

THE OAS GAZETTE

A House Journal of **APTI PLUS**

JULY 2023



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PM's Visit to US



El Nino returns after 7 years



Rath Yatra



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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



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Odisha Current Affairs

Junior Asia Cup

- The trio of Sudeep Chirmako, SunitLakra and Amandeep Lakra made Odisha proud by helping India emerge champions as the Indians overcame arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final in the Men's Junior under -21 Asia Cup hockey Championship at Oman's Salalah.
- The Indians, thus qualified for the FIH Men's Junior World Cup to be held in Malaysia.

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

- Director General of India Meteorological Department (IMD) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra was elected as the Vice President of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- Sri Mohapatra a noted weather scientist, took charge as the chief of IMD in 2019. He is popularly known as the 'Cyclone Man of India'.
- The team led by him provided early warning for cyclones like Phailin, Hudhud, Vardah, Titli, Sagar, Mekunu and Fani.
- He was born in Rajagurupur village in Bhadrak district of Odisha.

State government's move to acquire land for 3 mega projects is getting resistance

- Odisha government getting resistance from the local community for 3 mega projects: a steel plant, riverine port and coastal highway.
- The steel plant proposed by ArcelorMittal in partnership with Nippon Steel of Japan in Mahakalapada block of Kendrapada district.
- The state's first riverine port project at Akhadasali under mahakalapada block and 49 km long coastal highway, will be constructed under the centre-sponsored Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- The proposed projects will lead to a loss of biodiversity and the natural environment in Bhitarkanika National Park.

Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana (MKUY)

- Some new guidelines have been introduced in MKUY scheme.
- The government of Odisha launched MKUY in 2018 for ease of doing agribusiness through process simplification of commercial Agri-Enterprises (CAE) and implementation modalities by making it simple, transparent, time-bound at all stages for the benefit of the farmers, especially agri-entrepreneurs.

Collaboration with Japan on Bio-Medicals

- The Odisha government proposes collaboration with Japan in the field of bio-medicals for research and innovation, business exchange and human resource development.
- This collaboration is between Kobe Bio-Medical Innovation Cluster, Japan and Odisha Govt. with reputed institutes such as the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) and ICMR-RMRC, Bhubaneswar.

India Ranking 2023

- Four educational institutions from Odisha have made it to the top 100 list of India Rankings 2023.
- Siksha'O' Anusandhan (SOA) University Bhubaneswar rose to the 26th in the list in the overall category.
- KIIT University climbed to 29 from 34 and NIT Rourkela jumped two spots to 37 while IIT Bhubaneswar dropped to 91 from 65.
- NIT Rourkela is the only institute from the state to find a place in the Architecture category at the 8th position and ODAT in agriculture at the 22nd position.

Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College

- The government medical college & hospital in Bhawanipatna of Kalahandi will be renamed as 'Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College and Hospital' in Honor of the great freedom fighter of Kalahandi district.
- Born in Urladani village, situated in the Kalahandi state close to the boundary of Kandhamal district, he was the leader of the Kandha uprising in the Kalahandi region in 1853.
- When the Kandhas rose in rebellion in various hilly tracts in Odisha, in Kalahandi it was led by Rendo Majhi, a Borikiya Kandh. In 1853 Lt. Macneill arrested Rendo Majhi and imprisoned them in Rasalkanda jail without trial.

The 62nd Inter-State Athletics Championships

- The 62nd Inter-State Athletics Championships began and concluded at the Kalinga stadium. At the inaugural ceremony, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president and legendary Indian athlete, PT Usha declared the meet open.

Junior National Rugby 7s Championship

- Odisha U18 girls were anointed as Champions at the recently concluded J Junior National Rugby 7s Championship 2023, following a 52-0 victory against the home team Maharashtra at Balewadi in Pune.

CMC opened a 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (RRR) Centre

- The Cuttack Municipality Cooperation has opened a RRR centre at its office ahead of World Environment Day on June 5.
- CMC Commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan inaugurated the RRR Centre at Bikash Bhawan, the office of the civic body in Silver City.

KALIA centre in each district of Odisha

- The Odisha govt has decided to open a KALIA centre in each district of Odisha to encourage innovation in agriculture and serve as one-stop resources centre for farmers.
- The centre will be equipped with adequate technical manpower to resolve issues of farmers related to different agricultural program activities like MKUY, SAFAL, GO SUGAM, Krushak Odisha and KALIA.
- The Odisha government introduced Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme in 2018 to provide support to small, marginal farmers and landless agriculture households in the state.

Save Rushikulya River

- Rushikulya Ryot Mahasabha(RRM), which is spearheading the movement in support of the local farmers, has warned of the dire condition if the government fails to come up with a master plan to turn Rushikulya into a perennial river.
- The reason behind the issue is lack of proper water -management, 80% wastage of surplus river water into the sea during the rainy season. Rushikulya is drying up fast for the construction of the Kansarigada barrage.

MEE has opened its 3rd retail outlet in Baripada

- My Eco Energy (MEE) has opened a new retail outlet in Baripada, Odisha, furthering its commitment to promoting renewable energy.
- MEE, known for manufacturing INDIZEL, a renewable automotive diesel, aims to provide the citizens of Baripada with access to high-quality, eco-friendly fuel.
- INDIZEL delivers better acceleration, quicker ignition, increased power and torque, and improved mileage, making it an attractive choice for environmentally conscious vehicle owners in Baripada.

Transgender roped in to manage cesspool service in Odisha capital

- To provide livelihood support to the transgender community, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) signed an agreement with TG Swikruti SHG for the operation and maintenance of cesspool vehicles in the capital city.
- The TG community has been given different responsibilities including management of parking lots, collection of taxes and sanitation activities.

Mandatory Sport curriculum

- Odisha government is all set to include sports mandatorily in the school curriculum from the next academic year.
- The state government has linked a pact with International Olympic Committee (IOC) under which around 1.5 lakh students from 250 schools are taking part in Olympic Value Education Programme.

4th National Water Awards

- Odisha has secured the second position among all states.

- The Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar conferred the 4th National Water Awards on 17th June, 2023 at an award distribution ceremony being organized at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- In the best district category, Ganjam district of Odisha got the best prize.

S&ME Department

- Taking a significant leap towards revolutionizing education in Odisha, the School & Mass Education department inked two MoUs to integrate experimental learning into the school education sector.
- The aim of Mo School and Magicbus India Foundation MOU is to support the introduction of the aspirational curriculum in all transformed high schools of the State by implementing a sports-integrated and activity-based life skills education program.

MUKTA Scheme

- CM sanctioned Rs. 423.87 crore in favour of 37 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) covering 10 districts of the central RDC division under the state-funded MUKTA scheme for the 2023-24 financial year.
- Mukhya Mantri KatmaTatpara Abhiyan(MUKTA) was launched by Patnaik on April 18, 2020, with a mission to create rapid, immediate and mass employment opportunities for urban poor and informal and migrant labourers.

Sri Santanu Mishra

- Odisha-born Santanu Mishra was conferred IBM's "Sustainability Leader of the Year" award during the UBS Forum Sustainability Summit & Awards 2023 in Mumbai recently for his pioneering the concept of Social Venture Philanthropy (SVP) in the development sector.

Retired judge Justice Pramath Patnaik

- The Odisha government has appointed retired judge Justice Pramath Patnaik as chairperson of the Odisha Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (OREAT).
- This tribunal is enacted by the Real Estate(Regulation and Development) Act,2016.

E-Trolley

- Odisha's ITI- Berhampur develops E-Trolley for street vendors to carry goods especially for women.
- This low-cost environment-friendly vehicle is battery-operated and does not produce any emissions.

Waste management system

- ASHIMABIOEARTH and Recykal join announced the successful implementation of a comprehensive waste management system for the cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

Raja Parba festival

- Raja or Raja Parba or Mithuna Sankranti is a three-day-long festival of womanhood celebrated in Odisha, India.
- The second day of the festival signifies the beginning of the solar month of Mithuna from, which the season of rains starts.
- To celebrate the advent of monsoon, the joyous festival is arranged for three days by the villagers.
- The first day is called "Pahili Raja", second is "Raja Sankranti" and third is "Bhumi Dahana or Basi Raja".
- It is similar to Ambubachi Mela of Assam.

Rath Yatra

- Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra is held on the second day of Shukla Pakshya (a fortnight after the full moon) in the Hindu month of Ashada. Hence it generally falls in June or July.
- It is a nine-day-long festival.
- This holy annual car festival sees devotees coming from all parts of the world.
- However, mostly there are from Odisha and neighbouring states.
- This Ratha yatra is considered to be one of the world's biggest religious processions.



OPSC Current Affairs

**NATIONAL**

India's Remarkable Progress in Energy Transition Index Recognized on Global Stage

- India has secured the 67th position in the world economic forum's (WEF) energy transition index.
- The energy transition index is led by Sweden, with Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland closely following.

Swachh Survekshan 2023

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the Field Assessment for Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023.
- The survey, titled "MeraShehar, Meri Pehchan" (My City, My Identity), aims to assess and evaluate the cleanliness and sanitation levels of cities across the country.
- This is the 8th edition of Swachh Survekshan.

Sagar Samajik Sahayog

- The Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayushofficially introduced the new guidelines for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) called 'Sagar Samajik Sahayog.'
- These guidelines mainly focus on the development and betterment of local communities surrounding the port area.

First Hydrogen-powered train in India

- A step towards sustainable transportation India is introducing its inaugural hydrogen-powered train.
- Hydrogen trains utilize fuel cells to convert hydrogen and oxygen into electricity, presenting a clean and environmentally friendly alternative to conventional diesel trains.
- Jind to Sonapat will be the first train route of this hydrogen-powered train.

