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WBCS GAZETTE

APRIL 2023

- › *India's first water Metro*
- › *Gond Painting*
- › *World Military Expenditure*
- › *LIGO-India/Indian Hockey*



IASOGYAN
PREDICT THE UNPREDICTABLE

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Our Super Achievers in WBCS 2020



MONOJIT CHOWDHURY
RANK 2
GROUP A



MRINMOY MAJI
RANK 45



ABHIK PATLA
RANK 46



ARGHYA BHATTACHARYA
RANK 54



BANANI MAJUMDER
RANK 83



CHANDAN SAHA
RANK 101



DEBNATH MAHATA
RANK 111
GROUP B



AMIT TAMANG
RANK 115



JAGONNATH BISWAS
RANK 161



SUBRATA DAS
RANK 166



UDAYAN
RANK 13



RAJARSHI
RANK 22

Congratulation Toppers!

WEST BENGAL

3.1% of cybercrime convictions in West Bengal in 2019-21

News

- According to a report tabled in Parliament, West Bengal has achieved a 3.1% conviction rate of all the persons who were charge-sheeted for cybercrime-related offences in the period of 2019-2021.

Details

- The number is slightly below the national average of 3.4%, and much lower than Jharkhand, which has a 6.6% conviction rate.
- Out of the 1,749 cybercrime cases reported in West Bengal, which constitute 1.8% of the total cybercrime cases in India, 773 persons were charge-sheeted and 663 were arrested.
- The number of cybercrime cases in Kolkata increased by 28% in 2021, mainly due to the pandemic-induced rise in cyber fraud.
- Experts have suggested that there is a need for effective trial monitoring, digital evidence collection and information-sharing among agencies to improve the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime cases in West Bengal.

SKOCH Awards

News

- The transport sector of West Bengal has been recognized with three prestigious SKOCH Awards for its outstanding performance and initiatives.

Details

- **The first award, a Silver**, was given to West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) for transforming the 150-year-old Kolkata Tramways into a modern and attractive mode of transport.
- **The second award, an Order of Merit**, was given to WBTC for implementing e-governance in the bus ticketing system. This has resulted in increased revenue collection, better tracking of buses and enhanced traffic management.
- **The third award, another Order of Merit**, was given to WBTC for reviving the water transport sector by launching low-cost river cruises at Rs 39 and providing facilities like a boat library.

Swasthya Sathi

News

- West Bengal allocates Rs 5 lakh under Swasthya Sathi for a heart transplant

Details

- The Swasthya Sathi scheme aims to reduce the financial burden on the patients and their families by providing them with a one-time grant of Rs 5 lakh.
- The scheme will be funded by the state government and will be administered by the health department.
- The health department has also issued guidelines for the selection of the beneficiaries and the hospitals that will perform the heart transplant surgery. The beneficiaries will have to be below 65 years of age and have a valid Swasthya Sathi card.

National Health Mission

News

- The West Bengal government has recently announced a new policy that extends the retirement age of health mission doctors from 62 to 67 years.

Details

- This decision is aimed at addressing the shortage of doctors in the state, especially in rural and remote areas where health services are often inadequate.
- The health mission doctors are those who work under various schemes of the National Health Mission (NHM), such as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), and the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
 - These doctors are appointed on a contractual basis and are paid a fixed monthly salary. They are not entitled to any benefits or allowances that regular government doctors enjoy.
- The new policy will benefit around 1,500 health mission doctors who are currently working in the state.
- According to health department officials, the extension of the retirement age will help retain the experienced and skilled doctors who have been serving the people for many years. It will also reduce the need for fresh recruitment and training of new doctors, which is a time-consuming and costly process

Biodiversity heritage sites

News

- West Bengal notified four more biodiversity heritage sites (BHS), taking the tally in the state to eight.

Details

- In a significant step towards the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, the west bengal government has declared four new sites as biodiversity heritage parks. These are;
 - **Char Balidanga (Nadia)**
 - **Namthing Pokhari (Darjeeling)**
 - **Amkhoi Wood Fossil Park (Birbhum)**
 - **State Horticulture Research and Development Station (Nadia).**
- These sites have been selected for their unique ecological, historical and cultural values, and will be protected and managed by the state biodiversity board in collaboration with local communities and stakeholders.
- The biodiversity heritage parks aim to promote awareness, education and research on the rich diversity of flora and fauna in these areas, as well as to conserve the habitats and landscapes that sustain them.
- **The four existing BHS in Bengal are**
 - Dhotrey and Tonglu both in Darjeeling
 - Chilkigarh Kanak Durga Biodiversity Heritage Site in Jhargram
 - Baneswar Shiv Dighi in Cooch Behar


Kala Azar Elimination Programme

News

- The West Bengal State health department to start the Kala Azar elimination programme across the state.

Details

- There are 23 Kala-azar endemic blocks in Murshidabad, 16 in East Burdwan, 15 in Malda, 11 in Darjeeling, 10 in Hooghly, and nine each in the north and south Dinajpur.
- Around 500 doctors and nurses are likely to participate in the programme.
- Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is a parasitic disease that affects the internal organs of the body. It is caused by

WHAT IS KALA-AZAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A slow progressing indigenous disease ▪ Caused by protozoan parasite of genus <i>Leishmania</i> ▪ In India, <i>Leishmania donovani</i> is the only parasite causing the disease ▪ The parasite primarily infects reticuloendothelial system 	<p>Signs & Symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Recurrent fever ➔ Loss of appetite ➔ Weakness ➔ Spleen enlargement ➔ Anaemia
<p>Transmission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandfly of genus <i>Phlebotomus argentipes</i> only known vector of kala-azar in India 	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indian kala-azar has a unique epidemiological feature of being anthroponotic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Female sandflies pick up parasite while feeding on infected human host ▪ Development and multiplication in the gut of sandflies and move to mouthparts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parasite undergoes morphological change to become flagellate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy human hosts get infection when an infective sandfly vector bites them

a protozoan parasite called *Leishmania donovani*, which is transmitted by the bite of infected sandflies.

- The symptoms of kala-azar include fever, weight loss, anaemia, enlarged spleen and liver, and skin darkening. If left untreated, kala-azar can be fatal.
- The disease is endemic in parts of Asia, Africa, and South America.
- The main treatment for kala azar is antimonial drugs, which are injected into the veins or muscles for several weeks.
- Prevention measures include avoiding sandfly bites, using insect repellents and nets, and controlling the sandfly population.

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NATIONAL

Dogri version of the Constitution of India

News

- The Union Minister of Law Kiren Rijju has released the Dogri version of the Constitution of India.

Details

- Dogri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by about 2.6 million people in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir and some neighbouring areas.
- It is one of the 22 official languages of India and one of the 5 official languages of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The release of the Dogri version of the Constitution of India is a significant step towards preserving and promoting the linguistic and cultural diversity of the country.
- It will also help the Dogri speakers to understand and appreciate the fundamental rights and duties enshrined in the Constitution.
- The Dogri version of the Constitution is based on the original Hindi version and has been translated by a team of experts from Jammu University.

India's first water Metro

News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first water metro in Kochi, Kerala.

Details

- It aims to reduce traffic congestion and improve the connectivity of the city while promoting eco-friendly means of transportation.
- The Kochi Water Metro project has been implemented by Kochi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRL) along with the assistance of Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau, a German funding agency.



Report on Promoting Millet in Diets

News

- NITI Aayog has released a report titled "Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States and Union Territories of India".

Details

- The report highlights the importance of millets for food and nutrition security, especially in the context of climate change and non-communicable diseases.
- The report also showcases the good and innovative practices adopted by various states and organizations in promoting millets across the value chain, from production to consumption.

SWAGAT

News

- On April 27, Prime Minister attended a programme commemorating the 20th anniversary of the SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat.

Details

- SWAGAT (State Wide Attention on Grievances through Application of Technology) is a tech-based grievance redressal programme.
- It acts as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient and time-bound manner.

Baisakhi Mahotsav

News

- To commemorate the rich and diverse Dogra culture and heritage, the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu is organising a three-day 'Baisakhi Mahotsav 2023' in Jammu and Kashmir from April 13 to 15 2023.

Details

- The event aims to promote tourism and cultural exchange in the region and to celebrate the spirit of Baisakhi, which marks the harvest season and the beginning of a new year.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

News

- AAP emerged from an anti-corruption movement and has become the latest party to be recognized as a national party by the Election Commission of India.
 - At present, a total of 6 political parties have the status of National Party.

Details

- It has fulfilled the criteria of securing at least 6% of the valid votes polled in four or more states in a general election or assembly election.
- The AAP is headed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Food Conclave

News

- Hyderabad, Telangana hosted the Food Conclave-2023 on April 28 and 29.

Details

- The event brings together 100 experts from the agri-food industry to discuss and exchange ideas on various topics related to food production, processing, and innovation.
- The event was organized by the Government of Telangana, with the support of several knowledge partners such as the World Economic Forum-India, etc.

National Apprenticeship Mela

News

- The Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) was held at the ITI College in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

Details

- The event aimed to provide a platform for the youth to explore various opportunities in skill development and apprenticeship.
- The mela showcased the initiatives and schemes of the MSDE and its partner organizations to promote skill development and employability among the young generation.

- The mela also facilitated the interaction between the prospective apprentices and employers from different sectors and industries.

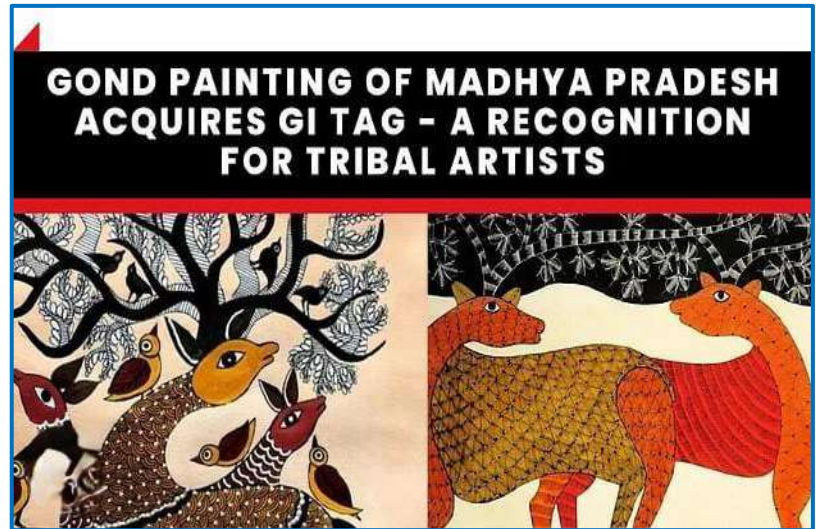
Gond Painting

News

- In April 2023, the Gond painting received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Government of India.

Details

- Gond painting is a form of tribal art that originated in Madhya Pradesh and is associated with the Gond community.
- Gond paintings are usually done on walls, floors, or canvases using natural materials such as clay, cow dung, charcoal, and plant sap.



“Stay Safe” Campaign

News

- Stay Safe campaign was launched by WhatsApp.

Details

- WhatsApp launched a new campaign called “Stay Safe with WhatsApp” in April 2023 to educate users on online safety and how to use the app’s features to protect themselves from scams and fraud.
- The campaign will focus on simple ways to enable WhatsApp’s safety features that offer layers of protection to users as they spend more time online

Medical Device Parks

News

- National Medical Devices Policy 2023 was approved by the Union Cabinet on April 26, 2023.

Details

- Under the policy, the government plans to support the setting up of **4 medical device parks** in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- These parks will provide infrastructure and facilities for the domestic production of medical devices and reduce the import dependence in this sector.

Tamil Nadu

News

- The government of Tamil Nadu has recently passed a bill to ban online gambling and regulate online games in the state.

Details

- The bill aims to prevent the exploitation of vulnerable sections of society by online gaming operators and to protect the public interest.
- It defines online games as those that involve betting or wagering of money or any other valuable thing on the outcome of a game, sport, event, or any other uncertain activity.
- It prohibits the electronic transfer of funds for online gaming and imposes penalties for offenders.

Bhoroaxa' (Trust) App

News

- The President Draupadi Murmu has launched a mobile application called 'Bhoroaxa' (Trust).

Details

- The app aims to provide safety and security to women in Assam by enabling them to send distress signals to the nearest police station and their emergency contacts in case of any threat or danger.
- It was developed by the Assam State Commission for Women (ASCW) with the support of the Department of Information Technology and Communication.
- It provides information on women's rights, laws, helplines and other services.
- The President praised the initiative and urged women to download and use the app for their protection and empowerment.

Himachal Pradesh

News

- Himachal Pradesh has become the "first state" to create a DNA database of unidentified bodies.

Details

- The state police have collected DNA samples from 1,200 unidentified bodies found in various parts of the state since 2014 and stored them in a digital database.
- The database can be accessed by any police station in the state and can be matched with the DNA samples of relatives of missing persons.
- The database will also help in identifying the victims of natural disasters, accidents, crimes and terrorism.
- The state police have also collaborated with the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad, for technical support and quality assurance.
- The state police hope that this initiative will set an example for other states to follow and will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Karnataka

News

- The state of Karnataka has been honoured with the national award for the best implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the year 2022-23.

Details

- The award was given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in recognition of the state's efforts to provide timely and adequate crop insurance coverage to the farmers.
- Karnataka has implemented PMFBY transparently and efficiently, using technology and innovation to ensure speedy settlement of claims and grievance redressal.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** is a government-sponsored crop insurance scheme that aims to support production in agriculture by providing affordable and comprehensive risk cover for crops of farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to the post-harvest stage, on an 'Area Approach Basis'.
 - The scheme was launched in 2016 and is being administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

3D-printed post office

News

- The first 3D-printed post office in India is being constructed in Bangalore, Karnataka.

Details

- It was constructed by Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T), a leading engineering and construction company.
- The building cost 30-40% less than a conventional building of the same size.

- 3D printing is a process that creates three-dimensional objects by depositing layers of material on top of each other, following a digital model.
- The advantages of 3D printing include faster construction, reduced material wastage, lower labour costs, and greater design flexibility.
- The 3D-printed post office will showcase the potential of this innovative technology for creating sustainable and affordable public infrastructure in India.

