a visit to India as the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations. According to people

familiar with the development, the African-Arab country joined the NDB on February 20, though a formal notification was issued on March 22. According to them, Egypt is planning to improve its infrastructure, and NDB funding can help significantly. Egyptian lawmakers welcomed the agreement, seeing it as a way to reduce demand for US dollars.

10: Miscellaneous**UNICEF India: Ayushmann Khurrana Named As National Ambassador Of Child Rights :-**

Ayushmann Khurrana, a Bollywood star, has been named as Unicef India's National Ambassador. Over the last two years, the actor has served as Unicef's celebrity advocate, using his "powerful voice to stand with children and challenge harmful social norms and gender stereotypes," according to Unicef India Representative Cynthia McCaffrey. Ayushmann has actively participated in a variety of events to lend his voice and influence, including World Children's Day, International Women's Day, International Day of the Girl Child, World Day Against Child Labor, and Safer Internet Day.

**Churchgate Railway Station In Mumbai Will Now Be Known After The First Indian RBI Governor CD Deshmukh :-**

The first national executive meeting of Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction passed a resolution to rename the Churchgate railway station after the former RBI governor and Union Finance Minister CD Deshmukh. Chintaman Dwarkanath Deshmukh, also known as CD Deshmukh, was the Reserve Bank of India's first Indian Governor. He joined the RBI in 1939 and rose through the ranks to become Secretary to the Board, Deputy Governor, and Governor. He was appointed Governor of the RBI in August 1943 and served in that capacity until 1949.



Pepsi Roped In Ranveer Singh As Brand Ambassador :-

PepsiCo, the beverage company, has named actor Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador and launched a new campaign aimed at younger consumers as it prepares for a long summer, which could boost sales of cold drinks. Singh joins the growing list of celebrity endorsers for Pepsi. Salman Khan joined the brand in 2019. It has also recently announced popular Kannada actor Yash of KGF fame as the brand's new face. A prominent female actor could soon join Pepsi's summer campaign, "Rise up Baby," which is currently running.



About Rijksmuseum :-

The main museum of the Netherlands is the Rijksmuseum. Its focus is on Dutch culture and heritage. It is located in Amsterdam near the Van Gogh Museum in Museum Square. It was established on November 19, 1798, in The Hague. In 1808, it was moved to Amsterdam. Rembrandt, a Dutch Golden Age painter, is best known for his artwork The Night Watch, which is

housed in the Rijksmuseum. Extinction Rebellion protesters gathered near to the well-known painting in Amsterdam to voice their opposition to the Rijksmuseum's collaboration with KLM and ING.



Millets Giveaway: What is it? :-

A unique marketing initiative called the Millets Giveaway has been launched by the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium, a society supported by the Indian government's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The program seeks to support small and marginal farmer producer organizations' (FPOs) livelihoods by encouraging direct purchases from them. The Millets Giveaway program encourages people to use ONDC's My Store, a market place designed for Indian vendors, to buy millets directly from FPOs. The campaign's main objective is to encourage more people to incorporate millets into their diets. This is a component of the global and national campaigns to promote millets in the International Year of Millets in 2023.



'World's First' Bamboo Crash Barrier Installed On Maharashtra Highway :-

In yet another step towards self-sufficiency, India created the world's first bamboo-made crash barrier, which was installed on the Vani-Warora Highway in Vidarbha, Maharashtra. Crash barriers are installed on either side of a highway to keep vehicles from leaving the road network. It also keeps outside elements out of the highways. Because of the strength that steel provides to these critical infrastructure, they are typically made of steel. Replacing steel barriers with bamboo crash barriers would be a very innovative move by the Centre to reduce road accident fatalities.



Savlon India Appoints Sachin Tendulkar As World's First 'Hand Ambassador' :-

In an unprecedented move, the Savlon Swasth India Mission unveiled the World's first 'Hand Ambassador,' Sachin Tendulkar, one of the greatest cricketers of all time. Preventable infections place a significant economic burden on our country, and regular handwashing is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent disease spread. With Sachin Tendulkar as the First Ever Hand Ambassador, the Savlon Swasth India Mission advances its mission to instill a culture of hand hygiene for a healthier nation.



Ashwini Vaishnaw Releases 'Go Green, Go Organic' Cover For Sikkim :-

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and four Sikkim ministers have released a one-of-a-kind Department of Posts cover titled "Go Green, Go Organic" for Sikkim. Vaishnaw said on Twitter, "Special cover on 'Go Green, Go Organic' released for World's first organic state Sikkim." According to the Vaishnaw, the special cover is a testament to the state's achievements in organic farming and progress, as well as a reminder of the importance of sustainable development for the entire country. The union minister expressed gratitude to the Department of Posts for this release.



Ashok Leyland Unveils All-Women Production Line At Tamil Nadu Plant :-

According to the company, heavy commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland has unveiled a new production line that will produce engines at its manufacturing facility in

Hosur, Tamil Nadu, entirely operated by women employees. The initiative to establish an all-women production line aims to empower women and encourage them to work in the manufacturing industry. The Hinduja Group's flagship company, Ashok Leyland, has established this new line with 80 female employees. The decision to implement an all-women production line was made to create a more diverse workforce.



Pfizer Will Spend \$43 Billion To Acquire Seagen :-

Pfizer Inc. has agreed to buy biotech Seagen Inc. and its groundbreaking class of targeted cancer drugs for \$43 billion. Pfizer would pay \$229 per share in cash under the terms of the agreement. The companies expect the debt-financed transaction to close late this year or early next year. However, it is likely to face scrutiny from antitrust regulators, who have stepped up their reviews of healthcare and other deals. Seagen, which is based outside Seattle, helped pioneer a class of drugs known as antibody drug conjugates, or ADCs, that can home in on tumors to strike them with a toxic agent.



Women's World Boxing Championships 2023: MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar Named Brand Ambassadors :-

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has named legendary boxer MC Mary Kom and Bollywood star Farhan Akhtar as the brand ambassadors of the IBA Women's World Championships 2023 at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi. Ajay Singh, President, the Boxing Federation of India said, "We are delighted to welcome Mahindra Automotive as our lead sponsor. And the presence of Mary Kom and Farhan Akhtar as the brand ambassadors for the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships will add immense value to our mission of encouraging women's participation in boxing."



Viacom18 Announces Former Captain MS Dhoni As Their Brand Ambassador :-

MS Dhoni, India's most celebrated cricket captain and four-time IPL champion, has been named as Viacom18's brand ambassador. Dhoni, one of the most admired players in the world, will take part in a number of network initiatives that will be broadcast on JioCinema, Sports18, and his social media accounts. "MS Dhoni's leadership and game-changing abilities are well-documented, but his humble and grounded personality resonates with the digital natives, who value authenticity and transparency," said Viacom18 - Sports CEO Anil Jayaraj.



Luxor Selects Virat Kohli As Brand Ambassador :-

Luxor Writing Instruments Private Limited, a stationery company, has appointed cricketer Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador. According to the company, Kohli is regarded as one of the all-time greats of cricket and is known for his record-breaking performances. He will be the face of the company's stationery products. Luxor Writing Instruments Private Limited expects to strengthen its appeal among young writers and solidify its position as the country's leading provider of writing instruments.



A Pioneer in Climate science- Claude Lorius :-

A pioneering glaciologist named Claude Lorius passed away on Tuesday morning at the age of 91. His work on climate change studies, particularly his work in Antarctica, which helped establish that people were to blame for global warming, is what made him most famous. In 1932, Lorius was born in Besançon, France. As a young boy, he was curious and daring, and his passion of discovery eventually led him to become a renowned

scientist. Just out of college in 1956, Lorius joined an Antarctica trip. His interest in the continent and its wonders was inspired by this journey.



Tanzania's Lake Natron - an alkaline lake :-

Lake Natron is a fascinating natural wonder located in the Arusha Region of Tanzania. The crimson waters of this alkaline lake look surreal and are indeed mesmerizing, but not enticing enough to force people to take a dip in it. The lake has become a centre of attraction for experts and analysts due to its unique features and mysterious history. In this article, we will delve deeper into the mysteries surrounding Lake Natron and explore some interesting facts about this unusual body of water.



Film Festival on Urban Climate :-

The first-ever Urban Climate Film Festival is being put on by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban

Affairs, the French Development Agency (AFD), and the European Union as a part of the CITIIS program's U2O engagement activities. In order to raise public awareness of the impacts of climate change on urban life and

promote conversation on sustainable urban development, the festival will screen a carefully curated mix of 11 films from 9 different nations.

11: National



Assets Totaling Rs 26,000 Crore Monetized In FY23: NITI Aayog :-

The government has monetised assets worth Rs 26,000 crore during FY23, compared to a target of Rs 1.6 lakh crore for the current fiscal, with a proposal pipeline totaling Rs 1.23 lakh crore currently in various stages of processing, according to the NITI Aayog. This brings the total monetisation value realised in FY22 and FY23 to Rs 1.14 lakh crore, representing 19% of the Rs 6 lakh crore target set under the National Monetisation Pipeline over a four-year period (FY22-25), with Rs 88,000 crore achieved in FY22.



IOC To Set Up Green Hydrogen Plants At All Refineries :-

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will install green hydrogen plants at all of its refineries as part of a Rs 2-lakh crore green transition plan to achieve net-zero emissions from its operations by 2046, according to its chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya. In an interview, Vaidya stated that the company plans to build a 7,000-tonne-per-year green hydrogen production facility at its Panipat oil refinery for Rs 2,000 crore by 2025. "We are starting with Panipat but eventually all refineries will have green hydrogen units," he said.



India's UPI Likely To Extend To UAE, Mauritius, Indonesia :-

Following the successful launch of cross-border real-time digital payment connectivity with Singapore, experts believe that India's UPI will likely expand to the UAE, Mauritius, and Indonesia. Singapore is the first country to launch a cross-border Person-to-Person (P2P) payment facility. "The PayNow-UPI linkage will offer cheaper, faster, and safer cross-border retail payments and remittances, for businesses and individuals alike, directly between bank accounts or e-wallets," Singapore's Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.



'Catch The Rain 2023' Campaign Launched By President Murmu :-

On March 4, 2023, President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'Catch the Rain-2023' campaign as part of efforts to turn water conservation into a mass campaign in the run-up to the monsoon season. The theme of this year's campaign will be 'Source Sustainability for Drinking Water,' according to an official. The President has also given out 18 awards under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, Jal Jeevan Mission, and National Water Mission in various categories, as well as released a collection of case studies titled 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Ki Abhivyakti'.



World Bank Commits \$1 Billion To India For Public Healthcare Infra :-

The World Bank and India have signed two complementary loans totaling USD 500 million each to support and improve India's healthcare infrastructure. The bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), which will be launched in October 2021, with a combined financing of USD 1 billion (approximately Rs

8,200 crore). According to the statement, the agreement was signed by Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and World Bank India country director Auguste Tano Kouamé.



PM Modi Inaugurates World's Longest Railway Platform In Hubballi, Karnataka :-

PM Modi has dedicated several development projects in Karnataka, including the world's longest railway platform in Hubballi-Dharwad. With the opening of the Hubballi railway platform, the city has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for having the world's longest railway platform at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji station. The 1,507-metre-long platform has been built at a cost of about Rs 20 crore. The Hubballi station is an important junction in Karnataka and a major hub of trade and commerce.



Defence Ministry Inks Contract With HAL To Procure 6 Dornier Aircraft :-

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the

procurement of six Dornier-228 aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at a cost of Rs 667 crore. According to the MoD, the addition will strengthen the IAF's capabilities in the Northeast and on the country's island territories. The Dornier-228 is a 19-seat multi-purpose light transport aircraft. It was specifically designed for utility and commuter transport, air-taxi operations, coast guard duties, and maritime surveillance.



India's Retail Inflation Drops To 6.44% In February 2023 :-

According to data published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, retail inflation in India fell to 6.44 percent in February from 6.52 percent in January 2023. Food price inflation was 5.9 percent in February, down from 6 percent in January. Cereals were a major contributor to January inflation. However, onion and potato prices have plummeted. Despite this, food prices remained close to 6%, indicating that cereals were still quite expensive, explaining CPI inflation of 6.44 percent, which was higher than expected by the Street.



India & World Bank Signs Loan Agreement For Construction Of Green National Highway Corridors Project In 4 States :-

The World Bank and India have signed a loan agreement for the Green National Highway Corridors Project construction in four states. Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh are among them. The agreement has been signed for the construction of 781 kilometers in these States, with loan assistance of 500 million dollars. In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said, the total project cost is over 7,662.47 crore rupees.



Banks From 18 Countries Get RBI's Nod To Trade In Rupee: Centre :-

According to the government, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised banks from 18 countries to open Special Vostro Rupee Accounts (SVRAs) to settle payments in rupees. Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad stated in Rajya Sabha that the RBI has granted 60 such approvals. These 18 nations include Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom.



India's Bullet Train To Run By August 2026: Railway Minister :-

According to railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, India's first high-speed train will begin operations in August 2026, with a larger section planned for the following year. The project will benefit the economy, as many of the companies supplying the project have begun receiving export orders. "The government is targeting August 2026 for running the first bullet train. The goal is to run the bullet train on a larger section in 2027," the minister said in response to a question at the CII Partnership Summit.



Atal Innovation Mission Launches ATL Sarthi :-

The Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog has launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework designed to strengthen the Atal Tinkering Labs ecosystem. According to NITI Aayog, the Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories in schools across the country to foster young minds' curiosity, creativity, and imagination. Atal Tinkering Labs Sarthi is a charioteer, which will allow Atal Tinkering Labs

to be more efficient and effective. It will provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating Atal Tinkering Labs' performance.



Indian Railways To Become Net Zero Carbon Emitter By 2030 :-

Union Railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in Lok Sabha that Indian Railways is working on a mission mode to become a "net zero carbon emitter" by 2030. According to the Ministry of Railways, Indian Railways has taken a number of initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, including the use of energy efficient technologies such as the complete switchover to the production of three phase electric locomotives with regenerative features, the use of head on generation (HOG) technology, the use of LED lights in buildings and coaches, star rated appliances, and afforestation.



Centre Announced 10% Reservation For Former Agniveers :-

Former Agniveers will be given a 10% reservation in Border Security Force (BSF) vacancies, according to the Union Home Ministry. According to a recent Gazette

notification issued under the relevant sections of the Border Security Force Act, 1968, the Home Ministry has also relaxed upper-age limit norms depending on the batch they are a part of. The upper age limit for candidates in the first batch has been relaxed by up to five years, while the upper age bracket for those in subsequent batches has been relaxed by three years for these vacancies.



The government has increased the raw jute MSP by Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal

The government raises the MSP for raw jute by Rs. 300 to Rs. 5,050 per quintal :-

For the upcoming 2023-24 season, the Indian government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) for raw jute by Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal. The decision was taken during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and was based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 equivalent to earlier TD-5 grade) has been fixed at Rs 5,050 per quintal for the upcoming season.



Cabinet sanctions targeted subsidies for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana recipients :-

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has announced an extension of the subsidy of Rs 200 per LPG cylinder under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for one year. The PMUY was launched in May 2016 by the Central government to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women of poor households and make LPG accessible to rural and impoverished households. The government credits the subsidy directly to the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries. The CCEA, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has announced an extension of the subsidy of Rs 200 per LPG cylinder under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for a period of one year.



Seven PM MITRA Park Sites Announced :-

The Government of India has announced the locations for the establishment of seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the textile industry. The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. PM MITRA Parks will contribute to the development of world-class industrial infrastructure, attracting large-scale investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI), and encouraging innovation and job creation in the sector.



PM Modi Inaugurates New ITU Area Office And Innovation Center In New Delhi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has officially opened India's new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office and Innovation Centre. The Prime Minister also unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G Research and Development Test Bed and Call Before U Dig App at an event in New Delhi. The Prime Minister stated on this occasion that the country is moving towards the next stage of the digital revolution, and that India's digital model is smooth, secure, transparent, trusted, and tested. He claims that this is India's "tech-ade" decade.



India Aims At Becoming 'Global Hub For Green Ship' Building By 2030 :-

Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), stated that India aims to become a global hub for green shipbuilding by 2030. Inaugurating India's first National Centre of Excellence in Green Port &

Shipping (NCoEGPS), Sonowal also stated that the initial Green Tugs will be operational in all major ports by 2025. Tugs are special boats that help other vessels enter and exit port. Green Hybrid Tugs will be powered by Green Hybrid Propulsion systems before switching to non-fossil fuels such as Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen.



Income Tax Dept Launches Mobile App AIS For Taxpayers :-

The Income Tax Department has launched a mobile app to assist taxpayers in viewing their tax information in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) or Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS). Because, beginning with the upcoming new fiscal year on April 1, Form 26AS will only display data related to tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collection at source (TCS), the new 'AIS for Taxpayer' app becomes important and useful. The AIS also allows users to provide feedback in the event of discrepancies in data received by tax authorities from banks or registration offices.



Surge In Covid-19 Cases In India Linked To Highly Contagious XBB1.16 Variant :-

As the number of daily Covid-19 infections in India continues to rise, 349 cases of a newly discovered XBB1.16 variant, which may be responsible for the recent increase in coronavirus cases, have been discovered, according to data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). The highest number of XBB1.16 variant cases has recently found in Maharashtra with 105 cases, followed by Telangana with 93 cases, Karnataka with 61 cases and Gujarat with 54 cases, according to INSACOG data accessed by PTI.



Finance Bill 2023 Passed In Lok Sabha :-

Under the new income tax regime, India will tax investments in debt mutual funds as short-term capital gains and royalty payouts by local arms of multinational corporations at a higher rate, while providing marginal relief to individual taxpayers. According to the Finance Bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha with 64

amendments, it also increased the securities transaction tax rate on futures and options by 25%. According to Finance Secretary TV Somanathan, this will bring parity with similar instruments.



Cabinet Hikes Dearness Allowance (DA) By 4% For Central Government Employees, Pensioners :-

According to I&B minister Anurag Thakur, the Union Cabinet has decided to increase the Dearness Allowance for central government employees and pensioners by 4% to 42%. About 47.58 lakh Central Government employees and 69.76 lakh pensioners will benefit from this. This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the 7th Central Pay Commission's recommendations. It is typically updated twice a year, in January and July. The announcement of the DA increase and payout is usually made in March.

12: Obituaries



Ex MLA and husband of former President Pratibha Patil, Devisingh Shekhawat passed away in Pune :-

India's first female President Pratibha Patil's husband, Devisingh Shekhawat, died at the age of 89 in a hospital in Pune recently after suffering a heart attack, according to family sources. Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered condolences. "My thoughts are with our former President Smt. Pratibha Patil Ji and her family on the passing away of Dr. Devisingh Shekhawat Ji. He made a mark on society through his various community service

efforts. Om Shanti," he tweeted. From 1980 to 1990, Shekhawat was elected from the Amravati constituency.



Stock market technical analyst Ashwani Gujral passes away :-

Ashwani Gujral, a well-known stock market analyst, died recently. He passed away at the age of 52. He was well-known for his technical equity market analysis. He was also the author of numerous capital market-related books in which he provided an insider's guide to trading in instruments such as equities, derivatives, futures, and options. Gujral was a chief market strategist with nearly 26 years of experience appearing on renowned media channels such as CNBC-TV18 and ET Now as a panellist.



Classical Dance Legend Kanak Rele Passes Away :-

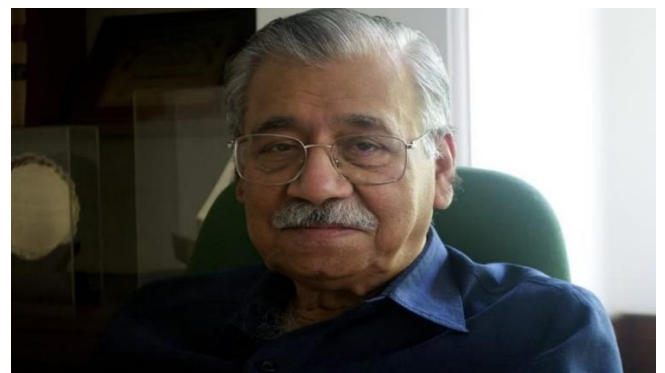
Kanak Rele, a legendary classical dancer, died recently. The Mohiniyattam exponent, who received the first Guru Gopinath National Puraskaram from the Government of

Kerala, died in Mumbai at the age of 85. Dr. Rele founded the Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya in 1973, which offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D degrees and is affiliated with Bombay University. Dr. Rele published the book — Me and My Mohini Attam — in 2022, which provided a glimpse into her life through biographical narrations by her niece, Radha Khambati.



Noted Carnatic Vocalist And Guru Neela Ramgopal Passes Away :-

Neela Ramgopal, 86, a Noted Carnatic vocalist and teacher, died on March 1 in Bengaluru. She was suffering from age-related ailments. Neela Ramgopal was born in Kumbhakonam, Tamil Nadu, and moved to Bengaluru after her marriage more than six decades ago. While she was well-known as a vocalist in the concert circuit, she was also a highly respected teacher who trained over 700 students. She was one of the first to open herself up to Skype classes in Bengaluru and, as a result, has students across the world.



Former Chief Justice Of India AM Ahmadi Passes Away :-

Former Chief Justice of India A M Ahmadi died on March 2nd, following a brief illness. He was 90. Justice Ahmadi was the 26th Chief Justice of India, having been born on March 25, 1932, in Surat. Ahmadi was appointed as a civil and sessions judge in Ahmedabad in 1964 and later became the state's law secretary. He was appointed to the Gujarat High Court in 1976 and was elevated to the Supreme Court in 1988. From October 1994 to March 1997, he served as CJI. During his nine-year tenure on the Supreme Court, Justice Ahmadi was involved in landmark decisions that altered the course of politics.

**Satish Kaushik, a seasoned actor and director, dies at age 67 :-**

Satish Kaushik, a seasoned performer, writer, and director, died at the age of 67. Kaushik was a graduate of the NSD and the FTII and began his cinema career in the early 1980s. He was born on April 13, 1965, in Haryana. He was a scriptwriter, director, producer, and comedian from India. He performed in theaters before breaking into Bollywood. He helmed two films starring Sridevi that were failures, "Roop Ki Rani, Choron Ka Raja" and "Prem," but he scored his biggest success with "Hum Aapke Dil Me Rehte Hain" and other films like "Tere Sang," among many others.

**Odia actor Pintu Nanda passes away at 45 :-**

Pintu Nanda, a popular Odia actor, died while receiving treatment at a private hospital in Hyderabad. Pintu Nanda was 45 years old. Pintu Nanda died on Wednesday (March 1) night, according to his family. Pintu Nanda was a well-known face in Odia cinema and television, having played a hero, villain, character artist, and comedian. The death of the Ollywood actor was mourned by Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and many senior state leaders.



Renowned Bengali litterateur Sasthipada Chattopadhyay passes away :-

Sasthipada Chattopadhyay, a well-known Bengali novelist and short story writer, died in Howrah. The famous 'Pandav Goenda' (five detectives) series creator died at the age of 82. Chattopadhyay, who was born on March 9, 1941 in Khurut, Howrah district, published his first literary work, 'Kamakhya Bhraman' (visit to Kamakhya), in 'Dainik Basumati' in 1961. Chattopadhyay had written many novels and travelogues in addition to short stories, but he rose to prominence after the release of the 'Pandav Goenda' adventure detective series for children in 1981.

**Karnataka Congress Working President R Dhruvanarayan Dies Of Cardiac Arrest :-**

R Dhruvanarayan, working president of the Karnataka Congress, died on March 11. He had a cardiac arrest at his home in Mysuru. Rahul Gandhi expressed condolences to Dhruvanarayan's family members, calling his death a huge loss to the party. "Mr. Dhruva Narayan, a senior leader of the state Congress, former MP and KPCC working president, passed away due to a heart attack, which is an irreparable loss to the Congress party. May the soul of the deceased rest in peace. May his family find strength to bear this grief" he wrote on Twitter.

**Former Diplomat, Padma Bhushan Awardee Chandrashekhar Dasgupta Passes Away :-**

Chandrashekhar Dasgupta, a former Indian diplomat and Padma Bhushan recipient, died at the age of 82. He served as ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg, and China during his nearly four-decade career. In 1962, he joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). He served as high commissioner to Singapore from 1981 to 1984, and Tanzania from 1984 to 1986. Dasgupta also held the vice-chair of the preparatory committees of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar passes away at 71:-**

Sameer Khakhar, a veteran Indian actor best known for his roles in TV shows such as Nukkad, died on March 15. He was 71. Sameer, who appeared in Salman Khan's film Jai Ho, passed away as a result of multiple organ failure. Sameer Khakhar worked for nearly four decades. His roles in the TV shows 'Nukkad' and 'Circus' catapulted him to fame. He also appeared in the films 'Shrimaan Shrimati' and 'Adaalat'. He also appeared in films such as 'Hasee Toh Phasee,' 'Jai Ho,' and 'Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi'. He was most recently seen in the OTT series 'Farzi,' starring Shahid Kapoor.



Director Pradeep Sarkar Passes Away At 67 :-

Pradeep Sarkar, the director known for films such as Parineeta, Helicopter Eela, and Mardaani, has died. He was 67. Sarkar was well-known for his work in the advertising film industry. In the 1990s and early 2000s, he also directed music videos for songs such as

Euphoria's 'Dhoom Pichak Dhoom' and 'Maaeri,' and Shubha Mudgal's 'Ab Ke Saawan,' among many others. He began his film career with Rajkumar Hirani and was credited as the co-editor of Munna Bhai MBBS. Parineeta, starring Vidya Balan, Saif Ali Khan, and Sanjay Dutt, was his first directorial effort.