THE Asia Ranking 2023

- According to the recent publication of Times Higher Education Asia Ranking 2023, IISC Bangalore has secured the top position among universities in India.
- The ranking is based on 13 indicators which are grouped into five groups. 1. Teaching 2. Research 3. Citations 4. International Outlook 5. Industry Income
- India is the third most represented country, with 75 universities in the ranking.

8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2023

- The 8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit is held in Mumbai.
- The theme of this summit was "Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality."

GEMCOVAC-OM

- India's Gennova Biopharmaceuticals has received emergency use authorization from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for its mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine, GEMCOVAC-OM, designed specifically against the Omicron variant.
- GEMCOVAC-OM is specifically designed to counter the Omicron variant and bridge the gap left by current vaccines.

Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2023

- The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 is released by the advisory and research firm startup Genome.
- In the latest Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 (GSER 2023), the top three startup ecosystems have maintained their positions from 2020. Silicon Valley retains its top spot, while New York City and London are tied at the second position.

- The Indian startup ecosystems continue their upward trajectory in the rankings. Mumbai has shown significant progress by moving up five places to be tied at 31. Bengaluru-Karnataka and Delhi have also improved their positions, moving up two places each to 20 and 24 respectively.

Surat Makes Guinness World Record for Largest Yoga Gathering

- Surat achieved a significant milestone on International Yoga Day by breaking the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people participating in a yoga session at a single location.
- The theme of this year's International Yoga Day in Gujarat was "VasudhaivaKutumbakam" (the world is one family), reflecting the inherent nature of yoga as a unifying force.

Ocean Ring of Yoga

- On International Yoga Day 2023, The Ministry of Ayush with the support of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, had planned this event where yoga demonstrations were held at numerous ports and on various ships.
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Gruha Jyothi Scheme

- This is a scheme of Karnataka state in which it provides free electricity up to 200 units per month to eligible households.
- This scheme is also called the "Karnataka Free Electricity Scheme".

SudhaarGriha

- The UP chief minister has emphasized the significance of prison reforms and proposed the establishment of prisons as "SudharGriha" or Reforms House.
- He has instructed a new Prison act for the state.
- This new system will focus on an open jail system and will promote a positive behavioural change in prisoners.

Warkari Community's Palkhi Festival

- Palkhi is a revered tradition that dates back 1000 years and was initiated by saints from Maharashtra. It is a 22 days festival which falls in June.
- It is a community or sect in the state of Maharashtra which is associated with the bhakti spiritual tradition of Hinduism since the thirteenth-century CE.
- They carry Tulsi saplings and paduka (sandals) of saints Tukaram and Dnyaneshwar in a Palkhi (palanquins) from their places of Samadhi (Enlightenment or "spiritual birth") to Pandharpur.

Global Digital Payments Chart

- According to the data from MyGovIndia India has emerged as the leader in digital payments, surpassing other countries with 89.5 million transactions in the year 2022.
- Brazil and China are in 2nd and 3rd spot with 29.2 million and 17.6 million transactions respectively.

International Social Security Association (ISSA)

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is planning to elevate its membership status within the International Social Security Association (ISSA) from an associate member to an affiliate member.
- This upgraded status will provide the EPFO with valuable access to professional guidelines, expert knowledge, and a range of services and support that will benefit its pension subscribers.
- This will provide benefits like improved service of members, increased international cooperation and will enhance global recognition.

5th State Food Safety Index (SFSI)

- On June 7th, 2023, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) organized an interactive session at Vigyan Bhavan to commemorate World Food Safety Day.
- The index is developed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- Among the larger states, Kerala achieved the top position, followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
- In the category of smaller states, Goa emerged as the leader, with Manipur and Sikkim securing the second and third positions respectively.
- In the union territories category, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, and Chandigarh claimed the first, second, and third rank respectively.

MuthamizhSelvi

- N MuthamizhSelvi successfully conquered the Mount Everest. She is the first woman from Tamilnadu who has achieved this milestone.
- Rajasekhar Pachai, another native of Tamil Nadu successfully climbed Mount Everest on May 19.

Waste to Wonder Park

- It will feature sculptures depicting the national animals and birds of the G20 countries, created using the “waste to wonder” concept.
- The sculptures will be made from scrap and waste materials sourced from New Delhi Municipal Council’s yards and other agencies.
- The Indian peacock, American bison, Brazilian jaguar, Chinese red-crowned crane, Saudi Arabian camel, Korean magpie, Australian emu, Canadian grey jay, Russian brown bear, and Mexican golden eagle are among the animals being depicted.

India Emerges as 2nd Largest Producer of Crude Steel

- Now India has become 2nd largest crude steel producer globally after China in both 2018 and 2019.
- This achievement has positioned India ahead of Japan, according to data released by the World Steel Association.
- India produced 109.3 million and 111.2 million crude steel in 2018 and 2019 respectively, which shows the growth trajectory of India’s crude steel production. India is now ahead of Japan as a major force in the global steel market.

22nd Law Commission of India Recommends a Strong Sedition Law

- As per the 22nd law commission, section 124A of the Indian Penal Code(IPC), which deals with the sedition, should be retained.
- The report proposes some amendments and procedural safeguards to prevent the misuse of this provision.
- It also recommended increasing the punishment year for the convicted person from three years to seven years.

Rankings (Educational Institutes)

- As per NIRF rankings 2023, IIT Madras has once again secured the top spot in the overall category, maintaining its position for the fifth consecutive year.
- As per QS World University Rankings 2023, IIT Bombay has broken into the world’s top 150 varsities.
- As per THE Asia ranking 2023 IISc Bangalore tops among all universities in India.

Amrit Dharohar Yojana

- This scheme is dedicated for conserving Ramsar sites through public partnership in India.
- These sites will become centers of eco-tourism and provide green job opportunities.
- This scheme was launched by the PM Modi on world environment day.

Mishti Yojana

- The Mishti yojana focuses on reviving and protecting the mangrove ecosystem.
- This initiative will restore mangrove cover in 9 states, mitigating the threats posed by rising sea levels and cyclones.
- This scheme was launched by the PM Modi on world environment day.

‘Aai’ Tourism policy

- The Maharashtra cabinet has approved a tourism policy named ‘Aai’ for the introduction of women-run bike-taxi services in selected tourist destinations.

- This scheme will be executed on a five-point program i.e.1. Promotion of Women Entrepreneurship 2. Infrastructure Development for Women 3. Safety of Women Tourists 4. Customized Products for Women Tourists 5. Discounts for Women Travelers



INTERNATIONAL

World Conservation Congress (WCC)

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has won the bid to host the 2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The WCC is the world's largest and most important gathering of conservationists, and it is expected to draw more than 10,000 delegates from over 160 countries.
- The 2025 WCC will be held in Abu Dhabi from October 10-21, 2025.
- Established in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. Today the organisation is well known for its knowledge products, such as the Red List of Species, Red List of Ecosystems, Key Biodiversity Areas and the Green Lists which are widely used in setting conservation priorities for threatened species, ecosystems and in identification of important areas for protection and recommendations that will help to guide future conservation efforts.

Nova Kakhovka dam

- Ukraine has accused Russia of blowing up the huge dam which provides water to Crimea and the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant.
- Nova Kakhovka dam on the Dnipro River lies about 20 miles (30km) east of the city of Kherson. Its destruction will have a number of significant repercussions for the local area – and for Ukraine's wider war effort.
- The dam traverses Ukraine's enormous Dnipro River, holding back a huge reservoir of water. The dam itself is 30 metres tall and hundreds of metres wide. It was built in 1956 as part of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant.

UNSC Non-Permanent membership

- Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia will join the premier body for maintaining international peace and security, starting in January, serving for a two-year period.
- The Security Council is composed of 15 countries, five of which - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – are permanent members, granting them the right to veto any resolution or decision.
- The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly, which comprises all 193 UN Member States, and is in line with geographical distribution by region.
- The five newly elected countries will join Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland as non-permanent members of the Council.

US-UK Forge 'Atlantic Declaration' to Boost Ties

- US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reached an agreement known as the "Atlantic Declaration" to strengthen economic ties between their countries.
- The Atlantic Declaration focuses on increasing US-UK trade in sectors such as defense, nuclear materials, and critical minerals used in electric-car batteries.
- The signing of the "Atlantic Declaration" between US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signifies their commitment to developing a new green economy through extensive industrial subsidies instead of pursuing a post-Brexit free-trade agreement.

WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2023

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recently released the 17th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report 2023.
- It measures gender equality across four dimensions i.e. Economic Participation And Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health And Survival, Political Empowerment
- Iceland has topped the list and India has shown notable improvement in gender equality, moving up from the 135th position in the previous year to the 127th position out of 146 countries in this report of 2023.

UNDP Partners with DAY-NULM To Empower Women Entrepreneurs

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) have joined forces to empower women in making informed career choices in entrepreneurship.
- This collaborative partnership aims to provide support to women in sectors like the care economy, electric mobility, waste management, food packaging etc.

United States to Rejoin UNESCO

- UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has announced that the United States will rejoin the agency in July, four years after leaving due to allegations of bias against Israel.
- The US decision to withdraw from UNESCO in 2017 came after Palestine became a member of the agency, prompting the US to stop funding UNESCO.

The Global Slavery Index 2023

- The Global Slavery Index is developed by Walk Free, a respected human rights organization, and draws upon the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, a collaborative effort by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to illustrate how “modern slavery is hidden in plain sight”.
- Among the regions, Asia and the Pacific bear the highest burden of modern slavery, with an estimated 29.3 million people living in these conditions.
- Within Asia, India stands out with a prevalence rate of 8, indicating that approximately 8 out of every 1,000 individuals in the country are estimated to be living in modern slavery.
- India is home to the most people living in modern slavery, with an estimated 11 million people affected.

