

# THE OAS GAZETTE

A House Journal of **APTI PLUS**

NOVEMBER 2023



## APTI PLUS

Academy For Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.  
Eastern India's Best IAS Academy since 2006  
Creating Civil Servants for the Nation



Para Asian Games Gold Medalist Pramod Bhagat



The International Convention on Millets in Odisha



Chatar Yatra



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଥିବା ପାର୍ବତୀ ଗିରି ବୃହତ୍ ଉଚ୍ଚ-ଚଳଚ୍ଚେଦନ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ

Irrigation programme Parbati Giri Mega Lift



MUKTA Scheme

Disclaimer: Copyright infringement not intended.

COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



## CONTENT

## ODISHA CURRENT AFFAIRS

5-10

Goa hosts the 37th National Games  
 Chandaka-Dampara Sanctuary  
 Para Asian Games Gold Medalist Pramod Bhagat  
 Odia Documentary at IFFI 2023  
 Chatar Yatra  
 Asian Para Games  
 Similipal National Park  
 Watco project at Sikharchandi  
 Kumar Purnima  
 100 Chess Training Centres across Odisha  
 Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023  
 Animal Exchange Programme at the Nandankanan Zoo in Odisha  
 'Baghuni,' an Odia film, is one of 20 films chosen for the 2023 NFDC Film Bazaar  
 Maa Peetha Danda  
 A doctor from VIMSAR has opened a Rs 1 clinic for farmers in Bargarh  
 The High Court has virtual branches in each of Odisha's 30 districts  
 Cabinet Approves 16 Proposals and Decides to Amend Law to Grant Raiyati Rights  
 MUKTA Scheme  
 Irrigation programme Parbati Giri Mega Lift  
 New technique for lowering carbon footprint  
 Gaj Utsav  
 Former Orissa High Court Chief  
 Justice S Muralidhar will practise law in the Supreme Court  
 Odisha CM launches projects  
 Odisha CM launches Mission Shakti Scooter Scheme  
 Odisha Government Will Concentrate On Mangrove Densification  
 The International Convention on Millets in Odisha  
 LAccMI scheme  
 Odisha will display Handicrafts, Tribal Culture, and Delicacies at the IITF in New Delhi  
 App MUKTASoft  
 The Odisha government has approved an additional Rs 175 crore for Special Development Councils  
 SDCs (Special Development Councils)  
 Srimandir Heritage Corridor Project  
 Odisha State Cooperative Bank won the National Award  
 JSP Foundation unveils ambitious plans to expand Mission Zero Hunger Program  
 Ama Gaon Ama Bikash

**CONTENT**

The Odisha government has banned highly dangerous substances. Paraquat  
 Under PMKSY, Odisha creates irrigation potential for 4.2 lakh hectares  
 One health program started in Odisha  
 39.3 percent of Odisha's population belongs to backward classes – as per Survey  
 Ama Hospital Scheme  
 Saura Art Gallery  
 Kendrapara residents recall the MS Foundation's efforts to save mangroves.  
 The 'seed girl' of Odisha Harshita Priyadarshini Mohanty  
 'Rasabali' gets a GI tag  
 Odisha women's empowerment  
 Odisha will increase coffee cultivation in six districts  
 Project Alabira Power

**OPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS**

11-48

National	15
International	18
Economics	19
Geography & Environment	23
Defense & Security	31
Science & Technology	35
Sports	37
Books & Author	41
Awards	42
Appointments	45
Important Days	47
Obituaries	49

**OPSC MCQ**

52-59

**APTI PLUS**  
Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.

Rising beyond limits: Our students shine in **OAS 2021**  
*Congratulations* You have made us all proud



**SUCHISMITA PANIGRAHI**  
**RANK 2**



And many more...

## **Odisha Current Affairs**

## Goa hosts the 37th National Games

- Odisha's Victory in the 37th National Games in Goa
- Gymnast Pranati Nayak and the women's rugby squad helped Odisha win the 37th National Games in Goa.
- Pranati Nayak earned many gold medals in artistic gymnastics, while Tapan Mohanty took silver in men's gymnastics. The women's rugby team won gold after defeating Bihar in a thrilling final.
- The bronze medal went to the men's rugby team.
- Suresh Kumar Yadav won a bronze medal in the men's weightlifting.

## Chandaka-Dampara Sanctuary

- The tiger population at Chandaka sanctuary on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar in Odisha has reportedly become zero. About Chandaka Sanctuary
- Spread over an area of 193.39 Sq. Km on the upland of North-Eastern Ghat of the biotic region, Chandaka- Dampara sanctuary is a treasure house of biodiversity.
- The park is known for the successful conservation of elephants which is the principal species here. It is also home to a number of threatened wild animals and birds.
- Chandaka landscape got sanctuary status in 1982 notification of the Government adjacent to temple city, Bhubaneswar popularly known as pachyderm country.

## Para Asian Games Gold Medalist Pramod Bhagat

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today announced a cash award of Rs 2 crore for Odisha's Pramod Bhagat for his outstanding performance in the Para Asian Games.
- Bhagat has clinched gold in the para-badminton men's singles SL3 event at the ongoing Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China.

### Sarala Puraskar

- Sarala Puraskar for 2023 presented to Bhima Prusty
- Bhima Prusty awarded for his novel 'Jambuloka.'
- Sarala Puraskar includes a copper plaque and a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh.

## Odia Documentary at IFFI 2023

- Film director Himansu Khatua's Odia documentary 'The Sea & Seven Villages,' is an official selection at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2023 in Goa.

### Key Points:

- The documentary is included in the 'Non-Feature Films' category within the Indian Panorama, alongside 20 other films.
- The 'Sea & Seven Villages' delves into the Satabhaya region of Odisha's Kendrapada district, exploring the impact of climate change, rising sea levels, and erosion on the seven villages in the area.
- This documentary sheds light on the resilience and challenges faced by the people in confronting the relentless sea, and it has earned recognition at various international and Indian film festivals, including Lane Doc Fest in the United States and the Jagran Film Festival.

## Chatar Yatra

- The Goddess Manikeswari Chatar Yatra in Kalahandi district recently finished.
- Chatar Jatra, also known as Chatar Yatra, is a traditional event in Kalahandi District, Orissa, India.
- The celebration honours Maa Manikeswari, the Kalahandi King's family goddess.
- Chhatra Jatra, Chatar Jatra, and Chatar Yatra are all ways to commemorate Vijaya Utsav with a joyful spirit and a spectacular display.
- The festival takes place during the Mahastami of the Durga puja season.
- During the event, Khonds (Adivasis of Kalahandi Districts) perform Nabakalevar (the revival of post-worship).

## Asian Para Games

- Praveen Kumar and Unni Renu have won gold and bronze medals respectively in the Men's High Jump - T64 event
- The Asian Para Games, commonly known as Para Asiad, is a multi-sport tournament regulated by the Asian Paralympic Committee that's held every four years following the Asian Games for athletes with physical disabilities.
- The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) recognises the Games as the second largest multi-sport event after the Paralympic Games.
- The fourth Asian Para Games will run till October 28.

## Similipal National Park

- The tiger census through camera traps inside Similipal National Park in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district will start soon.
- STR is located within the Mayurbhanj District, in the Northernmost part of Odisha.

- It is surrounded by high plateaus and hills, the highest peak being the twin peaks of Khairiburu and Meghashini (1515m above mean sea level).
- It was declared a 'Tiger Reserve' in the year 1956 and included under the national conservation programme 'Project Tiger' in 1973.
- The STR, along with a 'transitional area' of 2250 sq. km, has been included as a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO in the year 2009.
- It is the only landscape in the world that is home to melanistic tigers.

### Watco project at Sikharchandi

- The Water Corporation of Odisha's (Watco) ongoing elevated water tank project at Sikharchandi hill on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar has received approval from the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- Sikharchandi Hill is a part of the Eastern Ghat mountains, which is extremely rich in bio-diversity with varied flora and fauna, with an abundance of rare species of wild and medicinal plants.
- Junagarh block awarded for disaster management
- On the occasion of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day 2023, held by Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), Junagarh block in Kalahandi district took first place in disaster management and planning.

### Kumar Purnima

- Kumar Purnima is a full moon day in October-November that is celebrated as the birthday of the goddess Laxmi, the deity of wealth.
- On Kumar Purnima, young ladies in Odisha undertake ancient rituals in the hope of finding good life partners.
- 'Puchi khela' is Kumar Purnima's hallmark game.
- 'Chanda chakata' is also spread among neighbors.

### 100 Chess Training Centres across Odisha

- Odisha's government plans to open 100 chess training centres.
- The state developed the Pro-Chess-Ta, Chess in Schools project, and efforts are underway to establish at least 100 Chess trainincenterses across Odisha.

### Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023

- Dr Swati Nayak, a young Odia scientist working at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in New Delhi, has earned the coveted Norman Ernest Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application

from the World Food Prize Foundation in Iowa City, US.

### Animal Exchange Programme at the Nandankanan Zoo in Odisha

- As part of an animal exchange initiative, a male and female Cassowary bird were brought to Nandankanan Zoo on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.
- The new guests arrived from Hyderabad after a nearly nine-year absence.
- Cassowaries are native to Australia and New Guinea.
- Because of its lethal attacks on people, this species is the most hazardous among birds.

### 'Baghuni,' an Odia film, is one of 20 films chosen for the 2023 NFDC Film Bazaar

- The National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC) has selected 20 films from 11 nations for the 17th edition of the Film Bazaar, a co-production market event held alongside the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

### Maa Peetha Danda

- During Navratri, a modest Devi shrine in Paralakhemundi, Gajapati district, is open to worshippers for only nine days a year.
- Dandakali is a part of Adishakti Maa Mahakali.
- The temple of Maa Danda Kali at Khantapada is situated near NH16 around 18 kilometers from Balasore district.
- The door of the temple opens only in Aswina month of Odia calendar every year.

### A doctor from VIMSAR has opened a Rs 1 clinic for farmers in Bargarh

- A VIMSAR doctor, Burla, has established a clinic in Barikel village, Padampur subdivision, where patients can receive treatment for as little as Rs 1.
- Dr. Sankar Ramchandani is an assistant professor of medicine at VIMSAR.
- He established the 'Jay Kisan Farmers' Clinic' in a village yard near a farmland in order to give quality treatment to farmers in the Bargarh district.

### The High Court has virtual branches in each of Odisha's 30 districts

- Orissa High Court virtual centres have been opened in ten more districts across the state.

- As a result, all 30 districts in the state now have Orissa HC virtual centres.
- Virtual Courts will cut litigation costs, boost efficiency, and assure swift justice.
- The Virtual Courts will hasten the adoption of technology in the country's judiciary.
- Odisha is the first state in India to establish HC virtual centres in every district.

## Cabinet Approves 16 Proposals and Decides to Amend Law to Grant Raiyati Rights

- The Odisha Cabinet adopted the proposed Odisha Land Reforms Act- 1960 Amendment Bill.
- This statute grants raiyati rights to sub-tenants, raiyats, and successor-in-interests who own land in Sikkim.
- The Revenue Officer shall decide the compensation amount to be paid by sub-tenants/under-raiyats/successor-in-interests to the land owners at the rate of Rs 14, 200 only per standard acre.
- The government reserves the right to change the compensation amount at any moment.

## MUKTA Scheme

- The training of Master Trainers began in Bhubaneswar as part of a capacity building initiative for the execution of the Odisha government's MUKTA project.
- Essential features of the Scheme
- The major purpose of the Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan Yojana (MUKTA) is to reduce unemployment.
- It debuted in 2020.
- The scheme provides employment opportunities for migratory workers and the urban poor.
- This project would fund activities such as stormwater drainage, rainwater harvesting, green cover, improved sanitation, and the establishment of community centres.
- The State Government will support this plan from its own budget.

## Irrigation programme Parbati Giri Mega Lift

- The scheme has not only improved farmers' living standards, but it has also increased productivity and agricultural yield in project regions, contributing to the state's GDP.
- About the Programme
- It debuted in 2011-12.
- The Parbati Giri Mega Lift irrigation scheme is one of the state government's main projects.

- It aims to provide assured irrigation to 5.12 lakh hectares of agricultural highland areas by 2025-26 through 378 projects.

## New technique for lowering carbon footprint

- To lower its carbon impact, the state administration has opted to implement a district-based energy transition strategy.
- Odisha's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are the second highest in the country, trailing only Chhattisgarh.
- It will expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6%.
- Energy-intensive districts like as Keonjhar, Angul, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, and Jajpur will have district-specific energy transition plans developed.

## Gaj Utsav

- Odisha Government Partners with WTI to Launch 'Gaj Utsav' The Odisha government, in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), launched the 'Gaj Utsav' campaign in Bhubaneswar as part of its elephant conservation efforts.
- The WTI's Gaj Utsav campaign aims to create awareness about preserving the future of India's National Heritage Animals while campaigning for their critical right of passage.
- Odisha has around 1900 elephants spread throughout three elephant reserves and 12 recognized elephant corridors.
- Gaj Utsav aims to promote collective action for wildlife protection among policymakers, the media, infrastructure agencies, legal professionals, and wildlife experts.

## Former Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar will practise law in the Supreme Court

- Former Orissa High Court Chief Justice Dr S Muralidhar, who just retired from service, will now practise law in the Supreme Court after the Supreme Court designated him as a senior advocate.
- A former high court judge may practise as a lawyer only in the Supreme Court or high courts where they have not served as a judge, according to Article 220 of the Constitution.
- Justice Muralidhar departed on August 7 after more than two years and seven months as the 32nd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.
- He also served on the high courts of Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana.



## Odisha CM launches projects

- Chief Minister launched projects worth over Rs 311 crore in Cuttack and Kendrapada districts under the state government's "Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha" programme.

### About Programme

- This programme aims to spread Jagannathan culture in every village, develop every place of worship to strengthen the basic foundation of Odisha's culture and develop digital infrastructure across the state.

### This will be the basic foundation for building an ambitious Odisha.

- Odisha To Recommend Inclusion Of Mundari Language In 8th Schedule Of Constitution Context
- The Odisha Cabinet decided to recommend the proposal for the inclusion of the Mundari language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- The 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution is responsible for listing the authorized Indian languages of the Republic.
- The part of the constitution that deals with the official speeches in India is XVII, included in Articles 343 to 351.
- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

## Odisha CM launches Mission Shakti Scooter Scheme

- Odisha CM launched 'Mission Shakti' scooter scheme
- Aim: to provide mobility support to self-help group members and strengthen women's empowerment in the State.

### Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana

- A scheme aimed at providing interest subvention on bank loans up to INR 1,00,000 to beneficiaries, enabling them to purchase a scooter.
- This initiative grants affordable access to two-wheelers for Mission Shakti Federation Leaders and CSS (Community Support Staff).
- It will empower them to fulfill their responsibilities more efficiently, thus increasing their effectiveness and extending their outreach within the community.

## Odisha Government Will Concentrate On Mangrove Densification

- The Chief Secretary of Odisha stressed the importance of mangrove densification as an efficient natural defence against cyclones.
- Mangroves are a distinct form of coastal environment found in tropical and subtropical regions.
- They are dense forests of salt-tolerant trees and plants that flourish in intertidal zones, where land meets water.
- These ecosystems are defined by their ability to survive extreme conditions such as saline water, tidal variations, and muddy, oxygen-depleted soils.
- Mangrove plants feature unique roots, such as prop roots and pneumatophores, that help to obstruct water flow and offer support in the difficult tidal environment.

## The International Convention on Millets in Odisha

- Odisha is preparing to host an International Millets Convention.
- Odisha is the only state to host such an international millet convention.
- The International Year of Millets will take place in 2023.
- The event intends to promote the importance of millets and tribal populations in Odisha.
- Millets are both climate resilient and nutritional powerhouses.

## LAccMI scheme

- The chief minister will officially inaugurate the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) plan, a flagship programme of the State Government.
- LAccMI stands for Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative.
- The project aims to provide rural farmers and SHG entrepreneurs with sustainable, inexpensive, and safe mobility.
- The programme will provide a road connection between rural and distant settlements and the blocks and district headquarters.

## Odisha will display Handicrafts, Tribal Culture, and Delicacies at the IITF in New Delhi

- Odisha's handcraft items, tribal culture, and delicacies will be showcased in the state's pavilion at the India International Trade Fair (IITF), which is set to begin in New Delhi.

- International Trade Fair in India
- It began in 1980.
- It has grown into a significant event for the business community.
- The India Trade Promotion Organisation, the Government of India's principal trade promotion agency, organises this top event.

## App MUKTASoft

- The training of delegates from 25 urban local bodies (ULBs) on the MUKTASoft App has begun in Bhubaneswar.
- Its purpose is to carry out the Odisha government's Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA) initiative.
- It is the government's flagship programme.
- It takes a bottom-up, community-driven strategy to guaranteeing livelihood options for the state's vulnerable urban workforce and migrant labourers in 115 urban districts.
- The government devised and developed MUKTASoft, a web-based platform, to streamline implementation and provide prompt payment to stakeholders.
- On a trial basis, the MUKTASoft application version-1 was implemented in the municipalities of Dhenkanal and Jatani.

## The Odisha government has approved an additional Rs 175 crore for Special Development Councils

- An additional Rs 175.5 crore grant for Special Development Councils (SDCs), With the increased award, the total sanctioned amount for the current fiscal year is Rs 351 crore.
- Koraput, Malkangiri, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Sundargarh, and Nabarangpur have SDCs established by the state government.
- The money will go towards the preservation of tribal languages, art, culture, and tradition.

## SDCs (Special Development Councils)

- The goal of this effort is to maintain and promote tribal culture while also assuring economic prosperity.
- The SDCs are primarily concerned with recognising and promoting essential cultural markers of tribal identities, such as language, sacred groves, and tribal artisans.
- Odisha has 62 tribal groupings in total, including 13 particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).

## Srimandir Heritage Corridor Project

- The state government has set a December deadline for the completion of the Shri Jagannath Heritage Corridor project.

### Puri Heritage Corridor Project:

- It is a redevelopment project of the Odisha government in Puri.
- Its aim is to create an international heritage site, including the Jagannath temple.
- The Shree Jagannatha Heritage Corridor (SJHC) or the Shree Mandira Parikrama Project aims to revamp the area around the temple.
- The project includes Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) building redevelopment, a 600-capacity Srimandir reception center, Puri Lake, Musa River revival plan, etc.
- The Odisha government has listed three objectives for the revamp of the area around the temple- the security of the temple, the safety of devotees, and the creation of a religious atmosphere for devotees.

## Odisha State Cooperative Bank won the National Award

- Odisha State Cooperative Bank was named the third-best cooperative bank in the country for service and performance.
- The National Federation of State Cooperative Bank Ltd. (NAFSCOB) presented this honour to Odisha for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 annual sessions held in Rajasthan.