Intel Cofounder Gordon Moore Passes Away At 94 :-

Gordon Moore, Intel's co-founder, died at the age of 94. He was instrumental in the development of modern computing devices. Moore was widely regarded as a powerful figure in Silicon Valley. Apple CEO Tim Cook and Google CEO Sundar Pichai have shared posts remembering him. In July 1968, Intel was founded by Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce, who had been longtime colleagues. Initially, Moore served as executive vice president, and then in 1975, he became president.

13: Ranks & Reports

**India Ratings
& Research**
A Fitch Group Company

India Ratings and Research Anticipates India's Growth To Be Below 6% In FY24 :-

According to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), India's GDP will grow 5.9% year on year during 2023-24. The agency's GDP growth estimate is lower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 6.4% real GDP growth forecast for FY24. According to the agency, pent-up demand that boosted growth in the first half of FY23 is already normalising, exports, which had been buoyant, are facing headwinds from global growth slowdown, and credit growth is facing tighter financial conditions, all of which point to slower economic growth in FY24.



UK Surpasses India As The World's Sixth-Biggest Equity Market :-

For the first time in nearly nine months, the United Kingdom has surpassed India as the world's sixth-largest equity market, as a weaker pound boosted the appeal of heavyweight exporters trading in London and Adani Group-led jitters weighed on Mumbai stocks. According to Bloomberg data, the combined market capitalization of primary listings in the UK, excluding ETFs and ADRs, was around \$3.11 trillion on 21 February, roughly \$5.1 billion higher than their Indian counterparts. That has not occurred since May 29.



RTI Released Data, 60% Of Voters Linked Aadhaar To Voter ID :-

The Election Commission (EC) revealed in a Right to Information response that over 60% of India's 94.5 crore voters have linked their Aadhaar number to their voter IDs. The total number of voters linked to Aadhaar is 56,90,83,090. Tripura, which went to the polls recently, had the highest rate of Aadhaar linking; more than 92% of voters in the state provided their Aadhaar

details to the Election Commission. Following Tripura, Lakshadweep and Madhya Pradesh are in second and third place, with over 91% and 86% of voters providing the number, respectively.



India's Manufacturing PMI Slips To 4-Month Low Of 55.3 In February :-

According to an S&P Global survey, India's manufacturing sector expanded at its slowest rate in four months in February but remained relatively strong amid buoyant domestic demand, despite higher inflationary pressures. The S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was at 55.3 in February, little-changed from 55.4 in January, the private survey showed. The reading has remained above 50, the mark separating growth from contraction, for 20 straight months now.



India's Unemployment Rate Rose To 7.45% In Feb: CMIE :-

According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate increased

to 7.45% in February from 7.14% the previous month. According to the data, the urban unemployment rate fell to 7.93% in February from 8.55% the previous month, while the rural unemployment rate increased to 7.23% from 6.48%. However, Mahesh Vyas, Managing Director and CEO of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, stated that it is important to note that labour participation has increased concurrently from 39.8% to 39.92%.



Mumbai Ranks At 37th Place Globally In Price Growth In Luxury Housing :-

According to Knight Frank India, Mumbai rose from 92nd to 37th in a global list of movement in luxury home prices during the 2022 calendar year, with a 6.4% increase. Property consultant Knight Frank released its 'The Wealth Report 2023' in a virtual conference. In the report, the consultant, Knight Frank India examined prime property price performance in 100 cities, as well as sun and ski destinations around the world. In 2022, 85 of 100 locations experienced positive or flat price growth.

World Bank's Women, Business And The Law Report 2023 :-

In 2022, only 34 gender-related legal reforms were recorded across 18 economies worldwide. According to a recent World Bank report, this is the lowest number in a single year since 2001. Meanwhile, the World Bank's Women, Business, and the Law (WBL) index, which evaluates laws affecting women's economic participation around the world, saw a half-point increase in its 2023 edition, reaching an overall global score of 77.1. India's overall score of 74.4 has remained unchanged since 2021. The country's score, however, places it behind several less-developed economies, including Zimbabwe, Congo, Ghana, and Nepal.



India On 108th Position In Electoral Democracy Index 2023 :-

India is ranked 108th in the V-dem Democracy report 2023's Electoral Democracy Index. The country ranks way below countries such as Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore and Nigeria. In the report, India was also named one of the top ten autocratic countries in the last decade. India's ranking in the report's Electoral Democracy Index (EDI) fell from 100th in 2022 to 108th this year, while it was 97th in the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI). The United States was ranked 23rd in the LDI, while Canada and the United Kingdom were ranked 24th and 20th, respectively.

WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2023





Delhi International Airport Among Cleanest In Asia-Pacific :-

As part of the Airport Council International (ACI)'s service quality award, Delhi airport was named one of the cleanest in Asia-Pacific. DIAL's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has won the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) best airport for 2022 in the category of over 40 million passengers per year (MPPA). The Airports Council International has also named it the cleanest airport in the Asia Pacific region (ACI). GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd is a consortium that includes Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL).



Uttarakhand's Rudrapur, Tehri Tops Landslide Index: ISRO Report :-

According to the 'Landslide Atlas' report prepared by Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Uttarakhand's Rudrapur district, which houses the Kedarnath shrine, has "the highest exposure to landslide

risk in the country". According to the District Emergency Operation Centre, Rudrapur has 32 chronic landslide zones, with the majority located on NH-107, which leads to the holy town. Tehri, another Uttarakhand district, is ranked second on the list of landslide-prone districts.



Knight Frank Releases Wealth Report 2023 :-

Knight Frank, a global real estate consultancy, has published its Wealth Report 2023, which provides insights into the trends and performance of the world's prime residential property market. Mumbai's prime property market experienced a 6.4% price increase, propelling the city to the 37th position on the Prime International Residential Index (PIRI 100) in 2022. According to the report, Bengaluru's prime property appreciation of 3% pushed the city to 63rd place. Dubai maintained its top spot on the PIRI 100.



India 8th Most Polluted Country In The World: Swiss Firm IQAir Report :-

According to the 'World Air Quality' report released by the Swiss firm IQAir, India is the world's eighth most polluted country in 2022, down from fifth the previous year. According to the data, the The PM2.5 level of most polluted Indian cities stands at 53.3. . The two Indian cities in the top ten most polluted cities are Bhiwadi, on Delhi's outskirts, with pollution levels of 92.7, and Delhi, with pollution levels of 92.6. The concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles known as PM2.5 is used by IQAir to determine air quality levels.



SIPRI Report 2023: India World's Largest Arms Importer :-

According to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), India's arms imports fell 11% between 2013-17 and 2018-22, but the country remains the world's top importer of military hardware. The report comes at a time when India is redoubling its efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in defence manufacturing. According to data, India had the highest share of global arms imports in the last five years, at 11%, followed by Saudi Arabia (9.6%), Qatar (6.4%), Australia (4.7%), and China (4.7%).



CRISIL Forecasts India's GDP Growth At 6% For Next FY :-

According to rating agency Crisil, India's GDP will slow to 6% in fiscal year 2023-24, down from the 7% rate predicted by the National Statistical Organization (NSO) for FY23. "A complex interplay of geopolitical events, stubbornly high inflation — and sharp rate hikes to counter that — have turned the global environment gloomier," according to the report. According to the Crisil report, India's GDP will grow at a 6.8% annual rate over the next five fiscal years, driven by capital and productivity gains.



Another Government Survey Debunks Swachh Bharat's 100% ODF Claim :-

Another recently released government survey has called the Central Government's claim in 2019 into question that all Indian villages are free of open defecation-free (ODF). Four government surveys/reports, including the most recent Multiple Indicator Survey (MIS), released just before or after the announcement, not only disputed most states' ODF status, but also revealed persistent levels of poor sanitation in many of them. The three older surveys which disputed the ODF status were the National Statistical Office (NSO) survey from October 2018, the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) of 2019-20, and the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) 2019-21.



Delhi Airport Adjudged Best Airport In South Asia: Skytrax :-

According to a report by international air transport rating organisation Skytrax, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has been named the Best Airport in India and South Asia. Changi Airport in Singapore has been named the World's Best Airport for 2023, followed by Doha Hamad Airport in Qatar. Singapore was ranked third in 2022, while Doha Hamad was ranked first. The Skytrax World Airport Awards are based on an annual global airport customer satisfaction survey conducted between August 2022 and February 2023.



Literacy Rate In India: Bihar Lowest At 61.8%, Kerala Highest At 94% :-

Bihar has the lowest literacy rate in India, at 61.8%, followed by Arunachal Pradesh at 65.3% and Rajasthan at 66.1%, according to the Ministry of Education. Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India (94%), followed by Lakshadweep (91.8%) and Mizoram (91.33%). Annapurna Devi, Union Minister of State for Education, provided this information in response to a written

question in the Lok Sabha. According to the ministry, a centrally sponsored scheme of Adult Education - Saakshar Bharat - was launched to improve the literacy rate among adults in the country.



OECD Raises FY24 India Growth Forecast To 5.9 Per Cent :-

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) raised India's growth forecast for FY24 to 5.9 percent from 5.7 percent in November. According to the OECD's latest interim forecast, titled 'Fragile Recovery,' "India's growth is projected to moderate to about 6 per cent in FY2023-24, amid tighter financial conditions before picking up to recover to around 7 per cent in FY 2024-25." According to rating agency Crisil, the economy is expected to grow at a sluggish 6% next fiscal year, in line with consensus estimates.



Global Terrorism Index – India Ranked 13th, Topped By Afghanistan :-

Afghanistan remains the country most affected by terrorism for the fourth year in a row, despite attacks and

deaths falling by 75% and 58%, respectively, according to the tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report. India ranked 13th on the index, a marginal improvement from the previous year. Despite being one of the index's 25 worst-hit countries, Indian respondents chose war and terrorism as the greatest threat to their daily safety. Globally, terrorism-related deaths decreased by 9% to 6,701 deaths, a 38% decrease from their peak in 2015.



Ranveer Singh Named India's Most Valuable Celebrity Of 2022 :-

With a brand value of \$181.7 million (Rs 1500 crore), actor Ranveer Singh has surpassed cricketer Virat Kohli to become the "most valuable celebrity of 2022." Kohli came in second place with a brand value of \$176.9 million (Rs 1400 crore), according to the report titled "Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream," cited by Business Today. Actor Akshay Kumar, who is also experiencing a slump in his career due to a string of flops, came in third place with a brand value of \$153.6 million (Rs 1200 crore).



The World Happiness Report 2023: India Ranked 126 :-

The latest World Happiness Report released by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network ranked Finland as the world's happiest country. Every year on International Day of Happiness, the report ranks countries based on their average life evaluations over the previous three years. India is ranked 125th out of 136 countries, making it one of the world's unhappiest countries. Surprisingly, it even lags behind its neighbouring countries like Nepal (78th), China (64th), Bangladesh (118th), Pakistan (108th) and Sri Lanka (112th).



Mukesh Ambani is only Indian among World's Top 10 Billionaires List Released By Hurun Research Platform :-

According to the latest Hurun Global Rich List, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), is the only Indian among the world's top ten billionaires. Adani, who lost \$28 billion in wealth, or Rs 3,000 crore per week, due to the damning Hindenburg report, fell to second place among Indian billionaires, with a net worth of \$53 billion. Cyrus Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India is the third richest Indian on the list, with a net worth of \$27 billion.



Hurun Global Rich List: India Ranks Third In Terms Of Self-Made Billionaires :-

According to the 2023 Hurun Global Rich List, India ranked third in terms of the number of self-made billionaires, with 105 billionaires on the list. According to the Hurun list, the combined wealth of these 105 billionaires was \$381 billion. The report also mentioned Indians' global rankings in M3M Hurun Global Rich List is rapidly growing. India's contribution to the global billionaire population has steadily increased over the last five years. India now accounts for 8% of the total global billionaire population, up from 4.9 percent five years ago.



IPL India's First Unicorn With A \$1.1 Billion Valuation: D&P Report :-

According to D&P Advisory, a leading provider of consulting, advisory, and valuation services, the Indian Premier League (IPL), which recently became a decacorn with a \$10.9 billion valuation, was the country's first

unicorn in 2008 with a \$1.1 billion valuation at inception. Titled 'IPL-The Pioneer of Indian Unicorns', the analysis considers the media rights, title sponsorship, and associate sponsorship values of the Indian Premier League (IPL) ecosystem to predict its total value over the years prior to 2014.



QS Rankings: IIT-Delhi Enters List Of Top 50 Institutions For Engineering :-

The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi was named one of the top 50 engineering institutions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023. In total, 44 Indian higher education institutions' programmes in various disciplines have been ranked among the top 100 in the world. As per last year's report, 35 Indian programmes made it to the top 100. Delhi University is the Indian varsity with maximum entries (27) followed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, (25) and IIT Kharagpur (23).



26 % Of World's Population Does Not Have Safe Drinking Water: UNESCO Report :-

According to a report released by UNESCO at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York, 26% of the world's population lacks access to safe drinking water, and 46% lack access to safely managed sanitation. According to the report, between two and three billion people face water scarcity for at least one month per year, posing

serious threats to livelihoods, particularly through food security and access to electricity. The global urban population facing water scarcity is expected to more than double by 2050, from 930 million in 2016 to 1.7 to 2.4 billion people.

14: Schemes & Committees

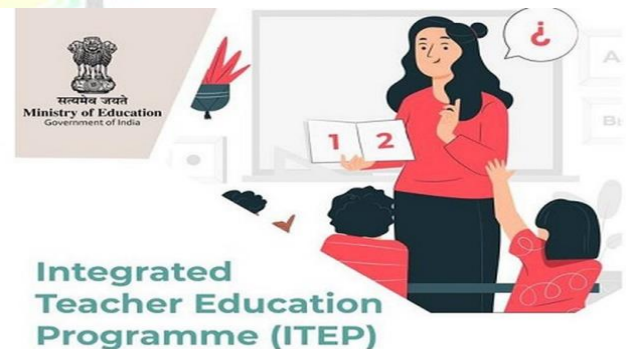


MPassport Police App: Police Verification For Passport In Just 5 Days :-

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched the 'mPassport Police App' to simplify and speed up the process of police verification of passport issuance. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the new digital services. On the occasion, Shah also dedicated 350 mobile Tablets to Delhi Police Special Branch personnel, according to the Ministry of External Affairs Regional Passport Office (RPO). In a Tweet, RPO Delhi stated that the office is dedicated to efficient service delivery and Digital India. The mPassport Police App will shorten the verification process to five days.

Term Of The 22nd Law Commission Extended Till August, 2024 :-

The Union Cabinet extended the term of the 22nd Law Commission, which is tasked with identifying laws that are "no longer relevant" and recommending their repeal, by one and a half years on February 22. The Commission's three-year term came to an end on February 20. The panel's term has been extended until August 31, 2024, according to an official release. On February 21, 2020, the 22nd law panel was established for a three-year term, and its chairperson, Justice Rituraj Awasthi (retd), took office on November 9, 2022.



Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) :-

The Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) has been introduced in 57 Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) across India by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). Under NEP 2020, this flagship project was started. In 2021, it received notice. It provides a 4-year dual-major undergraduate degree program that prepares teachers for the foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary education phases of the new



school structure (5+3+3+4). The ITEP seeks to offer, among other things, cutting-edge pedagogy, fundamental literacy and numeracy skills, early childhood care and education, inclusive education, and knowledge of India's values, ethos, art, and customs.



MoS IT Launches Grievance Appellate Committee To Ensure Safe Internet :-

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and IT, launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) to address the concerns of millions of Indian social media users about content and other issues. The IT Ministry issued a notification last month to establish three Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs), as required by the recently amended IT Rules, 2021. The announcement was made in the presence of executives from major internet companies such as Meta, Snap, Google, and others.



Adani-Hindenburg Row: Supreme Court Forms Experts Committee To Look Into Hindenburg Report On Adani Group :-

Following the publication of an adverse report on the Adani group of companies by American short-seller Hindenburg Research, the Supreme Court formed an

expert committee led by a former judge to investigate whether there was a regulatory failure that resulted in investor losses. Abhay Manohar Sapre, a former Supreme Court judge, will chair the committee. According to the court, the panel will also look into whether there was a regulatory failure in dealing with the allegations against the Adani group or other companies in the securities market.



BSE And UN Women India Launch FinEMPOWER Programme :-

The BSE and UN Women India have launched a new programme called FinEMPOWER. It is a one-year joint capacity-building programme between BSE and UN Women aimed at empowering women to achieve financial security. In honour of International Women's Day, BSE and UN Women India collaborated to organise the 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality ceremony,' which aims to accelerate BSE's investment in women leaders and entrepreneurs. Mr. Sundararaman Ramamurthy, MD and CEO of BSE, and Ms. Susan Ferguson, Country Representative of UN Women India, rang the bell for gender equality.



Uttarakhand CM Dhami Announced The Launch Of Self-Employment Scheme For Single Women :-

Uttarakhand will soon launch a self-employment programme for single women, according to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. "Working through self-help groups, women in remote hill areas of the state are steering the rural economy. With their skills, they are also strengthening the economy of their homes," the chief minister added. Several steps have been taken in recent years to keep women at the forefront of India's development journey, the Uttarakhand chief minister said, ranging from financial inclusion to social security, quality health care to housing, education to entrepreneurship.

**GoI Unveils Rs 1,18,500 Crore Budget For Jammu And Kashmir :-**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented a Rs 1.18 lakh crore budget for Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha for the fiscal year 2023-24, with a focus on providing rural housing and water tap connections to 18.36 lakh households. Pankaj Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Finance, presented the budget for Jammu and Kashmir. According to the Finance Minister, Kashmir will be connected to the rest of the country via rail network by the end of 2023, and the government also plans to build light metro rail in Jammu and Srinagar during the next fiscal year.

**PNB Signs MoU With Central Warehousing Corporation To Facilitate Finance To Farmers :-**

The nation's public sector bank, Punjab National Bank, and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate financing under e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt). The partnership aims to provide farmers, food processors, and traders with easy access to finance in exchange for the pledge of agricultural commodities stored in CWC warehouses. Kanwal Jit Shorey, General Manager of Punjab National Bank, and Shri Rajiv Kumar Bansal, Group General Manager (Comm.) of CWC signed the agreement.

**A New Initiative Called 'Beggar-Free City' Started In Nagpur, Maharashtra :-**

In Maharashtra, a new initiative known as 'beggar-free city' has begun in Nagpur. Amitesh Kumar, the Commissioner of Police for Nagpur City, stated that begging will not be permitted in public places. This is a collaboration between Nagpur City Police and the social welfare department of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC). The NMC has made special

arrangements to house homeless people in its shelters. The civic body has prepared a bus and an ambulance to transport beggars detained by police to its shelter home.



BIS Launches 'Learning Science Via Standards' Initiative To Benefit Students :-

For students, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has launched the 'Learning Science via Standards' series. The initiative focuses on a series of lesson plans designed to help students understand the practical applications of scientific concepts, principles, and laws in the manufacturing, functioning, and testing of quality characteristics of various products as stated in relevant Indian Standards. The subjects for the lesson plans are mostly related to everyday products and were chosen based on their relevance to education as part of the course curriculum.

15: Science & Technology



India's First Agri Chatbot Ama KrushAI Launched In Odisha :-

At the valedictory session of 'Krushi Odisha 2023,' Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal launched India's first AI chatbot for the agriculture sector, Ama KrushAI. Ama KrushAI will assist farmers with the best agronomic practises, government schemes, and loan products from over 40 commercial and cooperative banks. It will run under a pilot project involving more than 10,000 farmers and will be implemented in full-fledged in the next two months. The Governor urged farmers to take advantage of different schemes announced by the state government.



ICAR Develops A New HD-3385 Wheat Variety :-

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed a new wheat variety that can withstand the challenges posed by changing weather patterns and rising temperatures. This new wheat variety called HD-3385 is amenable to early sowing, escaping the impact of heat spikes and can be harvested before March end. Recently, in the wake of rising temperatures, the Centre's announced to set up of a committee to monitor the situation arising from the increase in temperatures and its impact on the current wheat crop.



Kerala Becomes First State To Use Robotic Scavengers To Clean Manholes :-

The Kerala government has recently launched Bandicoot, a robotic scavenger, to clean sewages in this temple town, making the state the first in the country to use robotic technology to clean all commissioned manholes. The Kerala Water Authority (KWA) launched Bandicoot as part of the state government's 100-day action plan, led by Water Resources Minister Roshi Augustine, under the Guruvayur Sewerage Project in Thrissur district. The Bandicoot's main component, the robotic Tron Unit, enters the manhole and removes sewage with robotic hands.



Isro Successfully Tests Cryogenic Engine Of Its Rocket For The Moon Mission :-

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) announced the successful flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine, which will power India's rocket for the third moon mission, Chandrayaan-3. According to the space agency, the CE-20 cryogenic

engine will power the LVM3-M4 rocket's cryogenic upper stage. The ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, conducted the 25-second hot test on February 24. During the test, all of the propulsion parameters were found to be satisfactory and closely matched with predictions.



Scientists Confirm Existence Of A Fifth Layer In Earth's Core :-

Seismologists at The Australian National University (ANU) believe they've discovered evidence of a distinct fifth layer lurking beneath Earth's inner core the "innermost inner core", less than a month after a study published in the journal Nature Geoscience suggested it may have slowed its spin. For the longest time since Danish scientist Inge Lehmann used seismic waves to discover Earth's inner core in 1936, our rocky spheroidal planet was thought to have four layers: the crust, the mantle, the outer core and the inner core.



US hands over NISAR satellite to ISRO :-

The US Air Force has handed over NISAR, a NASA-ISRO earth observation satellite, to the Indian space agency.

According to the US Consulate in Chennai, a US Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying the NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar (NISAR) landed in Bengaluru. The satellite is the result of a collaboration between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days, according to ISRO, and will provide spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystems.



HCL Technologies Partners Microsoft To Bring Quantum Computing To Clients :-

HCL Technologies has announced a collaboration with Microsoft's Azure Quantum the quantum cloud computing service. HCLTech will provide its clients with cloud-based quantum computing services by leveraging Microsoft's platform as the technology stack. The services will be delivered by HCLTech's Q-Labs, which is already one of Microsoft's partners offering Azure Quantum credits. HCLTech's Q-Labs will develop on-cloud quantum technology examples and present proof of concept (PoC) business use cases to the company's clients.



Indian Navy Gets First-Ever Privately Made Indigenized Fuze Of Anti-Submarine Warfare Rocket :-

Through a private manufacturer M/s Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), Nagpur, the Indian Navy recently received for the first time a fully indigenous fuze YDB-60 for underwater Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) Rocket RGB-60 used from major warships. This is the first time the Indian Navy has placed a supply order for underwater ammunition fuzes with an Indian private sector company. Shri Satyanarayan Nuwal, the CMD of M/s EEL, Nagpur handed over the first consignment of the fuze to Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS).



Reliance Life Sciences Receives A Gene Therapy Technology Licence From IIT Kanpur :-

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has announced that it has licenced to Reliance Life Sciences Pvt Ltd a gene therapy technology with the potential to treat many hereditary eye diseases. Reliance Life Sciences will further develop the IIT Kanpur technology as an indigenous product. The patented technology, developed by Jayandharan Giridhara Rao and Shubham Maurya from IIT Kanpur's Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering (BSBE), modifies an organism's gene to treat a hereditary disorder, according to the institute.



Nitin Gadkari Unveiled First Methanol Run Buses In Bengaluru :-

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari unveiled Bengaluru's first methanol-powered buses. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMT), NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), and Ashok Leyland are working together on the project to reduce emissions. The BMT intends to launch 80 buses that will run on methanol fuel in the pilot project, as well as 20 Ashok Leyland buses in the early stages. For three months, the Indian Oil Corporation will provide free diesel and methanol.



Svaya Robotics Unveils India's First Homegrown Quadruped Robot And Exoskeleton :-

Svaya Robotics, based in Hyderabad, has created India's first indigenous quadruped (four-legged) robot and exoskeleton for the defence sector. India currently imports these robots from the United States and Switzerland in order to strengthen its defence capabilities. The indigenous robots and wearable exoskeletons were developed in collaboration with the DRDO Labs, Research and Development Establishment

(R&DE), Pune, and the Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru.



Report on Technology and Innovation 2023 :-

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has warned that green technologies, such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and electric vehicles, may deepen global economic inequality. According to the Technology and Innovation Report 2023 published on March 16, 2023, developed countries benefit the most from these technologies, while developing countries may miss out on economic opportunities if decisive actions are not taken. UNCTAD estimated that green technologies could create a market worth \$9.5 trillion by 2030, up from \$1.5 trillion in 2020.



Asia's Largest 4-Metre Liquid Mirror Telescope Inaugurated In Uttarakhand :-

Another scientific milestone for India was the unveiling of Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror

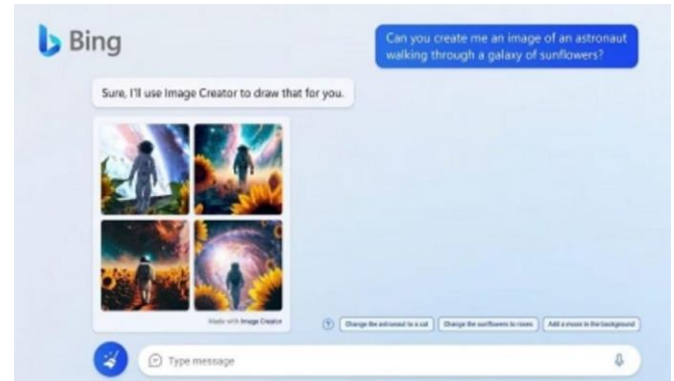
Telescope (ILMT) in Devasthal, Uttarakhand. The telescope is located at an elevation of 2,450 metres on the Devasthal Observatory campus of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), in the Nainital district. The telescope was inaugurated by Union science & technology and space minister Jitendra Singh.



