

# THE OAS GAZETTE

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Odisha Rural-Urban  
Transition Policy



Typhoon Talim



Cinematograph  
Amendment Bill



New Swarnima  
Scheme For Women



Chachin  
Grazing Festival

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**COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS**



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## Odisha Current Affairs

## Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved the Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana, a scheme that will provide participants with interest subsidies on bank loans of up to a million rupees. The goal is to enable them to acquire a scooter, which will improve their mobility and empower women across the state.
- The state government has set aside 528.55 crore for the Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana's implementation over the next five years, guaranteeing its broad reach. This effort intends to increase the number of Community Support Staff and Executive Committee (EC) members in the state.

## Odisha Cabinet Approves Inclusion of Kui Language in Constitution's 8th Schedule

- The Odisha state cabinet has approved a proposal seeking the inclusion of the Kui language in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- The Kui language is spoken by the tribal population of Odisha, India. It is also known as Kandh, Khondi, Kanda, Kodu, or Kuinga. It is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken mostly by the Kandhas or Kondhs of Odisha's hilly and forested regions.
- Kui is mostly spoken in South and central Odisha districts such as Phulbani (Kondhamal), Boudh, Koraput, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nabarangpur, Sonepur, Angul, and Dhenkanal. The language is written in the Odia script and is close to Gondi and Kuvi.

## Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha

- The Odisha government has renamed and changed its 'Ama Gaon Ama Bikash' project as 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' in order to implement efforts to improve the state's rural infrastructure. Under the effort, the state government would also promote, maintain, and protect Jagannath culture and heritage.
- The state government has budgeted Rs 4,000 crore for the scheme in 2023-24. With a cash entitlement of Rs 50 lakh, the scheme will cover all gram panchayats in each block in Odisha.
- Through the plan, the state government aims to empower women and youths while also bridging major gaps in education, digital, and sports infrastructure.

## Odisha Rural-Urban Transition Policy

- With an aim at minimising rural-urban divide, CM approved 'Odisha Rural-Urban Transition Policy' to provide essential urban infrastructure, amenities and services to all citizens residing in village adjoining cities.
- Currently, 19% of Odisha's population lives in urban areas, with that figure predicted to rise to 21% by 2031. The expansion of census towns or peri-urban areas accounts for roughly 40% of the state's urbanisation. Even after being designated as urban districts, these peri-urban and rural communities have faced the difficulty of inadequate access to social infrastructure, municipal amenities, and services.

## Odisha Win 2 Gold Medals, 1 Silver at Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship

- Three athletes from the state have registered spectacular performances in the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship 2023, held at Gautam Buddha University Greater Noida in UP.
- Jyoshna Sabhar bagged a coveted Gold in the 40kg Youth Category, while Mina Santa won gold in the 55kg Youth Category. Jhilli Dalabehera won the silver medal in the 49kg Senior Category.
- Jyoshna Sabhar who recently won her first International Silver medal in the Youth World Weightlifting Championship in Durres, Albania. Mina Santa also bagged the gold to replicate her gold winning performance from the recent National Weightlifting Championships held in Tamil Nadu.

## 'Mukhya Mantri Sabha Ghar'

- Under the scheme, 2,000 Kalyan Mandaps and local auditoriums will be constructed with a cost of Rs 25 crore in western Odisha. The scheme will be taken up under 5T initiative of the state government aims at promoting socio-cultural activities of the people.
- The chief minister also laid foundation stone and inaugurated several projects worth Rs 33.58 crore on the occasion. Those include Gadiajor bridge in Balangir, town hall in Titlagarh, eco museum in Bargarh, auditorium in Deogarh, students' hostel of Brajmohan high school in Kalahandi and auditorium of GM College in Sambalpur.

## Fakir Mohan National Literary Award 2023

- Alka Saraogi, a Hindi novelist and short story writer, has been awarded the Fakir Mohan National Literary Award for 2023. The decision was made during a meeting recently presided over by FM University, Balasore, vice-chancellor Santosh Kumar Tripathy. Saraogi received the prize on July 11, the university's 25th anniversary.
- The 62-year-old author won the 2001 Sahitya Akademi Award for her novel 'Kalikatha'. She was the third person to win the award, which included a Rs 1 lakh cash prize, a souvenir, and a citation. It was initially granted to Malayali writer U R Ananthamurthy in 2004, but was discontinued the following year.

## 'Ama Pokhari' Project For Rejuvenation Of Urban Water Bodies

- The project's goal is to develop all of the water bodies in and around the state's urban centres. Several urban water bodies are being revitalised with the assistance of Mission Shakti Groups. This effort will see an investment of around Rs 120 crore.
- Around 2000 water bodies in 115 metropolitan localities around the state will be rehabilitated as part of the project. Water bodies will also be built for the people's entertainment, and their surroundings will be given an aesthetic makeover. The water bodies will be renovated and maintained in conjunction with Mission Shakti women.

## Pabitra Mohan Pradhan

- A future medical college and hospital in Odisha's Angul district will be named after freedom warrior and former Deputy Chief Minister Prabitra Mohan Pradhan. The health institute is set to open in October of this year, and a new bridge over the Brahmani River near Kaniha will also be named after the former Deputy Chief Minister.
- Prabitra Mohan Pradhan was born on February 8, 1908, in the Angul district village of Poipal. He earned his I.A., B.A., and B.Ed. from Ravenshaw College. He then went on to teach at Talcher High School. Since 1952, he has run in all state assembly elections and has served as MLA and Minister at various times. He passed away in 1988.

## Jyothi Yarraji claimed the women's 100m hurdles gold at the Asian Athletics Championships

- It was the first time an Indian woman had topped the hurdles.
- Andhra's Yarraji, who trained at Odisha RF Athletics HPC, clocked 13.09 seconds to win the hurdles final ahead of Japanese runners Terada Asuka (13.13s) and Aoki Masumi (13.26s) on a rain-drenched track at Bangkok's Supachalasai National Stadium.

## Gadadhar Mohapatra In 'Unsung Heroes Of India's Freedom Struggle' List

- Gadadhar Mohapatra, a freedom warrior, has been included to the Central Government's list of Unsung Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle, which was released on a website to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- He was a member of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj in his early days. Gadadhar Mohapatra was born on July 5, 1922, in Dasasahi hamlet, near Jeypore in the Koraput district. He joined the Indian army in Jeypore in 1940 and was stationed in Kolkata. His Department then deployed him to Malay, where he fought against Japan and was imprisoned by the Japanese troops on 15 February 1942.
- In 1942, he joined the Indian National Army, marching to Burma and fighting against the British army. Then he arrived in Rangoon with INA. However, with the defeat of Japan and the Indian National Army, he was imprisoned by the British army and incarcerated in Rangoon Central jail as a prisoner of war in 1945. He was then taken to Jigergaja jail, where his statement was recorded. He was then sent to Sultan jail, where he remained for eight months. On February 23, 1946, he was released.

## 10 more Odisha GPs in SwabhimanAnchal to be included under SETU Scheme

- SETU (Socio-Economic Transformation and Upliftment): The SETU project will encompass Andrapalli, Panasput, Jodamba, Raligada, Papermetla, Badapada, Gajalmamudi, Jantri, and Dhuliput under Chitrakonda Block and Nakamamudi GP under Korukonda Block in Maoist fortress.
- Chitrakonda Block's nine cut-off GPs are linked by GurupriyaSetu, a bridge built over the Gurupriya river in 2018. Since that year, the SETU scheme has been implemented for the social and economic development of people living in SwabhimanAnchal.
- The proposal for the growth and extension of the paramilitary force deployed in SwabhimanAnchal was authorised for Rs 9.60 crore.



## “Natural Arch”

- The state unit of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) uncovered a spectacular "Natural Arch" in the Kanika range in the Sundargarh forest division. This geological marvel is said to have been formed during the Jurassic period. This oval-shaped arch is 30 metres long at the base and 12 metres tall.

## National Doctors Day Award

- Dr Braja Kishore Dash, Addl. DMET, Odisha has received the "National Doctors Day Award" for his excellent work in the field of Administration on Doctors Day, July 1st, 2023.

## BOOK-“Madam President” by Sandeep Sahu

- "Madam President" by Sandeep Sahu is an enthralling biography that covers DroupadiMurmu's incredible life, underlining her remarkable journey from low tribal roots to become India's President. The book digs into her personal misfortunes, such as the deaths of her two boys and husband, which highlight her tenacity and determination even more.

## Odisha Journalism Award 2022

- Six Odisha journalists will get the Odisha Journalism Award 2022 for their remarkable contributions to Indian journalism in print, electronic, and web media.
- The names were just released by Pallibani Mission, a Delhi-based organisation dedicated to Odia literature and culture.
- Soumyajit Patnaik, Chief Editor of Kalinga TV, Durgashish Shish, Managing Editor of Argus News, Bhabani Sankar Tripathy, DGM News of Sambad, Manoranjan Joshi, Western Odisha Bureau Chief of OTV, and Sudeep Kumar Rout, Chief News Coordinator of Prameya are among those who have received the award.
- Sharada Lahangir will be the inaugural recipient of the Prabha Patnaik Award for Excellence in Journalism. The prize was established this year and will only be given to female journalists.

## E-CHAYAN

- On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, OPSC created an AI-driven portal. At a ceremony, Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal unveiled the OPSC's cutting-edge e-CHAYAN platform. The software includes advanced capabilities such as artificial intelligence (AI) enabled photo verification to eliminate impersonation, digital mark extraction from certificates, API-based certificate verification, and customizable application forms.

## President Presents ‘Bhoomi Samman’ Award to Odisha in New Delhi

- Odisha was presented “Bhoomi Samman” award as best state in implementing Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) of the Central government.
- President handed over the award to Satyabrat Sahu, additional chief secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management department in a glittering function held at Vigyaan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Odisha bagged the award as the best state for meeting all the parameters of DILRMP. Of the total 766 districts in the country, 68 districts won platinum award under six different categories. Those included 19 districts of Odisha.
- The Odisha districts that bagged the platinum award are Angul, Boudh, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Sambalpur.
- Odisha has emerged as a leading state in digitisation of land records under 5T initiative and Mo Sarkar programme of the state government. More than 13,000 land related cases have been resolved through virtual courts in the state. The government aims at extending DILRMP to all districts by March, 2024.

## Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) Report

- Independent MLA from Rayagada in Odisha Makaranda Muduli is among the 10 MLAs in the country with lowest assets. With Rs 15,000 movable assets, he is second from the bottom on the list.
- In Odisha, the average assets of all 145 MLAs is Rs 4,12,37,679 and not a single among them cross the Rs 100 crore-mark. In other words, the state has no billionaire MLA.
- The report said that the state with the highest average assets per MLA is Karnataka (223 MLAs) with average assets of Rs 64.39 crore, followed by Andhra Pradesh (174 MLAs) and Maharashtra (284 MLAs).
- Around 44% (64) MLAs in Odisha have declared criminal cases, highest from BJD.

- Odisha has elected 17 women (12%) and 128 (88%) men MLAs. Among 113 BJD MLA, 16 are women (14%) and 97 (86%) are men.
- Out of the total 4001 MLAs in the country, 378 (9%) MLAs are women. Highest number of women MLAs are from Uttar Pradesh 48 (12%) followed by West Bengal with 41 (14%) and Bihar 28 (12%).

## KISS Wins International Green Gown Award 2023 for Project Uday

- Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has won the 2023 International Green Gown Award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Sustainability. The prestigious award was presented at a ceremony as a part of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. KISS was India's only NGO to be shortlisted for this distinguished category.
- Project Uday – creating change makers in tribal pockets.
- The International Green Gown Awards, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), International Association of Universities (IAU), and the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI).

## GopabandhuSambadikaSwasthyaBima Yojana

- Under the government's GopabandhuSambadikaSwasthyaBima Yojana, the insurance sum for working journalists has been increased from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, according to the CM.
- The increase in insurance coverage will benefit 8,717 working journalists and their families in the States.
- On July 6, the administration offered cash incentives for working journalists. In the event of a journalist's death, Information and Public Relations Minister Pratap Jena has given a financial help of Rs four lakh to the family.
- In addition, home loans at 3% interest up to Rs 25 lakh, four-wheeler loans up to Rs 4 lakh, and two-wheeler loans up to Rs 50,000 are available to journalists.

## NITI Aayog's 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index:2023

- Three broad indicators of multidimensional poverty – health, education, and standard of living, each comprising various sub-indicators.
- The average monthly income of a farmer in Odisha stood at Rs 5112 at present.
- Uttar Pradesh registered the highest decline with 3.43 crore, followed by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- Odisha's Malkangiri district has the highest number of poor in the state lowest, revealed NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index.
- 45.01% population of Malkangiri belong to 'multidimensionally poor' category while the figure for Puri stands at 3.29%.
- Other districts having higher percentage of poor population are Rayagada (34.03), Koraput (33.54), Nabarangpur (33.45) and Mayurbhanj (30.57).
- Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Cuttack, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Jharsuguda, Sonapur, Kendrapara and Balangir have poverty rate below 10 percent.
- The report further said that 62,62,852 people have been freed from poverty in Odisha between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- During the period, the rate of poverty reduced from 29.34 percent to 15.68 percent in the state. In villages, the poverty reduced from 32.64 to 17.72 percent whereas in urban areas, the poverty rate decreased from 12.32 percent to 5.42 percent.

## Odisha Achieves Significant Improvement In Anaemia Reduction: NFHS-5 Data

- Significant improvement has been observed in the reduction of anemia among children, adolescent girls and women in the state. It became possible due to implementation of the AMLAN- 'Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan'(AMLAN) Programme in the state.
- According to National Family Health Survey -5 data, children age 6 to 59 months in the state was 64.2%, now it has reduced to 42.3% after the implementation of AMLAN.
- Adolescent girls – 10 to 19 years – 65.5% to 46.9%
- Women of reproductive age group have decreased from 64.3% to 55.7%.