Madhya Pradesh

News

- The Madhya Pradesh government has recently added the transgender community to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list of the state.

Details

- The government has also announced plans to set up a Transgender Welfare Board to address the issues and grievances of the community.
- This move aims to provide social and economic benefits to the marginalized group and to ensure their equal participation in society.
- The transgender community has long faced discrimination and stigma in India, and this recognition is a step towards their empowerment and dignity.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras

News

- IIT Madras has announced to establishment its first international campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania in October 2023.

Details

- This will be the first time that an IIT will have a presence outside India, and it will offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses in engineering, science, management and humanities.
- The campus will offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses in engineering, science and humanities, as well as research facilities and industry collaborations.
- The campus aims to foster academic excellence and innovation in the African continent and beyond.

One Panchayat, One Playground

News

- The 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project is an initiative by the Kerala government to promote sports and physical activities among the people of the State.

Details

- The project aims to provide quality playgrounds in every panchayat, where children and adults can play various games and sports.
- It is expected to improve the health and well-being of the people of Kerala, as well as to foster a sense of community and social harmony.

Global Buddhist Summit

News

- Prime Minister hosted the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi on April 20, 2023.
- Theme "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis".

Details

- This two-day summit was hosted by the Ministry of Culture.
- The summit brought together Buddhist leaders, scholars, and followers from around the world to discuss the relevance of Buddhism in the contemporary world.

- The summit focused on how to disseminate and internalize universal values based on Buddha's teachings of peace, well-being, harmony, and compassion.
- The summit concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration, which reaffirmed the commitment of the participants to work together for the welfare of all sentient beings and the protection of the environment.

Assam

- North-East's first All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) was inaugurated by Prime Minister in Guwahati, Assam,
- It has a total bed capacity of 750, including 30 AYUSH beds, and an annual admission capacity of 100 MBBS students.

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) Report

News

- According to a recent report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), 29 out of the 30 chief ministers (CMs) in India have declared assets worth more than one crore rupees.

Details

- Andhra Pradesh's CM Jagan Mohan Reddy has the highest assets, totalling Rs 510 crore, followed by Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over Rs 163 crore) and Odisha's Naveen Patnaik (over Rs 63 crore), according to the ADR Report.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee has the lowest total assets of around Rs 15 lakh.
- 29 of the 30 CMs studied are crorepatis, with an average asset value of Rs 33.96 crore for each.

India Justice Report

News

- Karnataka ranked first among the 18 major and mid-sized states with a population of over one crore in the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, a project of Tata Trusts.

Details

- Sikkim is at the top small state (population less than one million).
- Police, prisons, the judiciary, and legal aid are the four main pillars of the judicial system.

First Metro Project in Odisha

News

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on April 1 announced the creation of the State's first metro project, connecting the capital city Bhubaneswar with other peripheral urban centres – Cuttack, Puri and Khordha, with its funding.

Details

- The route will connect the capital city of Bhubaneswar with the industrial hub of Cuttack, covering a distance of 28 km and 22 stations.
- The metro trunk route will be implemented by Odisha Metro Rail Corporation (OMRC), a joint venture between the State government and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The estimated cost of the project is Rs 8,300 crore, and it is expected to be completed by 2027.
- The metro route will have both elevated and underground sections, with state-of-the-art features such as an automatic fare collection system, platform screen doors, CCTV surveillance, Wi-Fi connectivity and emergency evacuation facilities.

Chenab Rail Bridge

News

- The railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw conducted the first trial run on a track-mounted vehicle on the Chenab rail bridge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

Details

- The bridge, which is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project, is the world's highest railway bridge with a height of 359 metres above the Chenab River.
- The Chenab Bridge can withstand high wind speeds, earthquakes and blasts.

India's first ropeway transport in Varanasi

News

- Prime Minister announced India's 1st ropeway transport in Varanasi.

Details

- Varanasi, the ancient city of temples and ghats, is set to become the first city in India to have a ropeway service for public transportation.
- The project aims to ease traffic congestion and provide a scenic view of the city to commuters and tourists.
- It will reduce travel time and pollution, and offer a panoramic view of the city's heritage and beauty.

Sukhashraya Bill

News

- The Sukhashraya bill, which aims to provide financial assistance and social security to orphans in Himachal Pradesh, was passed by the state assembly.

Details

- The bill proposes to give a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 to orphans up to the age of 18 years, and Rs 2,000 to those between 18 and 21 years who are pursuing higher education or vocational training.
- The bill also provides for free education, health care, and legal aid to orphans. The bill defines an orphan as a child who has lost both parents or whose parents are unknown or have abandoned him or her.
- The bill also empowers the district magistrates to issue certificates of orphanhood to eligible children.
- The bill was supported by all parties in the assembly and hailed as a progressive and humanitarian step by the government.

Project Sanjeevani

News

- The State Government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) has launched project Sanjeevani to empower the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners.

Details

- The project aims to provide quality animal health care services, enhance milk production and productivity, and promote value addition and marketing of dairy products.
- The project will also support the development of fodder and feed resources, improve animal breeding and genetics, and strengthen the institutional and policy framework for the dairy sector.
- Project Sanjeevani is expected to benefit about 200,000 rural households in HP, especially women and youth, who are engaged in dairying and livestock-rearing activities.
- The project will also contribute to the state's vision of becoming self-reliant in milk production and processing by 2024.

Spring Fiesta 2023

News

- To celebrate its 69th anniversary, the NGMA organized a grand event called Spring Fiesta 2023.

Details

- The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) is one of the most prestigious institutions of art in India, with branches in New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.
- It houses a collection of more than 17000 works of modern and contemporary art by Indian and international artists.
- The NGMA was established in 1954 and has been promoting the appreciation and understanding of modern art ever since.

Cool Roof Policy

News

- Telangana launched the Telangana Cool Roof Policy 2023-28, which aims to reduce the temperature in Hyderabad and other urban areas in Telangana by promoting the adoption of cool roofs.

Details

- Urban heat islands (UHIs) are areas where the temperature is significantly higher than the surrounding rural or natural areas. UHIs can have negative impacts on human health, energy consumption, air quality, and water resources.
 - UHIs are mainly caused by the modification of land surfaces, such as replacing vegetation with concrete and asphalt, and the emission of heat from buildings, vehicles, and industrial activities.
- Cool roofs are roofs that reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than conventional roofs. They can lower the surface temperature of the roof by up to 20°C and reduce the cooling load of the building by up to 15%.

Varanasi

News

- 'Kashi' (Varanasi) has been declared the first tourism and cultural capital of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Details

- It is one of the oldest and most sacred cities in India. It is located on the banks of the river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh. It is known for its rich cultural heritage, religious significance, and artistic traditions. It is also a hub of education, tourism, and handicrafts.
- The declaration was welcomed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who expressed his gratitude to the SCO members for their support and appreciation of India's culture and civilization.
- The declaration is expected to boost tourism and cultural exchange between India and other SCO members. It will also showcase India's diversity and pluralism to the world.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, international security and defence organization.
 - The SCO was founded in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.
 - The SCO aims to promote cooperation among its members in various fields such as security, trade, energy, culture, education, and health.

Mehangai Rahat Camp

News

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launches 'Mehangai Rahat Camp' in Jaipur

Details

- This initiative aims to provide relief to the people of the state from inflation and unemployment by connecting them with various welfare schemes of the state government.
- Some of these schemes include providing LPG cylinders at Rs 500 under Ujjwala Yojna, free accident insurance of Rs 10 lakhs, and job cards under MGNREGA.

- Gehlot said that his government is working with commitment to make Rajasthan No 1 by the year 2030 and that these camps will give relief and hope to the people in this difficult period of inflation.

Mizoram

News

- Mizoram was declared the happiest state in India.

Details

- Mizoram, a state in the northeastern part of India, has been declared the happiest state in the country by a study at the Management Development Institute in Gurugram.
- The study measured the happiness index of Mizoram based on six parameters: family relationships, work-related issues, social issues and philanthropy, religion, Covid-19's effect on happiness, and physical and mental health.
- According to the study, Mizoram has a unique social structure that plays a significant role in enhancing the happiness of its young population.
- Some of the factors that contribute to Mizoram's happiness are a High literacy rate, Employment opportunities, Equal social status, Friendly schooling, and Financial independence.

INTERNATIONAL

Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project

News

- The 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' is a cultural initiative launched by India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on April 10, 2023, during his visit to Uganda's capital city Kampala.

Details

- The project aims to conserve and beautify the Tulsi Ghat, one of the ancient ghats in Varanasi, where the poet-saint Tulsidas wrote the Ramcharitmanas, a revered epic of Hinduism.
- The project is supported by a group of Indian diaspora members who share a bond with both the Nile and the Ganga rivers.
- The project reflects India's commitment to preserving its heritage and promoting its soft power in the world.
- The project is funded by the Indian government and implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in collaboration with the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) and the Tulsi Peeth Trust.

World Energy Transitions: Outlook 2023 report

News

- The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has released a preview of its World Energy Transitions Outlook 2023 report, which outlines a vision for the transition of the global energy system to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Details

- The report presents a pathway for limiting global temperature rise to within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels and bringing CO2 emissions to net zero by mid-century.
 - According to the report, achieving this ambitious target will require a massive transformation of the energy landscape, with renewable energy playing a central role.
- The report highlights the main challenges and opportunities for the energy transition, such as the need for increased investment, policy support, international cooperation, social inclusion and innovation.

- It also provides insights into the technology choices, investment needs, policy frameworks and socio-economic impacts of achieving a sustainable, resilient and inclusive energy future.

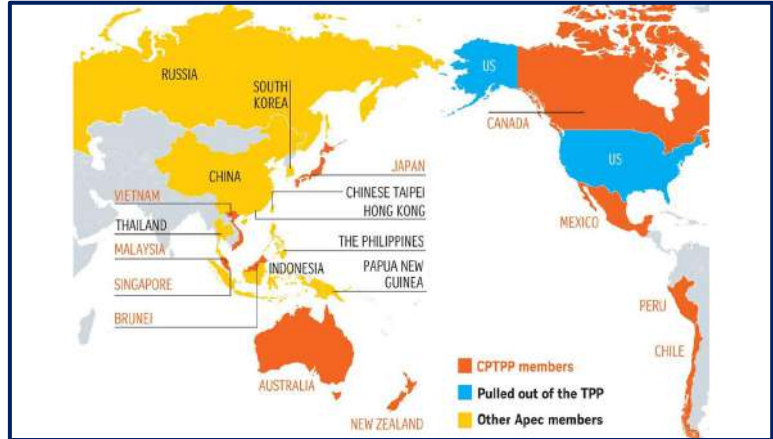
Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

News

- The U.K. joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP),

Details

- It is a trade agreement among 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- It aims to lower trade barriers in goods and services, protect intellectual property rights, promote labour and environmental standards, and enhance regional economic integration



Y 20 Summit

News

- The Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs hosted the Y 20 Summit Meeting under G20 in Leh from 26th to 28th April 2023.

Details

- The meeting brings together more than 100 youth leaders from over 30 countries to discuss and formulate plans on various topics such as climate change, health, peacebuilding and innovation.
- The event aimed to empower the youth and foster their participation in the G20 agenda.
- The summit focused on topics such as climate change, digital transformation, social inclusion, and health and well-being.

Most Criminal Country

News

- According to a report by the World of Statistics, Venezuela has been ranked as the most criminal country in the world.

Details

- The ranking is based on the crime index, which measures the level of crime and safety in a country.
- The report also highlighted the factors that contribute to the high crime rates in these countries, such as poverty, inequality, corruption, violence and social unrest.



Best Public Transport System

News

- According to Time Out, a London-based media outlet that focuses on the hospitality industry and

urban life, **Berlin in Germany has the best public transport system in the world.**

Details

- The city's public transport network consists of underground and light-rail trains, buses, trams, and ferries that cover all areas of the sprawling metropolis.
- Travellers can easily, comfortably, and safely reach any destination in Berlin and beyond by using public transport.

Germany

News

- In April 2023, Germany switched off its three remaining nuclear power plants as part of a long-planned transition toward renewable energy.

Details

- Germany is now the first major industrialized nation to abandon nuclear power completely and aims to generate 80% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2050.
- The decision to phase out nuclear energy was taken in 2011, following the Fukushima disaster in Japan. Since then, Germany has been pursuing a transition to a low-carbon economy based on renewable sources such as wind, solar and biomass.



El Salvador

News

- Central American country “El Salvador” has started an initiative to license crypto firms that want to operate in the country as digital asset service providers.

Details

- The initiative aims to grant licenses to crypto firms that wish to offer digital asset services to the Salvadoran population.
- The licenses will ensure that the crypto firms comply with the legal and technical requirements of the country and protect the interests of the users.



Finland

News

- Finland has become the 31st member of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance that provides collective security for its members.

Details

- Finland's decision to join NATO was motivated by several factors, including the changing security environment in Europe, the increased assertiveness of Russia, and the desire to deepen its cooperation with other Nordic countries.
- By joining NATO, Finland hopes to strengthen its defence capabilities and enhance its cooperation with other like-minded countries.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance that was established in 1949 by 12



countries from Europe and North America.

- The main goal of NATO is to protect the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.
- NATO members agree to defend each other in case of an attack by a third party, according to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.
- NATO has expanded over the years and now has 31 members, including Finland, which joined in 2023.

Zimbabwe

News

- Zimbabwe is facing a severe economic crisis, to address this situation, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has announced **to launch of a gold-backed digital currency**.

Details

- The new currency, called ZimGold, will be pegged to the value of gold and will be issued by the RBZ through a blockchain platform.
- The RBZ hopes that ZimGold will help stabilize the inflation-ridden economy and restore confidence in the financial system.
- ZimGold will also enable Zimbabweans to access international markets and remittances without relying on foreign currencies.



The Language Friendship Bridge

News

- The Language Friendship Bridge project was announced by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to expand India's cultural footprint in nations with whom it has historical ties.

