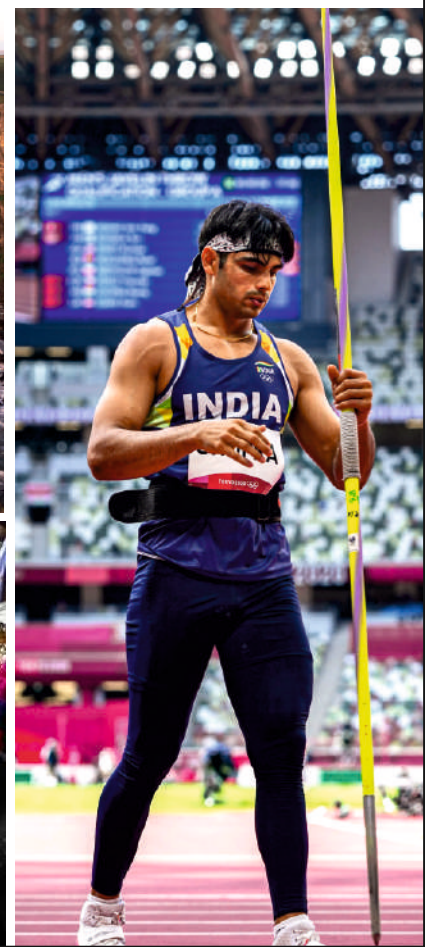


# WBCS GAZETTE

**MAY 2023**

A MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ASPIRANTS OF WBCS EXAMINATION



- IFA Women's Shield
- Thrissur Pooram
- Ireland
- Neeraj Chopra
- Practice Question

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Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.

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## Congratulation Toppers!

## WEST BENGAL

### Sarasari Mukhyamantri

- Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, has launched a new initiative called “Sarasari Mukhyamantri” (Direct to CM).
- This initiative aims to provide a platform for the citizens of West Bengal to directly voice their grievances and suggestions to her through a dedicated helpline number.
- The number, 9137091370, will be functional from Monday to Saturday, between 10 am and 6 pm.
- CM said that this initiative is part of her commitment to serve the people with transparency and accountability, and she will personally monitor the feedback received from the helpline and take necessary actions.

### IFA Women's Shield

- East Bengal women's team emerged victorious in the first edition of the IFA Women's Shield, a prestigious women's football cup tournament organized by the Indian Football Association in West Bengal.
- The team defeated Sreebhumi FC 5-0 in the final match, which was held at the Tehatta ground in Nadia district.
- Tulsi Hembram, the star striker of East Bengal was named the Player of the Tournament. She scored 15 goals in four matches.

### Centre sanctioned Rs 2,000 crore to Bengal under the mid-day meal scheme

- The Centre has allocated Rs 2,000 crore to Bengal for the implementation of this scheme in the financial year 2023-24. This is a significant increase from the previous year's allocation of Rs 1,500 crore.
- The Centre hopes that this enhanced funding will help Bengal to achieve universal coverage of the scheme and ensure quality and hygiene standards in the food served to the children.
- The mid-day meal scheme in schools is a flagship programme of the Government of India that aims to provide nutritious food to children and improve their health and learning outcomes.
- The scheme was started in 1995 during 8th Five Year Plan all over India. In 2021 it was renamed as PM-POSHAN.

### Swasthya Sathi Scheme

- The state government announced the rates for two types of cancer treatment procedures under this scheme: radiation therapy and nuclear medicine therapy. This decision came after the government tried to prevent the overuse of chemotherapy drugs by regulating their supply and distribution.
- The Swasthya Sathi scheme is a health insurance initiative by the West Bengal government that covers up to Rs 5 lakh per year per family for secondary and tertiary care treatment.



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MONOJIT  
CHOWDHURY  
Rank 2, WBCS 2020

## NATIONAL

### Dimasa rebel group have signed a peace pact with the Centre and the Assam government

- In a historic development, the Dimasa rebel group, which has been fighting for a separate homeland for the Dimasa tribe in Assam, has signed a peace pact with the Centre and the Assam government.
- The peace pact provides for political, economic and cultural rights for the Dimasa people, as well as rehabilitation and surrender of arms by the rebels.
- The pact also envisages the creation of a Dimasa Development Council within Assam to address the developmental needs of the region.

### Muhammad Iqbal

- He is widely known as Allama Iqbal, which means a very learned person. He was knighted by the British government in 1922 for his services to literature.
- He also **composed patriotic songs, such as Sare Jahan se Accha** (Better than the whole world) and Tarana-e-Milli (The Anthem of the Community), which inspired millions of people.
- Iqbal is regarded as the spiritual father of Pakistan, as he was the first one to propose the idea of a separate state for the Muslims in his presidential address at the Allahabad session of the Muslim League in 1930. He died in Lahore in 1938, nine years before the creation of Pakistan.

### Thrissur Pooram

- The 36-hour-long Festivities of the famous Thrissur Pooram concluded on May 1.
- It is a famous Hindu festival **celebrated annually in Kerala**. It is held at the Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur city every year.
- The festival is known for its spectacular display of fireworks, caparisoned elephants, traditional music and cultural performances.
- It is considered one of the most colourful and vibrant festivals in the world.

### Mana village in Uttarakhand

- Mana village in Uttarakhand was earlier known as the last Indian village, but now it is **known as the first Indian village**.
- This change of status is due to the installation of a signboard by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at the entrance of the village, which lies near the Indo-China border.
- The signboard welcomes visitors to Mana, the first Indian village, and showcases its rich cultural and natural heritage.

### "Swagat Saptah" in Gujarat

- The "State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology" (SWAGAT) initiative is a unique platform that enables citizens of Gujarat to directly communicate with the Chief Minister and seek redressal of their grievances.
- The initiative was launched by Narendra Modi in 2003, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, to make governance more responsive, transparent and accountable.
- SWAGAT has completed 20 years of successful implementation. To mark this occasion, the current Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has declared the last week of April as "Swagat Saptah", a week-long celebration of the initiative.

### Zero Shadow Day

- Bengaluru, the city that leads India in innovation and technology, will soon experience a rare astronomical phenomenon called "Zero Shadow Day," as announced by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI).
- This day is marked when the Sun will be exactly overhead and objects on the ground will not cast any shadow.

### Millets Experience Centre

- India's Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Millets Experience Centre (MEC) at Dilli Haat in New Delhi.
- The MEC is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) to encourage the consumption of millet among the masses.
- The MEC showcases various types of millet and their products and provides information on their nutritional and environmental benefits.

### Dotted Lands

- The **Andhra Pradesh government has initiated a massive land survey to free up about 2 lakh acres of 'dotted lands'** that have been encroached upon by various parties over the years.
- Dotted lands were marked with dots on the revenue maps by the British colonial administration, and were subject to various restrictions and regulations that prevented the farmers from freely selling or mortgaging them.

### Centre for Policy Research

- According to a source from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), a Delhi-based think tank, has been temporarily barred from receiving foreign funds for 180 days.
- The MHA has suspended the CPR's Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration for allegedly violating some provisions of the law.

### Article 142

- The Supreme Court of India has used its power under Article 142 of the Indian Constitution to recognise the right to divorce on the grounds of "irretrievable breakdown of marriage".
  - This means that couples who have no hope of reconciling their differences can seek the dissolution of their marriage without having to prove any fault or cruelty.
- The **court has exercised its power under Article 142 to do "complete justice"** in such cases, where the existing laws do not provide adequate relief.

### CU-Chayan Portal

- University Grant Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar inaugurated CU-Chayan, a new **recruitment portal for Central University faculty**.
- The portal was developed to make the recruitment process more transparent, efficient and convenient for all the stakeholders involved.
- The portal would provide various features such as online application, document verification, interview scheduling and feedback mechanism for the applicants and the selection committee members.

### Geetha Karmikula Bhima

- A new **insurance scheme for toddy tappers has been launched by the Telangana government** under the name of 'Geetha Karmikula Bhima.'
- The scheme is designed to provide financial support to the families of toddy tappers who lose their lives due to accidents while collecting toddy from palm trees in the fields.
- The scheme is modelled after the 'Rythu Bhima' program for farmers and aims to provide financial support to the families of toddy tappers who lose their lives in accidents while harvesting toddy from palm trees in the fields.

### Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi

- The **Himachal Pradesh** Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has announced a **monthly incentive of Rs 1,500 for women in the Spiti Valley**.
  - The Spiti Valley is a cold desert mountain valley located high in the Himalayas in the northeastern part of Himachal Pradesh. The name "Spiti" means "The middle land", i.e. the land between Tibet and India.
- The incentive will be provided to all eligible women, including Buddhist nuns, above the age of 18 years. This initiative is called the Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi.

### Ramaland

- To attract more tourists and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Ayodhya, the **Uttar Pradesh government is planning to develop a theme park 'Ramaland' modelled on Disneyland.**
- The theme park will narrate the story of Lord Ram through various attractions, such as a replica of his palace, a 3D theatre, a musical fountain, and a Ramayana museum.
- The project aims to boost the economy and employment opportunities in the region, as well as to promote Ayodhya as a global tourism hotspot.

### "Mo Ghara" Scheme

- The government of **Odisha has announced a new scheme called 'Mo Ghara'**, which aims to provide housing assistance to the rural population under the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department.
- The scheme will benefit eligible households who do not have a pucca house or who live in dilapidated houses.
- The scheme aims to cover all such families who were left out of the existing housing schemes due to stringent eligibility criteria or insufficient allocation and also those who had received housing assistance of smaller amounts in the past and now want to upgrade or expand their houses.

### 8th Governing Council Meeting of Niti Aayog

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently presided over the 8th Governing Council Meeting of Niti Aayog, held at the New Convention Centre in New Delhi.
- **The theme of the Governing Council meeting is "Viksit Bharat @2047: Role of Team India".**
- The meeting saw the participation of Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors representing 19 states and 6 union territories.
- In his address, Prime Minister Modi underscored the importance of collaborative efforts between the central government, states, and union territories to realize the aspirations of the people and transform India into a developed nation by 2047.

### Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL)

- The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, also known as the Sewri-Nhava Sheva Trans Harbour Link, is an under-construction 21.8 km 6-lane access-controlled expressway grade road bridge.
- It will connect Mumbai with Navi Mumbai, its satellite city. The road will be linked to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway in the east and the under-construction Coastal Road in the west.
- The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link will be the **longest sea bridge in the country** with a total stretch of 16.5 km above the sea.

### Conference on Universal Holistic Health

- The **Thematic Conference on Universal Holistic Health, held in Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep,** kicked off with the opening session of Science 20.
- The speakers highlighted the importance of recognizing and honouring the diverse cultural perspectives and practices that contribute to universal holistic health. They also discussed the challenges and opportunities for integrating scientific knowledge and holistic wisdom in addressing the health needs of the global community.

### 'Harit Sagar' Green Port Guidelines 2023

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched the 'Harit Sagar' Green Port Guidelines 2023 to achieve its vision of zero carbon emissions.
- The guidelines provide a comprehensive framework for the major ports to create a comprehensive action plan aimed at achieving quantifiable reductions in carbon emissions over defined timelines.
- The guidelines also cover aspects of the National Green Hydrogen Mission about ports, development of green hydrogen facilities, LNG bunkering, offshore wind energy etc. and provide provisions for adopting global Green Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards.

### Hare Krishna Heritage Tower

- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower.
- The tower, which will be a landmark of cultural and spiritual significance, is being constructed by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) with the support of the state government.

### State Robotics Framework

- The State Robotics Framework is a policy initiative launched by the **Telangana government** in May 2023.
- It aims to create a self-sustaining robotics ecosystem and position the state as a leader in robotics in India.
- The framework focuses on key domains such as agriculture, healthcare, industrial automation, and consumer robotics, where robotics technology can have a significant impact.

### SAKSHAM

- SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management) is a **Learning Management Information System (LMIS) developed by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)** for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- It is a digital platform that aims to stimulate advanced knowledge for sustainable health management among health professionals and administrators.

### Kapileshwar Temple

- The Kapileshwar Temple is a **historic Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- The temple has a 62-foot-high shrine with a circular yonipitha and a Siva-lingam at its centre. The temple also has a pond surrounded by stone steps, which is known as the Manikarnika tank.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is planning to bring the Kapileshwar Temple under its ambit and declare it a 'Monument of National Importance.'

### Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)

- START is a new online training programme launched by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for students of physical sciences and technology**.
- The programme is aimed at post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing a career in space science and technology.
- START will cover various topics related to space science and technology, such as satellite communication, remote sensing, navigation, space exploration, and space applications.

### Union Law Minister

- Kiren Rijiju has stepped down from his position as Union Law Minister and will now assume the role of Minister of Earth Sciences.
- He was replaced by Arjun Ram Meghwal, who has been given the independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice.

### Bhopal

- Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, has taken a **lead role in India's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The city has implemented a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process, which is a method that enables cities to evaluate their performance on the SDGs and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement.

### Homeocon 2023

- The National Homoeopathic Convention 'Homeocon 2023' was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at Doon University, Dehradun.
- The convention was a platform to highlight the importance of homoeopathy as a widely practised system of medicine across the world.



### India's New Parliament House

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Parliament building on 28 May, showcasing its exquisite artwork and featuring a ceremonial sceptre called 'Sengol' among its many highlights.
- The new Parliament House features a unique triangular shape, ensuring efficient space utilization within the complex. This design allows for maximum functionality and accommodates larger legislative chambers.
- The Lok Sabha, based on India's national bird, the peacock, will have an expanded seating capacity. With 888 seats, it will accommodate nearly three times the current capacity. The Lok Sabha hall will also be able to accommodate 1,272 seats for joint sessions.
- The Rajya Sabha, inspired by the national flower, the lotus, will have 348 seats.
- A notable addition to the new Parliament House is the Constitutional Hall, located in the centre of the complex. This hall will serve as a significant space within the building.