## JSP Foundation unveils ambitious plans to expand Mission Zero Hunger Program

- The JSP Foundation is set to expand the operational scope of its Mission Zero Hunger program.

### Zero Hunger Programme

- It is an ambitious government scheme aimed at reducing hunger across the country.
- India's Zero Hunger Programme was launched on October 16, 2017.

### The programme created by-

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- Indian Council of Medical Research
- M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- The program focuses on developing farm equipment, revamping the farming system, setting up genetic gardens for biofortified plants and beginning zero hunger training.
- The Zero Hunger Programme aims to-

- Decrease child stunting for children 2 years and younger
- Ensure access to food all year round
- Create stable food systems
- Increase small farmer productivity and income
- Eliminate food waste.

### Ama Gaon Ama Bikash

- The CAG's performance assessment discovered major inconsistencies in the utilisation of funds under Odisha's Ama Gaon Ama Bikash (AGAB) scheme.
- The programme began in 2018.
- Its goal is to reach out to individuals in rural regions and encourage them to participate in development efforts.
- The overarching goal is to accelerate local development through small and critical projects of local significance.
- The state government pays for it.
- The project should cost between 1 lakh and 10 lakh rupees.
- People can send their suggestions directly to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) at the Secretariat in Bhubaneswar under this programme.
- Suggestions can be sent by Wi-Fi equipped latest technology, video wall vans, and so on.

### The Odisha government has banned highly dangerous substances. Paraquat

- Odisha's state government has prohibited the use of paraquat, a very hazardous chemical extensively used as a weed killer.
- The decision was made to avoid the chemical's negative impact on human and animal health.
- The sale, stockpiling, distribution, manufacturing, and use of this hazardous substance will be restricted throughout the state.
- The restriction will be in place for two months initially under the 1968 Insecticides Act.
- It is a highly toxic chemical that is commonly used as a herbicide to kill weeds.
- An chemical molecule known as methyl viologen.
- This is a type of salt that is commonly used as a herbicide.

### Under PMKSY, Odisha creates irrigation potential for 4.2 lakh hectares

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), the state government has increased irrigation potential for about 4.20 lakh

hectares and improved on-farm water usage efficiency for over one lakh hectares.

### One health program started in Odisha

- One Health program proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) will be implemented in Odisha on the basis of a pilot project.

#### National One Health Mission:

- It is based on one health approach
- One Health approach is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to balance the health of people, animals and ecosystems.
- Mission works at the local, regional, national, and global levels
- It recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

### 39.3 percent of Odisha's population belongs to backward classes - as per Survey

- Recently the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) conducted a survey according to the resolution passed by the Odisha government.
- Over 39.31 percent of Odisha's population belongs to socially and economically backward classes (SEBCs)
- The population of SEBCs is mostly concentrated in coastal districts.

#### Aim of survey:

- To present the social and educational status
- to facilitate the formulation of specific policies and programs to bring them into the fold of development.
- Other findings about SEBCs:
- 37.6 percent have a primary level of education.
- 10.1 percent illiterate.
- The representation in government jobs is only 2.8 percent.
- While 22 per cent have passed matriculation, intermediate, and ITI/diploma holders.

### Ama Hospital Scheme

- The Odisha Government has decided to extend the Ama Hospital scheme to all government hospitals to transform the healthcare system.

#### Key facts:

- All district headquarters and sub-divisional hospitals besides CHCs and PHCs would be transformed in the next four years at the cost of 750 cr.
- The hospitals to be transformed included
- 30 district headquarters
- 30 sub-divisional, 82 community health centers (CHCs)

- two urban primary health centers (PHCs) and City Hospital at Cuttack
- Capital Hospital and Rourkela Government Hospital

**About Scheme:**

- 'Ama Hospital' is a scheme of the government to improve infrastructure and ensure enough manpower in the state-run healthcare facilities.
- The district collectors will implement the scheme with the assistance of district-level committees.

## Saura Art Gallery

- A group of tribal painters in Odisha's Rayagada district transformed their entire hamlet into an art gallery using their artistic skills and brushstrokes.

**Art by Saora/Saura:**

- Lanjia Saora tribals create Saora artwork on the mud walls of their homes.
- The tribe lives along the Bansadhara River in southern Odisha.
- Idital is a Saora painting, and the artist who creates it is known as the iditalma.
- Saura paintings are created to please their patron deity, Edital.
- Each painting has a rectangle frame and depicts deity or natural iconography.
- The only colours utilised were geru (red earth) and white (from rice paste).
- Motifs include people, trees, the sun, the moon, animals, village activities, and so on.

## Kendrapara residents recall the MS Foundation's efforts to save mangroves.

- Villagers in Kendrapara recall MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)'s initiative to save mangroves following storms after MS Swaminathan's death.

**MSSRF Details:**

- The M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) was founded in 1988.
- It is a charitable trust.
- Professor M S Swaminathan envisioned and established MSSRF using profits from his 1987 First World Food Prize.
- The Foundation's mission is to expedite the application of current research to sustainable agricultural and rural development. MSSRF is a pro-poor, pro-women, and pro-nature organisation that focuses primarily on tribal and rural populations.

## The 'seed girl' of Odisha Harshita Priyadarshini Mohanty

- Harshita Priyadarshini Mohanty, inspired by Kamala Pujari, is on a quest to preserve uncommon kinds of paddy and millets in Koraput district.

**Important points:**

- Kamala Pujari is well-known for encouraging organic farming and maintaining over 100 varieties of indigenous paddy seeds.
- Harshita was also present in the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights.

## 'Rasabali' gets a GI tag

- Rasabali, a popular sweetmeat in Odisha's Kendrapara area, has been designated as a GI.

**Rasabali:**

- The sweet is a traditional Odia treat.
- 'Rasabali' is one of the 56 Chhapan Bhog delicacies offered to Lord Jagannath and his siblings in Puri Srimandir.
- The sweet is also available at the Baladevjew shrine in Kendrapara.

## Odisha women's empowerment

- Women entrepreneurs lead 43 percent of startups in Odisha, compared to the national average of 18%.

**Important information:**

- The government of Odisha has taken considerable steps in this regard.
- In 2022-23, the government has granted Rs 11,000 crore in institutional finance to four lakh SHGs.
- The state creates its own Gender Budget.
- The Mission Shakti department earned the greatest funding (41.57 percent) in this Gender Budget 2023-24.
- Odisha was the first state in India to implement a 33% reservation for women in PRIs in 1999.

## Odisha will increase coffee cultivation in six districts

- Odisha's state government has set a goal of increasing coffee bean cultivation by tenfold over the next five years.

**Important points:**

- This is part of the "Coffee Mission."
- The Agriculture Department will carry out the mission.
- Rayagada, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, and Keonjhar are among the districts.
- The mission will be carried out through a new programme named "Coffee Plantation for Sustainable Livelihoods."

- Only in Koraput is coffee farmed on a considerable scale at the moment.
- According to the Coffee Board of India, coffee is currently planted on 4,339 hectares of land in the state.

### Project Alabira Power

- Grid Corporation of Odisha Limited (GRIDCO) and NLC India Limited (NLCIL) inked a power purchase agreement for the purchase of 400 MW

of power each from the Central PSU's Talabira supercritical thermal power facility.

#### About the project:

- It is a Steam Turbine power plant.
- The power plant is dual fuel capable. The plant's principal fuel is coal.
- In the event of a coal shortage, the facility will run on Light Diesel Oil/Heavy Fuel Oil.
- The NLC Talabira Thermal Power Project consists of three steam turbines with a total capacity of 800 MW.



**OPSC Current Affairs**



## NATIONAL

### Transfer of Property Act, 1882

- According to the Transfer of Property Act of 1882 (TPA), rents collected by a borrower can be assigned to a lender as an "actionable claim" by the Supreme Court.
- Transfer Of Property Act, 1882:
- The TPA is a significant piece of legislation in India that controls the transfer of property between live beings (inter vivos).
- The TPA is primarily concerned with the transfer of immovable property; nevertheless, some sections and clauses of this Act also address the transfer of moveable property.
- This Act was first introduced in 1882, and it has been amended multiple times since then.
- It describes the various modalities of transfer required as well as the legal requirements to ensure the transfer is valid.

### DNA and facial recognition systems in police stations

- Despite the fact that the Criminal Procedure Identification Act (CrPI), 2022, was approved by Parliament more than a year ago, the Centre is prepared to implement 'DNA and Face Matching' systems at 1,300 police stations across the country, despite the Act's provisions not yet being completely implemented.
- Under the Criminal Procedure Identification Act 2022 (CrPI), the Indian government plans to install "DNA and Face Matching" equipment in 1,300 police stations around the country. (The Act, which expanded the scope to acquire new data, replaced the 100-year-old Identification of Prisoners Act, of 1920.)
- In policing, face recognition technologies identify and quantify facial traits in order to authenticate individuals from photographs or video frames.

### Intelligence Bureau: Exempted From RTI

- The Delhi High Court recently ruled that the Intelligence Bureau stands exempted from the rigors of the RTI Act by virtue of Section 24 (Act not to apply to certain organizations) thereof.
- IB is an internal intelligence agency of India that is used to gather intelligence from within India and also execute counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism tasks.
- In addition to domestic intelligence responsibilities, the IB is particularly tasked with

intelligence collection in border areas, following the 1951 recommendations of the Himmatsinhji Committee (also known as the North and North-East Border Committee), a task entrusted to military intelligence organizations, prior to independence in 1947.

- It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 Parliamentary Committee has evaluated the BNS 2023 Bill, which proposes significant changes to India's Criminal Justice System, including a gender-neutral provision criminalizing adultery.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced the BNS Bill, which aims to replace the colonial-era IPC (Indian Penal Code).

### Withholding Tax: Supreme Court Decision

- The Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that without clear notification, firms cannot automatically claim a lower withholding tax of 5%, even if provided for in the Direct Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).
- When certain types of income, such as wages, dividends, interest, and royalties, are paid to the recipient (non-resident individual), withholding tax is withheld or deducted.
- It is also known as the Retention Tax.
- The goal of withholding tax in India is to ensure that the government receives a share of the recipient's income tax.
- Payments made to non-resident individuals are subject to withholding tax.

### APAAR stands for One Nation, One Student ID

- Recently, the Union Education Ministry recommended all states to establish the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR), also known as the "One Nation, One Student ID."
- The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) is also known as 'One Nation, One Student ID.'
- It's an Education Ecosystem Registry, often known as a 'EduLocker.'
- The Ministry of Education's National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) developed the concept

of creating a comprehensive educational ecosystem registry that includes students, teachers, schools, and colleges.

- In addition to the current Aadhaar ID, APAAR assigns a unique identifying number to each student from pre-primary to higher education.

## The Supreme Court has refused to recognise same-sex marriages

- A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud unanimously rejected same-sex marriages and civil unions for non-heterosexual couples.
- The CJI and the other four judges on the Bench concurred that there is no basic right to marry under the Indian Constitution.
- The use of gender-neutral wording to interpret the Special Marriage Act of 1954 to allow same-sex marriage was ruled impracticable.
- The decision did not recognise same-sex weddings or civil unions, but it did recognise the ability to select partners and live-in relationships.
- The court emphasised that family laws disproportionately exclude the LGBTQ community.
- The responsibility for legal reforms and inclusivity in family law was placed on the legislature.

## Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act: Update

- The Supreme Court of India recognized an unborn child's rights by rejecting a woman's request to abort her 27-week-old pregnancy.
- The court cited the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act as a breach because there was no immediate threat to the mother or any foetal defect.
- However, the court permitted the parents to choose whether or not to place the infant for adoption and ordered the state to cover all medical expenses.

## Ethics committee of Lok Sabha

- Lok Sabha Speaker has referred a "cash-for-query" complaint made by a BJP MP against a Trinamool Congress member to the Ethics Committee of the Lower House.
- The complaint is based on evidence from an advocate, which he claims shows the exchange of bribes between the accused and a businessman.
- He also pointed out that a significant number of recent parliamentary questions were focused on the Adani Group, a conglomerate she has accused of malpractices.

- The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee examines complaints of unethical conduct by members of the Lok Sabha.
- The committee was established in 2000 by the late Speaker G M C Balayogi. It became a permanent part of the House in 2015.
- The committee was established in Rajya Sabha in 1997.

### The committee's functions include:

- Examining complaints of unethical conduct by members of the Lok Sabha
- Making recommendations
- Formulating a code of conduct for members
- Suggesting amendments or additions to the code of conduct

## Remote EVM (R-EVM): Issues related to Domestic Migrant Voting

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) proposed a Remote EVM (R-EVM) to address issues related to domestic migrant voting. The goal was to improve the 67.4% voter turnout in the 2019 general election.
- A survey by Lokniti-CSDS was conducted in September 2023, involving 1,017 migrants living in Delhi's slums, with 63% men and 37% women, aiming to understand whether the proposed R-EVM system would gain a viable level of trust among its intended users, setting aside legal and logistical concerns raised by political parties.
- Remote EVM (R-EVM) stands for "Remote Electronic Voting Machine."
- It is a proposed system by the Election Commission of India (ECI) aimed at facilitating voting for domestic migrants who are unable to vote in their home constituencies due to their current location away from their registered constituencies.
- The R-EVM is designed to address the issue of domestic migrant voting, allowing registered voters who have moved away from their home constituencies to cast their votes remotely.

## Bihar Caste Survey

- This comprehensive survey provides crucial data on the composition of various caste groups and their implications for politics, policies, and social dynamics.

### Key Findings of the Bihar Caste Survey:

- The Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) constitute the largest social group, comprising 36.01% of Bihar's population, totaling 4,70,80,514 individuals.



- Other Backward Classes (OBCs) make up 27.12% of the population, with a total of 3,54,63,936 members.
- Scheduled Castes (SCs) account for 19.65%, numbering 2,56,89,820 individuals.
- Scheduled Tribes (STs) form a minority, representing only 1.68%, with 21,99,361 members.
- The “unreserved” category, often referred to as “forward” castes, comprises 15.52% of the population, totaling 2,02,91,679 individuals.
- The overall population of Bihar, according to the survey, is 13,07,25,310, an increase from the 2011 census figure of 10.41 crore.

## Sarna Tribal Religious Code: Jharkhand

- The Jharkhand Chief Minister wrote to the Prime Minister, demanding acceptance of the Sarna religious code for tribals.
- Concerns have been expressed about the Sarna Code's neglect, which could have a negative impact on tribal development programs under the Constitution's Fifth and Sixth Schedules.
- Sarna religion, practiced by a substantial tribal population in Jharkhand, is distinct from mainstream religions since it is based on nature worship.
- There is a need to safeguard tribals' cultural and religious identities.
- The Fifth Schedule contains provisions for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and STs in states that are not 6th Schedule States.
- The sixth schedule governs tribal government in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

## Approved Nutrient-Based Subsidy

- The Union Cabinet has approved Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) prices for Rabi and Kharif Season nutrients for 2022-23.
- NBS approved for Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potash (K), and Sulphur (S) for Rabi Season 2022-23.
- NBS pricing for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilisers approved for Kharif Season 2023.
- The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Regime provides farmers with fertilisers at subsidised rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K, and S) included in these fertilisers.
- Additionally, fertilisers supplemented with secondary and micronutrients such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc receive additional subsidies.
- PUSA-44 Paddy Variety : Banned

- The Punjab Chief Minister has announced a ban on the cultivation of the PUSA-44 paddy variety starting next year.
- PUSA-44 was developed in 1993 and gained immense popularity among Punjab's farmers, covering 70 to 80 percent of the state's paddy cultivation area due to its high yield.

## The reasons behind the ban on PUSA-44

- PUSA-44 has a longer maturity period, requiring around 160 days to mature, which is approximately 35 to 40 days longer than other paddy varieties.
- Punjab faces severe groundwater depletion, and the government aims to conserve one month of irrigation water by banning PUSA-44.
- PUSA-44 exacerbates the problem of stubble burning in Punjab.
- Its harvesting just before the ideal time for wheat sowing (typically at the end of October) leaves a limited timeframe of 20 to 25 days for stubble disposal before wheat sowing.

## Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- The Rashtriya Gokul Mission is promoting the Gir indigenous cow breed.
- Since December 2014, the Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been working to produce and conserve indigenous bovine breeds.
- It is continued under the umbrella scheme Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana from 2021 to 2026.

## Operation Chakra 2: CBI

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has recently initiated Operation Chakra II.
- 'Operation Chakra-2' was launched in response to the filing of five different cases of cyber-enabled financial crime, including a 100-crore cryptocurrency scam.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated Operation Chakra II.
- The goal is to combat transnationally organised cyber-enabled financial crime in India.
- Its goal is to combat transnational organised cyber-enabled financial crime in India. (The CBI and its problems)

## The 5th National Level Steering Committee Meeting of the Atal Bhujal Yojana

- The National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) of the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) met for the

fifth time to examine the scheme's overall development.

- The World Bank has been participating in the program's assessment.
- The committee advised governments to incorporate Water Security Plans (WSPs) into Gramme Panchayat Development Plans, which will ensure the scheme's approach is sustainable long after the programme ends.

## The 7th Edition of The India Mobile Congress 2023 In New Delhi

- India's Prime Minister launched the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress 2023.

- The India Mobile Congress (IMC) is Asia's largest telecom, media, and technology gathering, and it will take place from October 27th to 29th, 2023.
- 'Global Digital Innovation' is the theme of the IMC.
- The IMC 2023 intends to increase India's status as a significant cutting-edge technology innovator, manufacturer, and exporter.
- The Prime Minister presented 100 '5G Use Case Labs' to educational institutions throughout the country.
- The '100 5G laboratories programme' is an effort to realise the benefits of 5G technology by stimulating the creation of 5G applications.
- The 5G deployment is complete, with plans to extend service nationwide by the end of the year.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Visa Shopping

The practice of 'visa shopping' has been gaining popularity in several Indian states.

1. "Visa shopping" is a practice where individuals obtain visas for countries, they may not visit during the visa's validity period.
2. The objective is to use these visas as a means to enter their preferred countries, particularly in Europe, even if they already have a visa for another European nation.
3. People also buy visas for countries they don't intend to visit immediately to increase their chances of getting visas for their preferred destinations in the future.
4. This practice is prevalent in India, particularly in Punjab, and it has raised legal implications.

### Restrict Exports of Graphite: China

- China has unveiled plans to restrict exports of graphite—a mineral crucial to the manufacture of batteries for electric vehicles (EVs)—on national security grounds.
- Graphite is an opaque, non-metallic carbon polymorph that is blackish silver in color and metallic to dull in sheen.
- Since it resembles metal lead, it is also known colloquially as black lead or plumbago.
- It is formed by the metamorphosis of sediments containing carbonaceous material.
- It is a naturally occurring form of crystalline carbon.