Adobe Launches Generative 'Sensei GenAI' To Transform Customer Experiences :-

Adobe the software major has announced new generative AI innovations for its Experience Cloud, with the goal of redefining how businesses deliver customer experiences. In Adobe Experience Cloud, customers will be able to move seamlessly between Sensei GenAI services and existing features, right within their workflows, the company said during the 'Adobe Summit'.

Marketers and other customer experience teams will have a co-pilot with Sensei GenAI to help them increase productivity without increasing their workload.



Microsoft Introduces 'Bing Image Creator' Powered By OpenAI's DALL-E :-

Microsoft has added a new feature to the new Bing and Edge previews called 'Bing Image Creator,' which allows users to create an image simply by using their own words to describe the image they want to see — powered by an advanced version of Open AI's DALL-E model. Furthermore, the company stated that Image Creator will be integrated into Edge soon via the new Bing button in chat mode in the preview version of Edge. Bing is getting two new search features, Visual Stories and Knowledge Cards 2.0, in addition to the new image generator.

16: Sports



Australia clinch 6th Women's T20 World Cup title :-

A half-century by batter Beth Mooney and brilliant death bowling helped Australia win their sixth ICC Women's T20 World Cup title, defeating South Africa by 19 runs in the final in Cape Town, despite a valiant knock from opener Laura Wolvaardt. South Africa did not get off to a good start in the pursuit of 157. Darcie Brown took the first wicket, dismissing an in-form Tazmin Brits after Tahlia McGrath caught her at mid-on for 10 off 17 balls. In 5 overs, SA was 17/1. During the crucial powerplay overs, Australian bowlers had restricted the hosts' run-flow.



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

Vignesh NR, an Indian chess player, became the country's 80th Grandmaster after defeating Germany's IM Ilja Schneider and winning the 24th NordWest Cup 2023 in Bad Zwischenahn, Germany. After crossing 2500 in the live ratings, the Chennai boy reached the milestone. Visakh NR, Vignesh's elder brother, became India's 59th General Manager in 2019. Visakh and Vignesh are thus India's first Grandmaster brothers. The Indian chess community congratulated the brothers on their incredible accomplishment, calling it a proud moment for the country.



Adidas Will Sponsor The India Cricket Team Kit As Part Of A Rs 350 Billion Deal :-

According to a senior BCCI official, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is close to signing German sporting goods multinational Adidas as the Indian cricket team's kit sponsor for ₹350 crore. Adidas' five-year contract will begin in June and will end in March 2028. The company will be required to pay a fee of ₹65 lakh for

each match that India plays. The annual outlay, including royalties for merchandise, is expected to be around ₹ 70 crore. Adidas will take over for Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd, the maker of Killer Jeans, who served as an interim sponsor in January 2023.



Spain's Sergio Ramos Announced International Football Retirement :-

Sergio Ramos, a legend in Spain, has announced his retirement from international football. Ramos called it quits after 180 appearances in a career that lasted nearly 18 years. Ramos made his debut in Spain in 2005. He went on to play 180 times for his country, winning the World Cup in 2010 and the European Championships in 2008 and 2012. Ramos, a member of Spain's World Cup and Euro winning teams, previously played for Real Madrid in La Liga before joining PSG in Ligue 1.



Rudranksh Patil Won Gold In 10m Air Rifle At ISSF World Cup 2023 :-

Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil of India won the men's 10m air rifle competition at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Cairo.

Rudranksh Patil, the current world champion in the 10m air rifle, defeated Germany's Maximilian Ulbrich 16-8 in the gold medal match. Rudranksh Patil had previously qualified for the ranking round by finishing seventh in the qualifying round with 629.3 points. He then defeated Ulbrich with 262.0 points in the ranking round to advance to the championship match. Miran Maricic of Croatia won bronze after finishing first in qualifying.



Kane Williamson Became The Highest Run Scorer For New Zealand:-

Kane Williamson has surpassed Ross Taylor as New Zealand's leading Test run-scorer. Williamson accomplished the feat on Day 4 of the second Test match against England at Wellington's Basin Reserve. To break Taylor's Test record of 7,683 runs, the former New Zealand captain hit England pacer James Anderson towards midwicket for a boundary. Taylor announced his retirement from international cricket last year after 112 Tests. Taylor appeared in 112 Tests and scored 7,683 runs at a 44.16 average, including 19 centuries, three double tonnes, and 35 fifties.



Jeswin Aldrin Breaks National Record At AFI National Jumps Competition :-

Jeswin Aldrin of Tamil Nadu stole the show with a national record in men's long jump at the second AFI National Jumps Competition in Bannihatti, Karnataka. The 21-year-old broke India teammate M Sreeshankar's previous record of 8.36 metres set at the Federation Cup in Kozhikode in April last year. Aldrin, who won silver at the Asian Indoor Championships in Astana last month with a 7.97-metre effort, took advantage of the opportunity to break the national record.



Karnataka Won 2023 Santosh Trophy :-

Karnataka defeated a spirited Meghalaya 3-2 in the final of the 76th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy, held at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh. This was Karnataka's first trophy in 54 years, having previously won four times as the princely state of Mysore (after 1968-69). The victory elicited wild celebrations among a couple of thousand Indian expatriates who had gathered to watch the two Indian states compete in the final in Saudi Arabia's capital.



Max Verstappen Wins Season-Opening Bahrain Grand Prix 2023 :-

Defending champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix from pole position, leading almost the entire race as he began his defence of his back-to-back Formula One titles. On a stunning race debut for Aston Martin, 41-year-old Fernando Alonso took a brilliant third place — and claimed his 99th career podium — as Red Bull also clinched a dominant 1-2 with Sergio Perez finishing second. Verstappen's 36th career victory was his first at the floodlit Sakhir circuit.



ICC Player Of The Month For February: Ashleigh Gardner & Harry Brook :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named English cricketer Harry Brook "Player of the Month" for February 2023. For his second Men's Player award, he defeats India's Ravindra Jadeja and Gudakesh Motie. While top-ranked all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner of Australia receives the ICC Women's 'Player of the Month' award for February 2023. Harry Brook was overjoyed at winning the ICC award for the second time. He stated that receiving this prestigious award twice in the last few months is a great honour.



India's Triple-Jumper Aishwarya Babu Banned By NADA For Four Years :-

Aishwarya Babu, India's top triple-jumper, has been banned for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) disciplinary panel for using a prohibited anabolic steroid. The 25-year-old athlete, along with sprinter S Dhanalakshmi, were both dropped from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022 after testing positive for the steroid, which is on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list. The athlete tested positive for Ostarine during the National Inter-State Championships last June 13 and 14 in Chennai.



Sampanna Ramesh Sets Record As Fastest Indian To Swim Across Palk Strait :-

Sampanna Ramesh Shelar, a Pune-based swimmer, has become the fastest Indian in the under-21 age group to swim across the Palk Strait in 5 hours and 30 minutes, from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu. The previous record stood at 8 hours, 26 minutes.

He is pursuing a Bachelor of Physical Education degree. With this accomplishment, Mr. Shelar plans to swim solo across the English and Catalina Channels soon, eventually completing the Oceans Seven Challenge of swimming across the seven oceans.



Former Australia Cricket Captain Tim Paine Announces Retirement From The Sport :-

Tim Paine, the former Australia test captain, announced his retirement following the conclusion of Tasmania's Sheffield Shield first-class match against Queensland. Paine captained Australia in 23 tests between early 2018 and 2021, totaling 35 tests. He became Australia's 46th test captain after Steve Smith's captaincy was stripped following the ball-tampering scandal during Australia's 2018 tour of South Africa. Paine resigned as captain in late 2021 after it was discovered that he had sent explicit text messages to a former Cricket Tasmania employee.



Rohan Bopanna Becomes Oldest Tennis Player To Win ATP Masters 1000 Title :-

When he and his Australian partner Matt Ebden won the men's doubles title at the BNP Paribas Open in Wells, India's Rohan Bopanna became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion. In the final, Bopanna, 43, and Ebden, 35, defeated top-seeded Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Neil Skupski of the United Kingdom 6-3, 2-6, 10-8. It was his fifth Masters 1000 doubles title, and his first since winning in Monte Carlo in 2017. This was the Indo-Australian duo's third final of the year. He now has 24 tour-level trophies in his collection.



Pankaj Advani Retains Asian Billiards Title Defeating Damani :-

Pankaj Advani, a 25-time International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world champion, defended his Asian Billiards title in Doha, defeating compatriot Brijesh Damani 5-1 in the final. Advani, who had lost to Damani in the group stage, was in excellent form and easily won the first two games. He broke every frame, including a century break in the fourth game. Damani also had a 75-point break in the third frame but had to settle for silver after losing 1-5 at the QBSF Academy in Doha.



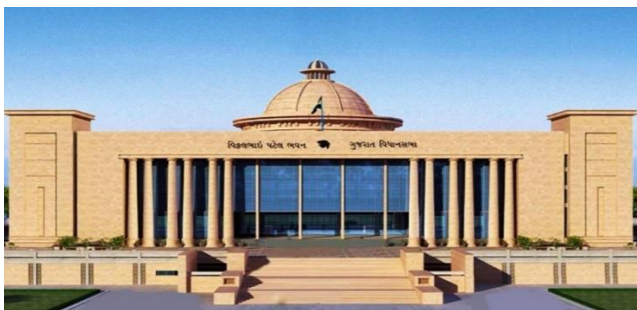
Stadium Named After Hockey Star Rani Rampal, First Woman To Get This Honour :-

Rani Rampal, the Indian team's star hockey player, has become the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her in Rae Bareilly. The hockey stadium at MCF Rae Bareilly has been renamed 'Rani's Girls Hockey

Turf'. The 28-year-old had been out with an injury since the Tokyo Olympics and had been left out of the World Cup and Commonwealth Games squads for 2022. Rani returned to the Indian team earlier this year during a tour of South Africa, where she was part of a 22-member squad.

17: State**Kerala HC publish judgment in regional language, becomes 1st in country to do so :-**

The Kerala High Court has published two recent judgements in Malayalam, making it the country's first high court to publish judgements in the regional language. Two decisions issued by the division bench of Chief Justice S Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chaly have been posted on the website. The news comes just a day after the Supreme Court launched a trial of a live transcription service to transcribe its proceedings using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing technology.

**Gujarat Assembly Passed Bill To Curb Paper Leak In Recruitment Exams :-**

To combat paper leaks in government recruitment exams, the Gujarat Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a Bill that provides for up to ten years in prison for such offences. According to the bill's provisions, the accused will also be subject to a fine of at least Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 1 crore. The Gujarat Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2023, introduced by Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, was approved by members of the opposition Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

**Uttarakhand Govt Inks Deal For Ropeway At Yamunotri Dham :-**

The Uttarakhand government has signed a contract to build a 3.38-kilometer ropeway connecting Janki Chatti in Kharsali with Yamunotri Dham. The ropeway, which will cost Rs 166.82 crore to build, will reduce travel time from the current 2-3 hours to just 20 minutes. At present pilgrims have to trek for 5.5 km to reach Yamunotri Dham from Kharsali. In the presence of Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board signed a contract with two private construction companies, SRM Engineering Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and FIL Industries Pvt. Ltd.



Conrad Sangma is sworn in for a second tenure as chief minister of Meghalaya :-

In the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Conrad Kongkal Sangma took the oath of office as chief minister of Meghalaya for a second consecutive term. Along with nine other officials and his two deputies Prestone Tynsong and Sniawbhaland Dhar, Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office to Sangma. According to information released by the Indian Election Commission on March 2, Sangma defeated Bernard N. Marak of the Bharatiya Janata Party by a majority of 5,016 in the South Tura constituency.



13th Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha gets escorted in :-

After the BJP won the February 16 Assembly elections, Manik Saha was sworn in for the second time as Tripura's chief minister, becoming the 13th chief minister overall. A further eight officials were sworn in. Governor Satyadeo Narayan Arya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Saha and eight more MLAs as Ministers in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a marathon meeting with TIPRA Motha chief Pradyot Bikram

Manikya Debbarma and 13 MLAs of his party. The previous administration has kept four of the new ministers. The Council of Ministers could have 12 members in the 60-member House.



Australia's Deakin University To Set Up Campus In GIFT City :-

The International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) has approved Deakin University of Australia's plans to establish a campus in Gujarat's GIFT City. Deakin became the first foreign university to be granted permission to establish a campus in India. "We have given approval to Deakin University to set up its campus in GIFT City," said IFSCA chairperson Injeti Srinivas. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese also made an official announcement about it on March 8 at a function in Gandhinagar.



Salhoutuonuo Kruse And Hekani Jakhalu Become 1st Women MLAs From Nagaland :-

Nagaland has elected two female candidates, marking a significant milestone 60 years after the state's inception. Salhoutuonuo Kruse and Hekani Jakhalu, both from the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, made history by becoming the state assembly election's first

female candidates. Hekani Jakhalu, a member of the BJP's ally NDPP, has won the Dimapur-III seat. Salhoutuonuo Kruse, another NDPP candidate, owns a local hotel. She ran against Keneizhakho Nakhro, an Independent candidate.



Gold Deposits Found At Different Location In Three Districts Of Odisha :-

Gold mines have been discovered in three districts of Odisha, according to Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Mallik in the state assembly. In response to a written question, the Minister stated, "The surveys of the Directorate of Mines and Geological Survey Of India (GSI) revelation the presence of Gold reserves in three districts including Deogarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj." According to Mallik, "these gold deposits have been found at four places in Keonjhar District, four places in Mayurbhanj District and at one place in Deogarh district."



Foxconn To Invest Nearly 1 Billion USD In Bengaluru :-

The Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn), the world's largest contract manufacturer, will establish an

electronics manufacturing and assembly unit on the outskirts of Bengaluru, where it will invest up to \$1 billion and manufacture iPhones for Apple. The plant, which will be built on a 300-acre plot near Bengaluru International Airport, will create 100,000 jobs over the next ten years, according to the Karnataka government. The government and Foxconn did not reveal the facility's projected investment, but those briefed on the project estimated it to be between \$500 million and \$1 billion.



Mauganj Introduced As The 53rd District Of Madhya Pradesh :-

"Mauganj will become the 53rd district of MP. It will be developed by joining four tehsils of Rewa district" said Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a programme in Rewa. It will be developed by bringing together four tehsils in the Rewa district. Mauganj, Hanumana, Nai Garhi, and Deotalab are among the four tehsils. Mauganj residents have been calling for a separate district since the chief minister announced in 2013 that Mauganj would be developed as a separate district. When Mauganj is formally established as a new district, it will serve as Madhya Pradesh's new gateway to the Mirzapur-Varanasi region of eastern Uttar Pradesh.



NGT fines Kerala's government 10 crores for failing to protect Ramsar sites :-

The order by NGT was made in lines with a petition alleging failure of statutory and administrative authorities in taking remedial action for protection of the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes hit by illegal waste dumping. The penalty was imposed on the basis of the 'polluter pays principle' which had to be deposited in a ring-fenced account to be operated under the authority of the Chief Secretary. The penalty of ₹10 crore has been imposed which had to be made within a month. The penalty will be utilised for conservation/restoration measures by preparing an action plan to be preferably executed within six months.

DIRECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS :: TELANGANA
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Download TS SSC Hall Ticket 2023: The Telangana Board of Secondary Education has made the TS SSC Hall Ticket 2023 for class 10th available for download by students (TSBSE). The TS SSC Hall Ticket 2023, which became available on March 24, 2023, can be downloaded by students through bse.telangana.gov.in, the Telangana Board of Secondary Education's official website. The TS SSC Hall Ticket 2023 can be downloaded by students using their roll number. The students may find all the crucial information about the TS SSC Hall Ticket 2023 in this page.

**CM of Uttarakhand: Haldwani will get a sports university :-**

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced the government will set up a sports university in the Kumaun region's Haldwani town. Dhami, who made the announcement on the occasion of completion of one year of the formation of his government, said there had been longstanding demands from several sports associations for such a university. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced the government will set up a sports university in the Kumaun region's Haldwani town.

**Rajasthan CM Announced 19 New Districts And Three New Divisions :-**

In a significant announcement during an election year, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the formation of 19 new districts and three new divisions in the state, with Rs 2,000 crore set aside for infrastructure development. Rajasthan now has 33 districts. Jaipur is divided into four districts, whereas Jodhpur is divided into three. As a result, the state will now have 50

districts. Jaipur will be divided into four districts: Jaipur North, Jaipur South, Dudu, and Kotputli-Behror.



‘World Trade Center’ To Come Up In Kolkata’s Salt Lake: Merlin Group :-

The World Trade Centre Association (WTCA) has signed a deal with Merlin Group to build a 3.5 million square foot World Trade Centre (WTC) in Kolkata. The first World Trade Center under construction in Eastern India will cost Rs 1500 crore and will be located in the Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority (NDITA) area of Salt Lake, West Bengal. India has been one of the fastest growing regions in the WTCA global network, with Mumbai being one of the first WTC operations. There are also WTC in Bangalore, Chennai, New Delhi, Noida, Pune among others.



Maharashtra Govt Approves Installation Of ‘Statue Of Knowledge’ Dedicated To Ambedkar :-

According to local MP Sudhakar Shrangare, the Maharashtra government has approved a 75-foot-tall 'Statue of Knowledge' dedicated to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in Latur. He stated that he had submitted a proposal in this regard. Shrangare installed a 75-foot replica of

Ambedkar's statue last year, and some organisations have requested that a permanent statue be erected in the city. The project's groundbreaking ceremony will take place on April 14, Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, according to the MP.



RBI’s Data Centre And Cybersecurity Training Institute To Come Up In Bhubaneswar :-

Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Shaktikanta Das recently laid the groundwork for the establishment of a "Greenfield Data Centre" and "Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute" in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Governor emphasised the importance of augmenting the Reserve Bank of India's existing computing infrastructure with cutting-edge facilities for research and capacity building in emerging areas spanning central banking, technology, and cybersecurity for a future-ready RBI.



Himanta Biswa Sarma Launches Mission Lifestyle For Environment(LiFE) In Assam :-

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the state's Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), a global mass movement led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to Sarma, it promotes an

environmentally conscious lifestyle by emphasising utilisation rather than wasteful consumption. According to him, week-long activities will be carried out across all districts under this initiative, addressing seven identified categories such as saving energy and water, reducing plastic and e-waste, and promoting healthy lifestyles.



Tamil Nadu's 18th Wildlife Sanctuary Opens In Erode :-

Following a statement made during the presentation of the Tamil Nadu Budget 2023-24, forest officials and the general public both welcomed the announcement of a new wildlife sanctuary in Erode district. According to forest officials, when the state budget was presented in the Assembly, it was declared that a new wildlife sanctuary called 'Thanthai Periyar Animal Sanctuary' will be formed in 2023-2024, making it the 18th such sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. The sanctuary will span 80,567 hectares of forest land in the district's Gobichettipalayam and Anthiyur taluks.

18: Summits & Conferences



G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting Held In Delhi:-

The G20 foreign ministers meeting was held in the national capital between March 1 to 3. On December 1, 2022, India assumed the G20 presidency. The country is currently a member of the G20 troika, which also includes Indonesia, India, and Brazil. The United States Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, and the other G20 foreign ministers were in the same room as the host, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, to discuss ways to address the world's major challenges, particularly the ongoing conflict in Europe.



UN Approves Resolution Calling For Russia To Leave Ukraine After 1 Year :-

The United Nations General Assembly has passed a nonbinding resolution urging Russia to end hostilities in Ukraine and withdraw its forces. Ukraine drafted the resolution in consultation with its allies, and it was approved 141-7, with 32 abstentions, including India. Belarus, Nicaragua, Russia, Syria, North Korea, Eritrea, and Mali, which has developed close military ties with Russia, voted against the resolution. During the two-day debate, foreign ministers and diplomats from more than 75 countries addressed the assembly.



CRPF To Hold Annual Raising Day In Chhattisgarh's Bastar District :-

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will hold its Raising Day function for the first time on March 19 in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, a hotbed of left-wing extremism, according to officials familiar with the situation. In the past, Maoist groups have carried out major attacks in Bastar and other districts in Chhattisgarh, including Sukma, Dantewada, and Bijawara, prompting the paramilitary force to launch counter-offensive operations. Last year, the CRPF, the country's largest paramilitary force, observed its 83rd CRPF Day in Jammu.



G-20 meeting of Anti Corruption Working Group Held in Gurugram :-

Union Minister Jitendra Singh emphasised the importance of multilateral action rather than bilateral coordination in streamlining judicial processes and expediting case resolution. Speaking at the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting in Gurugram, the Minister stated that bilateral coordination is more complicated and presents obstacles to progress in cases involving foreign economic offenders and the recovery of related assets. G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting was kick started 01 March and concluded on 03 March .



The 14th edition of Sanskriti Mahotsav held in Bikaner, Rajasthan:-

Inaugurated by the President Draupadi Murmu, the 14th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav held at Dr. Karni Singh Stadium in Bikaner, Rajasthan was concluded on March 5. The festival, started on 25 February was organized by the Union Ministry of Culture. The festival was organized for the first time in Rajasthan. The 9 days long festival was organized with the support of 7 regional cultural centers and various academies. Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra and Union Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated the craft fair and various exhibitions.



Top navy meet held on board INS Vikrant :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the inaugural session of a top navy meeting on board India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, on March 6, officials familiar with the matter said, bringing into sharper focus the country's steps towards achieving self-reliance in the defence manufacturing sector. Singh, Indian Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, Western Naval Command Chief Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, and other senior officials boarded the aircraft carrier in Goa for the biannual naval commanders' conference.



India-ASEAN Business Summit 5, 2023 :-

The fifth Asean-India Business Summit took held in Kuala Lumpur on March 6, 2023. Participants and speakers from Asean and India gathered to talk about how closer ASEAN-India collaboration can improve supply chain resilience, connectivity, and business relationships. At the 5th ASEAN-India Business Summit, the Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology speaks. It is being hosted in Kuala Lumpur to mark the more than three decades of engagement between India and the 10-

member bloc as part of the ASEAN-India Year of Friendship.



PM Modi Inaugurated 3-Day Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi :-

The eighth edition of the annual Raisina Dialogue, the flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy, held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was the chief guest and keynote speaker at its inaugural session, according to the Foreign Ministry which organised the event in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation from March 2-4. The conference, organised under the theme "Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest".



Yuva Utsava-India@2047 pan-India launched by Anurag Singh Thakur :-

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of Youth Affairs, Sports, and Information and Broadcasting, launched the pan-India Yuva Utsava-India@2047 from IIT Ropar in Punjab. On this occasion, Shri Anurag Thakur

also unveiled the Yuva Utsava Dashboard. Yuva Utsava will be held in 150 districts across the country in the first phase by March 31, 2023, to celebrate youth power. Sh. Anurag Singh Thakur spoke to a room full of youngster about the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and urged the audience to make them proud.



Australia, India Agree On Strengthening Economic, Defence Ties :-

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in New Delhi that Australia and India have agreed to accelerate a broader economic partnership to strengthen their defence ties. Last year, the two countries signed the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), India's first free trade agreement with a developed country in a decade. Bilateral trade between the countries was \$27.5 billion in 2021 and India says trade

has the potential to nearly double to \$50 billion in five years under the ECTA.



Japanese PM Kishida invites PM Modi to G7 Hiroshima summit :-

After a delegation-level meeting at Delhi's Hyderabad House, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida formally invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 Summit. PM Modi stated that PM Kishida's visit will help to maintain the momentum of India-Japan cooperation. He emphasised the significance of respective countries leading two significant summits, the G20 and the G7. "The India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is based on our mutual democratic values and respect of the rule of law at the international platform," PM Modi said.

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following company was selected by the BCCI as the title sponsor of the Women's Premier League?

- A) Dream 11
- B) Jio
- C) Master Card
- D) Tata Group

2. The Indian Railways has recently completed the electrification of all broad gauge routes in which of the following state?

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

3. With which of the following country the Union Cabinet has approved the Air Services Agreement?

- A) Ghana
- B) Guyana
- C) Suriname
- D) Venezuela

4. Which of the following country has joined the global initiative 'The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C)' recently?

- A) India
- B) Israel
- C) Japan
- D) Mexico

5. In which of the following city the All India Taekwondo Championship was held?

- A) Chandigarh
- B) Guwahati
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

6. Former Supreme Court Judge Justice Syed Abdul Nazeer was appointed as the Governor of which of the following state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Kerala

7. In which of the following city the first G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting was held?

- A) Pune
- B) New Delhi
- C) Lucknow
- D) Bengaluru

8. When the Central Excise Day (India) was observed?

- A) 20 February
- B) 23 February
- C) 24 February
- D) 25 February



9. Which of the following became the first European country to pass a law providing Menstrual Leave?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) Switzerland
- C) Spain
- D) Germany

10. Which among the following is the World's First Cloud-Built Demonstration Satellite?

- A) THEMIS
- B) Odin
- C) JANUS-1
- D) China 1

11. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Harikumar has awarded 'on the spot' Unit Citation to which of the following Indian Naval Ship (INS)?

- A) INS Prahar
- B) INS Sumedha
- C) INS Vikrant
- D) INS Nireekshak

12. A new species of catfish named "Horaglanis populi" was discovered in which of the following state recently?

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

13. As a part of a pact under the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative, which of the following state/UT has launched India's first Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Framework?

- A) Kerala
- B) Lakshadweep
- C) Puducherry
- D) Tamil Nadu

14. _____ became the first high court in the country to publish its judgments in the regional language.