INS Trishul Celebrated Gandhi’s ‘Satyagraha’ in Durban, South Africa

- In a special celebration held in Durban, South Africa, the Indian Navy warship INS Trishul paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi and his significant Satyagraha movement.
- The event served as a tribute to Gandhi’s ideals of non-violence, justice, and equality, which continue to inspire people around the world.
- A special event was organized named “Gandhi-Mandela-King” conference in collaboration with the Pietermaritzburg Gandhi Foundation and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- These activities aim to honor the historical connections between India and South Africa and promote the values espoused by Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King Jr.

Memorial wall to honour fallen peacekeepers

- UN General Assembly has adopted a Resolution to establish a new Memorial Wall for fallen Peacekeepers, piloted by India.
- India piloted the adoption of the Resolution in the UN General Assembly to establish a Memorial Wall for fallen Peacekeepers. The Resolution received a record 190 co-sponsorships, which is a testimony to faith in India's contributions and intent.
- A draft resolution, ‘Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers’, was introduced by India’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj in the UN General Assembly Hall yesterday and it was adopted by consensus.

Key Takeaways from the Joint Statement on PM’s Visit to US

- Strengthening semiconductor supply chains
- Critical Minerals Partnership
- Advanced Telecommunications
- NASA-ISRO collaboration in space
- Quantum, Advanced Computing, and Artificial Intelligence
- Cutting-edge Research
- Innovation Handshake
- Fighting Terror and Drugs
- Fighting Cancer and Diabetes

China-Pakistan Nuclear plant partnership

- China and Pakistan entered a \$4.8 billion agreement on June 21 to set up a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant. This indicates growing strategic cooperation between the two countries.
- As part of the agreement, Beijing will build a 1,200-megawatt nuclear plant at Chashma in Punjab's Mianwali district.

ECONOMICS



Government meets 6.4% fiscal deficit target for FY23

- The Union government met its fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) for 2022-23 on the back of robust tax revenue despite higher revenue expenditure, particularly on account of subsidies and interest payments.
- A fiscal deficit indicates the government's borrowing to meet the gap between revenue receipts in a particular financial year and expenditure in that period.
- The Finance Ministry has a target to further reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of GDP in 2023-24, and the number is expected to taper down gradually to 4.5% of GDP by FY26.

Bangladesh Adopts Free-Floating Currency Regime to Access IMF Funds

- In a historic move, Bangladesh's central bank has decided to allow its currency, the taka, to float freely for the first time. The decision comes in response to demands from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and aims to unlock additional funds from a \$4.7 billion loan program.
- While Bangladesh is not heavily indebted, the country joins a growing list of nations, including Pakistan, Egypt, and Lebanon, that have opted to loosen control over their local currencies to secure financing from the Washington-based lender.

What does floating currency mean?

- To float a currency is to make the exchange rate of this currency fully liberalized so that the government or the central bank does not interfere in setting it directly. Rather, it is automatically emptied into the currency market through a supply and demand mechanism that allows setting the national currency's exchange rate against foreign currencies.
- The supply and demand for a currency are affected by a number of factors like global trade, Interest rate and foreign and international investment.

SIDBI launches mission EVOLVE in association with NITI Aayog

- SIDBI, the principal financial institution for MSMEs in India, said it has launched mission EVOLVE (Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem) in association with NITI Aayog, World Bank, Korean-World Bank and Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to finance MSMEs in the EV space.
- Under the initiative, SIDBI said it will give MSMEs access to affordable commercial financing for EV loans including hosting of telematics that could help reduce financing costs and provide data for other financial services.
- The programme comes in the backdrop of SIDBI's aim to support India's target for 30 per cent EV penetration by 2030 or EV30@30.

₹1.2 Trillion Released as Third Tax Devolution to States by Government

- The Central government released the third instalment of tax devolution to state governments, amounting to a total of ₹1, 18,280 crore.
- The additional advance instalment provided to the states aims to facilitate and expedite capital spending, finance development and welfare-related expenditures, and ensure the availability of resources for priority projects and schemes.
- The funds have been allocated to the states based on a predefined formula that takes into account various factors such as population, area, and fiscal capacity.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a statutory regulatory body set up under PFRDA Act with an objective to promote old age income security and protect the interests of NPS subscribers.
- The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson and not more than six members, of whom at least three shall be Whole-Time Members, to be appointed by the Central Government.
- The government has appointed Deepak Mohanty as the chairman of PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority).

Competition Commission of India

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) plays a pivotal role in promoting fair competition, safeguarding consumer interests, and fostering a competitive business environment in India.
- It is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002, tasked with ensuring fair and healthy competition in the economic activities of the country.
- It is to act as an antitrust watchdog and ensure that there is no abuse of a dominant position by a company in the market.
- It is a quasi-judicial body which has one chairperson and six other members.
- They will all be appointed by the Central Government.

RBI Monetary Policy June 2023

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy committee unanimously decided to keep the repo rate (The repo rate is the rate of interest at which RBI lends to another bank) unchanged at 6.5 per cent.
- The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate are at 6.75%.
- These decisions were taken to achieve the mid-term target of CPI inflation of 4% with a band of 2% to 6%.

Greedflation

- Greedflation is a term that describes a situation where inflation is driven by excessive greed and speculation rather than by supply and demand factors. It occurs when investors, consumers and businesses expect prices to rise continuously and act accordingly, creating a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- Greedflation can lead to asset bubbles, financial instability, income inequality and social unrest.
- It describes a situation where high inflation is driven by excessive demand and speculation, rather than by supply shocks or monetary expansion.

MSME Day

- On the occasion of International MSME Day, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) is celebrating 'Udyami Bharat-MSME Day' on 27th June 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- During this programme, the Ministry of MSME has launched various initiatives for the growth and development of MSMEs such as the CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal and Mobile App for Geo-tagging of Cluster Projects and Technology Centers.
- During the programme results for 'MSME Idea Hackathon 2.0' was declared and 'MSME Idea Hackathon 3.0' for Women Entrepreneurs was launched.

Gati Shakti Portal

- The government of India recently launched the Gati Shakti portal, a digital platform that aims to integrate various infrastructure projects and schemes across the country. The portal is expected to provide a holistic view of the connectivity and accessibility of different regions and sectors, as well as identify gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested that the government could share some information from the portal with the private sector, after blocking out any sensitive or confidential data, to enable greater capital investments in infrastructure projects.
- PM Gati Shakti is a national master plan for multi-modal connectivity that aims to provide a competitive advantage for manufacturing in India. It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August 2021 and launched on 13 October 2021.

- It brings together 16 ministries and departments of the Government of India for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF)

- The SPIEF is an international economic forum held annually in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- It brings together leaders from the global business community, government officials, and experts.
- The forum serves as a platform for discussions, negotiations, and the signing of agreements on economic and geopolitical matters.
- SPIEF aims to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between Russia and the international business community.

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT



Cyclone Biporjoy

- The development and intensification of a cyclonic storm named "Biporjoy" in the east-central and southeast Arabian Sea.
- 'Biparjoy' was suggested by Bangladesh and the word means 'disaster' or 'calamity' in Bengali. The naming of cyclones is done by countries on a rotational basis, following certain existing guidelines.
- Worldwide, there are six regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and five regional Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs) mandated for issuing advisories and naming of tropical cyclones.
- IMD is one of the six RSMCs to provide tropical cyclone and storm surge advisories to 13 member countries under the WMO/Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP) Panel including Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Kilauea Volcano Erupted on Hawaii's Big Island

- The Kilauea volcano located on Hawaii's Big Island erupted, as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).
- It is one of five volcanoes that form the Island of Hawai'i, the largest of the Hawaiian Islands.
- Kilauea is the most active of the volcanoes on the Island of Hawai'i, and it has been erupting continuously since 1983.

Mayon Volcano

- Mayon Volcano in the Philippines has been spewing lava down its slopes, raising concerns of a violent and life-threatening explosion.
- The current eruption is described as an "effusive eruption," with lava flowing down the volcano's southeastern gullies.
- The Philippines is an archipelago located in Southeast Asia in the western Pacific Ocean.
- It is part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a region known for its high volcanic and seismic activity due to the presence of tectonic plate boundaries.
- The Philippines is home to a significant number of volcanoes, with a total of 24 active volcanoes.

Anak Krakatau Volcano

- Anak Krakatau volcano, located in Indonesia's Sunda Strait, erupted several times in this month.
- It was the longest eruption since the volcano's explosive collapse in 2018, which triggered a deadly tsunami.
- Anak Krakatau is the offspring of the famous Krakatau volcano, which had a monumental eruption in 1883, leading to a global cooling period.
- Indonesia is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region known for its intense seismic and volcanic activity.
- The country has more active volcanoes than any other nation, with over 130 active volcanoes and numerous dormant ones.
- Indonesia's volcanic landscape is a result of its location at the meeting point of several tectonic plates, including the Eurasian, Pacific, Australian, and Philippine Sea plates.

Protosterol Biota

- A recent scientific discovery of a lost world sheds light on the evolution of life on Earth. Scientists have found ancient organisms called Protosterol Biota that existed over 1.6 billion years ago and played a crucial role in the evolution of complex life.
- The remains of Protosterol Biota are dated to the Proterozoic Eon, a critical period in the evolution of complex life.
- Eukaryotes, including fungi, plants, animals, and single-celled organisms, are descendants of the Last Eukaryotic Common Ancestor (LECA) which lived around 1.2 billion years ago.
- The Protosterol Biota represents the oldest remnants of our own lineage, predating LECA.