Details

- The project involves teaching Indian languages such as Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Bengali and Gujarati to students and professionals in these countries.
- The project also aims to facilitate cultural exchanges, academic collaborations and people-to-people contacts between India and these nations.
- The project is based on the premise that language is a powerful tool for bridging cultural gaps and fostering friendship. By learning Indian languages, the participants of the project will be able to appreciate the richness and diversity of Indian culture, literature, philosophy and spirituality.
 - They will also be able to communicate better with their Indian counterparts and explore new avenues of cooperation and partnership.

Narco-State

News

- According to a report by the Center for Operational Analysis and Research (COAR), Syria has emerged as the world's biggest producer and exporter of a highly addictive and illegal drug called captagon.

Details

- Captagon, also known as "poor man's coke", is an amphetamine-type stimulant that is popular in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, where it is used for recreational purposes and to enhance performance and endurance.
- The captagon industry in Syria is not only lucrative but also sophisticated and adaptive. The drug is manufactured across the country, using imported precursor chemicals and advanced equipment.

New York

News

- New York City has once again claimed the title of the world's wealthiest city in 2023, according to a new report by Wealth-X.

Details

- The report ranks the cities by the number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) who reside there, defined as those with a net worth of at least \$30 million.
- New York City has 9,712 UHNWIs, more than any other city in the world. The report attributes New York City's success to its diversified economy, its status as a global financial hub, and its appeal to entrepreneurs and innovators.
- **Performance of Indian Cities**
 - Mumbai made it to the 21st spot while Delhi ranked 36th, and Bengaluru ranked 60th.
 - Bengaluru has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing cities in the Asia Pacific region

ECONOMICS

New Foreign Trade Policy

News

- Union Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal unveiled a new foreign trade policy that aims to boost India's exports and reduce its trade deficit.

Details

- The policy will be effective from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2028, and has five key objectives:
 - Diversifying export markets and products
 - Enhancing the competitiveness of domestic industries
 - Promoting value-added exports
 - Facilitating trade facilitation and ease of doing business
 - Ensuring a level playing field for Indian exporters.
- It provides incentives for exporters in sectors such as agriculture, textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering, electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and services.
- It addresses the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing global trade scenario.
- It provides flexibility to respond to emerging situations and opportunities and aligns with the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

Policy overhauled

Key highlights from India's updated Foreign Trade Policy:



■ It focuses on lowering costs for smaller firms and offering swifter clearances

■ It aims at tripling exports to \$2 trillion by 2030 from \$760 billion in 2022-23

■ Policy allows for adjustments based on world trade and industry feedback

■ Export promotion initiatives include encouraging international trade settlement in Indian currency

Neobank

News

- Jupiter, a neo-banking platform has obtained a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Details

- Neobanking is a term that refers to the provision of banking services through online platforms or mobile applications, without the need for physical branches or infrastructure.
- This license will enable Jupiter to offer a range of financial products and services, such as savings accounts, loans, investments, insurance, and more.
- Jupiter claims to be India's first full-stack digital bank that leverages artificial intelligence and data analytics to cater to the needs and preferences of its users. With the NBFC license, Jupiter hopes to expand its customer base and reach new segments of the market.

eShram Portal

News

- Recently, the Union Minister for Labour & Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav launched new features in the eShram portal.

Details

- It is a national database of unorganised workers including migrant workers, construction workers, gig and platform workers, etc.
- It aims to provide social security benefits, skill development opportunities, employment opportunities and other welfare schemes to the unorganised workers, who constitute about 90% of the total workforce in the country.

Logistic Performance Index

News

- Logistics Performance Index 2023 published by the World Bank.

Details

- The Index ranks India at 38th position among 139 countries, up from 44th in 2018.
- It is a comprehensive indicator that measures the quality of logistics services, infrastructure, customs clearance, tracking and tracing, timeliness, and international shipments.

Small Saving Schemes

News

- The Union Government has announced a hike in the interest rates of most small saving schemes.

Details

- Small saving schemes are financial instruments that offer a safe and convenient way to invest money and earn attractive returns.
- They are backed by the government and have a fixed interest rate that is revised periodically.
- Some of the popular small saving schemes are Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS), and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP).

PM MITRA Scheme

News

- The New Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) expands the export promotion scheme to include Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) scheme

Details

- The PM MITRA scheme to boost the textile sector was launched under the Ministry of Textiles.

- The scheme aims to set up 7 mega integrated textile parks in different states, with a total outlay of Rs 4,445 crore over five years.
- The states that have been selected are Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- The parks will offer world-class infrastructure and facilities for the entire textile value chain, from fibre to fashion.

New India Literacy Programme

News

- New India Literacy Programme was launched to cover a target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.

Details

- The Ministry of Education has announced the launch of the New India Literacy Programme (NILP), a flagship initiative to eradicate illiteracy in the country.
- The NILP aims to provide basic literacy and numeracy skills to 5.00 crore non-literate adults in the age group of 15 years and above, especially women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and other disadvantaged groups.
- The programme will be implemented through a network of volunteers, NGOs, civil society organizations and local self-governments.
- The NILP will also leverage digital technologies and online platforms to deliver learning materials and assessments.
- The programme is expected to have a positive impact on the socio-economic development of the country and contribute to the vision of a New India.

World Bank

News

- The World Bank has lowered its forecast for India's economic growth in the current fiscal year that started on April 1 to 6.3% from 6.6%.

Details

- This revision reflects the challenging external environment and the moderation in domestic demand.
- The Update also highlights the risks to India's growth outlook from the spillovers of recent developments in global financial markets and geopolitical tensions.
- The rise in US interest rates and the tapering of asset purchases by the Federal Reserve have led to a tightening of global liquidity conditions and a reversal of capital flows to emerging markets, including India. This has put pressure on the exchange rate and increased volatility in domestic financial markets.
 - Moreover, the escalation of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has disrupted global supply chains and raised uncertainty about energy prices and trade flows.
- The World Bank urges India to continue its efforts to improve its business environment, enhance its human capital, and invest in green and resilient infrastructure to achieve its aspiration of becoming a high-income country by 2047.

World Bank

- The World Bank was founded in 1944 as part of the Bretton Woods Agreement, which aimed to establish a stable international monetary system after World War II.
- The World Bank consists of two main institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA).
- The World Bank is headquartered in Washington, USA.
- The World Bank is governed by its 189 member countries, which elect a board of executive directors that oversees the management and policies of the organization.
- The president of the World Bank is nominated by the United States, which is the largest shareholder of the organization, and approved by the board. The current president is David Malpass.

Union Bank of India

News

- Union Bank of India, one of the largest public sector banks in India, has secured the first rank in the EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) reforms index for the year 2020-21.

Details

- The index, which is prepared by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), measures the performance of public sector banks on various parameters such as customer responsiveness, responsible banking, credit off-take, deepening financial inclusion and digitalisation.
- Union Bank of India scored 76.7 out of 100 in the EASE index, followed by Bank of Baroda (74.6) and State Bank of India (69.8).
- The bank improved its rank from the fourth position in the previous year to the top spot in the current year.
- The bank also received awards for excellence in four categories: customer responsiveness, credit off-take, deepening financial inclusion and digitalisation.

PM SHRI Scheme

News

- The Education Ministry has recently announced the list of 9000 schools that have been selected for the PM SHRI scheme.

Details

- The Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme is a flagship initiative of the Education Ministry to transform the quality of education in the country.
- The scheme aims to provide world-class infrastructure, curriculum, teachers and learning outcomes to selected schools across India.
- The selected schools represent a diverse mix of rural and urban areas, government and private institutions, and different boards and mediums of instruction.
- The PM SHRI scheme will provide financial and technical support to the selected schools to upgrade their facilities, train their staff, adopt best practices and implement new pedagogies.
- The scheme will also create a network of PM SHRI schools that will collaborate and share their experiences and learnings.

SATHI Portal and Mobile App

News

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched a new portal and mobile app called SATHI, which stands for Seed Authentication Traceability and Holistic Inventory.

Details

- It offers various services such as seed certification, seed traceability through QR codes, seed licensing, seed catalogue, dealer farmer sales, farmer registration and direct subsidies to farmers' bank accounts through DBT.
- It is developed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Ministry on the theme of 'Uttam Beej - Samridh Kisan'.

'Sangathan se Samridh' scheme

News

- The Union Minister for Rural Development has started the 'Sangathan Se Samridh' campaign, which aims to empower marginalised rural households by enrolling all eligible rural women in Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Details

- The campaign aims to enrol all eligible rural women in Self Help Groups (SHGs), which are community-based organisations that provide financial and non-financial services to their members.
- The campaign also seeks to strengthen the capacity of SHGs and their federations to access various government schemes and programmes.
- The campaign is expected to benefit more than 10 crore rural women across the country by empowering them to become self-reliant and confident.

Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)

News

- The “Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)” will be launched by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala.

Details

- The APPI is a comprehensive and integrated program that aims to strengthen the animal health system and prevent the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases that can pose a threat to both animals and humans.
- The APPI will focus on four key areas: surveillance and early detection of animal diseases, rapid response and containment of outbreaks, research and development of vaccines and diagnostics, and awareness and capacity building of stakeholders.
- The APPI will also leverage the existing infrastructure and resources of the National Animal Disease Control Program (NADCP) and the National Livestock Mission (NLM) to ensure effective implementation and coordination.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 60% of human infectious diseases are zoonotic in nature, and about 75% of new or emerging infectious diseases in humans are of animal origin. Therefore, protecting animals from diseases is not only essential for their well-being but also for safeguarding human health and livelihoods.

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Asian Development Bank

News

- The **Asian Development Bank** has cut India's growth forecast for 2023-24 to 6.4% from 7.2% estimated earlier.

Details

- The ADB says that India's growth will be affected by an expected global economic slowdown, tight monetary conditions, and persistently elevated oil prices.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank that aims to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.
- The ADB was established in 1966 and has 68 members, of which 49 are from the region. The ADB's headquarters are in Manila, Philippines.
- The ADB's main activities include providing loans, grants, technical assistance, and equity investments to support projects and programs that address poverty reduction, inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, regional cooperation and integration, and governance and institutional capacity.
- The ADB also conducts research and policy dialogue on development issues and challenges facing the region.

PRAVAAH Portal

News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched a secured web-based centralized portal named 'PRAVAAH' (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation AndAuthorisation).

Details

- It aims to simplify and streamline the application processes for various regulatory approvals and authorisations.
- It will enable applicants to submit their applications online, track the status of their applications, and receive notifications and alerts from the RBI.
- It will facilitate the RBI to process the applications faster and more accurately, using automated workflows and validations.
- It will cover various regulatory functions of the RBI, such as banking supervision, foreign exchange management, payment systems, consumer protection, and financial inclusion.

'Mircha' rice

News

- West Champaran in Bihar received the GI designation for its 'Mircha' rice.

Details

- Mircha or Marcha Rice gets its name from the size and form of the grain, which resembles black pepper.
- The rice is grown in the floodplains of the Gandak river, where the soil is rich in minerals and organic matter.
- The rice is harvested by hand and sun-dried, preserving its natural qualities. Recently, the 'Mircha' rice of West Champaran received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Government of India, recognizing its origin and quality.

RBI Bimonthly Monetary Policy

News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued its bimonthly monetary policy, maintaining the repo rate at 6.50%.
- In the current fiscal year, GDP is predicted to increase by 6.5%.

Details

- The RBI Bimonthly Monetary Policy outlines the key decisions taken by the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) regarding the interest rates, inflation, growth and liquidity in the Indian economy.
- The MPC consists of six members: three from the RBI and three external experts appointed by the government.
- The policy repo rate influences the cost and availability of credit in the economy and affects various macroeconomic variables such as inflation, growth, exchange rate and balance of payments.
- The MPC aims to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth. The MPC follows a flexible inflation targeting framework, which means that it targets a band of 2-6% for consumer price inflation over a medium-term horizon.
- The MPC also publishes its projections for inflation and growth for the current and next financial year, along with its rationale and assessment of various risks and uncertainties.

Anemia Mukta Lakhsya Abhiyan (AMLAN)

News

- Students of all government and government-aided schools in Odisha will get iron and folic acid (IFA) tablets during the summer vacation under the Anemia Mukta Lakhsya Abhiyan (AMLAN).

About Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan (AMLAN)

- The initiative was launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on November 24, 2022, to eradicate anaemia from the state.
- Anaemia is a blood disorder that causes low levels of haemoglobin, which carries oxygen to the body's tissues.
 - Anaemia can cause fatigue, weakness, dizziness and shortness of breath, among other symptoms.
- AMLAN aims to benefit about 1.37 crore people, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, women of reproductive age groups, adolescents and children.
- The programme will be rolled out in 55,000 government and government-aided schools and 74,000 Anganwadi Centres across the state.
- The programme will involve various interventions such as strengthening iron and folic acid supplementation, testing for haemoglobin, treatment of anaemic patients, capacity building of service providers and social behaviour change communication.
- It is implemented with the joint efforts of several departments such as Health and Family Welfare, School and Mass Education, and Women and Child Development.

State Energy Efficiency Index

News

- The Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh has released the report of the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22

Details

- The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22 is a comprehensive assessment of the energy efficiency performance of states and UTs in India.
- The index is developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, in association with Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE).
- The index tracks the progress of states and UTs in implementing energy efficiency initiatives across seven sectors: buildings, industry, municipal services, transport, agriculture, DISCOMs, and cross-sector.
- According to the index, five states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Telangana - are in the Front Runner category (>60 points), while four states - Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab - are in the Achiever category (50-60 points).
- Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Chandigarh are the top-performing states in their respective state groups, while Telangana and Andhra Pradesh showed the most improvement since the last index.

- The index aims to help states identify areas for improvement, learn from best practices, and adopt an economy-wide approach to energy efficiency implementation.

Kerala

News

- Kerala has achieved a remarkable feat by securing the highest number of geographical indication (GI) tags in the country for the financial year 2022-23.

Details

- A GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
 - It helps in protecting the uniqueness and authenticity of such products and promotes their economic value.
- According to the data released by the Geographical Indications Registry under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kerala obtained 12 GI tags out of the total 38 granted in India during the period from April 2022 to March 2023.