- A) Gujarat High Court
- B) Karnataka High Court
- C) Kerala High Court
- D) Madras High Court

15. An open-ended equity scheme 'dividend yield fund' was launched by which of the following mutual fund company?

- A) Axis Mutual Fund
- B) HDFC Mutual Fund
- C) IDFC Mutual Fund
- D) SBI Mutual Fund

16. To launch Unique 'Health, Wealth and Life Solution', which of the following Insurance company has partnered with Policybazaar?

- A) Tata AIA Life Insurance
- B) Niva Bupa Health Insurance
- C) HDFC Life Insurance
- D) Both A & B

17. For MSMEs loans which of the following bank has signed a co-lending agreement with the Moneywise Financial Services Pvt Ltd (MFSPL)?

- A) Bank of Maharashtra

- B) Canara Bank
- C) Central Bank of India
- D) Union Bank of India

18. To boost the enterprise cloud transformation journeys worldwide, which of the following company has partnerd with Microsoft Corporation?

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

19. Who among the following was named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2022?

- A) T. V. Narendran
- B) Sunil Duggal
- C) Sajjan Jindal
- D) K P Singh

20. Which of the following team bags Ranji Trophy 2022-23 title?

- A) Vidarbha
- B) Saurashtra
- C) Bengal
- D) Baroda

21. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Shivamogga airport in which of the following state?

- A) Nagaland
- B) Karnataka
- C) Bihar
- D) Assam

22. What is the rank of India in the International IP Index?

- A) 46
- B) 44
- C) 42
- D) 40

23. The President Draupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 14th National Culture Festival in which of the following state?

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

24. Who among the following bags the Qatar Open Tennis 2023 title?

- A) Andy Murray
- B) Carlos Alcaraz
- C) Daniil Medvedev
- D) Novak Djokovic

25. Who among the following is the leading wicket-taker in the Women's T20 World Cup?

- A) Anya Shrubsole
- B) Nida Dar
- C) Poonam Yadav
- D) Shabnim Ismail

26. Which of the following city of Maharashtra has been renamed as "Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar"?

- A) Sultanpur
- B) Osmanabad



- C) Fatehpur Sikri
- D) Aurangabad

27. Who among the following became the 1st Indian to be elected as president of the FIBA (Federation Internationale de Basketball Amateur) Asia?

- A) Teja Singh
- B) Seema Sharma
- C) K Govindaraj
- D) Gautam Ganguly

28. To bring back 3 astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS), which of the following space agency has launched a Soyuz MS-23 spacecraft?

- A) Canadian Space Agency
- B) European Space Agency
- C) Roscosmos
- D) NASA

29. To develop a fog alert system with the US National Center for Atmospheric Research (US-NCAR) which of the following state government has approved USD 50,000?

- A) Delhi
- B) Haryana
- C) Bihar
- D) Uttar Pradesh

30. Along with Ola Electric which of the following state government has signed an MoU to set World's largest EV hub with Rs. 7,614 crore investment?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka

- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Uttar Pradesh

31. The first Prime Minister GatiShakti regional workshop for the Western and Central Zone was organized at _____.

- A) Goa
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Odisha
- D) Uttar Pradesh

32. Who among the following inaugurated the 33rd Police-Public Mela at Jammu?

- A) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- B) Home Minister Amit Shah
- C) Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha
- D) Prime Minister Narendra Modi

33. In which of the following state India's First Agri Chatbot Ama KrushAI was launched?

- A) Kerela
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Odisha
- D) West Bengal

34. In which of the following state the WHO will be setting up an mRNA vaccine hub?

- A) Goa
- B) Kerela
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Telanaga

35. Uber Technologies will introduce 25,000 EVs in India in partnership with _____.

- A) Hero MotoCorp Ltd

- B) Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd
- C) Maruti Suzuki India Ltd
- D) Tata Motors

36. Which of the following Indian submarine for the first time ever was docked in Indonesia?

- A) INS Arihant
- B) INS Shalki
- C) INS Vagir
- D) INS Sindhukesari

37. The launch of "neutral citations" of judgments in Supreme Courts was announced by _____.

- A) Kedar Misra
- B) Jagdish Singh Khehar
- C) DY Chandrachud
- D) Dipak Misra

38. Which of the following country received USD 700 million funds from China recently?

- A) Bhutan
- B) India
- C) Nepal
- D) Pakistan

39. Which of the following state government is developing the country's first Marina or a boat basin offering dockage?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Odisha

40. In which of the following state Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the 'Kol Janjati Mahakumbh' organized on the occasion of Shabri Mata Janm Jayanti?

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Odisha

41. Which element/product is connected to the HUID Number that was mentioned in the news?

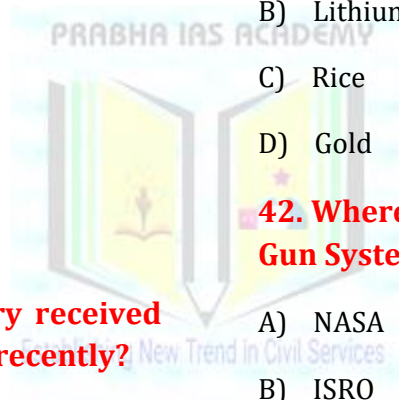
- A) Cotton
- B) Lithium
- C) Rice
- D) Gold

42. Where did the "Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)" originate?

- A) NASA
- B) ISRO
- C) DRDO
- D) HAL

43. What percentage of the labor force is employed in agriculture, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data for 2021-22?

- A) 21.5 %
- B) 44.6 %
- C) 36.9 %
- D) 45.5 %



44. Who published the "Women, Business and the Law Index"?

- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) World Bank
- C) World Economic Forum
- D) Asian Development Bank

45. Which nation has stated that it has found about 8.5 million metric tons of lithium ore?

- A) USA
- B) Iran
- C) Australia
- D) ENGLAND

46. In Test cricket, who among the following became the highest run scorer for New Zealand recently?

- A) Kane Williamson
- B) Martin Guptill
- C) Ross Taylor
- D) Tom Blundell

47. In which of the following city Union Minister Purushottam Rupala inaugurated Grand Start-up Conclave?

- A) Bhopal
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Patna
- D) Varanasi

48. In which of the following country multilateral air exercise 'Cobra Warrior' is being organized?

- A) Australia

- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) United Kingdom

49. Who among the following won the women's singles title in National Badminton Championship 2023?

- A) Sayali Gokhale
- B) P V Sindhu
- C) Anupama Upadhyay
- D) Aakarshi Kashyap

50. Who among the following was appointed as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command?

- A) Ajendra Bahadur Singh
- B) Dinesh K Tripathi
- C) G. Ashok Kumar
- D) Satish Namdev Ghormade

51. Deakin University of which of the following country is set to become the first foreign university to set up a campus in India?

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

52. To support cross-border trade transactions, which of the following bank has entered into an agreement with Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)?

- A) RBL Bank
- B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- C) HDFC Bank

D) Axis Bank

53. Individual savings life insurance plan 'Nishchit Aayush Plan' was launched by which of the following life Insurance company?

- A) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance
- B) HDFC Life Insurance
- C) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- D) Tata AIA Life Insurance

54. To improve digital security and innovative solutions for its customers which of the following bank that has partnered with Experian India?

- A) Canara Bank
- B) Bank of Maharashtra
- C) Bank of India
- D) Bank of Baroda

55. Who among the following was appointed as the Secretary General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)?

- A) Didar Singh
- B) Dilip Chenoy
- C) Rajiv Kumar
- D) Shailesh Pathak

56. In which of the following state NTPC Limited installed India's 1st Air-Cooled Condenser (ACC) in its North Karanpura supercritical thermal plant?

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

57. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate has increased to how much in February 2023?

- A) 7.60%
- B) 7.59%
- C) 7.45%
- D) 7.20%

58. Vietnam's National Assembly has elected who among the following as the country's new President?

- A) Vo Van Thuong
- B) Tran Dai Quang
- C) Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- D) Le Duc Anh

59. To implement Urban Cooling Programme, which of the following state that has signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)?

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

60. India Today Tourism Survey has awarded which of the following state / UT the best adventure tourism award?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Jammu and Kashmir
- D) Punjab

61. By paying for exports in Sri Lankan rupees, which of the following bank has completed its 1st non-dollar transaction with Sri Lanka?

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

62. Who among the following was selected as the 'Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022'?

- A) Alok Kumar Choudhary
- B) Amitabh Chaudhry
- C) Sandeep Bakhshi
- D) Sashidhar Jagdishan

63. Who among the following was elected as the president of Nigeria?

- A) Abulsalami Abubakar
- B) Bola Tinubu
- C) Olusegun Obasanjo
- D) Umaru Musa Yar'Adua

64. Who among the following was appointed as the Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?

- A) Rashmi Shukla
- B) Kumar Rajesh Chandra
- C) Archana Ramasundaram
- D) Anish Dayal Singh

65. Pankaj Gupta was appointed by which of the following life insurance company as its

Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)?

- A) Aegon Life Insurance
- B) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- C) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- D) Pramerica Life Insurance

66. Who among the following was appointed as the 28th Controller General of Accounts (CGA)?

- A) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- B) Soma Roy Burman
- C) SS Dubey
- D) Sumit Tyagi

67. Who among the following recently took oath as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya?

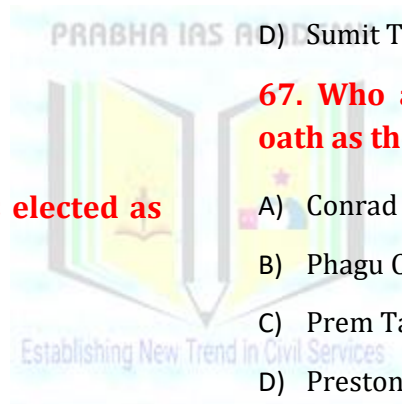
- A) Conrad Sangma
- B) Phagu Chauhan
- C) Prem Tamang
- D) Prestone Tynsong

68. The Asian Chess Federation (ACF) has awarded who among the following with the Player-of-the-Year award?

- A) D Gukesh
- B) Pentala Harikrishna
- C) Vidit Santosh Gujrathi
- D) Viswanathan Anand

69. Who among the following recently took oath as the Chief Minister of Nagaland?

- A) Neiphiu Rio
- B) Prem Tamang



- C) T. R. Zeliang
- D) Yanthungo Patton

70. At the 8th National Photography Awards who among the following won the Professional Photographer of the Year award?

- A) Arun Saha
- B) Sasi Kumar Ramachandran
- C) Shipra Das
- D) Sudipto Das

71. For research, technology, and innovation collaborations, which of the following country has signed an MoU with India?

- A) Australia
- B) Germany
- C) Indonesia
- D) Mexico

72. In which of the following state the world's first bamboo-made crash barrier was installed?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Telangana
- D) West Bengal

73. To provide life insurance products, which of the following life insurance company has partnered with Ujjivan Small Finance Bank?

- A) Tata AIA Life Insurance
- B) SBI Life Insurance
- C) Max Life Insurance
- D) HDFC Life Insurance

74. Who among the following was re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Kuwait?

- A) Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah
- B) Saad Al-Salim Al-Sabah
- C) Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah
- D) Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

75. From which of the following country the Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the third regiment of the S-400 'Triumf' air defence missile system?

- A) Germany
- B) Israel
- C) Russia
- D) US

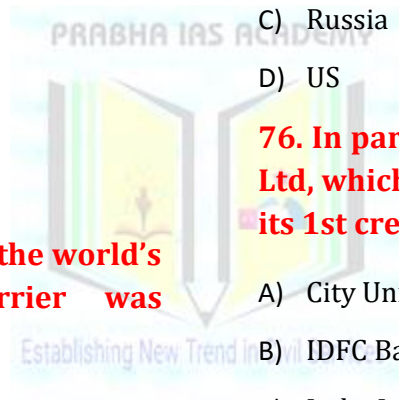
76. In partnership with 42 Card Solutions Pvt Ltd, which of the following bank has launched its 1st credit card service?

- A) City Union Bank
- B) IDFC Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) YES Bank

77. For exploration of deep-water blocks, which of the following oil company has signed an MoU with TotalEnergies (France)?

- A) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation
- B) Indian Oil Corporation
- C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- D) Oil India Limited

78. For semiconductor supply chain and innovation partnership, along with which of the following country India has signed an MoU?



- A) Japan
- B) France
- C) Australia
- D) US

79. In which of the following state President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference?

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

80. Who among the following was re-elected as the President of China?

- A) Han Zheng
- B) Hu Jintao
- C) Li Yuanchao
- D) Xi Jinping

81. _____ is the first woman Indian Air Force (IAF) officer to command a frontline combat unit.

- A) Aavni Chaturvedi
- B) Shalija Dhami
- C) Shiva Chauhan
- D) Shivangi Singh

82. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani was elected as the new Prime Minister of _____.

- A) Bahrain
- B) Oman
- C) Qatar
- D) UAE

83. The 19th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting was chaired by _____.

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) India
- D) Thailand

84. Who among the following was elected as the president of Nepal?

- A) Ram Baran Yadav
- B) Ram Chandra Poudel
- C) Sher Bahadur Deuba
- D) Subhash Chandra Nembang

85. In which of the following state the five-day-long 'Yaoshang festival' was organized?

- A) Assam
- B) Bihar
- C) Manipur
- D) Rajasthan

86. In which of the following city the second meeting of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) under G20 India Presidency was held?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Indore
- D) Lucknow

87. Who among the following has won the Pritzker Architecture Prize 2023?

- A) Yvonne Farrell
- B) Ramón Vilalta

- C) Jean-Philippe Vassal
- D) David Chipperfield

88. When the International Women's Day was observed?

- A) 07 March
- B) 08 March
- C) 09 March
- D) 10 March

89. Which among the following was the theme of the 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas?

- A) Jan Aushadhi – Sasti bhi Acchi bhi
- B) Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi
- C) Jan Upyogi Aushadhi
- D) Seva bhi – Rozgar bhi

90. Which of the following launched 3-week women-led swachhata campaign 'Swachhotsav'?

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

91. To offer housing loans, which of the following bank has entered into a co-lending partnership with Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.?

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

92. When the World Kidney Day 2023 was observed?

- A) 09 March
- B) 08 March
- C) 07 March
- D) 06 March

93. Which of the following state became the first state in India to begin the commercial cultivation of mulethi (liquorice)?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Punjab
- D) Uttar Pradesh

94. To offer rural lending products and services to farmers, which of the following bank has partnered with ITC Limited?

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

95. Veteran _____ Satish Kaushik has passed away recently.

- A) Actor
- B) Politician
- C) Social Worker
- D) Writer

96. As per the Annual World Air Quality Report by IQAir, what is the rank of India among countries with the worst air quality index?

- A) 15
- B) 10
- C) 08

D) 06

97. To manufacture fighter plane wings in India, which of the following company has signed an MoU with Lockheed Martin Corporation?

- A) Tata Group
- B) Bharat Forge
- C) Boeing India
- D) Mahindra Aerospace

98. Who among the following was appointed as the MD and CEO of Tech Mahindra Limited?

- A) Sudeep Chopra
- B) Mohit Joshi
- C) Manish Vyas
- D) CP Gurnani

99. Which of the following mutual fund company has rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund?

- A) Axis Mutual Fund
- B) ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund
- C) IDFC Mutual Fund
- D) SBI Mutual Fund

100. Which of the following bank launched a special fixed deposit (FD) of 400 days for women named "IND Super 400 Days"?

- A) Bank of Maharashtra
- B) Indian Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Union Bank of India

101. When the World Consumer Rights Day was observed?

- A) 16 March
- B) 15 March
- C) 14 March
- D) 13 March

102. Who among the following was appointed as the India ambassador of 'She Changes Climate' initiative?

- A) Anushka Sharma
- B) Priyanka Chopra
- C) Poornima Devi Burman
- D) Shreya Ghodawat

103. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to which of the following company?

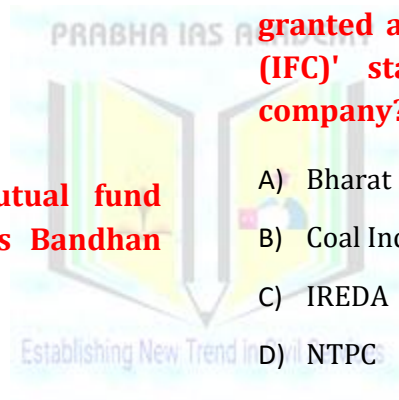
- A) Bharat Dynamics
- B) Coal India
- C) IREDA
- D) NTPC

104. Which film bags the Oscar for Best Picture at the 95th annual Academy Awards?

- A) Avatar: The Way of Water
- B) Elvis
- C) Everything Everywhere All At Once
- D) The Banshees of Inisherin

105. Who among the following bags the Oscar for Best Actress at the 95th annual Academy Awards?

- A) Ana de Armas
- B) Andrea Riseborough
- C) Michelle Williams



D) Michelle Yeoh

106. Who among the following recently became the first woman loco pilot of Vande Bharat Express train?

- A) Bhavna
- B) Rangoli Patel
- C) Sarita Khushwah
- D) Surekha Yadav

107. Which of the following Small Finance Bank (SFB) has launched Blossom Women's savings account?

- A) Ujjivan SFB
- B) Suryoday SFB
- C) ESAF SFB
- D) Equitas SFB

108. When the International Day of Mathematics was observed?

- A) 12 March
- B) 13 March
- C) 14 March
- D) 15 March

109. Along with which of the following country's army the Indian Army conducted the 13th edition of exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' in Jodhpur?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Indonesia
- C) Kyrgyzstan
- D) Singapore

110. Which of the following Insurance company has launched a Sustainable Equity Fund?

- A) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- C) MaxLife Insurance
- D) PNB MetLife India Insurance

111. Who among the following was named as the new US Ambassador to India?

- A) A. Elizabeth Jones
- B) Atul Keshap
- C) Eric Garcetti
- D) Kenneth Juster

112. Where did the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 is being organized?

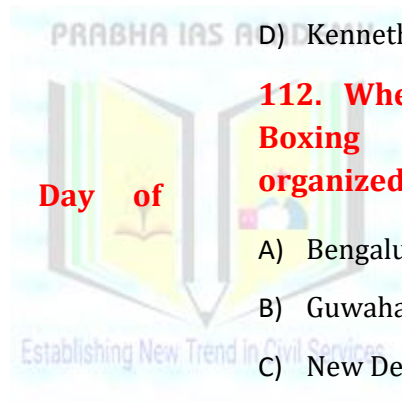
- A) Bengaluru
- B) Guwahati
- C) New Delhi
- D) Patna

113. Which of the following country is the world's top importer of military hardware as per the report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri)?

- A) Qatar
- B) India
- C) France
- D) China

114. Veteran _____ Sameer Khakhar has passed away recently. He was 71.

- A) Actor



- B) Journalist
- C) Doctor
- D) Singer

115. To promote innovation in financial products, along with the RBI which of the following country's central bank has signed an MoU?

- A) UAE
- B) Japan
- C) Italy
- D) Australia

116. In which of the following state the BhumChu festival is celebrated?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Tripura
- C) Odisha
- D) Assam

117. 'Resham Keet Bima' scheme, India's 1st silkworm insurance scheme for sericulturists was launched in which of the following state?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Gujarat
- D) Assam

118. As per Skytrax which of the following airport received the World's Best Airport title?

- A) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- B) Munich Airport
- C) Singapore Changi Airport
- D) Zurich Airport

119. Which of the following bank became the official banking partner of Mumbai Indians?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC bank
- C) IDFC First Bank
- D) State Bank of India

120. The Central government has announced a 10% reservation for ex-Agniveers in _____.

- A) RAF
- B) ITBP
- C) CRPF
- D) CISF

121. A new book titled "Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform" was authored which of the following author?

- A) Tanika Sarkar
- B) Sumit Sarkar
- C) Rachna Biswat Rawat
- D) Joy Pachuau

122. Along with which of the following cloud gaming provider Microsoft has signed a 10-year licensing deal?

- A) Boosteroid
- B) GeForce Now
- C) Ubitus
- D) Science Exchange

123. A 10% horizontal reservation for statehood campaigners in state government positions was approved by which of the following state government?

- A) Jharkhand

- B) Rajasthan
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Uttarakhand

124. Equitas Small Finance Bank became banking partner of which of the following IPL team?

- A) Royal Challengers Bangalore
- B) Gujarat Titans
- C) Delhi Capitals
- D) Chennai Super Kings

125. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave nod to how many countries to trade in rupees?

- A) 21
- B) 20
- C) 19
- D) 18

126. When is the annual "World Tuberculosis Day" observed?

- E) March 22
- F) March 20
- G) March 24
- H) March 18

127. Which country conducts the multi-domain air-land exercise named 'Exercise Vayu Prahar'?

- E) Sri Lanka
- F) Nepal
- G) India
- H) UK

128. Where did the "Mediapersons Protection Bill 2023" pass?

- E) Jharkhand
- F) Rajasthan
- G) Uttar Pradesh
- H) Chhattisgarh

129. Which institution released the 'Triple Threat Report'?

- E) IMF
- F) UNICEF
- G) World Economic Forum
- H) UNESCO

130. Which institution released the 'Technology and Innovation Report 2023'?

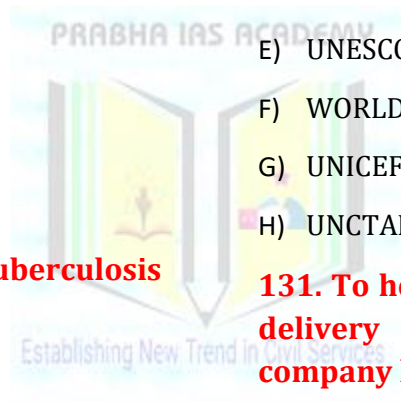
- E) UNESCO
- F) WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
- G) UNICEF
- H) UNCTAD

131. To help MSME and enhance e-commerce delivery services which of the following company has signed an MoU with India Post?

- A) Blue Dart
- B) Pickrr
- C) Shiprocket
- D) Both B & C

132. Under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel, the government has signed MoU with _____ companies.

- A) 45
- B) 37
- C) 35
- D) 27



133. Which of the following city was declared as the first ever tourist and cultural capital of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- A) Shimla
- B) Rishikesh
- C) Mathura
- D) Varanasi

134. Anup Bagchi was appointed as MD and CEO of which of the following life insurance company?

- A) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- B) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- C) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- D) Pramerica Life Insurance

135. Who among the following was appointed as the chairman of boat?

- A) Vivek Gambhir
- B) Sameer Mehta
- C) Anish Saraf
- D) Aman Gupta

136. Rampura Agucha Mine and Zawar Group of Mines of which of the following company became the country's first GreenCo-certified mines?

- A) Bharat Gold Mines Limited
- B) Deccan Gold Mines Limited
- C) Essel Mining & Industries Limited
- D) Hindustan Zinc Limited

137. Which of the following company received BIS certification to produce India's first fire-resistant steel structures?

- A) Godawari Power And Ispat Ltd
- B) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd
- C) Jindal Steel and Power
- D) Tata Steel Ltd

138. 'Pru Gold' plan was launched by which of the following life insurance company?

- A) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- B) HDFC Life Insurance
- C) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- D) Pramerica Life Insurance

139. Who among the following won the F1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2023?

- A) Fernando Alonso
- B) George Russell
- C) Sergio Perez
- D) Max Verstappen

140. What is the rank of India in the World Happiness Report 2023?

- A) 109
- B) 115
- C) 126
- D) 128

141. After which of the following women hockey player the MCF Rae Bareilly Hockey Stadium was named?

- A) Sushila Chanu
- B) Rani Rampal
- C) Ishika Chowdhary
- D) Gurjeet Kaur



142. For renewable energy projects, NTPC Green Energy Limited has signed a joint venture agreement with _____.

- A) Adani Green
- B) Bharat Petroleum
- C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- D) Tata Green

143. Who among the following became the fastest Indian in under 21 group to swim across the Palk Strait?

- A) Virdhawal Khade
- B) Sandeep Sejwal
- C) Sampanna Ramesh
- D) Sajan Prakash

144. Who among the following inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in New Delhi?

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Droupadi Murmu
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Rajnath Singh

145. The second meeting of the Startup20 engagement group under India's G20 Presidency was held in which of the following city?

- A) Gangtok
- B) Chennai
- C) Bhopal
- D) Bengaluru

146. In which of the following state the Pakhal Dibas is observed annually?

- A) Odisha
- B) Gujarat
- C) Bihar
- D) Andhra Pradesh

147. A new book titled "A Matter of the Heart: Education in India" was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Anurag Behar
- B) Dileep Ranjekar
- C) Narayana Murthy
- D) Vishal Sikka

148. When the International French Language Day was observed?

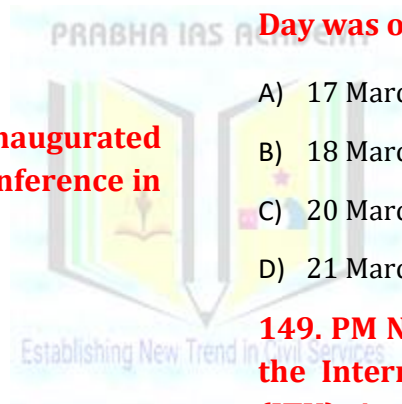
- A) 17 March
- B) 18 March
- C) 20 March
- D) 21 March

149. PM Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office and Innovation Centre at _____.

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chandigarh
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

150. Who among the following took charges as the CEO of the coffeehouse chain Starbucks recently?

- A) Ajay Sinha
- B) David Howard
- C) Howard Schultz



D) Laxman Narasimhan

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: D

The BCCI has awarded the title sponsorship rights of the Women's Premier League (WPL) seasons 2023-2027 to TATA Group. As per BCCI, the TATA Group, who also holds the title rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL), will be promoting its two flagship brands: TATA Capital and TATA Motors during the 2023-2027 time period.