### 8th-century idol with an inscription of Lord Buddha unearthed at Rameswar temple in Puri

- A recent discovery at Rameswar temple in the Puri district of Odisha has shed new light on the history of Buddhism in India.
- An 8th-century idol of Lord Buddha with an inscription in Pali language was unearthed by the temple priest, who noticed something written on its back.
- The idol is a broken part of the temple, which belongs to the Eastern Ganga dynasty period.
- The inscription praises Lord Buddha and his teachings and is a rare example of such a message on a small idol.

### National Academy of Coastal Policing

- The Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah recently laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing in Dwaraka, Gujarat.
- The academy, which is the first of its kind in the country, will train police personnel from various states and union territories in coastal security, maritime law enforcement, and disaster management.
- The academy will also collaborate with national and international agencies to share best practices and expertise in coastal policing.

### Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management

- The Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun.**
- The CoE-SLM aims to provide scientific and technical support to the government and other stakeholders on various aspects of land degradation and restoration.
- The centre will also conduct research and training on best practices and innovative solutions for sustainable land management.

### ₹75 coins

- The Ministry of Finance has announced the launch of a special ₹75 coin to commemorate the inauguration of India's new parliament building.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the coin on Sunday, 28 May, coinciding with the celebration of India's 75 years of independence.

### "Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar" campaign

- The **"Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar" campaign, launched by Union Minister Shri Hardeep S. Puri on 15th May 2023, to transform waste into wealth,** a nationwide campaign encourages cities to establish Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Centres.
- According to the Ministry, the RRR Centres are one-stop collection centres for citizens to contribute clothes, shoes, old books, toys and used plastic to be reused or recycled.
- The campaign also promotes Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which aims to protect and preserve the environment by adopting sustainable daily habits.

### NEP SAARTHI

- To facilitate the smooth transition to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a new initiative called 'NEP SAARTHI - Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India'.
- This program aims to engage students as active participants in the reform process and to empower them to voice their opinions and suggestions on various aspects of the NEP 2020.

### West Bengal has the highest number of missing women cases in India

- According to the latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), **West Bengal has the highest number of missing women cases in India**, with 40,719 cases registered till 2021.
- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**
  - It is an Indian government agency that collects and analyzes crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).
  - It was established in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals, and to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
  - It also monitors coordinates and implements the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project, which connects more than 15,000 police stations and 6,000 higher offices of police in the country.
  - It publishes an annual report called 'Crime in India', which contains comprehensive information on various aspects of crime in the country, such as cases registered and their disposal, persons arrested and their disposal, crime against vulnerable sections of society, cyber crimes, human trafficking, economic crimes, etc.

### Sinthan Snow Festival 2023 organized in J&K

- The Sinthan Snow Festival-2023, a two-day event celebrating snow and winter activities, was organized by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu and KTDA at Sinthan Maidan, Kishtwar, J&K.
- The festival was organized in collaboration with the District Administration Kishtwar, the JKAACL, and the Army.

### Punjab becomes first state to enforce 'right to walk'

- Punjab has become the first state in India to implement the 'right to walk' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the NHAI, to provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansions of roads and construction.
- The state government has issued these directions following two court orders after PILs were filed at Punjab and Haryana High Court and another at the Supreme Court. The courts have sought the action taken reports on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

### Kerala becomes the first state to have Drone Surveillance in all police districts

- Kerala has become the first state in the country to have a drone surveillance system in all police districts in the state.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan distributed the drones to all police districts and the drone pilot licences to specially trained drone pilots.

**CONGRATULATIONS MONOJIT!!!**

Our Mains Test Series Student  
has reached the sky

**Monojit Chowdhury**

RANK 2, WBCS 2020

You make us Proud. Best wishes for your future.



# INTERNATIONAL

## The Report titled 'Born too Soon: Decade of Action on Pre-term Birth'

- The report, released by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and other partners, highlights the global burden of pre-term birth and the urgent need for action to prevent and care for pre-term babies.
- Pre-term birth is defined as a baby born alive before 37 weeks of pregnancy is completed. According to the report, an estimated 15 million babies are born pre-term every year, and this number is rising.
- The report reveals that India had 3.5 million pre-term births in 2019, the second highest after China (4.1 million).
- The report also shows that India has made some progress in reducing pre-term birth rates over the past decade, from 13.4% in 2010 to 12.3% in 2019. However, this rate is still higher than the global average of 10.6%, and much higher than the Sustainable Development Goal target of 8.6% by 2030.

## India and the UK have signed an MOU for collaboration on science and innovation

- A new agreement has been reached between India and the United Kingdom to foster cooperation on science and innovation.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the areas of mutual interest and the mechanisms for joint activities and funding.
- The MOU aims to enhance the bilateral partnership and support the development of scientific and technological solutions for global challenges.

## World Press Freedom Index 2023

- The 2023 **World Press Freedom Index**, published by the international non-governmental organization **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**, reveals a worrying decline in the state of media freedom in India.
- **India has fallen to the 161st position out of 180 countries** ranked in the index, down from 142nd in 2020 and 140th in 2019.
- The report cites various factors for this deterioration, such as increased violence against journalists, legal harassment, online trolling, censorship and self-censorship.
- Nordic countries like Norway, Ireland, and Denmark ranked top three respectively while Vietnam, China, and North Korea were the bottom three countries on the index.

## International Civil Aviation Organisation

- India has announced that it will participate in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.
- CORSIA is a scheme that aims to stabilize net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international flights at 2020 levels by requiring airlines to offset their excess emissions with carbon credits from the carbon market.

## India and Israel have signed MoU on industrial research and development cooperation

- The Ministry of Science & Technology of India announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defense of Israel on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation.
- The MoU covers several key technology areas, such as AI, quantum, semiconductors, healthcare, aerospace, sustainable energy and agriculture.
- The MoU was signed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India and the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D) of Israel in the presence of Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh.

### G20 TechSprint 2023

- The G20 TechSprint 2023 is a global initiative launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) to foster innovation and collaboration in the field of cross-border payments.
- The competition, which was announced on May 4, invites global innovators to submit their technology solutions that can enhance the efficiency, speed, security and inclusiveness of cross-border payments.

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- A high-level diplomatic gathering was held in Goa on May 4 and 5, involving the foreign ministers of eight countries that belong to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- The purpose of this meeting is to prepare for the SCO Leaders' Summit, which will be hosted by India in New Delhi in July.

### Russia celebrated Victory Day

- On May 9th, Russia celebrated the 78th anniversary of its Victory Day with a military parade on Red Square in Moscow.
- The event honoured the historic triumph of the Soviet Union over Nazi Germany in 1945, which ended World War II in Europe and is known in Russia as the Great Patriotic War.
- The parade featured more than 12,000 troops and 190 pieces of hardware, including tanks, missiles and aircraft.

### 'Machines Can See 2023' Summit

- The 'Machines Can See 2023' Summit is a prestigious event that showcases the latest developments and innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Organized by the UAE government, the summit brings together experts, researchers, policymakers and industry leaders from around the world to discuss and exchange ideas on how AI can benefit humanity and society.
- The summit is held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai, a unique venue that exhibits futuristic concepts and technologies that aim to shape the future.
- The summit covers various topics related to AI, such as computer vision, natural language processing, machine learning, robotics, ethics and governance.

### India became the main source of refined fuels for Europe

- According to Kpler data, India has overtaken Saudi Arabia as the main source of refined fuels for Europe.
- This shift is due to Europe's limited access to Russian oil and its increasing reliance on Indian crude oil products.

### Arab League

- **The Arab League has welcomed Syria back into its fold after more than 10 years of suspension.**
- The decision was made in recognition of the Syrian government's efforts to restore stability and security in the country, which has been ravaged by a civil war since 2011. The war began when the Assad regime violently suppressed peaceful protests demanding political reforms and human rights.
- The Arab League has 22 member states. It was founded in Cairo, Egypt in 1945.

### 42nd ASEAN Summit

- Indonesia is hosting the 42nd ASEAN Summit with a theme of "ASEAN Affairs: Epicenter of Growth."
- The summit brings together the leaders of the 10-member bloc to discuss their vision and strategies for global development.
- The summit showcases the bloc's ambition and potential to be the centre and catalyst of growth in the world.

### Petersberg Climate Dialogue

- The event was **co-hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates**, and attended by delegates from 40 countries, as well as UN officials and civil society representatives.

- The main topics of discussion included climate adaptation, climate finance, loss and damage, and the first-ever global stocktake of the progress made towards the Paris Agreement goals.
- The Petersberg Climate Dialogue was initiated in 2010 by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel after the disappointing outcome of COP15 in Copenhagen. Since then, it has become a regular platform for high-level political dialogue on climate action ahead of the UN Climate Conferences.

### Global Road Safety Week

- Every year in May, the UN organizes a Global Road Safety Week to draw attention to the issue of road safety and how it can be improved.
- This year, the 7th edition of the event will take place from 15-21 May, with a focus on sustainable transport.
- The aim is to encourage governments to promote walking, cycling and public transport as safe, healthy and environmentally friendly modes of mobility.
- The campaign invites everyone to #RethinkMobility and joins the movement for safer and greener transport.

### World's oldest tree

- The world's **oldest tree may be a Patagonian cypress that grows in Chile**. According to a recent study, this tree is estimated to be 5,000 years old and has witnessed the rise and fall of many civilizations.
- The Patagonian cypress is also the largest tree species in South America, reaching up to 70 meters in height and 5 meters in diameter. It has a thick, fibrous bark that helps it survive wildfires and volcanic eruptions.

### Ireland

- **Ireland is on track to become the first country to enforce mandatory health advisories on alcohol products**. The new legislation, which is expected to come into effect by the end of this year, will require all alcoholic beverages sold in the country to display warning labels about the risks of alcohol consumption, such as cancer, liver disease and mental health problems.
- The law aims to raise awareness among consumers about the harmful effects of alcohol and to encourage them to drink responsibly and moderately.

### India announced credit for Sri Lanka

- India has announced that it will extend its credit line of USD 1 billion to Sri Lanka for another year, in a move that reflects the strong bilateral ties between the two countries.
- The credit line, which was due to expire in June 2023, will now be valid until June 2024. The extension will enable Sri Lanka to access funds for various development projects, such as infrastructure, energy, and health. I

### Hindi Language

- The University of Edinburgh and the Indian consulate in the UK have launched a new initiative to promote Hindi language learning.
- The course will be available online for free and aims to provide learners with basic skills in reading, writing and speaking Hindi.
- The course also covers aspects of Indian culture and society, such as festivals, cuisine and literature. The course is designed for beginners who have no prior knowledge of Hindi or Devanagari script.
- Hindi day celebrated on 10th January.
- National Hindi day marked on 14th September.
- 1st Indian to address UNGA meeting in Hindi was AB Vajpayee in 1977.

# ECONOMICS

## IRDAI asks insurance firms to lay down social media rules

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued a circular to all insurance companies, asking them to formulate and implement a policy on the use of social media platforms.
- IRDAI is an autonomous statutory body that regulates and supervises the insurance sector in India. It aims to protect the interests of policyholders, promote fair and healthy competition among insurers, and ensure the orderly growth of the insurance industry.

## India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park

- The project of building **India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park in Jogighopa, Assam**, is progressing smoothly, and the jetty is likely to be finished by the end of this year.
- The park will facilitate the seamless movement of goods and services across different modes of transportation, such as road, rail, air and water.
- The park will also boost the economic development of the region and create employment opportunities for the local population.

## Tamil Nadu

- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, **Tamil Nadu has topped the list of States in terms of market borrowings for the third consecutive year.**
- The State raised ₹68,000 crore through State Development Loans (SDLs) in the first 11 months of FY23.

## Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)

- Airtel Payments Bank has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce face authentication for the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) at its banking points.
- It will allow customers to access AePS services using their facial biometrics, without the need for any physical documents or PINs. The face authentication will be done through the NPCI's Aadhaar Authentication Service (AAS).

## National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22

- The National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22, a joint study by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), has ranked **Karnataka as the most innovative state in India**, followed by Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
- The survey assessed the innovation performance of manufacturing firms across states, sectors, and firm sizes, based on their ability to produce new products, services, and business processes.
- The survey revealed that innovation in manufacturing is the lowest in the Northeastern states (excluding Assam), followed by Bihar.

## Dawki land port

- The **Dawki land port, located in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district**, was inaugurated by Union Minister Nityanand Rai on May 4, 2023.
- The land port is the first of its kind in the state and is situated along the international border between India and Bangladesh.
- The land port aims to promote trade and commerce between the two countries by facilitating the movement of goods, people, and vehicles across the border. It also simplifies border crossing procedures for passengers and tourists.

## Lithium reserves

- According to sources, lithium reserves have been **discovered in Rajasthan's Degana** following the recent discovery in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi.

- Lithium is a key element in the production of batteries for electric vehicles and other devices.
- The discovery of lithium reserves in India could boost the country's efforts to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and transition to cleaner energy sources.

### World Economic Situation and Prospects Report

- The United Nations released the World Economic Situation and Prospects report, which **forecasts India's economic growth at 6.7% in 2024.**
- The report attributes this growth to India's strong domestic demand, which has shown resilience amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The report also warns that India may face challenges from higher interest rates and weaker external demand, which could affect investment and exports in 2023.

### Odisha to provide free crop insurance to farmers

- The Odisha government announced that it will provide free crop insurance to all farmers in the state for the next three years.
- The Cooperation Department would bear the premium of the insurance from the 2023 Kharif season to the 2025-26 Rabi season.
- Odisha is the **first state in the country to provide free crop insurance to farmers.**
- 1st crop insurance programme was introduced in Gujarat in 1972-73

### 'SAMARTH' Campaign

- The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh, recently launched the 'SAMARTH Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats' under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in Lucknow.
- The **SAMARTH Campaign will provide training and awareness to the rural population on various digital platforms and modes of payment**, such as BHIM UPI, Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS), Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), etc.

### Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its collaboration with the Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN) to take part in the Greenwashing TechSprint.
- The initiative is designed to tackle the issue of greenwashing, which refers to the practice of making false or exaggerated claims about the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance of products or services.
- The RBI and the GFIN aim to develop innovative solutions that can enhance transparency and accountability in the ESG sector.