Ethanol Blending Program

- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has successfully launched a groundbreaking pilot study on vehicles using E27 fuel and Ethanol Blended Diesel Fuel.
- HPCL has become the first Oil Marketing Company in India to initiate such a comprehensive research program, in line with the "Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India by 2025. The roadmap aims to promote the adoption of ethanol blending in gasoline.
- E27 fuel is a blend of 27 per cent ethanol and fossil-based fuel.
- India has already rolled out 20 per cent blended fuel, though, in a phased manner, in April 2023 and widespread availability is expected in two years.

El Nino Returns After 7 Years

- The return of El Niño in the Pacific Ocean, as announced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States.
- El Niño is a climate pattern that occurs in the equatorial Pacific Ocean every 2 to 7 years.
- It is characterized by the unusual warming of surface waters along the central and east-central Pacific Ocean.
- El Niño is a result of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climate cycle.
- During El Niño, trade winds weaken or reverse, causing warm water to move into the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Wildfires

- Some cities in North America, like Montreal, Toronto and New York, are impacted by the 400 fires burning in Canada.
- This wildfire instance could be considered Canada's worst wildfire recorded season impacting over 7 million acres of land.
- As observed by EU's earth observation monitoring programme, Copernicus, the year 2023 has seen unusually severe wildfires in Russia, Spain, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Central America.

Bonn Meeting on Climate Action

- Bonn Climate Change Conference is a 10-day intermediate session, which is expected to prepare decisions for adoption for the COP28 conference in Dubai.
- It provides national and local governments, businesses, investors and civil society an opportunity to showcase the work in progress.
- It will also help strengthen their collective response to climate change and in taking decisions to meet the commitment made in the 2015 Paris climate deal.
- There will be discussions on climate change policy will and global stocktake will be reviewed.

Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary

- For peaceful co-existence with wild elephants, the Indian army has generated a unique ecosystem in Amchang wildlife sanctuary.
- There are frequent visits of wild elephants, who are living in the Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, to the military station increasing the danger of human – animal confrontation.
- In a bid to provide them food and water, several ponds are created and also fruit trees and grasses are planted for wild elephants.
- Army personnel also cleared paths for the free movement of elephants.
- Awareness programs are being undertaken to educate and alert the citizens within Military station.

- This ecosystem is created in collaboration with the local community, scientific community and forest officials.

State of India's Environment 2023

- State of India's Environment 2023 released by CSE and DTE includes detailed data on various parameters for the year 2021-22 and 2020-21.
- It provides information on the state of climate and extreme weather, health, food and nutrition, migration and displacement, agriculture, energy, waste, water and biodiversity.

Public Health

- Delhi leads particularly in the operationalization of health and wellness centres. It is followed by Sikkim, Goa and Mizoram.
- Madhya Pradesh is at the bottom of the ranking owing to the high incidence of maternal mortality ratio (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR)

Public Infrastructure and human development

- Gujarat secures the top position.
- Jharkhand is at the bottom preceded by Nagaland, Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh.

Agriculture

- Madhya Pradesh is at the top due to the highest share of net value added and bumper production of food grains.
- The bottom states are Delhi, Goa and Meghalaya.

Overall environmental performance

- Telangana tops due to the increase in its forest cover and progress in municipal waste treatment.
- It is followed by Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra while Rajasthan is at the bottom.
- Most of the Northeast states in the bottom raise concern.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves

- The Government of India has entrusted Engineers India (EIL), a state-owned engineering consultancy firm, with the task of exploring the possibility and feasibility of creating strategic oil reserves in salt caverns in Rajasthan.
- If the project is successful, India could have its first salt cavern-based oil storage facility. The country's three existing strategic oil storage facilities at Mangaluru and Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh are made up of excavated rock caverns.

Climate Finance

- 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. It did not provide any concrete and clear outcomes on climate finance.
- Hence the issue of climate finance was supposed to be tackled at Bonn Climate Change Conference.
- New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, as agreed to be set by Parties to the Paris Agreement, will continue to be discussed at Bonn Climate change conference in Germany.
- The Sixth TED (Technical Expert Dialogue) is to guide the technical work and deliberate on the theme of "quantity, mobilisation and provision of financial sources".

Western Disturbance

- Unusually high number of western disturbances (WDs) that India has experienced in the last three months.
- May had six WDs, which is surprisingly high for the summer months.
- April and March also saw three and seven WDs, respectively.
- WDs kept long-lasting heat waves at bay for some parts of India during the three months.
- However, they also caused heavy rainfall and hailstorms in many regions, leading to crop damage.

Quasi-Moon

- The newfound asteroid 2023 FW13 circles the sun in sync with Earth, making it our planet's "quasi-moon."
- The asteroid was first spotted on March 28 by scientists using the Pan-STARRS survey telescope.
- During its orbit of the sun, 2023 FW13 also circles Earth, coming within 9 million miles (14 million kilometers) of our planet.
- Quasi-moons are also called quasi-satellites. Looking at them, it seems as if they are orbiting the Earth just like the moon.
- But they are bound by the gravity of the Sun instead of the Earth. That's why they are called Quasi. Whereas the moon is bound by the gravity of the earth.

Global Tracker For Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- The World Meteorological Congress has approved a new greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative in a landmark decision.
- The Congress resolution endorsing the establishment of the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch received unanimous support from WMO's 193 members.
- The initiative supports urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases, which are fuelling temperature increases.
- The new global GHG watch will fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated and operational framework.
- The framework will bring all space-based and surface-based observing systems, as well as modelling and data assimilation capabilities, under one roof.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY



MH-60 'ROMEO' Multi-Mission Helicopter

- Indian Navy received two MH-60 R multipurpose helicopters from the USA manufactured by Lockheed Martin.
- All 24 MH 60R helicopters will be delivered by the end of 2025.
- The main missions of the MH-60R Seahawk are Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW).

Fattah Missile

- Iran unveiled its first-ever supersonic missile on June 29, 2023.
- The Fattah missile is an intermediate-range ballistic missile. It has a range of 1400 kilometers.
- It can travel at hypersonic speeds of up to 15 times the speed of sound.

Varunastra

- It is an indigenously designed and developed heavyweight, ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo.
- This was designed and developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory in Visakhapatnam under the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- It can achieve speeds in excess of 74 km/h, weighs around 1.5 tonnes and can carry 250 kg of conventional warhead.

Agni Prime Missile

- New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 07, 2023.
- It is a short-range and surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 1000km to 1500 km.

Tactical LAN radio

- Tactical LAN Radio is a state-of-the-art high bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment for the provisioning of reliable and failsafe communication.
- This device is used for perimeter monitoring, infrastructure defence, unattended ground sensors, tactical sensors, and border patrol.

Anjadip: Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow WaterCraft

- 'Anjadip', the 3rd of eight ships of ASW Shallow WaterCraft (SWC) Project being built by M/s GRSE for Indian Navy, was launched on 13 Jun 23 at M/s L&T, Kattupalli.
- The ship has been named Anjadip to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Anjadip, located off Karwar.

MQ-9B Predator Drone

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the acquisition of 31 MQ-9B (16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian) High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for Tri-Services. The General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper also called Predator B is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) capable of remotely controlled or autonomous flight operations.

- The MQ-9 is the first hunter-killer UAV designed for long-endurance, high-altitude surveillance.

Soul of Steel Himalayan Challenge

- This is a first-of-its-kind event, recently conducted in forward areas of Garhwal Himalayan Region.
- This challenge is supported by the Indian army in collaboration with Conquer Land Air Water (CLAW).
- It was a unique blend of specialised skills, including high-altitude mountaineering, extreme cold survival, and psychological and physical endurance.

Tapas Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

- The Indian Navy and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the transfer of command and control capabilities of the TAPAS Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).
- It is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicle and has a range of more than 18 hours. It can operate at altitudes of up to 28,000 feet.

INS Kirpan

- India gifted the INS Kripan to Vietnam to enhance its naval capabilities.
- It is a Khukri class missile corvette and an indigenously built in service missile.

Sarmat Missile: Russia

- This is Russia's new generation of Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missiles which are capable of carrying 10 or more nuclear warheads.
- It has the capability of firing over either of the earth's poles with a range of 11,000 to 18,000 km.

Zircon Missile

- The 3M22 Zircon is a scramjet-powered maneuvering anti-ship hypersonic cruise missile produced by Russia, for the Russian Navy which has launch platforms on frigates and submarines.
- It can travel more than five times the speed of sound and manoeuvre in mid-flight, making them much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles.
- It could hit targets at sea and on land with a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles).

NASA's X-57 Maxwell: Electric Aircraft Project

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has decided to pull the plug on the X-57 Maxwell test aircraft at the end of the year. NASA was working on a modified version of the aircraft powered by batteries with the end goal of becoming an electric aircraft.
- The X-57 is a modified version of the P2006T, which is a twin-engined aircraft designed by the Italian aircraft manufacturer Tecnam.

Military Exercises

Exercise Khaan Quest	Over 20 countries	Mongolia
Exercise Ekuverin	India Army and Maldives national defence force	Uttarakhand
Exercise Ekatha	Indian Navy and Marine Commandos of Maldives	Maldives
Multilateral Naval Exercise Komoda	US, China, Japan, Russia, India	Indonesia

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Microsoft joins the Indian government to train 6k students, and 200 educators in cybersecurity skills

- Microsoft has signed a MoU with the Directorate General Of Training (DGT) under the Ministry Of Skills Development And Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to train 6,000 students and 200 educators in digital and cybersecurity skills in the country.

- It will provide training in AI, cloud computing, web development and cybersecurity skills for students and 200 faculty members at Government-Led Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skills Training Institutions (NSTIs).
- The 'CyberShikshaa' programme focusing on basic and intermediate cyber security skills training will also be expanded to students and educators at 10 NSTIs for women.