2. Correct Answer: D

Indian Railways has completed an important milestone by electrifying all routes in Uttar Pradesh, even as it embarks on a journey to become a 'Net Zero Carbon Emission' railway system in another seven years.

3. Correct Answer: B

The Union Cabinet has recently approved the signing of an air services agreement between India and Guyana that will pave the way for flight services between the two countries.

4. Correct Answer: A

India has joined a global platform launched by the US and the UAE with an aim to accelerate investment and support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation. The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) was launched by the two nations in November 2021.

5. Correct Answer: D

The All India Taekwondo Championship was held at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi for three days from 24 February to 26 February. The championship was organised to commemorate the 50th year of diplomatic ties between Korea and India.

6. Correct Answer: A

Former Supreme Court Judge Justice Syed Abdul Nazeer sworn in as Governor of Andhra Pradesh, replacing Biswa Bhusan Harichandan. AP High Court Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra administered the oath of office to Justice Abdul Nazeer, at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.

7. Correct Answer: D

The First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting was held in Bengaluru. Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Dr Shaktikanta Das has co-chaired this meeting.

8. Correct Answer: C

Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on February 24 across the whole of India to encourage the employees of the excise department to carry out the central excise duty all over India in a better way and even to prevent corruption in the goods manufacturing business.

9. Correct Answer: C

The Spanish parliament approved sick leave for women suffering from incapacitating periods on February 16, making Spain the first European country. Irene Montero, the nation's equality minister, stated in front of the legislature that without these rights, women are not full citizens.

10. Correct Answer: C

JANUS-1 satellite that rode on Isro's new mini-rocket SSLV-D2 and reached its orbit successfully is the world's first satellite fully conceived, designed and manufactured using an Indian company's end-to-end cloud platform.

11. Correct Answer: D

In a first for the Indian Navy, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Harikumar awarded 'on the spot' Unit Citation to INS Nireekshak in Kochi for deep sea diving and undertaking salvage operation under the most challenging circumstances.

12. Correct Answer: B

An international team of researchers has made an exciting discovery in the southern Indian state of Kerala: a new species of catfish. The team, comprising German and Indian scientists, found the tiny Horaglanis populi, which measures just 32 millimeters, lacks eyes, and has a blood-red body, living in local aquifers without light.

13. Correct Answer: C

Puducherry has launched the country's first Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) framework as part of a pact under the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative, to balance growth alongside sustainable management of ocean resources and coastal environment preservation.

14. Correct Answer: C

The Kerala High Court has become the first high court in the country to publish its judgements in the vernacular language by uploading on to the high court website Malayalam translations of two judgements delivered by a division bench headed by Chief Justice S Manikumar.

15. Correct Answer: D

SBI Mutual Fund on February 20, 2023 launched the SBI Dividend Yield Fund. The new fund offer (NFO), which opened on February 20, 2023 will close on March 6, 2023.

16. Correct Answer: D

Policybazaar, an insurance marketplace, has brought together its insurer partners Niva Bupa Health Insurance and Tata AIA to offer its

customers a unique combination of health insurance, wealth creation and life cover.

17. Correct Answer: C

Central Bank of India (CBoI) has entered into a co-lending partnership with Moneywise Financial Services Pvt Ltd for lending to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). This will result in expanded portfolio for both entities, CBoI said in a regulatory filing.

18. Correct Answer: B

Infosys announced that it will expand its collaboration with Microsoft, to help accelerate enterprise cloud transformation journeys worldwide. According to the Infosys Cloud Radar, enterprises can add up to \$414 billion in net new profits, annually, through effective cloud adoption.

19. Correct Answer: C

Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Group was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2022 and will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEYO) at Monte Carlo in June 2023.

20. Correct Answer: B

Saurashtra won its second Ranji Trophy 2022-23 title after beating Bengal by nine wickets in the final at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Saurashtra's maiden title win came in the 2019-20 season when it beat the same opponent in the final at home in Rajkot.

21. Correct Answer: B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Shivamogga airport in Karnataka recently. The airport has been built on 663 acres of land with an investment of Rs 449.22 crore.

22. Correct Answer: C

India ranks 42nd among 55 leading global economies on the International IP Index released by the US Chambers of Commerce, according to which India is ripe to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economy through IP-driven innovation.

23. Correct Answer: B

The President of India Draupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 14th edition of Sanskriti Mahotsav at Dr. Karni Singh Stadium in Bikaner, Rajasthan. The 9-days long festival is being organized for the first time in Rajasthan. The festival, which started on 25 February, will continue till March 5.

24. Correct Answer: C

Daniil Medvedev maintained his winning run to beat Andy Murray in the Qatar Open final and claim his second title in successive weeks. Murray, bidding for his 47th career title but first since 2019, pushed the Russian hard but succumbed 6-4, 6-4 in a battle of former world No 1s.

25. Correct Answer: D

Shabnim Ismail of South Africa is the leading wicket-taker in the Women's T20 World Cup overall. Ismail has taken 43 wickets in 32 T20 World Cup games at an economy of 5.83 with best figures of 3/5.

26. Correct Answer: D

The Centre has recently approved the renaming of two Maharashtra cities - Aurangabad and Osmanabad. Aurangabad will now be renamed as 'Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar' while Osmanabad will be called 'Dharashiv'.

27. Correct Answer: C

In a major first for basketball in India, head of Indian federation K Govindaraj has been nominated as new president of FIBA Asia.

Govindaraj's nomination will be formally ratified in the FIBA Asia Elective Congress in a few weeks, and he will become the first Indian ever to occupy Asian basketball's top spot.

28. Correct Answer: C

The Russian space agency, Roscosmos, has successfully launched a Soyuz MS-23 spacecraft to bring back three astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) after their Soyuz capsule sprang a coolant leak. The two Russian and an American astronaut will board the empty Soyuz spacecraft to return to Earth.

29. Correct Answer: C

The Bihar cabinet has approved USD 50,000 (about Rs 41.41 lakh) for developing an early warning system for dense fog and cold wave conditions in collaboration with the US National Center for Atmospheric Research (US-NCAR).

30. Correct Answer: C

Electric vehicles firm Ola Electric has committed investments to the tune of Rs 7,614 crore in Tamil Nadu which include setting up of lithium-cell manufacturing facilities with capacity of 20 GW while the overall investments by Ola Electric would generate 3,111 new jobs in the state.

31. Correct Answer: A

The first Prime Minister GatiShakti regional workshop for Western and Central Zone was held in Goa. The workshop featured discussions on use cases of National Master Plan (NMP) adoption by Central Ministries & State Departments for planning and acted as a platform for mutual learning among the States and Central Ministries/Departments.

32. Correct Answer: C

Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 33rd Police-Public Mela at

Gulshan Ground, Jammu. LG said the Police-Public Mela has emerged as a powerful platform for police officers and public to interact and celebrate the shared heritage.

33. Correct Answer: C

India's first agri chatbot Ama KrushAI was launched in Odisha. It will run under a pilot project involving more than 10,000 farmers and will be implemented in full fledged in next two months.

34. Correct Answer: D

The World Health Organisation will be setting up mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine hub in Telangana, Minister for IT and Industries KT Rama Rao said. mRNA is becoming a promising technology to address a growing number of infectious diseases.

35. Correct Answer: D

Uber Technologies will introduce 25,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in India for ride-sharing over three years. The EVs will be bought by Uber's fleet partners from Tata Motors, India's biggest electric carmaker, Prabhjeet Singh, president, Uber India and South Asia said.

36. Correct Answer: D

An Indian submarine for the first time ever, docked in Indonesia recently. The 3,000-tonne diesel-electric submarine, INS Sindhu Kesari, reached Jakarta for the 'maiden operational turnaround' after transiting through the Sunda Strait.

37. Correct Answer: C

The Apex Court of India has introduced neutral citation for all its judgments, Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud said. The CJI expressed hope that High Courts too would follow neutral citation for their judgments. The Delhi, Kerala, and

Madras HCs have already introduced neutral citation.

38. Correct Answer: D

Pakistan has recently received USD 700 million funds from China. Pakistan will get another USD 1.3 billion from all-weather ally China to shore up its fast-depleting forex reserves, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said.

39. Correct Answer: B

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, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said.

40. Correct Answer: B

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addressed the 'Kol Janjati Mahakumbh' organized on the occasion of Shabri Mata Janm Jayanti at Satna, Madhya Pradesh on 24 February 2023.

41. Correct Answer: D

Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) number is a unique 6-digit alphanumeric code consisting of numbers and letters. It is stamped manually on a piece of jewellery to ensure purity and fitness of gold via third party assurance to the customers. The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced that the sale of gold jewellery and gold artefacts without the HUID number is prohibited in India from April 1, 2023.

42. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Army has proposed the acquisition of an indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) to fill critical capability gaps in high altitude regions. The ATAGS has been designed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to replace the

current 155 mm artillery system in service, the Bofors towed guns.

43. Correct Answer: D

The recently released annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for 2021-22 shows that the farm sector employs a significant proportion of the labor force in India, at 45.5%. Structural transformation in economics is the shift in labor force from agriculture to high-productivity sectors like manufacturing and modern services. It is expected to result in increased productivity and higher incomes.

44. Correct Answer: B

According to the recently released Women, Business and the Law Index by the World Bank, although most countries have implemented laws to ensure gender equality, there is still a significant gap between men and women in terms of legal rights and provisions. India's score in the index on the life cycle of a working woman is at 74.4 out of a possible 100. As per the report, the laws affecting the Indian working woman's pay and pension do not provide for equality with Indian men.

45. Correct Answer: B

Iran has claimed to have discovered a lithium deposit in the western province of Hamedan. It is found to contain around 8.5 million metric tons of lithium ore. Lithium is a soft, silver-white metal belonging to the alkali metal group of elements. It is highly reactive and flammable, and it is stored in mineral oil or other liquids to prevent it from reacting with moisture or air. It is commonly used in rechargeable batteries for electronic devices and EVs.

46. Correct Answer: A

Kane Williamson now has more runs in test cricket than any other New Zealand player in history.

Williamson passes Ross Taylor's mark early on day four of the second test against England.

47. Correct Answer: B

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the 'Grand start-up Conclave' in Animal Husbandry and Dairy at a Convention Centre in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rupala said, technology intervention is necessary for development of Animal Husbandry in the country.

48. Correct Answer: D

Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in multilateral air exercise 'Exercise Cobra Warrior' at the RAF's Waddington Air Force Base in the UK, an official statement said. The aim of the exercise is to participate in diverse fighter aircraft engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces, the IAF said.

49. Correct Answer: C

Teenager Anupama Upadhyaya and Mithun Manjunath won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the National Badminton Championships 2023 held in Pune recently.

50. Correct Answer: B

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi was appointed as the new Flag Officer commanding in chief of the Indian Navy's sword arm Western Command headquartered in Mumbai. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy Khadakwasla and was commissioned into the Navy on July 1, 1985.

51. Correct Answer: D

Australia-based Deakin University has become the first foreign university to receive approval of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to set up an International Branch Campus (IBC) in GIFT-IFSC, GIFT City, Gujarat.

52. Correct Answer: A

Private lender RBL Bank has announced that it has entered into an agreement with Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) under Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) to support cross-border trade transactions.

53. Correct Answer: A

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched a new-age savings solution ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan, a non-linked non-participating individual savings life insurance plan offering guaranteed regular income starting as early as end of first policy month along with a lump-sum benefit at maturity.

54. Correct Answer: B

In order to improve the credit portfolio ecosystem for its customers, the public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has announced a strategic collaboration with Experian India to offer a full array of services, including credit risk, advanced analytics, and fraud prevention.

55. Correct Answer: D

Former bureaucrat Shailesh Pathak has been appointed as the new Secretary General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). FICCI also announced that Arun Chawla, Director General, will superannuate on June 30, 2023, and transition to an advisory role.

56. Correct Answer: B

State-owned power giant NTPC has commissioned India's first air-cooled condenser at North Karanpura super critical thermal plant in Jharkhand, which would help in water conservation. The ministry stated that NTPC has started commercial operation of 1st unit of 660 MW at North Karanpura (3X660 MW), in Jharkhand on March 1, 2023.

57. Correct Answer: C

India's unemployment rate rose to 7.45% in February from 7.14% in the previous month, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed. The urban unemployment rate declined to 7.93% in February from 8.55% in the previous month, the data showed.

58. Correct Answer: A

Vietnam's National Assembly has elected Vo Van Thuong as the country's new President, in a reshuffle of the country's top leadership amid an anti-graft campaign. Thuong is the youngest member of the Party's Politburo, the country's top decision-making body.

59. Correct Answer: D

The Tamil Nadu government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for implementing Urban Cooling Programme in the State to meet the objectives under the Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change.

60. Correct Answer: C

The India Today Tourism Survey has chosen Jammu & Kashmir Tourism for best adventure tourism award. The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal.

61. Correct Answer: D

Indian lender State Bank of India said it has completed its first non-dollar transaction with Sri Lanka, by paying for exports in Sri Lankan rupees as India looks to bring countries that are short of U.S. dollars into the trade mechanism.

62. Correct Answer: D

Sashidhar Jagdishan, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank, has been chosen as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022. An eminent five-member jury,

chaired by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor SS Mundra, picked the CEO of the largest private sector bank of the country as the winner.

63. Correct Answer: B

Bola Tinubu has won a tight race to succeed Muhammadu Buhari as the next president of Nigeria. Tinubu polled 8.8 million votes to defeat former-associate-turned-foe Atiku Abubakar and surprise frontrunner Peter Obi, who scored 6.9 million and 6.1 million, respectively,

64. Correct Answer: A

Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), a government order said. SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border.

65. Correct Answer: D

Pramerica Life Insurance Limited has announced the appointment of Pankaj Gupta as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The appointment has been approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)

66. Correct Answer: C

Civil Accounts Service officer S.S Dubey on 06 March took charge as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the finance ministry said. Prior to taking charge as the CGA, a 1989-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer Dubey was Additional Controller of Accounts, Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

67. Correct Answer: A

Conrad Sangma, the leader of the National People's Party, was recently sworn in as Meghalaya's chief minister for the second time in a row. Shillong saw the swearing-in of Prestone

Tynsong and Sniawbhalang Dhar as Meghalaya's deputy chief ministers.

68. Correct Answer: A

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh has been honoured with Player-of-the-Year award by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for clinching the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram last year.

69. Correct Answer: A

NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio took oath as the chief minister of Nagaland for the fifth term. The 72-year-old politician was administered the oath of secrecy by Governor La Ganesan.

70. Correct Answer: B

At the 8th National Photography Awards, Professional Photographer of the year Award was given to Shri Sasi Kumar Ramachandran while Shri Arun Saha won the Amateur Photographer of the Year award.

71. Correct Answer: D

India and Mexico have signed an MoU on research, technology and innovation collaborations in New Delhi. It will specifically focus on several key technology areas including Aerospace, Electronics, Earth and Ocean Sciences and Water, Mining, Minerals, Clean Energy, Biotech and Healthcare.

72. Correct Answer: B

India developed the world's first bamboo-made crash barrier and installed it on the Vani-Warora Highway in Vidarbha, Maharashtra. Crash barriers are installed on either side of a highway with an aim to prevent vehicles from falling out of the road network.

73. Correct Answer: C

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has tied up with Max Life Insurance Company to offer life insurance products to its customers. Through this partnership, Max Life and Ujjivan SFB will offer a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans to more than 73 lakh customers of the bank.

74. Correct Answer: A

Kuwait's crown prince has recently re-appointed Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah as Prime Minister and asked him to nominate a cabinet, according to the state news agency. This comes more than a month after the government resigned due to increased tensions with the parliament.

75. Correct Answer: C

Amidst the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the third regiment of the S-400 'Triumf' air defence missile system from Russia and this will be deployed along the Pakistan border.

76. Correct Answer: A

City Union Bank has launched its first credit card, the 'Dhi CUB Visa Signature Credit Card', in partnership with credit cards-as-a-service provider 42 Card Solutions. The private sector bank initially issued the cards to its employees in a trial run.

77. Correct Answer: C

India's top explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has signed a memorandum of understanding with French major TotalEnergies for exploration of deep-water blocks. The MoU seeks technical help for ONGC's push to explore and reduce greenhouse emissions in developing deep-water blocks, especially in Mahanadi and Andamans, off India's east coast.

78. Correct Answer: D

India and the US has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on semiconductor supply chain and innovation partnership during the Commercial Dialogue 2023 the commerce ministry said.

79. Correct Answer: B

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference, organised by the India Foundation in collaboration with the Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on March 3.

80. Correct Answer: D

China's Xi Jinping secured an unprecedented third term as the country's president recently. Nearly 3,000 members of China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), voted unanimously for Xi Jinping to be president.

81. Correct Answer: B

Group Captain Shaliza Dhami is the first woman IAF officer to take over the command of a frontline combat unit facing Pakistan in the western sector. Group Captain (equivalent to Colonel in the Army) Dhami will take over the reins of a surface-to-air missile squadron in Punjab on March 27.

82. Correct Answer: C

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani was sworn in as the Qatar's Prime Minister on March 7, replacing another member of the ruling family who had held the post since 2020, state news reported.

83. Correct Answer: D

Hosted by Chair Thailand, the 19th Ministerial Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held virtually in Bangkok, Thailand.

84. Correct Answer: B

Ram Chandra Paudel is elected as the third president of Nepal. He is 78-year-old Nepalese politician born in the remote village of Satiswara, located in the Tanahun district of western Nepal.

85. Correct Answer: C

The five-day-long Yaoshang festival is the Manipur's version of Holi. The festival is celebrated every year on the full moon of Lamta (February-March) of the Meitei lunar calendar.

86. Correct Answer: B

The second Meeting of Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, GPFI under G20 India Presidency was held in Hyderabad. India and Italy were announced as the new GPFI Co-Chairs with support from the whole membership.

87. Correct Answer: D

The British architect David Chipperfield has been announced as the winner of the 2023 Pritzker Architecture Prize, arguably the highest international honour in the discipline. Born in London in 1953, Chipperfield graduated from the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London in 1980.

88. Correct Answer: B

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March across the globe. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political.

89. Correct Answer: A

The theme of the 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023 under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was "Jan Aushadhi – Sasti bhi Acchi bhi". More than 34 Pratigya Yatras conducted across country; Out of which 8 Yatras

led by Members of Parliament on day one across the country.

90. Correct Answer: D

In the run up to the Women's Day on 8th March, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched Swachhotsav, 3-week women-led swachhata campaign, under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.

91. Correct Answer: D

YES Bank has entered into a co-lending partnership with Aadhar Housing Finance to offer home loans at competitive interest rates. With this partnership, both entities aim to provide, convenient home finance solutions such as home loan for salaried employees, loan for plot purchase and construction.

92. Correct Answer: A

World Kidney Day is a yearly health-related event that takes place on the second Thursday of March. This year it is commemorated on March 9, 2023.

93. Correct Answer: B

For the first time Himachal Pradesh (HP) has begun the commercial cultivation of mulethi (liquorice) with the distribution of planting material among the farmers by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT).

94. Correct Answer: A

Axis Bank has partnered with FMCG giant ITC to offer lending products and services to farmers who are a part of ITC's agriculture eco-system. The partnership is expected to enable Axis Bank in reaching out to the unserved and under-served farmers based across rural regions.

95. Correct Answer: A

Actor-filmmaker Satish Kaushik has passed away following a heart attack. He was 66. An alumnus of the National School of Drama and the Film and Television Institute of India, Kaushik was best known for his roles in films such as "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron", "Mr India", "Deewana Mastana", and "Udta Punjab".

96. Correct Answer: C

India has ranked eighth in the list of countries with the worst air quality index and 12 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia are in India, according to the Annual World Air Quality Report released by Swiss air quality technology company, IQAir.

97. Correct Answer: A

Tata Group has signed an MoU with Lockheed Martin for fighter plane wings production in India. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stated the production of 29 fighter wing shipsets, with an option of additional shipsets. The deliveries will start in 2025.

98. Correct Answer: B

Infosys senior executive Mohit Joshi will be the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tech Mahindra. He will replace CP Gurnani, who is set to retire in December.

99. Correct Answer: C

IDFC Mutual Fund has rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund from March 13. According to the fund house, the name and ownership change will have no bearing on the investment strategy and processes of the schemes.

100. Correct Answer: B

The public sector lender Indian Bank launched a special fixed deposit (FD) of 400 days for women named "IND Super 400 Days". In this special FD scheme, regular women depositors will get an

interest rate of 7.15%, senior citizens women will get an interest rate of 7.65%.

101. Correct Answer: B

World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year with an aim to raise global awareness about consumer rights and promote consumer protection. The day is also commemorated to be aware about the market injustices across the world.

102. Correct Answer: D

Climate Entrepreneur Shreya Ghodawat was appointed as the India Ambassador of She Changes Climate. The SHE Changes Climate film has been nominated for awards from The Earth Future Festivals and at the Lift-Off Global Network Session 2022.

103. Correct Answer: C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a company statement said. It was earlier classified as an 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'.

104. Correct Answer: C

"Everything Everywhere All at Once" dominated the Oscars, winning seven awards, including best picture, best actress, best director, best editing, best supporting actor, best supporting actress and best original screenplay.

105. Correct Answer: D

At the 95th annual Academy Awards Michelle Yeoh won Oscar for best actress for 'Everything Everywhere All at Once', making her the first Asian star to take the award.

106. Correct Answer: D

Surekha Yadav has scripted history becoming the first woman loco pilot of the Vande Bharat Express train. Ms Yadav, a native of Satara district in western Maharashtra, piloted the Vande Bharat Express train between Solapur station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai.

107. Correct Answer: B

Suryoday Small Finance Bank has launched a new savings account specially designed for women customers called the Blossom Women's savings account, with debit card with rewards and cashback and one complementary account for a child and many more features.

108. Correct Answer: C

International Day of Mathematics or Pi Day is celebrated on March 14 every year to recognise the mathematical constant, Pi, which defines the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. The value for Pi is 3.14.

109. Correct Answer: D

From March 06-13, the 13th edition of the bilateral exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' between the Indian Army and the Singapore Army was held at Jodhpur Military Station, Rajasthan. Hosted by the Indian Army, the exercise involved soldiers from the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment and an Armoured Brigade of the Indian Army.

110. Correct Answer: D

PNB MetLife, has introduced a Sustainable Equity Fund. Sustainable investing, one of the fastest-growing investment trends worldwide, offers a significant means of creating wealth while making a beneficial contribution to society.

111. Correct Answer: C

Eric Garcetti has been confirmed as the new US ambassador to India, and will take up a position that has been vacant since Jan 2021. Garcetti was originally nominated by President Joe Biden in July 2021, and renominated in January this year.

112. Correct Answer: C

IBA Women's World Boxing Championships is being organized in New Delhi, India from 15-26 March 2023. India's Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur, inaugurated the 13th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi.

113. Correct Answer: B

India's arms imports fell 11% between 2013-17 and 2018-22, but the country is still the world's top importer of military hardware, a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) said. The report comes at a time when India has sharpened its focus on achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

114. Correct Answer: A

Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar, best known for essaying the role of Khopdi in the hit 80s TV show 'Nukkad', passed away recently. He was 71. According to reports, the actor - who was featured in a number of movies and TV shows, died of multiple organ failure in a Mumbai hospital.

115. Correct Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Abu Dhabi, to enhance cooperation and jointly enable innovation in financial products and services.

116. Correct Answer: A

The Bhumchu festival is a major festival in Sikkim and is celebrated at Tashiding Monastery in West

Sikkim. The word Bhumchu means a sacred pot of water.

117. Correct Answer: B

Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to start 'Resham Keet Bima' scheme for protecting its sericulturists. Nearly 12,000 families are linked directly and indirectly to sericulture in the state and last year, nearly 300 metric tonnes of silk fibroin was produced in Uttarakhand by 6,000 stakeholders.

118. Correct Answer: C

World Airport Survey of 2023 by Skytrax reveals that Singapore Changi Airport received the World's Best Airport title. Till now, no Indian airport appeared on the top 20 list of global rankings. However, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport this time won the Best Airport in India and South Asia award.

119. Correct Answer: C

IDFC FIRST Bank has announced its three-year partnership with Mumbai Indians, marking its debut in cricket partnerships. Beginning this season, IDFC FIRST Bank will be the official banking partner of the team.

120. Correct Answer: D

The Central government has announced 10 per cent reservation for ex-Agniveers in vacancies within the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Along with this, the ex-Agniveers of the first batch will be given a relaxation of five years in the upper age limit.

121. Correct Answer: C

Journalist and writer Rachna Biswat Rawat authored a book titled "Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform." The book is published by Penguin Veer, a Penguin Random House imprint.

122. Correct Answer: C

Microsoft signed a 10-year licensing deal to bring Activision's Call of Duty franchise to Japanese cloud gaming provider Ubitus, the latest move by the company to address regulatory worries about its bid for the games maker.

123. Correct Answer: D

In Uttarakhand, the government has given approval to the 10 percent horizontal reservation to the statehood activists in the state government job. The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

124. Correct Answer: B

Equitas Small Finance Bank has announced that it has signed a partnership as the 'Proud Banking Partner' with the 2022 Tata IPL champions - Gujarat Titans for the 2023 season. The Gujarat Titans team will sport the Equitas Small Finance Bank logo on the back of the helmet as part of the team's jersey.

125. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted banks from 18 countries to open Special Vostro Rupee Accounts (SVRAs) to settle payments in rupees, the government said. Speaking in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad said that 60 such approvals have been given by the RBI.