### UN Approved Multinational Security Mission in Haiti

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has approved the Multinational Security Mission (MSS), led by Kenya, to restore security, protect critical infrastructure and control spiraling violence in Haiti.
- Haiti faced escalating gang violence, causing chaos and suffering throughout the country.
- A group of gangs known as "G9 and Family" disrupted the main fuel port and the Capital city Port-au-Prince, leading to a nationwide crisis.
- This has resulted in widespread killings of nearly 2,800 people, between October 2022 and June 2023.

### India Tanzania Investment Forum

- India welcomed the President of Tanzania at the India-Tanzania Investment Forum in New Delhi.
- India and Tanzania have upgraded their bilateral relations to the level of a strategic partnership.
- Both nations inked six agreements to strengthen cooperation across various vital domains.
- It encompasses cooperation in the digital domain, culture, sports, maritime industries, and white shipping information sharing.
- These agreements lay the foundation for fostering technological and cultural exchange between the two nations.

### United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime

- The union Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in the two-day UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime Ministerial Conference at Palermo in Italy.

- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime is a multinational treaty against transnational organized crime that was established by the United Nations in 2000.
- It is often known as the Palermo Convention.
- The UNTOC has a total of 147 signatories and 190 parties to the convention.
- The Convention is further supplemented by three Protocols
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and
- The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

### AUKUS Initiative

- As part of the AUKUS initiative with Australia and the US, the UK has given three UK businesses a 4-billion-pound (\$4.9 billion) contract to design and build an attack submarine powered by nuclear energy.
- AUKUS established in 2021, the AUKUS is intended to be a strategic partnership among Australia, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States to bolster their allied deterrence and defense capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.
- The trilateral partnership, which builds on their decades-long security cooperation, has two pillars.
- Pillar I revolves around the acquisition and development of conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy;
- Pillar II calls for collaboration on advanced capabilities that will involve technology and information sharing;
- It is designed to equip Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs).

### Social Security Agreement: India-Argentina

- India and Argentina have signed a significant Social Security Agreement (SSA) aimed at protecting the rights of professionals and workers from both countries regarding social security contributions.
- The SSA covers areas related to old-age benefits, survivor's pensions, and permanent, total disability pensions for employed individuals in India.
- In Argentina, it applies to contributory benefits provided by the Social Security System.
- The agreement ensures that detached workers and their family members, who temporarily work in another country, retain their rights to contributory benefits under local legislation without reduction, modification, suspension, suppression, or retention.
- The SSA establishes a legal framework for regulating the insurance period (period of services with contributions) and contributory benefits for detached workers, including crew members of airlines and ships.
- It ensures the smooth export of these benefits to the home country of the worker.

### Whoosh: Southeast Asia's First High-Speed Railway

- Indonesian President Joko Widodo officially inaugurated Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway marking a significant milestone for the nation's infrastructure development.
- The ambitious project, known as the "Whoosh" high-speed railway, is a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative and is poised to dramatically reduce travel times between two vital Indonesian cities. ...
- The high-speed railway connects the sprawling metropolis of Jakarta with Bandung, the bustling capital of West Java province.
- This transformational rail link is set to reduce the arduous three-hour commute between these cities to a mere 40 minutes, greatly enhancing regional connectivity and facilitating economic growth.

## ECONOMICS



### International Competition Network

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has joined the International Competition Network's (ICN) distinguished 18-member steering committee.

- The International Competition Policy Advisory Committee (ICPAC), a body founded in 1997, offered suggestions that led to the creation of the ICN.

- It was founded in October 2001 by representatives from 15 different competition authorities from around the world.
- The ICN's governing body is the steering committee.
- The ICN, which is made up of 140 competition agencies, normally serves as a specialized, although informal, arena for antitrust authorities to maintain regular contacts and handle practical competition concerns.

#### CCI:

- It is a statutory body established by the Government of India in March 2009 under the Competition Act, of 2002.
- The purpose of CCI is to develop and preserve fair competition in the economy, which will offer a 'level playing field' for producers and make markets work for the benefit of consumers.

#### Global Tax Evasion Report 2024

- The European Union Tax Observatory has produced the 'Global Tax Evasion Report 2024,' which highlights several significant topics connected to tax evasion, including the Global Minimum Tax (GMT) on billionaires and anti-tax evasion measures.
- The paper looks into the effects of international changes implemented over the last decade, such as the automatic worldwide exchange of bank information and the international agreement on a global minimum tax for multinational corporations, among other things.
- Tax evasion is the illegal act of failing to pay taxes owed to the government by underreporting income, inflating deductions, concealing funds in offshore accounts, or employing other deceptive methods to decrease one's tax responsibility.

#### Leniency Plus Norms: CCI

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has published a draft of amended reduced penalty laws that call for the implementation of a "leniency plus" scheme.
- The 'leniency plus' criteria are a new cartel detection instrument that sheds light on how the competition watchdog intends to implement it.
- The "Leniency Plus" regime was included in the Competition Amendment Act 2023.
- Leniency Plus is a proactive antitrust enforcement method that encourages companies who are currently under investigation for one cartel to report other cartels that are unknown to the competition regulator.

#### Yuva Sangam (Phase III)

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) has established the registration portal for Phase III of Yuva Sangam.

- Yuva Sangam is a Government of India program to improve people-to-people ties among youth from various Indian states and union territories.
- Interested youth between the ages of 18 and 30, primarily students, NSS (National Service Scheme)/NYKS (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan) volunteers, employed/self-employed individuals, and so on, should register through the YUVA SANGAM site to participate in the upcoming Phase.
- It was launched under the EBSB and is based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- It emphasizes firsthand experiencing learning and acquiring knowledge of India's rich diversity.

#### India Skills 2023-24

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has announced the commencement of India Skills 2023-24 and congratulated the World Skills Competition (WSC) 2022 winners.
- India Skills 2023-24 is a skill development competition that aims to cultivate and improve individuals' skills in a variety of fields, preparing them for national and international contests.
- India Skills is the competition that precedes World Skills. Participants who thrive at the national level in India Skills will be invited to compete in the global event World Skills.
- The curriculum emphasizes the necessity of building employable skills that fit with market needs in order to increase workforce acceptance within the industry.

#### What is Stock Split?

- Sigachi Industries (SIGACHI) recently initiated its long-anticipated 10:1 stock split.
- Stock Split happens when a company increases the number of its shares to boost the stock's liquidity.
- It is a corporate action in which a company issues additional shares to shareholders, increasing the total by the specified ratio based on the shares they held previously.
- Although the number of shares outstanding increases, there is no change to the company's total market capitalization as the price of each share will split as well.
- The most common split ratios are 2-for-1 or 3-for-1 (sometimes denoted as 2:1 or 3:1). This means that for every share held before the split, each stockholder will have two or three shares, respectively, after the split.

## Passport to Earning (P2E) Initiative

- Passport to Earning (P2E), UNICEF's worldwide learning-to-earning solution, has trained and certified over one million young people in India in financial literacy and digital productivity.
- The P2E program, which is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, provides free access to certificate courses in digital productivity, financial literacy, employability skills, and other in-demand, job-ready abilities.
- Notably, 62% of P2E course participants in India are adolescent girls and young women.
- P2E is an important addition to the nation's educational and economic landscape, with the goal of giving long-term sustainable skills to 5 million youngsters in India aged 14-29 by 2024 and connecting them to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

## Poorvottar Sampark Setu Portal

- The Union Ministry of Development of North-East Region virtually launched "MDoNER Data Analytics Dashboard" and "Poorvottar Sampark Setu" portal at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- It is a powerful tool designed to streamline and enhance monitoring of fortnightly visits of Union Ministers to NER.

### Features:

- The dashboard provides valuable insights and graphical information about State-wise/ District-wise visits to the North Eastern Region by Union Ministers to be used by all the stake holders in one place.
- The portal generates a curated list of Ministers who can be nominated for visit to NER in the upcoming months.
- After the visit, the Minister can submit their tour reports along with their recommendations online.
- MDoNER can forward the recommendations to respective line Ministries/Departments/State Governments for quick action, after analyzing the same.
- The Portal generates the summary report.

## Resilient and Inclusive Supply-Chain Enhancement (RISE) Initiative: World Bank and Japan

- In Morocco, the World Bank and Japan established the Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement (RISE) initiative.
- This effort aims to address the dual concerns of job creation and climate change by assisting emerging markets and developing nations in growing their manufacturing of clean-energy products and

increasing their participation in the minerals sector.

- The effort intends to boost economic growth and create local job possibilities, ultimately helping to reduce poverty.
- This united endeavor highlights the significance of international cooperation in driving economic growth in these nations while also boosting clean energy and vital mineral supply chains.

## One CGIAR Global Initiative

- The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has joined the global effort One Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).
- One CGIAR worldwide program seeks to develop a cohesive approach to reforming food, land, and water systems in response to the challenges posed by the climate catastrophe.
- The CGIAR System Organization and 12 One CGIAR research centers are involved in this endeavor.
- The CGIAR is a publicly sponsored network of agrifood research centers that seeks to alter food, land, and water systems in the face of a climate crisis. It is operational in over 80 countries.

## Bima Vahak: IRDAI

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced that the guidelines for the women-centric insurance distribution channel known as "Bima Vahak" will go into effect with the launch of "Bima Vistaar," an all-in-one standard insurance product that is currently in development.
- Bima Vahak's major goal is to create a dedicated distribution channel focused on expanding insurance inclusion and awareness in every village/gram panchayat, hence increasing insurance accessibility and availability across the country.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is abbreviated as IRDAI. It was founded on April 19, 2000, to govern India's insurance market.
- The IRDAI's responsibilities include the following:
- In India, the insurance and reinsurance businesses are regulated and licensed.
- Protecting the policyholder's interests

## Accredited Social Health Activist: Planning for Incentives

- The government intends to reward ASHA health activists who mobilize eligible individuals for

sickle cell disease screening and the distribution of sickle cell cards.

- ASHA is a female community health activist who has received training.
- ASHA workers are an essential component of the Government of India's National Rural Health Mission.
- The ASHA, who will be chosen from the community and held accountable to it, will be taught to act as a liaison between the community and the public health system.

### Veer Gatha Project 3.0

- Over 1.36 crore school pupils from all 36 Indian states and union territories took part in the third iteration of the Veer Gatha Project.
- The project, which will be launched in 2021 under the Gallantry Awards Portal (GAP), intends to showcase acts of courage by Armed Forces members and instill patriotism and civic consciousness in schoolchildren.
- To honor these courageous individuals, students sent poems, paintings, essays, videos, and other works.
- Various activities were carried out at the school level as part of the Veer Gatha Project 3.0, with schools sending their finest entries to the MyGov portal.
- The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defence will jointly honor 100 winners (Super 100) at the national level, with each getting a cash prize of Rs 10,000.

### Protein Binders Not Permitted: FSSAI

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has said that the addition of protein binders to milk and milk products is prohibited.
- This clarification comes at a time when some players are adding protein binders to dairy products like curd to provide a thicker texture.
- Protein binders, which are biological agents, have emerged as a significant and necessary class of ingredients in the development of a wide range of new food items, particularly semi-solid or solid foods.
- These are known to have an effect on the digestibility of the protein bound and consequently on the biological and nutritional value of milk proteins.
- Protein binding affects the bioavailability and distribution of active substances as well.
- Milk protein is high in critical amino acids.

### Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently extended the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) plan for another two years, and beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma scheme would be included.
- The RBI announced the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme in January 2021 for a three-year period.
- The goal is to double the number of payment acceptance devices in the country.
- The PIDF is a fund established by the RBI in collaboration with major approved card networks to aid in the development of payment acceptance infrastructure in India's tier 3 to tier 6 cities and northeastern states.
- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will also be given special consideration.
- Beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi Scheme in Tier-1 and 2 centres were later included in August 2021.
- The PIDF is funded by the RBI and the major authorized card networks in India.
- The scheme provides financial assistance to banks and non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) for the deployment of PoS terminals and other payment acceptance infrastructure in eligible regions.

### National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

- The Ministry of Education recently opened online registration for the 2023-24 National Merit Cumulative Means Scholarship Scheme.
- The National Means-Current-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that was established in May of 2008.
- Scholarships will be awarded to deserving students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in order to prevent dropouts in class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at the secondary level.
- Every year, the Ministry of Human Resource Development awards one lakh new scholarships to selected students from grades IX to XII in accredited Government, Government-aided, and local body institutions.
- The scholarship amount is Rs. 12000/- per year (Rs. 1000/- per month) for each student.

### SUGAM REC App

- The Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise, REC Limited, has launched an SUGAM REC mobile application.

- The SUGAM REC App is only available to current and prospective investors in REC's 54EC Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds.
- Investors will be able to download their e-bond certificates, apply for new investments, download relevant forms relating to KYC updates, and communicate with REC's Investor Cell via phone, email, or WhatsApp.
- These fixed-income securities, often known as capital gain bonds, give investors capital gains tax exemption under Section 54EC.
- By investing the gains, an assessee/investor can save income tax on long-term capital gains.
- These bonds must be purchased within 6 months of the date of long-term capital gain.

### Card-on-File Tokenisation: Reserve Bank of India

- Card-on-file tokenization (CoFT) was proposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Card-on-file transactions occur when cardholders permit businesses to securely retain their payment information and bill their stored accounts for future purchases.
- Tokenization is the process of replacing genuine credit and debit card details with an alternative code known as the "token," which is unique for each combination of card, token requestor, and device.
- This must be unique for each card, token requestor (the entity that accepts a customer's request for tokenization of a card and forwards it to the card network to issue a corresponding token), and merchant (the token requestor and merchant may or may not be the same entity).

### National Turmeric Board: Established

- The National Turmeric Board was created by the Government of India.
- Because India is the world's largest producer (75% of global turmeric production), user, and exporter of turmeric, this effort intends to boost the development and expansion of the country's turmeric sector.
- The Board will include a chairperson appointed by the Central Government, members from key government departments such as the Ministry of AYUSH, the Union Government's Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, and Commerce & Industry, as well as rotating senior State Government representatives from three states.
- The Board is intended to assist in the development and growth of the spice sector in India, which controls over 62% of the global turmeric trade.
- Turmeric is mostly produced in Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024

- The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024 have been revealed, and 91 Indian institutes have gained a spot.
- There are 1,904 universities from 108 nations and regions represented in the 2024 rankings.
- The 2024 Rankings examine research-intensive universities globally based on 18 important parameters spread across five categories: teaching (29.5%), research environment (29%), research quality (30%), industry (4%), and international outlook (7.5%).

## GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT



### Hunter's Moon Lunar Eclipse

- On Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 3:35 p.m. EST, the "Hunter's Moon" will be fully lighted.
- The Hunter's Moon is one of several names for the full moons that occur throughout the year.
- Because of the way sunlight is scattered by the Earth's atmosphere, the Hunter's Moon might seem red or orange at times.
- This is most common when the moon is low in the sky, like at sunrise and sunset.
- The "Hunter's Moon" this year will be more colorful and larger than at any other time of night.



## Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project

- The Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project has been accepted for inclusion in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP) by the Indian government.
- The Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project calls for the construction of a dam at Jamrani village over the river Gola, a tributary of the Ram Ganga in Uttarakhand's Nainital district.
- The project's irrigation benefits would flow primarily to the neighboring state of Uttar Pradesh.
- This is the ninth project to be added to the PMKSY-AIBP list.



## Cyclonic Storm Hamoon

- According to current sources, the cyclonic storm "Hamoon" that emerged over the Bay of Bengal has rapidly intensified into a severe cyclonic storm.
- Over the Bay of Bengal, Cyclone Hamoon is building near India.
- Rain is expected to pour in southern India this week.
- Cyclones Tej and Hamoon are twin cyclones that formed over the north Indian Ocean.



## Montreux Convention

- The Turkish Ministry of National Defense has indicated that, in accordance with the Montreux Convention, it will impose limits on the transit of warships from countries that do not border the Black Sea.
- The Montreux Convention governs the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits, sometimes known as the Turkish Straits or the Black Sea Straits.
- The Turkish Straits are the only sea route connecting the Black Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.
- Turkey controls the Turkish Straits by the 1936 Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits, also known as the Montreux Convention.

## Regional Rapid Transit System

- The first leg of India's Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), the country's first mass rapid transit system dedicated to regional connectivity, will be inaugurated by India's Prime Minister.
- The Regional Rapid Transportation System (RRTS) is an integrated mass transportation network with semi-high-speed rail connectivity at its core.
- It intends to promote "balanced and sustainable urban development" throughout the National Capital Region (NCR) by improving connectivity and access.
- The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), a joint venture of the Central government and the governments of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, is building it.

## Atlas of the Siena Galaxy

- The Siena Galaxy map is a magnificent map of 400,000 galaxies in the Milky Way's cosmic neighborhood made by astronomers.
- The Siena Galaxy Atlas is a digital atlas that was built to help people learn more about our universe by exploring various known galaxies.
- It was constructed using data from three astronomical surveys conducted at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) and Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) between 2014 and 2017. These surveys are referred to together as the DESI Legacy Surveys.
- Unlike previous atlases, which depended on archaic equipment and photographic plates, it is based on cutting-edge digital photographs obtained by modern technology.



## Mount Vesuvius

- Using artificial intelligence, researchers decoded an ancient document buried in the ashes of Mount Vesuvius.



- Mt. Vesuvius is an active volcano in southern Italy that rises above the Bay of Naples on the Campania plain.
- It is the only active volcano on the European continent.
- Because its eruptions often include explosive eruptions as well as pyroclastic flows, the volcano is classed as a complex stratovolcano.
- A pyroclastic flow is a dense mixture of hot lava, pumice, ash, and volcanic gas.



### Palk Strait: Ferry Service

- India and Sri Lanka recently launched a ferry service across the Palk Strait under a new roadmap for greater connectivity.
- Palk Strait is a strait that lies between the Tamil Nadu state of India and the island nation of Sri Lanka.
- The strait is named after Robert Palk, who was a governor of Madras Presidency (1755-1763) during the British Raj period.
- It is bounded on the south by Pamban Island (India), Adam's (Rama's) Bridge (a chain of shoals), the Gulf of Mannar, and Mannar Island (Sri Lanka).
- It connects the Bay of Bengal in the northeast with the Gulf of Mannar in the southwest.
- The southwestern portion of the strait is also called Palk Bay.



### Earthquake in Afghanistan

- A 6.3 magnitude earthquake rocked Afghanistan lately, around 40 kilometers west of Herat.
- The death toll from severe earthquakes in Afghanistan has grown to almost 2,400, with search and rescue efforts continuing amid fears that some people may be trapped beneath collapsed structures.
- An earthquake is a tremor or shaking of the earth's surface.
- It is created by seismic waves or earthquake waves produced by a quick movement (sudden release of energy) in the earth's crust (shallow-focus earthquakes) or upper mantle (some shallow-focus, all intermediate and deep-focus earthquakes).