DEFENCE and SECURITY

Exercise "Cope India 2023"

- In Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal, a joint exercise between the air forces of India and America took place.
- The exercise, named "Cope India 2023", aimed to enhance interoperability and cooperation between the two countries.

Operation Kaveri

News

- Operation Kaveri is the evacuation operation carried out by the Indian government to bring back its citizens from Sudan, a country that has been engulfed in a violent conflict between the military and a paramilitary force.

Details

- The operation involves the use of Indian Navy and Indian Air Force assets, as well as coordination with other countries and international organizations.
- The Sudan crisis erupted on April 15, 2023, when the Rapid Support Force (RSF), a powerful paramilitary group that was part of the transitional government, clashed with the Sudanese army over a coup attempt.
 - The fighting soon spread to the capital Khartoum and other parts of the country, leaving hundreds of people dead and thousands injured.
 - The situation also triggered a humanitarian crisis, as millions of people faced food shortages, power cuts, and internet blackouts.
- Among those affected by the crisis were around 3,400 Indian nationals, mostly working in the oil and construction sectors, who were stranded in various locations across Sudan.

World Military Expenditure

News

- A report on Trends in World Military Expenditure in 2022, published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Details

- India was the world's fourth-largest military spender in 2022.

- India's military spending rose mainly due to its arms imports, which increased by 33 per cent between 2018–22 and 2013–17.
- India was the second largest arms importer in the world after Saudi Arabia in 2018–22, receiving 9.5 per cent of the global arms transfers.
- The main suppliers of arms to India were Russia (49%), France (18%) and Israel (13%)

Nagastra

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) 'Nagastra' can perform reconnaissance, surveillance and attack missions.
- It is India's first indigenous loitering munition which can strike enemy targets with precision.

Exercise INIOCHOS-23

- It is a multinational air exercise that takes place at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from April 24 to May 4.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in this exercise, along with other countries such as France, Israel, Spain, and the United States.
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and cooperation among the participating air forces, as well as to improve their readiness and combat skills.

Exercise Orion

- The Indian Air Force participated part in the multinational international Exercise Orion, which was held at Mont-de-Marsan in France from April 17 to May 5, 2023.
- The IAF Contingent participated in the exercise with four Rafale, two C-17, two Il-78 aircraft, and 165 air warriors.

Exercise 'Ex KAVACH'

- The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard participated in the large-scale Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' led by the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).
- The KAVACH exercise began on February 23, 2023, and ended on April 7, 2023.
- To improve interoperability and operational synergy among the forces by fine-tuning joint combat capabilities and SOPs

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SCIENCE

Malaria Vaccine

News

- Ghana has become the first country in the world to approve a new malaria vaccine from Oxford University.

Details

- The vaccine, called R21/Matrix-M, has shown an efficacy of 77% in clinical trials and could prevent millions of deaths from the disease.
- Malaria is a life-threatening disease that affects millions of people around the world. It is caused by parasites of the genus Plasmodium, which are transmitted by the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- The most common symptoms of malaria are fever, headache, and chills, which usually appear 10 to 15 days after the mosquito bite. If left untreated, malaria can lead to severe complications such as organ failure, cerebral malaria, and death.

ISRO's PSLV-C55

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C55 (PSLV-C55) mission carrying two Singaporean satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The primary payload of the mission was Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite, a high-resolution earth observation satellite weighing about 400 kg.

JUICE Mission

News

- On April 14, 2023, the European Space Agency (ESA) launched its flagship JUICE (Jupiter ICy moons Explorer) mission.

Details

- An Ariane 5 rocket was launched from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. It will take an eight-year journey to reach Jupiter.
- The goal is to determine whether there are livable conditions among the frozen moons and around Jupiter.
- Jupiter has the highest number of Moon.

LIGO-India

News

- The LIGO-India project has recently received approval from the Union Cabinet to be constructed in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs 2,600 crore. The facility is expected to be completed by 2030 and start observations by the end of the decade.

Details

- Gravitational waves are ripples in the fabric of space and time that are produced by violent events in the cosmos, such as collisions of black holes or neutron stars. These waves carry information about the nature and origin of these sources, as well as the properties of gravity itself.
- However, detecting gravitational waves is extremely challenging, as they are very weak and require highly sensitive instruments to measure them. The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) is a network of two such detectors in the United States, located in Hanford, Washington and Livingston, Louisiana.

- LIGO has made history by making the first direct detection of gravitational waves in 2015, and since then has observed several more signals from binary black holes and binary neutron star mergers.

National Quantum Mission

News

- The Government of India has approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) with a budget outlay of Rs 6003.65 Crores for a period of five years.

Details

- The NQM aims to foster research and innovation in quantum science and technology and establish India as a global leader in this emerging field.
- Quantum science and technology is a rapidly evolving domain that exploits the principles of quantum mechanics to develop novel applications in computing, communication, cryptography, sensing, metrology, and artificial intelligence.
- Quantum technologies have the potential to transform various sectors such as defence, security, healthcare, agriculture, education, and industry.
- The NQM will support basic and applied research in quantum science and technology, as well as human resource development and infrastructure creation.
- The mission will also facilitate the development of quantum products and services by fostering collaboration among academia, industry, and government.
- The NQM will also promote public awareness and outreach activities to generate interest and enthusiasm among students and citizens about quantum science and technology.

Mefeego

News

- Japan's Health Ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill Mefeego, which can be used to terminate early pregnancies up to nine weeks of gestation.

Details

- The pill, which contains mifepristone and misoprostol, works by blocking the hormone progesterone and inducing contractions to expel the embryo.
- Mefeego is expected to provide a safe and effective alternative to surgical abortion, which is the only legal method of abortion in Japan. Surgical abortion requires anaesthesia and hospitalization and can pose risks of infection, bleeding and damage to the uterus.
- Mefeego can be taken at home or in a clinic and has fewer side effects and complications.

Kenya Space Agency

News

- The Kenya Space Agency (KSA) is set to launch its first operational Earth observation satellite "Taifa-1" or "Nation-1" in Swahili, on April 10, 2023

Details

- Taifa-1 is a microsatellite with a mass of about 100 kg and a lifespan of five years.
- It will capture high-resolution images of the Earth's surface, which will be used for various applications such as agriculture, disaster management, security, urban planning and resource management.

Fengyun-3G

News

- China successfully launched the Fengyun-3G satellite from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi Province.

Details

- The Fengyun-3G satellite is part of China's third-generation polar-orbiting meteorological satellite system, which aims to improve the country's capabilities in weather forecasting, climate change research and disaster prevention and mitigation.
- The satellite carries payloads, including a microwave humidity sounder, a microwave temperature sounder, a microwave imager and a lightning mapper.
- The satellite can observe the distribution and intensity of precipitation, cloud cover, atmospheric temperature and humidity, sea surface temperature and wind speed, as well as the location and frequency of lightning strikes.
- It can also detect the formation and development of typhoons, floods, droughts and other natural disasters.

SPORTS

Sachin Tendulkar

- Sachin Tendulkar has been honoured with a special gesture by the Sharjah cricket stadium in the UAE.
- The West Stand of the stadium, where Tendulkar scored many of his runs, has been renamed after him on his 50th birthday.

David Warner

- David Warner, the captain of Delhi Capitals became the fastest batsman to reach the 6000-run mark in the IPL during a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati.
- He achieved this feat in just 165 innings, which is faster than Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan, who are the only other players to have scored 6000 runs in the IPL.

Nisha Dahiya

- The silver medal in the women's 68kg category at the Asian wrestling championships 2023 held in Astana, Kazakhstan was won by India's Nisha Dahiya.
- She defeated Delgermaa Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia and Feng Zhou of China in the quarter-finals and semi-finals respectively, before losing to Japan's Ami Ishi in the final.

Wisden's leading T20I cricketer

News

- Suryakumar Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur were awarded Wisden's leading T20I cricketer of the year.

Details

- Suryakumar Yadav, the Indian male team batsman who made his international debut in 2021, has been named the leading male cricketer in the world.
 - He scored 1,234 runs in 25 matches across all formats, with an average of 61.70 and a strike rate of 144.67.
 - He also hit four centuries and eight fifties.
- Harmanpreet Kaur, the captain of the Indian women's team, has been named the leading female cricketer in the world.
 - She scored 1,098 runs in 24 matches across all formats, with an average of 54.90 and a strike rate of 132.45.
 - She also smashed three centuries and six fifties, including a record-breaking 171 not out off 115 balls against Australia in the ODI World Cup semi-final.

Aman Sehrawat

- Aman Sehrawat, a freestyle wrestler, won India's first gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2023.
- He defeated Ahmet Duman of Turkey 12-4 in the final of the 57kg category, becoming the first Indian wrestler to win gold.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam

- Indian archery Jyothi Surekha Vennam won two gold medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Antalya, Turkey.
- She became the first Indian woman to win an individual gold medal in compound archery at the World Cup.

Super Cup

News

- Odisha FC clinched their maiden trophy after defeating Bengaluru FC 2-1 in the final of the Super Cup.
- It was the first-ever final for Odisha, it was the third of the season for Bengaluru.

Details

- The 2023 Super Cup was the 3rd edition of the Super Cup and the 41st season of the national knockout football competition in India.
- The competition was sponsored by Hero MotoCorp and is known as the Hero Super Cup for sponsorship purposes.
- The tournament was being organised after a gap of four years due to various scheduling issues, with the latest edition being played in 2019.
- This was the first time the Super Cup champions had a spot allotted in the AFC competitions.
- The 2023 edition of the Super Cup was played across two cities of Kerala, Kozhikode and Manjeri.
- **Top goal scorer:** Wilmar Jordán (7 goals)
- **Best player:** Diego Mauricio

Indian Hockey

News

- The Odisha government decided to further extend its sponsorship for both the Men and Women's Indian Hockey Teams (senior and junior) for another ten years from 2023 to 2033.

Details

- In 2018, the Odisha government became the official sponsor of the Indian national hockey teams, both men and women, senior and junior, for a period of five years.
- The sponsorship agreement was a significant step towards the growth and development of hockey in India, as it provided financial stability and security to the players and coaches.
- It also enabled Hockey India to invest in infrastructure, training facilities, equipment and exposure trips for the teams.
- The Odisha government's sponsorship proved to be a game-changer for Indian hockey, as the teams achieved remarkable results in the international arena.
 - The men's team won the bronze medal at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, ending a 41-year drought for an Olympic medal in hockey.
 - The women's team also made history by reaching the semifinals for the first time at the Olympics.

World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event

News

- In the final of the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event, Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh defeated former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and clinched the title.

Details

- The 16-year-old Gukesh showed great resilience and skill in overcoming his formidable opponent in a tense match.
- The World Chess Armageddon is a unique tournament that features a series of blitz games and, if needed, an Armageddon game to decide the winner. An Armageddon game is a special type of chess game where White has five minutes and Black has four minutes on the clock, but a draw counts as a win for Black.

Men's Under-17 FIFA World Cup

News

- The FIFA Council announced that Peru will no longer host the 2023 men's Under-17 World Cup due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of guarantees from the local authorities.

Details

- The decision was made after a thorough assessment of the situation and consultations with the Peruvian Football Federation.
- FIFA said it will open a new bidding process to select a new host country for the tournament, which is scheduled to take place from October 6 to 28.
- The FIFA Council also confirmed that Peru will have the priority to host the 2025 edition of the same competition, subject to the provision of all necessary guarantees.

Kim Cotton

News

- New Zealand's Kim Cotton has made history by becoming the first woman to officiate as an on-field umpire in a full-member men's international cricket match.

Details

- She was one of the two umpires who oversaw the second Twenty20 International between New Zealand and Bangladesh at Napier, New Zealand.
- Cotton, who has been umpiring since 2015, has previously officiated in women's internationals and men's domestic matches.
- She said she was honoured and excited to get the opportunity to umpire at the highest level of men's cricket.

Honorary Life Membership of MCC

News

- Five eminent Indian cricketers have been awarded the Honorary Life Membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the oldest and most prestigious cricket club in the world.

Details

- They are MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Mithali Raj, Suresh Raina and Jhulan Goswami.
- The MCC was founded in 1787 and is based at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, which it owns. The club is also the guardian of the Laws of Cricket and has a global influence on the game.
- The Honorary Life Membership is conferred upon individuals who have made significant contributions to cricket or MCC.
- Earlier Indian cricketers to join the list of Honorary Life Members include Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Anil Kumble.

Asian Wrestling Championship

News

- The Asian Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan saw a remarkable performance by Indian women wrestlers who clinched seven medals in total.

Details

- They won four gold, one silver and two bronze medals across different weight categories and displayed their skills and strength on the mat.
- This was the best result for Indian women wrestlers at the continental event and a sign of their growing dominance in the sport.

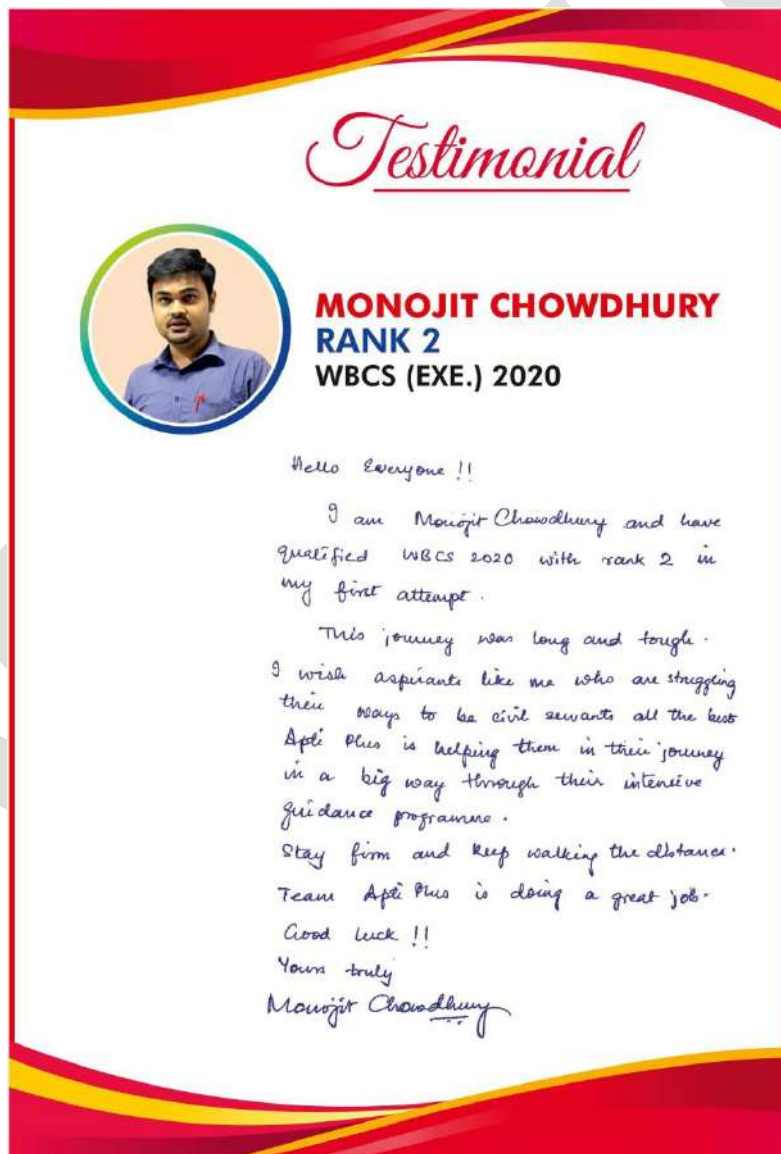
FIFA rankings

News


- The Indian men's football team climbed up to the 101st spot in the most recent ranking published by FIFA, the global authority of football.