## 37000 Rainwater harvesting projects in Urban Areas to be undertaken

- The Housing & Urban Development Department has directed all District Collectors, Municipal Corporation

Commissioners, and Executive Officers of urban local bodies (ULBs) to maintain the over 37,000 rainwater harvesting projects established in 111 ULBs across the state through Mukhyamantri Karma TatparaAbhiyaan (MUKTA).

- This initiative's tagline is "Catch The Rain Campaign."

### Odisha Current Affairs in short:

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a notice to the Odisha government about the construction of cottages on Deomali, the state's highest mountain peak. It is included in the Centre's Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the building of infrastructure to increase tourist inflow. It is in addition to the Rs 16 crore sanctioned by the Tourism Department for the hill's integrated development.
- Sulata Deo, a Rajya Sabha member from the BJD, is one of four women Parliamentarians appointed by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankha to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons. The other three are PT Usha of the BJP, S Phangnon Konyak of the Nationalist Congress Party, and Dr Fauzia Khan of the Nationalist Congress Party.
- A UK-based corporation intends to invest Rs 30,000 crore in the first phase to establish a semiconductor production factory in Odisha's Ganjam district. The Indian unit of the UK-based SRAM & MRAM Group, SRAM & MRAM Technologies and Projects India Pvt Limited, had inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state government to establish the semiconductor facility in the state.
- Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro rises 5.895 kilometres above sea level. On July 13, Odisha mountaineer Anita Swain climbed Mt Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest summit.
- The CM authorised the Khadag river basin project, which will assist 20,000 people in the state's Boudh, Bolangir, and Kandhamal districts. The project will cost Rs.126 crore and will be carried out near Ladgaon village in Baliguda block.
- Swetapadma Mishra, 30, of Keonjhar town, has emerged as an accomplished mandal artist while suffering from a deadly ailment. The self-taught artist has created approximately 300 stunning works of art in just four years. The Governor of Odisha welcomed her to the Raj Bhavan for an interaction and congratulations on her achievement.
- Odisha has plummeted to 24th place from 10th place in the Ministry of Education's PGI 2.0 for the school year 2021-22 (Akanshi-2). AttiUttam Grade was assigned to the Khurdha district. Nabarangapur, Kandhamal, Boudh, Rayagada, and Mayurbhanj were in prachesta-1 but are now in Uttam. Top\_3: Chandigarh, Punjab, and Delhi. Odisha receives low grades in the School Education Index, scoring 'Uttam' in two domains.





**OPSC Current Affairs**



## Bharat Mandapam

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the freshly renovated Pragati Maidan complex in Delhi, unveiling the spectacular International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), popularly known as 'Bharat Mandapam.'
- The IECC is projected to become India's largest conference and exhibition facility, and it will host the forthcoming G-20 Summit in September.

## Big Cat Alliance

- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was recently established in India with the goal of conserving seven of the world's major large cat species. The IBCA will focus on safeguarding and conserving essential big cat species such as the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah, inspired by the success of Project Tiger, which has contributed to India being home to 70% of the world's tigers.
- India intends to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices in big cat conservation with other countries with substantial big cat populations, such as Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa, through the IBCA.

## Phangnon Konyak becomes first woman MP from Nagaland to preside over Rajya Sabha

- S Phangnon Konyak, a respected BJP leader and Nagaland's first female Rajya Sabha MP, accomplished a historic milestone when she assumed the job of Rajya Sabha presiding officer.
- This outstanding achievement in her political career distinguishes her as the first woman from Nagaland to hold this important position.

## PFC becomes first member from India to join Asia Transition Finance Study Group

- Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has become the first Indian participant in the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG), an initiative spearheaded by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) to promote sustainable transition finance in Asian countries.
- By participating in this project, PFC will not only give India's perspective, but will also collaborate on developing policy considerations to assist effective energy transition financing.

## Cinematograph Amendment Bill

- Anurag Thakur, Minister of Union Information and Broadcasting, introduced the Cinematograph Amendment Bill 2023 in Rajya Sabha, with the goal of combating film piracy.
- According to Ernest and Young, the Indian film business lost approximately Rs.18k crore in 2019 owing to piracy. The Government of India has introduced the Cinematograph Amendment Bill 2023 in Rajya Sabha to address the issue of piracy. The bill seeks to alter the Cinematograph Act of 1952, which governs film certification and exhibition in India.

## New Bill Aims to Digitize Birth and Death Records with Aadhaar Mandate

- During the current Parliament session, the Union Home Ministry introduced the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Amendment Bill, 2023, in a significant move.
- The proposed revisions aim to digitise birth data and make Aadhaar mandatory for registration of births and deaths.
- The main goal is to streamline documentation processes, assure accurate record-keeping, and make various government services more accessible.

## Bengaluru Becomes 1st Indian City to Join World Cities Culture Forum

- Bengaluru, the state capital of Karnataka, has made history by becoming the first Indian city to join the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).

- This famous forum is a global network of towns working together to study and comprehend the impact of culture on future prosperity. With the addition of Bengaluru, the WCCF now has 41 members from six continents, including well-known cities such as New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Dubai.
- Bengaluru has strengthened its commitment to promoting and leveraging the power of culture for the city's growth and development by joining this prestigious network.

## First Permanent Aadhaar Enrolment Centre (PAEC) for the Indian Army

- On July 25, 2023, the first Permanent Aadhaar Enrolment Centre (PAEC) for the Indian Army was inaugurated at 1 Central Base Post Office (CBPO) in New Delhi.
- The newly opened Permanent Aadhaar Enrolment Centre (PAEC) at 1 Central Base Post Office (CBPO) in New Delhi will provide Aadhaar-related services, such as enrolment and updation, to tri-services personnel (both military and civilian) and their relatives.
- The PAEC will provide its services through a network of Field Post Offices (FPO) in 48 locations across the country. PAEC services are specifically designated for Command Headquarters, Corps Headquarters, and selected FPOs.
- This effort seeks to greatly simplify and facilitate Aadhaar enrolment, particularly for soldiers stationed in rural and difficult-to-reach places.

## LadliBahna Yojana

- The Madhya Pradesh state government has launched the MukhyamantriLadliBahna Yojana, a new scheme worth Rs. 8000 crore that aims to financially empower women.
- The program's main goals are to encourage women's economic independence, enhance their health and nutrition, and empower them to have a bigger role in family matters.

## Semicon India 2023 Exhibition

- The second edition of Semicon India 2023, organised by India Semiconductor Mission with the collaboration of industry and industry organisations and led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has commenced.
- The event, which will take place from the 25th to the 30th of July, will highlight India's progress towards becoming a global leader in Semiconductor Design, Manufacturing, and Technology Development, in keeping with the objective of the India Semiconductor Mission.

## National Geoscience Awards 2022

- The National Geoscience Award, created in 1966 by the Ministry of Mines of the Government of India, is one of the most prominent honours in the subject of geosciences.
- The National Mineral Awards, which were previously known as the National Mineral Awards, aim to recognise individuals and teams for their remarkable achievements and important contributions in various geoscience sectors.
- Mineral Discovery and Exploration, Basic Geosciences, Applied Geosciences and Mining, Mineral Beneficiation, and Sustainable Mineral Development are among the categories recognised. These fields encompass a wide range of geoscience disciplines, recognising extraordinary contributions in each subject.

## Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023

- The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023, was just approved by the Rajasthan Assembly. This measure seeks to guarantee earnings or pensions to all adults in the state.
- The new Bill ensures that all households in Rajasthan, whether urban or rural, will have access to a 125-day work guarantee each year.
- Individuals who are elderly, crippled, or single women will also receive a monthly minimum pension of \$1,000.
- The pension amount will also automatically increase by 15% each year, offering more financial security to individuals in need.

## Tele MANAS Helpline

- The Indian government launched the National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States: Tele MANAS, the digital arm of the 'District Mental Health Programme') in October 2022 to improve mental health care in the country. Since its inception, it has received over 2,00,000 toll-

free calls from people all around the country.

## Andhra Pradesh Releases Millions of Gambusia Fish to Combat Malaria and Dengue

- The Andhra Pradesh government has chosen a novel method to combating the state's rising malaria and dengue incidence.
- The region has reported 2,339 dengue cases and 1,630 malaria cases in the last six months. In response to this public health risk, the government recently released over 10 million Gambusia fish into several Andhra Pradesh water bodies.
- The Gambusia fish, often known as mosquito fish, has a long history of usage as a biological agent for suppressing mosquito larvae and has demonstrated encouraging results in malaria control efforts around the world.

## NITI Aayog's India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED)

- Today, the NITI Aayog released the India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0. It's a unique site that gives up-to-date data on the energy and climate sectors based on official government data.
- The ICED 3.0 is intended to be user-friendly, allowing users to easily access and analyse datasets through the use of an analytical engine.
- It provides visitors with a complete picture of India's energy sector by providing over 500 criteria, more than 2000 infographics, and interactive visualisations.

## IMD's Heat Index

- Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Earth Sciences, said that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has implemented the Heat Index on an experimental basis.
- The Heat Index is intended to provide basic guidelines for areas in India where the combination of temperature and humidity results in a higher apparent temperature or "feel-like" temperature, causing people discomfort.

## Chachin Grazing Festival

- On July 14-15, graziers from the Tawang district near Bumla Pass, Arunachal Pradesh, gathered to celebrate the Chachin grazing festival. Graziers from all around the Tawang region participated enthusiastically in this two-day event held at Chachin.
- Medical and veterinary camps were put up during the Chachin grazing festival to give crucial healthcare support to local graziers and their yaks.

## The Ministry of Agriculture has launched the BHARAT campaign to increase the Agri Infra Fund

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, led by Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja, has launched a new programme called BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation) as part of the Agri Infra Fund.
- This month-long campaign will run from July 15th to August 15th, 2023, with a target of 7200 crore.

## India to Host ASEAN Conference on Traditional Medicines

- The Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries is being organised by the Ministry of Ayush, with assistance from the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Mission to ASEAN, and the ASEAN Secretariat.
- The goal is to strengthen ties between India and ASEAN countries by promoting the exchange of best practises and developing a roadmap for future collaboration in Traditional Medicine.
- The conference will provide a forum for ASEAN member states to address current advancements in the regulatory framework for promoting Traditional Medicine.

## The National Law University (NLU) of Delhi has launched the 'Eklavya' Research Affiliate Programme

- The National Law University of Delhi, NLU Delhi, has introduced a new academic project known as 'Eklavya' - a Research Affiliate programme.



- This programme is intended to strengthen NLU Delhi's collaborative efforts by using the skills and different viewpoints of people who do not hold standard legal degrees.
- NLU Delhi aspires to support the development of high-quality legal scholarship that encompasses a broader range of experiences and knowledge by actively engaging with external partners.

## Bharat Internet Utsav Launched to Celebrate Power of the Internet

- In recognition of the transformative impact of the Internet, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and MYGOV are jointly organizing the "Bharat Internet Utsav" celebration.
- The Department of Transportation has launched a number of projects to ensure inexpensive and high-quality Internet connectivity across the country, particularly in distant and economically challenged places.
- These initiatives are made possible by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which aims to link all residents to the Internet.

## GuttiKoya Tribe Erect Stone Memorials

- The GuttiKoya tribes have a distinct custom of creating stone memorials in the forest on the boundary of Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to commemorate the deaths of their three most important service providers: the physician, the priest, and the village head. These stone memorials pay homage to these people and their services to the community.

## Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)

- The Central Government launched the Indira Gandhi National Disability Scheme (IGNDPS) in February 2009 to assist disabled people in India.
- This plan, which is part of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), attempts to enhance the lives of disabled individuals by providing them with a monthly stipend.
- The scheme is intended to give financial help and promote the well-being of people with disabilities, resulting in a higher quality of life.

## New Swarnima Scheme For Women

- The Swarnima Scheme is a term loan scheme developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the goal of giving financial help to backward-class women entrepreneurs.
- The programme is intended to empower women by providing them with social and financial security through term loans.
- The scheme offers eligible women one-time cash support of up to 2 lakh rupees.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Russia Bans Sex Change and Transgender Marriages

- The passage of new legislation by Russian President Vladimir Putin on July 24th dealt a devastating blow to Russia's LGBTQ+ community.
- The act criminalises gender-affirming operations, making it illegal for people to receive vital medical care and support for their gender identification.
- This move exacerbates the difficulties and discrimination already encountered by the country's LGBTQ+ minority.

## India and Japan Forge Strong Partnership to Enhance Semiconductor Ecosystem

- India and Japan have strengthened their ties by signing an agreement to build the semiconductor ecosystem together.
- Japan becomes the second Quad partner to join hands with India in this endeavour, following the United States, with the same goal of improving the robustness of the global supply chain, notably in the key semiconductor industry.

## Singapore Passport Tops Henley Passport Index 2023 as World's Most Powerful

- According to the Henley Passport Index, Singapore has surpassed Japan to become the world's most powerful passport holder.



- The Henley Passport Index is an annual ranking of all the world's passports based on the number of visa-free countries to which their holders have access. The Henley & Partners citizenship and residency advisory firm produced the index.
- India is ranked 80th on the ranking, alongside Togo and Senegal.

## Hwasong-18

- North Korea made news on July 12 when it tested its latest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the Hwasong-18. This missile is notable for being the first to employ solid propellants.
- Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) are long-range ballistic missiles having a range of over 5,500 kilometres (3,400 miles). During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union produced the first intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). Other countries, notably China, France, India, and the United Kingdom, have produced ICBMs since then.

## First Methane-Powered Rocket

- LandSpace, a Chinese aerospace business, surpassed Elon Musk's SpaceX by successfully launching the Zhuque-2 rocket on July 12th. The rocket lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi desert, propelled by methane and liquid oxygen.
- These engines are widely sought after due to their high performance and low cost.
- One significant advantage is that methane may be created in space by mixing water and carbon dioxide.
- This technique is especially well-suited for reusable rockets, making it a forerunner in the next era of rocketry.

## Global Food Regulators Summit

- On the 20th and 21st of July, India hosted the Global Food Regulators Summit in New Delhi.
- Food regulators from 40 nations, including G20 members, will gather at the meeting to discuss global food safety norms and regulations.
- This significant gathering aims to develop collaboration and address food safety issues.