Demonstration of Performance-Based Navigation for Helicopters

- India conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters for a flight from Juhu in Mumbai to Pune using GAGAN satellite technology.
- GAGAN – GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation – is a state-of-the-art space-based augmentation system which adds more accuracy to the output of the GPS Navigation system by providing local geographical positioning for better accuracy of the location of aircraft for more efficient traffic management.
- The technology was jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- The satellite technology helps aircraft/ helicopters with guided landing at airports that do not have instrument landing systems for low-visibility operations. All registered aircraft in India will have to comply with GAGAN – which was introduced in 2019 – by December 2025.

Betelgeuse

- Betelgeuse is one of the brightest stars in the night sky and also one of the largest stars known to astronomers.
- Forming the left shoulder of the constellation Orion, Betelgeuse is a so-called red giant, a star in the final stages of its life, which sometimes prompts speculations that it might soon explode in a supernova.

Mobile pollution monitoring

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) researchers have recently developed a low-cost mobile air pollution monitoring framework in which, pollution sensors mounted on public vehicles can dynamically monitor the air quality of an extended area at high spatial and temporal resolution.
- The ambient air quality is measured in monitoring stations and reported by the 'Air Quality Index'. These devices are in fixed location so it is not feasible to measure other area air quality but after using the new IoT-based mobile air pollution monitoring technology wherein low-cost air quality sensors are mounted on vehicles to gather spatiotemporal air quality data.

Artemis Accords

- NASA's next-generation moon rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), with its Orion crew capsule on top, is readied for launch of the unmanned Artemis 1 mission at Cape Canaveral, Florida, U.S
- The Artemis program that began in 2017 is a United States-led international human spaceflight program.
- Its primary goal is to take humans to the Moon, specifically the lunar south pole, by 2025.

Agni 1 Missile

- India successfully carried out the training launch of a medium-range Agni-1 ballistic missile from an island in the Indian state of Odisha named after former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The medium-range Agni-1 ballistic missile has a strike range from 700-1200 kilometres and weighs around 12,000 kilograms.
- It is also capable of carrying a payload of up to 1,000 kg.
- Agni 1 was first tested in 1989 at the Interim Test Range in Chandipur, but they were Short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM).
- Agni-I is used by the Strategic Force Command (SFC) of the Indian Army.

Higgs Boson

- The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), which hosts the Large Hadron Collider(LHC) announced that scientists at the organization found the first evidence of the rare process by which the Higgs boson decays into a Z boson and a photon.
- The discovery of the Higgs boson, what some call the "God Particle," in 2012 marked a major milestone in the study of particle physics.

- At the Large Hadron Collider Physics (LHCP) research teams reported how they discovered evidence of the Higgs boson decaying into a Z boson and a photon.
- The Z boson is the electrically neutral carrier of the weak force and the photon is the carrier of the electromagnetic force.
- The Higgs boson particle's decay into a Z boson and photon is similar to that of a decay into two photons.
- In these cases, the particle does not directly decay into these pairs of particles. Instead, it happens through, and "intermediate loop of virtual particles" that come into and out of existence but cannot be detected directly.
- These "virtual" particles could include new and so far unknown particles that interact with the Higgs boson.

Treaty to Ensure Peace & Security In Outer Space

- Recently, a UN policy brief, For All Humanity – The Future of Outer Space Governance, was released.
- The United Nations (UN) has recommended a new treaty for ensuring peace and security as well as preventing an arms race in outer space.
- The brief also recommended "a combination of binding and non-binding norms" to address emerging risks to outer space security, safety and sustainability.

Existing treaties

- Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
- Prohibition of testing nuclear weapons in outer space

Kavach System

- The death of over 288 passengers in the ghastly train accident on June 2 at Bahanaga Bazaar railway station in the Balasore district of Odisha has brought into sharp focus the safety mechanisms needed to prevent such tragedies.
- The KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry.
- It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards.
- It is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red (which marks danger) and avoid collision.
- It activates the train's braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per speed restrictions.

Delhi Declaration on Cybersecurity

- A draft of the cybersecurity agreement called Delhi Declaration was announced by Lieutenant-General Rajesh Pant (retd.), the National Cybersecurity Coordinator at the G20 business event held in Delhi.
- It was drafted with the help of Microsoft Corporation.
- It is a series of commitments for ensuring "responsible state behaviour in cyberspace" for G-20 member countries.
- It is drawn from existing non-binding norms signed by G20 members under the auspices of the United Nations.

Dark Net

- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized around 15,000 LSD blots.
- Officials said they are tracking a second cartel running their operation on the dark net.
- The terms "dark web" and "deep web" are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same. Rather, the dark web is a small, less accessible part of the deep web.
- Both the dark and deep web share one thing in common: Neither can be found in search engine results. The difference between them primarily lies in how their content is accessed. Deep web pages can be accessed by anyone with a standard web browser who knows the URL.

Millisecond Pulsars (MSP)

- Indian astronomers have discovered two new Millisecond Pulsars (MSP)
- MSPs are dense, tiny neutron stars, which are formed when a massive star (for example, the Sun) collapses.
- They are named pulsars because they emit pulses of radiation at regular intervals.
- Millisecond pulsars emit radiations every few milliseconds.

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)

- LiDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method used for measuring the exact distance of an object on the earth's surface.

- LiDAR uses a pulsed laser to calculate an object's variable distances from the earth's surface.
- These light pulses – combined with other data recorded by the airborne system – generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.
- LiDAR systems are divided into two types based on its functionality – Airborne LiDAR & Terrestrial LiDAR.

Chiral Bose-Liquid

- Researchers at Nanjing University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst have discovered a new phase of matter.
- According to research, the Chiral Bose-Liquid state may be an entirely new state of matter.
- In our day-to-day life, we encounter three types of matter – solid, liquid, and gas. But, when we move beyond the realm of daily life, we see exotic or quantum states of matter, such as plasma, time crystals, and Bose-Einstein condensate.
- Scientists are now claiming that they have found a new phase of matter.
- The new phase called the chiral Bose-liquid state, was discovered by physicists in a frustrated quantum system.

Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulations (ART), 2023

- Earlier this year the Health Ministry notified the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulations (ART), 2023, which are aimed at providing donors and patients with better medical care and security.
- ART means all techniques that attempt to facilitate a pregnancy by handling the sperm or the oocyte outside the human body and transferring the gamete or the embryo into the reproductive tract of a woman while an ART clinic is defined as any facility carrying out the ART-related procedures.
- Assisted reproductive technologies (ART) refer to a range of fertility treatments aimed at aiding reproduction for couples suffering from infertility or to persons who may wish to have a child through artificial methods.

Tryptophan

- Researchers have discovered the amino acid tryptophan in interstellar space.
- Tryptophan has been discovered in a stellar system designated as IC 348 with the Perseus molecular cloud.
- It is a region of space in the constellation of Perseus, where low-mass stars are formed.
- Tryptophan is an essential amino acid used to make proteins and proteins are required to sustain life.
- Tryptophan is an α -amino acid.

Lab Grown Diamonds

- A lab-created diamond is “grown” inside a lab using cutting-edge technology that replicates the natural diamond growing process. The result is a man-made diamond that is chemically, physically, and optically the same as those grown beneath the Earth's surface.
- Lab-made diamonds are developed from a carbon seed placed in a microwave chamber and superheated into a glowing plasma ball. The process creates particles that crystallize into diamonds in weeks.
- This tech-based manufacturing directly cuts down the capital and labor-intensive factors of the mined diamond chain and so lab-grown diamonds cost 30-40 percent cheaper than mined despite being 100 percent diamonds.
- Lab-grown diamonds are comprised of carbon, the same material natural diamonds are comprised of. These diamonds are chemically and optically identical to natural diamonds, so they offer the same shine, sparkle, and brilliance of a naturally mined diamond.

Einstein Telescope

- A number of European institutions have formed the Einstein Telescope (ET) Collaboration to build a next-generation gravitational wave observatory deep beneath the surface of the Earth.
- The Einstein Telescope (ET) is a proposed underground infrastructure to host a third-generation, gravitational-wave observatory.
- To observe gravitational waves, the Einstein Telescope will measure tiny changes in the length of detector tunnels 200-300 metres underground and several kilometres long.
- Like the first two generations of gravitational-wave detectors, the concept for the Einstein Telescope is based on the measurement of tiny changes (far less than the size of an atomic nucleus) in the lengths of two connected arms several kilometres long, caused by a passing gravitational wave.
- Laser beams in the arms record their periodic stretching and shrinking as brightness changes on a central photodetector.

Enceladus

- NASA's Cassini spacecraft shows the icy crust at the south pole of Saturn's moon Enceladus.
- Enceladus is the sixth-largest moon of Saturn (19th largest in the Solar System).
- It is about 500 kilometers in diameter, about a tenth of that of Saturn's largest moon, Titan.

Leptospirosis

- Leptospirosis has emerged as an important infectious disease in the world today.
- Leptospirosis is a blood infection caused by the bacteria *Leptospira*.
- It can infect humans, dogs, rodents and many other wild and domesticated animals.
- Signs and symptoms can range from none to mild (headaches, muscle pains, and fevers) to severe (bleeding in the lungs or meningitis).
- Both wild and domestic animals can spread the disease, most commonly rodents.
- The bacteria are spread to humans through animal urine, or water or soil contaminated with animal urine, coming into contact with the eyes, mouth, nose or breaks in the skin.