126. Correct Answer: C

World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March each year, is designed to build awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease. In 2018, 10 million people fell ill with TB, and 1.5 million died from the disease. On this occasion, 'One World TB Summit' will be organized in Rudrakash Convention Centre in Varanasi.

127. Correct Answer: C

Exercise Vayu Prahar is a multi-domain air-land exercise conducted by the Indian Army and the IAF close to the Line of Actual Control. This exercise is part of the efforts taken to institutionalize the tactical-level jointness between the Indian defence forces.

128. Correct Answer: D

The Chhattisgarh Mediapersons Protection Bill 2023 was passed by the state assembly. Its aim is to give protection for media persons and prevent violence against them. The opposition MLAs demanded that the Bill be sent to the Select Committee of the Assembly for examination, which was rejected by Speaker Charandas Mahant.

129. Correct Answer: B

The 'Triple Threat Report' was released recently by the UNICEF. According to this report, the absence of monitoring of the WASH-related programmes, projects and policies are the main drivers of the water insecurities in the world's worst-impact countries.

130. Correct Answer: D

The Technology and Innovation Report 2023 was recently released by the UNCTAD- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. According to this report, the global economic inequalities are widening as the developed countries benefit most from the green technologies.

131. Correct Answer: D

India Post signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with logistics aggregator firms Shiprocket and Pickrr to help MSMEs and enhance last-mile e-commerce delivery services across the country. The collaboration will also enable automated shipping and faster delivery for merchants, resulting in cost-effectiveness and business growth.

132. Correct Answer: D

The government has signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with 27 companies, kickstarting the Rs 6,322-crore production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme for specialty steel, that is expected to generate investments of up to Rs 30,000 crore over the coming five years.

133. Correct Answer: D

The holy city of Varanasi is the first ever tourist and cultural capital of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for the year 2022-23.

134. Correct Answer: B

Private sector life insurer ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said its board of directors has approved the appointment of Anup Bagchi, presently executive director of ICICI Bank, as the next managing director & CEO of the company, with incumbent MD & CEO NS Kannan to superannuate from service on the completion of his tenure in June.

135. Correct Answer: A

Earwear brand Boat has announced that it has elevated CEO Vivek Gambhir to Chairman of the company. Boat co-founder Sameer Mehta will take on the role of CEO and Managing Director.

136. Correct Answer: D

Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company and India's largest & only integrated producer of Zinc, Lead & Silver, has bagged the GreenCo Silver rating by CII for its sustainable mining operations. Company's Rampura Agucha Mine and Zawar Group of Mines have received the Silver Rating.

137. Correct Answer: C

Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) said it has received BIS certification to manufacture India's first fire-resistant steel structures at its Rail Mill and Special Profile Mill in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. The hot rolled structural steel, manufactured as per IS

15103, can be used for high-temperature or fire-prone areas.

138. Correct Answer: C

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Gold, a long-term savings product, designed to enable customers to create an additional income stream to meet their diverse income requirements.

139. Correct Answer: C

Red Bull driver Sergio Perez of Mexico won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix. Sergio Perez earned his first win of the 2023 Formula One season with a dominant performance at the Saudi Arabia Grand Prix.

140. Correct Answer: C

India ranked 126th in the World Happiness Report 2023. This is an improvement from last year, when India's position was at the 136th spot on the list, but India is still behind close neighbours like Sri Lanka (112), Pakistan (108) and Nepal (78).

141. Correct Answer: B

Rani Rampal has become the first Indian woman hockey player to have a stadium named after her. The MCF Raebareli has renamed the hockey stadium as 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf'.

142. Correct Answer: C

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, has signed a joint venture agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for setting up of renewable energy projects to meet round-the-clock power requirement of IOCL refineries.

143. Correct Answer: C

Pune based swimmer, Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has become the fastest Indian in under 21 group to swim across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in

Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu in 5 hours and 30 minutes. The previous record was 8 hours and 26 minutes.

144. Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in New Delhi. The Conference was attended by Agriculture Ministers of six countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders.

145. Correct Answer: A

The second meeting of the Startup20 engagement group under India's G20 Presidency was held in Gangtok, Sikkim. These engagements focused on deliverables under the Startup20 taskforces of foundation, alliance, finance, sustainability and inclusion.

146. Correct Answer: A

Pakhala Divas or Pakhal Dibas is a festival that celebrates the quintessential Odia dish, Pakhala. Pakhala Divas festival is celebrated on March 20th every year, and it has become an integral part of Odia culture and tradition.

147. Correct Answer: A

CEO of Azim Premji Foundation and founding vice-chancellor of Azim Premji University, Anurag Behar has authored a new travel book titled "A Matter of the Heart: Education in India".

148. Correct Answer: C

On March 20 the International Day of La Francophonie (International French Language Day) is celebrated around the world, commemorating the signing of the Niamey Convention which took place on March 20, 1970.

149. Correct Answer: D

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office & Innovation Centre in India at a programme in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Prime Minister also unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G R&D Test Bed.

Laxman Narasimhan has officially assumed the role of chief executive officer (CEO) of the coffeehouse chain Starbucks recently, the Seattle-based company announced. Narasimhan was named incoming chief executive officer on 1 September 2022, succeeding company founder and now former CEO, Howard Schultz.

150. Correct Answer: D



SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

What is the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) regime?



The Reserve Bank of India is moving closer towards ring-fencing the banking system from credit losses as it proposes to move to provision on the principles of 'expected losses' from 'incurred losses.'

What is a Loan-Loss Provision?

- A loan loss provision is an expense that banks make aside for unpaid loans, according to the RBI.
- Banks set aside a portion of the anticipated loan repayments from all of the loans in their portfolio to either fully or partially cover the losses.
- In the case of a loss, the bank may use its loan loss reserves to cover the loss rather than recording a loss in its cash flows.
- The amount of loan loss provision is chosen based on what is thought to be necessary to safeguard the bank's stability and safety.

What is Expected Credit Loss (ECL) regime?

- In response to the 2008 global financial crisis, the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) organisation created a new accounting standard known as the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) regime.

- Banks and other financial institutions are required by the ECL system to estimate and disclose the expected losses from their loan portfolios over the course of the loans.
- Financial institutions are required to evaluate the credit risk of each loan under the ECL regime and calculate the expected losses brought on by default or other credit events.
- These anticipated losses must be recorded in the financial institution's books and disclosed to stakeholders like investors.
- In accordance with this approach, a bank must predict predicted credit losses based on forward-looking projections as opposed to waiting for actual credit losses to occur before making matching loss provisions.

Benefits of the ECL regime

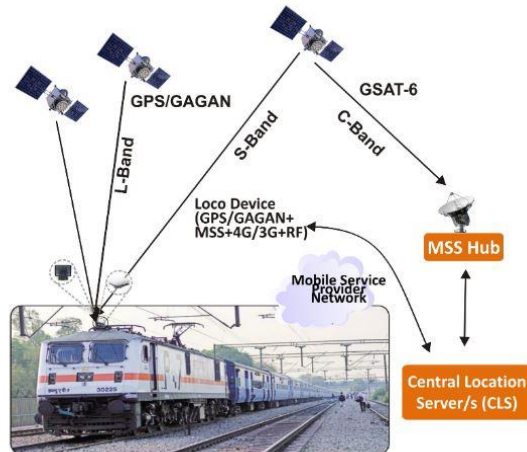
- ECL will result in excess provisions as compared to a shortfall in provisions, as seen in the incurred loss approach.
- It will further enhance the resilience of the banking system in line with globally accepted norms.

Issues with this regime

- It mandates that banks set aside money to cover losses that have already happened or been incurred.
- Banks had to make higher amounts of provisions as a result of the delayed recognition of loan losses, which had an impact on the bank's capital.
- This had an impact on banks' toughness and presented systemic dangers.
- The banks' income was inflated due to the delays in recognising loan losses, and this, together with dividend payments, had an effect on their capital base.

Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) Project

REAL TIME TRAIN INFORMATION SYSTEM



The article discusses the partnership between Indian Railways and ISRO for real-time train tracking.

Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) Project

- In order to deploy satellite-based technology for real-time train tracking, Indian Railways and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have inked a memorandum of understanding.
- The system will be used to deliver precise real-time information on train movement and position across the nation.

How does it work?

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), a satellite-based GPS system developed by ISRO, would be used by the system to locate trains.
- To deliver real-time information on train movements, the system will also make use of other cutting-edge technology, including satellite photography and geo-fencing.

Applications of RTIS

- Mid-section updates are provided by RTIS every 30 seconds.

- RTIS-enabled locomotives and trains can now be tracked more closely by the Train Control without any operator input.
- It enables passengers to view a train's current location or operational condition on their smartphone.

Benefits offered

- The system will aid in enhancing the effectiveness and security of Indian train operations.
- It will deliver precise and up-to-date information on train movements, reducing delays and enhancing scheduling.
- The system's real-time information on train status and position will also contribute to improving the overall passenger experience.

Future plans

- Indian Railways intends to employ the technology for further purposes, such as keeping track on the condition of trains and their individual parts.
- The collaboration with ISRO is a component of Indian Railways' bigger digital transformation program, which aims to use technology to boost train operations' effectiveness and security.

How India's Sugar Exports to the world are surging?

INDIA'S SUGAR EXPORTS IN VALUE



INDIA'S SUGAR EXPORTS IN LAKH TONNES

Sugar Year	Raw Sugar	White Sugar***	Total
2016-17	0	0.46	0.46
2017-18	0.47	5.73	6.2
2018-19	13.13	24.87	38
2019-20	17.84	41.56	59.4
2020-21	28.16	43.74	71.9
2021-22	56.29	53.71	110
2022-23**	19.13	30.91	50.04

Note: Sugar Year is from Oct-Sept

As on March 15; *Includes refined sugar

- The value of India's sugar exports has increased dramatically from \$810.9 million in 2017–18 to \$4.6 billion in 2021–22, and they may even surpass \$5.5 billion in the fiscal year that ends on March 31.
- The growth is notable both qualitatively and quantitatively, with India's shipments rising from just 0.46 lakh tonnes in 2016–17 to 110 lakh tonnes in 2021–22.
- India is today No. 2 in the world for sugar exports, trailing only Brazil, up from being a minor participant five years ago.

Favourite destinations

- Indonesia (16.73 lt), Bangladesh (12.10 lt), Saudi Arabia (6.83 lt), Iraq (4.78 lt), and Malaysia were the top importers of Indian raw sugar. (4.15 lt).
- 53.71 lt of white, refined sugar was also exported from the country, with the top recipients being Afghanistan (7.54 lt), Somalia (5.17 lt), Djibouti (4.90 lt), Sri Lanka (4.27 lt), China (2.58 lt), and Sudan. (1.08 lt).
- The European Union, which manufactures sugar from beet, as opposed to India and Brazil, who solely crush cane, has seen the greatest fall in exports: from 39.74 lt in 2017–18 to 8.02 lt in 2021–22.

Which grades of sugar does India export?

- After the juice obtained from cane crushing initially crystallizes, mills generate raw sugar.
- This sugar has an ICUMSA value of 600-1,200 or more and is coarse and brownish in colour.
- The ICUMSA scale uses colour to determine the sugar's purity.
- In refineries, the contaminants and colour from this raw sugar are removed.
- The final product is white cane sugar that has been processed and has an ICUMSA standard value of 45.
- Up to 2017–18, India primarily exported plantation white sugar, sometimes referred to as

low-quality whites or LQW in foreign markets, with an ICUMSA value of 100–150.

Reasons behind India's surge in sugar exports

- In contrast to Brazilian raw sugar, Indian raw sugar is dextran-free.
- The polarisation of raw materials from Indian mills can be as high as 98.5–99.5%, which is higher than the polarisation of raw materials from Brazil, Thailand, and Australia.
- While LQW sells at a \$40/tonne discount to the international pricing (London No. 5 futures) for 45 ICUMSA whites, Indian raws presently command a 4% premium over the global benchmark (New York No. 11 futures contract) price.
- In order to allow imports from India, Indonesia agreed to modify its regulations in December 2019. This decision strengthened India's attempts to encourage raw material exports.

Call Before u Dig Application

Prime Minister has launched the 'Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) app, to facilitate coordination between excavation agencies and underground utility owners to prevent damage to utilities due to digging.

Call Before u Dig (CBUD)

- The Ministry of Communications' Directorate of Telecommunications is responsible for the app.
- Uncoordinated digging and excavation contribute to losses of roughly Rs 3,000 crore annually by damaging underlying assets like optical fiber cables.
- The app tries to stop digging damage to utilities.
- Because fewer critical utilities like roads, telecom, water, gas, and electricity will be disrupted, it will prevent potential economic losses and lessen inconvenience for individuals.

How does the app work?

- Using click-to-call, SMS/Email notifications, and other methods, the CBuD app links excavators and asset owners.
- It guarantees the safety of subsurface assets while ensuring scheduled excavations around the nation.
- Before beginning excavation work, excavating contractors can find out if there are any subterranean utilities present.
- Utilities owners can learn about upcoming construction at the site.

India's Push for Semiconductors



- To encourage more of the supply chain to be located in India, the Indian government has provided electronics businesses with PLI incentives of Rs1,645 crore.
- Since they are a component of practically all contemporary electronics, semiconductor demand is on the rise.
- Due to weak supply chains and geopolitical pressures, several nations are turning away from China's dominance in the industry.

Semiconductor manufacturing in India

- By 2025–2026, electronics manufacturing would be valued \$300 billion, according to the Invest India agency.
- While facilities for finished goods have been expanding, fabs for chipsets and displays are less common.
- The first semiconductor production fab will soon be announced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technologies.
- India should take advantage of its strengths in the value chain of electronics production, advises the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA).
- Whereas foundry businesses demand significant investments, OSAT produces higher margins.
- OSAT (outsourced semiconductor assembly and test) setups handle the less expensive components of chip production and conduct specialized tests.
- A lot of semiconductor plants are typically captive subsidiaries of big businesses.

Importance of semiconductor manufacturing

- Units that produce semiconductors transform raw materials like silicon into integrated circuits that are utilized in virtually all electronic gear.

- Fabs are extremely capital-intensive projects that, for large facilities, can cost billions of dollars.
- Due to the high level of accuracy, expense, and capital required to create complex circuits, fabs require a highly dependable and high-quality supply of water, energy, and insulation from the elements.
- Cornering fab-related value chain segments has been recognized as having strategic value by nations.
- China has surpassed Taiwan in terms of global sales from fabs from the previous year.
- The CHIPS Act was passed by the US in order to offer firms who opened fabs and began producing semiconductors there incentives and investments.
- Also, the US campaigned for penalties and limitations against the Chinese semiconductor industry.
- Massive Investments Are Involved: To operate, a semiconductor fabrication factory needs numerous pricy devices. Within the ultra-clean confines of the facility, sophisticated tools and equipment are needed to assess quality and transfer silicon from one spot to another.
- Scale economies: To keep up with the industry's rising demand, semiconductor manufacturers must maintain a high volume of production. At the same time, they must have a solid financial foundation because the Indian market is extremely vulnerable to financial changes.
- High-skilled labor is needed for semiconductor fabrication, which is a multi-step process comprising photolithographic and chemical processing stages used to gradually build electronic circuits on wafers made of pure semiconducting material. In fact, this calls very advanced abilities.

India's advantages in semiconductor manufacturing

- Due to the fact that a sizable number of semiconductor design engineers worldwide are either Indian or of Indian descent, India enjoys an advantage in the manufacturing of semiconductors.
- Semiconductor manufacturing companies like Intel and NVIDIA have sizable sites in India where a wealth of Indian talent is already employed solving design issues.
- An aging population and sanctions are causing China to lose control of this advantage.
- According to experts, China would not be able to achieve its goals for the semiconductor industry without a reliable pipeline of high caliber people.
- Lack of raw materials: From the standpoint of the value chain, it requires silicon, Germanium & Gallium arsenide, and Silicon carbide, none of which are found in India and must be imported.
- Uncertain Indian market: An Indian semiconductor production facility cannot solely rely on Indian consumers for all of its sales. In order to counteract shifts from the Indian market caused by market trends, government laws, etc., they must maintain their base of international customers.
- Hazardous waste disposal: During the fabrication process, poisonous substances like arsenic, antimony, and phosphorus are used. India's effort to reducing climate change may be hampered by the industry's hazardous environmental impact.

Various challenges

Environment & Diversity

Yellowstone National Park celebrates its 151st anniversary.



Yellowstone National Park which is celebrating its 151st anniversary this year, is widely considered to be the first national park in the world.

Yellowstone National Park

- It's a sizable protected region largely in the state of Wyoming in the United States, but it also includes parts of Montana and Idaho.
- It was created in 1872 and is largely regarded as the world's first national park.
- It covers an area of nearly 9,000 sq km and is made up of mountain ranges, lakes, canyons, rivers, and famous geothermal features like the Old Faithful geyser.

Some key features and attractions of Yellowstone National Park include:

1. Geothermal features: Geysers, hot springs, mud pots, and steam vents are just a few of Yellowstone's well-known geothermal features. Old Faithful, a geyser that erupts on a regular basis, is the most well-known of these.
2. Wildlife: Grizzly bears, wolves, bison, elk, and moose are just a few of the many animals that may be found at Yellowstone. These creatures

can be seen around the park in their natural settings by visitors.

3. Many beautiful drives are available in the park, notably the Grand Loop Road, which leads to many of the area's main sights.
4. Fishing: The Yellowstone River is only one of the many rivers and lakes in the park that provide great chances for fishing.

India pitches for International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)



India has proposed to launch International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to protect big cats and assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of \$100 million.

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- The seven main big cats—the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and cheetah—will be protected and conserved as a result of the proposed mega-global coalition.
- 97 "range" countries, which include the areas where these large cats live naturally, as well as other interested countries, international organizations, etc., will be able to join the alliance.

Proposed objectives

- The alliance's goal is to create a forum for the communication of knowledge about best practices, resource development, capacity building, research and development, awareness raising, etc., related to the preservation and protection of big cats.
- The organization's primary initiatives will be advocacy, partnerships, a knowledge e-portal, capacity building, ecotourism, collaborations amongst expert groups, and financial resource mobilization.

Financial outlay

- After the first five years, IBCA will be supported by India's 'total grant assistance' of \$100 million.
- It is expected to sustain itself through membership fees, and contributions from bilateral and multilateral institutions and the private sector

Governance Structure

- A General Assembly made up of each member nation.
- A Secretariat, a Council with a minimum of seven but a maximum of fifteen member nations chosen by the General Assembly for a five-year term.
- The IBCA Secretary General will be appointed by the General Assembly for a defined period on the advice of the Council.

India's success in tiger conservation

- India has been effective in preserving tigers, as evidenced by the rise in its tiger population from 1,411 in 2006 to 2,967 in 2019.
- The effectiveness of India's tiger conservation program has been credited to actions including habitat restoration, anti-poaching initiatives, and community involvement.

What lies ahead?

- India wants to extend its conservation efforts to include lions and leopards, among other big cat species.
- India also intends to collaborate with other nations to further big cat conservation initiatives on a global level.

UNEP pitches for Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure**Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure**

- The UN Environment Program is creating the new system, also known as the Common Global Standard for Sustainability (UNEP).
- It will offer a uniform framework for calculating and disclosing greenhouse gas emissions across numerous industries, such as transportation, energy, and agriculture.

Need for the new system

The Because of the fragmentation and lack of standardization in the current system for tracking greenhouse gas emissions, it is challenging to compare emissions across various industries and nations.

- By establishing a consistent framework for monitoring and reporting emissions, the new approach seeks to alleviate this problem.

Benefits offered

- The new system will present a clearer and more complete picture of greenhouse gas emissions across various industries and nations.
- It will make it possible for businesses and policymakers to create more effective plans for cutting emissions and lessening the effects of climate change.

Challenges

- The ability of nations and businesses to accept and use the new system will determine its success.
- Some nations and companies might be unwilling to release their emissions data or alter their current reporting procedures, which could cause resistance.

States demand that 'Lightning' be declared a Natural Disaster



A few states have requested lightning to be declared a natural disaster due to the high number of deaths caused by it in the country.

Why discuss this?

- 2,500 people every year lose their lives to lightning.
- According to current standards, disasters covered by the State Disaster Response Fund include cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, fires, floods, tsunamis, hailstorms, landslides, avalanches, cloudbursts, pest attacks, frost, and cold waves.
- Deliberations are required because it is a matter of policy.

What is lightning?

- According to science, lightning is a sudden, intense, and partially earthward directed discharge of electricity.
- The discharges are produced in enormous, 10–12 km towering clouds that are rich in moisture.
- These clouds typically have a base within 1-2 km of the surface of the Earth and a top 12–13 km above it.
- These clouds' tops had temperatures between -35° and -45°C.

Its formation

- The drop in temperature causes water vapor that is rising in the cloud to condense.
- The water droplets become into tiny ice crystals as they move to temperatures below zero degrees Celsius.
- They continue to ascend, gaining bulk until they are about to plummet to Earth due to their extreme weight.
- This results in a system where smaller ice crystals are travelling up and bigger crystals are coming down at the same time.
- Electrons are released as a result of collisions, which is a process that is quite similar to the creation of electrical sparks.
- A chain reaction results from the liberated electrons' movement, which increases collisions and electron production.

- The top layer of the cloud becomes positively charged as a result of this process, whilst the middle layer becomes negatively charged.
- Between a billion and ten billion volts separate the electrical potential of the two layers, which is a significant difference.
- A huge current, between 100,000 and one million amperes, begins to flow between the layers in a remarkably short period of time.

Why does lightning kill so many people in India?

- More than 70% of fatalities occurred as a result of individuals standing under lone, towering trees, which is one of the reasons for the high death toll.
- A quarter of the victims suffered open wounds.
- Moreover, extremes brought on by climate change are directly propagated by lightning.

Mitigating lightning incidents

- In India, lightning is not regarded as a natural disaster.
- Yet, recent initiatives have led to the establishment of an early warning system that is already saving many lives.
- Rural areas account for almost 96% of lightning-related fatalities.
- Thus, the majority of public education and mitigation campaigns must target these communities.
- Devices for preventing lightning strikes are inexpensive and quite simple. Yet, their current level of deployment in rural regions is incredibly low.
- Similar to heat action plans, states are encouraged to create and implement lightning action plans.
- Also, plans are being made to establish an international center of excellence for lightning research to improve early detection and warning systems.

Indonesia's Merapi volcano erupts



Indonesia's second most active Merapi volcano suddenly erupted, spewing hot lava and a column of hot clouds rising 100 metres into the air.

Merapi Volcano

- An active volcano called Merapi can be found in Indonesia's Central Java. The Javanese for "Mountain of Fire" is the name of the place.
- With a history of frequent and occasionally violent eruptions, it is one of the most dangerous and active volcanoes in the world.
- Almost 350 people died in the most recent large eruption in 2010, which also left adjacent villages severely damaged.
- Merapi is a well-liked vacation spot for hikers and visitors who travel there to behold its breathtaking beauty and historical value, despite the dangers.

Other active volcanoes in Indonesia



Indonesia is home to many active volcanoes, with over 120 active volcanoes located across the country. Some of the other major volcanoes in Indonesia include:

- Between the islands of Java and Sumatra, in the Sunda Strait, stands Mount Krakatoa. It is notorious for its 1883 eruption, which is regarded as one of the deadliest and most devastating volcanic eruptions ever documented.
- On the island of Lombok, in the province of West Nusa Tenggara, is Mount Rinjani. It is the second-highest volcano in Indonesia and a well-liked hiking and trekking destination.
- On the island of Sumbawa, in the province of West Nusa Tenggara, stands Mount Tambora. It

is well-known for its 1815 eruption, which was the greatest volcanic explosion ever recorded and led to the northern hemisphere experiencing a "year without summer."

- On the island of Bali, in the province of Bali, stands Mount Batur. It is a well-liked vacation spot recognized for its beautiful scenery and hot springs.
- On the island of Java, in the province of Central Java, stands Mount Merbabu. It is the tallest mountain in Central Java and a well-liked hiking and climbing location.

Why so many volcanoes in Indonesia?

- The Pacific Ring of Fire, a horseshoe-shaped area surrounding the Pacific Ocean where numerous earthquakes and volcanic eruptions take place, is where Indonesia is situated.
- The nation boasts the most active volcanoes in the world—more than 120—and has had some of the deadliest volcanic eruptions in recorded history.
- The population and infrastructure of the nation are still seriously threatened by the periodic eruptions despite the government's efforts to monitor and prepare for volcanic activity.

Governance

In news: Anmol Jeevan Abhiyan



A recent initiative called the 'Anmol Jeevan Abhiyan' in Barmer, Rajasthan has motivated village panchayats and homeowners to add hand pumps and locked covers to tankas for improved structure.

Anmol Jeevan Abhiyan

- The "Anmol Jeevan Abhiyan" (Precious Life Campaign) has urged local panchayats and homeowners to build hand pumps and locking lids to tankas as structural additions.

- The lightweight hand pumps made of fiber have two uses: they take water from the tank and avoid accidents and suicides.
- The district government, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Action Aid launched the campaign together.
- As many as 64 of the 171 suicide incidents reported last year included women, and the bulk involved people who jumped into water tanks.

Benefits offered

- Even while the campaign has had an influence over the last three to four months, it is now unable to be quantified due to its continuity, even though the number of suicide reports has gradually decreased.
- It is also insured that no cattleheads or other animals fall into the tanks by permanently locking the metal covers on the tanks.

One Nation, One Challan Initiative

The Gujarat Govt. informed High Court that it's setting up virtual traffic courts under 'One Nation One Challan' initiative while hearing a PIL on the matter.

What is the One Nation, One Challan initiative?

