

THE OAS GAZETTE

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JUNE 2023

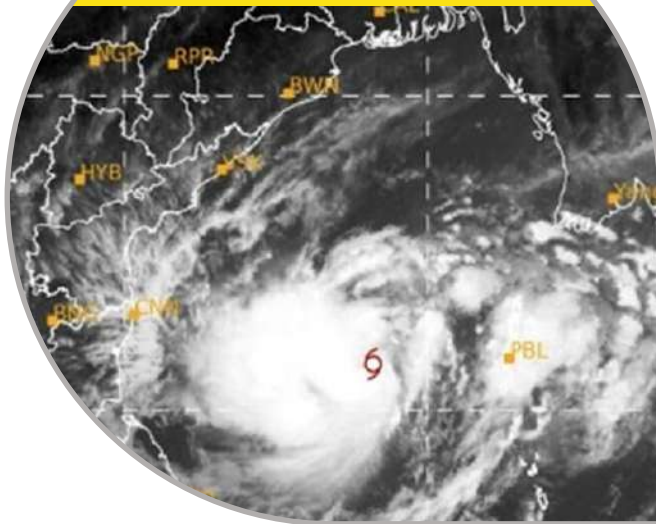


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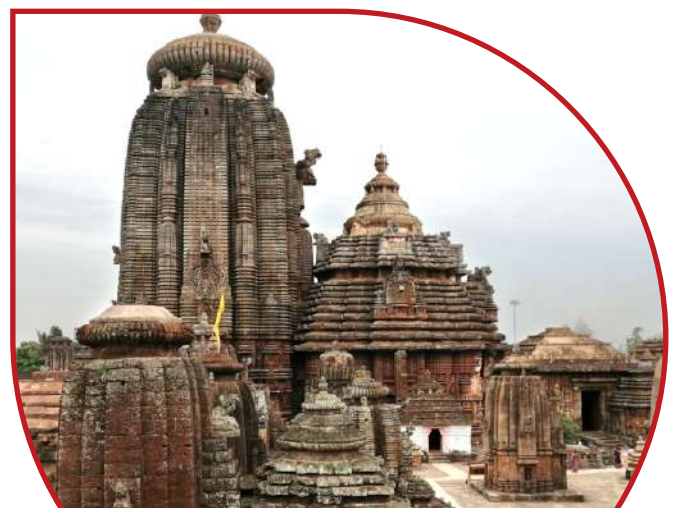
Odisha to provide free crop insurance to farmers



WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY



World Press Freedom Index 2023



Kapileshvara Temple

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS

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Odisha Current Affairs

The Odisha government has announced a hike in the ex-gratia amount for its employees who die while performing their duties

- The new ex-gratia amount is Rs 10 lakh, up from Rs 4 lakh earlier.
- The government has also increased the ex-gratia for permanent and partial disability due to injury while on duty from Rs 2 lakh and Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh and Rs 2 lakh respectively.
- The move is aimed at providing better financial assistance to the families of deceased and injured employees.

Mango varieties in Odisha

- As per reports, local mango varieties of Odisha like Amrapali, Dasahari, Langada, and Mallika have caught the attention of buyers with their sweeter taste and low cost, leaving the Banganpalli mangoes which are procured from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, unsold.
- Banganapalli mangoes are a popular variety of mangoes grown in Andhra Pradesh. They are known for their sweet taste, thin skin, and low fibre content. They have a long shelf life and can be used for canning.

Odisha Government recently approved key proposals in the state cabinet meeting

- The Cabinet has approved the launching of the new scheme 'Mo Ghara', a government housing assistance in rural areas under the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department.
- The health and family welfare department's new scheme 'Odisha University of Health Science' also received the nod.
- Amendment of Odisha (Non-Government Colleges, Junior Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools) Grant-In-Aid Order, 2008.
- Implementation of the Institute Development Plan with an outlay of Rs 2000 crore for the transformation of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Burla.
- Cadre restructuring of the Women and Child Development Department and creation of new posts.
- Tax exemption of Hindi movie Zwigato.
- Tax exemption of Odia movie Delivery Boy.
- Amendment of the Odisha Consolidation of Holdings and Prevention of Fragmentation of Land Act, 1972 (Odisha Act 21 of 1972).
- Provision of funds for the "Sustainable Harnessing of Ground Water in 6 Water Deficit Areas" scheme.
- Konark Heritage Area Development Project (KHADP) in Konark under the Integrated Development of Heritage & Monuments and Tourist Destination Scheme.