Gravitational Lensing

- Astronomers have captured four images of the same background supernova being gravitationally lensed by the immense gravitational well of the foreground supernova.
- Gravitational lensing occurs when massive foreground objects, such as the two galaxies in the above image, bend and warp the fabric of space itself. The more distant light of the quasar – a young active galaxy – traveling toward us reaches this warped space, which then acts as a lens, bending and magnifying the light. This is why we see a ring with the four different points of light from one bright, very distant light source.



BOOKS & AUTHOR

Book “Ringside”

- Shashi Tharoor, a prominent figure in the literary and political spheres, has recently launched his newest book, “Ringside,” written by Dr. Vijay Darda.
- This thought-provoking book delves into the fascinating connection between politics and sports, shedding light on the profound influence that sportsmanship can have on individuals and society as a whole.
- Dr. Vijay Darda, the author of “Ringside,” is known for his in-depth research and engaging writing style. His collaboration with Shashi Tharoor promises a compelling narrative that combines the worlds of sports and politics, inviting readers to explore the intricacies of both realms and their interconnectedness.

Book “Kathakali Dance-Theatre: A Visual Narrative of Sacred Indian Mime”

- Kathakali, a relatively recent performing art with a 400-year-old heritage, is one of the great artistic wonders of the world.
- Kathakali Dance-Theatre, written by one of the highly regarded writers of our times on Kerala arts traditions, records the art of Kathakali comprehensively, right from the scenario that paved the way for Kathakali's origin and development to its present history.
- The book chronicles its various facets—the acting, music and costumes, crucial contributions of the masters, momentous incidences, evolution of styles, riveting anecdotes, and related socio-political issues affecting Kerala.

Book “Nalanda”

- Poet-diplomat Abhay K's book ‘Nalanda’, the acquisition of which has been announced by Penguin Random House India, delves into the history of the ancient seat of learning in Bihar.
- The award-winning poet and writer Abhay K's new book, titled Nalanda is his highly anticipated book which is set to take readers on an enlightening journey through time and history.
- Abhay K, through the book, invites readers to uncover the extraordinary journey of the fabled Mahavihara of Nalanda—the world's first university—through painstaking research and captivating narrative.

Book “Ajay to Yogi Aditya Nath”

- Noted Author, Shantanu Gupta, who has written two bestseller titles on Yogi Adityanath, launched his new graphic novel- Ajay to Yogi Adityanath, on the Uttar Pradesh CM’s 51st birthday today (Monday, June 5).

Book “A life well spent: Four decades in the Indian Foreign service”

- The book by Ambassador Satish Chandra covers four decades he served in the Indian Foreign Service from 1965 to 2005. It provides a glimpse into the making of foreign policy. It covers India’s trajectory from the mid-60s, when it was recovering from the 1962 war to the post-Pokhran phase when it had emerged as a nuclear weapons state.
- He was a Second Secretary in India’s Deputy High Commission in Karachi just before the outbreak of the 1971 war. He was India’s PR during the crucial 50th session of UNCHR at Geneva in 1994 when Pakistan tabled a resolution on J&K.

Book” India’s Finance Ministers”

- Veteran Journalist Ashok Kumar Bhattacharya (AK Bhattacharya) has authored a new book titled “India’s Finance Ministers: From Independence to Emergency (1947-1977)” which highlights the role of India’s finance ministers who shaped India’s economy in the first 30 years (from 1947 to 1977) after Independence.



AWARDS

President Draupadi Murmu

- President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian to be honoured with the Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star, the highest civilian award in Suriname.
- President Murmu dedicated the award to the future generations of the Indian-Surinamese community.
- The other recipient of this award are Queen Beatrix of Netherland, Nelson Mandela, Jimmi Carter (former US president), Kofi Annan (former secretary general of UN) and Ban Ki-Mon(former secretary general of UN).

Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

- The director of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Jagdish S Bakan will receive the Mitchel Batisse award from UNESCO for the year of 2023.
- He will receive this award for his efforts in Biosphere Reserve Management.
- The 2021 Michel Batisse Award went to Sharon Wright (Australia) for her work in the Noosa Biosphere Reserve.
- This award is specially made for achievement in Biosphere Reserve Management.

“When Climate Change Turns Violent”

- A documentary film named “When Climate Change Turns Violent” has won a special prize in the “Health for all” category.
- This award ceremony was held at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva at the 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival.
- This document is directed by Vandita Saharia of Rajasthan. She was the only Indian among the winners.

Lalitha Natrajan

- Chennai-based lawyer-activist Lalitha Natrajan has been awarded the 2023 Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labour.
- The award is represented by the US Consul Judith Ravin at a ceremony at the US Consulate General in Chennai.
- Natarajan has worked throughout her career as a lawyer and activist to apply right-based approaches to child labour.
- As a member of the Child Welfare Committee (North Zone), under the Department Of Social Defence, Government of Tamil Nadu, she ensures victims receive compensation under the Child Labour Act And Protection Of Children From Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).

Paterson Joseph

- Joseph is an actor-writer, and his 2022 debut novel *The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho* won the 2023 Christopher Bland Prize awarded by the Royal Society of Literature.
- The RSL Christopher Bland Prize is an annual award that is given to a debut writer for their work of fiction or non-fiction, who is first published at the age of 50 or over.

Shaktikanta Das

- Shaktikanta Das is the governor of the Reserve bank of India, who bagged the award 'the governor of the year' at London's central banking awards for the year 2023.
- The award was presented by Central Banking, a prominent organization that thoroughly covers and examines matters concerning central banks and financial regulators globally, during its summer meetings held in London.
- The Central Banking Awards 2023 awards winners were announced in late March this year. Two top prizes went to the National Bank of Ukraine, the 2023 Central Bank of the Year, and the Reserve Bank of India's Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Year.

Historian Ramachandra Guha

- Historian and writer Ramachandra Guha has won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023 for the book *Rebels against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom*.
- The award was founded in 2003 by Flora Fraser and Peter Soros to commemorate British historian Elizabeth Longford. Every year it rewards exemplary works in historical biography.

Gandhi Peace Prize

- The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award given by the Government of India to individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.
- The prize was instituted in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation and the apostle of peace.
- This year, the prize for 2021 has been conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur, a renowned publishing house of Hindu religious texts and literature.
- The decision was taken by a jury headed by the Prime Minister of India, who praised Gita Press for its commendable work over the last 100 years towards furthering social and cultural transformations among the people.

Salman Rushdie

- Noted author Salman Rushdie has been awarded the prestigious Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023 for his contribution to the literary world.
- The author has also been honoured for his resolve in the face of "constant threat to his life." He will receive the award in Frankfurt on October 22. The announcement was made on Rushdie's 76th birthday.

Arundhati Roy

- Arundhati Roy received the 45th European Essay Prize for Lifetime Achievement and the award is presented by the Charles Whelan Foundation.
- Arundhati Roy's book of essays, 'Azadi' (2021), especially the French translation, received acclaim.
- Roy is known for his notable works, including the Booker Prize-winning novel *The God of Small Things*.
- Past recipients of the European Essay Prize include Alexander Zinoviev, Amin Malouf and Siri Hustvedt.
- European Essay Prize is the first literary award dedicated solely to the genre of the essay.

Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus

- The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, was presented with the Olympic Order by International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach.
- The award ceremony was held at Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland. At the same time, the IOC honoured the WHO, as an organisation, with the Olympic Cup for 2021.

National Florence Nightingale Awards - 2022 And 2023

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the years 2022 and 2023 to the Nursing professionals at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (June 22, 2023).
- The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in the year 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.
- Nurse Ms. Sebati Sahoo from Odisha is awarded this award for 2022.
- ANM Ms. Manjulata Maharana from Odisha is awarded this award for 2023.

PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the 'Order of the Nile' award, the country's highest state honour, from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.
- The ceremony symbolized the recognition of Prime Minister Modi's contributions and achievements.
- Prime Minister Modi became the first Indian to receive the 'Order of the Nile.'
- The Order of the Nile is a prestigious honor and the highest civilian award in Egypt.
- The Order of the Nile represents the highest recognition and appreciation from the Egyptian government.
- It symbolizes the recipient's remarkable achievements, leadership, and positive impact in their respective fields.



OBITUARIES

Noted Sanskrit scholar Ved Kumari Ghai passes away

- Ved Kumari Ghai was an Indian Sanskrit scholar from Jammu City, Jammu and Kashmir. She was head of the Sanskrit department at Jammu University.
- She taught Panini's Sanskrit grammar and literature at the Institute of Indian Studies, Copenhagen University, Denmark in 1966-1967 and 1978-1980. She was a scholar in Dogri language and also knew Hindi.
- She is recognized with Padma Sri the fourth-highest civilian award in India, in 2010. She is also recognized with President's Award for Sanskrit in 1997, the Dogra Ratan Award in 2005, the lifetime achievement award in 2009 and Stri Shakti Puraskara in 2010.

Ghananian writer and feminist Ana Ata Aidoo passes away

- Ama Ata Aidoo was a Ghanaian author, poet, playwright, politician, and academic.
- Her first play, *The Dilemma of a Ghost*, was published in 1965, making Aidoo the first published female African dramatist.
- As a novelist, she won the *Commonwealth Writers' Prize* in 1992 with the novel *Changes*. In 2000, she established the Mbaasem Foundation in Accra to promote and support the work of African women writers.

Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar passes away

- Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar passes away at 94.
- She was an Indian actress of Marathi (50 films) and Hindi cinema (250 films).
- Latkar was a recipient of the civilian honour of Padma Shri (1999). She was awarded the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. In 2009, she was awarded the Maharashtra Bhushan Award by the Government of Maharashtra.