### Mont Blanc Shrinks: New research

- New research has revealed that Mont Blanc, France's highest mountain has witnessed a reduction in its height over the past two years.
- Mont Blanc is the highest peak (4,807 meters) in Europe.
- It is located in the Alps and lies along the French-Italian border and reaches into Switzerland.
- It is nicknamed "the roof of Europe".
- Its name comes from the perennial snow cap that covers it, meaning literally "the white mountain".
- The mountain stands in a range called the Graian Alps, between the regions of Aosta Valley, Italy, and Savoie and Haute-Savoie, France.



### Ichamati River: West Bengal

- The dredging work at National Waterways 44, Ichamati River in West Bengal, was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

- The Ichamati River is a trans-boundary river that runs through both India and Bangladesh.
- It serves as a border between the two countries.
- It is presently divided into three segments.
- The longer section originates in the Mathabhanga River, a tributary of the Padma, and flows for 208 kilometers before joining the Kalindi River near Hasnabad in North 24 Parganas and Debhata in Satkhira District.
- The Ichhamati River and its tributaries form a massive oxbow lake complex near Bangaon in the North 24-Paraganas district.



### Phase-IX of the Sagar Parikrama

- The ninth phase of the 'Sagar Parikrama' initiative will begin on October 7, 2023, according to the Indian government. 'Sagar Parikrama' seeks to resolve the concerns of fishermen and other stakeholders.
- The program's ninth phase will encompass coastal areas in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Viluppuram, Chengalpattu, Chennai, Karaikal, and Puducherry are among the cities covered.
- The tour will begin in Thondi, Tamil Nadu's Ramnad district, and will end in Chennai, traversing through other districts including Puducherry.
- The first eight phases of the 'Sagar Parikrama' encompassed 4,115 kilometers in eight coastal states and union territories, including Gujarat, Diu and Daman, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



### Flooding in Sikkim

- The South Lhonak Lake in Sikkim burst, causing significant floods in downstream districts. This resulted in casualties and displacements throughout the state.
- Large volumes of water generated in front of, on top of, or beneath melting glaciers are known as glacial lakes.
- As they expand, they can become increasingly dangerous, as they are frequently dammed by unstable ice or sediment made of loose rock and debris.
- Rising global temperatures have caused glaciers in the Sikkim Himalayas to melt quickly, resulting in the formation and extension of glacial lakes.



### Project Sela Tunnel

- According to BRO authorities, over 96 percent of the work on the strategically important Sela Tunnel has been completed, and it is expected to be inaugurated by the end of the year.
- The Sela Tunnel Project is located in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district.
- When finished, the Sela tunnel will be the world's longest bi-lane tunnel at an elevation of more than 13,000 feet.
- It will provide all-weather communication between Assam's Guwahati and Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang.



### Toto Shabda Sangraha

- A dictionary titled "Toto Shabda Sangraha" is set to be released with the aim of preserving the Toto language, which is spoken by a mere 1,600 people in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan.

- The Toto language, a Sino-Tibetan language, is primarily spoken orally and is currently written in the Bengali script.
- While a script for Toto was developed in 2015 by Dhaniram Toto, a prominent community member, most Toto speakers still use the Bengali script or write in Bengali.
- The trilingual dictionary will translate Toto words into Bengali and English, making it accessible to a wider audience, as the Toto script is still in its early stages of development, and the tribe is more familiar with the Bengali script.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Leopard Toby Puffer Fish

- The Leopard Toby Puffer Fish, which lives in the deep depths, has been spotted off the coast of Australia.
- Leopard Toby Puffer Fish is a deepwater reef fish that inhabits in caves and coral slopes at depths ranging from 50 to 100 meters.
- *Canthigaster leoparda* is the scientific name for this species.
- It is distinguished by clusters of black spots along its pale body's flanks.
- It is also referred to as blowfish.

### Tamil Nadu's First Tiger Rewilding Program

- A committee examined the Anamalai Tiger Reserve's first tiger rewilding initiative in Tamil Nadu.
- The tiger is cared for by Forest Department employees who limit interaction with the animal and watch it with cameras.
- The Anamalai Tiger Reserve was created from the Tamil Nadu portion of the Anamalais and is located in the Western Ghats south of the Palakkad gap.
- Surrounded by many wildlife reserves and forests, including the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve to the east and the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Eravikulam National Park to the south.

### River Dolphins: A Global Declaration

- In a groundbreaking move, 11 Asian and South American countries have signed the "Global Declaration for River Dolphins," which aims to protect the world's six remaining river dolphin species.
- The Global Declaration for River Dolphins is intended to guide 14 river dolphin-inhabited nations, with a focus on responsible freshwater dolphin conservation.
- It aims to reverse the loss of all river dolphin species while also increasing the most vulnerable populations.
- The declaration will strengthen cooperation efforts to protect the remaining river dolphin species.

### Ghatiana sanguinolenta: Fresh Water Crab Species

- Freshwater crab species 'Ghatiana sanguinolenta' was recently identified in the Balekoppa hamlet in Sirsi district in northern Karnataka by researchers.
- Ghatiana sanguinolenta is a recently discovered freshwater crab species.
- The crab's name comes from the Latin word "sanguinolenta," which means "red" or "blood-colored."
- The blood-red color of the crab and the outwards curled article of the initial section of the male 'gonopod' (genitalia) separate it from other Ghatiana subgenus species.
- It is currently only known from the type locality, which is located in India's Central Western Ghats.

### Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has approved the Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II – Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) for a 13 GW Renewable Energy Project in Ladakh.
- Green Energy Corridor (GEC) is an initiative aimed at integrating and evacuating renewable energy into India's power grid, promoting sustainable growth, and enhancing energy security. It has two phases.
- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) is Implementing Agency
- GEC-1 Implementation Already underway in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan, aiming to integrate and evacuate 24GW of Renewable Energy (RE).
- GEC-2 Implementation Planned for seven states: Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Targeting grid integration and power evacuation of around 20 GW of RE projects over five years (FY 2021-22 to 2025-26).
- Objective is to Synchronize renewable energy (wind and solar) with conventional power sources.

### United Nations Forum on Forests

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is organizing a Country-Led Initiative (CLI) event as part of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) from 26-28 October 2023 at the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- United Nations Forum on Forests promotes the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.
- It was established in 2000 by the UN Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).
- The Forum meets annually at the UN Headquarters in New York, bringing together representatives of all member states and forest-related agencies for high-level dialogue on technical matters in odd years and policy matters in even years.
- The forum has universal membership and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations and specialized agencies.
- India is a founding member of UNFF.

### Country-Led Initiative (CLI)

- Its primary goal is to contribute to the discussions of UNFF regarding the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.
- It also aims to facilitate the sharing of best practices among UNFF Member States for the implementation of SFM and UNSPF.

### Lorrainosaurus: Fossils Found

- The remains of the 170-million-year-old ancient sea reptile known as 'Lorrainosaurus' from the Age of Dinosaurs have just been recognized as the oldest-known mega-predatory pliosaur.
- The fossils of this marine monster were discovered by scientists in 1983.
- Researchers re-examined the remains and discovered that the predator belonged to a previously undiscovered genus (group) of species and was the earliest "mega predatory" pliosaur ever discovered.
- The fossils were discovered in the old Lorraine region (now part of Grand Est) in northeastern France.

### For the first time, A Paintbrush Swift Butterfly has been documented

- For the first time, the paintbrush swift butterfly has been photographed and documented in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district.
- The Hesperiiidae family includes the Paintbrush Swift Butterfly.

- Since its discovery in 1878, the species has never been photographed in Himachal Pradesh.
- We are photographing and documenting it for the first time.
- It was described more than 145 years ago by lepidopterist Frederic Moore.

### Curcuma kakchingense: A New Flowering Plant

- Researchers in Manipur have identified and named a new flowering plant species, Curcuma kakchingense.
- Curcuma kakchingense is a newly discovered flowering plant species from Manipur.
- It belongs to the angiospermic Zingiberaceae family, which contains well-known plants such as Curcuma (turmeric), gingers, and cardamom.
- It is a strong plant that can grow up to eight feet tall and has a huge terminal inflorescence.
- It was discovered thriving along the banks of the Sekmai River in Manipur's Kakching District.

### Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Rare Bird Sighted

- A rare bird from the arctic tundra, Buff-breasted sandpiper, was sighted in Kannur, Kerala.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper is one of the most delicately beautiful of the shorebirds.
- It breeds in the open arctic tundra of North America and usually in winter in South America.
- It is a champion long-distance migrant, leaving high-Arctic dry tundra nesting grounds and migrating thousands of miles to winter on the grasslands of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.
- Conservation status:
- IUCN: Near Threatened

### 2023 Global Survey on Persons With Disabilities And Disasters

- The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conducted the 2023 Global Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters, following up on the 2013 survey.
- The report was released ahead of International Day for DRR
- Its theme "Fighting inequality for a resilient future" is aligned with the Sendai Framework.
- It is aimed to assess the preparedness of persons with disabilities for disasters, accessibility of early warning and risk information, awareness of disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans, and their participation in DRR decision-making.
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) refers to the practices and strategies aimed at minimizing the

risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural and human-made disasters.

## Bufoides bhupathyi: New Toad Species

- A new species of toad, called *Bufoides bhupathyi*, has been discovered in the Dampa tiger reserve of Mizoram, India.
- This marks the third species in a genus found in the north-eastern region of India.
- The previous two species, *Bufoides meghalayanus* and *Bufoides kempfi*, were found in Meghalaya.

## Draft Green Credit Programme: Implementation Rules

- The Central Government recently proposed Draft Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules.
- GCP aims to promote a sustainable lifestyle through a market-based mechanism.
- As per the scheme, individuals, industries, farmers producer's organisations (FPOs), urban local bodies (ULB), gram panchayats, and the private sector, among a host of other entities, will be able to earn green credit for undertaking environment-friendly actions.
- Green credits generated through such actions can be traded on a domestic market platform.
- These Green Credits will be over and above the current discourse of carbon credits. Any activity generating green credits under the GCP will also receive carbon credits under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme if it leads to the reduction or removal of carbon emissions.
- The green credits generated or procured by industries, companies and other entities to fulfil any legal obligation cannot be traded.
- Implementing Agency: The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an autonomous organisation under the MoEFCC, is responsible for effectively implementing the Green Credit programme, including its management and operation.

## Increase of Aerosols in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya-Tibet Plateau Region

- According to a new study conducted by the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) Physical Research Laboratory, the Hindu Kush-Himalaya-Tibetan Plateau region has been experiencing an alarming increase in aerosol levels.
- Aerosols are microscopic solid or liquid particles that are suspended in air or as a gas.
- Aerosols can be natural, such as fog or gas emitted by volcanic eruptions, or manmade, such as smoke produced by the combustion of fossil fuels.

- Aerosol particles are either discharged directly into the atmosphere (primary aerosols) or formed in the atmosphere (secondary aerosols).
- Aerosol particles are tiny but abundant, and they frequently contain a variety of inorganic and organic compounds.
- True aerosol particles have diameters ranging from a few milli micrometres to roughly 1 micrometre (equivalent).

## Project Nilgiri Tahr

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister recently launched 'The Nilgiri Tahr' project for the conservation of Tamil Nadu's state animal.
- Nilgiri Tahr is an endangered mountain ungulate endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
- Scientific Name: *Nilgiritragus hylocrius*
- Locally, the animal is called 'Varayaadu'.
- They are known for their gravity-defying skills in climbing steep cliffs, earning them the nickname Mountain Monarch.
- It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
- Their present distribution is limited to approximately 5% of the Western Ghats in southern India (Kerala and Tamil Nadu).
- Eravikulam National Park in Kerala has the highest density and largest surviving population of Nilgiri tahr.

## Breakthrough in Coral Reef Conservation: The International Coral Reef Initiative

- In collaboration with the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) and the High-Level Climate Champions (HLCC), the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has created the Coral Reef Breakthrough.
- The Initiative was established in 2023 at the 37th ICRI General Meeting.
- The Coral Reef Breakthrough program is a science-based initiative with clear goals for state and non-state actors to work together to conserve, protect, and restore coral reefs, ensuring their critical contributions to humanity's future.
- With investments of at least USD 12 billion, the Coral Reef Breakthrough intends to safeguard the future of at least 125,000 km<sup>2</sup> of shallow-water tropical coral reefs by 2030, thereby supporting the resilience of more than half a billion people worldwide.

## Kachchhap (Operation Kachchhap)

- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) successfully rescued nearly a thousand live young Gangetic turtles in a recent operation dubbed

"Kachchhap," shedding light on the ongoing war against illegal wildlife trade and the protection of these rare creatures.

- The Ganga River system in India is home to 13 different species of turtles, all of which are threatened by habitat loss, overexploitation, and pollution.
- The operation resulted in the recovery of live baby turtles of various species, including the Indian Tent Turtle, Indian Flapshell Turtle, Black Spotted/Pond Turtle, and Brown Roofed Turtle, all of which are listed as vulnerable or near-threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.

### Travel for LiFE Initiative

- The Ministry of Tourism in India will establish a PATA desk to enhance engagement with PATA regarding Travel for LiFE and other tourism-related cooperation.
- Travel for LiFE is a sectoral program launched by the Ministry of Tourism in India in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- The initiative aims to bring about behavioural changes in both tourists and tourism businesses, focusing on environmental protection and socio-cultural sustainability.
- The program also encourages tourism businesses to adopt sustainable practices and earn certification levels.

### FAO Report on Methane Emissions from Livestock and Rice Systems

- A recent FAO paper, "Methane Emissions in Livestock and Rice Systems," emphasizes the considerable climate impact of methane emissions from livestock and rice fields.
- The report, which will be released during the FAO's inaugural 'Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation' in September 2023, emphasizes the importance of reducing methane emissions in meeting the Paris Agreement's goals, as stated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report.

### Watermeal: World's Smallest Flowering Plant

- Scientists are conducting research into the potential of watermeal, the world's smallest

flowering plant, as a source of nutrition and oxygen for astronauts.

- Watermeal is an aquatic plant in the Araceae family.
- It is the smallest flowering plant in the world and appears as small green seeds.
- It is often referred to as "duckweed" because it is a favorite food of ducks.
- It flourishes in temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical locations.
- They grow on the surface of lakes, ponds, and marshes.
- It is a very tiny (less than 1 millimeter) light green, free-floating, rootless plant.
- It is branchless and also has no leaves.
- It consists of a single, oval, or spherical frond that floats on the surface of still or slow-moving water bodies.
- It also produces the world's smallest fruit, called a utricle.
- It is a nutritional powerhouse.
- It is a complete protein, meaning that it contains all nine essential amino acids.

### International Coral Reef Initiative

- The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) said it would secure public and private investment to help conserve and restore coral ecosystems.
- The International Coral Reef Initiative was launched in 1994 by Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, Britain and the United States.
- Its members now include 45 countries that represent three-quarters of the world's coral reefs.
- India is also a member country of this initiative.
- It is a global partnership between Nations and organizations that strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.
- Its decisions are not binding on its members.
- The work of ICRI is regularly acknowledged in United Nations documents, highlighting the Initiative's important cooperation, collaboration, and advocacy role within the international arena.

### Hirakund Wetland: Cancer-Causing Heavy Metals Detected

- A study has revealed high levels of cancer-causing heavy metals, including lead and chromium, in eight wetlands in Odisha, with Hirakud being one of them.
- These heavy metals, which result from human activities such as urbanization, industrialization, and agriculture, can enter crops through the soil and subsequently be consumed by humans.

- The study also noted that the surrounding community indirectly consumes water from these wetlands by consuming foods like fish, rice, vegetables, and spinach grown in them.
- Hirakud Reservoir (Ramsar Site) is the largest earthen dam in Odisha and started operating in 1957.
- Out of the known 54 species of fish from the reservoir, one has been classed as being endangered, six near threatened and 21 fish species of economic importance.
- It also provides important hydrological services by moderating floods in the Mahanadi Delta, the ecological and socio-economic hub of the east coast of India.

### Staghorn Coral: Endangered

- A genome-wide survey of highly endangered staghorn coral in the Caribbean has identified 10 genomic regions associated with resilience against white band disease.
- Staghorn coral is one of the most important corals in the Caribbean.
- It, along with elkhorn coral and star corals built Caribbean coral reefs over the last 5,000 years.
- Staghorn coral can form dense groups called "thickets" in very shallow water.
- These provide important habitat for other reef animals, especially fish.
- Staghorn coral colonies are golden tan or pale brown with white tips and they get their color from the algae that live within their tissue.
- These corals have antler-like branches and typically stem out from a central trunk and angle upward.

### Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath Initiative

- The "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath" initiative is a massive voluntary effort for cleanliness in India, endorsed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The initiative encourages citizens to engage in one hour of "shramdaan" (voluntary labour) for cleanliness at 10 am on October 1st as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

- Various groups and organizations, including Resident Welfare Associations, village communities, NGOs, market associations, faith groups, and the private sector, have come forward to participate in shramdaan at different locations.
- Swachhata Pakhwada 2023, with the theme "Garbage Free India," is organized alongside this initiative and has seen the participation of over 31 crore citizens across the nation in various cleanliness-related activities.

### UN Bonn Summit

- This framework, known as the Global Framework on Chemicals, includes 28 targets designed to enhance responsible management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycle.
- The Bonn Declaration was adopted at the summit, aiming to prevent exposure to harmful chemicals, phase out the most dangerous ones when appropriate, and enhance the safe management of such chemicals where necessary.
- The declaration also encourages countries to support the transition to circular economies and develop substitutes for harmful chemicals to safeguard health, and the environment, reduce waste, and promote recycling efforts.

### Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary: Bihar Second Tiger Reserve

- Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year or early 2024.
- Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest sanctuary located in the Kaimur District of Bihar.
- It is nestled in the Vindhayachal hill ranges.
- The sanctuary forms a very important catchment for the Kav, Sone, and Durgawati river systems, with important tributaries.
- It is connected with Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary of UP, which again has links with Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve and Panna landscape in Madhya Pradesh through stepping stone forests of Marihan, Sukrit, Chunar ranges and wildlife sanctuaries of Ranipur (UP).

## DEFENCE AND SECURITY



### IAF Deploys Three S-400 Missile Units along China & Pakistan Borders

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed three S-400 air defense missile squadrons near India's borders with China and Pakistan, a significant upgrade to the country's security system.

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has made important efforts to strengthen its air defence capabilities along its borders with China and Pakistan by deploying three of the five S-400 air defense missile squadrons that were agreed upon.

- The delivery plan for the remaining two squadrons, however, has been impacted by the Russia-Ukraine war, and officials from both countries are due to meet soon to resolve the timeframe.

### Exercise KAZIND-2023

- A force of 120 personnel from the Indian Army and Air Force left on a mission to Kazakhstan today, in a significant development.
- Their goal is to take part in the seventh iteration of the Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023.'
- This collaborative effort will take held in Otar, Kazakhstan, from October 30th to November 11th, 2023.

### Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran will collaborate to manufacture aircraft engine parts

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran Aircraft Engines, a leading French aero engine design, development, and manufacturing firm, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering industrial cooperation and collaboration.
- This strategic cooperation spans several major areas of the aviation industry and marks a watershed moment in India's aerospace landscape.

### EU and India Conduct Maiden Joint Naval Exercise in the Gulf of Guinea

- In a landmark demonstration of international collaboration, India and the European Union (EU) recently conducted their first combined naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea, with the goal of boosting regional maritime security.
- This exercise was a watershed moment in their maritime security collaboration, coming on the heels of the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue in Brussels.
- On October 24, 2023, the Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, joined forces in the Gulf of Guinea alongside ships from three EU member nations.
- The Italian Navy Ship ITS Foscari, the French Navy Ship FS Ventôse, and the Spanish Navy Ship Tornado were among the EU ships that took part.

### Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023

- The Indian and Malaysian army have launched "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023," demonstrating their continued defense cooperation.

- This combined bilateral training exercise, staged at Umroi Cantonment in India, aims to boost military capabilities and improve mutual coordination.
- "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023" not only enhances military capabilities but also symbolizes India and Malaysia's long-standing relationship, underlining their commitment to regional security and stability.

### Defence Minister Inaugurated Indian Military Heritage Festival in New Delhi

- The Indian Military Heritage Festival takes center stage in New Delhi's Manekshaw Centre.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh officiated at the occasion, which was also attended by Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande.
- The annual 'Indian Military Heritage Festival' was held by the United Service Institution of India (USI), India's oldest tri-service think tank, which has been in operation since 1870.
- This great occasion paid honor to India's rich military past and attempted to encourage the nation's youth.

### Mid-Planning Conference for Multilateral Naval Exercise (MILAN) – 24

- From the 19th to the 27th of February 2024, the Indian Navy will organize the Mid-Planning Conference for MILAN 24 (Multilateral Naval Exercise- 2024) in Visakhapatnam.
- This event continues India's long tradition of hosting the MILAN exercise, demonstrating the country's commitment to strengthening international maritime cooperation.
- MILAN, a biennial multilateral naval exercise, was founded in 1995 by the Indian Navy.
- It was initially connected with India's 'Look East Policy.' However, as India's international involvement expanded with Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi's 'Act East policy' and the 'Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' program, MILAN opened its doors to participation from Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs).

### In 2023, the Indian Army will be awarded a gold medal. Military Exercise Cambrian Patrol Held in the United Kingdom

- The Indian Army demonstrated its great military skill on the international scene in 2023, when it won a gold medal in the famous Cambrian Patrol



Competition. An elite team from the 3/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) participated in the tournament, which was held in Wales, UK, marking a great milestone for the Indian Army.

- The Cambrian Patrol Competition 2023 is renowned as a grueling test of endurance and teamwork, often referred to as the "Olympics of Military Patrolling."
- The Indian Army team competed against a total of 111 teams, including 38 international teams representing special forces and esteemed regiments from across the globe.

## Imphal is the Indian Navy's third guided missile destroyer

- Yard 12706 (Imphal), a state-of-the-art stealth-guided missile destroyer, was officially given to the Indian Navy on October 20, 2023, in a momentous development for the Indian Navy.
- This historic occasion marks a significant milestone in India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities, bolstering the country's naval strength in the Indian Ocean region.
- Imphal is the third vessel built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) as part of Project 15B.
- The Project is a continuation of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers that were commissioned in the previous decade.
- Imphal followed the commissioning of Indian Naval Ships Visakhapatnam and Mormugao in the previous two years.

## Project 'Udbhav' To Promote "Indianisation"

- The Indian Army recently began 'Project Udbhav,' with the goal of rediscovering India's vast tradition of statecraft and strategic ideas inherited from ancient Indian writings.
- The military-led Project Udbhav intends to derive ideas on statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare from ancient Indian treatises such as Chanakya's Arthashastra, Kamandaka's Nitisara, and the Thirukkural of Tamil poet-saint Thiruvalluvar.

## Iron Sting Weapon Israel

- In a significant development, Israeli military forces have demonstrated the cutting-edge "Iron Sting" technology, designed to remove rocket launchers with extreme precision, for the first time.
- The Magellan team, in collaboration with the Air Force, has effectively stopped a large number of insurgents from using various weapons, including the modern and incredibly accurate mortar shell known as "Steel Sting."

- This deployment is expected to alter land-based warfare by providing military units with their own efficient weapons while reducing accidental impact and civilian harm.

## First Vertical Wind Tunnel

- The Indian Army unveiled its first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Himachal Pradesh Special Forces Training School (SFTS). This cutting-edge facility offers military soldiers a controlled environment in which to improve their Combat Free Fall (CFF) skills by imitating real-world free fall conditions.
- The Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh was virtually launched by Indian Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande.
- The Indian Army's advanced wind tunnel is the first of its type, and it promises to transform military training procedures.

## Indian Navy Launches 25T Bollard Pull Tug 'MAHABALI' in Gujarat

- On the 28th of October 2023, Commodore Sunil Kaushik launched the outstanding vessel, the 25T Bollard Pull Tug dubbed 'Mahabali,' at M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd in Bharuch, Gujarat.
- This launch not only represented a new contribution to India's navy fleet but also an important milestone in the Ministry of Defence's 'Make in India' strategy.

## India likely to sign a deal with US for 31 MQ-9B drones by Feb 2024

- India is in the process of negotiating a major defense agreement with the United States.
- The agreement is for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) from General Atomics (GA), according to reputable sources.
- This agreement is likely to dramatically improve India's military capability.
- India is set to acquire 31 MQ-9B UAVs from GA, with deliveries starting from February 2027, three years after the contract's signing.
- The deal's estimated cost is \$3,072 million, and it follows the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route.

## 3 Naga, youngest Naga battalion, gets President's Colour

- The renowned President's Colour Award was awarded to the 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment, popularly known as 3 Naga, at a

significant ceremony at the Kumaon Regimental Centre (KRC) in Ranikhet.

- Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande awarded this momentous accolade, symbolized by a flag, on the battalion, marking a critical milestone in the unit's distinguished history.
- Let's look at the significance of the President's Colour Award and 3 Naga's accomplishments.
- The presentation of the President's Colour to the 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment is not just a ceremony; it signifies the highest level of recognition for the battalion's achievements.
- This award acknowledges their unwavering commitment, dedication, and acts of valor.

### Annual Joint HADR Exercise 2023 (AJHE-23) - CHAKRAVAT 2023

- The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (AJHE) is a noteworthy project that began in 2015 and has evolved since then.
- It is a direct result of the direction issued by India's Honorable Prime Minister during the 2015 Combined Commanders' Conference.
- Since then, AJHE, now known as CHAKRAVAT, has evolved into a multi-agency effort involving India's armed forces, paramilitary forces, disaster response groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and international organizations.
- The 2023 edition of AJHE promises to further synergize national efforts and broaden its scope by including eight Indian Ocean Region countries.

### 360 Degree Appraisal System Introduced in the Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy, recognized for its dedication to excellence and continual development, has launched a game-changing program known as the '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism.'
- This effort recognizes and seeks to improve the professional and personal growth of both women and men in whites.
- The Indian Navy has always placed a premium on its personnel as the foundation of its operational performance.
- The men and women who wear white uniforms play an important role in the Indian Navy's 'SHIPS FIRST' strategy, which prioritizes the safety and efficacy of naval operations above all else.
- This strategy emphasizes the crucial relevance of a trained, motivated, and integrated staff.

### J&K Lt. Governor Flags Off CRPF Women Bike expedition 'Yashasvini' from Srinagar

- On Tuesday, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched an all-female motorbike adventure rally titled 'Yashasvini' from Srinagar to Gujarat in a ground-breaking attempt to empower women.
- The protest, a salute to women's empowerment, was launched from the renowned Ghanta Ghar near Srinagar's city center of Lal Chowk.
- Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, was the distinguished visitor who launched this incredible adventure.

### India and Bangladesh annual joint military exercise "SAMPRITI" begins

- In Umroi, Meghalaya, India and Bangladesh kicked off the 11th edition of their annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI. This coordinated effort, organized alternatively by both countries, illustrates the strength of their bilateral defense cooperation projects.
- SAMPRITI has successfully run ten editions since its commencement in Jorhat, Assam, in 2009.
- Over the course of 14 days, SAMPRITI-XI engages roughly 350 soldiers from both sides, emphasizing the importance of improving interoperability, sharing tactical maneuvers, and promoting best practices.

### Indian Air Force set to induct Astra BVR Air-to-Air Missile

- With the anticipated induction of indigenous Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air-to-Air Missiles, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is making considerable steps toward improving its air defense capabilities.
- The IAF has signed contracts for these advanced missiles with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a critical step toward lowering import dependency and strengthening national security.
- The first batch of Astra-MK1 missiles, produced by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and other DRDO facilities, is scheduled for induction by the end of 2023.
- BDL has already been granted Bulk manufacture Clearance for Astra-MK1 missiles, marking an important step forward in indigenous missile manufacture.

### IAF to stop flying MiG-21 By 2025: Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has announced intentions to retire its legendary MiG-21 fighter

jets and replace them with the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A as part of its continuous efforts to modernize and replace its aged Russian-origin aircraft.

- This crucial discovery was made by Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari during a news conference in Delhi ahead of the Air Force Day celebrations on October 8th in Prayagraj.
- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari disclosed that the IAF had signed a contract for 83 LCA Mark 1A aircraft, which will be supplemented with an additional 97 units, bringing the total to 180 LCA Mark 1As.

### On its 91st anniversary, the Indian Air Force unveils a new ensign

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) commemorated its 91st anniversary at Prayagraj's Bamrauli Air Force Station.
- Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari unveiled the new IAF ensign to commemorate the occasion.

- Several historic firsts occurred during this momentous occasion, including the inclusion of the Air Force crest and the first-ever female officer to command the Air Force Day Parade, Group Captain Shaliza Dhama, among others.

### The Indian Army has built the world's first mobile tower at Siachen Glacier

- The placement of a mobile tower on the Siachen Glacier, renowned as the world's highest battleground, has been a game changer.
- The Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps, in partnership with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), accomplished this incredible feat, providing increased mobile connectivity to personnel stationed at heights above 15,500 feet.
- Union Minister Devusinh Chauhan highlighted the notable feat on the social networking platform 'X'.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



### Aligarh Muslim University Receives IN-SPACe Approval to Launch Its Own Satellite

- Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has launched the 'SS AMU SAT' project, which has been accepted by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe).
- This endeavor, led by AMU's Robo Club, intends to create a 3U CubeSat, the first satellite named after AMU's founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

### Jio Space Fiber: India's First Gigabit Broadband Satellite Service

- Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, India's largest telecommunications company, has launched the 'JioSpaceFiber' satellite broadband service.
- This ground-breaking effort, which represents the country's first satellite-driven mega fiber service, was officially revealed during the India Mobile Congress.
- This satellite broadband service's major purpose is to provide high-speed internet connectivity to previously underserved and remote areas of India.

### Skyroot Aerospace unveils Vikram-1 rocket, scheduled for full launch next year

- In a momentous event for India's space industry, Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science and Technology, unveiled Skyroot's Vikram-1 orbital rocket in Hyderabad on Tuesday, October 24th. With the hope of achieving a fully commercial launch in the later months of 2024, Skyroot's co-founder and CEO, Pawan Kumar Chandana, has emphasized the partly commercial nature of Vikram-1's inaugural launch.

### The ISRC Report: A Roadmap to Indian Dominance in the Semiconductor Sector

- The India Semiconductor R&D Committee recently handed over a comprehensive report on the India Semiconductor Research Center (ISRC) to Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, in a significant step toward realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the semiconductor ecosystem in India.
- This study lays forth a strategic plan to put India at the forefront of global semiconductor research and innovation.

## PM Modi directs ISRO to land on the moon by 2040

- India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has announced ambitious plans to expand the country's space activities, including sending its first astronaut to the moon by 2040 and establishing a native space station by 2035.

## ISRO to conduct maiden Test Flight of Gaganyaan Mission on October 21

- Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Space, Science, and Technology, officially announced that, on October 21, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is poised to make history as it prepares to conduct the first in a series of critical test flights in anticipation of the much-anticipated Gaganyaan mission, which marks India's maiden charge into manned space exploration.
- The upcoming test flight will take place at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, which is a well-known launch facility.
- The major goal of this trip is to assess the "crew module," which will house Indian astronauts during their voyage into space.
- The success of the crew module is critical because it directly effects the safety and well-being of the astronauts who will shortly embark on this historic voyage.

## Nokia has opened a 6G lab

- In Bengaluru, India, telecom giant Nokia has taken a huge step toward the future of wireless technology by establishing a state-of-the-art 6G lab at the company's worldwide R&D headquarters.
- This "first-of-its-kind" project has the potential to transform how we view and interact with the digital and real worlds.

## International scientists make refined map of world's '8th continent' Zealandia

- A dedicated team of international geologists and seismologists has embarked on a mission to chart the depths of Zealandia, a relatively unknown landmass submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean.
- Their efforts have resulted in the creation of an updated and highly detailed map that sheds light on the continent's intriguing geological features.
- Zealandia, often referred to as the eighth continent, remains shrouded in oceanic mystery, with a staggering 94% of its expanse concealed beneath the sea's surface.

- The remaining 6% peeks above the waves, encompassing islands such as New Zealand and its neighboring isles.
- The geological history of Zealandia dates back approximately 83 million years when volcanic forces played a pivotal role in the separation of the supercontinent Gondwana, giving rise to the continents we recognize today.

## China launched its youngest ever space crew

- China's space endeavors are reaching new heights, evident in the recent launch of Shenzhou 17 from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. This mission highlights China's determination to explore outer space, fueled by a competitive spirit with the United States.
- The Shenzhou 17 crew comprises Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie, and Jiang Xinlin, with an average age of 38, making it the youngest team on a space station construction mission.
- Tang Hongbo, a seasoned astronaut, previously led a 2021 space mission for three months.

### Mission Objectives:

- The crew's primary tasks include conducting experiments in space medicine and technology. They will also install and maintain equipment both inside and outside the station.
- Moreover, China plans to send a new telescope into space, allowing in-depth exploration of the universe through surveys and sky mapping, although the installation timeframe remains undisclosed.

## Gaganyaan TV-D1 Mission Takes a Historic Leap

- In a historic moment for India's ambitious human space mission, the Test Vehicle-D1 (TV-D1), designed for the ISRO's Gaganyaan program, successfully took flight from Sriharikota, Island in Andhra Pradesh.
- The launch, which marked a significant milestone in India's space endeavors, was not without its share of challenges.

## Google and Qualcomm partner to make RISC-V chip for wearable devices

- The partnership between Qualcomm and Google to produce wearable devices based on RISC-V technology marks a significant step in the development of open-source hardware and its application in consumer electronics.

## ISRO Tie-up with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) for 'Space On Wheels' Exhibition

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) have joined hands to create an exciting and educational initiative called the "Space on Wheels" program.
- This program is designed to take the wonders of space exploration to the East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh, making it accessible to students and space enthusiasts in the region.

## 24 Agri Startups recommended for support from Pool of Rs 20cr

- In a significant boost to the agri-tech sector, experts have recommended 24 start-ups for technical and financial support from a dedicated fund of Rs 20 crore.
- This transformative initiative was announced during the ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program.
- ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo and funding) 2023 program was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with four Technology Innovation Hubs.
- These hubs, established under the National Mission on Inter-disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) at prominent Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), played a crucial role in identifying and nurturing these promising agri-start-ups.

## Ejecta halo: Chandrayaan 3

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) revealed that the "Chandrayaan-3 Lander Module generated a spectacular 'ejecta halo' of lunar material.
- The Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan-3 mission landed near the south pole of the moon.
- During the action of descent stage thrusters and the consequent landing, a significant amount of

- lunar surficial epi regolith material got ejected, resulting in a reflectance anomaly or ejecta halo",
- Scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation estimate that about 2.06 tonnes of lunar epi regolith were ejected and displaced over an area of 108.4 m<sup>2</sup> around the landing site
- Ejecta halo is an irregular, bright patch surrounding the lander.
- This discovery sheds light on the behavior of lunar materials during such events.
- It opens up new avenues for research and understanding lunar geology.

## Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) Project: NASA

- NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project aims to locate the best places to access water ice buried under the Martian surface.
- The recently released fourth set of maps is the most detailed and accurate since the project started in 2017.
- It is led by the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Arizona, and managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California.
- The project uses data from several NASA missions, such as the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO), the 2001 Mars Odyssey, and the defunct Mars Global Surveyor.
- SWIM used two higher-resolution cameras on MRO.
- The Context Camera data was used to improve the maps of the Northern Hemisphere.
- For the first time, the HiRISE (High-Resolution Imaging Science Experiment) data was used to provide the most detailed view of the ice's edge as close to the equator as possible.
- The first phase of the SWIM project, completed in 2019, focused on the northern hemisphere.
- The second phase, completed in 2020, includes the southern hemisphere.

## SPORTS



## Zahid Hussain From South Kashmir Clinches Silver at the Asian Shooting Championship

- Zahid Hussain, from the lovely town of Anantnag in Kashmir, accomplished a fantastic accomplishment by winning silver at the famous Asian Shooting Championship in South Korea.
- His outstanding performance not only gave joy to his people but also represented an important step

toward representing his country at the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

## Jyothi Yarraji Sets a New Record in the 100m Hurdles.

- Jyothi Yarraji and Tejas Shirse, both silver medalists in the Hangzhou Asian Games, set National Games records in the 100m and 110m hurdles events at the 37th National Games.

- Jyothi Yarraji, a superb athlete, broke her personal record in the 100m hurdles by finishing in 13.22 seconds.

## Max Verstappen Wins the Mexican Grand Prix, Setting a New Season Victory Record

- Red Bull racing phenom Max Verstappen demonstrated his outstanding abilities at the Formula One Mexico City Grand Prix.
- After breaking the Ferrari front row of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, he took the lead by the first corner.
- Verstappen's great start gave him his 16th victory of the season, beating his previous season's record.

## Paralympics Javelin Thrower, Sumit Antil Breaks World Record

- Reigning Paralympics champion Sumit Antil on Wednesday bettered his own javelin throw F64 world record with a stunning 73.29m effort on the way to winning gold as he led India's whopping 30-medal haul on the third day of competitions at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games.

## Sundar Singh Gurjar wins gold in the men's javelin F46 event, breaking the world record

- Sundar Singh Gurjar broke a world record and Sumit Antil successfully defended his gold medal in the javelin throw competitions at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, in a magnificent display of talent and domination.
- Sundar Singh Gurjar of India achieved an excellent performance in the men's javelin throw-F46 final, breaking the world record with a throw of 68.60 meters.
- This astounding feat not only earned him the gold medal, but it also broke the previous world record of 67.79 meters set by Sri Lankan Dinesh Priyantha.