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched a campaign called One Country, One Challan.
- It intends to unite all relevant organizations on a single platform, including the traffic police and the Regional Transport Office (RTO), to facilitate easy challan collection and data transfer.
- The integrated system monitors the CCTV network for traffic violations and employs applications like VAHAN and SARATHI to acquire the offending vehicle's registration number.
- The applicable penalty amount is subsequently included in an e-Challan that is created and emailed to the vehicle's associated mobile number.

What did the Gujarat govt inform?

- In Gujarat, the initiative is operational in three commissionerate areas of Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Surat since January this year and implementation at Vadodara is underway.

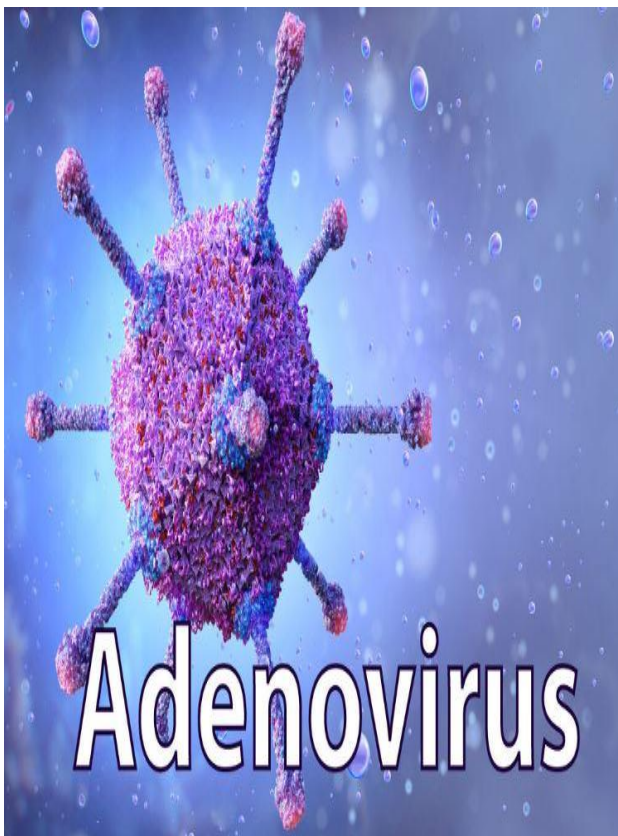
How does the integration help?

- Before the integration, the CCTV network could not be used to get information about car ownership from another state for punishment.
- Access to vehicle registration and related data for violators from multiple states is made possible by the integration of all states' RTO data and traffic police data with the use of NIC servers.
- Challans will be delivered straight to the vehicle's registered mobile number.
- NIC is getting ready to release its own e-Challan delivery application.

How do virtual traffic courts work?

- The goal of virtual courts is to do away with the need for litigants to appear in person.
- On the website of the virtual court, an accused person can look up their case. After the fine has been successfully paid, the case will be marked as resolved.
- For the time being, one court is being chosen to serve as Gujarat's virtual court.

Bengal is tackling fatal Adenovirus Infection



19 children below the age of five years have died in State-run institutions due to acute respiratory infection (ARI) caused by Adenovirus.

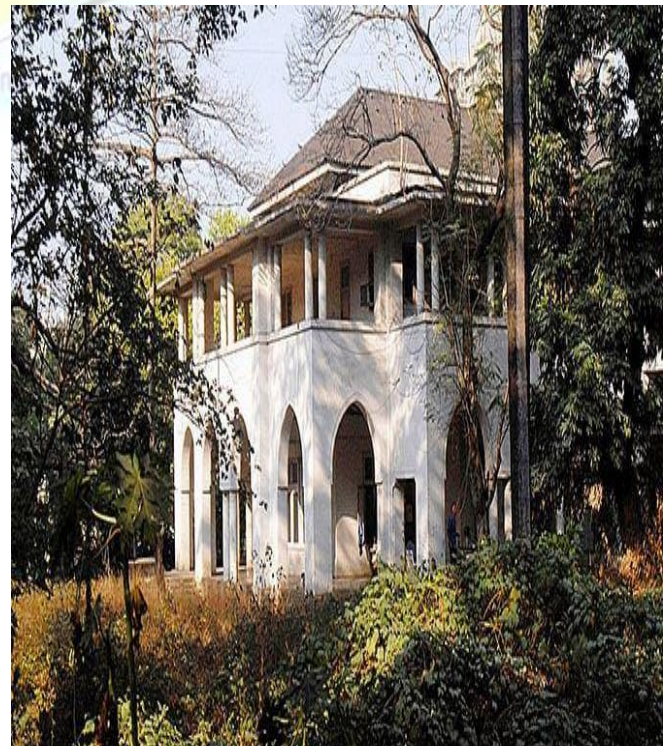
What is Adenovirus Infection?

- Adenoviruses are widespread viruses that often cause a mild sickness resembling the flu or a cold and are passed from one person to another via close physical contact.
- Coughing, sneezing, and touching something with an adenovirus on it can all spread the virus through the air.
- Although the virus can infect anyone at any age, children with weak or weakened immune systems are more vulnerable.
- Apart than the typical cold or flu-like symptoms, the viral infection can cause acute gastroenteritis, pneumonia, pink eye, and acute bronchitis.

Reasons for outbreak in Bengal

- Recombinant strain, according to doctors, is to blame for the rise in infections and fatalities.
- The majority of the virus-infected youngsters are under three years old and were born during the COVID-19 epidemic.
- The age range from six months to preschool is where children are most vulnerable to viral infections.

Home Ministry begins process to sell Enemy Properties



The home ministry has begun the process to sell enemy properties, immovable assets left behind by people who have taken citizenship in Pakistan and China after wars with these countries.

What one means by Enemy Property?

- The assets and properties of people or organizations that the Indian government has designated as "enemies" are referred to as enemy property.
- This can apply to people or organizations that have participated in hostilities, acted against India's interests, or are nationals of a nation at war with it.

Why was such a concept initiated?

- People moved from India to Pakistan in the aftermath of the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistan conflicts.
- The Government of India seized the assets and businesses of persons who adopted Pakistani nationality in accordance with the Defence of India Guidelines created under the Defence of India Act, 1962.
- The Custodian of Enemy Property for India received these "enemy properties" from the federal government.
- After the Sino-Indian War of 1962, the same was done with respect to property left behind by people who migrated to China.
- A paragraph in the Tashkent Declaration of January 10, 1966 said that India and Pakistan would talk about returning the property and assets that had been taken by either side as a result of the fighting.
- However, the Pakistani government sold off every one of these assets in that nation in 1971.

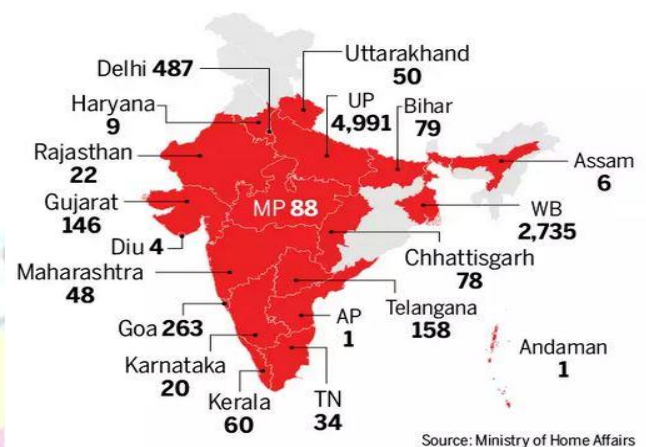
Dealing with enemy property

- The Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), a department of the Home Ministry, was

given continued ownership of enemy property under the 1968-enacted Enemy Property Act.

- The Custodian, an agent of the federal government, is in charge of numerous hostile states' property.
- Certain movable assets are also classified as adversary assets.

Immovable enemy properties seized by govt (Pakistani nationals)



- In India, there are 12,611 hostile properties with a value of more than 1 lakh crore.
- Around 3,400 crore rupees have been made by the government by selling enemy property, primarily movable assets like shares and gold.
- So far, none of the enemy's immovable properties have been sold.
- 12,485 of the 12,611 properties that belonged to the CEPI were connected to Pakistani nationals, and 126 were connected to Chinese persons.
- Following Uttar Pradesh in order of enemy property count is West Bengal, Delhi, Goa, Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Haryana. Uttar Pradesh has the most enemy property count (6,255).
- Other hostile states include Kerala, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Assam, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Daman & Diu, and Andhra Pradesh.

History

Assam's Maidams meet UNESCO technical requirements for heritage centre



Assam's pyramid-like structures known as *maidams* or *maidams* have met all the technical requirements of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.

Charaideo Maidams

- The Charaideo maidams is a representation of the Tai Ahom community's mound burial practice from the late medieval period (the 13th to the 19th century CE).
- The first king Sukapha was buried at Charaideo, where the Ahoms preferred to bury their deceased family members.
- According to historical records, monarchs' wives, valets, pets, and a significant amount of goods were interred with them.
- The members of the Ahom royal family's mortal bones, which were previously interred alongside their personal effects, are now preserved by the Charaideo Maidams.
- The Ahom kings adopted cremation after the 18th century and started burying the cremated remains in a Maidam at Charaideo.

- 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, most illustrative, and comprehensive instances of the Ahom mound burial tradition out of the 386 Maidams that have been discovered thus far.

Architecture details

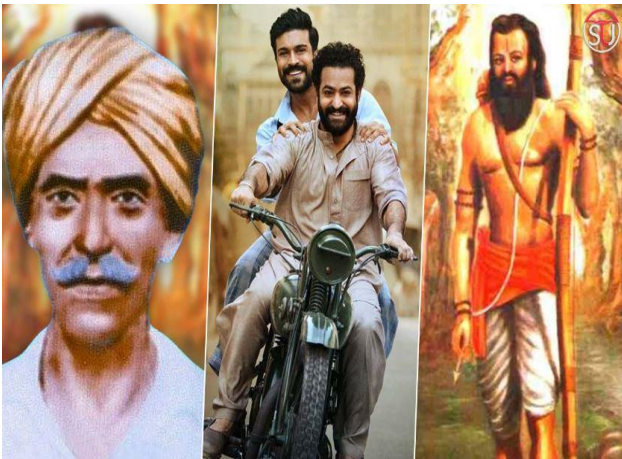
- Architecturally, it consists of a sizable underground vault with a domical superstructure in one or more chambers.
- It has an earthen mound covering it, and from the outside, it resembles a hemispherical mound.
- There is a small open pavilion chow-chali at the summit of the mound.
- The entire maidam is enclosed by an octagonal dwarf wall.

Ahoms Dynasty

- The Ahom, often referred to as the Tai-Ahom, are an Indian ethnic group that originates from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- This ethnic group is formed up of indigenous people who later joined the Tai people, who first arrived in Assam's Brahmaputra valley in 1228, and their interbred offspring.
- The Tai group's king Sukaphaa and his 9000 adherents established the Ahom empire (1228–1826 CE), which ruled over a portion of the Brahmaputra Valley in present-day Assam until 1826.
- The Ahom dynasty was first centered in Charaideo, more than 400 kilometers east of Guwahati, where Chao Lung Sukaphaa established it in 1253.

- The present-day Ahom are a hybrid of the ancient Tai and the native Tibeto-Burman people and civilizations that they integrated in Assam.

Who were Alluri Sitharama Raju and Komaram Bheem?



A Telugu movie with its story and characters rooted in the lives of Indian freedom fighters Alluri Sitharama Raju and Komaram Bheem is garnering attention on the global stage.

Who was Alluri Sitharama Raju?

- In 1897 or 1898, Raju is thought to have been born in Andhra Pradesh.
- He is reported to have turned sanyasi at the age of 18 and, thanks to his austerity, medical knowledge, and mastery of wild animals, he was able to exude a mystical aura among the hill and tribal peoples.
- The anger of the hill people of Ganjam, Visakhapatnam, and Godavari was channeled by Raju at an early age into a successful guerilla resistance against the British.

Advent into revolutionary activities

- The traditional podu (shifting) farming of the indigenous people was under danger due to

colonial control because the government wanted to protect forest lands.

- The Forest Act of 1882 prohibited the harvesting of minor forest products like roots and leaves, and the colonial authorities drove tribal people into labor.
- The new rules and processes threatened the tribal people's way of life themselves as they were exploited by muttadars, local headmen hired by the colonial authority to extract rent.
- Armed resistance broke out in August 1922 as a result of strong anti-government feeling that was shared by the muttadars who felt betrayed by the British for restricting their rights.

Contribution to freedom struggle

- Up until May 1924, the Rampa or Manyam Rebellion was fought as a guerrilla conflict before Raju, the charismatic "Manyam Veerudu" or "Hero of the Forest," was ultimately apprehended and put to death.
- Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Campaign and the Rampa Uprising were place at the same time.
- Raju frequently extolled the virtues of Mahatma Gandhi, claimed to have drawn inspiration from the Non-Cooperation Movement, and encouraged people to wear khadi and abstain from alcohol.

And who was Komaram Bheem?

- Sankepally village in the Komarambheem District, which was renamed after him in 2016, is home to the Gond tribal people and was the birthplace of Komram Bheem.
- A jagirdar who was an informant for the Nizam was living on Bheem's family's land, which prompted him to kill the jagirdar in a fit of wrath.

- He traveled to Assam and spent five years working as a laborer in coffee and tea farms there to elude the law.
- Bheem became literate despite not having any formal education and became aware of movements like Birsa Munda's.

Resistance against the Nizam government

- Those who were grazing livestock and gathering firewood for cooking were subject to "Bambram" and "Dupapetti," which were taxes levied by the Nizam government.
- In order to stop this tax collection, Bheem told the tribal people to "Jal, Jangal, Zameen."

- He taught tribal people how to use firearms, and with the aid of a guerrilla force made up of members of the Gond and Koya communities, the villages in Adilabad were prepared.

Death and legacy

- The tribal defense failed to hold off Nizam's troops despite their best attempts.
- In the Jodeghat forest, they killed Bheem.
- The phrase "Jal, Jangal, Zameen" from Bheem has been used throughout much of India to this day as a rallying cry for the rights of indigenous people to natural resources.

International Relations

Bhutan no longer a 'Least Developed Country'



Bhutan will become the seventh country to graduate from the United Nations' list of Least Developed Countries (LDC) on December 13, 2023.

What is a Least Developed Country (LDC)?

- The UN classifies developing nations with the lowest socioeconomic development indices as LDCs.

- The idea first emerged in the late 1960s, and UN resolution 2768, which was adopted in November 1971, formalised it.
- A country with the lowest socioeconomic development indices is referred to as an LDC by the UN since it has-
 1. Poor income, lack of human capital, and lack of economic diversification
 2. economic fragility at a high level, and
 3. a population that depends disproportionately on agriculture, the environment, and basic goods.

Criteria for LDCs

- The UN identifies three criteria for a country to be classified as an LDC:
 1. Its gross national income (GNI) per person over a three-year average must be less than USD 1,230.
 2. On a composite human assets index that takes into account factors like diet, health, and education, it must fare poorly.
 3. It must exhibit signs of financial vulnerability, such as a propensity for natural calamities and the presence of structural economic limitations.

- Countries must meet a selection from all three criteria simultaneously and are reviewed on a three-year basis by the UN.

How many countries are LDCs?

- Currently, the UN lists 46 countries that qualify as LDCs.
- Of those, 33 are from Africa, nine from Asia, three from the Pacific and one from the Caribbean.
- At the UN 2021 triennial review of LDC countries, the organisation recommended that Bangladesh, Laos, and Nepal be removed from the list.

How did Bhutan get off the LDC list?

- In 1971, Bhutan was added to the initial list of LDCs. The requirements for graduation in 2015 and 2018 were satisfied.
- In the last 20 years, Bhutan's economy has increased more than eight times, from less than \$300 million in 2000 to USD 2.53 billion in 2017.
- Between 2003 and 2017, the proportion of persons living in poverty declined from 17.8% to 1.5%.

- From 23.2% in 2007 to 8.2% in 2017, fewer individuals were living in poverty as a percentage of the population.

What economic measures did it take?

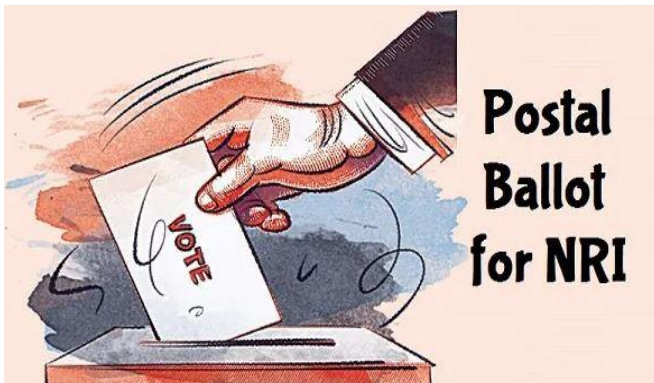
- Exports of hydropower: Bhutan expanded its hydropower exports to India, which currently make up 20% of its total exports.
- Bhutan created Brand Bhutan in order to diversify its exports and pursue high-end markets with specialized exports of high-value, low-volume commodities from industries including textiles, tourism, handicrafts, culture, and natural resources.
- Promotion of tourism: It turned out to be a year-round travel destination in South Asia.

Advantages of being an LDC

- Duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) access to developed country markets is available to LDCs.
- Also, LDCs are qualified for loans with specific conditions for development, such as loans with a lower interest rate and a longer repayment period than those granted to other countries.
- This type of help is commonly referred to as "Official Development Assistance" (ODA) or "aid".

Polity

E-Postal Ballot for Overseas Indian Voters



The Election Commission of India (EC) has proposed to facilitate the electronically-transmitted postal ballot system for overseas Indian voters.

Why such a move?

- The total number of overseas voters on January 1, 2023, was over 1.15 lakh.

Measures taken

- On the suggestion of the EC, the Lok Sabha approved the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in August 2018.

- The Bill aimed to make it possible for voters from other countries to cast ballots in person or by proxy.
- Nevertheless, because it was still pending in the Rajya Sabha when the 16th Lok Parliament was dissolved, it expired.

How can overseas voters currently vote in Indian elections?

- Before to 2010, an Indian citizen who was a registered voter and had lived abroad for longer than six months was not permitted to cast a ballot.
- This was due to the fact that if an NRI spent more than six consecutive months abroad, their name would be removed from electoral rolls.
- The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act of 2010 made it possible for eligible NRIs who had lived abroad for longer than six months to cast their ballots, but they could only do so in person at the polling place where they had registered as an overseas elector.
- Both Indian citizens living abroad and Indian citizens who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote in the constituency in which they reside.
- For overseas voters, the address listed in the passport is regarded as their usual residence and is selected as the constituency they should register in.

How has the existing facility worked so far?

- Voter growth: From just 11,846 international voters who registered in 2014 to almost a lakh in 2019, the number has increased. Yet, the majority of these voters (almost 90%) only came from Kerala, one State.
- It partially addresses this by stating that "a person absenting himself temporarily from his place of ordinary residence shall not by reason thereof cease to be ordinarily resident therein." Section 20-1A, Part III of the RP Act.

- Provisions for voting by proxy: Under the terms outlined in the Conduct of Election Regulations, 1961, the Bill allowed overseas voters to designate a proxy to vote on their behalf.
- Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System: The ECI then approached the government to allow NRIs to vote via postal ballots similar to a system that is already used by service voters, who are members of the armed forces of the Union or a force subject to the provisions of the Army Act, 1950 (46 of 1950), which is the ETPBS. The ECI advocated making this service available to voters from abroad as well.

What is ETPBS and how does it function?

- A 2016 amendment to the Conduct of Election Regulations, 1961 made it possible for service voters to use the ETPBS.
- Postal ballots are distributed electronically under this system to registered service voters.
- After registering their mandate on the ballot, the service voter can download the ETPB (together with a declaration form and covers), print it off, and ship it to the constituency's returning officer via regular mail.
- An attestation form will be included with the posting (after being signed by the voter in the presence of an appointed senior officer who will attest it).
- On the day of the results' tally, the postal ballot must be received by the returning officer by 8 a.m.
- NRI voters who wish to cast their ballots through the ETPBS must notify the returning officer at least five days before the election.

Are postal ballots a viable means of voting?

- The 2019 Lok Sabha election had a higher turnout among service voters thanks to the ETPBS mechanism.
- The postal ballot method is now widely accepted because to the rising international mobility of

citizens for reasons relating to their place of employment.

- This procedure ought to be made simpler for NRIs by a postal ballot mechanism that enables correct ballot authentication at approved consular/embassy offices and by a reliable postal system.

Disqualification of a MP over Criminal Charges

THE SURAT DEFAMATION CASE

April 13, 2019 At a rally in Kolar, Karnataka, ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Rahul Gandhi says: "Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Narendra Modi...how come they all have Modi as common surname? How come all the thieves have Modi as the common surname?"	May 2 The court of chief judicial magistrate orders registration of a case against Rahul and issues summons
April 16 BJP MLA Purnesh Modi files a criminal defamation case in a Surat court against Rahul for his remarks. Case filed under IPC sections 499, 500 and 504	Feb 22, 2023 Gujarat HC vacates its stay granted on the defamation case
	March 17 Trial ends in court; March 23 fixed for verdict
	March 23 Court convicts Rahul; grants him bail and suspends two-year jail sentence to allow him to approach a higher court
Other defamation cases against Rahul	
Accusing Amit Shah of post-demonetisation scam Randeep Surjewala made the allegations on June 22, 2018. Rahul shared this in a tweet, with the hashtag #ShahZyadaKhaGaya. Both have pleaded not guilty	Calling Amit Shah a murder accused In May 2019, BJP municipal councillor Krushnakant Brahmbhatt filed a criminal defamation case against Rahul for calling Amit Shah a "murder accused" at a rally

A politician has been sentenced to two years in jail by a Surat court in a 2019 defamation case filed against him for his remarks about the surname of a community.

Disqualification of a Lawmaker

Disqualification of a lawmaker is prescribed in three situations-

1. Constitutional provisions: The first is found in Articles 102(1) and 191(1), which, respectively,

disqualify members of the Legislative Assembly and Parliament. The grounds in this case include holding a position of profit, being incompetent or insane, or lacking legal citizenship.

2. Defection: The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution establishes the grounds for disqualifying members based on defection.
3. The 1951 RPA (Representation of The People Act): It stipulates the exclusion of conviction in criminal proceedings.

Disqualification under RPA, 1951

- It stipulates the exclusion of conviction in criminal proceedings.
- Disqualification due to conviction of offenses is covered under Section 8 of the RPA.
- The clause aims to "avoid the criminalization of politics" and prevent "tainted" legislators from running for office.

Section 8(3) states: "A person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release."

Appeal and stay of disqualification

- If a higher court orders a stay of the sentence or rules in favor of the convicted lawmaker's appeal, the disqualification may be overturned.
- The Supreme Court made it clear in a 2018 ruling in Lok Prahari v. Union of India that the disqualification "would not operate from the date of the stay of conviction by the appellate court."
- Gandhi will therefore file his initial appeal with the Surat District Court before moving on to the Gujarat High Court.

Changes in the Law

- According to RPA Section 8(4), the disqualification does not go into force until

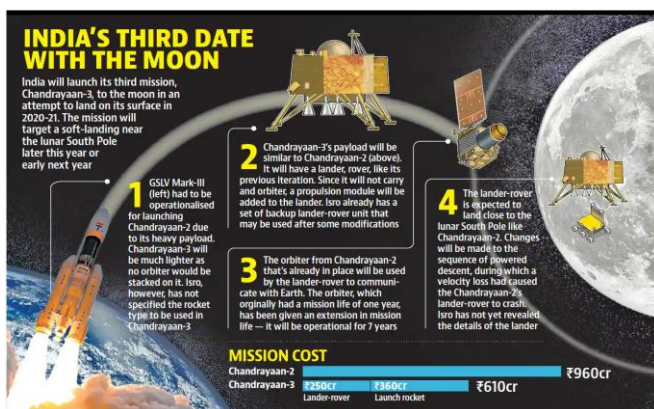
"three months have passed" since the date of the conviction.

- Government representatives had that much time to appeal the verdict to the High Court.

- However, the Supreme Court invalidated Section 8(4) of the RPA as unconstitutional in its historic 2013 decision in "Lily Thomas v. Union of India."

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

ISRO successful in key test for Chandrayaan-3 Mission



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted a crucial test for its upcoming Chandrayaan-3 mission.

What was the test?

- The test involved the high-thrust cryogenic engine, which will be used to power the rocket that carries the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft.
- The engine was tested for its endurance and performance under various conditions.

About Chandrayaan-3 Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organization's Chandrayaan-3 project is the third lunar exploration mission.
- The successful Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2 missions, which were launched in 2008 and 2019, respectively, are followed by this mission.
- The Chandrayaan-3 mission's objectives include furthering exploration of the Moon's South Pole

region and carrying out a number of scientific investigations, such as investigating the lunar surface's minerals and whether or not water is there.

Significance of the recent test

- Following the high-thrust cryogenic engine's successful test, ISRO has moved one step closer to launching the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- The project will advance our knowledge of the Moon and its potential for further study and exploitation, and it is anticipated to be a significant step forward in India's space exploration endeavors.

Chandrayaan-2: A quick recap

- An orbiter, a lander, and a rover made up Chandrayaan-2, and they were all outfitted with tools for studying the moon.
- Although the Lander and Rover modules were to be separated to make a soft landing on the moon's surface, the Orbiter would observe the moon from a 100-km orbit.
- The Lander module was given the name Vikram by ISRO in honor of India's first space pioneer, Vikram Sarabhai, and the Rover module was given the name Pragyaan because it crashed-landed.