## OpenKylin 1.0

- China just released OpenKylin 1.0, the country's first open-source desktop operating system (OS).
- The fundamental goal of this launch is to reduce reliance on US technology and develop an autonomous software ecosystem.
- China's goal with OpenKylin is to increase the development of domestic software while decreasing dependency on Western technologies.

## Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG)

- India has accepted UN Secretary-General António Guterres' offer to join the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) Champions Group. This action demonstrates India's expanding global leadership and commitment to addressing current global concerns.
- The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres founded the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) in March 2022 with the goal of resolving critical and interrelated global crises. The organisation focuses on food security, energy, and finance challenges, recognising the interdependence of these crises.

## India & Panama Sign MoU on Electoral Cooperation

- The Indian Election Commission and the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build a framework for collaboration in election management and administration.
- As part of its 'International Cooperation Programme,' the ECI has already signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with electoral management organisations (EMBs) in Mexico, Brazil, and Chile.

## First ever IIT Campus outside India

- The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of an IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, marked a significant milestone. In this endeavour, the Ministry of Education of the Government of India, IIT Madras, and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training of Zanzibar partnered.
- The signing event was attended by Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister, and Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar.

## Bangladesh and Mauritius Conducted a Joint Ocean Expedition Aboard India's Research Vessel Sagar Nidhi

- Scientists from Bangladesh and Mauritius recently embarked on a collaborative ocean voyage on India's research vessel, Sagar Nidhi, as part of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC).
- The expedition intends to conduct substantial ocean data study, with an emphasis on the forecast and management of changes in the marine environment and numerous ocean characteristics.
- The groundwork for this combined ocean expedition was laid during the inaugural CSCO Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference in November 2022 in Goa and Hyderabad. T
- his meeting, organised by the Indian National Centres for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, laid the groundwork for the collaborative effort.

## India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project

- The India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway is a key regional connectivity project that aims to connect India, Myanmar, and Thailand via road.
- The overall length of this route is roughly 1,400 km (845 miles), beginning in Moreh, Manipur, India, and ending in Mae Sot, Thailand.
- Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed it first, and it was accepted at a ministerial-level conference between India, Myanmar, and Thailand in 2002.
- The project is being carried out by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with its counterparts in Myanmar and Thailand. And the Ministry of Finance provided funding for this endeavour.

## Saudi Arabia becomes 51st country to sign ASEAN's TAC

- Saudi Arabia officially became the 51st country to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) on the margins of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta.
- The signing of the TAC by Saudi Arabia marks an important step in broadening the treaty's reach and influence beyond ASEAN's member countries.
- Ukraine was the last country to join the TAC before Saudi Arabia in 2022. Notably, in 1989, Papua New Guinea became the first country outside of ASEAN to join the TAC.

## Taiwan to Establish Representative Office in Mumbai, Boosting India-Taiwan Ties

- Taiwan has decided to open a third representative office in India, this time in Mumbai.
- The Taiwan Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) in Mumbai strives to stimulate commerce and investment while also providing a variety of services to Taiwanese nationals, Indian entrepreneurs, and visitors.
- However, in 1995, the two countries created the India-Taipei Association (ITA) in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) in New Delhi, both of which functioned as de facto embassies for both countries.
- Taiwan increased its footprint further in 2012 by creating the TECC in Chennai, which became a booming centre for Taiwanese enterprises.

## Iran Becomes Full Member of SCO

- During a virtual conference hosted by India, Iran formally became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- Now SCO has a total of nine member countries (China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

### ECONOMICS



## Full-Reserve Banking Versus Fractional-Reserve Banking

- Economists are debating Full-Reserve Banking (100 per cent reserve banking) against Fractional-Reserve Banking.

### Full-Reserve Banking

- Banks are legally barred from lending out demand deposits received from consumers under full-reserve banking, lowering the risk of bank runs.

- Instead, they must keep 100% of these deposits in their vaults at all times, functioning just as custodians.

### **Fractional-reserve banking**

- This technique, which is now in use, allows banks to lend more money than they have in their vaults.
- For lending, this system mainly relies on electronic money.
- Bank runs are a possibility if a large number of depositors demand cash at the same time.

### **White Label ATM: RBI**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken considerable strides to increase ATM penetration, particularly in Tier III to VI cities, by allowing non-bank firms to establish, own, and operate White Label ATMs (WLAs).
- These WLAs offer a variety of banking services to users using bank-issued cards, and the RBI has taken steps to increase their profitability and functionality.
- White Label ATMs are currently operated in the country by four authorised non-bank organisations.
- Non-banks own and operate White Label ATMs (WLAs).
- The RBI authorises non-bank ATM operators under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007.

### **TCRM Matrix**

- The NITI Aayog has launched the Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix), a novel assessment tool aimed at improving technology evaluation, fostering innovation, and nurturing entrepreneurship in India.
- It is a technology evaluation tool that aims to revolutionise technology evaluation, stimulate creativity, and fuel entrepreneurship in India.
- The framework delivers an integrated evaluation paradigm that provides stakeholders with in-depth insights and actionable intelligence at each stage of the technology development cycle.

### **Advance Authorisation Scheme: Directorate General of Foreign Trade**

- The Advance Authorisation Scheme was operated by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- The Scheme was put in place as part of the Foreign Trade Policy. It provides duty-free importation of inputs for export.
- Raw materials/inputs required for the manufacture of export products are excluded from paying import tariffs under this plan.

### **Pension Funds to Invest In Sovereign Green Bonds**

- Pension funds will be able to participate in sovereign green bonds issued by the government in the second half of the current fiscal year, according to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Sovereign Green Bonds are government-issued bonds that are used to fund initiatives that have a beneficial environmental impact and contribute to long-term goals.
- It was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23, and the Ministry of Finance issued the framework for SGrBs in 2022.
- These bonds do not expose investors to project-related risks.

### **Windfall Tax on Domestic Crude Petroleum Reinstated**

- The Indian government recently reinstated a windfall tax on domestic crude oil.
- Windfall Tax is a higher tax levied by the government on specific industries when their profits are unexpectedly high.
- This tax is imposed when the government sees a rapid increase in an industry's revenue.

### **50th Meeting of GST Council**

- The Council voted to impose a consistent 28% tax on all bets placed for internet gaming, casinos, and horse racing.
- The tax rate for uncooked or unfried snack pellets and fish-soluble paste has been cut from 18% to 5%.
- Zari Threads or Yarn: The tax rate has been decreased from 12% to 5%.
- Food and Beverages Consumed Inside Cinema Halls: The tax rate was reduced to 5% without input tax credits, down from 18% previously.



## E-auction of Rice: Food Cooperation of India

- To manage retail pricing, the Food Cooperation of India (FCI) launched an e-auction of rice.
- According to the Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry, the decision to sell rice via e-auction under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) from buffer stock to bulk consumers was made in the public interest.
- The term "Open Market Scheme" refers to the government's periodic sale of food grains on the open market at predetermined rates.
- The goal is to increase grain supply, particularly during the lean season and therefore to moderate general open market prices, particularly in deficit regions.

## Plant Variety Protection and Farmers Rights Authority

- The Delhi High Court recently upheld a decision by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFR) to revoke PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt. Ltd's intellectual property protection for a potato variety produced by it.
- It refers to FL 2027, a potato variety with a high dry matter and low sugar content (better suited for manufacturing chips) produced by approximately 14,000 farmers in India through contract cultivation and pre-set buy-back rates.

## Platform for the SEBI Complaints Redress System (SCORES)

- Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) SCORES platform resolved 3,079 complaints against corporations and market intermediaries.
- SEBI's SCORES Platform, which was established in June 2011, is a web-based centralised grievance redress mechanism.
- SCORES enables investors to lodge and follow up on complaints, as well as check the status of redressal of such complaints, online from any location using the aforesaid website.

## The GSTN under the Purview of the PMLA

- The Central Government recently issued a notification to incorporate the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) is a law that provides for the confiscation of property derived from or implicated in money laundering.

## Farmers Distress Index

- India's Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) has created a one-of-a-kind early warning system known as the "farmers' distress index. The index is currently being developed as a mobile or desktop application.
- This index's goal is to reduce agrarian distress, such as crop loss, failure, and income shocks, which have led to an increase in farmer suicides.
- The methodology of the index includes monitoring local newspapers, news platforms, and social media for indications of distress, followed by phone interviews with small and marginal farms to assess early indicators of distress using standardised questions.

## United Nations Global Compact

- Nord Security, the company behind NordVPN, NordLayer, NordPass, and NordLocker, has recently become a member of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC).
- The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is an invitation to businesses worldwide to align their operations and strategies with the Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption.
- UNGC, which was founded in 2000, is the world's largest corporate sustainability project, with over 15,000 firms and 3,000 non-business signatories from over 160 countries, as well as more than 70 Local Networks.

## CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal

- On the occasion of International MSME Day, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) unveiled the 'CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal.
- Champions Portal is a one-stop shop for resolving complaints for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.


## eSARAS Mobile App

- The Secretary of the Union Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, unveiled the eSARAS mobile App in New Delhi.
- The eSARAS App is a mobile e-commerce app that will be utilised as a more effective platform for promoting products manufactured by women in self-help groups.
- It is a Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) project aimed at marketing the best, authentic handicrafts and handlooms.

## Fresh Consultation On The Issue Of Total Expense Ratio (TER) For Mutual Funds: SEBI

- The SEBI Board of Directors recently decided to launch a new consultation on the total expense ratio (TER) for mutual funds.
- The overall Expense Ratio (TER) is a calculation of the overall costs of administering and maintaining an investment fund, such as a mutual fund.
- These expenses are generally made up of management fees and other expenses such as trading fees, legal fees, auditor fees, and other operational expenses.
- The overall cost of the fund is divided by the total assets of the fund to yield a percentage figure that indicates the TER.
- The net expense ratio (TER) is also known as the after reimbursement expense ratio.

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## GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT



### DGGI joins Forces for Aravalli Ecosystem Conservation with Plantation Drive

- The Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI) in New Delhi collaborated with the Department of Environment Studies, Delhi University, and the Delhi Development Authority for a plantation drive at Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, in preparation for Harit Mahotsav.
- Around 200 plants of indigenous and endemic species were planted during the plantation campaign to improve the Aravalli ecology. Native plants such as Albizia lebeck (siris), Bauhinia acuminata (Kachnar), Diospyros Montana (tendu), and others were carefully selected to minimise ecosystem degradation and maintain native animals, adding to the Delhi Development Authority's conservation efforts.

### Antarctica's Sea Ice Decline/

- In a concerning development, Antarctica's sea ice area has decreased significantly, hitting around 14.2 million square kilometres.
- This is significantly less than the average extent of roughly 16.7 million square kilometres for this time of year.
- The continuous concern about diminishing sea ice has prompted us to investigate the relevant variables and potential ramifications for the ecosystem and climate change.

### Batagaika Crater

- The world's largest permafrost crater is the Batagaika crater in Russia's Far East. According to recent reports from the London-based news source Reuters, the crater is thawing, which is raising alarm among experts. This "mega slump" is threatening cities and towns in Russia's northern and northeastern regions.
- The situation is concerning not only for Russia, but also for the entire planet. The thawing of the Batagaika Crater emits a large amount of organic carbon into the atmosphere. This carbon leak could contribute to global warming, increasing the already severe issue of climate change.

### ACROSS Scheme

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of the "Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" scheme.
- This umbrella project is overseen by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), and it focuses on increasing weather and climate research and services over the next five years (2021-2026).
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) are the primary drivers of the ACROSS scheme. It is divided into eight sub-schemes, each with a distinct goal of improving weather monitoring, forecasting systems, climate research, and numerical modelling.

### STAR-C Initiative

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has launched the Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C).
- The major goal of STAR-C is to build a strong network of institutional capacity among ISA member countries to encourage the use of solar energy products and services, particularly in LDCs and small island developing nations.
- The project is jointly implemented by ISA and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and is overseen by the Supervisory Committee.

### Ozone Layer Recovery Signals Promising Signs

- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has issued an updated bulletin on the ozone layer's status, providing hopeful news about its recovery.
- The WMO-worldwide Atmosphere Watch bulletin has returned after a seven-year break to provide the most recent worldwide insights into stratospheric ozone and UV radiation.

- The WMO bulletin sheds light on the ozone layer's remarkable recovery progress, notably in the Antarctic region.

## New Zealand is the first country to prohibit the use of thin plastic bags.

- New Zealand has taken an important step forward in its anti-single-use plastics campaign by expanding its ban on plastic bags in supermarkets to include thin bags typically used for fruits and vegetables.
- This ground-breaking decision, which went into effect on July 1st, establishes a precedent by making New Zealand the first country in the world to enact such a broad prohibition.

## Typhoon Talim

- Talim made landfall in Guangdong province's Zhanjiang city. China's primary flood season normally lasts from late July to early August. During this time, there is an increase in tropical storm and typhoon activity, notably in the South China Sea and Western Pacific regions, with a focus on the country's southern and southeastern coasts.
- For the first time this year, Hong Kong issued Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8, the third-highest warning level.

## Gulf Stream: Could Collapse

- According to recent research, the Gulf Stream system could fail as early as 2025.
- The Gulf Stream is a rapid and warm ocean circulation that runs down North America's eastern coast and crosses the Atlantic Ocean to Europe.
- It is generated principally by the convergence of warm waters from the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico in the Gulf of Mexico. It then goes north along the United States eastern coast.
- It travels northeast through the western North Atlantic Ocean.
- The current transports warm water from the tropics to higher latitudes (about 25 to 28°C or 77 to 82°F).

## Shelf Cloud: Recently Appeared In Uttarakhand's Haridwar

- Typically, a "shelf cloud" or "Arcus cloud" forms along the leading edge of a thunderstorm.
- It is a sort of low-lying, horizontal cloud formation distinguished by a distinct line of solid clouds.
- It is distinguished by its unusual wedge-shaped structure. They typically appear as a broad arc across the sky, occasionally spinning horizontally.
- Shelf clouds arise when wind forces cold, dense air into a warmer air mass.
- This surge of cold air is common in the downdraught of a thunderstorm, where cold air rushes towards the earth before spreading out to form a gust front.