## Paytm is the official sponsor of the 37<sup>th</sup> National Games

- Paytm, India's renowned financial powerhouse, emerged as the official sponsor of the 37th edition of the National Games.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally launched the event at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda, South Goa.

## India takes home 111 medals from the 4th Asian Para Games.

- At the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, India's para-athletes set a new record with 111 medals, including 29 gold, 31 silver, and 51 bronze.
- Dilip Mahadu Gavit won a gold medal in the Men's 400m to become the competition's 100th medalist.

## Hyderabad to host Second Edition Of E-Prix In 2024

- After a period of uncertainty, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and Formula E have officially confirmed the return of the Hyderabad E-Prix for a second edition.
- This highly anticipated event is scheduled to take place on February 10, 2024.

## Shubman Gill becomes fastest batter to score 2000 runs in ODIs

- Shubman Gill, the dynamic Indian opener, has created a significant mark in the world of One Day International (ODI) cricket by becoming the fastest player to reach 2000 runs in this format.
- His achievement, which surpasses a previous record held by South African great Hashim Amla, adds to his growing reputation as a rising star in the world of cricket.

## India's Unnati Hooda wins Abu Dhabi Masters 2023

- In a thrilling showdown at the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023, young Indian badminton talent Unnati Hooda emerged as the champion in the women's singles event.
- This remarkable win marks her second BWF Super 100 World Tour title, further solidifying her reputation as a rising star in the sport.

## Karthikeyan Murali's Surprising Victory Against Magnus Carlsen

- In a shocking turn of events at the ongoing Qatar Masters, 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali defeated the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen.
- This remarkable victory was only the third time an Indian player has triumphed over the chess legend.

## The Prime Minister has confirmed India's candidacy to host the Olympics in 2036.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke during the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session at Mumbai's Jio World Centre.
- The tournament was a watershed moment in Indian athletic history, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating India's ambition to host the Olympics and Youth Olympics in the coming years.

## IOC has accepted the recommendation to include T20 cricket in the 2028 Olympics

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) recently took a significant step towards embracing the world's most popular sport, Cricket, by accepting the recommendation to include T20 cricket for both men and women at the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.
- This decision was made during the IOC's executive board meeting in Mumbai, heralding a new era for the sport on the global stage.

## National Games 2023 to be held in Goa from Oct. 26 to Nov. 9

- The 37th edition of the National Games, scheduled for 2023, is set to take place in the picturesque state of Goa.
- After multiple delays and changes in hosting rights, the event is finally slated to run from October 26 to November 9, marking the first time Goa has hosted this prestigious competition.

## The International Olympic Committee and the Reliance Foundation have joined forces to promote Olympic values in India.

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Olympic Museum have inked a new cooperation agreement to expand on the success of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in India.
- This agreement underscores the organizations' shared priority to promote Olympic values through sport among young people.
- During a visit to the Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) football academy in Mumbai, IOC President Thomas Bach and Nita Ambani, IOC Member in India and Reliance Foundation Founder Chairperson, agreed on the new collaboration.

## Manikanta H Hoblidhar establishes a new national record in the 100m sprint.

- The 62nd National Open Athletics Championships 2023 began with a bang in Bengaluru, with Manikanta Hoblidhar of Services breaking a new national record in the men's 100m category.
- The youthful sprinter, who struck fans in amazement with his lightning-fast speed, delivered an exceptional performance on the first day of the championship.

## The 11th Sultan of Johor Cup will take place in Johor, Malaysia. In the month of November 2023

- The Sultan of Johor Cup will be hosted in Johor, Malaysia, for the 11th time in 2023.
- Hockey India has named a 20-man Indian junior men's hockey team to compete in the 11th Sultan of Johor Cup.
- This renowned competition will be held from October 27 to November 4. Notably, this year's edition will include eight teams, up from the usual six.

## Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for the World Athlete of the Year Award in 2023.

- The global governing body of athletics, World Athletics, has formally nominated Neeraj Chopra for the prestigious Men's Athlete of the Year award for 2023.
- This prize recognizes Neeraj's outstanding performances in javelin throwing, including gold medal victories at the Olympics and World Championships.

## Kenyan Kiptum breaks the world marathon record

- Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum stunned the running world on Sunday, breaking the men's world record in a time of two hours and 35 seconds to win the Chicago Marathon.
- In the 2022 Berlin Marathon, he smashed the previous record held by Eliud Kipchoge.

## Nagpur's first Asian Games gold medalist is Ojas Deotale

- On Saturday at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre, Indian archer Ojas Deotale from Nagpur won gold in the men's solo compound archery event in the final of the 19th Asian Games 2023.

- This is Ojus Deotale's third gold medal in the Asian Games 2023, cementing his place as one of India's most successful athletes in the competition.

## The Indian Women's Kabaddi Team has won gold at the Asian Games 2023.

- The Indian women's kabaddi team defeated a tenacious Chinese Taipei squad in a heart-pounding final match at the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre in Hangzhou, securing the gold medal at the Asian Games 2023.
- This article recounts the wonderful journey of the Indian women's kabaddi squad, their outstanding performance, and their historic achievement in Asian Games history.

## Dipika Pallikal, and Harinder Pal Sandhu clinch gold in Squash Mixed

- India's Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu won the gold medal in the mixed doubles squash tournament at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China.
- Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu defeated Malaysia's Aifa Azman-Mohd Syafiq Kamal 2-0 (11-10, 11-10) in the mixed doubles final.
- This is the first time a squash mixed doubles tournament has featured at the Asian Games.

## Indian men's hockey team Clinches Gold at Asian Games 2023

- In a historic moment at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium in Hangzhou, the Indian men's hockey team secured a remarkable victory over Japan, winning the gold medal and earning a coveted spot at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- This article delves into the thrilling final match, the outstanding performances of key players, and India's exceptional journey throughout the Asian Games 2023.

## Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins Gold in Women's Archery at Asian Games 2023

- India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam won the gold medal in the women's individual compound archery event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on Saturday.
- Jyothi defeated So Chaewon of South Korea 149-145 in the final to complete a hattrick of gold medals, having already won titles in the women's and mixed team events.

- This remarkable achievement etched her status as a standout athlete in the field.

## Asian Games 2023, India wins Gold in Men's Cricket

- In a historic debut at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China, the Indian men's cricket team secured the gold medal in the T20 competition.
- Their triumph came as a result of their higher T20 rankings after the final against Afghanistan was postponed due to rain.
- This victory marked a significant moment in Indian cricket history, as they chose to skip previous editions of the Asian Games in 2010 and 2014.

## Jyothi, Aditi, Parneet strike Gold in Compound Archery at Asian Games

- India's archery team continued its exceptional performance at the 19th Asian Games in 2023 by clinching the gold medal in a thrilling final match against Chinese Taipei.
- The team, consisting of Jyoti Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur, showcased their incredible skills and nerve under pressure, securing India's second gold medal in archery at the event.

## Asian Games 2023, Neeraj Chopra wins Gold in Javelin Throw

- India celebrated a remarkable 1-2 finish in the Men's Javelin Throw competition at the Asian Games 2023, held at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Park Main Stadium in the People's Republic of China.
- Neeraj Chopra secured the gold medal, while Kishore Kumar Jena clinched the silver, showcasing their exceptional talent on the grand continental stage.
- Neeraj Chopra, the reigning champion, delivered an outstanding performance by achieving a season's best throw of 88.88 meters.

## ICC Names Sachin Tendulkar As 'Global Ambassador' for ODI World Cup 2023

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made an exciting announcement on Tuesday, designating the legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the highly anticipated Cricket World Cup 2023.
- This prestigious event is scheduled to kick off tomorrow in the vibrant city of Ahmedabad, India.



## Asian Games 2023, India Team wins archery mixed team compound gold

- Indian players Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Pravin Ojas Deotale won gold in the Compound Archery Mixed Team.
- India has made its mark at the Asian Games 2023, excelling in specific sports that brought a total of 71 medals for the country.
- The duo defeated the South Korean pair of So Chaewon and Joo Jaehoon 159-158 at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre Final Field. This is the first gold for Archery in the ongoing Asian Games.

## Indian men's football team wins SAFF Under-19 Championship

- India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship after defeating Pakistan 3-0 in a dominating display in the finals at the Dashrath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- It was India's eighth youth title in the SAFF championships, a clear testimony of their regional supremacy.

## Asian Games 2023, Annu Rani wins gold in women's javelin throw

- India's Annu Rani won the gold medal in the women's javelin throw with a 69.92m throw at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.

- She became the first Indian woman to win a javelin gold in Asian Games history.
- Sri Lanka's Nadeesha Dilhan Lekamge Hatarabage, with 61.57 meters throw, and China's Huihui Lyu, with 61.29 metres throw, won silver and bronze, respectively.

## Asian Games 2023, Indian team wins gold in men's 4x400m relay

- The Indian quartet won gold medal in the men's 4x400m relay at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.
- The team comprising of Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammad Ajmal Variyathodi finished with a time of 3:01.58. India qualified for the finals by clocking the fastest time of 3:03.81 minutes in the heat 1 ahead of Qatar, Japan and Iraq.
- India also holds the Area Record in the event achieved by the same quartet at the recently concluded Athletics World Champions in Belgium.
- The team clocked 2:59.05 minutes to qualify for the finals behind the eventual champion USA in that event.
- While Qatar finished second, it were the Sri Lankans who took home a bronze after finishing third.



## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### PM Narendra Modi releases three books at Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot

- In a significant and spiritually enriching visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made his way to Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh.
- The visit, which took place recently, was marked by profound religious significance and public engagement.
- The books unveiled were 'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya,' 'Ramanandacharya Charitam,' and 'Bhagwan Shri Krishna ki Rashtraleela.'

### Vivek Agnihotri's new book "The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success" is released

- The director of The Kashmir Files, Vivek Agnihotri, has released his latest book, "The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success," in Lucknow.

- In 2023, he will also direct 'The Vaccine War,' a medical drama film.
- The book on which the film is based was written by Balram Bhargava. Bhargava's book 'Going Viral - Making of Covaxin: The Inside Story' chronicles his experiences.

### 'The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation' book Launched by Hardeep Singh Puri

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched a book titled 'The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation' authored by Ashok Tandon.
- The book showcases New India's march to glory leaving behind the unfortunate and painful memories of foreign subjugation spanning several centuries.





## AWARDS

### Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or for the eighth time in 2023

- Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati have been named Ballon d'Or winners for 2023.
- Messi won his eighth Ballon d'Or, breaking the previous record, after his vital part in Argentina's first World Cup victory since 1986.
- Messi now has three Ballons d'Or more than his opponent Cristiano Ronaldo, who last received the honor in 2017.
- Messi has now been a top-three finalist for this coveted award 14 times, finishing as runner-up five times.

### Nita Ambani Receives USISPF Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility

- Nita Ambani, Founder and Chair of Reliance Foundation, was honored with the 2023 USISPF Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility.
- The award was presented by John Chambers, Chairman of USISPF, at a reception in New Delhi attended by prominent figures from the USISPF, Indian business leaders, and Government of India officials.
- Nita Ambani, an acclaimed philanthropist and businesswoman, has impacted millions of lives in India through Reliance Foundation's initiatives in education, arts, sports, and healthcare.
- She champions women's and children's causes, contributing significantly to bridging the gender divide and enhancing women's roles in India's economy.

### US President Biden bestows the National Medal of Technology and Innovation on Indian-American scientists.

- In a historic ceremony at the White House, US President Joe Biden recently presented Ashok Gadgil and Subra Suresh with the prestigious White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation and the National Medal of Science, respectively, in recognition of their groundbreaking work that has not only advanced scientific knowledge but also improved the quality of life for countless individuals.

### West Bengal Governor Presents 'Durga Bharat Samman' Awards

- Hindustani classical vocalist and composer Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty has been conferred with the prestigious 'Durga Bharat Samman' by the Governor of West Bengal, C V Ananda Bose.
- The award, a testament to his remarkable contributions to the world of music, is a recognition of his invaluable role in preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Indian classical music.
- Bose also conferred the award, in its first edition, on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its recent successful 'Chandrayaan' mission, besides the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).

### The ICAI has received a United Nations Award for its contribution to sustainability reporting

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was honored by the United Nations for its top-ranked sustainability initiatives, including the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board.
- During the 8th World Investment Forum, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recognized ICAI for its contributions to sustainability reporting.
- The ICAI's activities seek to encourage sustainable practices in India while adhering to international norms.

### Nawanpind Sardaran Village in Punjab has been named Best Tourism Village.

- The lovely Nawanpind Sardaran village in Gurdaspur, Punjab, was just named "Best Tourism Village of India 2023" by the Union Ministry of Tourism.
- This honor was given in acknowledgment of the Sangha sisters' extraordinary efforts in maintaining their ancestral homes, Kothi and Pipal Haveli, and fostering sustainable tourism in their village.



## NTPC is the only Indian PSU on Forbes' "World's Best Employers 2023" list

- NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated energy company, has been named one of the "World's Best Employers 2023" in the Forbes World's Best Employers list, which was formally unveiled on October 10, 2023.

## Shreya Ghoshal 5th National Awards 2023

- Renowned playback singer Shreya Ghoshal has added another feather to her cap, receiving the prestigious Best Female Playback Singer award at the 69th National Film Awards.
- The award was presented to her by the Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

## Dhordo, Gujarat, has been named the UNWTO's Best Tourism Village for 2023

- The lovely town of Dhordo in Gujarat has gained international attention after being named one of the World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) 54 greatest tourism villages.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his joy at Dhordo being named the "best tourism village."
- He praised the village's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, emphasizing its potential to attract visitors from all over the world.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised the achievement, praising the Prime Minister's efforts to convert the area into a world-class tourism destination.

## CJI Chandrachud Recipient of "Award for Global Leadership" According to Harvard Law School

- The coveted 'Award for Global Leadership' was awarded to Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, a notable alumnus of Harvard Law School.
- This honor recognizes his outstanding achievements in the realm of law and justice.

## Michael Douglas will be honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement in Film Award

- Michael Douglas, a well-known Hollywood actor, is due to receive the renowned Satyajit Ray

Excellence in Film Lifetime Award at the 54th International Film Festival in Goa.

- This award celebrates his outstanding achievements to the world of cinema.
- In addition to this honor, the festival will include Hollywood actor Catherine Zeta Jones and their son.
- Michael Douglas has an extensive career that includes multiple honors and memorable cinema appearances. Let us look into this Hollywood legend's life and accomplishments.

## Professor Dr. Joyeeta Gupta Honored with Dutch Spinoza Prize for Climate Change Research

- Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, an Indian-origin professor at the University of Amsterdam, has received the renowned Dutch Spinoza Prize for her pioneering work in climate change.
- This article looks at her accomplishments, the Spinoza Prize, and the impact of her study.
- Dr. Gupta has stated her intention to use the prize money to enhance scientific research and information usage in her sector.
- Dr. Joyeeta Gupta is the University of Amsterdam's eleventh researcher to receive this distinguished honor, highlighting the institution's commitment to excellence.

## Dilip Nongmaithem Receives Bal Sahitya Puraskar In Manipuri Language

- The Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, has once again recognized and celebrated outstanding literary contributions with the prestigious 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' for the year 2023.
- This time, the honor has been conferred upon Dilip Nongmaithem, an accomplished author in the Manipuri language, for his remarkable work titled "Ibemmas Amasung Ngabemma."
- This award is a testament to his profound storytelling and significant impact on children's literature.

## Ruixiang Zhang Awarded 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in Mathematics

- Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.
- This award recognizes his remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics.

- The prize, which includes a cash award of \$10,000, will be presented during an international conference in Number Theory, held in the hometown of the renowned mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam during the third week of December.

### Sudha Murty, the First Woman to get the Global Indian Award

- Renowned author, philanthropist, and the wife of Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy, Sudha Murthy, was honored with the prestigious Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF) at a grand Indo-Canadian gala in Toronto.
- The award, which carries a value of \$50,000, is presented annually to an outstanding Indian personality who has left an indelible mark in their respective field.

### Nobel Prize 2023 Winners List, Name, Fields, Prize Money

- The Nobel Prize 2023 Winners List represents a diverse range of fields and disciplines, but they are all united by their extraordinary contributions to humanity.
- Their work has had a profound impact on our understanding of the world around us and on our ability to solve some of the most pressing challenges of our time.
- The Nobel Prize is the world’s most prestigious award, honoring individuals and organizations for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace, and economics.
- The prizes are awarded annually by the Nobel Foundation, based on the will of Swedish industrialist and inventor Alfred Nobel.
- The Nobel Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million per full Nobel Prize.

Nobel Prize Category	Winners	Date	Achievements
Physiology or Medicine	Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman	2 October	For their pioneering work on mRNA vaccines
Physics	Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L’Huillier	3 October	For experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter
Chemistry	Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov	4 October	For the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots
Literature	Jon Fosse	5 October	For his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable
Peace	Narges Mohammadi	6 October	For her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all
The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences	Claudia Goldin	9 October	For having advanced our understanding of women’s labour market outcomes

### Sivasankari, a Tamil writer, was awarded the Saraswati Samman 2022

- In 2022, Tamil writer Sivasankari was awarded the coveted 'Saraswati Samman' for her memoirs "Surya Vamsam."
- Former Union Minister M. Veerappa Moily presented her with the award, which included a citation, a plaque, and a prize of Rs. 15 lakh from the K.K. Birla Foundation.
- A Chayan Parishad (Selection Committee) led by former Supreme Court judge Arjan Kumar Sikri chose the book.
- Surya Vamsam's extraordinary literary merit was recognized by the committee's insightful judgment.



## APPOINTMENTS

### SBI Ropes in Cricket Icon MS Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

- The State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has named cricket legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its official Brand Ambassador.
- Dhoni, widely considered as one of India's best cricket captains, will play an important role in SBI's different marketing and promotional efforts.
- This move underscores SBI's aim to engaging with a younger, more varied consumer base.
- List of companies and goods founded by MS Dhoni in 2023, including Oreo, India Cements, Dream11, and Reebok.

### Amol Muzumdar takes over as India Women's Head Coach

- Amol Muzumdar, a former Mumbai batsman, has been selected as head coach of the India women's national team, a significant breakthrough in Indian women's cricket.
- The decision came after a three-member cricket advisory council of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) interviewed selected contenders for the role.
- Cricket fans and the athletic community have praised their unified recommendation for Muzumdar to take on the post.

### EC to appoint actor Rajkumar Rao as its 'National Icon'

- The Election Commission (EC) plans to induct actor Rajkumar Rao as a National Icon for his portrayal of a conscientious government clerk in the Hindi film "Newton," charged with conducting polls in Naxal-affected districts of Chhattisgarh.