Renowned Theater actor and director Aamir Raza Hussain passes away

- Aamir Raza Hussain was an Indian theatre actor and director, noted for his large outdoor stage productions like *The Fifty Day War* (2000), based on the Kargil War and *The Legend of Ram* (2004) based on the epic Ramayana.
- Hussain was awarded the Padma Shri in 2001 by the Government of India.
- Over the years he had produced several plays staged at outdoor locations, such as *Sare Jahan Se Acha*, 1947 Live, and in 1999.

Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi passes away

- Silvio Berlusconi was an Italia Prime Minister in four governments from 1994 to 1995, 2001 to 2006 and 2008 to 2011.
- Berlusconi was prime minister for nine years in total, making him the longest serving post-war prime minister of Italy, and the third longest-serving since Italian unification, after Benito Mussolini and Giovanni Giolitti.

Cormac McCarthy, Pulitzer Prize-winning Novelist passes away

- Cormac McCarthy, the celebrated author who wrote classic art pieces like 'The Road' and won US Pulitzer Prize for the same, died at the age of 89.
- Some of his famous and literarily acclaimed books are 'The Road and No Country for Old Men'. Both the books were used for film making which were huge successful movies.
- He won the Pulitzer Prize for the book "The Road" and "No country for Old Man".

Daniel Ellsberg, Renowned whistleblower of the Pentagon papers passes away

- Daniel Ellsberg, Renowned whistleblower of the Pentagon papers passes away at 92.
- He became a well-known person for leaking the "Pentagon Papers," which exposed how the U.S. government deceived the public about the Vietnam War (1955-1975). This revelation sparked a significant fight for freedom of the press in the USA.
- Ellsberg was awarded the Right Livelihood Award in 2006.
- He was also known for having formulated an important example in decision theory, the Ellsberg paradox; for his extensive studies on nuclear weapons and nuclear policy; and for voicing support for WikiLeaks, Chelsea Manning, and Edward Snowden. Ellsberg was awarded the 2018 Olof Palme Prize for his "profound humanism and exceptional moral courage.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Milk Day

- World Milk Day is a day established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food. It has been observed on June 1 each year since 2001. The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.
- Theme for 2023: There is no specific theme for this year for world milk day. In 2023, World Milk Day showcased how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint, while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods.

International Sex Worker Day

- International Whores' Day or International Sex Workers' Day is observed annually on June 2 of each year, honours sex workers and recognises their often exploited working conditions. The event commemorates the occupation of Église Saint-Nizier in Lyon by more than a hundred sex workers on June 2, 1975 to draw attention to their inhumane working conditions. It has been celebrated annually since 1976.
- Theme for 2023: The theme for 2023 is "Decriminalization and Empowerment"
- The theme for year aims to spotlight the urgency for the decriminalization of sex work and the empowerment of individuals involved in the industry.

World Environment Day

- World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated annually on 5 June and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment.
- First held in 1973, it has been a platform for raising awareness on environmental issues as marine pollution, overpopulation, global warming, sustainable development and wildlife crime.
- World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (5-16 June 1972), that had resulted from discussions on the integration of human interactions and the environment. One year later, in 1973 the first WED was held with the theme "Only One Earth".
- Theme for 2023: #BeatPlasticPollution

World Food Safety Day

- On June 7 the 5th World Food Safety Day was celebrated to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agricultural production, market access, tourism and sustainable development.
- The two organs of UN i.e. WHO and FAO jointly facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day.
- Theme for 2023: Food Standards Save Lives

World Ocean Day

- The purpose of the Day (June 8) is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans.
- The concept was originally proposed by two organization i.e. International centre for ocean development and Ocean institute of Canada in 1992 at the Earth Summit UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.
- Theme for 2023: Planet Ocean: Tides are changing.

World Day against Child Labour

- The world day against child labour is celebrated on June 12 of each year. This day is celebrated for the growing worldwide movement against child labour.
- Theme for 2023: Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!

World Blood Donor Day

- Every year countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) on 14 June. The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.
- Theme for 2023: Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often.

MithunaSankranti

- Raja Parba, another name for Mithuna Sankranti is a traditional festival celebrated in the Indian state of Odisha. It is primarily a celebration of womanhood, fertility, and the onset of the monsoon season.
- It usually falls in SukhlaPakhshya in mid-June i.e. end of Odia month Jyeshtha and the arrival of Ashadha month. And this year it was celebrated from June 14 to June 16.

World Wind Day

- Global Wind Day or World Wind Day is a worldwide event that is celebrated on June 15 every year. It is organised by Wind Europe and GWEC (Global Wind Energy Council).
- Theme for 2023: celebrate to enjoy the benefits of wind energy and providing education to the individual about the power and potential of wind energy to change the world.

World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

- The United Nations General Assembly declared 17 June to be "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought" in 1994.
- UNESCO provides scientific expertise through its Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and its Man and the Biosphere programme (MAB).
- Theme for 2023: Her Land. Her Right. This year the slogan is dedicated towards women because in all parts of the world, women face significant barriers in securing land rights, limiting their ability to thrive and prosper.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day

- June 19th was officially designated as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day. The international awareness day is observed annually with the goal to increase public knowledge and an understanding of sickle cell disease, and the challenges experienced by patients and their families and caregivers.
- Theme for 2023: Building and strengthening global sickle cell communities, formalizing newborn screening and knowing your sickle cell disease status.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is highlighting information and resources focused on emergency department care for people with sickle cell disease.

Juneteenth

- Juneteenth (officially Juneteenth National Independence Day) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Deriving its name from combining June and nineteenth, it is celebrated on the anniversary of the order by Major General Gordon Granger proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865.
- Theme for 2023: Discovering Our Roots

World Refugee Day

- World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It is celebrated in each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.
- Theme for 2023: Hope away from Home

Jagannath Ratha Yatra

- The Ratha Yatra of Puri, also rendered as the RathaJatras considered the oldest and largest Hindu chariot festival celebrated annually, on the bright half of the lunar month of Ashadh (June-July).The festival is held in the city of Puri in the state of Odisha, India and is associated with the deity Jagannath (a form Vishnu or Krishna).
- This year, the Puri Ratha Yatra will take place on June 20 and culminate on June 28, 2023.

World Hydrography Day

- The World Hydrography Day is celebrated on 21 June of every year. This day is designed to raise awareness about hydrography and how it plays a role in improved knowledge of the seas and oceans.
- Theme for 2023: Hydrography - Underpinning the Digital; Twin of the Ocean.

International Yoga Day

- The United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga on 11 December 2014.
- Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
- The Permanent Mission of India to the UN, in collaboration with the UN Secretariat, organized the 9th International Day of Yoga at the North Lawn area of UN Headquarters, under the theme "Yoga for VasudhaivKutumbakam" (Yoga for 'The World is One Family') in June 2023.

Summer Solstice

- The summer solstice occurs during the hemisphere's summer. In the Northern Hemisphere, this is the June solstice (20 or 21 June) and in the Southern Hemisphere; this is the December solstice (21 or 22 of December).
- The summer solstice occurs when one of Earth's poles has its maximum tilt toward the Sun. It happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere (Northern and Southern). For that hemisphere, the summer solstice is the day with the longest period of daylight and the shortest night of the year, when the Sun is at its highest position in the sky. At either pole, there is continuous daylight at the time of its summer solstice. The opposite event is the winter solstice.

World Rainforest Day

- Founded in 2017 by Rainforest Partnership, World Rainforest Day celebrates the importance of healthy, standing rainforests for climate, biodiversity, culture, and livelihoods – and convenes a global movement to protect and restore them. This is observed on 22 June of every year.
- In 2021, the World Rainforest Day Summit was launched, bringing together people and organizations from all sectors, all around the world for dialogue and community building with one shared purpose: to spark action and drive resilient forest protection.
- Theme for 2023: Preserving the lungs of the earth.

International Olympic Day

- Olympic Day is a celebration of sport, health, and being together. It invites everyone around the globe to be active and move together with a purpose on 23 June every year.
- Theme for 2023: 'Let's Move!' which aims to inspire people around the world to make time for daily physical activity.

International day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

- The General Assembly of UN had decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- Theme for 2023: Together, we can tackle the world drug problem!

National Statistic Day

- India observes National Statistics Day on June 29 every year to honour the work and contribution of the late Professor and Scientist Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the field of Statistics and economic planning. June 29 is the birth anniversary of Professor Mahalanobis.

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1. *Pulitzer Prize-winning McCarthy belonged to which country?*
 - A) Canada
 - B) Poland
 - C) France
 - D) USA
2. *Who has been honoured with the 2022 Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in science Teaching in secondary schools in Australia?*
 - A) Manju Pillai
 - B) Veena Nair
 - C) Veena George
 - D) Jitendra Singh
3. *Who has become the 77th chess Grandmaster of India during an ongoing Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain?*
 - A) Sankalp Gupta
 - B) V. Pranav
 - C) Rahul Shrivastava P
 - D) Aditya Mittal
4. *Who among the following has inaugurated Mega Dairy at Mandya in Karnataka?*
 - A) Anurag Thakur
 - B) Piyush Goyal
 - C) Jitendra Singh
 - D) Amit Shah
5. *Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually flagged off Vande Bharat Express from Howrah Railway Station connecting Howrah to which station?*
 - A) Guwahati
 - B) Kishanganj
 - C) Katihar
 - D) New Jalpaiguri
6. *Indian Railways has recently announced a plan to introduce India's first hydrogen train, expected to start operating from which district by March 2024?*
 - A) Jind (Haryana)
 - B) Amravati (Maharashtra)
 - C) Bangalore (Karnataka)
 - D) Balangir (Odisha)
7. *Name the close-ended life insurance plan that has recently been launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to offer a combination of protection and savings.*
 - A) Dhan Vridhhi
 - B) Jeevan Anand
 - C) Bima Jyoti
 - D) Jeevan Azad
8. *Which ministry has launched Prajjwala Challenge to transform the rural economy?*
 - A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - B) Ministry of Environment and Forests
 - C) Ministry of Rural Development
 - D) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
9. *India signed an agreement with which of the following country for migration and mobility?*
 - A) Australia
 - B) Russia
 - C) Japan
 - D) Austria
10. *The government of India has launched the 'SMART' programme to boost R&D in Ayurveda. What does the S stand for in SMART?*
 - A) Smart
 - B) Science
 - C) Scope
 - D) System
11. *The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched 'Mission 929' in which of the following state?*
 - A) Odisha
 - B) West Bengal
 - C) Tripura
 - D) Manipur
12. *Which IIT has collaborated with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop Advanced Defence Technologies?*
 - A) IIT Guwahati
 - B) IIT Delhi
 - C) IIT Madras
 - D) IIT Kanpur
13. *Who is the head of the panel set up to recommend reforms in Arbitration Law?*
 - A) T K Vishwanathan
 - B) Arjun Ram Meghwal
 - C) Kiren Rijiju
 - D) Anurag Thakur
14. *'Common Annual Confidential Reports' which were seen in the news, is associated with which field?*
 - A) Sports
 - B) Defence
 - C) MSME
 - D) Politics
15. *Which of the following state has celebrated the Palkhi festival by Warkari community?*
 - A) Gujarat