## Ghaggar River: Floodplains In Haryana

- Ghaggar, Tangri, Markanda, and other rivers in the state are deemed dead and extensively encroached upon, yet during this monsoon season, they returned their floodplains and caused heavy losses.
- Many of the tributaries of the Ghaggar River originate in the Shivalik foothills of Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh.
- The Kaushalya, Tangri, Markanda, Beghna, and Sukhna rivers are among several that flow into the Ghaggar.
- The Ghaggar-Hakra River is an intermittent river that runs only during the monsoon season in India and Pakistan.

## Radio communications were disrupted throughout parts of the United States due to solar flares

- The Sun produced X-class solar flares, disrupting radio communications over areas of the United States and the Pacific Ocean.
- Solar flares are high-speed ejections of magnetic plasma from the sun's surface.
- They are caused by the discharge of magnetic energy associated with sunspots ('black' regions of the Sun that are cooler than the surrounding photosphere) and might last a few minutes or hours.

## Solar Shooting Stars

- Astronomers have uncovered an incredible finding of meteor-like streaks landing on the Sun's surface.
- Solar shooting stars are huge clumps of plasma that fall at extraordinary speeds to the Sun's surface.
- These appear to be a gigantic downpour of fireballs, which play an important role in heating up the corona, the



outermost component of the Sun's atmosphere.

## Shift In Snowfall To Rainfall: Study

- According to a recent study, the Himalayas and other mountains in the Northern Hemisphere are projected to get 15% more rain for every one degree Celsius increase.
- Climate change may promote a transition from snowfall to rainfall in alpine locations throughout the Northern Hemisphere, intensifying rainfall extremes that last a few hours to a day.
- Rainfall would increase by 30% and 45% if the temperature rose by 2 degrees Celsius and 3 degrees Celsius, respectively.
- This shift from snowfall to rainfall may enhance the likelihood of calamities including floods, landslides, and soil erosion.
- More vulnerable than the Rockies or the Alps are the Himalayas and the North American Pacific Mountain ranges, comprising the Cascades, Sierra Nevada, and coastal mountains from Canada to Southern California.

## Second-Largest Road Network In The World: India

- After the United States, India presently possesses the world's second-largest road network.
- The entire length of National Highways in 2013-14 was 91,287 km, which has been raised to 1,45,240 km in 2022-23.
- India has a total length of motorways of 4,219 km.
- In the last nine years, the overall length of India's national highways has expanded by around 59%.

## First SuperMoon of 2023

- A supermoon happens when the Moon's orbit is closest to the Earth and the Moon is full.
- As the Moon orbits the Earth, there are times when the distance between the two is the shortest (called perigee when the average distance is about 360,000 km from the Earth) and times when the distance is the greatest (called apogee when the average distance is about 405,000 km from the Earth).
- When a full Moon appears when the distance between the Earth and the Moon is the shortest, it not only appears brighter but also larger than a usual full Moon.
- India's Ethanol Push
- The Indian Prime Minister indicated during a G20 Energy Ministers' conference that India has begun rolling out 20% ethanol-blended petrol this year and plans to cover the entire country by 2025.

## Silvopasture Systems

- Given the widespread degradation of natural resources and forests, silvopasture systems provide a viable alternative to deforestation trends.
- The silvopasture system is an ancient and proven practise that integrates trees, feed, and cattle on the same area in harmony.
- This system protects livestock from temperature and wind extremes, creating a comfortable living environment.
- The trees on silvopasture grounds operate as natural carbon sinks, sequestering five to ten times more carbon than non-tree pastures while maintaining or improving production.

## India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047 V3.0

- The NITI Aayog has released the latest edition of the India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047 V3.0, an open-source tool meant to assess the combined impact of the Government of India's numerous green energy initiatives.
- This tool evaluates the country's energy demand and supply, taking into account regulations connected to alternative energy resources such as the Green Hydrogen Mission, Renewable Purchase Obligations, PM-KUSUM, and Offshore Wind Strategy, among others.

## Jharkhand Vision Document for Achieving the 2070 Net Zero Target

- Jharkhand, a state noted for its abundant natural riches and substantial contribution to India's industrial development, is currently preparing for a spectacular shift to a low-carbon economy.
- The study offers eight subject areas critical to Jharkhand meeting its net-zero target by 2070.
- These topics cover a wide range of initiatives, from renewable energy adoption to environmental protection.
- One of the key themes mentioned is "Coal Transition."

## Perovskite Solar Cells

- Carbon-based perovskite solar cells (CPSCs) have been produced by Indian scientists at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) in Hyderabad.
- These solar cells overcome the issues of degradation during operation, allowing them to be commercialised on a big scale.
- Perovskite solar cells (PSCs) are a form of solar cell that converts sunlight into electricity by using perovskite materials as the light-harvesting active layer.

Methylammonium lead iodide (MAPbI<sub>3</sub>) is the most commonly used perovskite material in solar cells.

## Kaas Plateau : Climate And Environmental Changes

- The Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in Pune, in collaboration with the National Centre for Earth Sciences in Thiruvananthapuram, has decoded climate and environmental changes on the Kaas Plateau.
- A sediment profile stretching back 8000 years that was used to decipher climate characteristics revealed a very low rainfall and a moderate southwest monsoon during the late Holocene (about 2827 years BP).

## SIGHT Programme

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has released scheme instructions for the implementation of the SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) programme.
- SIGHT is a subcomponent of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- It seeks to provide incentives for electrolyzer manufacture with a total investment of INR 4440 crore.
- With an investment of INR 13050 crore, it focuses on green hydrogen production.
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) would be the implementation body in charge of carrying out the project.

## Greenwashing

- The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) recently published a new set of global regulations approved by the G20 to assist authorities in combating greenwashing.
- Greenwashing is the process of presenting a false impression or misleading information about how environmentally friendly a company's products are.
- Greenwashing is the practise of making unfounded claims in order to mislead consumers into believing that a company's products are more environmentally friendly or have a higher positive environmental impact than they actually do.

## DEFENCE AND SECURITY



## Pixxel has been awarded a grant from the Ministry of Defence to develop satellites for the Indian Air Force.

- Pixxel, a famous space-tech firm backed by recognised corporations such as Google, Blume Ventures, and Omnivore VC, has received a significant grant from iDEX (Innovations ForDefence Excellence), a Ministry of Defence project.
- With this grant, Pixxel will be able to construct compact, multi-purpose satellites for the Indian Air Force, thereby contributing to India's ambitious space and defence objectives. The funding is part of the iDEX Prime (Space) initiative's Mission DefSpace Challenge.

## On July 27, 2023, the 85th CRPF Raising Day was observed.

- On July 27, 2023, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its 85th Raising Day. The day honours the military's enormous and unprecedented contribution to the nation's unity, integrity, and sovereignty.
- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

## **Amit Shah inaugurates a single security control centre for 66 airports covered by the CISF**

- The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, officially inaugurated the Central Industrial Security Force's (CISF) centralised Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) in New Delhi. The fundamental goal of this programme is to properly handle the current security concerns.
- The ASCC will be in charge of monitoring all potential threats and social media activity related to the CISF's present security coverage of 66 civil airports.

## **Talisman Sabre 2023, Australia's largest bilateral military exercise, gets underway**

- Exercise Talisman Sabre, Australia's largest bilateral military exercise with the United States, formally began with an opening ceremony aboard HMAS Canberra. 2023 is the greatest Exercise Talisman Sabre in terms of geographical area and number of participating partners, now in its tenth iteration.
- The exercise will include forces from Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Tonga, and the United Kingdom, in addition to the United States. Observers from India, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand are in attendance.

## **In a historic step, India gives over the INS Kirpan to Vietnam**

- In a ceremony performed in Cam Ranh, Vietnam, the Indian Naval Ship Kirpan, a corvette that served the Indian Navy for 32 years, was decommissioned and handed over to the Vietnam People's Navy (VPN). The historic event marked India's first transfer of a fully operational corvette to a foreign government.

## **The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy reached an agreement to resurrect the Tankai system**

- The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to resuscitate and maintain the ancient 2000-year-old shipbuilding process known as the 'stitched shipbuilding method' or 'Tankai method'.
- The Tankai method is an ancient shipbuilding process that involves stitching together wooden planks to make ships without the use of nails. Ships acquire increased flexibility and endurance by using this strategy, minimising their sensitivity to damage from shoals and sandbars.

## **HAL will supply Argentina with light and medium utility helicopters**

- Argentina's Defence Minister visited Bengaluru and signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to develop cooperation between the two parties for the acquisition of Light and Medium Utility Helicopters for Argentina's armed services.
- Since 2019, India and Argentina's relations have progressed to the level of Strategic Partnership. An MoU on defence cooperation has been in place as part of this alliance.

## **China and Russia will conduct combined naval exercises**

- China, Russia, and Iran have launched a coordinated naval drill called "Security Bond-2023" in the Gulf of Oman. This five-day exercise aims to protect important maritime routes.
- Aerial search and rescue missions, maritime rescue operations, fleet formation exercises, and other specified responsibilities will be part of the exercise.
- The Security Bond drills are taking place concurrently with the final phase of the 18-day International Maritime Exercise 2023 (IMX 2023), the largest maritime exercise in the Middle East region.

## **"Nomadic Elephant - 2023" is a combined military exercise between India and Mongolia**

- A squad of 43 Indian Army personnel left for Mongolia today to participate in the 15th edition of the joint military exercise "NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23."
- The exercise is scheduled to take place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from July 17th to July 31st, 2023. NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training programme held alternately in India and Mongolia.

## SAGAR SAMPARK

- SarbanandaSonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, launched Sagar Sampark, an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS), with the goal of promoting digitalization in the marine domain.
- Sagar Sampark's major goal is to increase location data precision by correcting mistakes and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).
- Sagar Sampark will provide precise information to improve ship safety, reducing the possibility of collisions, groundings, and accidents in ports and harbours. As a result, it will make vessel transportation more secure and efficient.

## Global Fire Power Report

- The United States has the most powerful military force in the world, according to Global Firepower, a famous statistics website specialising in defense-related information. Russia and China are closely followed in second and third place, respectively, with India in fourth place.

### 10 nations with the most powerful militaries in the world:

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1	United States	6	South Korea
2	Russia	7	Pakistan
3	China	8	Japan
4	India	9	France
5	United Kingdom	10	Italy

## The India-US Joint Operation 'Broader Sword'

- Operation Broader Sword, a multi-agency operation focused at preventing the unlawful shipment of pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals via the International Mail System (IMS), has brought India and the United States together.
- Over 500 shipments of illicit and unlicensed prescription medications meant for US consumers were intercepted during the operation, which took place in June 2023.

## SALVEX Exercise

- The seventh edition of the Indian Navy - US Navy (IN - USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX, held in Kochi from June 26 to July 6, 2023, was successfully ended.
- The drill saw the active participation of naval assets from both nations, including the Indian Navy's INS Nireekshak and the US Navy's USNS Salvor.

## JIMEX 23

- The seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) is took place in Visakhapatnam, India, from July 5th to July 10th, 2023.
- This exercise, the 11th since its beginning in 2012, aims to improve interoperability and cooperation between the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the Indian Navy.

## Scientists set out on a trip aboard India's research vessel Sagar Nidhi

- Scientists from Bangladesh and Mauritius recently boarded India's research ship Sagar Nidhi for a cooperative ocean trip. The event was held as part of the Colombo Security Concave (CSC) amongst Indian Ocean Region states.
- The first CSCO Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference, held in Goa and Hyderabad in November 2022, leads in a combined ocean expedition led by the Indian National Centres for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), which is part of the ministry of earth sciences.

## Lieutenant General M U Nair has been named the new National Cybersecurity Coordinator

- Lt Gen M U Nair has been named as the newly appointed National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC).
- Lt Gen Nair, who became the 28th Signal Officer-in-Chief in July 2022, brings a plethora of experience and



expertise in cyber warfare, signal intelligence, communication and information technology. Prior to becoming NCSC, Lt Gen Nair served as commandant of the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering.

## Tarang Sakti

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will hold its first-ever multi-national air exercise called 'Tarang Shakti' this October-November.
- This exercise, which includes the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia, aims to increase military cooperation and establish strategic partnerships.
- 'Tarang Shakti' is expected to be India's greatest multi-national air exercise, demonstrating the IAF's commitment to global participation.

## Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir

- The military Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently released a detailed list of 75 technology priority areas targeted at strengthening India's indigenous military manufacturing sector.
- This strategic approach is projected to spur innovation, indigenization, and self-sufficiency, putting the country on a path towards improved military technology design and development.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



### RoBoMAPPER

- Scientists have introduced RoboMapper, a cutting-edge robot developed for material testing, in a ground-breaking development. This cutting-edge technology has the potential to revolutionise the process of identifying materials for solar cells, resulting in improved efficiency and sustainability.
- RoboMapper's major goal is to locate perovskite materials, which have more light absorption than standard silicon, making solar cells lighter and more efficient.

### Worldcoin project

- The Worldcoin project, led by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, has received a lot of interest since its introduction on July 24, 2023. The initiative is based on the novel notion of "Proof of Personhood," which aims to verify digital identification.
- The Worldcoin project is based on the revolutionary notion of "Proof of Personhood." It aims to build a strong and decentralised system for validating digital identities, providing a more inclusive and safe future for people all around the world.

### Jupiter 3

- 'Jupiter 3', the world's largest private communications satellite, has been launched.
- Elon Musk's SpaceX launched the world's largest commercial communications satellite from LC-39A at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA. The Falcon Heavy rocket carried Maxar Technologies' largest satellite to date, Jupiter 3, into orbit.
- JUPITER 3, commonly known as 'EcoStar XXIV,' is a Hughes satellite operated by EchoStar. It is intended to give terabytes of bandwidth to users in North and South America as the next-generation Ultra High Density Satellite (UHDS).