Inception of Chandrayaan 3

- The subsequent failure of the Vikram lander led to the pursuit of another mission to demonstrate the landing capabilities needed for the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission proposed in partnership with Japan for 2024.

Its design

- Only four of the lander's engines will be able to be throttled for Chandrayaan-3.
- As opposed to Chandrayaan-2's Vikram, which had five 800N engines, one of which was centrally located and had a set thrust.
- In addition, a Laser Doppler Velocimeter will be installed on the Chandrayaan-3 Lander (LDV).

Proton Beam Therapy out of reach for many

MORE PRECISE, LESS HARMFUL

What is a proton?
It is a positively charged particle with high energy that can destroy cancer cells

What is proton therapy?
It is a kind of radiation therapy

PHYSICS BEHIND PROTON BEAM
Proton therapy systems are huge—a few storeys tall. Most of the machinery is built behind walls and not visible to the patient entering the treatment room, which is like any CT, MRI or PET scan unit

1 At the heart of proton ensemble is **cyclotron**, a particle accelerator, which accelerate protons up to 2/3rd the speed of light—all in fractions of a second

2 Proton beam is passed through a transport line (can be a few hundreds of metres or more longer) to various treatment rooms

3 Treatment rooms could be a part of a gantry—a large, sphere shaped structure that houses the entire proton system

- It can be 3 storeys tall and is built into a concrete casing
- The gantry allows beam to spin 360° around the patient

Cost Around ₹550cr

Proton therapy for cancers of Skull base, liver, spine, brain, lung, head and neck, breast, lymphomas, esophagus, pancreatic, paediatric, prostate, gastrointestinal, bone

Proton therapy may also be used for tumors that recur in areas that have previously been treated with standard radiation therapy

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROTON AND STANDARD RADIATION THERAPY

- Standard radiation therapy uses X-rays (photons) which deliver radiation not only to the targeted tumour but even to healthy tissues beyond
- Proton beams, on the other hand, can be adjusted to deliver most of their energy to a particular point

(Sizes of human and machine are in proportion)

There is currently a demand-supply gap of proton beam therapy machines in India, leaving many cancer patients in a difficult situation.

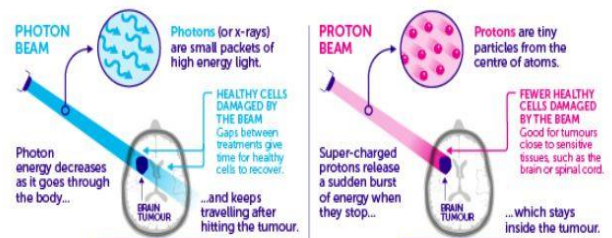
What is Proton Beam Therapy?

- Radiation therapy, which uses high-energy beams to treat cancers, includes proton beam therapy.
- Cancer and noncancerous (benign) tumors have long been treated with radiation therapy using X-rays.
- Instead of using x-rays to treat cancer, it uses protons. Protons have the power to kill cancer cells at high energies.
- Moreover, it may be used in conjunction with surgery, chemotherapy, and/or immunotherapy.
- Proton treatment is an example of an external-beam radiation therapy, much like x-ray radiation.

How it works?

PHOTON AND PROTON RADIOTHERAPY WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Radiotherapy targets tumours with a beam of energy which damages DNA and kills cancer cells.



- Essentially, atoms serve as the building blocks of molecules, which make up all tissue cells.
- The nucleus is located in the middle of each atom. Negatively charged electrons are positioned in orbit around the atom's nucleus.
- Electrons in orbit are pulled out of their orbits when energetic protons pass close by. This is because the protons' positive charge attracts the electrons' negative charge. We refer to this as ionization.
- It modifies the atom's properties, which in turn alters the nature of the molecule the atom is a part of.
- Ionization causes the radiation to harm cellular molecules, particularly DNA.

- Certain cell functions, including the capacity to divide or proliferate, are destroyed when the DNA is damaged.
- Although both healthy and cancerous cells go through this repair process, the ability of a cancer cell to repair molecular damage is typically less effective.
- Because of this, cancer cells experience greater long-term harm and subsequent cell death than does the rest of the cell population.

Why in news?

- Only a few proton beam therapy machines are currently available in India, where there is a sizable demand-supply gap.
- Patients who require treatment now must often travel abroad, which can be prohibitively expensive, and there are lengthy wait times for those patients.

Various challenges

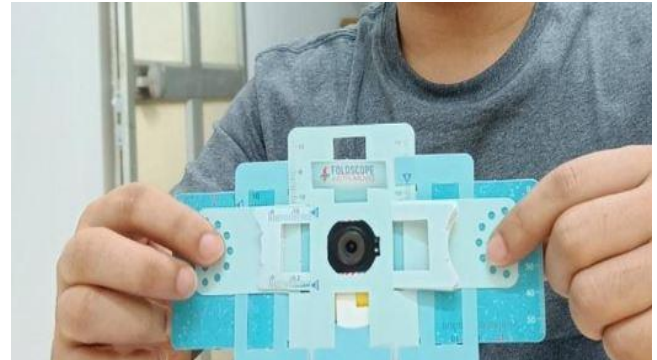
- Enormous demand: As more and more patients are being diagnosed with cancer and are looking for the most recent and efficient therapies available, there is an increase in the demand for PBT devices.
- High cost: Since PBT machines are complicated and demand a sizeable investment, setting them up is one of the biggest challenges.
- Personnel shortage: The machines' availability is further constrained by a lack of skilled workers who can operate and maintain them.

Way Forward

- The government and private sector need to invest more in setting up and maintaining the machines. This could include-
 1. Granting tax breaks and financial assistance to private healthcare providers who purchase PBT equipment
 2. educating and preparing the workforce to run and maintain the machinery

3. Adding more public hospitals that provide proton beam therapy would help to increase patient access to and affordability of the treatment.

Foldscope: A new paper microscope



Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, have developed a cheap paper microscope (foldscope) connected to a smartphone camera that could find wider application in a variety of research areas, and in some cases potentially replace more expensive equipment.

What is Foldscope?

- The Foldscope is a small handheld microscope that connects easily to a smartphone camera and is primarily composed of paper.
- It can recognize objects as small as 2 micrometers across and has a magnification of approximately 140x.
- Researchers at Stanford University initially developed it in 2014.
- The IISc version of Foldscope costs about Rs 400, which is significantly less than the Stanford version.

How is Foldscope comparable to electron microscope?

- The scientists discovered that Foldscope could picture an object's roundness and aspect ratio to within 5% of what a cutting-edge tool called a scanning electron microscope could (SEM).
- Each SEM is more than Rs 50 lakh expensive.

- Whereas preparing a sample for a SEM was "tedious and time-consuming," doing so with a Foldscope takes less than an hour.

Potential applications

- Foldscopes can be used in a variety of industries, including cosmetics (to see powders and emulsions), environmental research (to detect contaminants), and pharmaceuticals (to inspect medicinal formulations).
- In agriculture, they can be used to investigate "soil particles' morphology," which "helps comprehend soil structure, nutrient availability, and plant growth."
- It enables in-field soil analysis and the visualization of soil structure according to the Indian Standard Soil Classification System, which previously required large, high-resolution microscopes.

Moon to get its own Time Zone

The European Space Agency is planning a universal timekeeping system for the Moon.

Timekeeping on the Moon

- The lunar day and night cycle lasts around 29.5 days on Earth.
- Hence, if people were to reside on the Moon, they would need to create their own method of timekeeping.

- Presently, Universal Time Coordinated (UTC), which is the same timekeeping system used on Earth, is utilized to measure the time on the Moon.
- It would be challenging to use UTC for routine tasks on the Moon due to the Moon's longer day than the Earth's.

Why need lunar time zone?

- Humans have long been interested in exploring and inhabiting the Moon, the only natural satellite of the Earth.
- There is a resurgence of interest in lunar exploration and settlement as a result of recent advances in space technology.

Proposed Lunar Time Zone

- To address this issue, scientists and researchers have proposed creating a lunar time zone that would be based on the Moon's day and night cycle.
- This would make it easier for lunar settlers to keep track of time and coordinate activities.

Benefits offered

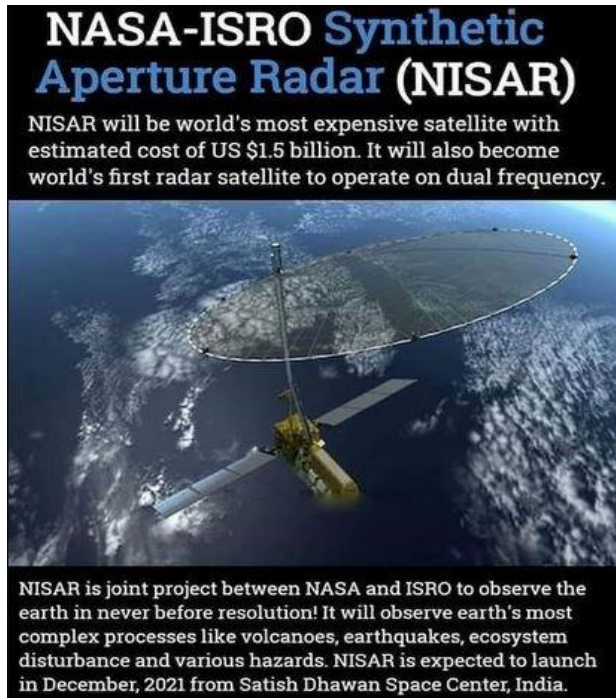
- It would be simpler for scientists and researchers to carry out experiments and gather data on the Moon if there were a lunar time zone.
- Also, it would aid in avoiding misunderstandings and mistakes that can result from employing separate timekeeping systems on Earth and the Moon.

Various challenges

- Atomic clocks are used to properly measure time on Earth, but synchronizing time on the moon is challenging due to the moon's quicker clocks, which acquire about 56 microseconds (or millionths of a second) per day.
- Since that the terrain and illumination conditions differ significantly over the surface of the Moon, it would likewise be challenging to establish a uniform time zone for the entire Moon.

- Any timekeeping device on the Moon would also have to be able to take into account the Moon's erratic rotation and movement.

NASA hands over NISAR satellite to ISRO



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has received the NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) satellite.

What is NISAR?

- According to a cooperative agreement inked in 2014, the US and Indian space agencies collaborated to build NISAR.
- The L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) equipment on the 2,800 kilogram satellite make it a dual-frequency imaging radar satellite.
- While ISRO contributed the S-band radar, the GSLV launch vehicle, and the spacecraft, NASA provided the L-band radar, GPS, a high-capacity solid-state recorder to retain data, and a payload data subsystem.
- The satellite's massive 39-foot fixed antenna reflector is another crucial component.
- The reflector, which is made of a gold-plated wire mesh, will be used to concentrate the radar

signals sent and received by the instrument structure's upward-facing feed.

Objectives of NISAR

- NISAR, once it has been launched into space, will monitor minute alterations in Earth's surface, assisting researchers in understanding the causes and effects of such events.
- It will detect signals of impending natural catastrophes including earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions.
- In order to better understand carbon exchange, the satellite will also measure groundwater levels, track glacier and ice sheet flow rates, and monitor the planet's forest and agricultural sectors.
- NISAR will create high-resolution images using synthetic aperture radar (SAR).
- No matter the weather, SAR can gather data day or night because it can penetrate clouds.

Yaoshang festival held in Manipur



The Yaoshang festival is the Manipur's version of Holi.

Yaoshang Festival

- Every year, on the full moon of Lamta (February–March) in the Meitei lunar calendar, the Yaoshang festival is observed.

- Yaosang Mei thaba, popularly known as the Burning of the Straw Hut, begins just after nightfall.
- In a practice known as "nakatheng," kids solicit their neighbors for financial gifts.
- In contrast to Holi, Yaoshang is observed in Manipur with a cultural twist.
- Manipur comes alive during the course of these five days with cultural performances at night and sporting competitions during the day.

Key feature: Thabal Chongba Dance

- Boys and girls congregate in an open field and dance in a circle in the Meitei tradition of the thabal chongba.
- However, these days, Lamta is the entire month during which Thabal Chongba is performed.

Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO) has been observing the Sun for over a century.

Why in news?

- About a century has passed since the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO) began monitoring the Sun.

- KoSO has monitored changes in the Sun's behavior and taken pictures of sunspots.
- 1.48 lakh sun photographs taken since 1904 have been digitized by solar physicists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES).

A Brief History of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

- One of the first observatories in the world to study the Sun is KoSO.
- The Madras Observatory's Government Astronomer and astronomer Norman Pogson came up with the concept of photographing the Sun with a 20-inch telescope.
- An employee of the British East India Company started the Madras Observatory as a personal project in 1786.
- In 1893, it was decided to build a solar observatory, and Kodaikanal in modern-day Tamil Nadu was selected because of its high altitude and clear atmosphere.
- On April 1, 1899, the Solar Physics Observatory, subsequently known as KoSO, was inaugurated.
- During the initial decades of KoSO's operation, one of the more well-known equipment was the Bhavnagar Telescope, which was named after the Maharaja of Bhavnagar.
- Images of the sun were recorded onto a photographic plate or film using a 15 cm telescope.
- From 1911, photographs made on photographic plates and films have shown solar magnetic plagues and prominences.

Solar Observations, One Every Day: How They Are Taken

- Since 1904, a 6-inch telescope has been used to take daily white light photographs of the Sun.
- Images taken in visible light show sunspots on the Sun's surface.

- Every day at 8 am, one picture is taken; this has been a constant practice for more than a century.
- Each observation includes the time and date it corresponds to, which will be important for later calibration.
- The darkroom receives these plates or films, where they are developed the same day or the following day.
- The date and time of the observation are recorded on the plate and entered in the logbook after the film has been developed.
- These plates or films are carefully stored in humidity-controlled spaces and kept in an envelope with the scribbled date and time of observation.

Arrival of New Technology and the Process of Digitization

- All sun sightings were recorded on photographic films and plates between 1904 and 2017.
- Since 2017, the Sun has been observed by a new telescope outfitted with CCD cameras.
- Prof. J. C. Bhattacharyya started digitizing the documents in 1984, and others carried on the work.
- For the years 1921 to 2011, digitized solar observations were made available to the scientific community in 2018.
- With the addition of raw and calibrated data covering the years 1904 to 2017, the digitization process is almost finished.
- KoSO currently has a massive digital archive with 1.48 lakh solar photos totaling 10 terabytes of data.
- They comprise 70,000 H-alpha photographic plates that display prominences, 45,000 photos of the Ca II K spectral line that indicate plagues, and 33,500 white-light images that display sunspots.

What are Oscar Awards?



A notable Indian song and a documentary has won the Oscar Award this year.

What are Oscar Awards?

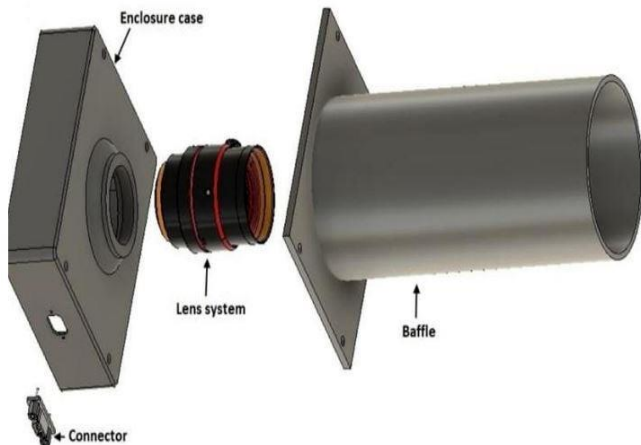
- The Academy Awards, usually referred to as the Oscars, are a yearly ceremony honoring excellence in the motion picture industry.
- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), a professional honorary association with more than 9,000 members, bestows the awards.
- The inaugural Oscars event took place in 1929, and today the Oscars are regarded as the most prestigious honors in the motion picture business.
- The ceremony, which usually occurs in late February or early March, is live-broadcast on television in more than 225 nations and regions throughout the world.

How are the winners decided?

- The Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, and many other categories are among those that are recognized with awards.
- Members of AMPAS, including actors, directors, writers, and producers, who work in many facets of the film industry, select the nominees and winners.

- A filmmaker's career can be significantly impacted by winning an Oscar because it is often regarded as a sign of status and can result in more money and project chances in the future.

Starberry-Sense: A low cost Star Sensor



Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have developed a low-cost star sensor for astronomy and small CubeSat class satellite missions.

What is Starberry-Sense?

- This star sensor is less expensive than those on the market by less than 10% and is based on commercial/off-the-shelf components.
- It is constructed using the Raspberry Pi, a single-board Linux computer that is popular among hobbyists who enjoy electronics.

Benefits of Starberry-Sense

- Small CubeSat-class satellite missions can use Starberry-Sense to assist them navigate in orbit.
- Future CubeSat and other tiny satellite missions can make use of the device.
- The orientation of a satellite in orbit can be determined using the location of the stars in the sky, which are fixed with respect to one another and serve as a stable reference frame.

Successful test

- The vibration and thermal vacuum tests that the star sensor needed to pass in order to be approved for launch into space and use have been completed successfully.
- These experiments were carried out internally at the environmental test lab at the IIA's CREST Campus in Hosakote.

Background Radiation high in Kerala: Study



A pan-India study conducted by scientists at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) found that background radiation levels in parts of Kerala are nearly three times more than what's been assumed.

What is Background Radiation?

- The amount of ionizing radiation in the environment at a specific location that isn't the result of intentional introduction of radiation sources is known as background radiation.
- There are many different natural and man-made sources of background radiation.

How is it measured?

- The Indian atomic energy organization has adopted the maximum radiation exposure standards set forth by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- The annual average for the general public should not be more than 1 milliSievert, and the annual average for individuals who work in plants or are

exposed as a result of their line of work should not be more than 30 milliSievert.

- In most cases, it is expressed in nanogray per second. A (nGy/s) is a decimal portion of the absorbed dose rate of ionizing radiation that was derived from the SI.

Natural sources-

1. Cosmic radiation
2. Environmental radioactivity from naturally occurring radioactive materials (such as radon and radium)

Man-made sources-

1. Medical X-rays,
2. Fallout from nuclear weapons testing and nuclear accidents.

Factors affecting such radiation

- We are surrounded by background radiation from nature.
- Depending on the concentration of naturally occurring radioactive elements in soil, water, and air, background radiation fluctuates from place to location and throughout time.
- The amount of radiation is also influenced by the weather since radioactive particles can be washed out of the air during rainstorms and may be shielded by snow cover.
- Natural background radiation is influenced by cosmic radiation that is constantly emitted by the sun, our galaxy, and other celestial bodies.
- The amount of background radiation at any given site can also vary depending on latitude and altitude.

How threatening is it?

- All rocks and soils have a small amount of naturally occurring radioactivity, which can occasionally be consumed or inhaled if disturbed.

- In addition to its breakdown products, radon is a gas that can concentrate indoors and be ingested.
- Moreover, radioactivity can enter our bodies through the food we eat and the water we drink.
- The annual background radiation dose that you and your family experience depends on a variety of factors.
- Gamma rays are a common example of this kind of radiation because they may travel through matter unhindered, are safe in tiny doses, but can be harmful in concentrated bursts.

Findings of the BARC Study

- According to the study, India's average background radiation exposure to gamma rays is 94 nGy/hr (or around 0.8 millisievert/year).
- Such radiation was calculated to be 89 nGy/hr in the most recent study, completed in 1986.
- The levels in Kerala's Kollam district were discovered to be 9,562 nGy/hr, or around three times higher than predicted, according to the study.
- This equates to an annual exposure of roughly 70 milliGray, or slightly more than what a worker in a nuclear plant would experience.
- Nevertheless, because previous research has not discovered any higher incidence of cancer or mortality, this does not necessarily imply that residents in Kollam are being exposed to unsafe levels of radiation.

Reasons for Higher Radiation Levels in Kerala

- As part of India's long-term strategy to sustainably create nuclear fuel, monazite sands with a high thorium content are thought to be the cause of the elevated radiation levels in Kollam.
- Due to the presence of granite and basaltic volcanic rock, which include uranium deposits, southern India has greater radiation levels.

Security Issues

Exercise Cobra Warrior



IAF contingent comprising to participate in Exercise Cobra Warrior at the Waddington Air Force Base of the Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom.

Exercise Cobra Warrior

- An international military exercise called Cobra Warrior is held yearly in the United Kingdom.
- It is intended to increase the Royal Air Force's and ally air forces' preparedness and interoperability for joint combat operations.
- Military troops from several nations, including NATO allies and partnership countries, participate in the exercise to hone their air combat skills.
- Air to air combat, air to ground attacks, and other mission types are all realistically simulated by the participating air forces throughout the exercise.
- In order to better prepare pilots and ground personnel for warfare in the real world, the goal is to give them realistic training experiences.

What is the National Security Act, 1980?



Punjab Advocate General has confirmed the invocation of National Security Act (NSA) to Amritpal Singh's case.

National Security Act, 1980

- The NSA was adopted by the Parliament in 1980, and since then, it has undergone numerous revisions.
- It allows the state to hold someone without formally accusing them and without putting them on trial.
- When someone is taken into custody, it is invoked to stop them from behaving in any way that could jeopardize "the security of the state" or the "maintenance of the public order."
- It is a directive issued by the District Magistrate or the Divisional Commissioner.

Grounds for detention under NSA

- NSA can be used to stop someone from acting in a way that might harm India's security, foreign relations, or ability to defend itself.
- It can be used, among other things, to stop someone from acting in a way that might harm the continuity of supplies and services that are vital to the community.
- A person may be held without being charged for a maximum of 12 months.
- In exceptional cases, the individual being detained may be kept for 10 to 12 days without being informed of the charges against them.

Protection available under the Act

- One significant procedural protection under the NSA is provided by Article 22. (5).
- Every person who is imprisoned has the right to effectively submit their case before a nonpartisan advisory body.
- A high court judge who is currently serving or has served on the board chairs it.
- According to the Act, the DM who issues the detention order is protected, and no legal action may be taken against the employee who executes the instructions.

Cases for misuse

- The Supreme Court in earlier cases had held that to prevent “misuse of this potentially dangerous power, the law of preventive detention has to be strictly construed”.
- “Meticulous compliance with the procedural safeguards” has to be ensured.

Criticism of NSA

- Human rights organizations have previously claimed that the Act violates certain articles of the CrPC and Article 22 of the Constitution that protect an arrested person's interests.
- The CrPC requires that the person who has been apprehended appear before the local magistrate within 24 hours, however the NSA makes an exception.
- According to several human rights organizations, authorities frequently abuse it to suppress political opponents or those who are critical of the administration.
- To stop abuse, there have been requests for the Act to be abolished or changed.
- There is a competing argument that the Act cannot be interpreted as being draconian because it safeguards the state's overall interests and is therefore likely to remain in place.

Trivia

What is MATSYA-6000?

Under the Samudrayaan Mission, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is planning to explore the

Indian Ocean using a submersible called MATSYA-6000 in Chennai.

What is Samudrayaan Mission?

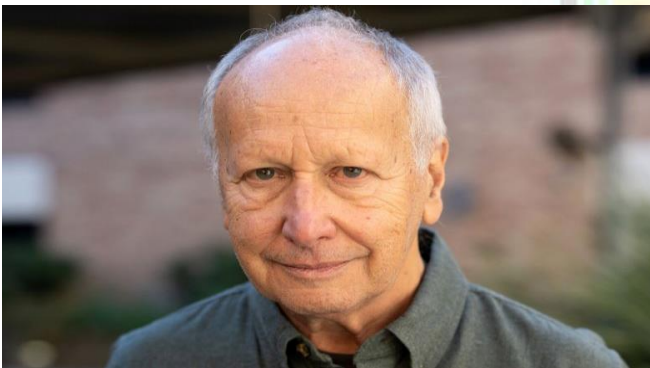
- Samudrayaan is a massive ocean/sea-related mission that was launched in October 2021.
- The goal is to create "a self-propelled manned submersible to carry three humans to an ocean depth of 6,000 meters with a set of scientific sensors and deep ocean exploration gear.
- It aims to conduct deep ocean exploration for non-living resources, such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulfides, and cobalt crusts, that are found at a depth of between 1000 and 5500 meters.

About MATSYA 6000

- The manned submersible vehicle MATSYA 6000 was created domestically.
- The manned submersible will enable research experts to directly examine and comprehend uncharted deep-sea regions.

Why is it relevant for India?

- There are nine coastal states and 1,382 islands along India's 7517 kilometers of coastline, which is in a unique marine position.
- The mission intends to advance the central government's vision of a "New India," which places a strong emphasis on the Blue Economy as one of the top ten growth-related factors.
- With the oceans on three of its sides and around 30% of the people living along the shore, the coastal regions are important for India's economy.
- It promotes aquaculture, tourism, subsistence, and blue trade.

Abel Prize for Maths

The Abel Prize for mathematics for 2023 was awarded to Argentine-American Luis Caffarelli, an expert in “partial differential equations” which can explain phenomena ranging from how water flows to population growth.

Abel Prize

- The King of Norway bestows the Abel Prize on one or more outstanding mathematicians each year.
- It is based on the Nobel Awards and is named for the Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802–1829).
- It includes a 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (NOK) monetary reward (increased from 6 million NOK in 2019).
- When the Norwegian mathematician Sophus Lie discovered that Alfred Nobel's plans for annual prizes did not include a prize in mathematics, he urged that it be established.
- The Abel Committee, whose members are chosen by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, chooses the laureates.

Has any Indian ever won this prestigious prize?

- Srinivasa Varadhan, an Indian-American citizen won the Abel Prize in the year 2007 for his valuable contribution in “probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviation”.



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