### UTSAH Portal

- To enhance the quality of higher education in India, the **University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched two new portals: the UTSAH Portal and the Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal.**
- The UTSAH Portal aims to provide a platform for sharing best practices, innovative ideas and transformative strategies in higher education.
- The PoP Portal enables the appointment of eminent professionals from various fields as professors in universities and colleges to enrich the academic environment and foster industry-academia linkages.

### "Meri LiFE" App

- A new app called "Meri LiFE" was inaugurated by Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- It aims to transform how people and groups monitor their achievements in the global mass movement known as Mission LiFE.

### RBI transfer to Government

- The RBI has announced that it will transfer a surplus of Rs 87,416 crore to the central government for the fiscal year 2022-23.

- This decision was taken after a review of the economic and financial conditions of the country and the bank's performance.
- The surplus transfer will help the government in meeting its fiscal deficit target and boost public spending amid the pandemic.

### Andhra Pradesh

- A loan agreement of \$141.12 million was recently signed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Indian government to fund the improvement of internal infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- This agreement aims to enhance the quality and accessibility of essential services such as water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management in the state.

### UDAN 5.1

- The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to provide affordable and accessible air travel to the common people of India.
- After four successful rounds of UDAN, the ministry has launched UDAN 5.1, a new version of the fifth round that is already underway.
- The main objective of UDAN 5.1 is to achieve last-mile connectivity through helicopters, especially in remote and hilly areas of the country.

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# DEFENCE AND SECURITY

## Air Droppable Container (ADC-150)

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden test trial of an indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container (ADC-150) from an IL 38SD aircraft.
- The ADC-150 has a payload capacity of 150 kg and can be used to deliver critical engineering stores to ships that are deployed far away from the coast.

## Indian Air Force Heritage Centre

- The Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh was inaugurated by India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 8 May 2023.
- The centre displays various vintage aircraft, weapons, engines, simulators and artefacts that showcase the IAF's role in different wars and operations. The centre also aims to inspire and educate the visitors about the history, culture and values of the IAF.

## Buland Bharat

- 'Buland Bharat' is the name of a joint training exercise that involves various forces operating at the highest and longest Artillery Ranges in the eastern region.
- The exercise showcases the coordination and synergy between the Artillery and Infantry units, as well as the Special Forces, Aviation, and CAPF, who are deployed in the West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

## Exercise "Samudra Shakti-23"

- The INS Kavaratti, a state-of-the-art anti-submarine warfare corvette visited Batam, Indonesia to participate in the 4th India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise, Samudra Shakti-23, from May 14 to May 19, 2023.
- The ship is the last of the four Kamorta-class corvettes built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata, under Project 28 of the Indian Navy. The ship boasts of a high degree of indigenisation, with 90% of its content drawn from India itself.

## Exercise 'Sudarshan Shakti 2023'

- The Indian Army's South Western Command, also known as Sapta Shakti Command, conducted a major exercise called 'Sudarshan Shakti 2023' along the western borders of Rajasthan and Punjab from May 22 to 25.
- The exercise aimed to transform the forces into a modern, lean, and agile fighting combination capable of leveraging new-age technologies. The exercise tested the operational plans, combat power, combat support, and logistic support capabilities of the army in a network-centric environment.

## India has launched 'Operation Karuna'

- India has launched 'Operation Karuna' to assist Myanmar, which has been hit by Cyclone Mocha, a super cyclone that caused widespread damage and killed hundreds of people.
- As part of the operation, four Indian Navy ships reached Yangon with relief materials, including food, tents, medicines, generators and hygiene items. India has expressed its solidarity and friendship with the people of Myanmar in this time of crisis.

# SCIENCE

## GigaChat

- Sberbank, the largest bank in Russia, has developed a new technology named GigaChat to compete with ChatGPT in the artificial intelligence chatbot race.
- GigaChat aims to rival ChatGPT, a chatbot from the Microsoft-backed startup OpenAI, which was released last year and has caused a sprint in the technology sector to put AI into more users' hands.

## GBMDriver

- A new computational tool called GBMDriver has been developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras using machine learning techniques.
- This tool can help improve the diagnosis of tumours in the brain and spinal cord that can cause cancer.
- GBMDriver uses genomic data to identify the key drivers of tumour formation and progression.

## Daam Malware

- Daam is a dangerous malware that targets Android devices in India.
- According to the Indian cyber security agency CERT-IN, Daam can steal sensitive data, bypass antivirus programs, and deploy ransomware on infected devices.
- Daam can also access call recordings, contacts, cameras, passwords, screenshots, SMS, and other files on the device.
- CERT-IN has issued some recommendations to keep the devices safe from Daam, such as downloading apps only from official app stores, reviewing app details and permissions, installing Android updates and anti-virus software, avoiding untrusted links and websites, and reporting any unusual activity in bank accounts.

## Shenzhou 16

- Shenzhou 16 is a Chinese spaceflight to the Tiangong space station, launched on 30 May 2023 on board a Shenzhou spacecraft.
- It carries two People's Liberation Army Astronaut Corps (PLAAC) taikonauts and a payload specialist from Beihang University.
- The mission is the eleventh crewed and sixteenth flight overall of the Shenzhou program.

## AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT'

- India's AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', which has been installed at C-DAC Pune, has been ranked 75th in the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.
- AIRAWAT (AI Research, Analytics and Knowledge Assimilation) is an AI-based cloud computing infrastructure.

## IIT-Kanpur launches cybersecurity skilling programme

- A new Cybersecurity Skilling Programme has been launched by IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a hub for cybersecurity technology innovation. The programme is supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, under the NM-ICPS.
- The programme also receives assistance from two C3iHub-incubated start-ups: Threat Guardians Pvt Ltd and Worker Union Support.

# SPORTS

## 5th Asian youth athletics championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- In the fifth edition of the biennial Asian U18 Athletics Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 27 to 30 April 2023, India's Priyanshu and Rahul Sarnaliya clinched the gold and silver medals respectively in the boys' 1500m event.
- India also bagged two bronze medals; Arati in the girls' 5km walk and Mubassina Mohammed in the long jump.
- India ended the campaign with a total of 24 medals, including 6 golds, 11 silvers and 7 bronzes, behind China who topped the medal table with 15 golds.

## Kurpfalz Gala athletics meet

- Jyothi Yarraji, the national record-holder in women's 100m hurdles, has made history by clinching the gold medal at the Kurpfalz Gala athletics meet in Germany.
- She clocked a season-best time of 12.84 seconds, which is also the fastest time by an Asian athlete this year. She improved her national record of 12.82 seconds, which she set in Bengaluru last October.
- Jyothi's remarkable performance has boosted her confidence for the upcoming World Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA, where she hopes to qualify for the Paris Olympics in 2024.

## USATF Los Angeles Grand Prix 2023

- Indian athlete Parul Chaudhary won the bronze medal in the women's 3000m steeplechase at the USATF Los Angeles Grand Prix 2023, a World Athletics Continental Tour gold label meeting.
- Parul finished behind USA's Madie Boreman and Poland's Alicja Konieczek who took the gold and silver medals respectively.

## Kelvin Kiptum

- Kelvin Kiptum, a 23-year-old Kenyan athlete, made history by winning the London Marathon with the second-fastest time ever recorded for the 42-kilometre race.
- However, moments after crossing the finish line, he collapsed to the ground and was rushed to a nearby hospital for medical attention.

## World's 10 Highest-Paid Athletes 2023 by Forbes

- In the year 2023, the global sports industry is dominated by three international soccer stars who earn more than any other athletes in the world.
- Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe are the top three highest-paid athletes, according to Forbes.
- Ronaldo, who plays for Manchester United, tops the list with \$136 million in total earnings.

## Azerbaijan Grand Prix

- In a thrilling race at Baku, Sergio Perez secured his second victory of the 2023 Formula 1 season, beating Max Verstappen by a narrow margin.

## Badminton Asia Championships

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty created history by becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to clinch a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships.
- The Indian duo edged past the Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi in a nail-biting three-game encounter that lasted for more than an hour.

### Golden Globe Race

- After more than seven months at sea, Indian sailor Commander Abhilash Tomy (retd.) returned to land. He was one of the participants in the Golden Globe Race (GGR), a challenging solo non-stop yacht race around the world.

### Shabnim Ismail

- Shabnim Ismail, the legendary South African speedster, has called it quits from international cricket at 34 years of age.
- Ismail, who holds the record for the most wickets by a South African woman in all three formats. Her retirement comes as a huge setback for South Africa, who were dependent on her fiery bowling in their successful run to the final of the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

### Neeraj Chopra

- Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw, has dominated the Doha Diamond League 2023 with a stunning 88.67 m throw in his first attempt.
- Chopra, who made history at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, has continued his impressive form in the new season and has set a high standard for his competitors.

### NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup

- India has won the NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup trophy in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The Indian team beat Kazakhstan in the final match at the National Sports Council's Covered Hall in Tripureshwar, Kathmandu.

### Mark Nicholas

- The prestigious Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has announced that Mark Nicholas, a former England cricketer and well-known commentator, will be its new president.
- Nicholas, who played for Hampshire and captained the county for 11 years, has been a popular voice in cricket broadcasting for over three decades.
- He will take over the role from Kumar Sangakkara, the former Sri Lanka captain, who became the first non-British president of the MCC in 2019.

### Babar Azam

- Babar Azam, the captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has set a new record by becoming the fastest player to score 5000 runs in One Day International (ODI) cricket.
- He achieved this feat in his 97th ODI match. He surpassed the previous record held by Africa's Hashim Amla, who reached the 5000-run mark in 101 innings.

### V. Prraneeth

- V. Prraneeth, a young chess prodigy from Telangana earned the prestigious Grandmaster title at the age of 15.
- He is the sixth player from his state and the 82nd from India to achieve this feat.

### Madrid Open tennis trophy

- Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) has successfully defended his Madrid Open tennis trophy by beating Jann-Lennard Struff.
- Alcaraz became the first player to win back-to-back titles in Madrid since Rafael Nadal in 2014.
- The Madrid Open is a professional tennis tournament that takes place annually in Madrid, Spain.

| Category        | Winner         |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Men's singles   | Carlos Alcaraz |
| Women's singles | A. Sabalenka   |

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Men's doubles   | K. Khachanov & A. Rublev     |
| Women's doubles | V. Azarenka & B. Haddad Maia |

### Laureus Sportsman of the Year award

- Lionel Messi, the legendary footballer who led Argentina to their third World Cup title in 2022, received the prestigious Laureus Sportsman of the Year award at a gala event in Paris.
- The award recognizes the most outstanding achievements in sports across various disciplines and categories.
- He dedicated the award to his teammates, his family and his fans, and expressed his gratitude for the support and inspiration he received throughout his career.

| Award  | Winner                        |
|--|-------------------------------|
| World Sportsman of the Year Award                      | Lionel Messi                  |
| World Sportswoman of the Year Award                    | Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce       |
| World Team of the Year Award                           | Argentina Men's Football Team |
| World Breakthrough of the Year Award                   | Carlos Alcaraz                |
| World Comeback of the Year Award                       | Christian Eriksen             |
| World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award | Catherine Debrunner           |
| World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award            | Eileen Gu                     |
| Laureus Sport for Good Award                           | TeamUp                        |

### Yuzvendra Chahal

- Yuzvendra Chahal achieved a remarkable feat when he claimed his 300th wicket in T20 cricket.
- The leg-spinner, who plays for India and the Rajasthan Royals, is the first Indian bowler to reach this milestone in the shortest format of the game.

### Yashasvi Jaiswal

- Yashasvi Jaiswal, a player for the Rajasthan Royals, during a match against the Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens, set a new record by scoring the fastest 50 in IPL history, achieving this feat in just 13 balls.

### South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023

- The Dorjee Khandu Indoor Stadium in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, witnessed the grand finale of the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023 on May 17.
- The three-day event attracted more than 100 young players from six countries: Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.
- India dominated the tournament by clinching all the gold medals on offer.

### Italian Open 2023

- It is a professional tennis tournament that was played on outdoor clay courts at the Foro Italico in Rome, Italy.
- Daniil Medvedev (Russia) defeated Holger Rune (Denmark) in the Men's Single final.

| Category        | Winner                          | Runner-up                               |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Men's Singles   | Daniil Medvedev                 | Holger Rune                             |
| Women's Singles | Elena Rybakina                  | Anhelina Kalinina                       |
| Men's Doubles   | Hugo Nys and Jan Zieliński      | Robin Haase and Botić van de Zandschulp |
| Women's Doubles | Storm Sanders and Elise Mertens | Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula           |

### Adidas

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Adidas will be the new kit sponsor of the Indian team.
- The BCCI has signed a three-year deal with the German sportswear giant, which will provide Indian players with high-quality clothing and accessories for all formats of the game.

### Khelo India University Games

- Uttar Pradesh hosted the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) for the first time, showcasing its commitment to sports development.
- The event, which is in its third edition, featured 21 sports and attracted more than 4,000 athletes and officials from 207 universities nationwide.

### Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023

- Chennai Super Kings (CSK) won their fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) title, equaling a record with Mumbai Indians.
- Shubman Gill wins Orange Cap (890) award.
- Mohammad Shami wins Purple Cap (28) award.
- Ajinkya Rahane wins the Fair play of the Season award.
- Shubman Gill wins the Most Valuable Player of the Season award.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal wins the Emerging Player of the Year award.
- IPL Final Match: Devon Conway wins Player of the Match award.

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| <br><b>CHANDAN SAHA</b><br><b>RANK 101</b>  | <br><b>DEBNATH MAHATA</b><br><b>RANK 111</b> | <br><b>AMIT TAMANG</b><br><b>RANK 115</b>        | <br><b>JAGANNATH BISWAS</b><br><b>RANK 161</b> |
| <br><b>SUBRATA DAS</b><br><b>RANK 166</b> |   |   |   |

**Congratulations Toppers!**

# GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

## Cyclone Mocha

- Cyclone Mocha is the first cyclone of 2023 and it was developed over the Bay of Bengal.
- According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), it is a very severe cyclonic storm, with wind speeds reaching up to 130 mph.
- The name Mocha (**Mokha**) was suggested by Yemen and it refers to a port city on the Red Sea that is known for introducing coffee to the world over 500 years ago.
- The naming of cyclones follows a standard procedure where eight countries in the region - Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand - take turns to suggest names.