### DS-SAR Satellite Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently announced the July 30, 2023 launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C56 (PSLV-C56), which would carry Singapore's DS-SAR satellite.
- The 3600 kg DS-SAR satellite was developed by DSTA, which represents the Singapore government, and ST Engineering. The satellite would be launched into a 5 degree inclination and 535 km altitude Near Equatorial Orbit (NEO).
- The DA-SAR satellite has an Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload. This enables the DS-SAR to provide all-weather day and night coverage while imaging at 1m resolution using complete polarimetry.

## India AI and Meta will promote AI and Emerging Technologies advances

- India AI and Meta have formed a working collaboration with the common goal of accelerating the advancement of AI and Emerging Technologies research and development.
- The partnership's major goal is to make revolutionary advances in AI technology and its practical applications.

## Ransomware 'Akira'

- A new Internet ransomware virus known as 'Akira' has emerged in cyberspace, aimed to steal vital personal information and encrypt files, forcing victims to pay a ransom.
- This ransomware attacks both Windows and Linux-based systems.
- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, or ICERT, is an institution of the Government of India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Its main role is to address and combat cyber security risks like hacking and phishing.

## MeitY Startup Hub

- MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) is a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) programme dedicated to developing and expanding the startup ecosystem in India. The centre promotes technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and the development of Intellectual Property (IP).
- It acts as a nationwide coordination, facilitation, and monitoring centre for all MeitY incubation centres, startups, and innovation-related activities.
- MeitY Startup Hub, with its emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship, has helped catapult India to the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.

## Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission

- On the 19th of July, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested the Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- It entails sending a three-person crew to a 400 kilometre orbit for a three-day mission and safely returning them to Earth, with a scheduled landing in Indian Sea waters.

## Next Generation of Llama

- Meta and Microsoft have announced the growth of their artificial intelligence relationship by presenting "Llama 2," a new large language model (LLM).
- This cutting-edge language model is now available for both research and commercial usage, making it a possible competitor to OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard.
- The open availability of Llama 2 improves its accessibility and usability in a variety of fields.

## Donanemab

- According to a study published in the novel England Journal of Medicine, donanemab, a novel medicine for Alzheimer's disease, showed favourable outcomes in a clinical trial.
- Donanemab is an antibody therapy developed by the US pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly that targets aberrant clumps of protein known as amyloid-beta that can accumulate in the brain.
- Donanemab is administered intravenously every four weeks. Patients must undergo regular brain scans to check the drug's negative effects, such as brain swelling and haemorrhage.

## Chandrayan-3

- At 2:35 p.m., Chandrayaan-3 was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, aboard ISRO's largest and most powerful rocket, the Launch Vehicle Mark III.
- India intends to soft-land Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's South Pole. If this mission is successful, India will become the fourth country to achieve a soft landing of a spacecraft on the Earth's Natural Satellite.
- In addition, India will be the first country to land a spacecraft on the Moon's South Pole.

## NISAR

- In Bengaluru, India, two primary components of the NISAR satellite were united to form a single spacecraft. NISAR, short for **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar**, is being built jointly by NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation, or ISRO, to observe the movements of Earth's land and ice surfaces in extremely fine

detail.

- It is scheduled to launch in early 2024. Because NISAR monitors practically every region of our planet at least once every 12 days, scientists will be able to better understand the dynamics of forests, wetlands, and agricultural fields, among other things.

## Underground Climate Change

- The continual heat diffusion from buildings and underground transport causes the ground to warm at an alarming rate, resulting in the phenomenon known as "Underground Climate Change."
- Researchers discovered that heat from buildings in subsurface transport systems diffuses beneath the surface, warming the ground over time and causing expansions and contractions produced by this heat to form rocks. Structures' long-term durability and operating performance suffer as a result.

## AI skills lab in India

- Dell Technologies and Intel have collaborated to develop an artificial intelligence (AI) centre at the Telangana Institute of Technology. By incorporating Intel's 'AI for Youth' programme into its curriculum, the alliance hopes to overcome the digital skills gap and empower students at Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology in Telangana.
- This effort aims to provide students with the essential industrial experience for the future job market, as well as to develop an AI-ready ecosystem on campus.

## Roadmap for Green Hydrogen Ecosystem

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources has released a draught and roadmap outlining the research and development priorities for Green Hydrogen manufacturing and storage.
- This roadmap and draught are being released to highlight the research and development goals for the production and storage of Green Hydrogen.
- The primary goal of this roadmap is to promote efficient, safe, and cost-effective hydrogen storage, paving the path for the widespread adoption of hydrogen as a clean energy source.
- It emphasises the significance of merging hydrogen fuel cells, improved batteries, and supercapacitors as crucial technologies in the automotive industry's future.

## Guillain-Barre Syndrome

- Peru announced a state of national emergency in response to an increase in patients suffering from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), a neurological illness characterised by an unusual immune system attack on the nerve system.
- GBS symptoms can develop gradually over hours, days, or weeks, eventually rendering specific muscles inoperable.

## Euclid Space Telescope

- The Euclid Space Telescope, a particularly developed equipment intended at revolutionising our understanding of the universe, was recently launched by the European Space Agency (ESA).
- Scientists will be able to generate a comprehensive three-dimensional map of billions of galaxies dispersed across a wide area of 10 billion light-years with this cutting-edge telescope.
- The Euclid Telescope's superior capabilities are expected to provide insight on the mysteries of dark matter, dark energy, and the expansion of the cosmos. Furthermore, it will help in areas such as human resources, global health, climate change, and oceans.

## Gravity hole

- Researchers from Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science have discovered a 'gravity hole' in the Indian Ocean, which is a place where the gravitational attraction is much lower than the surrounding area, causing a drop in the Earth's Gravity Field.
- A gravity hole is a location where the gravitational pull is weaker than in the surrounding environment.
- Gravity holes arise due to variations in density and mass distribution caused by the Earth's non-uniform gravitational force.

## Elena Introduces India's First NavIC

- Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based startup, has introduced the country's first hand-held navigation device

based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC), marking a significant step towards self-reliance in navigation apps and services.

- The gadget is designed to offer precise instructions for a variety of infrastructure projects, including railways, land surveys, telecommunications, and hydrocarbon exploration. It costs Rs 6,000 and can be readily connected to cellphones via an on-the-go (OTG) adapter, allowing users to get data from any mapping programme or satellite source.

## Meta launches “Threads” Twitter killer app

- Meta, the company of Instagram, has launched Threads, a new social networking site. With Twitter feeling insecurity under billionaire owner Elon Musk, Meta intends to take advantage of the situation. Threads is now available in over 100 countries via the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.
- Users can share quick text messages, similar to Twitter that can be liked, shared, and reacted to. Threads, on the other hand, lacks direct messaging capabilities. Users can post up to 500 characters on Threads, as well as share links, photographs, and videos up to five minutes long.

## Virgin Galactic

- Virgin Galactic reached a critical milestone when it completed its first commercial suborbital flight, dubbed Galactic 01.
- The VSS Unity spaceplane ascended around 80 kilometres (50 miles) over the New Mexico desert, with a crew of two Italian air force officers, an aerospace engineer, a Virgin Galactic instructor, and two pilots.
- The spaceplane safely floated down to Earth after a 75-minute voyage, landing at Spaceport America.



## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### Through the Broken Glass: An Autobiography

- The former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, T.N. Seshan, wrote "Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography," which had a profound impact on Indian elections.
- His time as the CEC is covered in this autobiography. He practically embodies the archetype of the self-righteous Tamil Brahmin, a dour and upright Brahmin from the south of India. He has provided a logbook of his time in the government, beginning as a sub-collector in Dindigul and collector in Madurai, where he confronted his administrative superiors with a taunt that they should send in writing what they wanted done.
- Instead of providing illuminating insights into people and processes when he served as a bureaucrat for more than three decades before becoming the CEC in 1990, he has done so.

### Book - “India Rising Memoir of a Scientist”

- R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra's "India Rising Memoir of a Scientist" is a book.
- The book examines the life of Dr. R. Chidambaram, one of India's leading scientists, who held the positions of chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C) and chief scientific advisor (PSA) to the Government of India from November 2001 to March 2018.
- Dr. Chidambaram, one of India's most renowned experimental physicists, has made extraordinary contributions to several fields of fundamental science and nuclear technology.

### Former vice president Venkaiah Naidu releases book named “As the wheel turns”

- On the occasion of Rayala Corporation's Diamond Jubilee, Ranjit Pratap, the Managing Director of Rayala Corporation, has launched an enlightening book that provides a compelling narrative of his incredible journey in the corporate world. This engaging novel, titled "As the wheel turns," attempts to motivate readers by sharing Ranjit Pratap's own experiences, hardships, and successes.
- This book was launched in the presence of M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice President of India, as well as a slew of famous industrialists, bureaucrats, and Rayala Corporation acquaintances, including some retired firm employees.



## Abhishek Choudhary's Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-1977

- Abhishek Choudhary's latest biography, Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-1977, chronicles the early years of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Picador India published the book, which was launched in May 2023. This first volume covers the first 53 years of Vajpayee's life, from 1924 to 1977.

## Sudha Pai and Sajjan Kumar's Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Age of Hindutva

- Sudha Pai and Sajjan Kumar wrote "Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva." They offer a thorough and thought-provoking assessment of the interplay between Maya, Modi, and Azad in the arena of Dalit politics in this book.
- Their research is critical for understanding not only the dynamics of Dalit politics, but also India's broader democratic landscape, particularly as we approach the extremely contentious general election of 2024.

## Anita Bharat Shah's book "Colours of Devotion"

- Anita Bharat Shah's "Colours of Devotion" book. 'Colours of Devotion' seeks to grasp the underlying connection of Pushti Marg Indian philosophical notions as put forth by the saint and founder Shri Vallabhacharya, which inspired the art made for use in the religious practises of the Vallabha Sampradaya.

## Before the release of Chandrayaan 3, a new book called 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow' was released.

- Vinod Mankara, a national award-winning filmmaker-writer, has launched his new book from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The SDSC-SHAR hosted the one-of-a-kind premiere of 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow,' a compilation of science papers, while preparations for the country's much-anticipated Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 were underway.



## AWARDS

## Byculla Railway Station has been awarded the Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award by UNESCO.

- On July 24th, Mumbai's Byculla Railway Station earned UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award, which was declared in November 2022.
- Byculla Railway Station in Mumbai was awarded the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage designation in November 2022, acknowledging the station's important contribution to cultural heritage protection.
- The award came after the station underwent considerable restoration work to restore it to its former splendour.
- Byculla Railway Station is a railway station on the Mumbai Suburban Railway's Central line.
- It is thought to be one of the oldest railway stations still in use. With a history spanning back 169 years, the station is a testimony to India's rich railway past.

## Shankari Chandran is the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award winner.

- The winner of the 2023 Literary Award for her novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens' has been revealed as Chandran.
- The award-winning novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens' by Chandran is about family, memory, community, and race. It's an intergenerational epic about Australia's challenging and complicated relationship with multiculturalism and the tragedies of post-colonialism.
- The Miles Franklin Literary Award is offered annually to "a novel of the highest literary merit that portrays Australian life in any of its phases."

## Gujarat will host the 69th Filmfare Awards in 2024.

- Gujarat will host the 69th Filmfare Awards in 2024, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been struck between the state government's tourist cooperation and Worldwide Media (WWM) to organise the event and market the state as a film destination.

## Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur bestows the eighth and ninth Community Radio Awards.

- During the Inaugural Session of the two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelon conducted at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting gave the 8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards.
- In Promoting Local Culture Awards: First Prize: Voice of SOA, Cuttack, Odissa. Programme: Asmita.
- Sustainability Modern Awards: First Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambhalpur, Odissa.
- Thematic Awards: Second Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambalpur, Odissa. Programme: Adhar O Poshan Bigyan.

## JKRLM wins SKOCH Gold Award for Marketing Avenues to SHGs

- The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) received the coveted SKOCH Gold Award under the theme "State of Governance India 2047."
- This award recognises the organization's commitment to boosting livelihoods and empowering communities, and it is the organization's first since the program's commencement.

## A 7-year-old Indian-origin schoolgirl has won the UK Prime Minister's Points of Light award.

- A seven-year-old Indian-origin child has received the British Prime Minister's Points of Light award for her exceptional environmental initiatives.
- When Moksha Roy was three years old, she began helping for a United Nations sustainability programme against microplastic contamination. She is currently known as the world's youngest environmental advocate.

## Prof Thalappil Pradeep is the recipient of the prestigious International Eni Award.

- Prof. Thalappil Pradeep of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Department of Chemistry has received the coveted 'Eni Award,' a highly valued global acknowledgment for scientific research in the disciplines of energy and environment.
- The Eni Award, which was founded in 2007, is now in its 15th year. The prize will be presented to him in the near future by the President of Italy. Prof. T. Pradeep's outstanding work focuses on producing economical and clean water solutions using innovative materials.
- His ground-breaking study resulted in the development of long-lasting and low-cost nanoscale materials that successfully remove hazardous pollutants from water. These technologies have been effectively adopted as drinking water solutions, benefiting a staggering 1.3 million people in India every day.

## SJVN wins first place in the MoP's Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023.

- The Ministry of Power has awarded SJVN Limited the First Prize in the Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023. NL Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN, was presented with the award by Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary of the Ministry of Power, at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- The evaluation of public sector undertakings (PSUs) for these prizes is based on a variety of criteria, including public awareness activities on the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

## The President of India will award the "Bhoomi Samman" in 2023.

- The President of India will bestow the renowned "Bhoomi Samman" honours at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on July 18, 2023. The awards will be given to 9 State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors, as well as their teams, who have showed extraordinary achievements in implementing the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), which is an important component of government.

## Golden Peacock' Environment Management Award 2023 to Adani Transmission Limited

- Adani Transmission Limited has been awarded the 'Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023 (GPEMA)' in the 'Power Transmission Sector' by the 'Institute of Directors.'
- In 2023, an evaluation group comprised of experts in the Environment, Health and Safety, Energy, and Climate

- Change evaluates over 520 applications.
- Justice M.N. granted these applications. An eminent jury committee led by Venkatachaliah conducted the review.