"Mo Ghara" Scheme

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

The Odisha government has decided to offer free Wi-Fi to students

- As per the announcement by the Higher Education department, the students of colleges, universities and technical institutions across Odisha will get free Wi-Fi on the campus.
- As per Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari, "All the state public universities have been made wi-fi enabled. The Electronics and Information Technology department is on the job to provide free 1 GB data to the students at the campuses of all public universities and colleges before the next academic session".

'Mo Bus' to roll in every panchayat in Odisha

- To provide hassle-free public transport, the Odisha government has decided to extend the 'Mo Bus' services to all villages across the State **under Laxmi Scheme**.
 - The Laxmi Scheme aims to improve mobility and accessibility for rural residents and boost their socio-economic development.

- In the first phase, the services will be made available in six districts– Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Kalahandi and Gajapati. Later, the services will be extended to other regions.

Odia filmmaker Jitendra Mishra's documentary 'Y64' trailer screened at Cannes Film Festival

- Y64, which means 64 Yogini, presents the significance of Bolangir's Ranipur Jharial and Bhubaneswar's 64 Yogini temple.
- The story plot of 'Y64' focuses on the significance, establishment, and history of 64 Yogini.

Odisha to provide free crop insurance to farmers

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

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

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

Odisha man enters Guinness World Records with the largest collection of butterfly items

- A businessman by profession, Hardik has now entered the Guinness World Record for having the largest collection of butterfly-related items.
- Hardik has a vast collection of 6,055 butterfly-related items, which helped him create the record.

Kapileshwar Temple

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

Odisha has the 4th-highest number of missing women cases in India

- According to the latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), **Odisha has the fourth-highest number of missing women cases in India**, with 35,981 cases registered till 2021. The top three states are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and West Bengal.
- The rescue rate of missing women in Odisha is only 46.7%, which is lower than the national average of 56.2%.
- Odisha also ranks poorly on the list of trafficking of minor girls and human trafficking. The NCRB data raises serious concerns about the safety and empowerment of women in the state.
- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**
 - It is an Indian government agency that collects and analyzes crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).
 - It was established in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals, and to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
 - It also monitors, coordinates and implements the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project, which connects more than 15,000 police stations and 6,000 higher offices of police in the country.

It publishes an annual report called 'Crime in India', which contains comprehensive information on various aspects of crime in the country, such as cases registered and their disposal, persons arrested and their disposal, crime against vulnerable sections of society, cyber crimes, human trafficking, economic crimes, etc.



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OPSC Current Affairs



NATIONAL

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

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

Muhammad Iqbal

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

Thrissur Pooram

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

Mana village in Uttarakhand

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

"Swagat Saptah" in Gujarat

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

Zero Shadow Day

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

Millets Experience Centre

- India's Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Millets Experience Centre (MEC) at Dilli Haat in New Delhi.

- The MEC is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) to encourage the consumption of millet among the masses.
- The MEC showcases various types of millet and their products and provides information on their nutritional and environmental benefits.

Dotted Lands

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

Centre for Policy Research

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

Article 142

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

CU-Chayan Portal

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

Geetha Karmikula Bhima

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

Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi

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

Ramaland

- To attract more tourists and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Ayodhya, the Uttar Pradesh government is planning to develop a theme park 'Ramaland' modelled on Disneyland.
- The theme park will narrate the story of Lord Ram through various attractions, such as a replica of his palace, a 3D theatre, a musical fountain, and a Ramayana museum.

- The project aims to boost the economy and employment opportunities in the region, as well as to promote Ayodhya as a global tourism hotspot.