Details

- This is the highest position that India has attained in the last two decades, and it reflects the team's consistent performance in the international tournaments.
- The Indian team has won 11 of its last 13 matches, including a historic victory over China in October 2022.
- The team's coach, Igor Stimac, expressed his satisfaction with the progress and hoped to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.



Testimonial



MONOJIT CHOWDHURY
RANK 2
WBCS (EXE.) 2020

Hello Everyone !!

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

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

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

Good luck !!

Yours truly
Monojit Chowdhury

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

Asian King Vulture

News

- The world's first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian king vulture was inaugurated in the Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh, India.

Details

- The Asian king vulture, also known as the red-headed vulture, that inhabits the Indian subcontinent and some parts of Southeast Asia.
- It has a distinctive appearance with a deep-red to orange naked head and a black body with a pale grey band on the wings.
- It plays an important role in the ecosystem by scavenging on animal carcasses.
- It is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) due to rapid population decline caused by habitat loss, poisoning, and human disturbance.



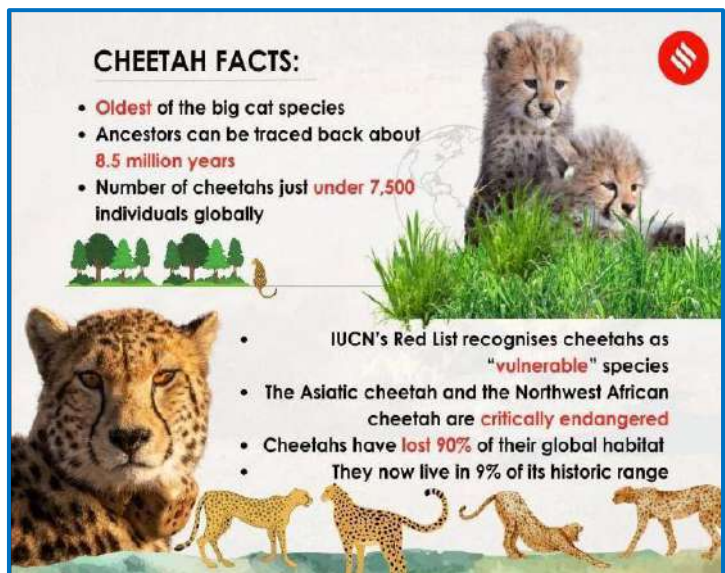
Gandhisagar Sanctuary

News

- Madhya Pradesh, also known as the "Cheetah State" of India, has announced its plans to develop Gandhisagar Sanctuary as a second habitat for cheetahs.
- The decision was taken by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan after experts suggested that Kuno National Park (KNP), where 18 cheetahs were translocated from Africa last year, does not have enough space for these felines.

Details

- The state already hosts cheetahs in Kuno National Park, which were part of the first batch of eight cheetahs brought from Namibia in September 2022 under the 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India'.
 - The project aims to restore the wild population of the big cat that was declared extinct in India in 1952.
- The sanctuary is expected to receive a batch of cheetahs from South Africa by the end of this year.



Mangrove Pitta Birds

News

- In a first-ever census of mangrove pitta birds carried out in two coastal districts of Odisha, 179 such birds were sighted.

Mangrove pitta birds

- They are colourful and elusive bird that lives in the coastal mangrove forests of eastern India and Southeast Asia.
- They are considered to be near threatened by the IUCN due to habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation.
- They are vulnerable to hunting, trapping and predation by feral cats and dogs.



Aravalli Green Wall Project

News

- The Aravalli Green Wall Project was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in collaboration with several state governments, NGOs, research institutions and local communities.

Details

- It is an ambitious initiative to restore the degraded ecosystems of the Aravalli mountain range in India.
- The project aims to create a continuous belt of native vegetation along the 1,600 km long range, which stretches across four states: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.
- The project is inspired by the Great Green Wall of Africa, which seeks to combat desertification and climate change by planting trees across the Sahel region.

Cyclone Ilsa

News

- A powerful "Cyclone Ilsa" with winds of up to 230 km/h, made landfall in Western Australia near Port Hedland, causing widespread damage and flooding.

Details

- The cyclone caused major disruption to the mining and shipping industries. Port Hedland, the world's largest iron ore export hub, was closed for several hours as a precaution, but no significant damage was reported to the port facilities.
 - Many homes and buildings were damaged or destroyed



by flying debris and fallen trees, and power lines were downed across the region. Some roads were cut off by floodwaters, isolating some towns and hamlets.

- A cyclone is a large-scale atmospheric system characterized by low pressure and strong winds that rotate around a centre. Cyclones can form over land or water and can have different names depending on their location and intensity.
- Cyclones can also influence global atmospheric circulation and ocean currents, as they transport heat and moisture from one region to another.
- Cyclones are driven by various factors, such as temperature gradients, pressure gradients, Coriolis force, and latent heat release.

International Big Cats Alliance

News

- India has recently announced the launch of the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA), a global initiative to conserve and protect the world's endangered wild cats.

Details

- The IBCA aims to bring together countries, organizations, experts, and communities that share a common vision of saving these majestic animals from extinction.
- The IBCA will focus on four key areas: habitat conservation, anti-poaching efforts, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and awareness and education.
- The alliance will also support scientific research and innovation to improve the monitoring and management of big cat populations and ecosystems.
- The IBCA is inspired by India's success in increasing its tiger population by more than 30% in the last decade, as well as its efforts to conserve other big cats such as lions, leopards, and snow leopards.

Water Budget

News

- Kerala becomes the first Indian state to adopt a Water Budget to tackle summer water shortage.

Details

- Kerala has taken a pioneering step in addressing the problem of water scarcity during the summer season by introducing a Water Budget for the state.
- The Water Budget is a comprehensive plan that estimates the availability and demand of water in different sectors and regions and proposes measures to ensure optimal and equitable use of the precious resource.
- It aims to promote water conservation, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and sustainable management of water resources.
- Kerala is the first state in India to adopt such a budget, which is expected to help the state cope with the challenges of climate change, population growth, and urbanization that affect its water security

APTI PLUS
Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.

Our Super Achievers in WBCS 2020

MONOJIT CHOWDHURY RANK 2	MRINMOY MAJI RANK 45	ABHIK PATLA RANK 46	ARGHYA BHATTACHARYA RANK 54	BANANI MAJUMDER RANK 83
CHANDAN SAHA RANK 101	DEBNATH MAHATA RANK 111	AMIT TAMANG RANK 115	JAGONNATH BISWAS RANK 161	SUBRATA DAS RANK 166

Congratulations Toppers!

OBITUARIES

Sarah Thomas passes away

- She was 78 years old and had been suffering from a prolonged illness.
- She was a prolific author who wrote novels, short stories, essays and memoirs in English and Malayalam.
- She won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2015 for her novel 'The Glass House', which depicted the lives of three generations of women in a Kerala family.

Mamukkoya passes away

- The Malayalam film actor-comedian Mamukkoya passed away at the age of 76 due to cardiac arrest.
- He acted in more than 400 films.

Parkash Singh Badal passes away

- The former chief minister of Punjab and the patron of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Parkash Singh Badal, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 95.
- Badal was a veteran politician who served as the chief minister of Punjab five times.

Tarek Fatah passes away

- Tarek Fatah, a renowned journalist, author, and activist died at the age of 72, after a long battle with cancer.
- He was born in Pakistan and moved to Canada, where he became a prominent voice for secularism, democracy, and human rights.

Dr N. Gopalakrishnan passed away

- Dr N. Gopalakrishnan, a renowned scientist and academician, has passed away at the age of 76.
- He was the founder of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage, an organization dedicated to promoting the scientific and cultural heritage of India.
- He was associated with the field of materials science and engineering and made significant contributions to the development of nanomaterials, biomaterials, and smart materials.

Jalabala Vaidya passes away

- Jalabala Vaidya, a legendary theatre actor and co-founder of Akshara Theatre, died at the age of 86 in New Delhi.
- She was the daughter of Suresh Vaidya, an Indian author and freedom fighter, and Madge Franckeiss, an English classical singer.

Salim Durani Passed Away

- Salim Durani, a former Indian cricket legend, passed away on 2 April 2023 at the age of 88.
- He was an Afghan-born all-rounder who played 29 Test matches for India from 1960 to 1973.
- He was instrumental in India's series victory against England in 1961-62 and India's maiden victory against West Indies in 1971.
- He was also the first cricketer to win an Arjuna Award and was honoured with the C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award by BCCI in 2011.



APPOINTMENTS

Rajesh Kumar Singh

News

- Rajesh Kumar Singh has assumed the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Details

- He is an IAS officer of the 1989 batch and has a rich experience in industrial policy, trade facilitation, infrastructure development, and public administration.
- He has held various important positions in the central and state governments. He was previously the Additional Secretary in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

Miguel Diaz-Canel

- Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, the current President of Cuba, has been re-elected for another five-year term by the National Assembly of People's Power.
- He is also the secretary-general of the Communist Party of Cuba.
- He received 99.5% of the votes from the 605 deputies who participated in the secret ballot

Mohammad Shahabuddin

News

- Mohammad Shahabuddin was sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh at a ceremony in the National Parliament House.
- He succeeded Abdul Hamid, who completed his second and final term in office.

Details

- Shahabuddin, a veteran politician and former speaker of the parliament, won the presidential election with 65% of the votes.
 - He defeated his main rival, Kamal Hossain, a former foreign minister and leader of the opposition alliance.
- Shahabuddin is the first president of Bangladesh to be elected by direct popular vote, following a constitutional amendment in 2021 that abolished the previous system of indirect election by members of parliament.
- He is also the first president to belong to the ruling Awami League party since Zillur Rahman in 2013.

Oliver Dowden

News

- Oliver Dowden, the former culture secretary, has been sworn in as the new deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom.
- He replaced Dominic Raab, who resigned after a cabinet reshuffle following the general election.

Details

- Dowden, who has been an MP since 2015, is seen as a loyal ally of Prime Minister Boris Johnson and a strong advocate for Brexit.
- He has also been praised for his handling of the culture sector during the Covid-19 pandemic, securing financial support for arts and entertainment venues and launching a digital strategy for the creative industries.

Arun Sinha

News

- The Government has appointed Arun Sinha as Chairman of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), a premier agency that deals with technical intelligence and cyber security.

Details

- Sinha, a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Bihar cadre, was previously serving as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- Sinha has over 35 years of experience in various fields of policing and security, including counter-terrorism, anti-Naxal operations, VIP security, and international cooperation.
- **NTRO collects and analyses technical intelligence from various sources**, such as satellites, radars, communication systems, and cyber networks.
 - It also provides technical support and assistance to other intelligence and security agencies in the country.
 - NTRO works under the National Security Adviser and reports directly to the Prime Minister's Office.

Ranveer Singh

News

- Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Star Sports, India's leading sports broadcaster.

Details

- Ranveer Singh, who is known for his versatile roles and energetic performances, will be seen promoting various sports events and initiatives on the channel.
- He will also feature in a series of campaigns and advertisements that will highlight the passion and excitement of sports fans across the country.

Mr Sheikh Khaled

News

- The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has appointed his son Mr Sheikh Khaled as the next crown prince of Abu Dhabi.

Details

- Mr Sheikh Khaled, who is 30 years old, is currently the deputy national security adviser and chairman of the executive affairs authority of Abu Dhabi.
- He is also a prominent businessman and philanthropist, with interests in various sectors such as energy, technology, sports and culture.
- The UAE is a federation of seven emirates, namely Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah.
 - Abu Dhabi is the largest and richest emirate and holds most of the country's oil reserves.

Gianni Infantino

News

- Gianni Infantino has been re-elected as the president of FIFA until 2027.

Details

- Gianni Infantino has been re-elected as the president of FIFA until 2027 after standing unopposed at the Congress of world football's governing body.
- The 52-year-old Swiss lawyer, who succeeded the disgraced Sepp Blatter in 2016, was waved in for a third term by acclamation.
- He has defended Qatar's hosting of last year's World Cup as the Gulf state's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community came under the spotlight, has projected a record

revenue of \$11 billion through the men's 2026 World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by the US, Canada and Mexico

AWARDS

Ispat Rajbhasha Samman

- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RINL) has bagged Steel Ministry's "Ispat Rajbhasha Samman" for the year 2021-22.
- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), also known as Vizag Steel, is a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
- It operates India's first shore-based integrated steel plant in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

68th Filmfare Awards 2023

- The awards ceremony was hosted by Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone.
- The film "Gangubai Kathiawadi" won six awards including Best Film and Best Actress for Alia Bhatt.
- The film "Sooryavanshi" won five awards including Best Director for Rohit Shetty and Best Actor for Akshay Kumar.
- Ayushmann Khurrana won the Best Actor (Critics) for Anek
- Taapsee Pannu won Best Actress (Critics) for Rashmi Rocket

HUDCO Award

- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh (SBM-U UP) has been awarded the HUDCO Award for 2022-2023.
- The SBM-U UP has been honoured in the category of "Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment".
- The award was given by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

Global Gold Award

- Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) has been awarded the Global Gold Award 2023 in the category of Energy Efficiency.
- PGCIL is the largest electric power transmission utility in India, responsible for planning, coordinating, supervising and controlling the inter-state transmission system.
- The Global Gold Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of organizations and individuals in various fields of sustainability and environmental management.