## PM Modi conferred with France's highest award Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

- French President Emmanuel Macron has bestowed the Grand Cross of the Legion of decoration, France's highest civilian and military decoration, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, making him the first Indian Prime Minister to receive the award.
- Mr. Modi received the honour on July 13, 2023, at the Elysee Palace in Paris, joining the ranks of other prominent world leaders such as former South African President Nelson Mandela, King Charles - the then Prince of Wales, former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, and Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations, among others.

## ASSOCHAM Awards for Mineral Development and Employer Brand are presented to NMDC.

- NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) of India was honoured with two top honours at the ASSOCHAM Business Excellence honours 2023 in Kolkata.
- In honour of its major contributions to the mining sector and exceptional human resource practises, the company received the 'Mineral Development Award' and the 'Employer Brand of the Year Award'.

## Indian conservationists received an environmental prize from the United Kingdom.

- The coveted Elephant Family environmental award was recently handed to Indian conservationists by King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom. The Real Elephant Collective (TREC), a group of 70 Adivasi artists, and director Kartiki Gonsalves, the creative genius behind the Oscar-winning documentary "The Elephant Whisperers," were honoured during the occasion.
- Both Gonsalves and TREC were recognised for their outstanding storytelling, advocacy for coexistence, and commitment to protecting India's natural heritage.

## Michael Rosen, a British children's author, has been awarded the PEN Pinter Prize for 2023.

- Michael Rosen, a well-known children's author and performance poet, has been awarded the prestigious PEN Pinter Prize 2023. This renowned prize is given to a writer from the United Kingdom, Ireland, or the Commonwealth whose body of work courageously discovers and illuminates facts about modern-day reality.
- Michael Rosen, the British Children's Laureate from 2007 to 2009, is lauded for his efforts to make poetry more interesting and approachable to children through his compositions and performances. His poetry explores social, political, and ethical issues.

## At the UK-India Awards, boxing champion Mary Kom was awarded a Global Indian Icon.

- Mary Kom, India's first-ever Olympic medalist in women's boxing, has been named Global Indian Icon of the Year at the annual UK-India Awards in Windsor, south-eastern England.
- Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, who directed the Oscar-nominated 'Elizabeth: The Golden Age,' got a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the area of cinema in both countries at the awards, which were held as part of UK-India Week by the India Global Forum (IGF).
- The Nehru Centre in London, the Indian High Commission's cultural arm, received the UK-India Award for Significant Contribution to UK-India Relations.

## Priya A.S. was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature in 2023.

- Priya A S, a gifted writer, was awarded the coveted Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023 in Malayalam for her work "PerumazhayatheKunjithalukal" (The Children Who Never Withered).

- This honour builds on her prior feat of receiving the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature for the same novel in 2020.
- The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar contains a cash prize of Rs 50,000 as well as an engraved copper plaque. Panels of three persons choose the winners in each language.



## OBITUARIES

### Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy passes away at 79

- Former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy passes at the age of 79. He was a well-known politician who served as the representative for the Puthupally constituency in the Kottayam district. Chandy twice served as chief minister throughout his time in politics.
- He entered politics by actively participating in the Kerala Students Union (KSU) and the Youth Congress. Chandy was born on October 30, 1943, to KarottuVallakalil K.V. Chandy and Baby Chandy.

### Eminent mathematician Dr Mangala Narlikar passes away at 80

- Dr. Jayant Narlikar, the founding director of the Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), and Dr. Mangala Narlikar, a renowned mathematician, both passed dead. She was 80 years old.
- Her core fields of interest were real and complex analysis, analytic geometry, number theory, algebra and topology.
- On writing books on mathematics, Narlikar wrote: "I enjoyed writing a book on how to make mathematics interesting and accessible".

### Well known Painter and sculptor Namboothiri passes away

- In Kottakkal, Malappuram district, renowned artist Namboothiri, known for his extraordinary talent in painting and sculpture, passed away at the age of 97.
- His magnificent line drawings and copper reliefs, which decorated the writings of well-known Malayalam authors like ThakazhiShivashankara Pillai, MT Vasudevan Nair, Uroob, and SK Pottakkad, won him widespread appreciation.
- Prestigious awards like the Raja Ravi Varma Award from the Kerala Lalitha Kala Akademi and the Kerala State Film Award for Best Art Director recognised Namboothiri's talent in the arts.

### American Co-Inventor of Lithium-Ion Batteries, John Bannister Goodenough, Passes Away

- John Bannister Goodenough, a well-known American physicist who co-invented lithium-ion batteries and shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with another individual, has sadly passed away.
- Together with Goodenough, his British-American equal Stan Whittingham received the Nobel Prize for their ground-breaking work.
- Lithium storage in titanium sulphide sheets was first discovered by Whittingham, and Goodenough improved the idea by including a cobalt-based cathode, leading to a product that is now a crucial component of people's daily life.
- In addition to his groundbreaking work on Lithium-ion batteries, John Goodenough played a significant role in the development of Random Access Memory (RAM) for computers.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Doctor's Day

- India honours the acclaimed Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, who was not only a renowned doctor but also a notable politician, a freedom warrior, and an advocate for education, on July 1st of each year by observing National Doctor's Day.



## National Chartered Accountants Day

- On July 1st, National Chartered Accountants Day, usually referred to as CA Day, is celebrated to mark the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
- The ICAI, India's oldest and most prestigious financial and accounting organisation, is recognised on this important day for its contributions.
- The ICAI, now in its 75th year of operation, is India's exclusive licencing and regulatory body for the accounting industry and financial auditing.

## National Postal Worker Day

- It is celebrated on July 1 as a means to thank and honour postal workers for their tireless efforts.

## Guru Purnima

- Guru Purnima is regarded as a significant Hindu event with a special position in Hinduism. According to the DrikPanchang, Guru Purnima is observed every year on Purnima Day, which is the full moon day in the Ashadha month, which runs from July to August.
- Guru Purnima 2023 observed on July 3, 2023. Guru Purnima expresses the relationships between the Guru and the Shisya in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. Guru Purnima is not simply a Hindu holiday; it is also enthusiastically observed by Buddhists and Jainites.

## International Plastic Bag Free Day

- It is celebrated annually on July 3 to raise public awareness of the harm that disposable plastic bags do to the environment.
- This day serves as a reminder for people, groups, and organisations all across the world to reduce their use of plastic bags and look into other environmentally friendly options.

## World Zoonoses Day

- Every year on July 6, World Zoonoses Day is marked to celebrate the accomplishments of eminent French biologist Louis Pasteur.
- An important step in the fight against zoonotic diseases was taken on this day in 1885 when Pasteur administered the first dose of the rabies vaccine.
- World Zoonoses Day is an opportunity to spread knowledge about various zoonotic illnesses and teach people how to prevent them.

## World Population Day

- Every year on July 11, there is a celebration known as World Population Day that emphasises the importance of tackling population issues worldwide and advancing sustainable development.
- Its goal is to improve knowledge of various population growth aspects and how they impact social, economic, and environmental well-being.

## Malala Day

- In honour of Malala Yousafzai's birthday, July 12 is designated as Malala Day every year. Malala, a Nobel laureate campaigner from Pakistan, won acclaim for her unrelenting advocacy of girls' education.
- This yearly memorial honours Malala for her bravery, tenacity, and unrelenting dedication to expanding educational opportunities for kids all throughout the world with a focus on girl empowerment.

## Bastille Day

- The 14th of July is designated as Bastille Day each year. It honours the famous 'Storming of the Bastille' incident that happened on July 14, 1789. This important occurrence is seen as a turning point in the French Revolution.
- On this date, the French populace stormed the Bastille prison to represent their struggle for liberty, equality, and fraternity as well as their opposition to the monarchy.

## World Youth Skills Day

- Every year on July 15, there is a celebration known as World Youth Skills Day to highlight the need of giving

young people the necessary skills and promoting their active participation in the workforce.

- This day strives to recognise the critical part that skill development plays in reducing young unemployment and promoting social and economic advancement.

## World Day for International Justice

- Every year on July 17, people around the world observe the World Day for International Justice, commonly known as International Criminal Justice Day.
- The goal of this day is to raise awareness of the importance of international criminal justice, promote the rule of law, and fight impunity for the worst crimes that have an impact on the entire world.

## Nelson Mandela Day

- Every year on July 18, Nelson Mandela Day is held to honour his exceptional life, enduring legacy, and revered values. Nelson Mandela is a celebrated former president of South Africa.
- On this day, Mandela is remembered as an international symbol of harmony, peace, and human rights.

## International Moon Day

- An annual celebration of the Moon, the only natural satellite of the Earth, is known as International Moon Day. It takes place every year on July 20th, which is the anniversary of the day in 1969 when astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong made history by walking on the moon.
- The goal of International Moon Day is to raise awareness of the Moon and astronomy while celebrating the Apollo 11 mission, which is still regarded as one of humanity's greatest accomplishments.

## International Chess Day

- Every year on July 20th, people around the world celebrate International Chess Day in recognition of the International Chess Federation (FIDE)'s foundation in 1924.
- This particular day acknowledges the significance of chess as a game, a sport, and an intellectual pursuit on a global scale.

## Pi Approximation Day

- Every year on July 22, Pi Approximation Day is observed to honour the mathematical constant pi and its enormous importance in the area of mathematics. Because the fraction  $22/7$  serves as a widely used estimate for pi, this particular day was chosen.
- The ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, or pi, is a stunning number, and the day acts as a reminder of that fact.

## India's Income Tax Day

- India celebrates Income Tax Day on July 24 every year to commemorate the momentous day in 1860 when income tax was first implemented in the country. Sir James Wilson, then-India's British Finance Minister, was the driving force behind this important turning point in the country's financial history.
- The main goal of putting in place the income tax system was to bring in money for the British government. India's Income Tax Day acts as a reminder of the history of the nation's tax system and emphasises the significance of income tax in supporting the country's economic progress.

## Kargil Vijay Diwas

- In India, July 26th is recognised as Kargil Vijay Diwas, sometimes referred to as Kargil Victory Day. This day honours the glorious conclusion of Operation Vijay, which was carried out by the Indian armed forces. Strategically significant locations that had been taken during the 1999 Kargil conflict by Pakistani infiltrators were reclaimed as a result of the operation.
- The commemoration of Kargil Vijay Diwas serves as a moving reminder of the courage, selflessness, and commitment shown by the Indian soldiers during the fight.

## World Hepatitis Day

- Every year on 28 July, people around the world observe World Hepatitis Day to raise awareness of viral hepatitis and promote policies that will help to prevent, identify, and treat this serious global health issue.

- This day provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of hepatitis prevention, testing, and treatment in order to lessen the disease's effects on people around the world.

## World Nature Conservation Day

- Every year on 28 July, people around the world mark World Nature Conservation Day to raise awareness about how important it is to protect the environment and its priceless natural resources.
- This day serves as a reminder of how important it is to adopt sustainable behaviours and take part in conservation initiatives in order to safeguard our world for future generations.

## International Tiger Day

- Global Tiger Day, also known as International Tiger Day, is observed on July 29 every year.
- This day's goals include raising public awareness of the need to preserve tigers and their habitats and to support initiatives aimed at keeping these magnificent animals from going extinct.

## World Ranger Day

- Every year on July 31st, World Ranger Day is observed to recognise and honour the significant contributions made by park rangers and wildlife conservationists all around the world.
- This day honours their persistent work to maintain our planet's fragile ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, and secure natural resources.

## Global Energy Independence Day

- Global Energy Independence Day is celebrated yearly on July 10th.
- It acts as a reminder to authorities, businesses, and people of the significance of cutting back on the use of non-renewable resources and shifting to cleaner, more dependable energy systems.



## APPOINTMENTS

### Brajendra Navnit to be India's ambassador to WTO for 9 months

- Brajendra Navnit's appointment as India's ambassador and permanent representative to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has been extended by nine months, according to the Indian government.
- This choice was made prior to the pivotal 13th WTO ministerial summit in 2024. The extension of Navnit's tenure shows how committed India is to advancing its top trade ambitions.

### Tushar Mehta reappointed as Solicitor General of India

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has reappointed Tushar Mehta as the current Solicitor General of India for a three-year term. Following the conclusion of their prior mandates on the Supreme Court, it was revealed that Mehta and six other legal professionals had been reappointed.
- The ACC's decision demonstrates the government's faith in their ability to manage the complicated legal issues the nation is currently dealing with.

### China's Qu-Dongyu re-elected unopposed as head of FAO

- On Saturday, July 1, 2023, the 43rd session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) conference got underway in Rome, where FAO's headquarters are located. Qu-Dongyu was re-elected as the director general of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) during this meeting.
- Qu-Dongyu, the first person of Chinese descent to hold the role, was elected as the head of the UN agency in 2019.
- Since taking office, Qu-Dongyu has actively led the FAO to address the issues surrounding global food security and support the advancement of food and agriculture in all nations, particularly emerging ones.

### Cricketer AjitAgarkar appointed chairman of Senior Men's Selection Committee

- The Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee's head has been named as AjitAgarkar by the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI). The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), comprised of Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjape, made the choice. The CAC selected AjitAgarkar as the chairman after interviewing a number of candidates for the role.

- The Senior Men's Selection Committee now consists of Ajit Agarkar (Chairperson), Shiv Sundar Das, Subroto Banerjee, Salil Ankola, and Sridharan Sharath.

## RBI appoints P Vasudevan as new executive director

- P. Vasudevan has been chosen by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to serve as executive director. His hiring is in effect as of July 3, 2023. Vasudevan will oversee the Department of Currency Management, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department (Areas other than that of Budget & Funds), and Enforcement Department, according to a release from the Reserve Bank.
- Vasudevan served as the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems' Chief General Manager before being elevated to the position of executive director.