### Chetan Bhagat named Brand Ambassador for Henry Harvin Education, an Edtech Startup

- Henry Harvin Education (HHE), an Edtech business, recently announced noted novelist and speaker Chetan Bhagat as its Brand Ambassador.
- This collaboration shows a common vision and commitment to empowering India's youth.
- Henry Harvin Education, founded in July 2013, is a well-known provider of training and consulting services.

### Sanjay Kumar Jain has been named CMD of the IRCTC

- Sanjay Kumar Jain, an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) of the 1990 batch, has been named as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- His nomination fills a position that had been vacant since Mahendra Pratap Maal's retirement in January 2021. The Search-Cum-Selection Committee (SCSC) recommended and then confirmed his appointment.

### Puma appoints Mohammed Shami as Brand Ambassador

- Puma, the renowned sports brand, has announced the addition of Mohammed Shami, a popular Indian fast bowler, as its brand ambassador, which is an exciting development for sports aficionados and supporters.
- This smart collaboration adds another name to Puma's outstanding list of brand ambassadors. This article looks into the specifics of this relationship as well as Shami's importance in the world of cricket.

### Dr. Meenesh Shah has been elected to the International Dairy Federation's Board of Directors

- Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman and Managing Director of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), was elected to the Board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) on October 15 during the IDF General Assembly.
- Dr. Shah's services to the IDF have been essential in promoting India's unique smallholder-based dairying system on the world stage.

### WHO has appointed ISB Prof Sarang Deo to its Tuberculosis Advisory Group

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has named Professor Sarang Deo, a recognized expert in the field of Operations Management and healthcare, to the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for Tuberculosis.
- This position recognizes his extraordinary experience and contributions to the tuberculosis fight, notably in India.

## Uday Kotak's successor as CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank will be Ashok Vaswani

- Ashok Vaswani, a seasoned international banker with an impressive career, will take over as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- This changeover follows Uday Kotak's unexpected departure from his position. The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval to the appointment.

## Tripura's New Governor: Indra Sena Reddy Nallu

- **Background:** Nallu Indrasena Reddy is a three-time MLA and a prominent BJP leader from Telangana.
- **Leadership Role:** He previously held the position of national secretary of the BJP.
- **New Responsibility:** President Murmu appointed him as the Governor of Tripura, recognizing his political experience and dedication.

## Odisha's New Governor: Raghubar Das

- **Background:** Raghubar Das served as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019.
- **Remarkable Feat:** He is the only leader who completed a full five-year term as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand.
- **Political Career:** Das was elected as an MLA in 1995 when Bihar and Jharkhand were one state.
- **Current Role:** Presently, he is a national vice president of the BJP.

## Arindam Bagchi's appointed as India's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva

- Arindam Bagchi, the Ministry of External Affairs' current Additional Secretary, has been named India's next Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.
- This momentous appointment represents a substantial shift in India's diplomatic representation in Geneva.
- Arindam Bagchi will succeed the current Indian representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Indra Mani Pandey, who took over in July 2020.
- Pandey is set to return to New Delhi after a three-year stay, paving the way for Bagchi to take over.

## Manipur High Court Chief Justice Siddharth Mridul appointed

- Three months after the Supreme Court Collegium recommended him, Justice Siddharth Mridul was named Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.
- On October 9, the Centre notified the Supreme Court that a new chief judge of the Manipur High Court would be appointed 'shortly,' indicating that the file had been cleared and the remainder of the procedure would begin soon.

## Historic India Re-election as AIBD General Council President

- India has been re-elected as President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the unprecedented third time.
- This extraordinary achievement, declared by Apurva Chandra, Secretary of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, marks a watershed moment in AIBD's history.
- The decision demonstrates the enormous trust that broadcasting organisations in Asia Pacific and around the world have in India.

## N Ramaswamy GIC Re has appointed him as Chairman and Managing Director

- The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) made a big statement on October 4, 2023, regarding the selection of Ramaswamy N. as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).
- This appointment, which will take effect on October 1, 2023, is the result of a decision by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and signals a change in leadership at the renowned insurance institution.

## RBI appoints Muneesh Kapur as Executive Director

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the appointment of Muneesh Kapur as an Executive Director (ED) from October 3, 2023.
- Mr. Kapur's important promotion elevates him to a critical leadership position inside the central bank.

## Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti takes over as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM, took over as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, signifying a significant change in the Indian Navy's command.

- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti brings a plethora of knowledge and skills to his new job after a remarkable career spanning over 35 years.

### **Lt General Raghu Srinivasan as new BRO Chief**

- Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan on Saturday, Chief Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan took over as the 28th Director General (DG) of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- This transfer comes after the retirement of Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry.

### **Reliance's JioMart ropes in MS Dhoni as Brand Ambassador**

- JioMart from Reliance Industries ropes in MS Dhoni Reliance Retail's JioMart has appointed Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India's most iconic cricketer, as its brand ambassador.
- Dhoni's involvement coincides with the rebranding of JioMart's festive campaign to "JioUtsav, Celebrations of India," which is set to debut on October 8, 2023.

### **The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has elected Navneet Munot as its new Chairman**

- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has elected Navneet Munot, Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, as Chairman during a Board meeting.
- Munot, a Chartered Accountant and CFA license holder, has worked in the financial services industry for over three decades.
- He will take over for A Balasubramanian, Managing Director of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company, who will finish his second straight term in October.
- AMFI's outgoing Chairman, A Balasubramanian, has played a vital role in the organization.
- His leadership has been essential in establishing the mutual fund business in India, having served two consecutive terms.

### **B K Mohanty takes over charge IREDA's Director of Finance**

- Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty took over as Director (Finance) of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA).
- Dr. Mohanty, a highly renowned senior finance specialist with a distinguished career in the Indian power sector spanning over 25 years, brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that will benefit IREDA's leadership.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) accepted Dr. Mohanty's nomination as Director (Finance) of IREDA.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1 October is International Day of the Older**

- Every year on October 1st, the International Day of the Elderly is held to raise awareness of the issues confronting the elderly and to support the development of a society for all ages.
- On 14 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating 1 October as the International Day of Older Persons.

### **1 October is International Coffee Day**

- Every year on the first of October, millions of individuals throughout the world, including growers, roasters, baristas, and coffee shop owners, work hard to manufacture and serve the beverage in an edible form.

### **1 October is World Vegetarian Day**

- Every year on October 1st, the world celebrates World Vegetarian Day.
- The North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS) formed it in 1977, and the International Vegetarian Union supported it in 1978.

### **Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated on October 2nd**

- Every year on October 2nd, Gandhi Jayanti commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. He was born in Porbandar, Gujarat, on October 2, 1869.
- He is an inspiration in the lives of great world leaders, as well as in ours.

## 2 October - International Day of Nonviolence

- The International Day of Nonviolence is commemorated on October 2 to commemorate the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who was instrumental in India's independence.
- The General Assembly established the International Day of Nonviolence on June 15, 2007, to disseminate the message of nonviolence through education and public awareness.

## Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti is on October 2nd

- Every year on October 2, the country commemorates the birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister from 1964 to 1966.

## 2 October (Monday, October 1): World Habitat Day

- Every year on the first Monday of October, the world celebrates World Habitat Day.
- It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1985, and the first time it was honoured globally was in 1986.

## The fourth of October is World Animal Welfare Day

- On October 4, people around the world observe World Animal Welfare Day to raise awareness about taking action for animal rights and welfare around the world.
- It is critical to raise global welfare standards.

## 5 October is World Teachers' Day

- Every year on the 5th of October, the world commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers in 1966. Without a doubt, this Recommendation establishes standards for teachers' rights and obligations, education, recruitment, and employment, among other things.

## 7 October is World Cotton Day

- It is marked globally on October 7 to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of cotton around the world.

## 8 October is Indian Air Force Day

- On October 8, India celebrates Indian Air Force Day. Indian Air Force Day was created on October 8, 1932.

## 9 October is World Postal Day

- Every year on October 9, World Postal Day is observed to enhance public awareness of the importance of the postal sector to individuals and businesses.
- The Universal Postal Union was founded in Bern, Switzerland in 1874, and its anniversary was named World Postal Day in 1969 by the Universal Postal Union Congress in Tokyo, Japan.

## National Postal Day is October 10th

- Every year on October 10, India celebrates National Post Day. It is commemorated to recognise the Indian Postal Department's role for more than 150 years.
- The British established a postal service in India. Lord Dalhousie founded it in 1854. The Ministry of Communications manages the world's most widely utilised postal system.
- There are nine postal zones in India, 23 postal circles, and one Army Post Office. Post offices in India employ a 6-digit PIN Code system that was adopted in 1972.

## World Mental Health Day falls on October 10th

- Every year on October 10th, World Mental Health Day is commemorated to raise awareness about the global prevalence of suicide and the role that each of us can play in preventing it.
- The World Federation for Mental Health organises this day.
- WHO, the International Association for Suicide Prevention, and the United for Global Mental Health also support it.

## 11 October - International Day of the Girl Child

- On October 11, the International Day of the Girl Child is held to increase awareness of and support for girls' rights.

## 13 October is International Disaster Risk Reduction Day

- Every year on October 13th, the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is commemorated to promote awareness about disaster risk reduction.
- The United Nations General Assembly established the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction in 1989.



## World Standards Day falls on October 14th

- Every year on October 14th, World Standards Day is commemorated to raise awareness among regulators, businesses, and consumers about the importance of standardisation to the global economy.

## 15 October is World Students' Day

- Every year on October 15th, World Students' Day commemorates the birth anniversary of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- This day commemorates and pays tribute to him and his contributions to science and technology, as well as his position as a teacher throughout his scientific and political careers.

## The 16th of October is World Food Day

- Every year on October 16, World Food Day is observed to educate people about the importance of eating well.
- The United Nations founded and launched the Food and Agriculture Organisation on this day in 1945.

## 16 October: World Anaesthesia Day

- World Anaesthesia Day is celebrated on October 16 to mark the first successful demonstration of diethyl ether anesthesia in 1846.

## 17 October - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17 October every year.
- This day marks the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on 20 November 1989.

## 20 October is World Statistics Day

- Every five years on October 20, the world celebrates World Statistics Day. The first such day occurred on October 20, 2010.
- The third World Statistics Day took place this year.
- The United Nations Statistical Commission established the day to recognize the importance of data authenticity and reliability around the world.

## 21 October - Police Commemoration Day

- The day is observed on October 21 to honour police officials who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

## 23 October - Mole Day

- Mole Day is observed on 23 October every year.
- This day commemorates Avogadro's Number which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry.
- This day was created to generate interest in chemistry.

## 24 October - United Nations Day

- Every year on October 24, United Nations Day commemorates the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into effect.
- This day has been honoured since 1948, and in 1971 the United Nations General Assembly suggested that it be observed as a public holiday by all member countries.

## 31 October - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day

- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed on 31 October every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.
- He had played an important role in unifying the country.



## OBITUARIES

### Assam Sarat Barkotoky, a former pastor and retired teacher, died

- Assam is in mourning after the death of a significant political figure, Sarat Barkotoky, a former MLA and minister who died in the early hours of October 30.
- Barkotoky, noted for his unflinching devotion to the Indian National Congress, had a long and successful political career, serving as a minister of

state in the government of former Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia.

### Matthew Perry, renowned for his role as Chandler in 'Friends,' died at 54

- "Friends" star Matthew Perry was found dead in a hot tub at his Los Angeles home. He was 54. Matthew Perry's unexpected passing has left the world in shock and mourning.

- The iconic actor, known for his portrayal of Chandler Bing in the legendary TV series "Friends," was not just a beloved entertainer but a true comedy genius.
- Matthew Perry's journey in the world of entertainment began at a young age. During the 1980s and early 1990s, he appeared in guest roles on popular TV shows such as "Charles in Charge" and "Beverly Hills, 90210."
- He also had the opportunity to act alongside the late River Phoenix in the film "A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon."
- His early experiences in the industry laid the foundation for what would become an illustrious career.

### **Bishan Singh Bedi, a legendary spinner and former Indian captain, died at the age of 77**

- Bishan Singh Bedi, India's most famous cricketer, died at the age of 77.
- Bedi's contributions to the sport as a left-arm spinner and former captain of the Indian cricket team left an everlasting impression on the cricketing world.
- Bishan Singh Bedi's impact on cricket is immeasurable. His abilities as a spinner, leadership on the field, and contributions to Indian cricket as a mentor and selector will be remembered for the rest of his life.
- While the cricketing community mourns his passing, his legacy lives on, and his name continues to inspire future generations of cricketers.

### **MS Gill, the former Chief Election Commissioner, has died**

- Manohar Singh Gill, the former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), died on Sunday in a South Delhi hospital, leaving behind a record of public service and dedication.
- He was a key figure in Indian bureaucracy and politics.
- Manohar Singh Gill, who died recently at the age of 86, started his career as a young official. During this time, he worked for Parkash Singh Badal, who was the Punjab Chief minister at the time.
- Gill's early years in government laid the groundwork for a long and successful career committed to the benefit of the country.

### **Co-founder of Asian Paints, Ashwin Dani passed away at 79**

- The world of business recently bid farewell to a visionary leader, Ashwin Dani, the Co-founder & non-executive director of Asian Paints, who passed away on 28 September 2023 at the age of 79.
- Ashwin Dani's contributions to Asian Paints and the global paint industry have left an indelible mark.

### **Renowned Bangladeshi Scientist Saleemul Huq passed away at 71**

- Saleemul Huq, a Bangladeshi-British scientist who gained renown as a "climate revolutionary" for his efforts to make high-polluting countries help the world's poorest and most vulnerable states deal with the devastating impacts of climate change has passed away in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka.
- Saleemul Huq was born in Karachi, Pakistan, on Oct. 2, 1952, to parents who worked in the Pakistani diplomatic service before Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, gained independence after a 1971 war.
- He grew up in Europe, Asia, and Africa due to his parents' diplomatic postings and moved to Britain in the 1970s to study at Imperial College London, where he received a doctorate in botany in 1978.

### **Bajjnath Aggarwal, trustee of Geeta Press Gorakhpur, passes away**

- Bajjnath Aggarwal, the dedicated trustee of Gita Press Gorakhpur, passed away at the age of 90, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering commitment to social welfare.
- As a trustee for 40 years, Aggarwal's life was marked by his relentless efforts to create positive social change. He had been associated with Gita Press for an astounding 73 years, having joined in 1950.
- In a remarkable recognition of its contribution to social, economic, and political transformation through non-violent and Gandhian methods, Gita Press, Gorakhpur, was honored with the prestigious Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021.

### **Veteran Communist Party Leader Anathalavattom Anandan passed away**

- Veteran CPI(M) leader and former legislator Anathalavattom Anandan, who played a key role in building the trade union base for the party in the state, passed away at a hospital on Thursday.
- He was 86 years old.

- Anandan's demise occurred while he was undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College hospital in Kerala for a prolonged illness.
- Anathalavattom Anandan was born in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram district, in 1937.
- His journey in the world of politics began in 1954 when he actively participated in an agitation advocating for higher wages for coir workers in his village.



## Admissions Open For UPSC CSE 2023-24

# Optional Subject



**Akhilesh Sir**  
**Geography**



**Shewta Ma'am**  
**Sociology**



**Ajay Sir**  
**PSIR & Public  
Administration**



1. Who has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2023?
  - (a) Dalai Lama
  - (b) Nargis Mohammadi
  - (c) Sunita Krishnan
  - (d) Arundhati Roy
2. Who has been appointed as the new Executive Director by the Reserve Bank of India?
  - (a) Ajay Sinha
  - (b) Munish Kapoor
  - (c) Rahul Awasthi
  - (d) Vinay Rana
3. Who has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for the year 2023?
  - (a) Lewis Gluck
  - (b) Peter Handke
  - (c) Annie Arno
  - (d) Nargis Mohammadi
4. Who is the Chairman of State Bank of India whose tenure has been extended till August 2024?
  - (a) Rajeev Saini
  - (b) Vinod Kala
  - (c) Alakh Kumar
  - (d) Dinesh Khara
5. Which cricket legend has been appointed by ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023?
  - (a) Kapil Dev
  - (b) Sachin Tendulkar
  - (c) Brian Lara
  - (d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
6. Who has become the first Indian female athlete to win a gold medal in javelin throw in the history of Asian Games?
  - (a) Annu Rani
  - (b) Anju Bobby George
  - (c) Preeti Chaudhary
  - (d) Alka Sinha
7. RBI has approved the merger of fintech startup Slice with which bank?
  - (a) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
  - (b) Union Bank of India
  - (c) North East Small Finance Bank
  - (d) Bandhan Bank
8. How many scientists have been jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in the year 2023?
  - (a) 2
  - (b) 3
  - (c) 4
  - (d) 5
9. Outside India, Dr. In which country will the largest statue of BR Ambedkar be unveiled?
  - (a) England
  - (b) France
  - (c) Germany
  - (d) USA
10. Who has been appointed as mentor by Afghanistan cricket team for ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023?
  - (a) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
  - (b) Dinesh Karthik
  - (c) Ajay Jadeja
  - (d) Akash Chopra
11. Who flagged off Gujarat's first heritage train?
  - (a) Narendra Modi
  - (b) Amit Shah
  - (c) Rajnath Singh
  - (d) Ratan Tata
12. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Project is related to India and which country?
  - (a) Nepal
  - (b) Bhutan
  - (c) Bangladesh
  - (d) Sri Lanka
13. Who has been awarded the prestigious Ballon d'Or Award for the year 2023?
  - (a) Emiliano Martinez
  - (b) Lionel Messi
  - (c) Erling Holland
  - (d) Vinicius Junior
14. Who created a new national record in women's 20 km race walk at the 37th National Games in Goa?
  - (a) Priyanka Goswami
  - (b) Aditi Sinha
  - (c) Akanksha Singh
  - (d) Rupali Shah
15. When is National Unity Day celebrated every year?
  - (a) 29 October
  - (b) 30 October
  - (c) 31 October
  - (d) 01 November
16. Who has become the fifth Indian batsman to complete 18,000 runs in international cricket?
  - (a) Virat Kohli
  - (b) Rohit Sharma

- (c) K L Rahul
- (d) Hardik Pandya

**17. What is the name given to the operation launched to bring back Indians stranded in Israel?**

- (a) 'Operation Vijay'
- (b) 'Operation Samrat'
- (c) 'Operation Ganga'
- (d) 'Operation Ajay'

**18. Which player has made the record of most sixes in international cricket?**

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) David Warner
- (c) Mohammad Rizwan
- (d) Virat Kohli

**19. Who has been nominated by World Athletics for this year's Athlete of the Year?**

- (a) Neeraj Chopra
- (b) Seema Punia
- (c) Hima Das
- (d) Murali Srishankar

**20. Who has taken charge as the National President of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce?**

- (a) Anil Sinha
- (b) Pankaj Bohra
- (c) Rajeev Awasthi
- (d) Deepak Kumar

**21. Which state has recently declared the Gangetic dolphin as the state aquatic animal?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