## Climate Club

- India to join the 'Climate Club', a new environmental initiative launched by the G7 countries to encourage more ambitious climate action.
- It aims to create a coalition of countries that are committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and supporting each other in achieving their climate goals.
- India, as one of the world's largest emitters and fastest-growing economies, could play a key role in the success of this initiative and benefit from its incentives and opportunities.



**CHANDAN SAHA**  
**RANK 101 (Gr. A)**  
**WBCS 2020**

“Firstly I am thankful to APTI Plus for giving me such opportunity, APTI Plus Academy is providing a very good facility for preparing civil service, here I am participated for WBCS mock interview, All the faculty members are very cordial and supportive. They also provide a very good study material for WBCS Interview purpose. Over all I am happy & satisfied for their per behaviour.”  
Thank You again for their effort.”  
Chandan Saha



## OBITUARIES

### Kaur Singh passed away

- Kaur Singh, a former Indian boxer and Asian Games gold medallist passed away at the age of 74.
- He joined the Sikh Regiment of the Indian Army. He learnt boxing there and rose to fame by becoming the Asian champion in 1980.
- He also won the heavyweight boxing gold medal at the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi.
- He was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 1982 and Padma Shri in 1983 for his achievements in boxing.

### Ranajit Guha passed away

- Ranajit Guha, a renowned historian and a pioneer of the Subaltern Studies group, passed away at the age of 100.
- He was also involved in communist politics in his youth and represented India in international forums.
- Guha was a prolific writer and editor who contributed to the field of South Asian history from a subaltern perspective. He challenged the elitist and nationalist narratives of Indian history and focused on the role of peasants, workers, tribals and other marginalized groups in shaping the society and culture of the region.

### Tori Bowie passed away

- Tori was a former 100m world champion and a three-time Olympic medalist for the United States of America.
- She died at the age of 32 after a long battle with a rare form of cancer.
- She inspired millions of people around the world with her achievements and her courage.

### N. Gopalakrishnan passed away

- N. Gopalakrishnan, a renowned scholar and researcher who founded the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage (IISH) to promote the scientific and cultural heritage of India, died at the age of 68.
- He was a former scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and had authored several books and articles on various aspects of Indian science, philosophy, and culture.

### Arun Gandhi passed away

- Arun Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and a prominent activist himself died in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
- He was born in 1934 in Durban to Manilal Gandhi and Sushila Mashruwala, who was also involved in the freedom struggle.
- Arun Gandhi carried on the legacy of his grandfather by advocating for peace and nonviolence.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of LIC

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by the Prime Minister has announced its decision to appoint Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- Mohanty, who was serving as the Managing Director and interim chairperson of LIC, will assume his new role with immediate effect and will continue till June 29, 2024.



### Santiago Pena

- Voters of Paraguay elected Santiago Pena of the right-wing Colorado Party as the President.
  - He emerged as the winner by defeating centre-left challenger Efraín Alegre.
- Pena, a former finance minister and economist, campaigned on a platform of continuity and stability, promising to maintain pro-business policies.

### Neera Tandon

- Neera Tandon, an Indian-American, was appointed as the Domestic Policy Advisor in the Biden administration.
- She is the first person of Asian descent to hold this position, which oversees the development and implementation of the president's domestic agenda.
- She also served as the president of the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank. Tandon is known for her expertise in health care, education, and economic and social policy issues.

### Alia Bhatt

- Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy, has appointed Alia Bhatt as its first global ambassador from India.

### Osama Hamad

- Libya's political scene has been thrown into turmoil as the nation's eastern-based parliament voted to remove Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha, referring him for investigation and appointing Finance Minister Osama Hamad as his replacement.
- This move came after the failure to hold national elections, which were supposed to end the country's decade-long division and instability.

### Praveen Sood

- Praveen Sood served as the Director General of Police in Karnataka has been selected as the new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- He assumed the role for a period of two years after the incumbent Subodh Kumar Jaiswal's term expires on May 25.

### Manoj Soni

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will have a new chairman "Manoj Soni".
- He has been serving as a member of the Commission since 2017 and has been acting as the UPSC chairman since April 2022.

### Sourav Ganguly

- Tripura Tourism has appointed Sourav Ganguly, the former captain of the Indian cricket team and the ex-president of the BCCI, as its brand ambassador.
- Ganguly will promote the state's natural beauty, cultural heritage and adventure tourism to attract more visitors.

### Recep Tayyip Erdogan

- Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the leader of the ruling AK Party and the current president of Turkey, has secured a third term in office after defeating his main rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu in a runoff election on May 28, 2023.
- According to the Supreme Election Council and the state-run Anadolu Agency, Erdogan won 52.1% of the vote, while Kilicdaroglu, the candidate of the opposition alliance, received 47.9%.

### Bola Tinubu

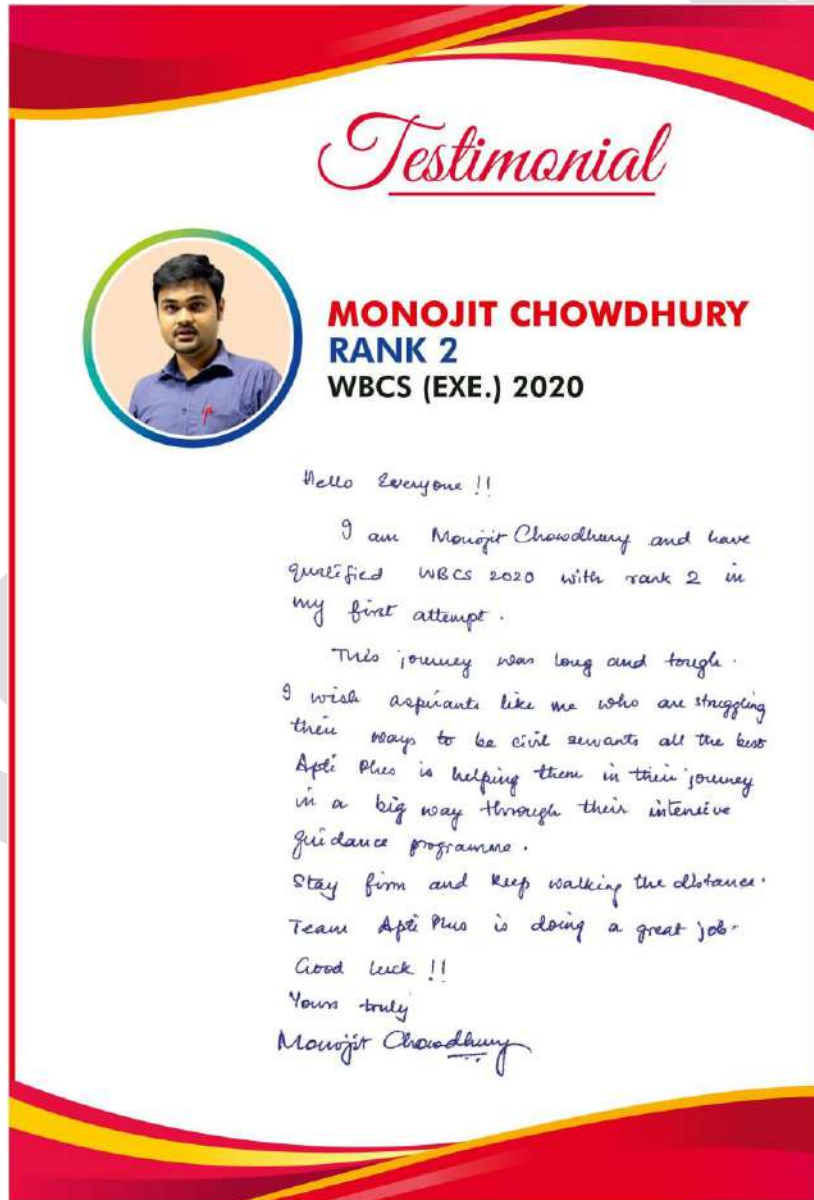
- Bola Tinubu was sworn in as the President of Nigeria on May 29, 2023.
- He won the presidential election with 37% of the votes, defeating his main rival Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

### Praveen Kumar Srivastava


- Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been officially sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner. He took the oath of office on 28 December 2022 before the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- As the head of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), he will oversee the anti-corruption activities of the central government and advise various authorities on vigilance matters.
- He will also have the power to supervise the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment and review the progress of investigations under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- He will serve as the CVC for a term of four years or until he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

### Girish Chandra Murmu

- Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has been reappointed as the External Auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a second term.
- This is a remarkable achievement that reflects his competence and credibility in auditing the financial performance and governance of the global health body.
- He will serve as the External Auditor of WHO from 2024 to 2027.



*Testimonial*



**MONOJIT CHOWDHURY**  
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Hello Everyone !!

I am Monojit Chowdhury and have qualified WBCS 2020 with rank 2 in my first attempt.

This journey was long and tough. I wish aspirants like me who are struggling their way to be civil servants all the best. APTI Plus is helping them in their journey in a big way through their intensive guidance programs.

Stay firm and keep walking the distance. Team APTI Plus is doing a great job.

Good luck !!

Yours truly  
Monojit Chowdhury

# AWARDS

## Alessandra Korap

- Alessandra Korap is an indigenous leader and environmental activist from the Brazilian Amazon.
- She has been awarded the 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize for South and Central America, a prestigious award that honours grassroots activists who work to protect the environment.
- She received the prize for her successful campaign against Anglo-Americans, a mining giant that wanted to explore indigenous territories without their consent.

## Shakira

- Shakira, the renowned Colombian singer received the prestigious 'Latin Women of the Year' award at the first-ever Latin Women in Music gala organized by Billboard.
- Shakira has earned the title of 'Queen of Latin Music' for her outstanding musical achievements over more than 30 years. She is one of the most influential and successful Latin artists of all time.

## Neeli Bendapudi

- Neeli Bendapudi received the Immigrant Achievement Award for her significant contributions to higher education in the United States.
- She has been a leader in promoting diversity, inclusion and innovation in academia and has helped Penn State achieve excellence in research, teaching and outreach.

## Dr M.N. Nandakumara

- Dr M.N. Nandakumara, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and Executive Director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Centre in London has been awarded an honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire by King Charles III for his contributions to Indian classical arts in Britain.
- Dr Nandakumara has been associated with the Bhavan for 46 years. The Bhavan is a popular Indian cultural hub that offers classes in Yoga, Indian languages, dance and music, among other subjects.

## Maria Stepanova

- The Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023 has been conferred to Maria Stepanova, a prominent Russian poet and novelist who lives in Berlin, Germany.
- She received the award for her poetry collection "Girls Without Clothes", which examines the hidden violence against women's bodies and the power imbalance behind it.
- Stepanova is also known for her novel "In Memory of Memory", which explores the history of her family and the legacy of Stalinism and the Soviet collapse. The novel was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2021.

## Michael Douglas

- Michael Douglas, the acclaimed actor and producer received a special tribute from the Cannes Film Festival this year.
- At the festival he received an honorary Palme d'Or, the highest prize in the prestigious event, to recognize his remarkable career and his contributions to the art of cinema.

## Pulitzer Prizes for 2023

- The Pulitzer Prizes for 2023 have been revealed, honouring the best journalism in the U.S. in 15 categories.
- Marjorie Miller, the administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, announced the winners.

| <u>Category</u>                | <u>Title and Author</u>   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Fiction</b>                 | "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper)   |
| <b>Fiction</b>                 | "Trust" by Hernan Diaz (Riverhead Books)  |
| <b>Drama</b>                   | "English" by Sanaz Toossi   |
| <b>History</b>                 | "Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power" by Jefferson Cowie (Basic Books)  |
| <b>Biography</b>               | "G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century" by Beverly Gage (Viking)  |
| <b>Memoir or Autobiography</b> | "Stay True" by Hua Hsu (Doubleday)  |
| <b>Poetry</b>                  | "Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020" by Carl Phillips (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)  |
| <b>General Nonfiction</b>      | "His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice" by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa (Viking) (Moved by the Board from the Biography category.) |
| <b>Music</b>                   | "Omar" by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels  |

### Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur

- The prestigious Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur, France's highest civilian award, has been conferred upon N Chandrasekaran, the Chairman of Tata Group.
- This honour recognizes his significant role in enhancing the bilateral trade and economic relations between India and France. Chandrasekaran has been instrumental in expanding Tata Group's presence and partnerships in various sectors in France, such as aerospace, automotive, energy and IT.

### Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi

- Prime Minister received the highest civilian honours of Papua New Guinea and Fiji, a rare distinction for a non-resident leader in the two Pacific island nations.
- Indian PM visited Papua New Guinea for the first time to host a crucial summit with 14 Pacific island countries and strengthen bilateral relations.
- He was awarded the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL) by Sir Bob Dadae, the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, which is the country's highest civilian award.
- He also received the Companion of the Order of Fiji from his Fiji counterpart Sitiveni Rabuka, in recognition of his global leadership.

### International Booker Prize 2023

- The prestigious 2023 International Booker Prize has been awarded to "Time Shelter," a captivating novel by Georgi Gospodinov, translated by Angela Rodel.
- This is a remarkable achievement for Bulgarian literature, as it is the first time a novel from this country has received this renowned literary honour.

### Justine Triet

- The Cannes Film Festival 2023 concluded with a historic win for Justine Triet, the third woman to receive the Palme d'Or.
- Her crime drama Anatomy of a Fall impressed the jury and critics alike with its gripping plot and nuanced performances.

### Damodar Mauzo

- Damodar Mauzo, a versatile and prolific writer in the Konkani language, has received the prestigious Jnanpith Award for the year 2021.
- He is known for his short stories, novels, criticism, and screenplay writing. He has enriched the Goan literature and culture with his creative and insightful works.