International Prize in Statistics

- The International Prize in Statistics 2023, which is statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize, has been awarded to Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, a prominent Indian-American mathematician and statistician.
- Rao is recognized for his pioneering work in 1945 that laid the foundation for the modern field of statistics and provided powerful tools for scientific data analysis.
- Rao has made significant contributions to various areas of statistics, such as multivariate analysis, differential geometry, and linear models.

Dalai Lama

- Dalai Lama received the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award from members of the award foundation personally after 64 years.

- The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership was conferred to the Dalai Lama in recognition of his efforts to preserve the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Tibetan people. However, due to the political turmoil in Tibet at that time, he was unable to receive the award in person.

Ratan Tata

- Ratan Tata has been awarded Australia's highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia.
- He was recognised for his significant contributions to the Australia-India relationship, especially in the fields of trade, investment, education and philanthropy.

Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration

- The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 was conferred to the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme of the Union Health Ministry.
- This award recognizes the innovative and effective measures taken by the programme to ensure the timely and equitable distribution of vaccines across the country.

Angela Merkel

- German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier awarded former Chancellor Angela Merkel with the highest Order of Merit of Germany for her outstanding service to the nation.
- Merkel stepped down as chancellor in 2021 after 16 years in office and expressed her gratitude and humility for receiving the prestigious honour.

Malcolm Adiseshiah Award

- Utsa Patnaik, a nationally and internationally famous economist, has been chosen for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.
- It is given in recognition of excellent contributions to Development Studies.

Nandini Gupta

- Nandini Gupta (19) of Rajasthan has been crowned the 59th edition of the Femina Miss India World 2023 beauty pageant.
- Meanwhile, the first and second runners-up were announced as Shreya Poonja from Delhi and Thounaojam Strela Luwang from Manipur, respectively.
- She is from Kota, Rajasthan, and has a degree in Business Management.

Kiran Nadar

- Kiran Nadar received the honour of "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- In recognition of her contributions to the world of art, her dedication to increasing access to culture on a national and international scale, and her leadership role in strengthening Indo-French cultural links.

Asia Book of Records

News

- Maha Metro has been awarded the prestigious 'Asia Book of Record' citation for its innovative and eco-friendly initiatives in the construction of the Nagpur and Pune metro projects.
- The citation recognizes Maha Metro's efforts to adopt green technologies and practices such as solar power generation, rainwater harvesting, waste management, energy-efficient lighting, and the use of recycled materials.
- Maha Metro is the first metro rail organization in India to receive this honour, which showcases its commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection.

Aasif Sheikh

- Nepalese Wicketkeeper-batsman Aasif Sheikh has been declared the winner of the 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award.

- This prestigious award is given annually by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and the BBC to a player who has exhibited exemplary conduct and sportsmanship on and off the field.
- Sheikh was chosen for his remarkable gesture of walking off the crease without waiting for the umpire's decision after edging a ball to the keeper in a crucial match against Oman in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2.
- He also donated his entire match fee to a local charity that supports underprivileged children in Nepal.

Wildlife Conservation Award

News

- Aaliya Mir, a wildlife conservationist from Jammu and Kashmir, has received the Wildlife Conservation Award 2023 from the Union Territory government for her remarkable efforts in rescuing and rehabilitating wild animals in the region.

Details

- She is the first woman in Jammu and Kashmir to work for Wildlife SOS, a non-profit organization that focuses on rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife in distress, particularly those that have been subjected to cruelty and exploitation.
- Aaliya Mir has rescued a wide range of animals, including Asiatic black bears, Himalayan brown bears, leopards, Levantine vipers, and birds, among others.
- She has also gained fame for her ability to catch snakes and release them back into the wild.
- Aaliya Mir is also a prominent wildlife researcher and supervises various projects that study the Brown and Black bears found in Kashmir.

Children's Champion Award 2023

News

- An NGO from Assam, named Students' Welfare Mission or Tapoban, has been honoured with the prestigious Children's Champion Award 2023 for its outstanding work in the field of health and nutrition for special and autistic children.

Details

- The award was given by the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, which had received more than 1,100 nominations from across the country.
- Tapoban, which was established in 2005 and is based in Pathsala, a town about 100 km northwest of Guwahati, provides various services to children with special needs and autism, such as speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, music, and daily living skills.
- The NGO also runs a care home for 18 specially-abled and orphaned children and has helped more than 700 children so far.
- Tapoban also received the Chief Minister's Best Community Action Award in 2011.

Volodymyr Zelensky

News

- Volodymyr Zelensky, the president of Ukraine, has been honoured with the Order of the White Eagle, the highest award in Poland.

Details

- He received the distinction from his Polish counterpart, Andrzej Duda, during a visit to Warsaw on April 5, 2023.
- The award was given to Zelensky for his services to security, resilience and the defence of human rights, as well as for his efforts to deepen the relations between Poland and Ukraine.
- Zelensky expressed his gratitude for the recognition and praised the friendship and solidarity between the two countries. He also discussed the security situation in Eastern Europe and the ongoing conflict with Russia.

TIME 100 Reader Poll

News

- Shah Rukh Khan, the superstar of Bollywood, has won the 2023 TIME100 reader poll.

Details

- Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has secured the top position in TIME Magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list.
- The list features the most influential people in the world, as voted by the magazine's readers. Shah Rukh Khan received 4% of the vote after more than 1.2 million votes were cast.
- The second spot went to the Iranian women protesting for greater freedoms from the country's Islamic regime, garnering 3% of the vote.
 - The protesters have been demanding justice and equality since September 2022, when a young woman named Mahsa Amini was killed by Iran's morality police for allegedly wearing her headscarf too loosely.
 - The Iranian women were also named TIME's 2022 Heroes of the Year.

Deepika Misra

News

- Wing Commander Deepika Misra become the first woman officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to receive the Gallantry Award.
- She was conferred the Shaurya Chakra, the third-highest peacetime gallantry award.

Details

- Wing Commander Misra was honoured for her bravery and skill in rescuing 12 people from a flood-hit village in Uttarakhand in July 2022.
 - She was the captain of a Mi-17 V5 helicopter that was tasked with airlifting the stranded villagers from a narrow valley.
 - Despite poor visibility, strong winds and hostile terrain, she managed to land the helicopter on a small patch of land and evacuate the villagers safely.
- Wing Commander Misra joined the IAF in 2011 as a helicopter pilot. She has flown over 1500 hours in various operational roles, including disaster relief, casualty evacuation, counter-insurgency and anti-naxal operations.
- She is also a qualified flying instructor and has trained many young pilots.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Autism Awareness Day

- Every year on April 2, the world observes World Autism Awareness Day to raise awareness and acceptance of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- ASD is a developmental condition that affects how a person communicates, interacts and behaves with others.
- The theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2023 is "Transformation: Toward a Neuro-Inclusive World for All".

National Maritime Day

- India celebrates National Maritime Day on April 5 every year to commemorate the maiden voyage of the first Indian-owned steamship, S.S. Loyalty, from Mumbai to London in 1919.
- The **theme of National Maritime Day 2023 is "Amrit Kaal in Shipping"**, which means a golden era in shipping.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has developed Maritime India Vision 2030, a blueprint for coordinated and accelerated growth of the maritime sector in the next decade.

World Health Day

- Every year on April 7, World Health Day is observed to raise awareness about health-related issues that affect people all over the world.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) was created on this day in 1948, and this year celebrates the 75th anniversary of its inception.
- The theme for World Health Day 2023 is 'Health for All'.

World Heritage Day

- On April 18, World Heritage Day (or International Day for Monuments and Sites) is observed to raise awareness about the importance of cultural heritage and the need to protect it for future generations.
- "Heritage Changes" is the theme for 2023.
- The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) established it, and the 22nd UNESCO General Conference adopted it in 1983.
- India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites - 40

National Civil Services Day

- On April 21, India celebrates National Civil Services Day to recognize the achievements and dedication of the officers who serve the nation in various public service sectors.
- This day marks the occasion when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of independent India, addressed the newly appointed Administrative Services Officers in 1947.

Earth Day

- Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 every year.
- The first Earth Day was held in 1970 in the United States, in response to growing concerns about pollution, biodiversity loss, and other ecological problems.
- The theme for Earth Day 2023 is "Invest in Our Planet", which calls for businesses to shift towards sustainable practices.

World Book Day

- World Book Day is a global celebration of books and reading that takes place every year on April 23.
- It is also known as World Book and Copyright Day or International Day of the Book.
- The theme for World Book Day 2023 is 'Indigenous Languages'.
- The World Book Capital for 2023 is Accra, the capital of Ghana.

National Panchayati Raj Day

- The National Panchayati Raj Day is observed on April 24 every year, as it marks the date when the first Panchayat elections were held in India.
- The day aims to highlight the importance of grassroots democracy and decentralization of power in India.

World Malaria Day

- World Malaria Day is observed every year on April 25 to commemorate the recognition of global efforts to control malaria.
- The theme of World Malaria Day 2023 is "Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement".
- The main way that malaria spreads is through the bite of a female Anopheles mosquito that carries the parasite.

World Intellectual Property Day

- World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on the 26th of April to raise awareness of the importance of intellectual property rights and their protection.

- The theme for the 2023 World Intellectual Property Day is "Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity".

World Veterinary Day

- The World Veterinary Day 2023 is celebrated on 29th April 2023. This day is observed to honour and recognise the contributions of veterinarians to animal health, welfare and public health.
- The theme of World Veterinary Day 2023 is 'Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession'.

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Book Titled 'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change'

- "A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change" is a new authored by an IAS officer and senior bureaucrat Ashish Kundra.
- The book is a personal tribute to the northeast and its people, based on Kundra's experiences as a policymaker and administrator in Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Book Titled 'In Pursuit of Peace'

- Nina Lambah released the late Satinder Kumar Lambah's memoir, 'In Pursuit of Peace: India-Pakistan Relations under Six Prime Ministers.
- Satinder Kumar Lambah was the Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board and served as Deputy Chief of Mission and High Commissioner in Pakistan for two terms.

Book Titled "Azaad"

- One of the most awaited books of the year is "Azaad", the autobiography of Ghulam Nabi Azad, the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The book shed light on Azad's illustrious political career spanning over four decades, his role in various governments and party positions, and his views on the current state of affairs in the country.

Book Titled 'The Great Bank Robbery'

- A New Book Titled 'The Great Bank Robbery' is authored by V Pattabhi Ram and Sabyasachee Dash.
- The book reveals the details of the heist, the investigation, and the aftermath. The book also explores the ethical and legal implications of cybercrime and its impact on society.

Book Titled 'Transforming the Steel Frame: Promise and Paradox of Civil Service Reform'

- Vinod Rai authored a book titled 'Transforming the Steel Frame: Promise and Paradox of Civil Service Reform'.
- Vinod Rai, a former Comptroller and Auditor General of India and a distinguished civil servant himself offers a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing the Indian bureaucracy in the 21st century.

Book Titled 'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change'

- The book launch of 'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change' by Ashish Kundra, an IAS officer who has served in various leadership roles in the Northeast.
- The book covers various aspects of the region's history, culture, politics, economy, sports, infrastructure, healthcare and development, and showcases the stories of resilience and hope of the people of this frontier land.

BOOSTER DOSE

- Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, an Indonesian badminton player, emerged victorious in the Women's singles category at the Madrid Spain Masters 2023.
- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection for March 2023 has increased by 13% to Rs 1.60 lakh crore, according to data released by the Ministry of Finance
- RBI is set to introduce a new secured web-based portal called "PRAVAAH" (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And AutHorisation) aimed at simplifying and streamlining the application processes.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has granted Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) status to the state-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI).
- Canara Bank and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) have collaborated to launch a service that allows Indians residing in Oman to make payments for their bills in India.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the financial year 2023-24, lowering it by 20 basis points to 5.9 %.
- Mukesh Ambani has been named the richest sports owner (Mumbai Indians) in the Forbes Billionaire 2023 list.
- Walmart-backed Indian fintech decacorn PhonePe has recently launched Pincode, a new consumer-facing app aimed at strengthening its e-commerce initiatives.
- The Reserve Bank of India has announced its bimonthly monetary policy and kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent.
- Asha Bhosle (singer) to receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar.
- 2023 marks 104 years of the tragic incident, On April 13, 1919, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in Amritsar, Punjab.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released comprehensive instructions for banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) regarding the acceptance of 'green deposits'.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected a moderate economic growth rate for India due to various factors such as a global slowdown, tight monetary conditions, and elevated oil prices.
- Harmanpreet Kaur & Suryakumar Yadav named Wisden T20I player of 2022.
- Several public sector banks in India have transferred a total of Rs 35,012 crore (\$4.7 billion) in unclaimed deposits to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- New York City tops the list of the world's wealthiest cities in 2023.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched its WhatsApp Banking Services in New Delhi, allowing customers to conveniently access banking services on their mobile phones.
- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India's military expenditure is the fourth-highest in the world.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Neeraj Nigam has been appointed as the new executive director (ED).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied penalties of Rs 44 lakhs on four cooperative banks for violating various norms.
- India's rank in the 7th edition of the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023.
- The bilateral trade between India and the United States has risen by 7.65% to reach \$128.55 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23, making the United States India's largest trading partner.
- The Turkish Navy has received the TCG Anadolu, its first aircraft carrier, which is expected to house the world's first air wing made primarily of unmanned aircraft.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) has found that India has breached global trading regulations in a dispute over import duties on IT products with the European Union (EU), Japan, and Taiwan.
- To combat the falling value of the Zimbabwean currency, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has announced plans to introduce a gold-backed digital currency.