## G.K. Satish appointed as a board member of Russian Energy Giant Rosneft

- By recruiting former Indian Oil Cooperation (IOC) director Govind Kottis Satish to its board of directors, Russian oil giant Rosneft has made a big step towards improving commercial relations with India.

## Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman Appointed as New IFSCA Chairman by Centre

- The government has chosen K Rajaraman, the secretary of telecom, to lead the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). Injeti Srinivas, who has held the position of inaugural chairperson since 2020, will be replaced by Rajaraman.
- A gazette notification states that Rajaraman's appointment is in effect for three years beginning on the day he assumes responsibility, or until he turns 65, or until further orders are made, whichever comes first.

## Neeraja Prabhakar became the chairman of the RAC of ICAR

- The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR) in Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh, has been appointed as chaired by B. Neeraja Prabhakar. With this momentous appointment, Ms. Prabhakar will preside over a ten-person committee for a period of three years beginning on June 13.
- Ms Prabhakar's appointment is anticipated to help the oil palm business in India expand and thrive due to her vast experience and competence in the field.

## OCA elects Sheikh Talal as new President

- Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait has been chosen to lead the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) as its new president.
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), which currently has 45 member National Olympic Committees, is the authority that oversees sports in Asia. President Talal Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is in office at the moment.

## President names two new Supreme Court justices

- The President has appointed Ujjal Bhuyan, the chief justice of Telangana, and S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti, the chief justice of Kerala, to the Supreme Court as justices.
- These appointments were made not long after the government received the nominations of these individuals from the Supreme Court Collegium, which was presided over by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.

## Finance Ministry appoints SEBI ED Pramod Rao to IFSCA Board

- Pramod Rao, Executive Director of SEBI, has been appointed by the Finance Ministry to the board of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA).
- With a remit to create and oversee the financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSC), the IFSCA is a statutory body established by the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- The first and only functioning IFSC in India is located in Gujarat's GIFT City.

## Ms. Nivruti Rai appointed as MD & CEO of Invest India

- The managing director and managing director of Invest India is Ms. Nivruti Rai. She replaced Ms Manmeet K Nanda, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), who took on the additional responsibility of MD & CEO on an interim basis beginning in March 2023.
- Ms. Rai has received the coveted Nari Shakti Puraskar in recognition of her outstanding contributions to technology.



- She made a substantial contribution to the development of domestic technology, the start-up ecosystem, the electronics manufacturing ecosystem, and policy formulation during her time at Intel India, particularly in the fields of critical and emerging technologies.

## **Manoj Yadava, an IPS officer, is appointed by the centre to lead the Railway Protection Force.**

- A directive from the Personnel Ministry named Manoj Yadava, a senior IPS officer from the Haryana cadre, as the next Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Sanjay Chander, who is scheduled to retire on July 31 and is a member of the Indian Police Service's 1988 class, will be replaced by Yadava.
- The nomination of Yadava as DG, RPF, through his retirement on July 31, 2025, has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

## **Rakesh Pal appointed as Indian Coast Guard's 25th Director General**

- The Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) 25th Director General (DG), Rakesh Pal, has been appointed. He graduated from the Indian Naval Academy, and in January 1989 he joined the Indian Coast Guard. According to the Ministry of Defence, he finished a course in electro-optics fire control solutions in the UK and underwent professional specialisation in gunnery and weapons systems at the Indian Naval School Dronacharya, Kochi.
- Rakesh Pal has the honour of serving as ICG's First Gunner. For his exceptional service, he was awarded the Tatrakshak Medal in 2013 and the President Tatrakshak Medal in 2018.

## **Sat Pal Bhanoo is appointed by the government to lead Life Insurance Corp.**

- The company has named Sat Pal Bhanoo as its new managing director. He is presently the additional zonal manager at the zonal office of LIC of India in Bhopal. He will succeed Siddhartha Mohanty, who was chosen to serve as the company's chairman in April 2023.

## **Indian-origin doctor is the new chairman of the International Myeloma Foundation**

- S. Vincent Rajkumar, a renowned researcher, clinician, and scientist, has been named chairman-elect of the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF) Board of Directors.



1. Which of the following languages was recently recommended by the Odisha state administration for inclusion in the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution?  
A) Saora  
B) Kui  
C) Bodo  
D) Sambalpur
2. Odisha TV, an Odia-based news network, has unveiled India's first regional AI news anchor. What is the name of this artificial intelligence news anchor?  
A) Sophi  
B) Lisa  
C) Sana  
D) Lira
3. Which state government will shortly launch the 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' to promote recognition of Forest Rights Act (FRA) rights?  
A) Kerala  
B) Tamil Nadu  
C) Odisha  
D) Andhra Pradesh
4. Which two districts will get benefit from Lower Suktel Major Irrigation Project?  
A) Balangir & Subarnapur  
B) Balangir & Bargarh  
C) Subarnapur & Bargarh  
D) Sambalpur & Nuapara
5. Janibili drinking water project is located in which district?  
A) Sambalpur  
B) Ganjam  
C) Bargarh  
D) Subarnapur
6. Manoj Das Memorial at Sankhari of which district, is under construction?  
A) Kendrapara  
B) Balasore  
C) Bhadrak  
D) Mayurbhanj
7. The Gangadhar Meher Lift Irrigation Project will begin operations in which district of Odisha in September?  
A) Balangir  
B) Bargarh  
C) Sonepur  
D) Sambalpur
8. The Odisha government plans to enhance Gundichaghagi waterfall in order to attract tourists and create jobs in the area. Which of the following districts is it in?  
A) Mayurbhanj  
B) Ganjam  
C) Keonjhar  
D) Puri
9. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is constructing a second-generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery in Odisha. Which of the following districts is it?  
A) Mayurbhanj  
B) Kendrapada  
C) Ganjam  
D) Bargarh
10. According to a report, which of the following districts' wetlands are disappearing and becoming a source of concern?  
A) Cuttack  
B) Ganjam  
C) Jajpur  
D) Bhadrak
11. Kanpur irrigation project on the Baitarani River has recently made headlines. It is situated in:  
A) Sundergarh  
B) Keonjhar  
C) Angul  
D) Bolangir
12. The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) identified how many villages in the coastal area as Tsunami prone?  
A) 54  
B) 44  
C) 64  
D) 74
13. Which of the following two villages are declared the first two 'Tsunami Ready' villages in Indian Ocean Region?  
A) Harirajpur and Gopalpur  
B) Dhamara and Gopalpur  
C) Noliasahi and Venkatraipur  
D) Rajanagar and Bagapatia
14. Which of the following state-owned banks has recently launched UPI Payments with IVR-Based 'UPI 123PAY'?  
A) State Bank of India  
B) Punjab National Bank  
C) Bank of Baroda  
D) Union Bank of India

15. *Mukhyamantri Sabha Ghar is a newly launched scheme in Odisha. This will be implemented in which zone of Odisha?*
- Eastern Odisha
  - Western Odisha
  - Southern Odisha
  - Norther Odisha
16. *What is the primary objective of 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' initiative?*
- To improve rural infrastructure
  - To improve urban infrastructure
  - Renovation of all cultural centres
  - None of the above
17. *JyoshnaSabar and Mina Santa two sportswomen are associated with which sport?*
- Weightlifting
  - Modern Pentathlon
  - Boxing
  - Football
18. *Who is the winner of Fakir Mohan National Literary Award 2023?*
- Sujit Mansingh
  - Pratibha Roy
  - Alka Sarangi
  - Jagadish Mohanty
19. *Who is the author of the book "Madam President"?*
- Sandeep Sahu
  - RamakantaRatha
  - Manas Mohanty
  - Suresh Routroy
20. *e-CHAYAN an advanced technology is adopted by which of the following organization?*
- Odisha Public Service Commission
  - Odisha Staff Selection Committee
  - Odisha Sub- Ordinate Staff Selection Commission
  - State Employment Exchange
21. *Which state is the winner of 'Bhoomi Samman' award from the president?*
- Telangana
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Odisha
  - Karnataka
22. *According to the NITI Aayog's Multi dimensionally Poor Index, which district has the higher percentage of the poor population?*
- Rayagada
  - Koraput
  - Nabarangapur
  - Mayurbhanj
23. *Recently Odisha cabinet has approved a project named khadag river basin project. Which three districts will be covered by this project?*
- Boudh, Kandhamal and Balangir
  - Malkangiri, Koraput and Nabarangapur
  - Boudh, Deogarh and Keonjhar
  - Sundargarh, Sambalpur and Bargarh
24. *Who is the first Women Nagaland Member of Parliament to preside over Rajya Sabha?*
- S Phangnon Konyak
  - Salhoutuonuo Kruse
  - Neithonuo T. Liegise
  - Vilivi Sheqi
25. *Which district got best award for water conservation and management in 4th National Water Awards?*
- Mayurbhanj
  - Ganjam
  - Sambalpur
  - Koraput
26. *'AmaPokhari' yojana will be implemented in which area in Odisha?*
- Urban Area
  - Rural Area
  - Both Uraban and Rural Area
  - None of the above
27. *Who was the founder of the Gajapati Dynasty?*
- Kapilendra Dev
  - Mukunda Dev
  - Madhyamaraja II
  - LangulaNarasingh Dev
28. *In July 2023, ISRO launched its proven PSLV rocket PSLV- C56 carrying seven satellites from which country from Satish Dhawan Space Centre?*
- Malaysia
  - Indonesia
  - Singapore
  - Australia
29. *Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. and which of the following have signed an interconnection agreement to connect the North East Gas Grid of IGGL with the Barauni Guwahati Pipeline at an estimated cost of Rs 15.16 crore?*
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited
  - Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
  - Bharat Petroleum
  - Gas Authority of India (GAIL)



30. According to a report released by Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar on the occasion of Global Tiger Day. India's tiger population is estimated to be 3,925 with an annual growth rate of per annum.
- A) 6.1%
  - B) 5.1%
  - C) 3.1%
  - D) 2.1 %
31. The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities with the 2023 theme being "Sharing the human spirit through friendship", the day is observed every year on?
- A) July 25
  - B) July 30
  - C) July 13
  - D) July 8
32. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on 30 July was adopted at a high-level meeting of the UNGA. The resolution reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to end trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the theme for 2023 is?
- A) Use and abuse of technology
  - B) Victims' Voices Lead the Way
  - C) Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind
  - D) Committed to the Cause
33. Who among the following is set to be the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. a PSU under the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises?
- A) Shivendra Nath
  - B) Pravin Kumar Purwar
  - C) Rajiv Kumar
  - D) Rakesh Kumar Upadhyay
34. Which of the following state government has decided to confer the first 'Udyog Ratna' award on veteran industrialist and chairman emeritus of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata?
- A) Uttar Pradesh
  - B) Karnataka
  - C) Maharashtra
  - D) Madhya Pradesh
35. India AI and which of the following has signed a pact to foster collaboration in the field of AI and emerging technologies, making its open-source AI models available for use by the Indian ecosystem?
- A) Google
  - B) Meta
  - C) LinkedIn
  - D) Twitter
36. Which of the following has become the first Indian city to become part of the World Cities Culture Forum a global network of cities that share research and intelligence, and explore the role of culture in future prosperity?
- A) Chennai
  - B) Hyderabad
  - C) Cochin
  - D) Bengaluru
37. The historic Byculla Railway Station in Mumbai has been awarded the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award in recognition of its extensive restoration efforts. the award was established in which year?
- A) 2000
  - B) 1998
  - C) 1995
  - D) 1990
38. Global Tiger Day, commonly referred to as International Tiger Day, was first established in 2010 and observed every year on July 29, during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit by nations that are home to tigers. According to the tiger census data released in December, what is the total tiger population in India?
- A) 3,167
  - B) 3,896
  - C) 2,476
  - D) 6,003
39. As a follow-up to the first Global DPI Summit organised by Ministry of Electronics and IT on June 12-13, 2023 in Pune, Meity of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of which country signed a Memorandum of Understanding on sharing INDIA STACK i.e., successful digital solutions implemented at population scale?
- A) Malaysia
  - B) France
  - C) UAE
  - D) Papua New Guinea
40. According to Finance Ministry data released in July 2023, Comprehensive measures taken by the government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to

- recover and reduce NPAs, including those pertaining to corporate companies, have enabled an aggregate recovery of Rs 10.16 trillion by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) during the last which financial years ending 2022-23
- A) Three  
B) Five  
C) Nine  
D) Six
41. According to recent newspaper report, which of the following is the leading beneficiary among states under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY), a scheme initiated by the Centre during the pandemic to give a fillip to formal employment?
- A) Tamil Nadu  
B) Bihar  
C) Uttar Pradesh  
D) Punjab
42. Indian Naval Ship 'Khanjar,' an indigenous Missile Corvette belonging to which class will visit Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from the 29th of July to conduct interactions on special operations such as Visit-Board-Search and Seizure, Gunnery?
- A) Kora  
B) Khukri  
C) Veera  
D) Austin
43. The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index, a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, rose to 395.57 in March 2023 from 377.46 in September 2022 and 349.30 in March 2022. Which one of the following is NOT a parameter of Digital Payment Index released by RBI?
- A) Payment Enablers  
B) Payment Infrastructure - Demand-side factors  
C) Payment Infrastructure - Supply-side factors  
D) Seller Performance
44. Swiggy have jointly launched a co-branded credit card with which one of the following banks in July 2023? The move marks Swiggy's entry into the credit card space, and the card will operate on Mastercard's payment network.
- A) Axis Bank  
B) HDFC Bank  
C) ICICI Bank  
D) Bank of Baroda
45. In July 2023, Meta and which of the following bodies/organization announced that they are expanding their 'WhatsApp Se Wyapaar' programme to digitally train and upskill 10 million local traders on the WhatsApp Business App?
- A) Confederation of All India Traders  
B) NITI Aayog  
C) NASSCOM  
D) Confederation of Indian Industry
46. Which of the following had launched the NBFC Growth Accelerator Programme in partnership with GAME (Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship) with the primary objective of this program being to bolster the lending capacity of smaller and lower-rated NBFCs, empowering them to play a more significant role in the financial ecosystem?
- A) Reserve Bank of India  
B) Securities and Exchange Board of India  
C) Small Industries Development Bank of India  
D) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
47. The Rajasthan Assembly passed The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023, which seeks to cover the entire adult population of the state with a guarantee of wages or pensions. As per the Bill, all families in the state, whether urban or rural, will be able to get employment guarantee of how many days every year.
- A) 125  
B) 150  
C) 200  
D) 100
48. The National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement was conferred upon Dr. Om Narain Bhargava by the President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu at the prestigious National Geoscience Awards- 2022 (NGA) of the Ministry of Mines, the National Geoscience Awards (NGA) was instituted in which year?
- A) 1946  
B) 1956  
C) 1966  
D) 1976
49. Elon Musk has unveiled a new logo to replace Twitter's famous blue bird as he follows through with a major rebranding of the social media platform he bought for \$44 billion.
- A) Y  
B) T  
C) M  
D) X

50. Which country in the world has most recently honoured the Indian Army's contribution in 2nd World War?  
A) France

- B) United States
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Italy

### ANSWERS

**1. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: The Odisha Cabinet recently suggested that the 'Kui' language be included in the Indian Constitution's 8th Schedule. The Kui Language: Kui (also Kandh, Khondi, Khond, Khondo) is a Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community in South-Eastern India. It is mostly spoken in the Indian state of Odisha.