### International Indian Film Academy Awards

- The IIFA awards, or the International Indian Film Academy Awards, are back for their 23rd season. The prestigious event honours the excellence and achievements of the Bollywood film industry in various fields, such as acting, directing, writing, and music.
- The host of the current ceremony was actor Sidharth Malhotra, whose film “Shershaah” dominated the nominations with 21 nods. The film also won big at the event, bagging six awards, including Best Film and Best Director.

| Category                                 | Winner                                     |
|--|--|
| Best Film                                | Drishyam 2                                 |
| Best Director                            | R Madhavan for Rocketry: The Nambi Effect  |
| Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)    | Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi         |
| Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)      | Hrithik Roshan for Vikram Vedha            |
| Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female) | Mouni Roy for Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva |
| Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)   | Anil Kapoor for Jugg Jugg Jeeyo            |





**DEBNATH MAHATA**  
**RANK 111 (Gr. A)**  
**WBCS 2020**

“I am thankful APTI PLUS Academy. The Faculty staffs all are very cordial and supporting.”  
Debnath Mahata



# IMPORTANT DAYS

## Ayushman Bharat Diwas

- On April 30th every year, India observes Ayushman Bharat Diwas to spread awareness about the benefits of Ayushman Bharat Yojana. This scheme provides health insurance coverage to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.
- It also supports the establishment of health and wellness centres across the country. By implementing this scheme, India aims to fulfil its obligation towards the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

## International Labour Day

- This is a special day that celebrates the achievements and contributions of the working class around the world.
- It is also known as International Worker's Day or May Day, and it marks the anniversary of the historic Haymarket affair in Chicago in 1886.
- In many countries, Labour Day is a public holiday that allows workers to enjoy a well-deserved break and express their solidarity with their fellow workers.

## Maharashtra and Gujarat

- On May 1st every year, two Indian states celebrate their formation day: Maharashtra and Gujarat. These states were created by the Bombay Reorganization Act of 1960, which divided the former Bombay state into two linguistic regions: Marathi-speaking Maharashtra and Gujarati-speaking Gujarat.
- This act was a result of the demand for separate states by the people of these regions. The act came into force on May 1st, 1960, and since then this day is observed as Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day by the respective states.

## World Tuna Day

- To celebrate the vital role of tuna fish in our oceans and our diets, World Tuna Day is held every year on May 2nd.
- This day aims to increase awareness about the need for tuna conservation and management, as well as to encourage sustainable fishing practices that protect tuna stocks and their habitats.

## World Press Freedom Day

- On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, UNESCO honoured three female journalists from Iran with its prestigious World Press Freedom Prize.
  - The laureates, Niloufar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi, were selected for their courageous reporting on human rights violations in Iran and their dedication to justice and transparency.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

## World Athletics Day

- World Athletics Day is a global event that celebrates the sport of athletics and its values. It was initiated by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in 1996 and is held on May 7th every year.
- The Day aims to encourage participation and development of athletics around the world, especially among young people.
- The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is "Athletics for All - A New Beginning". This theme reflects the vision of the IAAF to make athletics a sport for everyone, regardless of their gender, age, ability, or background.

### World Thalassaemia Day

- The World Thalassaemia Day is marked on 8<sup>th</sup> May, it is a special occasion to raise awareness about a genetic disorder called Thalassaemia. This disorder affects the body's ability to produce enough haemoglobin, which is vital for transporting oxygen in the blood.
  - Thalassaemia is an inherited condition that leads to lower levels of oxygen-carrying proteins in the blood.
- The theme for 2023 is "Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap."

### World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

- World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day are celebrated annually on May 8th to honour the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who founded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and was the first person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a worldwide humanitarian network that operates in almost every country across the globe.
- The theme for 2023 is "Everything we do comes from the heart."

### National Technology Day

- India celebrates National Technology Day every May 11th to honour the achievements and contributions of its scientists, engineers, and technologists in advancing the nation's development.
- The theme for this year is 'School to Startups- Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'.

### International Day of Plant Health

- The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is a global initiative by the United Nations to promote the importance of safeguarding plants from pests and diseases.
- By protecting plant health, we can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of ending hunger, reducing poverty, preserving biodiversity and the environment, and enhancing economic development.

### International Nurses Day

- On May 12th every year, the world celebrates International Nurses Day to honour the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing, who was born on this date in 1820.
- The theme for International Nurses Day 2023 is 'Our Nurses. Our Future.', which reflects the vital role that nurses play in shaping the future of health care.

### World Migratory Bird Day

- World Migratory Bird Day is a global event held twice a year on the second Saturday of May and October.
- May 13, marks the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day.
- World Migratory Bird Day 2023 focuses on the topic of water and its importance for migratory birds.

### World Telecommunication Day

- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, formerly known as World Telecommunication Day, is celebrated every year on May 17 to commemorate the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 1865.
- The ITU is the United Nations' specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- The theme for this year's celebration is "Enabling the least developed nations through information and communication technologies", which highlights the importance of providing affordable, accessible and inclusive ICT solutions to the LDCs, as well as enhancing their capacities and resilience in the face of global challenges.

### International Museum Day

- International Museum Day is celebrated every year on May 18.

- It aims to raise awareness of the important role that museums play in promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and social cohesion.
- The theme for the 2023 International Museum Day is "Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being."

### World Hypertension Day

- On May 17th, 2023, people around the world joined together to mark World Hypertension Day.
- The goal of this global campaign is to increase public awareness of hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, and its risk factors, such as obesity, smoking, and stress.
- The theme for this year is 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.'

### International Day for Biological Diversity

- To raise awareness and promote action for the conservation of Earth's diverse ecosystems, the world celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity every year on May 22.
- The theme for 2023 is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity." This theme reflects the urgent need to implement the global commitments made to protect and restore nature, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### World Turtle Day

- Every year on May 23rd, people around the world celebrate World Turtle Day. This is a day to raise awareness and appreciation for turtles and tortoises, and their habitats.
- World Turtle Day was founded in 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue, a nonprofit organization that rescues and rehabilitates these animals.

### World No Tobacco Day

- World No Tobacco Day is an annual event held on May 31, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote awareness about the detrimental consequences of tobacco usage and advocate for policies aimed at reducing tobacco consumption.
- The theme for 2023 is "We need food, not tobacco".

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## BOOKS & AUTHOR

### Book "My Life As A Comrade"

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan released former Kerala Health Minister K.K. Shailaja's book.
- Ms Shailaja's book "My Life As A Comrade" narrates the events that shaped her political and personal views, the challenges she faced as a woman in a male-dominated sphere, and the lessons she learned from her comrades and mentors.

### Book "Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories"

- The book is authored by Amitav Ghosh. He explores his personal and professional connection to opium, a substance that has shaped the history and culture of many regions of the world.
- He traces the origins and impacts of opium production and trade, from ancient times to the present day, and visits the places where opium has left its mark.

### Book "Reflections"

- The book "Reflections" authored by Narayanan Vaghul was launched by the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, in Mumbai.
- The book is a memoir of Vaghul's illustrious career as a banker and philanthropist. He is widely regarded as the founder of ICICI Group, India's second-largest private sector bank, and a pioneer of financial innovation and inclusion.

### Book "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise"

- Amitabh Kant, who served as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) (2016-2022), has authored a new book titled "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise".
- The book chronicles the journey of India's economic development since independence and showcases the achievements and challenges of various sectors and industries. It also highlights the role of entrepreneurs, policymakers, and innovators in shaping the country's future.

### Book "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills"

- The author of the book is Kasturi Ray. The book tells the inspiring story of a tribal girl who overcame obstacles to become a symbol of resilience, determination, and perseverance.
- Murmu achieved many milestones by taking an unconventional path, starting from leaving her small village in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha to becoming the first citizen of India.

### Book "The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces"

- The author of the book is Feroze Varun Gandhi. The book examines the challenges facing India's urban spaces, including poverty, inequality, crime, and environmental degradation.
- The book offers some solutions and suggestions for improving the quality of life and governance in India's cities.

### Book "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life"

- Ruskin Bond's new book "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life" is a collection of essays, anecdotes and reflections that span Bond's life from the 1960s to the present.
- Bond shares his insights on various topics such as love, friendship, nature, literature, nostalgia and humour.

## BOOSTER DOSE

- IIT-Kanpur launched a cybersecurity skilling programme to train 10,000 professionals in the field of cyber defence and digital forensics.
- India and UK agreed to jointly create India-UK 'NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre to foster collaboration on clean energy and climate action.
- Sinthan Snow Festival 2023 was organized in Jammu and Kashmir to promote winter tourism and showcase the cultural diversity of the region.
- India Calling Conference 2023 was organized by Indian Merchants Chamber (IMC) in Mumbai to explore business opportunities and partnerships between India and the world.
- Goa government organized a three-day Heritage Festival to celebrate the rich legacy and history of the state.
- Narendra Singh Tomar, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, inaugurated a Summit on Farm Machinery Technology to discuss the latest innovations and best practices in the sector.
- Rajasthan Housing Board received the National Award for Real Estate for its excellence in affordable housing and urban development.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 91 FM Transmitters with a capacity of 100 Watts to enhance the reach and quality of radio broadcasting in remote areas.
- Science 20 Engagement Group meeting began in Lakshadweep to discuss the role of science in addressing global challenges such as health, environment and digital transformation.
- India announced its decision to join international climate action in civil aviation in 2027 under the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA).
- Narayan Rane, the Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, launched the revamped Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme to provide collateral-free loans to MSMEs.
- Three new wildlife conservation reserves were declared in Rajasthan to protect endangered species such as Great Indian Bustard, Lesser Florican and Caracal.
- NTPC Limited and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) signed an agreement for the joint development of a nuclear power plant with a capacity of 2,800 MW at Chutka in Madhya Pradesh.
- Devendra Fadnavis, the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Mauritius as a symbol of friendship and cultural ties between the two countries.
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RITES Limited to provide consultancy services for urban transport projects across India.
- India's unemployment rate rose to a four-month high of 8.11% in April 2023 due to the impact of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic activity and employment generation.
- India and Israel signed an MoU on Industrial R&D Cooperation to facilitate joint projects between industries and research institutions of both countries.
- Sri Lanka's Dialog Axiata and Bharti Airtel signed a binding term sheet to merge their operations in Sri Lanka and create a leading telecom operator in the island nation.
- The Manipur government has launched a facial recognition system (FRS) for Inner Line Permit (ILP) holders to check the entry and exit of outsiders in the state. The system will help in identifying ILP defaulters and illegal immigrants who have entered the state without valid documents.
- The government has launched the Vivad se Vishwas scheme to resolve tax disputes and provide relief to taxpayers. The scheme allows taxpayers to settle their pending tax disputes by paying only the disputed tax amount and getting a waiver of interest and penalty. The scheme is open till June 30, 2023.
- The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) celebrated its 60th Foundation Day on May 3, 2023. The institute was established in 1963 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to promote foreign trade and provide training and research in international business.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a portal called 'CU-Chayan' for faculty recruitment in central universities. The portal allows applicants to register online, upload documents, pay fees and track their application status.

- India's domestic coal production has risen by over 22 % during the last five years, according to the Ministry of Coal. The coal production increased from 567.36 million tonnes in 2016-17 to 692.95 million tonnes in 2020-21.
- Microsoft has launched a new initiative 'Aspire for Her', which is a mentorship programme for women entrepreneurs to access guidance, resources and networking opportunities from Microsoft experts and partners.
- Microsoft has launched a new initiative 'Highway to a Hundred Unicorns', which is a platform for startups to showcase their solutions, connect with investors and mentors, and scale up their businesses.
- The Telangana government has implemented an insurance scheme for toddy tappers in the state. The scheme provides a cover of Rs 5 lakh to the tappers in case of accidental death or permanent disability while tapping toddy from palm trees.
- The logo and mascot of the Khelo India University Games 2022 were launched by the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur. The logo depicts a torch with three flames representing excellence, courage and unity, while the mascot is a lion named 'Shakti', symbolising strength, speed and agility.
- The National Manufacturing Innovation Survey 2021-22 was released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The survey covers over 12,000 manufacturing enterprises across various sectors such as automobiles, textiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics and food processing.
- The 10th Landport between India and Bangladesh was inaugurated in Meghalaya, it will facilitate trade and movement of people between the two countries. The land port has facilities such as customs clearance, immigration, cargo inspection, quarantine and security.
- The 'Youth-20 Consultation Programme' conference concluded in Uttarakhand. The conference was organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the G20 Secretariat and the United Nations Volunteers India to engage the youth in the G20 agenda and priorities.
- India's first Air Force Heritage Centre was inaugurated in Chandigarh by Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria. The centre is located at the Chandigarh Air Force Station and showcases the history, achievements and legacy of the Indian Air Force (IAF) through exhibits, models, photographs and audio-visual displays.
- A PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra was inaugurated at Warasiguda in Secunderabad, by Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya. The Kendra is a part of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), which aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the common people.
- Japan has agreed to train 1000 Indian engineers for the bullet train project under the Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) programme. The JIM programme is a collaboration between the governments of Japan and India to impart Japanese-style manufacturing skills and practices to Indian youth.
- Pakistan is the largest recipient of Asian Development Bank loans in Asia, with a total of \$37 billion committed since 1966. In 2021, ADB disbursed \$1.31 billion to Pakistan for various projects and programs.
- India is set to hand over a fast patrol vessel ship and a landing craft to the Maldives as part of its defence cooperation with the island nation. The ship and the craft will be used for maritime surveillance, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance.
- Russia's Sberbank, the largest bank in the country, has launched an artificial intelligence platform called ChatGPT to compete with global giants like Google and Amazon. ChatGPT is based on the GPT-3 language model and can generate natural language responses for various tasks and domains.
- The World Press Freedom Index 2023 has ranked India at 161 out of 180 countries, a drop of two places from the previous year. The index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders, cited increased violence against journalists, censorship, and digital surveillance as reasons for India's poor performance. Norway topped the index for the fifth consecutive year.
- The foreign ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries began in Goa. The meeting is expected to discuss regional security, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange among the eight member states: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched the 'Machines Can See 2023' Summit, a global event that showcases the latest innovations and applications of computer vision and machine learning.

- Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Kiren Rijiju launched the trailer of the first Tagine language film 'Sangtamlā'. The film depicts the culture, traditions and lifestyle of the Sangtam tribe of Nagaland through a love story set in the backdrop of World War II.
- The first Pharma Park in India will be built in Uttar Pradesh with an investment of Rs 600 crore. The park will have facilities for research and development, manufacturing, testing and packaging of various drugs and formulations.
- India has operationalized Sittwe Port in Myanmar as part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP). The project is a joint initiative of India and Myanmar to enhance connectivity and trade between the two countries through sea, riverine and road routes.
- Ajit Mohanty has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) of India.
- Santiago Peña, the candidate of Paraguay's ruling Colorado Party, has won the presidential election.
- Ajay Banga, an Indian-origin business leader, has been appointed as the next president of the World Bank. He will take over from David Malpass.
- PM Prasad, a senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been selected as the next chairman and managing director of Coal India Limited (CIL), the world's largest coal producer.
- Mark Nicholas, a former England cricketer and a popular commentator, has been elected as the next president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of cricket's laws and traditions.
- Wakefit, a leading online sleep solutions company, has signed Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana as its brand ambassador.
- The Delhi High Court has appointed former Karnataka High Court judge P Krishna Bhat as the administrator of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).
- Neera Tandon, an Indian-origin policy expert and former adviser to Hillary Clinton, has become the domestic policy advisor in the administration of US President Joe Biden.
- Maria Stepanova, a Russian poet and journalist, has won the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize 2023 for her novel In Memory of Memory. The Leipzig Book Prize is awarded annually to outstanding works of fiction, non-fiction and translation from German-speaking countries.
- Meera Syal, a British-Indian actor and writer, will receive a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) fellowship in London. The fellowship is the highest honour bestowed by BAFTA and recognises Syal's contribution to film, television and theatre.
- Three Iranian female journalists Niloufar Hamedei, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi have won the top UN prize for their courage and professionalism in reporting human rights violations in Iran. The prize honours journalists who risk their lives to defend press freedom.
- The maiden ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIMEX) started in Singapore. The exercise involves naval ships and aircraft from India and nine ASEAN countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.
- INS Magar, an amphibious warfare vessel of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned after 36 years of service in the country. The ship was commissioned in 1987 and participated in various operations such as Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and Operation Vijay in Kargil.
- Historian Ranjit Guha died at 100. He was famous for subaltern studies and colonial history.
- Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation stone of Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. It will showcase the state's culture and heritage.
- Oil Ministry panel proposed a ban on four-wheeler diesel vehicles by 2027. It will reduce air pollution and carbon emissions.
- New lithium deposits found in Rajasthan after Jammu & Kashmir. It will boost electric vehicle manufacturing in India.
- Centre for Innovation, Incubation, Research and Entrepreneurship inaugurated in Telangana by Union Minister Annapurna Devi. It will foster innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculty.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed MoU with Emjay Control Systems to develop electromechanical bollards. They are devices to control vehicular access to sensitive areas.
- ISRO announced an online training programme for PG and final-year UG students in space technology. It will run from June 21 to July 2, 2021.
- Border haat between India and Bangladesh was inaugurated at Bholaganj in Sylhet by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi. It will facilitate trade and cultural exchange between border people.

- PM Modi inaugurated projects worth over Rs 5,500 crore in Rajasthan via video conferencing. The projects include an oil refinery, medical college and water supply project.
- UP became the first state to make digital health cards for children under 18 years. The cards will contain health records and the immunization status of children and will be linked to Aadhaar cards.
- Airtel developed an AI-based solution to tackle fraud messages by unscrupulous entities. The solution uses natural language processing and machine learning to identify and block such messages.
- India extended a \$1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka by a year. It will help Sri Lanka overcome economic challenges amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The credit line was announced by PM Modi during a virtual summit with Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in September 2020.
- Health Ministry launched SAKSHAM LMIS, a digital platform for training and capacity building of health workers. The platform will provide online courses, webinars, videos and other learning resources on health care delivery.
- Telangana government introduced Robotics Framework to promote robotics education and innovation in schools and colleges. The framework will provide guidelines for setting up robotics labs, conducting workshops and competitions, and creating a network of robotics mentors and experts.
- IIT Madras and DRDO developed sensor technology for underwater communications. The technology uses piezoelectric materials that can convert mechanical vibrations into electrical signals and vice versa. The technology can enable wireless transmission of data from underwater vehicles and sensors.
- BITS Pilani developed a face mask with a sensor that can check for illness symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. The sensor can also monitor the oxygen saturation level and heart rate of the wearer. The mask can alert the wearer or health care provider if any abnormality is detected.
- MyGov and the Ministry of Culture launched 'YUVA PRATIBHA', a talent hunt programme for young artists in music, dance, drama and fine arts. The programme aims to identify and nurture the creative potential of youth and provide them with a platform to showcase their talent.
- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched Ayushman Assam Scheme, a health insurance scheme that will cover 1.6 crore families in the state. The scheme will provide annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of scientific projects worth over Rs 5,800 crore via video conferencing. The projects include the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research in Goa, the National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology in Kerala, and the National Environmental Standards Laboratory in Hyderabad.
- Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, launched 'Harit Sagar', the Green Port Guidelines 2023.
- Punjab becomes the first state to enforce the 'right to walk', a policy that aims to promote pedestrian safety and mobility.
- Kerala becomes the first state to have drone surveillance in all police districts, a move that will enhance security and law enforcement.
- Indian government launches a faster immigration clearance scheme for 'trusted travellers', a program that will facilitate hassle-free entry and exit for frequent flyers.
- Mumbai hosts the first mining start-up summit, a platform that will showcase innovative solutions and opportunities in the mining sector.
- Cisco begins manufacturing in Tamil Nadu, a step that will boost the state's industrial growth and create employment.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signs an MoU with the AYUSH Ministry for health research in integrated medicine, a collaboration that will foster evidence-based research and practice of traditional systems of medicine.
- Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) airport gets India's first reading lounge, a facility that will offer books and magazines for travellers.
- Congress wins a clear majority in Karnataka Assembly Elections 2023, a victory that will end the political instability and uncertainty in the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone worth INR 4,400 crores in Gujarat, a project that will include a desalination plant, a hybrid renewable energy park and a fully automated milk processing plant.
- Narendra Singh Tomar chairs the 8th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Agriculture Ministers Meet, a forum that will discuss cooperation and collaboration in the field of agriculture and food security.

- Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar launches the 3rd Semicon India Roadshow in Delhi, an event that will showcase the latest trends and technologies in the semiconductor industry.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to organize the “G20 Conference on Crime and Security” in July 2023, a conference that will address the challenges and opportunities in combating transnational crime and terrorism.
- 2nd G20 Culture Group (CWG) Meeting held in Bhubaneswar, a meeting that will focus on the role of culture in sustainable development and social cohesion.
- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates a training program on legislative drafting in New Delhi, a program that will enhance the skills and knowledge of law officers and draftsmen.
- 3rd Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) meeting begins in Mumbai, a meeting that will deliberate on the strategies and actions for accelerating clean energy transitions.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launches ‘Him Data Portal’, a portal that will provide access to various data sets and indicators related to the state.
- National Medical Commission makes unique ID mandatory for doctors, a measure that will ensure transparency and accountability in the medical profession.
- Ministry for Corporate Affairs launches Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE), a centre that will expedite the closure of defunct or non-operational companies.
- The first meeting of the India-EU Trade and technology council at Brussels, a meeting that will explore new avenues of cooperation and partnership in trade and technology.
- Prime Minister addresses the 29th Biennial Conference of All India Primary Teachers’ Federation in Gandhinagar, a conference that will acknowledge the contribution and challenges of primary teachers in the education system.
- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches Biological Control Lab in Hyderabad, a lab that will produce bio-pesticides and bio-agents for pest management.
- Google invests \$1 million in IIT-Madras Artificial Intelligence research centre, an investment that will support cutting-edge research and innovation in AI.
- Cabinet approves ₹17,000 crores for Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0, a scheme that will incentivize domestic manufacturing of electronic components and products.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched two websites to enhance the quality of higher education in India. The websites are ‘Quality Mandate’ and ‘Paramarsh’, which aim to provide academic and administrative support to colleges and universities.
- The Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has launched a portal called ‘Sanchar Saathi’, which will enable telecom service providers to share their network infrastructure and resources.
- The Andhra Pradesh government has launched an app called ‘e-Chits’, which will digitize the chit fund business in the state.
- The Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh, has inaugurated the 8th All India Pension Adalat in New Delhi.
- Uttar Pradesh has ranked second in the country with 48 products having Geographical Indication (GI) tags. Tamil Nadu leads the country with 55 GI-tagged products.
- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, has inaugurated the International Museum Expo 2023 in New Delhi.
- India and Bangladesh have launched a joint initiative called the ‘50 Start-ups Exchange Programme’ to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in both countries.
- Russia has staged the 78th Victory Day parade at Red Square in Moscow to commemorate the end of World War II in Europe.
- The 42nd ASEAN Summit has begun in Jakarta, Indonesia with the theme ‘We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper’.
- The Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023 has been held in Berlin, Germany to review the progress made under the Paris Agreement and prepare for the COP28 climate conference. The dialogue was co-hosted by Germany and Fiji and attended by representatives from over 40 countries.
- The 6th Indian Ocean Conference will begin in Dhaka, Bangladesh with the theme ‘Securing Peaceful Coexistence in a Changing Indian Ocean’. The conference is organized by the India Foundation and the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

- Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has appeared on the cover of TIME magazine's Asia edition for June 2023.
- The Sharjah Police in UAE has launched a campaign called 'Stay in your lane' to raise awareness about lane discipline and reduce traffic accidents.
- The Health Minister of India, Mansukh Mandaviya, has addressed the G7 Ministerial meeting on Health Innovation in Tokyo, Japan.
- A Nepali sherpa named Kami Rita has become the world's second person to scale Mount Everest 26 times. The first person to achieve this feat was another Nepali sherpa named Phurba Tashi, who retired from climbing in 2018.
- BharatPe, a fintech company that provides digital payment solutions to merchants, has rebranded PAYBACK India as 'Zillion'.
- The 27th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on HSBC Bank for violating certain norms related to customer identification and anti-money laundering.
- AU Small Finance Bank has launched a new RuPay credit card for self-employed customers, offering them various benefits and rewards.
- The All-India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), the largest trade union of bank employees in the country, has announced that it will launch a 'Bank Clinic' initiative to help retail customers resolve their grievances and complaints.
- The London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) has decided to set up a technology centre in Hyderabad, India, as part of its expansion plans in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The RBI has launched a 100 days campaign to settle unclaimed deposits lying with banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions.
- The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.92 crore on Canara Bank for violating certain norms related to opening and operating current accounts.
- PayNearby, a fintech startup that offers hyperlocal digital payment services, has launched 'PayNearby Mall', an online marketplace for small businesses and consumers.
- Parminder Chopra has become the first woman to lead India's largest non-banking financial company (NBFC), Power Finance Corporation (PFC).
- Badminton Asia, the governing body of badminton in Asia, has appointed Umar Rashid as the chairman of the Technical Officials Committee for the term 2023-2027.
- Rathendra Raman has been appointed as the Chairman of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), formerly known as Kolkata Port Trust.
- Alia Bhatt has become Gucci's first Indian global ambassador, who represents the Italian luxury brand.
- Rajiv Dhar has been appointed as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), India's sovereign wealth fund.
- Ayushmann Khurrana joined the Indian team as an ambassador for their Special Olympics journey to Berlin in 2023.
- Geeta Rao Gupta has been appointed as the US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues by President Joe Biden. She is an Indian-American activist and former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.
- Praveen Sood has been appointed as the new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Yashasvi Jaiswal scored the fastest fifty in IPL history, reaching the milestone in just 13 balls for Rajasthan Royals against Kolkata Knight Riders. He also won the Emerging Player of the Season award.
- Telangana's Vuppala Praneeth became India's 82nd Grandmaster.
- K. Shailaja, the former health minister of Kerala who was praised for her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, came out with her new book 'My Life as a Comrade'.
- The book 'Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise' was written by Amitabh Kant, the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- The book 'The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces' was written by Varun Gandhi.
- Ashutosh Dixit has been appointed as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Ravneet Kaur has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- Duroflex, a leading mattress brand in India, has announced Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador.
- Manoj Soni has taken oath as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred 37 Gallantry awards to defence personnel and civilians for their bravery and courage in various operations at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Argentina's Lionel Messi won the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award for 2023. Messi became the first footballer to win this prestigious award twice.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was honoured with the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award for 2023.
- Jayant Narlikar, a renowned astrophysicist and cosmologist, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) for 2023.
- Cochin Port bagged the Sagar Shreshtha Sammaan Award for 2023 at a function held in New Delhi.
- India and Indonesia conducted their bilateral naval exercise Samudra Shakti in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Indian Army conducted a flood relief exercise named Jal Rahat in Assam.
- International Business Machines (IBM) partnered with NASA to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps using artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing.
- Mastercard replaced BharatPe as the global sponsor of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- The Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship scheme of the central government to provide piped water supply to every rural household, has achieved a milestone of 12 crore tap water connections.
- The central government has approved the establishment of a new Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation Institute in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, has inaugurated an online education program called 'Pahal' for rural children. The program is an initiative of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).
- The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has announced that it will set up a Rs 500 crore ethanol plant in the Una district of Himachal Pradesh. The plant will have a capacity of producing 125 kilolitres of ethanol per day from maize and other grains.
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, has inaugurated the National Mission Conclave in New Delhi.
- India has launched 'Operation Karuna' to provide humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, which was hit by cyclone Mora.
- The Madhya Pradesh cabinet has approved a new scheme called 'Mukhya Mantri Sikho Kamao Yojana' for unemployed youth.
- The second meeting of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will be held in Mumbai.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has inaugurated India's longest skywalk bridge at the Upper Bhavani reservoir in Nilgiris district.
- Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, has become the first city in India to measure its progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) at Okha in Gujarat.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima, Japan, on the occasion of his visit to the country for the G20 summit.
- The government has decided to set up 1,100 farmer-producer organizations in the cooperative sector to boost the income and productivity of small and marginal farmers.
- Israel has tied up with IIT-Madras to set up a water technology centre that will focus on research and innovation in water management and conservation.
- India will host the Quad Summit in 2024, a year after Australia, as part of the rotational arrangement among the four countries that aim to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region.
- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to provide free air travel to pilgrims visiting various religious places across India under the Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 76th Session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva via video conferencing and highlighted India's efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and its support to other countries.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the highest civilian honours by Fiji and Papua New Guinea during his virtual summit with the leaders of these Pacific island nations. He also announced a \$1 billion line of credit for infrastructure development in the region.



- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has approved the first Good Governance Regulations of the country.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani inaugurated a women labourers convention in Kerala and launched various schemes and initiatives for their empowerment and welfare.
- Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to approve the Good Governance Regulations that aim to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in public administration and service delivery.
- The second Trade and Investment Working Group meeting between India and Australia began in Bengaluru to explore new avenues of cooperation and partnership in various sectors.
- The second G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting began in Mumbai to discuss the best practices and challenges in disaster management and resilience building.
- The Maharashtra government launched a new portal 'Shasan Aplya Dari' (Government at Your Doorstep) that will enable citizens to access various government services and schemes online without visiting any office.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the Machilipatnam port project that will boost the economic growth and development of the state and create employment opportunities for the youth.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), a leading defence PSU, launched 'GAINS' (GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme) Startup Challenge in Kolkata to encourage startups to come up with innovative solutions for the defence sector.
- The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to formulate a Green Hydrogen policy to promote clean energy and reduce carbon emissions in the state.
- Indian Railways handed over 20 Broad Gauge Locomotives to Bangladesh as part of its commitment to enhance bilateral cooperation and connectivity in the region.
- India and Australia signed a Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement that will facilitate visa arrangements for students, professionals, tourists and business travellers between the two countries.
- Kerala is set to become the first fully e-governed state in India as it plans to digitize all its government offices and services by March 2022.
- Chandigarh bags first rank in National Water Award 2022 for its exemplary work in water conservation and management. The award was presented by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti in New Delhi on June 5.
- Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov wins International Booker Prize for 'Time Shelter', a novel that explores the themes of memory, time and survival. He shared the prize with his translator Angela Rodel, who rendered the book into English from Bulgarian.
- Indo-Indonesia bilateral Exercise Samudra Shakti-23 concluded in the South China Sea on June 8. The exercise involved naval drills, maritime security operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.
- India & Saudi Arabia to conduct Naval Exercise AL MOHED AL HINDI 2023 in the Arabian Sea.
- Annu Rani clinched a gold medal in Federation Cup 2023 by throwing the javelin at a distance of 63.24 metres. She broke her national record and qualified for the World Athletics Championships.
- India bags 16 gold medals at the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023 held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. India topped the medal tally with a total of 28 medals, followed by Sri Lanka and Pakistan.
- Jyothi Yarraji clinches gold in women's 100 m hurdles at the Asian Athletics Championships 2023 held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Elena Rybakina clinches the Italian Open women's Singles title by defeating Simona Halep in three sets. She became the first player from Kazakhstan to win a WTA 1000 title.
- Shaili Singh clinched a bronze medal at the Golden Grand Prix 2023 held in Tokyo, Japan. She jumped 6.59 metres and became the youngest Indian to win a medal at this event.
- Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd Indian player to complete 11000 runs in T20 after Virat Kohli. He achieved this feat during the IPL match between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings.
- Daniil Medvedev wins maiden clay court title at Italian Open 2023 by defeating Novak Djokovic in straight sets. He became the first Russian to win this tournament since Marat Safin in 2000.
- China claims a record 13th Sudirman Cup title by defeating Japan 3-0 in the final. China dominated the mixed-team event and extended its unbeaten run to seven editions.
- BCCI announces Adidas as Team India's kit sponsor for the next four years. Adidas will provide apparel and footwear for all the Indian cricket teams across formats.

- Neeraj Chopra becomes World No 1 in men's javelin throw after his performance at the Diamond League meeting in Doha, Qatar. He threw 88.07 metres and broke his national record.
- Khelo India University Games begins in Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- Ruskin Bond wrote a new book titled 'The Golden Years' which is a collection of his essays, memoirs and anecdotes. The book celebrates his life and works as one of India's most beloved writers.
- The first Urban Climate Film Festival was held in Kolkata to showcase films and documentaries on climate change and urban resilience. The festival was organized by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and the British Council.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched 'Hamar Sughhar Laika Abhiyan', a campaign to provide free sanitary napkins to all adolescent girls and women in rural areas of the state.
- Union Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Giriraj Singh launched the SAMARTH campaign, a nationwide initiative to create awareness about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.
- Odisha government collaborated with Infosys and the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) to set up a Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science in Bhubaneswar.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) formed a new committee to oversee the implementation of the Cheetah reintroduction project in India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 8th meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council via video conferencing.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Parliament building in New Delhi. The building is designed as a triangular structure with a seating capacity of 888 members in Lok Sabha and 384 members in Rajya Sabha.
- A mega 'Yoga Festival' was organized in Hyderabad by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Telangana government. The festival featured yoga sessions, workshops, exhibitions and cultural programs.
- Patna became the first municipal corporation in India to use Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for its transactions.
- Telangana achieving 100% coverage of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), a flagship scheme for financial inclusion.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Assam's first Vande Bharat Express train from Guwahati to New Delhi.
- India getting approval from Nepal to set up its second hydroelectric project in the Himalayan nation.
- The Atal Bhujal Yojana water scheme is being extended by two years till March 2025 to improve groundwater management in India.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) developing an ethanol-diesel blend fuel to reduce carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.
- The Maharashtra government launched Nammo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana, a scheme to provide financial assistance to farmers who have suffered crop losses due to natural calamities.
- Odisha government announcing a new housing scheme for urban poor families with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore.
- Kheer Bhawani Mela 2023 is being organized in Kashmir Valley with a record number of devotees attending the annual festival dedicated to Goddess Ragnya Devi.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Odisha for AI, AI for Youth' initiative to promote AI education and innovation among youth in the state.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairing the 2nd meeting of the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), the apex body for industrial corridor development in India.
- India's AI supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' is ranked 75th in the Global Supercomputing list, making it the fastest AI supercomputer in the country.
- Sydney's Harris Park is being renamed as 'Little India' to recognize the contribution of the Indian community to the multicultural fabric of Australia.
- India ranked 103rd out of 157 countries in the Hanke's Annual Misery Index (HAMI) for 2022, which measures the level of economic misery based on inflation, unemployment, lending rates and GDP growth. Switzerland emerged as the least miserable country, followed by Taiwan and Japan.

- Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, launched a digital onboarding platform called 'Sarathi' to provide end-to-end solutions for customers across various segments.
- India signed a \$484 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the development of infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh.
- SBI General Insurance, a joint venture between the State Bank of India and Insurance Australia Group, unveiled a new product called 'Surety Bond Bima' for infrastructure projects.
- PhonePe, India's leading digital payments platform, became the first payment app to link 2 lakhs RuPay Credit Cards to Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) set up an intermediary advisory panel to be led by S Ravindran, former executive director of SEBI.
- K Govindraj was elected as the President of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) for the term 2023-27.
- R Dinesh was appointed as the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President for 2023-24.
- Suman Sharma was sworn in as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Praveen Kumar Srivastava was sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn in as the President of Nigeria, after winning the 2023 presidential election with 55.6% of the votes.
- Nepal celebrated Bhoto Jatra, a traditional festival that marks the end of the Rato Machhindranath chariot procession.
- Chaman Lal, a British-Indian Sikh from the Ravidassia community, made history by becoming the first ever Indian-origin Lord Mayor of Birmingham.
- The Maharashtra government has named cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar as the Smile Ambassador for its Smile Mission project, which aims to provide free surgeries to children with cleft lip and palate.
- Goan writer Damodar Maujo has been conferred with the 57th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, for his contributions to Konkani literature
- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), has won the prestigious Greentech Safety Award 2023 for its outstanding performance in occupational health and safety.
- Iran has successfully launched a new ballistic missile named Kheibar, which has a range of 2,000 km and can carry multiple warheads.
- Rayyanah Barnawi, a Saudi Arabian engineer, has become the first Arab woman astronaut to go to space.
- Microsoft has launched a multilingual AI chatbot named Jugalbandi that can converse with users in 12 Indian languages as well as English.
- Murali Sreeshankar, India's long jump champion, won gold at the International Jumping Meeting in Greece with a leap of 8.26 metres.
- Sania Mirza, India's tennis star, has been appointed as the Tennis Ambassador for Sony Sports Network, the official broadcaster of Wimbledon and other major tennis tournaments in India.
- Magnus Carlsen, the world chess champion from Norway, has won the Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland 2023, the fifth leg of the Grand Chess Tour.
- HS Prannoy, India's ace shuttler, has won the Malaysia Masters Badminton title by defeating Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in the final.
- Max Verstappen, the Red Bull driver from the Netherlands, has won the Monaco Grand Prix 2023, the sixth race of the Formula One season.
- Ambati Rayudu, the veteran Indian batsman, has announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League (IPL) after playing for 14 seasons.
- Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have beaten Gujarat Titans (GT) by six wickets in the final of the IPL 2023 to lift their fifth title.
- India won the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Women's Challenge Cup 2023 by defeating Kazakhstan in the final.
- RAIL VIKAS NIGAM LTD upgraded to Navratna.
- Addiction free campaign launched in Odhisa.
- Tungnath temple in Uttarakhand to be declared a national monument.
- Volcano de Fuego erupted in Guatemala.
- American economics Nobel laureate Robert E Lucas passed away.
- New CEO of Twitter - Linda Yaccarino

- Uttarakhand launched "PATCH REPORTING APP" to make roads free of pot holes.
- Operation Dhavast launched by NIA in 8 states in terrorist gangster drug smugglers Nexus case.
- Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court - TS Sivagnanam
- Godfather of AI(artificial intelligence)- Geoffrey Hinton
- Japan to adopt UPI payment system of India.
- Project 'Return to Roots' launched in Kargil by Australian High Commission to integrate traditional knowledge with current school science curriculum at par with National Education Policy.
- INDUS-X is a joint initiative of India USA to collaborate to co-produce jet engines, infantry vehicles and long range artillery.
- International Day of Living Together in Peace- 16th May
- Gatka to be included in National Games 2023 to be held in Goa in October 2023. Its a form of martial of Punjab.

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**ABHIK PATLA**  
**RANK 46 (Gr. A)**  
**WBCS 2020**

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Abhik Patla

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## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**Q1. Which UT has organized Sinthan Snow Festival-2023?**

- A) Delhi
- B) Chandigarh
- C) Jammu and Kashmir
- D) Puducherry

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Sinthan Snow Festival-2023 is a two-day event organized by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Authority (KTDA) in collaboration with the District Administration Kishtwar, the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), and the Army. The festival aims to promote tourism and showcase the rich culture and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Q2. Mana village was earlier known as the last Indian village, but now it is known as the first Indian village. The village is in which State?**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Mana village in Uttarakhand was earlier known as the last Indian village, but now it is known as the first Indian village. This change of status is due to the installation of a signboard by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at the entrance of the village, which lies near the Indo-China border.

**Q3. Which state has recently celebrated the "Swagat Saptah"?**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The "State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology" (SWAGAT) initiative is a unique platform that enables citizens of Gujarat to directly communicate with the Chief Minister and seek redressal of their grievances. SWAGAT has completed 20 years of successful implementation. To mark this occasion, the current Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has

declared the last week of April as "Swagat Saptah", a week-long celebration of the initiative.

**Q4. What is Zero Shadow Day?**

- A) A day when the Sun does not cast any shadow on Earth
- B) A day when the Sun casts a zero-length shadow of an object at solar noon
- C) A day when the Sun is at its lowest point in the sky
- D) A day when the Sun is eclipsed by the Moon

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Zero Shadow Day is a day on which the Sun does not cast a shadow on an object at solar noon, the sun will be exactly overhead and objects on the ground will not cast any shadow. This happens when the Sun's declination becomes equal to the latitude of the location.

**Q5. Which of the following country has become the largest recipient of Asian Development Bank (ADB) loans in Asia?**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Pakistan topped the list of Asian countries that benefited from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) loans in 2022. The ADB Annual Report 2022 showed that Pakistan received USD 5.58 billion out of the total USD 31.8 billion disbursed to 40 countries.

**Q6. What is the phrase used in Article 142 to describe the power of the Supreme Court?**

- A) Complete justice
- B) Absolute discretion
- C) Judicial review
- D) Basic structure

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Article 142 of the Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court of India to pass any order necessary to do complete justice in any case or matter pending before it. It is a discretionary power that is exercised sparingly and with caution by the apex court.

**Q7. CU-Chayan Portal was launched by \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Niti Aayog

- B) Election Commission of India
- C) University Grant Commission
- D) Central Board of Secondary Education

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** University Grant Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar inaugurated CU-Chayan, a new recruitment portal for Central University faculty. The portal was developed to make the recruitment process more transparent, efficient and convenient for all the stakeholders involved.

**Q8. Which State has launched a new insurance scheme 'Geetha Karmikula Bhima' for toddy tappers?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Odisha
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Telangana

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The Telangana government has launched a new insurance scheme for toddy tappers under the name of 'Geetha Karmikula Bhima.' The scheme is designed to provide financial support to the families of toddy tappers who lose their lives due to accidents while collecting toddy from palm trees in the fields.

**Q9. Which state government has recently announced Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi, a monthly incentive of Rs 1,500 for women.**

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Karnataka

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** In a move to empower the women of the remote Spiti Valley, the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet has decided to provide them with a monthly incentive of Rs 1,500. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who said that the incentive would help the women to meet their basic needs and improve their living standards.

**Q10. \_\_\_\_\_ is the first state in the country to provide free crop insurance to farmers.**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Karnataka
- C) Odisha
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Odisha has become the first state in the country to offer free crop insurance to its farmers. This initiative aims to protect the farmers from the risks of crop failure due to natural calamities, pests and diseases. The state government will bear the entire premium cost of the insurance scheme, which will cover both kharif and rabi crops. The farmers will also get timely compensation in case of any crop loss.