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited to France for the Bastille Day parade, which is scheduled for July 14th.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vande Bharat Express train service between Rani Kamalapati Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station in Delhi.
- During his three-day visit to Uganda's Kampala, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project'.
- Cuba's National Assembly has confirmed President Miguel Díaz-Canel for a new five-year term, as the country grapples with a severe economic crisis.
- Ghana has made history by becoming the first country to approve a highly effective malaria vaccine developed by scientists at the University of Oxford in the UK.
- The Philippines and the United States have launched their largest-ever joint military exercises, called Balikatan, involving nearly 18,000 troops to counter China's growing assertiveness in the region.
- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu has become the 22nd president of Bangladesh.
- A panel in Japan's health ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that a woman from Guangdong, a southern province of China, has died from a rare strain of bird flu that is not commonly found in humans.
- Dominic Raab, the British Deputy Prime Minister, has resigned after an independent investigation found that he acted in an intimidating manner toward colleagues.
- Reliance General Insurance became the first general insurance company to accept the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (₹) for premium payments.
- On April 5th, 2023, Israel successfully launched a new spy satellite, named Ofek-13, into orbit.
- Tata Steel plans to set up a 10-tonnes-per-day pilot plant at its Kalinganagar facility in Odisha to produce methanol using blast furnace flue gases.
- On April 5th, during the second T20I match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Dunedin, Kim Cotton became the first woman to serve as an on-field umpire in a men's international match between two full-member teams.
- Norwegian company Norled has successfully launched the world's first ferry that runs on liquid hydrogen.
- People of Paris (France) have voted to ban rental electric scooters from the streets of the city, with 89% of voters in favour of the proposed ban.
- The state-owned railway company Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) was in focus as the Indian Government upgraded its status to a 'Navratna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from a 'Miniratna' category.
- The Italian government has announced that it plans to ban the English language and impose heavy fines on individuals and organizations that continue to use it.
- Stanford University's AI Index report states that India is ranked fifth in terms of investments received by startups offering AI-based products and services in 2022.
- India's unemployment rate has risen to a three-month high of 7.8% in March 2023, according to the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- State Bank of India (SBI) introduces 400 days 'Amrit Kalash' retail term deposit scheme.
- Dalai Lama Gets 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award In Person After 64 Years.
- The Rupee Vostro Account system is a financial arrangement that enables foreign banks to conduct transactions in Indian rupees with domestic banks.
- Bengaluru has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing cities in the Asia Pacific region.
- Jupiter, a neobanking startup, has obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, introduced the "Sagar Setu" mobile application for the National Logistics Portal Marine.
- Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the YUVA PORTAL in New Delhi, which aims to connect and identify potential young Start-Ups.
- The Election Commission has granted national party status to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).
- India has recently been elected as a member of the United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission Narcotic Drugs.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute' in Silvassa town, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh has been granted the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The tourism department of the Goa government holds the 'Heritage Festival 2023' from April 28 to 30 at Saligao village in North Goa.
- The world's first conservation and breeding centre for the critically endangered Asian king vulture is set to open in Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district.
- Kerala adopts Water Budget to tackle the problem of summer water shortage.
- Kolkata Metro has achieved a significant milestone as it became the first metro rail in India to complete an under-river journey.
- The Department of Tourism and the Department of Art and Culture jointly organized the Thawe Festival on April 15th and 16th in Gopalganj, Bihar.
- Maharashtra Government has introduced a 4% quota for employees with disabilities in promotions.
- The Union Minister for Rural Development, Shri Giriraj Singh, has launched an innovative Captive Employer initiative under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first-ever water metro in Kerala.
- Khongjom Day was commemorated at Khongjom in the Thoubal district of Manipur to honour the soldiers who fought in the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War.
- Bandipur National Park, located in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, recently completed 50 years as a Project Tiger Reserve.
- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has created a committee to tackle the problem of incomplete real estate projects. The committee was chaired by Amitabh Kant.
- Assam made a historic achievement by entering the Guinness Book of World Records with over 11,000 dancers and drummers performing the traditional 'Bihu' dance.
- Himachal Pradesh has made history by becoming the first Indian state to establish a DNA database specifically for unidentified bodies.
- Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has given his assent to a bill that bans online gambling games and regulates them.
- Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma launched the 'Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme'.
- The famous Cumbum Panneer Thratchai or Cumbum grapes from Tamil Nadu have recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The Kerala government initiated the 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project was launched by Kerala's Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, at Kallikkad.
- The government implemented changes to the pricing model of domestic natural gas following the Kirit Parikh committee's recommendations on gas pricing.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala has secured the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in FY23.
- The Indian Government has taken steps for National Medical Devices Policy to implement the PLI Scheme for medical devices and establish 4 Medical Devices Parks in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- India released the first edition of the Dogri version of the Indian Constitution.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced plans to develop an integrated network of around 10,000 kilometres of optic fibre cables (OFC) infrastructure across India by the fiscal year 2025.
- India has developed a country-level mathematical model that estimates the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the country.
- India's Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Vibrant Village program at Kibithu, a border village in Arunachal Pradesh.
- A 3D-printed post office is being built in Bengaluru is the first of its kind in the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) to conserve seven species of big cats, including tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, snow leopards, and clouded leopards during his visit to Karnataka on April 9, 2022.

- The United Nations 2023 Water Conference was held in New York.
- Shah Rukh Khan won the 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll.
- Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev by defeated Jannik Sinner in a final match in Miami Opens 2023.
- The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) for 2021-22 indicates that Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Telangana are the top-performing states.
- Max Verstappen has claimed his first Australian Grand Prix in 2023.
- According to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, which assesses the performance of states in terms of justice delivery, the state of Karnataka has achieved the top rank among the 18 large and mid-sized states with populations over one crore.
- According to the latest tiger census data, the tiger population in India has reached 3,167 in 2022.
- According to a report by payment services firm Worldline India, Chennai has become one of the leading cities for digital payment transactions in 2022 in the country.
- Karnataka was recognized as the leading state in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme.
- World of Statistics has shared the ranking of the world's "most criminal countries". On the list, Venezuela has been ranked top.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has released the first-ever Census of Water Bodies, which has revealed that West Bengal has the highest number of water bodies in India, while Sikkim has the lowest.
- The Indian Army and Tezpur University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for providing Chinese language training to Indian Army personnel.
- India has surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people, according to the latest United Nations data.
- Rajasthan topped the country in terms of person days generation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- India will build the first oil refinery of Mongolia by 2025.
- India Ukraine chamber of commerce to be set up to strengthen commercial ties.
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- Romania's deputy defence minister, Simona Cojocaru, met with India's defence secretary, Giridhar Aramane, in New Delhi, during which the two countries signed their first Defence Cooperation Agreement.
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- Neeli Bendapudi received the Immigrant Achievement Award for her significant contributions to higher education in the United States.
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- FIFA announced that it had withdrawn Peru's hosting rights to the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023.
- India initiated Operation Kaveri to evacuate its citizens from unrest-stricken Sudan.
- Utsa Patnaik, a well-known economist, has been chosen for the prestigious Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.
- Former Chancellor Angela Merkel received Germany's highest Order of Merit.
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- Sara, the world's first robotic check-in assistant, has been unveiled by Dubai-based airline Emirates.
- Elon Musk announced his plan to launch an AI platform called "TruthGPT" to compete with Microsoft and Google.
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- Kenya's first operational Earth observation satellite, "Taifa-1," was successfully launched into space.
- The Mircha rice variety from the West Champaran district of Bihar has recently been granted the GI tag.
- Tennis legend Jaidip Mukerjea launches his autobiography "Crosscourt".
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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. The first-ever census of Mangrove Pitta Birds was carried out in which Indian State?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) West Bengal
- (C) Odisha
- (D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: C

Explanation: In a first-ever census of mangrove pitta birds carried out in two coastal districts of Odisha, 179 such birds were sighted. This is the first-ever systematic survey of this species in India, and it covered an area of 1,000 hectares of mangrove forests in Bhitarkanika National Park and Mahanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q2. Recently, the Union government has approved the installation of how many nuclear reactors in the country?

- (A) 6
- (B) 8
- (C) 10
- (D) 12

Answer: C

Explanation: The Centre has approved the installation of 10 nuclear reactors in five states; Karnataka, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

Q3. Which of the following state/UTs government has organized 'Baisakhi Mahotsav 2023' from April 13 to 15, 2023?

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

Answer: D

Explanation: To commemorate the rich and diverse Dogra culture and heritage, the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu is organising a three-day 'Baisakhi Mahotsav 2023' in Jammu and Kashmir from April 13 to 15 2023.

The event aims to promote tourism and cultural exchange in the region and to celebrate the spirit of Baisakhi, which marks the harvest season and the beginning of a new year.

Q4. Which of the following political party recently get the status of a National Party By the Election Commission of India?

- (A) Trinamool Congress
- (B) National People's Party
- (C) Aam Aadmi Party
- (D) Bahujan Samaj Party

Answer: C

Explanation: According to the Election Commission of India, a political party can be recognised as a national party if it meets certain criteria based on its performance in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections. One of the criteria is that the party should be recognised in at least four states. In April 2023, the latest political party to achieve this status is the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Q5. Which of the following state government has launched Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan (AMLAN)?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Odisha
- (D) West Bengal

Answer: C

Explanation: Recently Odisha Government has announced that the students of all government and government-aided schools in Odisha will get iron and folic acid (IFA) tablets during the summer vacation under the Anemia Mukta Lakhsya AbhiyaN (AMLAN).

Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan (AMLAN) was launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on November 24, 2022, to eradicate anaemia from the state.

Q6. Which of the following is not a common cause of anaemia?

- (A) Iron deficiency
- (B) Vitamin B12 deficiency
- (C) Folic acid deficiency
- (D) Calcium deficiency

Answer: D

Explanation: Anaemia is a condition that occurs when the blood does not have enough healthy red blood cells or haemoglobin. Haemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen to the tissues of the body. Anaemia can cause symptoms

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such as fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, dizziness, and pale skin.

There are many possible causes of anaemia, depending on the type and severity of the condition. Some of the common causes are; Iron deficiency, Vitamin B12 and folate deficiency.

Q7. The world's first conservation and breeding centre for the critically endangered Asian king vulture is all set to open in which Indian State?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Uttar Pradesh
- (D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C

Explanation: A new facility dedicated to the conservation and breeding of the Asian king vulture, a species that faces a high risk of extinction, will soon be inaugurated in the Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh. This will be the first centre of its kind in the world to focus on the protection and propagation of this rare and majestic bird of prey.

Q8. Which of the following city hosted the Food Conclave-2023 on April 28 and 29?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Ahmedabad
- (C) Hyderabad
- (D) Kolkata

Answer: C

Explanation: Hyderabad, Telangana hosted the Food Conclave-2023 on April 28 and 29, a prestigious annual event that brings together 100 experts from the agri-food industry to discuss and exchange ideas on various topics related to food production, processing, and innovation.

The event was organized by the Government of Telangana, with the support of several knowledge partners such as the World Economic Forum-India, Indian Vegetable Oil Producers Association (IVPA), Indian Dairy Association, Heifer International, and Society of Aquaculture Professionals.

Q9. Which of the following city organized the National Apprenticeship Mela under Skill India Mission?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Lucknow
- (C) Bangalore

(D) Udhampur

Answer: D

Explanation: As a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to boost career opportunities for India's youth under the Skill India Mission, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela, PMNAM at ITI College in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir.

Q10. The Gond painting has recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The painting is the painting of which Indian state?

- (A) Telangana
- (B) Chhattisgarh
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Jharkhand

Answer: C

Explanation:

Gond painting is a form of tribal art that originated in Madhya Pradesh and is associated with the Gond community.

The Gond painting was traditionally done on the mud walls and floors of the houses, using natural colours made from charcoal, cow dung, leaves, and flowers.

In April 2023, the Gond painting received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Government of India.

Q11. The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in which Country?

- (A) Saudi Arabia
- (B) Israel
- (C) South Africa
- (D) Uganda

Answer: D

Explanation: The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurated the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Uganda, as part of India's development partnership with the African nation.

Q12. Which of the following social media platform has launched a new campaign called "Stay Safe" in April 2023?

- (A) Facebook
- (B) WhatsApp
- (C) Instagram
- (D) Twitter

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Answer: B

Explanation: WhatsApp's recent marketing campaign titled 'Stay safe with WhatsApp' aims to educate users on product features and safety measures on WhatsApp that empower users to take control of their safety and security - online.

Q13. According to the World of Statistics ranking, which of the following is the most criminal country in the world?

- (A) Pakistan
- (B) Afghanistan
- (C) Venezuela
- (D) Sudan

Answer: C

Explanation: According to a report by World of Statistics, Venezuela has been ranked as the most criminal country in the world, followed by Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan, South Africa, Honduras and Trinidad and Tobago. The ranking is based on the crime index, which measures the level of crime and safety in a country.

The report also highlighted the factors that contribute to the high crime rates in these countries, such as poverty, inequality, corruption, violence and social unrest.

Q14. Who has been awarded the International Prize 2023 in Statistics, often referred to as the Nobel Prize of Statistics?

- (A) M. Venkatesh Reddy
- (B) C. Radhakrishna Rao
- (C) K. Somnath Misra
- (D) P. Somya Jain

Answer: B

Explanation: The International Prize in Statistics 2023, which is statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize, has been awarded to Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, a prominent Indian-American mathematician and statistician.

Rao is recognized for his pioneering work in 1945 that laid the foundation for the modern field of statistics and provided powerful tools for scientific data analysis.

Q15. Who has become the fastest batsman to reach the 6000-run mark in the Indian Premier League (IPL)?

- (A) Rohit Sharma

- (B) MS Dhoni
- (C) Virat Kohli
- (D) David Warner

Answer: D

Explanation: David Warner, the captain of Delhi Capitals became the fastest batsman to reach the 6000-run mark in the IPL during a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati. He achieved this feat in just 165 innings, which is faster than Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan, who are the only other players to have scored 6000 runs in the IPL.