8th Governing Council Meeting of Niti Aayog

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

Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL)

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

Conference on Universal Holistic Health

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

'Harit Sagar' Green Port Guidelines 2023

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

Hare Krishna Heritage Tower

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

State Robotics Framework

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

SAKSHAM

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

Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)

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

Union Law Minister

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

Bhopal

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

Homeocon 2023

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

India's New Parliament House

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

National Academy of Coastal Policing

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

Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management

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

₹75 coins

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

"Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar" campaign

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

NEP SAARTHI

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



INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

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

World Press Freedom Index 2023

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



International Civil Aviation Organisation

- India has announced that it will participate in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.
- CORSA is a scheme that aims to stabilize net CO₂ emissions from international flights at 2020 levels by requiring airlines to offset their excess emissions with carbon credits from the carbon market.

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

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

G20 TechSprint 2023

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

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

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

Russia celebrated Victory Day

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

'Machines Can See 2023' Summit

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

India became the main source of refined fuels for Europe

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

Arab League

- The Arab League has welcomed Syria back into its fold after more than 10 years of suspension.
- The decision was made in recognition of the Syrian government's efforts to restore stability and security in the country, which has been ravaged by a civil war since 2011. The war began when the Assad regime violently

suppressed peaceful protests demanding political reforms and human rights.

- The Arab League has 22 member states. It was founded in Cairo, Egypt in 1945.

42nd ASEAN Summit

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

Petersberg Climate Dialogue

- The event was co-hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates, and attended by delegates from 40 countries, as well as UN officials and civil society representatives.
- The main topics of discussion included climate adaptation, climate finance, loss and damage, and the first-ever global stocktake of the progress made towards the Paris Agreement goals.
- The Petersberg Climate Dialogue was initiated in 2010 by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel after the disappointing outcome of COP15 in Copenhagen. Since then, it has become a regular platform for high-level political dialogue on climate action ahead of the UN Climate Conferences.

Global Road Safety Week

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

World’s oldest tree

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

Ireland

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

India announced credit for Sri Lanka

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

Hindi Language

- The University of Edinburgh and the Indian consulate in the UK have launched a new initiative to promote Hindi language learning.
- The course will be available online for free and aims to provide learners with basic skills in reading, writing and speaking Hindi.
- The course also covers aspects of Indian culture and society, such as festivals, cuisine and literature. The course is designed for beginners who have no prior knowledge of Hindi or Devanagari script.

ECONOMICS



IRDAI asks insurance firms to lay down social media rules

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued a circular to all insurance companies, asking them to formulate and implement a policy on the use of social media platforms.
- IRDAI is an autonomous statutory body that regulates and supervises the insurance sector in India. It aims to protect the interests of policyholders, promote fair and healthy competition among insurers, and ensure the orderly growth of the insurance industry.
- It has various functions and powers, such as issuing licenses to insurers and intermediaries, framing regulations and guidelines, conducting inspections and audits, imposing penalties and sanctions, and resolving disputes and grievances.

India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park

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

Tamil Nadu

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

Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)

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

National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22

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

Dawki land port

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

Lithium reserves

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

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

World Economic Situation and Prospects Report

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

'SAMARTH' Campaign

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

Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)

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

UTSAH Portal

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

"Meri LiFE" App

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

RBI transfer to Government

- The RBI has announced that it will transfer a surplus of Rs 87,416 crore to the central government for the fiscal year 2022-23.
- This decision was taken after a review of the economic and financial conditions of the country and the bank's performance.
- The surplus transfer will help the government in meeting its fiscal deficit target and boost public spending amid the pandemic.