**22. The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of which new autonomous body?**

- (a) 'Mera Bharat, Mera Desh'
- (b) 'Mera Yuva Bharat'
- (c) 'Mera Gavn, Mera Desh'
- (d) 'Yuva Desh'

**23. In which state will the 37th National Games be organized?**

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Assam
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Goa

**24. Which team has made the record of the biggest run chase in the history of ODI World Cup?**

- (a) India

- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Australia
- (d) Sri Lanka

**25. What code name has Israel given to its ongoing fight against Hamas?**

- (a) Operation Gaza
- (b) Operation Iron Man
- (c) Operation Iron Sword
- (d) Operation Attack

**26. Who is the richest Indian according to Hurun India Rich List 2023?**

- (a) Gautam Adani
- (b) Adar Poonawala
- (c) Ratan Tata
- (d) Mukesh Ambani

**27. In which state did Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launch 124 PM-Shri schools?**

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Assam
- (d) Punjab

**28. The Union Cabinet has approved the Jamrani Dam Project, it belongs to which state?**

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Rajasthan

**29. Who has been elected as the next King of Malaysia?**

- (a) Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar
- (b) Al-Sultan Abdullah
- (c) Al-Sultan Ibrahim
- (d) none of these

**30. Who has been appointed by the Election Commission of India as its national icon?**

- (a) Kapil Dev
- (b) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- (c) Anushka Sharma
- (d) Rajkumar Rao

**31. Which player has made the record of fastest century in ODI World Cup history?**

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) Glenn Maxwell
- (c) Aiden Markram
- (d) Babar Azam

**32. Who has been made the new head coach of the Indian women's cricket team?**

- (a) Amol Muzumdar
- (b) Ramesh Powar
- (c) Nikhil Chopra
- (d) Ajay Jadeja

**33. India's first Nano DAP plant has been inaugurated in which state?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Punjab

**34. Which country has named the cyclonic storm 'Hamoon' that arose in the Bay of Bengal?**

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Iran
- (d) Kuwait

**35. When is United Nations World Development Information Day celebrated every year?**

- (a) 24 October
- (b) 25 October
- (c) 26 October
- (d) 27 October

**36. Who has been elected as the new CEO and MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank?**

- (a) Ajay Kapoor
- (b) Uday Kotak
- (c) Ashok Vaswani
- (d) Ajay Sinha

**37. The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of Central Tribal University in which state?**

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Jharkhand

**38. Which state/UT banned the cultivation of PUSA-44 paddy variety?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Assam
- (d) Kerala

**39. The Over-the-top (OTT) platforms are regulated under which rules in India?**

- (a) Information Technology Rules
- (b) Press Council of India (PCI) Rules
- (c) Cinematograph Rules
- (d) Copyright Act

**40. Which institution has launched a platform called SnapFlood to contribute flood-related information?**

- (a) India Meteorological Department
- (b) IIT Hyderabad
- (c) IISc Bengaluru
- (d) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology

**41. 'Hamas' is a militant group which originated in which country/region?**

- (a) Syria
- (b) Palestine
- (c) Iran
- (d) Azerbaijan

**42. Watermeal, which was seen in the news, is a :**

- (a) Smallest Flowering plant
- (b) Largest Flowering plant
- (c) Smallest fruit
- (d) Largest fruit

**43. The 2023 edition of CHAKRAVAT 2023 exercise is being hosted by the Indian Navy at which state/UT?**

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Goa
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Tamil Nadu

**44. Which country launched the 'Protocol for Identification and Management of Malnutrition in Children'?**

- (a) India
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Nepal

**45. Which institution released the 'Gender Gaps in Agriculture Productivity and Public Spending in Nigeria' report?**

- (a) WEF
- (b) World Bank
- (c) IMF
- (d) African Central Bank

**46. As per a recent report, which city emerged as the most central node in tortoise / hard-shell turtle trafficking?**

- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Vishakhapatnam

**47. Which institution launched 'Noor 3 imaging satellite' into orbit?**

- (a) Israel

- (b) UAE
- (c) Iran
- (d) North Korea

**48. Which country launched '100 Practical Use Cases of Generative AI in Media.?'**

- (a) USA
- (b) Australia
- (c) UAE
- (d) France

**49. Which Indian state recently launched several Inland Water Vessels including Tug boats and Rescue Vessel?**

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Assam
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Uttarakhand

**50. Which is the second state after Bihar to conduct a caste survey?**

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Uttarakhand

**ANSWERS**

**1. Answer: b**

- Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi has been honored with the Nobel Peace Prize this year. The Norwegian Nobel Committee has given her this award for her efforts in the fight against oppression of women in Iran and for human rights and freedom. Nargis Mohammadi is also a human rights activist.

**2. Answer: b**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Munish Kapoor as Executive Director. As Executive Director, he will handle the Department of Economic and Policy Research. Before this he was Advisor in-charge of Monetary Policy Department and Secretary of Monetary Policy Committee. Kapoor has also served as an advisor to the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during 2012–15.

**3. Answer: c**

- The Nobel Prize for Literature for the year 2023 has been announced. This time this award has been given to Norwegian writer Jon Fosse. He has been given this award for his innovative plays and prose works. French writer Annie Ernaux was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in the year 2022. The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.

**4. Answer: d**

- The tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara has been extended till August 2024. Khara was made the Chairman of SBI on October 7, 2020 for a period of three years. State Bank of India is a public sector bank. Its headquarters is in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**5. Answer: b**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has appointed India's legendary former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the Global Ambassador for the One Day Cricket World Cup starting in Ahmedabad from October 5. Tendulkar has participated in the ODI World Cup six times. Before the opening match between England and New Zealand, Sachin Tendulkar will come on the field with the World Cup trophy and announce the start of the tournament.

**6. Answer: a**

- India's Annu Rani created history in the Hangzhou Asian Games by winning the gold medal in javelin throw. Annu Rani won the gold medal by throwing the javelin 62.92 meters. With this, Annu has become the first Indian female athlete to win gold in javelin throw in the Asiad. Nadeesha Dilhan of Sri Lanka won the silver medal. This is Annu's second medal in the Asian Games. India has ended its campaign in the Asian Games 2023 with 107 medals.

**7. Answer: c**

- RBI has approved the merger of fintech startup Slice with North East Small Finance Bank. Bengaluru-based Slice was valued at around US\$1.8 billion last year. Slice founder and CEO Rajan Bajaj said that we see this as an opportunity. Slice startup was started in the year 2016.

**8. Answer: b**

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has announced the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics jointly awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Cruz and Anne L'Huillier. He has been given this award for his studies related to Attosecond Pulses of light in matter. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announces the Nobel Prize winners in Physics, Chemistry and Economics every year. The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman.

**9. Answer: d**

- Outside India, Dr. The largest statue of BR Ambedkar will be unveiled in the United States on October 14. The 19-foot statue of Ambedkar has been named 'Statue of Equality' and will be inaugurated in Maryland. Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, politician and social reformer known as the architect of the Indian Constitution.

**10. Answer: c**

- Former Indian cricketer Ajay Jadeja has been appointed as the mentor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. Ajay Jadeja has played 15 Test matches for India from 1992 to 2000, in which he has scored 576 runs at an average of 26.18, with 4 half-centuries and a best of 96 runs.



**11. Answer: a**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Gujarat's first heritage train, which will be run by an electric engine. The interior of this train has been made of wood. This train with three coaches will connect 'Ekta Nagar' or 'Kevadiya' to Ahmedabad. It is noteworthy that Sardar Vallabhai Patel's memorial 'Statue of Unity' is situated in Kevadiya itself.

**12. Answer: c**

- Agartala-Akhaura Rail Project is a railway link project between India and Bangladesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will jointly inaugurate the Cross Border Railway Project. This railway link project will promote trade between the two countries. After its launch, the travel time on Agartala-Kolkata route will reduce from 31 hours to 10 hours.

**13. Answer: b**

- Football legend Lionel Messi has been honored with the prestigious Ballon d'Or award for the year 2023. Messi has won the Ballon d'Or award for a record eighth time. The 67th Ballon d'Or Awards was held at the Theater du Châtelet in Paris, France. The Ballon d'Or is an annual award presented by the French magazine France Football.

**14. Answer: a**

- Priyanka Goswami of Uttar Pradesh has created a new national record in women's 20 km race walk at the 37th National Games in Goa. He completed the race in 1 hour 36 minutes 35 seconds. Maharashtra's Tejas Ashok Shirse set a new national sports record by completing the men's 110m hurdles in 13.80 seconds.

**15. Answer: c**

- National Unity Day is celebrated every year in India on the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31 October. PM Modi participated in the National Unity Day celebrations in Kevadiya, Gujarat. In the year 2014, the Government of India had declared the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as National Unity Day. Sardar Patel was the first Deputy Prime Minister of independent India.

**16. Answer: b**

- In the 29th match of the ODI World Cup 2023, Indian captain Rohit Sharma achieved a big achievement, he became the fifth Indian batsman to complete 18,000 runs in international cricket. Rohit is the 20th batsman in the world and 5th from India to achieve this feat. Rohit has also become the first captain to complete 1,000 ODI runs this year.

**17. Answer: a**

- Under Operation 'Ajay', the Government of India has launched a campaign to bring Indian citizens trapped in Israel safely to India. 212 Indians have been brought safely from Israel in the first flight. It is noteworthy that many Indians are stranded there amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

**18. Answer: a**

- In the World Cup 2023 match played against Afghanistan at Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, Rohit broke the record of most sixes in international cricket. Along with this, he also made the record of most centuries in ODI World Cup history. Rohit has also become the joint fastest batsman to score 1,000 runs in the ODI World Cup.

**19. Answer: a**

- World Athletics has nominated Neeraj Chopra for the Male Athlete of the Year award 2023. World Athletics has announced

this by issuing a statement. Along with this, the voting process for the World Athletics Award 2023 has also started. Neeraj Chopra is an Olympic and World Championship gold medal winner.

**20. Answer: b**

- Pankaj Bohra, a chartered accountant from Ahmedabad, has assumed the charge of National President of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC). IACC has 27 partner organizations in the US, including 14 offices in India, which help promote bilateral trade and investment between India and the US. The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce was established in 1968.

**21. Answer: d**

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has declared the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal. Its scientific name is Platanista gangetica. Ganga dolphin has been placed in the Endangered category in the IUCN Red List. In 2009, the Ganga dolphin was recognized as the National Aquatic Animal by the Government of India.

**22. Answer: b**

- The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of 'Mera Yuva Bharat' (MY Bharat), an autonomous body for youth development and youth-led development. This institution will prove helpful to the youth in realizing their dreams and building a developed India. It will be started and dedicated to the nation on 31st October, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

**23. Answer: d**

- This time the 37th National Games is being organized in Goa. Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said that the state is fully prepared to organize it. This time, 43 sports competitions will be organized in the 37th National Games. It will be organized from 26 October to 9 November. The last National Games were organized in Gujarat
- in which 33 sports were included. Players from all 28 states and 8 union territories of India will participate in it.

**24. Answer: b**

- In the 8th match of the World Cup 2023 being held in India, Pakistan has defeated Sri Lanka by 6 wickets. With this, Pakistan also made the record of highest run chase in the World Cup. Sri Lanka made a huge score of 344/9 in 50 overs. In response to which Pakistan achieved this huge target by losing 4 wickets. Ireland holds the record for the second most successful run chase in the World Cup.

**25. Answer: c**

- Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip. The Gaza Strip is a 41 km (25 mi) long and 10 km wide area between Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea. About 2.3 million people live here, which is one of the highest population density areas in the world.

**26. Answer: d**

- According to Hurun India Rich List 2023, Mukesh Ambani has overtaken Gautam Adani to become the richest Indian. During this period, Mukesh Ambani's wealth has increased from ₹165,100 crore in 2014 to approximately ₹808,700 crore. Hurun India and 360 Wealth have recently released the 360 One Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023. Adani is in second place with assets worth ₹474,800 crore.

**27. Answer: a**

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, launched 124 PM-Shri schools in the state. These schools have been designed with smart classrooms and information and communication technology (ICT) laboratories. PM-Shri School Scheme is a central government scheme.

**28. Answer: c**

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to 'Jamrani Dam Project' of Uttarakhand. The construction of this project will solve the problem of drinking water and irrigation in Haldwani and surrounding areas. Jamrani Dam Project will be constructed on 'Gola' river, 10 km upstream from Kathgodam in Nainital.

**29. Answer: a**

- The royal families of Malaysia have elected Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar as the next king of the country. He will take over from outgoing King Al-Sultan Abdullah on January 31 next year. Malaysia has a unique tradition in which the heads of its nine royal families become kings on a rotating basis for a five-year term.

**30. Answer: d**

- The Election Commission of India has appointed actor Rajkumar Rao as its national icon. National icons make people aware of voting. Rajkumar Rao was given the National Award for Best Actor for his film 'Newton'. In August this year, the Election Commission had made former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar its national icon.

**31. Answer: b**

- Australia's Glenn Maxwell has scored the fastest century in World Cup history. Glenn Maxwell completed his century against Netherlands in just 40 balls. During his innings, Maxwell hit 9 fours and 8 sixes. In this case, Maxwell broke the record of South Africa's Aiden Markram who had scored a century in 49 balls.

**32. Answer: a**

- Domestic cricket legend Amol Muzumdar has been named the new head coach of the Indian women's cricket team by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Muzumdar has previously worked as the batting coach for Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

**33. Answer: c**

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the country's first Nano DAP plant in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. On this occasion, he said that nanotechnology will prove to be a game changer in the agriculture sector in the coming days. Nano Liquid Dapp Plant in Kalol has been set up by IFFCO at a cost of Rs 300 crore. IFFCO was established in 1967.

**34. Answer: c**

- Cyclonic storm 'Hphoon' that arose in the Bay of Bengal hit the south-eastern coast of Bangladesh on 25 October 2023. Tropical cyclones that form in the Indian Ocean are ranked by the 13 member countries. Cyclonic storm 'Hphoon' has been named by Iran. 'Hamun' is a Persian word that refers to temporary desert lakes and marshlands.

**35. Answer: a**

- The United Nations (UN) celebrates World Development Information Day every year on 24 October. It was established in

the year 1972. The purpose of this day is to focus attention on development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them. This day is celebrated along with United Nations Day, which was established in 1945.

**36. Answer: c**

- Ashok Vaswani has been selected as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Kotak Mahindra Bank. He will replace the bank's founder Uday Kotak. Ashok Vaswani is currently the Chairman of US-Israeli fintech firm Pagaya Technologies.

**37. Answer: a**

- Recently, the Union Cabinet gave its nod to establish a Central Tribal University in Telangana through an amendment to the Central Universities Act, 2009.
- The Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University at Mulugu District in Telangana, will be established with a funding of Rs. 889.07 crore.

**38. Answer: b**

- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann announced recently that the state will prohibit the cultivation of the PUSA-44 paddy variety starting from next year, due to its high water consumption and stubble production.
- Previously, this variety accounted for 70 to 80 percent of the total paddy cultivation area in the state, and the farmers were highly content with its impressive yield.

**39. Answer: a**

- The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) issued an interim order, stating that over-the-top (OTT) platforms are not under the jurisdiction of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- Instead, they are regulated by the Information Technology Rules of 2021, which were notified by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

**40. Answer: b**

- Researchers announce the launch of a platform called SnapFlood to encourage citizens to contribute flood-related information.
- The Urban Flood Information System (UFIS) which is being developed by IIT Hyderabad researchers, will help minimize the impact of urban flooding in Hyderabad.

**41. Answer: b**

- Palestinian Islamist group Hamas launched the biggest attack on Israel in years, firing at least 5,000 missiles rockets at it.
- In retaliation to it, Israel declared a 'war' and launched Operation "Iron Swords" to neutralise Hamas militants in Gaza. As per the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), more than 1,000 Israelis have been killed in the war on Hamas.

**42. Answer: a**

- Scientists from Mahidol University in Thailand have been investigating the potential of watermeal, which is the smallest flowering plant on Earth, as a potential source of nutrition and oxygen for astronauts.
- This research was conducted at the European Space Agency's (ESA) ESTEC technical center in the Netherlands, where the tiny aquatic plants were exposed to hypergravity conditions using ESA's Large Diameter Centrifuge (LDC).

**43. Answer: b**

- CHAKRAVAT 2023 is the annual joint HADR exercise that involves the participation of all three Services, Paramilitary

Forces, as well as several disaster response organisations, NGOs, academic institutions and international organisations.

- The 2023 edition of the event will enhance collaboration among national stakeholders and include participation from eight countries in the Indian Ocean Region.

**44. Answer: a**

- The 'Protocol for Identification and Management of Malnutrition in Children' was unveiled recently by the Indian Government.
- It is the outcome of the collaboration between Union Women and Child Development Ministry, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Ayush. It provides detailed steps for identification and management of malnourished children at the Anganwadi level, including decision making regarding referral, nutritional management and follow-up care.

**45. Answer: b**

- A report titled 'Gender Gaps in Agriculture Productivity and Public Spending in Nigeria' was released recently by the World Bank.
- According to this report, the Nigerian economy can earn an additional 8.1 million USD each year if it closes gender gaps in the agricultural sector.

**46. Answer: c**

- A new report reveals that tortoises or hard-shell turtles from India are traded across a more extensive global network compared to soft-shell turtles.
- The former are primarily sought after as pets, while the latter is primarily traded for meat, within India. The illegally traded tortoise / hard-shell turtles were often found to be transported by air. Chennai emerged as the most central node in tortoise / hard-shell turtle trafficking, ranking as the top exporting and intermediary district.

**47. Answer: c**

- Iran's Revolutionary Guards successfully launched a third military satellite into orbit.
- The Noor 3 imaging satellite orbits at an altitude of 450 kilometres above the earth's surface and was launched by the three-stage Qased, or messenger carrier, which launched its predecessor Noor 2 in 2022.

**48. Answer: c**

- UAE Ministry of Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, in collaboration with the Dubai Media Council, has officially launched a guide titled '100 Practical Use Cases of Generative AI in Media.'
- The launch took place on the opening day of the 21st Arab Media Forum in Dubai.

**49. Answer: b**

- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated an expansion of the state's Inland Water Transport fleet.
- As many as 10 Steel Catamaran Vessels, 3 Tug Boats, and a Search and Search and Rescue (SAR) boat were flagged off at the event. The aim is to utilize Assam's extensive river systems to their fullest potential.

**50. Answer: a**

- Rajasthan government has issued an order to conduct a caste survey in the state. It will become the second state in India to carry out such a survey, after Bihar.
- Bihar had previously unveiled the results of its caste survey on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, revealing that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) constituted 63 percent of the state's total population.