**Q11. Recently which state government announced the "State Robotics Framework" to create a self-sustaining robotics ecosystem?**

- A) Karnataka
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Telangana
- D) Maharashtra

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The State Robotics Framework is a policy initiative launched by the Telangana government in May 2023. It aims to create a self-sustaining robotics ecosystem and position the state as a leader in robotics in India.

**Q12. START is a new online training programme launched by the \_\_\_\_\_, for students of physical sciences and technology.**

- A) The Union Ministry of Education
- B) Niti Aayog
- C) Indian Space Research Organisation
- D) Center for Research and Development

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) is a new online training programme launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is aimed at post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing a career in space science and technology.

**Q13. When is World No Tobacco Day observed?**

- A) 21st January
- B) 31st May
- C) 25th August
- D) 21st May

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** World No Tobacco Day is an annual event held on May 31, organized by the World

Health Organization (WHO) to promote awareness about the detrimental consequences of tobacco usage and advocate for policies aimed at reducing tobacco consumption. The theme for 2023 is "We need food, not tobacco".

**Q14. Which player won the Orange Cap in IPL 2023?**

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Hardik Pandya
- C) Ms Dhoni
- D) Shubman Gill

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The Orange Cap is an award given to the batsman who scores the most runs in an IPL season. In IPL 2023, the Orange Cap was won by 'Shubman Gill' of Gujarat Titans. He scored 890 runs in 17 matches at an average of 59.33.

**Q15. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is planning to bring the Kapileshwar Temple under its ambit and declare it a 'Monument of National Importance.' The Temple is in which state?**

- A) Karnataka
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Odisha
- D) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Kapileshwar Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and is located in different states of India. However, the one that the ASI is planning to declare as a 'Monument of National Importance' is situated in Odisha, near Bhubaneswar. The temple dates back to the 14th century and has exquisite carvings and architecture that reflect the rich history and culture of the region.

**Q16. Who has been re-elected as the External Auditor of the World Health Organisation (WHO)?**

- A) Jim Kim Yong
- B) Ankit Kant
- C) Ajay Banga
- D) Girish Chandra Murmu

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has re-elected the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu as its external auditor for a second term. Murmu will serve as the external auditor of WHO for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027. He was first

elected to this position in 2019 for a term from 2019 to 2023.

**Q17. What is the name of the bridge, which will be India's longest sea bridge in the coming days?**

- A) Chennai Trans Harbour Link
- B) Kolkata Trans Harbour Link
- C) Mumbai Trans Harbour Link
- D) Hyderabad Trans Harbour Link

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL) is a six-lane, 21.8-km-long bridge that connects Mumbai with Navi Mumbai. It is expected to be completed and opened to the public by November 2023. The bridge will be India's longest sea bridge.

**Q18. Who was sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)?**

- A) Praveen Kumar Srivastava
- B) Jagdeep Sharma
- C) Prakash Singh Chauhan
- D) Vishwakarma Rathore

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Praveen Kumar Srivastava is a senior Indian Administrative Service officer who has been appointed by the President of India as Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC). He has a distinguished career spanning over three decades in various sectors such as finance, taxation, education, health and social welfare.

**Q19. Who has been named the Global Ambassador by the Gucci fashion brand?**

- A) Madhuri Dixit
- B) Sania Mirza
- C) Priyanka Chopra
- D) Alia Bhatt

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy, has appointed Alia Bhatt as its first global ambassador from India. She will debut as the brand's newest global ambassador at the Gucci Cruise 2024 show.

**Q20. According to the latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which state has the highest number of missing women cases in India?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Bihar

D) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of missing women cases in India.

**Q21. When was the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) set up?**

- A) 1977
- B) 1981
- C) 1985
- D) 1986

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is an Indian government agency that collects and analyzes crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL). The NCRB was established in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals, and to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.

**Q22. Georgi Gospodinov, who has won the International Booker Prize, is from which country?**

- A) Bulgaria
- B) Latvia
- C) Maldives
- D) Ukraine

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Georgi Gospodinov is a renowned Bulgarian writer who has won the prestigious International Booker Prize for his novel *The Physics of Sorrow*. The novel explores the themes of memory, loss, and empathy through the lens of a mythical creature called the Minotaur.

**Q23. Which state has recently initiated the removal of dotted lands in the state from the prohibited list?**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Dotted lands are disputed lands for which there are no clear ownership documents and are usually claimed by both the government and private parties. The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to restore full rights of selling or pledging these lands to the farmers who

own them. Over 2 lakh acres of these British-era dotted lands have been identified for permanent de-notification.

**Q24. Which country hosted the G-7 Summit in May 2023?**

- A) USA
- B) Japan
- C) Italy
- D) France

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The 2023 G7 Summit was a historic event that took place in Hiroshima, Japan, from May 19 to 21. The leaders of the G7 countries, along with guests from other regions, gathered to discuss various issues of global importance, such as the Ukraine war, generative AI, economy, and military relations.

**Q25. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' Campaign?**

- A) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- B) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D) Ministry of MSME

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' Campaign is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to promote cleanliness and hygiene in urban areas. The campaign aims to encourage citizens to adopt sustainable waste management practices and participate in various activities such as segregation, composting, recycling, and reuse of waste.

**Q26. 'Samudra Shakti-23' is a bilateral exercise conducted between India and which country?**

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Indonesia
- C) France
- D) Israel

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** 'Samudra Shakti-23' is the name of a joint naval exercise that is held annually between India and Indonesia. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability, mutual understanding and maritime cooperation between the two navies.

**Q27. Where is the 'Great Grandfather Tree' located?**

- A) Brazil



- B) USA
- C) Australia
- D) Chile

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The world's oldest tree may be a Patagonian cypress that grows in Chile's Alerce Costero National Park. The tree, which is nicknamed "Great Grandfather", has been officially recognized as 5,000 years old, but some estimates suggest it could be as old as 6,500 years.

**Q28. Which is the first Indian city to adopt the localization of the UN-mandated SDGs?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Ahmedabad
- C) Bhopal
- D) Bangalore

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Bhopal has become the first city in India to initiate city-level Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) to track the local government's capacity and commitments towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mandated by the United Nations.

**Q29. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Harit Sagar Guidelines 2023'?**

- A) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- B) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- C) Ministry of External Affairs
- D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched the 'Harit Sagar Guidelines 2023' to achieve the Zero Carbon Emission Goal. The guidelines aim to promote green port development and operations by minimizing waste, using renewable energy, and protecting biodiversity. The guidelines also provide a rating system for assessing and benchmarking the environmental performance of ports based on various indicators and parameters.

**Q30. Which country has returned to Arab League after 11 years?**

- A) Iraq
- B) Iran
- C) Syria
- D) Afghanistan

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Arab League has re-admitted Syria after an 11-year absence, following an extraordinary meeting at the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo, Egypt on May 7, 2023. Syria was suspended from the Arab League in 2011 during a violent crackdown on anti-government protests. The Arab League is an organization of Middle Eastern and African countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization that aims to promote closer political, economic, cultural and social relations among the members.

**Q31. Dawki Landport, which was recently inaugurated, is located between India and which country?**

- A) Myanmar
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Pakistan.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Dawki land port is the first land port in the state of Meghalaya along the international border between India and Bangladesh. It is located in the West Jantia Hills. Dawki land port will facilitate the transportation of goods, people, and vehicles across the border, as well as simplify border crossing procedures for passengers.

**Q32. Meiteis are the largest ethnic group in which state?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Meiteis are the largest ethnic group of Manipur, a state in Northeast India. They speak the Meitei language, also known as Manipuri, which is one of the 22 official languages of India and the sole official language of Manipur. Meiteis have a rich and diverse culture, influenced by Hinduism, Sanamahism, Christianity and Buddhism.

**Q33. Which country hosted the 'Petersberg Climate Dialogue'?**

- A) USA
- B) Germany
- C) France
- D) Switzerland

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023 was a two-day event that brought together

ministers and high-level representatives from 40 countries to discuss climate cooperation. The dialogue was co-hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates. The main topics of the dialogue were climate adaptation, climate finance, and the first-ever global stocktake of the progress made under the Paris Agreement.

**Q34. What is India's rank in the 'World Press Freedom Index 2023'?**

- A) 141
- B) 151
- C) 161
- D) 171

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** India's rank in the 'World Press Freedom Index 2023' is 161 out of 180 countries, according to the report released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The report states that India has not improved its position since last year and continues to face challenges such as violence against journalists, censorship, and legal harassment.

**Q35. Ranajit Guha, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?**

- A) Sports person
- B) Historian
- C) Business person
- D) Politician

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Ranajit Guha was a renowned historian who specialized in the study of colonial and post-colonial India. He was the founder and editor of Subaltern Studies, a series of publications that challenged the elitist and nationalist perspectives of Indian history and gave voice to marginalized and oppressed groups. He taught at various universities in England and Australia and influenced many scholars in the fields of history, sociology, cultural studies, and literary theory.

**Q36. The Book "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills" was authored by \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Ruskin Bond
- B) Suman Tiwari
- C) Kasturi Ray
- D) Deblina Biswas

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The book "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills", The author of

the book is by Kasturi Ray. The book tells the inspiring story of a tribal girl who overcame obstacles to become a symbol of resilience, determination, and perseverance.

**Q37. International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on \_\_\_\_.**

- A) 22nd June
- B) 22nd May
- C) 15th July
- D) 15th September

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated every year on May 22. The theme for 2023 is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity."

**Q38. N. Gopalakrishnan passed away. He was famous \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Politician
- B) Historian
- C) Scientist
- D) Cricketer

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** N. Gopalakrishnan, a renowned scholar and researcher who founded the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage (IISH) to promote the scientific and cultural heritage of India, died at the age of 68. He was a former scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and had authored several books and articles on various aspects of Indian science, philosophy, and culture.

**Q39. In May 2023, Bola Tinubu was sworn in as the President of \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Kenya
- B) South Africa
- C) Nigeria
- D) Somalia

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Bola Tinubu was sworn in as the President of Nigeria on May 29, 2023. He won the presidential election with 37% of the votes, defeating his main rival Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

**Q40. The book "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise" was authored by \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Chetan Bhagat
- B) Varun Gandhi
- C) Amitabh Kant

D) Amit Shah

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Amitabh Kant, who served as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) (2016-2022), has authored a new book titled "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise". The book chronicles the journey of India's economic development since independence and showcases the achievements and challenges of various sectors and industries.

**Q41. Who is recently appointed as the brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism?**

- A) Gautam Gambhir
- B) Sanjay Dutt
- C) Sourav Ganguly
- D) Ranveer Singh

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Tripura Tourism has appointed Sourav Ganguly, the former captain of the Indian cricket team and the ex-president of the BCCI, as its brand ambassador.

**Q42. Who won the "Latin Women of the Year" award in 2023?**

- A) Michael Steve
- B) Miley Cyrus
- C) Shakira
- D) Justin Bieber

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Shakira, the renowned Colombian singer received the prestigious 'Latin Women of the Year' award at the first-ever Latin Women in Music gala organized by Billboard.

**Q43. Who is the first Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in T20 cricket?**

- A) Ravichandran Ashwin
- B) Ravindra Jadeja
- C) Yuzvendra Chahal
- D) Amit Mishra

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Yuzvendra Chahal became the first Indian bowler to claim 300 wickets in T20 cricket. The leg-spinner, who plays for India and the Rajasthan Royals, is the first Indian bowler to reach this milestone in the shortest format of the game.

**Q44. Who won the Laureus Sportsman of the Year Award 2023?**

- A) Kylian Mbappé
- B) Rafael Nadal
- C) Lionel Messi
- D) Max Verstappen

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Lionel Messi, the legendary footballer who led Argentina to their third World Cup title in 2022, received the prestigious Laureus Sportsman of the Year award at a gala event in Paris. The award recognizes the most outstanding achievements in sports across various disciplines and categories.

**Q45. The book "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life" was authored by \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Ruskin Bond
- B) Suman Tiwari
- C) Kasturi Ray
- D) Deblina Biswas

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Ruskin Bond's new book "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life" is a collection of essays, anecdotes and reflections that span Bond's life from the 1960s to the present.

**Q46. Which Country developed a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) named GigaChat?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Sberbank, the largest bank in Russia, has developed a new technology named GigaChat to compete with ChatGPT in the artificial intelligence chatbot race. GigaChat aims to rival ChatGPT, a chatbot from the Microsoft-backed startup OpenAI, which was released last year and has caused a sprint in the technology sector to put AI into more users' hands.

**Q47. The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh, recently launched the 'SAMARTH Campaign. What is the objective of the Campaign?**

- A) To increase the coverage of the water pipeline
- B) To increase the coverage of electricity
- C) To increase the coverage of digital transactions
- D) To increase the coverage of skill development

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh, recently launched the 'SAMARTH Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats' under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in Lucknow.

**Q48. India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park in Jogighopa is in which State?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Assam
- D) Tamil Nadu

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park (IMMLP) is being developed at Jogighopa, a town in Assam on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River. The IMMLP is a part of the Bharatmala Pariyojana, a flagship initiative of the Government of India to improve the logistics sector in the country.

**Q49. Who became the fastest player to score 5000 runs in One Day International (ODI) cricket?**

- A) Shubman Gill

- B) Babar Azam
- C) Hardik Pandya
- D) Ollie Pope

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Babar Azam, the captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has set a new record by becoming the fastest player to score 5000 runs in One Day International (ODI) cricket. He achieved this feat in his 97th ODI match. He surpassed the previous record held by Africa's Hashim Amla, who reached the 5000-run mark in 101 innings.

**Q50. International Nurses Day is observed on \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) 12th April
- B) 12th May
- C) 22nd June
- D) 22nd July

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** On May 12th every year, the world celebrates International Nurses Day to honour the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing, who was born on this date in 1820. The theme for International Nurses Day 2023 is 'Our Nurses. Our Future.'



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