Andhra Pradesh

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

UDAN 5.1

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

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT



Cyclone Mocha

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

Climate Club

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



GigaChat

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

GBMDriver

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

Daam Malware

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

Shenzhou 16

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

AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT'

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

DEFENCE AND SECURITY



Air Droppable Container (ADC-150)

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

Indian Air Force Heritage Centre

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

Buland Bharat

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

Exercise "Samudra Shakti-23"

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

Exercise 'Sudarshan Shakti 2023'

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

SPORTS

5th Asian youth athletics championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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

Kurpfalz Gala athletics meet

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

USATF Los Angeles Grand Prix 2023

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

Kelvin Kiptum

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

World's 10 Highest-Paid Athletes 2023 by Forbes

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

Azerbaijan Grand Prix

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

Badminton Asia Championships

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

Golden Globe Race

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

Shabnim Ismail

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

Neeraj Chopra

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

NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup

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

Mark Nicholas

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

Babar Azam

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

V. Prraneeth

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

Madrid Open tennis trophy

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

Category	Winner
Men's singles	Carlos Alcaraz
Women's singles	A. Sabalenka
Men's doubles	K. Khachanov & A. Rublev
Women's doubles	V. Azarenka & B. Haddad Maia

Laureus Sportsman of the Year award

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

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

Yuzvendra Chahal

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

Yashasvi Jaiswal

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

South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023

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

Italian Open 2023

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

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

Adidas

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

Khelo India University Games

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

Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023

- Chennai Super Kings (CSK) won their fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) title, equaling a record with Mumbai Indians.
- Shubman Gill wins Orange Cap (890) award.

- Mohammad Shami wins Purple Cap (28) award.
- Ajinkya Rahane wins the Fairplay of the Season award.
- Shubman Gill wins the Most Valuable Player of the Season award.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal wins the Emerging Player of the Year award.
- IPL Final Match: Devon Conway wins Player of the Match award.



AWARDS

Alessandra Korap

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

Shakira

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

Neeli Bendapudi

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

Dr M.N. Nandakumara

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

Maria Stepanova

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

Michael Douglas

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

Pulitzer Prizes for 2023

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

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

Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur

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

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi

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

International Booker Prize 2023

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

Justine Triet

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

Damodar Mauzo

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

International Indian Film Academy Awards

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

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



APPOINTMENTS

Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of LIC

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

Santiago Pena

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

Neera Tandon

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

Alia Bhatt

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

Osama Hamad

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

Praveen Sood

- Praveen Sood served as the Director General of Police in Karnataka has been selected as the new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

- He assumed the role for a period of two years after the incumbent Subodh Kumar Jaiswal's term expires on May 25.

Manoj Soni

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

Sourav Ganguly

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

Recep Tayyip Erdogan

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

Bola Tinubu

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

Praveen Kumar Srivastava

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

Girish Chandra Murmu

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



OBITUARIES

Kaur Singh passed away

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

Ranjit Guha passed away

- Ranjit Guha, a renowned historian and a pioneer of the Subaltern Studies group, passed away at the age of 100.
- He was also involved in communist politics in his youth and represented India in international forums.

- Guha was a prolific writer and editor who contributed to the field of South Asian history from a subaltern perspective. He challenged the elitist and nationalist narratives of Indian history and focused on the role of peasants, workers, tribals and other marginalized groups in shaping the society and culture of the region.

Tori Bowie passed away

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

N. Gopalakrishnan passed away

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

Arun Gandhi passed away

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



IMPORTANT DAYS

Ayushman Bharat Diwas

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

International Labour Day

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

Maharashtra and Gujarat

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

World Tuna Day

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

World Press Freedom Day

- On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, UNESCO honoured three female journalists from Iran with its prestigious World Press Freedom Prize.

- The laureates, Niloufar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi, were selected for their courageous reporting on human rights violations in Iran and their dedication to justice and transparency.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

World Athletics Day

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

World Thalassaemia Day

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

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

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

National Technology Day

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

International Day of Plant Health

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

International Nurses Day

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

World Migratory Bird Day

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

World Telecommunication Day

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

International Museum Day

- International Museum Day is celebrated every year on May 18.
- It aims to raise awareness of the important role that museums play in promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and social cohesion.
- The theme for the 2023 International Museum Day is "Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being."