**2. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: Odisha TV has introduced 'Lisa,' an AI-generated news presenter who would provide news in Odia and English. Efforts are being made to improve Lisa's Odia proficiency in the future. Odisha TV, a private news channel based in Odisha, debuted an AI-generated news anchor dubbed 'Lisa'.

**3. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: The Odisha government has formally launched the 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' (My Forestland Scheme), with the goal of completing the recognition of all rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act), 2006 (in short FRA, 2006) within the next two years.

**4. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: The Lower Suktel dam is located about 22 kilometres from Bolangir in the Indian state of Odisha, over the river Tel and its tributary river Mahanadi. On November 24, 2001, Odisha Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik lay the foundation stone for the Lower Suktel dam. The dam's primary aim was agricultural and domestic water supply. The project includes the construction of a 1410 m long, 30 m high dam with a 177 m spillway.

**5. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: Berhampur: The Janibili mega drinking water project, billed as the biggest integrated water supply project in state and being built at a cost of `500 crore here in Ganjam district, has remained a nonstarter and yet to become operational even long years after its inception.

**6. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: The Odisha government had also announced that it would take over the paternal house of the litterateur at his birthplace Sankhari village in Balasore district and set up a memorial 'Manmath-Manoj Memorial' in the name of Das and his historian brother Manmath Nath Das.

**7. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: The Odisha government is working to finish the Gangadhar Meher lift irrigation project in the state's Bargarh district, which is projected to be operational in stages by September 2023.

**8. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: Gundichaghagi waterfall is set in a stunning natural setting with lush green vegetation. A cascade of waterfalls on the Musala River falls 50 feet below the river's surface, making the region virtually smoky and appealing with roaring sound. The waterfall resembles a silver garland. This

picnic place is certainly a natural lover's paradise, providing guests with amazing memories. This waterfall is located only 12 kilometres from GhatagaonKeonjhar.

**9. ANSWER: D**

Explanation: The mechanical completion of BPCL's first integrated 2G+1G #BioEthanol refinery at Bargarh, Odisha, is scheduled for next year. For 2G ethanol, biomass from non-edible entire plants or food grain leftovers will be used, while sugarcane juice, molasses, and damaged grains will be used for 1G ethanol.

**10. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: Jajpur: The rapid depletion of wetlands in this district is causing concern. Wetlands have a vital role in biodiversity protection, water conservation and purification, and flood control. They also control the climatic regulations.

**11. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: Kanupur Irrigation Project is a significant irrigation project that spans the Baitarani River near the village of Basudevpur in Odisha's Keonjhar district.

**12. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) identified 64 villages in the coastal area as Tsunami prone.

**13. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: Two coastal villages in Odisha have been designated as the Indian Ocean Region's first 'Tsunami Ready' settlements. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO recognised the local community's readiness against tsunamis in two villages: Noliasahi in Jagatsinghpur district and Venkatraipur in Ganjam district. Noliasahi is located in the Erasama Block of the Jagatsinghpur district, which was one of the hardest damaged by the 1999 Super Cyclone. According to archival archives from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), close to 7,000 people died in this block alone during the 1999 cyclone, while Odisha state as a whole had close to 10,000 deaths.

**14. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: A UPI solution built on an IVR was introduced by the state-owned Punjab National Bank LTD. It is called UPI 123PAY. This product supports the Digital Payment Vision 2025 and moves the country closer to a cashless and cardless society. The Unified Payments Interface has completely changed how business is done in India and gives clients a real-time payment experience.

**15. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: Under this scheme, 2,000 Kalyan Mandaps and local auditoriums will be constructed with a cost of Rs 25 crore in western Odisha. The chief minister also laid foundation stone and inaugurated several projects worth Rs 33.58 crore on the occasion. Those include Gadiajor bridge in Balangir, town hall in Titlagarh, eco museum in Bargarh, auditorium in Deogarh,



students' hostel of Brajmohan high school in Kalahandi and auditorium of GM College in Sambalpur.

**16. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: The Odisha government has renamed and changed its 'Ama Gaon Ama Bikash' project as 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' in order to implement efforts to improve the state's rural infrastructure. Under the effort, the state government would also promote, maintain, and protect Jagannath culture and heritage.

**17. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: Jyoshna Sabharwal who recently won her first International Silver medal in the Youth World Weightlifting Championship in Durres, Albania. Mina Santa also bagged the gold to replicate her gold winning performance from the recent National Weightlifting Championships held in Tamil Nadu.

**18. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: Alka Saraogi, a Hindi novelist and short story writer, has been awarded the Fakir Mohan National Literary Award for 2023.

**19. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: "Madam President" by Sandeep Sahu is an enthralling biography that covers Droupadi Murmu's incredible life, underlining her remarkable journey from low tribal roots to become India's President.

**20. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, OPSC created an AI-driven portal. At a ceremony, Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal unveiled the OPSC's cutting-edge e-CHAYAN platform. The software includes advanced capabilities such as artificial intelligence (AI) enabled photo verification to eliminate impersonation, digital mark extraction from certificates, API-based certificate verification, and customizable application forms.

**21. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: Odisha was presented "Bhoomi Samman" award as best state in implementing Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) of the Central government.

**22. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: According to the NITI Aayog's Multidimensionally poor index, districts having higher percentage of poor population are Rayagada (34.03), Koraput (33.54), Nabarangpur (33.45) and Mayurbhanj (30.57).

**23. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the Khadag river basin project which will benefit 20,000 people. This project will benefit three districts-Kantamal, block of Boudh district, Baliguda block of Kandhamal district and Gudvela block of Balangir district.

**24. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: S Phangnon Konyak, a respected BJP leader and Nagaland's first female Rajya Sabha MP, accomplished a historic milestone when she assumed the job of Rajya Sabha presiding officer.

This outstanding achievement in her political career distinguishes her as the first woman from Nagaland to hold this important position.

**25. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: Over the next five years, the Odisha government would invest Rs 75,000 crore in the development of the water sector.

At the 4th National Water Awards, Odisha's water management and conservation efforts were recognized as the second-best state.

Among all districts, Ganjam district won the top prize for managing and conserving water.

**26. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Ama Pokhari' project to rejuvenate all water bodies in the urban areas of the state.

**27. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: The 588th coronation day of Gajapati Kapilendra Deva was celebrated in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

He was the founder of the Gajapati dynasty, which ruled Odisha for over 300 years.

**28. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: ISRO launched its proven PSLV rocket carrying seven Singaporean satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre. ISRO's trusted workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle is the DS-SAR Radar Imaging Earth Observation satellite, which has been developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering, Singapore.

**29. ANSWER: D**

Explanation: Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. and GAIL India Ltd. have signed an interconnection agreement to connect the North East Gas Grid of IGGL with the Barauni Guwahati Pipeline of GAIL. The pipeline for interconnection will be laid by GAIL at an estimated cost of Rs 15.16 crore. The amount will be reimbursed by IGGL to GAIL. IGGL is laying the 1,656km-long NEGG at an estimated project cost of Rs 9,265 crore.

**30. ANSWER: A**

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

**31. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. The International Day of Friendship is an initiative that follows on the proposal made by UNESCO defining the Culture of Peace. "Sharing the human spirit through friendship" is the theme of World Friendship Day.

**32. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on 30 July and was adopted at a high-level meeting of the UNGA. The resolution reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to end trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and states that trafficking in persons is a serious threat to "human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and development" 2023 Theme: Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind.



**33. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: Shivendra Nath is set to be the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. a PSU under the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel. Presently, Nath is serving as Senior General Manager in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

**34. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: The first prestigious Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award will be given to Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, by the Maharashtra government. Uday Samant, the state's minister of industry, made this important announcement during a meeting of the State Legislative Assembly.

**35. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: India AI and Meta India signed a pact to foster collaboration in the field of AI and emerging technologies, making Meta's open-source AI models available for use by the Indian ecosystem, according to an official release. India AI is an Independent Business Unit under Digital India Corporation.

**36. ANSWER: D**

Explanation: Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to become part of the World Cities Culture Forum a global network of cities that share research and intelligence, and explore the role of culture in future prosperity. The network currently has 40 cities spanning six continents. Bengaluru being the latest addition is set to join the league of cities like New York, London, Paris.

**37. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: The historic Byculla Railway Station in Mumbai has been awarded the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award in recognition of its extensive restoration efforts. The award, declared in November of the previous year, celebrates the station's significant contribution to cultural heritage conservation.

**38. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: International Tiger Day, also known as Global Tiger Day, was initially established in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit by countries that are tiger habitats. The summit was held in St. Petersburg and was organized by the Global Tiger Initiative, a coalition of countries, international organizations, and conservation groups dedicated to tiger conservation.

An impressive report on the Indian government's tiger census was made public. According to the study, India's tiger population had increased to 3,167, a significant 6.7% increase over the previous census in 2018, which had counted 2,967 tigers.

India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR (People's Democratic Republic), Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Viet Nam, China, and Lao PDR make up the 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRC).

**39. ANSWER: D**

Explanation: Republic of India and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of Papua New Guinea signed a Memorandum of Understanding on sharing INDIA STACK i.e., successful digital solutions implemented at the population scale.

**40. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: Comprehensive measures taken by the government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to recover and reduce NPAs, including those pertaining to corporate companies, have enabled an aggregate recovery of Rs 10.16 trillion by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) during the last nine financial years ending 2022-23, the finance ministry said.

**41. ANSWER: D**

Explanation: Punjab is the leading beneficiary among states under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY), a scheme initiated by the Centre during the pandemic to give a fillip to formal employment. According to data, one in every five active Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) subscribers in the state joined the workforce.

**42. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: Indian Naval Ship 'Khanjar,' an indigenous Khukri class Missile Corvette will visit Trincomalee from the 29th of July. During the ship's three-day visit, the Commanding Officer, will meet with the Commander of the Eastern Naval Area to enhance professional ties. The ship will conduct interactions on special operations such as Visit-Board-Search and Seizure, Gunnery.

**43. ANSWER: D**

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index, a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, rose to 395.57 in March 2023 from 377.46 in September 2022 and 349.30 in March 2022. The RBI introduced the composite Digital Payments Index in January 2021 with March 2018 as the base, to capture digitisation of payments.

**44. ANSWER: B**

Explanation: Popular meal delivery service Swiggy and HDFC Bank have joined up to introduce a co-branded credit card. This action continues the pattern of numerous e-commerce platforms working with banks to launch comparable credit cards.

The payment network of Mastercard will support the Swiggy-HDFC co-branded credit card. By offering all cardholders alluring advantages, this partnership's main goal is to improve customer retention and raise the average order value on the Swiggy platform.

**45. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Meta announced that they are expanding their 'WhatsApp Se Wyapaar' programme to digitally train and upskill 10 million local traders on the WhatsApp Business App. Earlier the target was to train 1 million local traders. The partnership's goal is to localize digitisation efforts to unleash growth opportunities for businesses.

**46. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: IDBI, the Small Industries Development Bank of India, is launching an NBFC Growth Accelerator Programme in partnership with GAME (Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship). The primary objective of this program is to bolster the lending capacity of smaller and lower-rated NBFCs, empowering them to play a more significant role in the financial ecosystem.

**47. ANSWER: A**

Explanation: Both rural and urban households will receive the 125 days of employment promised by the measure each year. In New Delhi: The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023, which guarantees 125 days of work per year for all

households in the state, was passed by the Rajasthani government.

**48. ANSWER: C**

Explanation: The President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu has conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Awards- 2022 (NGA) of the Ministry of Mines in a glittering function organized at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. The National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement was conferred upon Dr. Om Narain Bhargava.

**49. ANSWER: D**

Explanation: Elon Musk has unveiled a new "X" logo to replace Twitter's famous blue bird as he follows through with a major rebranding of the social media platform he bought for \$44 billion. The company first began its transition to X in April, when the name of Twitter Inc. changed to X Corp., according to court filings.

**50. ANSWER: D**

Explanation: Remembering the supreme sacrifices of the Indian Soldiers, the Commune of Montone (in Italy) and Italian Military historians have unveiled "V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial" at Montone (Perugia, Italy) as a tribute to the Indian troops who fought during Italian Campaign during the Second World War. Indian Soldiers played a central role in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War, wherein more than 50,000 Indian Army soldiers from the 4th, 8th and 10th Divisions took part. Out of the 20 Victoria Crosses awarded in Italy, six were won by Indian soldiers. Indian soldiers suffered 23,722 casualties, of which 5,782 Indian soldiers made the supreme sacrifice, and are commemorated in the 40 Commonwealth War Graves spread all over Italy. To make this memorial a participative endeavour, an Indian Army plaque has been placed at the memorial commemorating the gallant sacrifice of all ranks of the Indian Army who fought in the Italian Campaign.



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