Q16. According to a survey published by London-based 'Time Out' which city was ranked as the city with the best public transport system globally?

- (A) London, United Kingdom
- (B) New York, United States of America
- (C) Berlin, Germany
- (D) Paris, France

Answer: C

Explanation: Berlin in Germany has been named the city with the most exceptional public transport system globally, according to a survey conducted by Time Out, a London-based media outlet that specializes in the hospitality industry and identifies itself as a global brand committed to urban life.

Q17. Recently a report titled "The state of the world's children 2023: For every child, vaccination" has praised the Odisha government's immunization coverage despite the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. Which of the following organization has released this report?

- (A) World Bank
- (B) WHO
- (C) UNICEF
- (D) International Monetary Organization

Answer: C

Explanation: UNICEF in its latest report 'The state of the world's children 2023: For every child, vaccination,' praised the Odisha government's immunization coverage despite the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the report, more than 90% of children in Odisha are fully immunized, which is

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significantly higher than the national average of 76.4%

Q18. Who won the silver medal in the women's 68kg category at the Asian wrestling championships 2023 held in Astana, Kazakhstan?

- (A) Sakshi Malik
- (B) Geeta Phogat
- (C) Nisha Dahiya
- (D) Babita Phogat

Answer: C

Explanation: The silver medal in the women's 68kg category at the Asian wrestling championships 2023 held in Astana, Kazakhstan was won by India's Nisha Dahiya. She defeated Delgermaa Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia and Feng Zhou of China in the quarter-finals and semi-finals respectively, before losing to Japan's Ami Ishi in the final.

Q19. Which country recently become the first country in the world to approve a new malaria vaccine from Oxford University?

- (A) Bangladesh
- (B) Vietnam
- (C) Ghana
- (D) Brazil

Answer: C

Explanation: Ghana has become the first country in the world to approve a new malaria vaccine from Oxford University, which could save millions of lives from the deadly disease. The vaccine is called R21/Matrix-M.

Q20. According to poll affidavits analyzed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). Which state CM has the lowest total assets?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Rajasthan
- (D) West Bengal

Answer: D

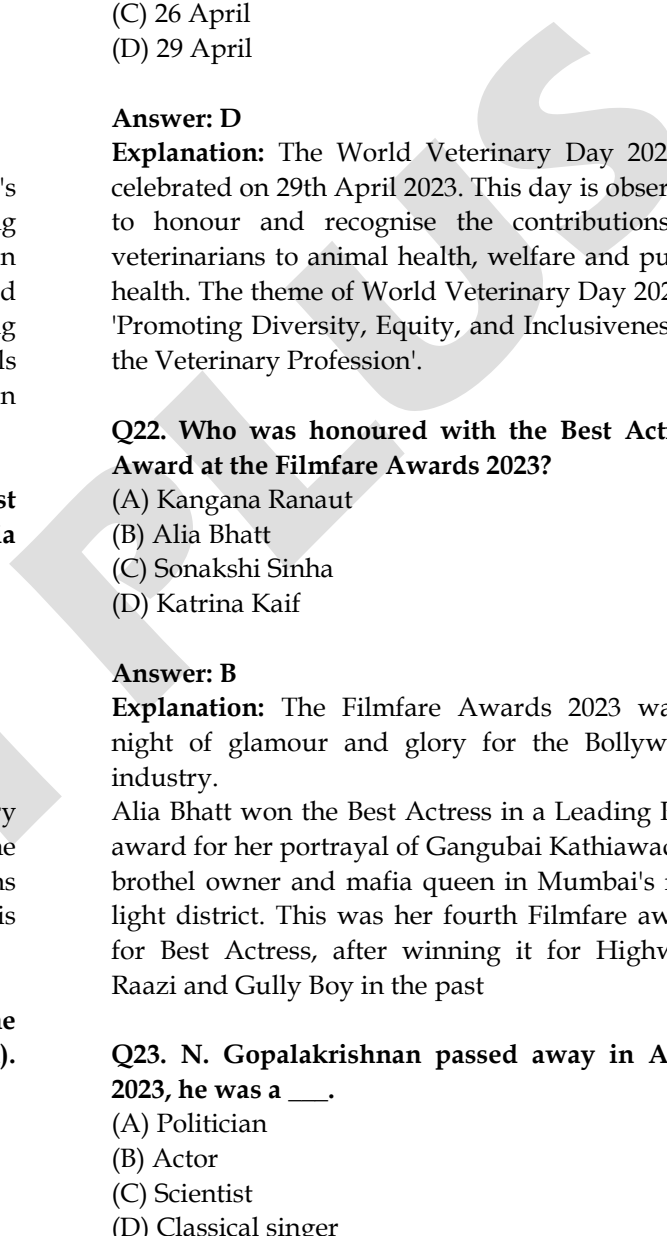
Explanation: According to poll affidavits analyzed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has the lowest total assets of about ₹15 lakhs among the current 30 CMs of states and union territories. Out of the 30 CMs, 29 (97%) are crorepatris with an average asset value of ₹33.96 crore per CM. The

top CM in terms of assets is Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy (over ₹510 crore).

Q21. The World Veterinary Day 2023 is celebrated on;

- (A) 20 April
- (B) 23 April
- (C) 26 April
- (D) 29 April

Answer: D

Explanation: The World Veterinary Day 2023 is celebrated on 29th April 2023. This day is observed to honour and recognise the contributions of veterinarians to animal health, welfare and public health. The theme of World Veterinary Day 2023 is 'Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession!'.


Q22. Who was honoured with the Best Actress Award at the Filmfare Awards 2023?

- (A) Kangana Ranaut
- (B) Alia Bhatt
- (C) Sonakshi Sinha
- (D) Katrina Kaif

Answer: B

Explanation: The Filmfare Awards 2023 was a night of glamour and glory for the Bollywood industry.

Alia Bhatt won the Best Actress in a Leading Role award for her portrayal of Gangubai Kathiawadi, a brothel owner and mafia queen in Mumbai's red-light district. This was her fourth Filmfare award for Best Actress, after winning it for Highway, Raazi and Gully Boy in the past

Q23. N. Gopalakrishnan passed away in April 2023, he was a ____.

- (A) Politician
- (B) Actor
- (C) Scientist
- (D) Classical singer

Answer: C

Explanation: Dr N. Gopalakrishnan, a renowned scientist and academician, has passed away at the age of 76. He was associated with the field of materials science and engineering and made significant contributions to the development of nanomaterials, biomaterials, and smart materials.



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Q24. India's first water metro service was recently inaugurated in which state?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Kerala
- (C) West Bengal
- (D) Karnataka

Answer: B

Explanation: India's first water metro service was recently inaugurated in Kerala by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Kochi Water Metro is a network of electric-hybrid boats that connect ten islands in and around the port city of Kochi.

Q25. Recently the Union Cabinet has decided to set up ____ medical device parks under the National Medical Device Policy.

- (A) 2
- (B) 4
- (C) 6
- (D) 8

Answer: B

Explanation: According to the National Medical Devices Policy 2023, which was approved by the Union Cabinet on April 26, 2023, the government plans to support the setting up of 4 medical device parks in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

These parks will provide infrastructure and facilities for the domestic production of medical devices and reduce the import dependence in this sector.

Q26. Who has been sworn in as the new President of Bangladesh?

- (A) Khaleda Zia
- (B) Shahabuddin Chuppu
- (C) Sheikh Ibrahim Saleh
- (D) Muhammadu Buhari

Answer: B

Explanation: Shahabuddin Chuppu, a former judge and freedom fighter, has become the 22nd president of Bangladesh. He succeeds Abdul Hamid, who served two consecutive terms as president.

Q27. National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on ____.

- (A) 16 April
- (B) 20 April
- (C) 24 April

(D) 28 April

Answer: C

Explanation: The National Panchayati Raj Day is observed on April 24 every year, as it marks the date when the first Panchayat elections were held in India.

The day aims to highlight the importance of grassroots democracy and decentralization of power in India.

Q28. The joint exercise between the Indian and American air forces "Cope India 2023" was held in which India State?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Uttarakhand
- (C) Karnataka
- (D) West Bengal.

Answer: D

Explanation: In Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal, a joint exercise between the air forces of India and America took place. The exercise, named "Cope India 2023", aimed to enhance interoperability and cooperation between the two countries.

Q29. Which of the following country has recently honoured Ratan Tata with its highest civilian honour?

- (A) France
- (B) Germany
- (C) Australia
- (D) New Zealand

Answer: C

Explanation: Ratan Tata has been awarded Australia's highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia. Tata was recognised for his significant contributions to the Australia-India relationship, especially in the fields of trade, investment, education and philanthropy.

Q30. Operation Kaveri is the evacuation operation carried out by the Indian government to bring back its citizens from which of the following Country?

- (A) Yemen
- (B) Afghanistan
- (C) Sudan
- (D) Libya

Answer: C

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Explanation: Operation Kaveri is the evacuation operation carried out by the Indian government to bring back its citizens from Sudan, a country that has been engulfed in a violent conflict between the military and a paramilitary force.

The operation involves the use of Indian Navy and Indian Air Force assets, as well as coordination with other countries and international organizations.

The Sudan crisis erupted on April 15, 2023, when the Rapid Support Force (RSF), a powerful paramilitary group that was part of the transitional government, clashed with the Sudanese army over a coup attempt.

Q31. Which Indian state recently becomes the first to prepare a DNA database for the identification of unidentified dead bodies?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Himachal Pradesh
- (D) Kerala

Answer: C

Explanation: Himachal Pradesh has become the "first state" to create a DNA database of unidentified bodies. The official said that the database would help in identifying the bodies and providing relief to the families looking for their missing relatives. The database would also assist in solving crimes, identifying disaster victims and tracking repeat offenders.

Q32. Who is the first Indian woman cricketer to be named Wisden Cricketers of the Year?

- (A) Mithali Raj
- (B) Smriti Mandhana
- (C) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (D) Deepti Sharma

Answer: C

Explanation: Harmanpreet Kaur is the first Indian woman cricketer to be named Wisden Cricketers of the Year. She achieved this honour in 2023. She is the captain of the Indian women's team and a prolific batter.

Q33. Which Indian state has won the National Award for best implementation of 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana'?

- (A) Punjab
- (B) Haryana
- (C) Madhya Pradesh

(D) Karnataka

Answer: D

Explanation: Karnataka has bagged the national award for the best implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the year 2022-23.

Q34. Which of the following country has become India's largest trading partner in the financial year 2022-23?

- (A) China
- (B) United Kingdom
- (C) United States
- (D) Saudi Arabia

Answer: C

Explanation: United States emerges as India's biggest trading partner in FY23 at USD 128.55 bn. The Commerce Ministry data shows that the bilateral trade between India and the United States has increased by 7.65% in 2022-23.

Q35. Which of the following country has recently shut down its last three nuclear reactors?

- (A) United Kingdom
- (B) United States
- (C) Germany
- (D) Australia

Answer: C

Explanation: In April 2023, Germany switched off its three remaining nuclear power plants as part of a long-planned transition toward renewable energy.

Q36. In which Indian city the first 3D-printed post office was constructed recently?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Ahmedabad
- (C) Bengaluru
- (D) Hyderabad

Answer: C

Explanation: The first 3D-printed post office in India is being constructed in Bengaluru, Karnataka by Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T), a leading engineering and construction company.

Q37. Which state government has recently passed a bill to ban online gambling?

- (A) Karnataka
- (B) Kerala

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- (C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: C

Explanation: The state government of Tamil Nadu has recently passed a bill to ban online gambling and regulate online games in the state. The bill aims to prohibit online games that involve money or other stakes, such as rummy and poker, citing concerns over addiction and public order.

Q38. Which player won India's first gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan?

- (A) Sakshi Malik
(B) Aman Sehrawat
(C) Bajrang Punia
(D) Sushil Kumar

Answer: B

Explanation: Aman Sehrawat, a freestyle wrestler, won India's first gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2023.

Q39. Which country has recently launched an initiative to license crypto firms?

- (A) Japan.
(B) China.
(C) El Salvador
(D) Venezuela

Answer: C

Explanation: Central American country "El Salvador" has started an initiative to license crypto firms that want to operate in the country as digital asset service providers. The first crypto firm to receive this license was Bitfinex Securities, a subsidiary of iFinex Group that also owns Bitfinex and Tether.

Q40. Which of the following state government has recently given OBC status to the transgender community?

- (A) Andhra Pradesh
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: B

Explanation: Madhya Pradesh government has recently added the transgender community to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list of the state.

Q41. The President of India has inaugurated the 'Bhoroxa' (Trust) App, it is related to;

- (A) Online Education
(B) Police Reform
(C) Woman's Safety
(D) Skill Development

Answer: C

Explanation: President Draupadi Murmu has launched a mobile application called 'Bhoroxa' (Trust). The app, developed by the Assam State Commission for Women (ASCW), allows women to send distress signals to the nearest police station and their emergency contacts in case of any threat or danger. The app also provides information on various laws, schemes and helplines related to women's rights and welfare.

Q42. Which country has recently become the 31st member of NATO?

- (A) Ukraine
(B) Poland
(C) Norway
(D) Finland

Answer: D

Explanation: Finland has become the 31st member of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance that provides collective security for its members. Finland joined NATO on April 4, 2023.

Q43. The West Bengal government has recently announced a new policy that extends the retirement age of health mission doctors from 62 to ___ years.

- (A) 65
(B) 67
(C) 70
(D) 72

Answer: B

Explanation: The West Bengal government has recently announced a new policy that extends the retirement age of health mission doctors from 62 to 67 years.

Q44. The West Bengal government has declared four new sites as biodiversity heritage parks, including the Amkhoi Wood Fossil Park. It is located in which of the following district?

- (A) Nadia
(B) Malda



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- (C) Birbhum
- (D) Darjeeling

Answer: C

Explanation: Amkhoi Wood Fossil Park (Birbhum)

Q45. The West Bengal government has declared four new sites as biodiversity heritage parks, including the State Horticulture Research and Development Station. It is located in which of the following district?

- (A) Nadia
- (B) Malda
- (C) Birbhum
- (D) Darjeeling

Answer: A

Explanation: State Horticulture Research and Development Station (Nadia).

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