World Hypertension Day

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

International Day for Biological Diversity

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

World Turtle Day

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

World No Tobacco Day

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



BOOKS & AUTHOR

Book "My Life As A Comrade"

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

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

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

Book "Reflections"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1. *The Odisha State Cabinet has approved the launching of the new scheme 'Mo Ghara', a government housing assistance in rural areas under_____.*

- A) Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Department
- B) The Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department
- C) Home Department
- D) Housing and Urban Development Department

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

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

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

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

4. *What is Zero Shadow Day?*

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

5. *To provide hassle-free public transport, the Odisha government has extended the 'Mo Bus' services to all villages across the State under _____.*

- A) Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan
- B) Balaram Yojana
- C) Laxmi Scheme
- D) Kalinga Sikhya Sathi Yojana

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

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

7. *CU-Chayan Portal was launched by _____.*

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

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

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

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

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

10. *_____is the first state in the country to provide free crop insurance to farmers.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D) Madhya Pradesh

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27. Where is the 'Great Grandfather Tree' located?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36. *The Book "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills" was authored by ____.*

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

37. *International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on ____.*

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

38. *N. Gopalakrishnan passed away. He was famous ____.*

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

39. *In May 2023, Bola Tinubu was sworn in as the President of ____.*

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

40. *The book "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise" was authored by ____.*

- A) Chetan Bhagat
- B) Varun Gandhi
- C) Amitabh Kant
- D) Amit Shah

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

45. *The book "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life" was authored by ____.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A) Shubman Gill
- B) Babar Azam
- C) Hardik Pandya
- D) Ollie Pope

50. International Nurses Day is observed on ____.

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

ANSWERS

1. Answer: B

Explanation: The government of Odisha has announced a new scheme called 'Mo Ghara', which aims to provide housing assistance to the rural population under the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department. The scheme will also promote the use of local materials and technologies for the construction and renovation of houses.

2. Answer: D

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

3. Answer: C

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

4. Answer: B

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

5. Answer: C

Explanation: To provide hassle-free public transport, the Odisha government has extended the 'Mo Bus' services to all villages across the State under the Laxmi Scheme. The Laxmi Scheme aims to improve mobility and accessibility for rural residents and boost their socio-economic development.

To increase employment opportunities the government of Odisha has launched Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan.

Odisha Balaram Yojana was launched to help all of the landless farmers of the Odisha state.

The "Kalinga Sikhya Sathi Yojana (KSSY)" is an Educational Loan Scheme by the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Odisha.

6. Answer: A

Explanation: Article 142 of the Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court of India to pass any order necessary to do complete justice in any case or matter pending before it. It is a discretionary

power that is exercised sparingly and with caution by the apex court.

7. Answer: C

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

8. Answer: D

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

9. Answer: C

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

10. Answer: C

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

11. Answer: C

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

12. Answer: C

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

13. Answer: B

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

14. Answer: D

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

15. Answer: C

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

16. Answer: D

Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) has re-elected the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu as its external auditor for a second term. Murmu will serve as the external auditor of WHO for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027. He was first elected to this position in 2019 for a term from 2019 to 2023.

17. Answer: C

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

18. Answer: A

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

19. Answer: D

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

20. Answer: D

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

21. Answer: D

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

22. Answer: A

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

23. Answer: A

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

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

24. Answer: B

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

25. Answer: A

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

26. Answer: B

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

27. Answer: D

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

28. Answer: C

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

29. Answer: B

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

30. Answer: C

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

31. Answer: B

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

32. Answer: B

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

33. Answer: B

Explanation: The Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023 was a two-day event that brought together ministers and high-level representatives from 40 countries to discuss climate cooperation. The dialogue was co-hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates. The main topics of the dialogue were climate adaptation, climate finance, and the first-ever global stocktake of the progress made under the Paris Agreement.

34. Answer: C

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

35. Answer: B

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

36. Answer: C

Explanation: The book "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills", The author of the book is by Kasturi Ray. The book tells the inspiring story of a tribal girl who overcame obstacles to become a symbol of resilience, determination, and perseverance.

37. Answer: B

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

38. Answer: C

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

39. Answer: C

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

40. Answer: C

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

41. Answer: C

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

42. Answer: C

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

43. Answer: C

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

44. Answer: C

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

45. Answer: A

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

46. Answer: B

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

47. Answer: C

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

48. Answer: C

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

49. Answer: B

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

50. Answer: B

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