- B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Rajasthan
D) Maharashtra
16. Which Indian documentary has won a special prize in the 'Health for All' category at the 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival (HAFF) held at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva?
A) Sisters in Arms
B) When Climate Change Turns Violent
C) One in 36 Million
D) The Man Who Sold His Skin
17. Which company launched the 'Indian Languages Programme' to aid small news publishers?
A) Microsoft
B) Google
C) Apple
D) Samsung
18. Which institution issued Guidelines on Product Offerings by online bond platform providers (OBPP)?
A) RBI
B) NPCI
C) SEBI
D) IRDAI
19. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has inaugurated National Legislators' Conference Bharat (NLC Bharat) in which city?
A) Bengaluru
B) New Delhi
C) Hyderabad
D) Mumbai
20. Which country is the host of the 'Ex Khaan Quest 2023' multilateral peacekeeping joint exercise?
A) India
B) Sri Lanka
C) Mongolia
D) Israel
21. Which state government has launched "Griha Jyoti Yojana: Dream Housing for the Poor"?
A) Tamil Nadu
B) Karnataka
C) Maharashtra
D) West Bengal
22. India has announced gifting of missile corvette INS Kirpan to which country?
A) Libya
B) Vietnam
C) Bangladesh
D) Sri Lanka
23. Which country has created history as the first foreign government to promote the country through yoga?
A) Iran
B) Iraq
C) Oman
D) Bangladesh
24. Which of the following northeast states/UT recently released the 'District Good Governance Index (DGGI)'?
A) Assam
B) Arunachal Pradesh
C) Sikkim
D) Mizoram
25. Who is the first Indian swordsman to win a medal in the Asian Championships?
A) Anju Rani
B) Bhavna Kohli
C) Babita Kumari
D) Bhavani Devi
26. According to the State of India's Environment 2023 report, which state has been ranked first in terms of environment?
A) Madhya Pradesh
B) Goa
C) Sikkim
D) Telangana
27. Which state has secured the first position among large states in the 5th State Food Security Index 2023-24?
A) Andhra Pradesh
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Kerala
D) Rajasthan
28. Which country has named the 'Biparjoy Cyclone' that arose in the Arabian Sea?
A) India
B) Sri Lanka
C) Pakistan
D) Bangladesh
29. Which space agency's researchers conducted 'Fried space food experiment'?
A) NASA
B) ISRO
C) ESA
D) JAXA

30. Which Indian-American has been appointed the Vice Chairperson of the Finance Department of Harvard University?
A) Geet Sethi
B) Ritu Kalra
C) Neha Tandon
D) Geeta Gopinath
31. What is the name of the fourth Survey Vessel large warship of the Indian Navy which has been launched recently?
A) Sanshodhak
B) Bhima
C) Sadhak
D) Ajay
32. Which state/UT hosted the 'National conference of tribal writers'?
A) Maharashtra
B) Jammu and Kashmir
C) West Bengal
D) Odisha
33. Which state has topped the Best District category in the 4th National Water Awards?
A) Moga (Punjab)
B) Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)
C) Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)
D) Ganjam (Odisha)
34. The author of 'Songs of Radha, the J' Mikmaid' is:
A) Sarojini Naidu
B) Anita Desai
C) Padminisen Gupta
D) Mahaswetha Devi
35. Which has become the first state in the country to start its own internet service?
A) Tamil Nadu
B) Karnataka
C) Kerala
D) Himachal Pradesh
36. Which Indian-origin scientist has been awarded the 'Spinoza Award', the highest honor in Dutch science?
A) Joyita Gupta
B) Abhilasha Singh
C) Surekha Gupta
D) Soumya Swaminathan
37. In which state the remains of the 'pre-urban' phase of Harappan civilization have been found in Juna Khatiya village?
A) Chhattisgarh
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Gujarat
D) Rajasthan
38. As per the India Rankings 2023, which institution retained its first position in the Overall category?
A) IISc Bengaluru
B) IIT Madras
C) IIT Kharagpur
D) Amrita University
39. ISRO along with which country hosted the International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations (SMOPS-2023)?
A) USA
B) Italy
C) Israel
D) France
40. Who has been appointed the new Director General of Geological Survey of India?
A) Janardan Prasad
B) Ashok Sharma
C) Kapil Ganguly
D) Vipin Kumar
41. Which author has launched his new graphic novel 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath'?
A) Vijay Pareek
B) Shantanu Gupta
C) Murari Lal
D) Prashid Krishna
42. Ministry of Women and Child Development launched 'Amrit Generation Campaign: Naye Bharat Ke Sapne' along with which company?
A) Meta
B) Microsoft
C) Google
D) Apple
43. Which Indian shuttler has recently won the title of 'Malaysia Masters 2023'?
A) Kidambi Srikanth
B) Mithun Manjunath
C) Parupalli Kashyap
D) HS Prannoy
44. Which state government has announced the launch of 'Mo Ghar' housing scheme for the rural poor?
A) Tamil Nadu
B) Odisha
C) West Bengal
D) Rajasthan
45. Who has been named in the advisory committee for the global climate change panel COP28?

- A) Gautam Adani
- B) Ratan Tata
- C) Mukesh Ambani
- D) Anand Mahindra

46. Which institution has conceptualized 'Lightweight Payments System'?

- A) NPCI
- B) RBI
- C) NASSCOM
- D) NITI Aayog

47. Maharashtra government has named which Indian cricketer as 'Smile Ambassador' under the state medical education & drug department's 'Swachh Mukh Abhiyan'?

- A) Harleen Deol
- B) Harmanpreet Kaur
- C) Sachin Tendulkar
- D) Rahul Dravid

48. Which institution decided to set up the 'Global Alliance for Drowning Prevention'?

- A) WEF
- B) IMF
- C) WHO
- D) UNICEF

49. Which state's Women and Child Development Department has received the Gold Skoch Award for 'Mukhya Mantri DoodhUphaar Yojana'?

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Haryana
- D) Rajasthan

50. Edgar Rinkewicz has become the first gay President of which country?

- A) Bolivia
- B) Botswana
- C) Latvia
- D) Denmark

ANSWERS

1. ANSWER: D

Explanation: McCarthy won some of the top accolades in modern literature, including the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, for the bleak post-apocalyptic saga "The Road," as well as the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. He belongs to USA.

2. ANSWER: B

Explanation: Indian-origin teacher in Australia has received the 2022 Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in secondary schools.

3. ANSWER: D

Explanation: Sixteen-year-old Aditya Mittal has become India's 77th chess Grandmaster during an ongoing tournament in Spain. The Mumbai player, who had secured three GM norms, crossed 2,500 ELO points mark during the sixth round of the ongoing Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain.

4. ANSWER: D

Explanation: Shri Amit Shah inaugurated Mega Dairy at Mandya, Karnataka at a cost of INR 260 cr.

5. ANSWER: D

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off Vande Bharat Express connecting New Jalpaiguri with Guwahati.

6. ANSWER: A

Explanation: India's first hydrogen plant is being established near the railway junction in Jind (Haryana) district, in order to support this initiative.

7. ANSWER: A

Explanation: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Friday launched the 'Dhan Vridhhi' plan that offers a combination of protection and savings.

8. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Ministry of Rural Development launches Prajwala Challenge inviting ideas, solutions and actions to transform rural economy.

9. ANSWER: D

Explanation: The Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between India and Austria, along with similar agreements signed with other European countries, represents a significant step forward in promoting mobility and migration for professional and economic reasons.

10. ANSWER: C

Explanation: The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the two prominent institutions under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively, have launched 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals) program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.

11. ANSWER: C

Explanation: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has started 'Mission 929' in Tripura. It will focus on 929 polling booths across Tripura with a target to increase the voter turnout to 92 percent in the next assembly elections. However the ECI has yet to announce the poll schedule of Tripura.

12. ANSWER: C

Explanation: To develop advanced technologies for national defence and security needs of the country, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) together with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is operating a research centre dedicated to defence technologies.

13. ANSWER: A

Explanation: The government has formed an expert panel, headed by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan, to establish India as a global center for international arbitration and alleviate the strain on courts.

14. ANSWER: B

Explanation: India's Defence and security authorities have recently made the decision to implement uniform annual confidential reports for senior officers across all branches of the armed forces.

15. ANSWER: D

Explanation: Delegates, attending a three days meet - G20 Digital Economy Working Group Conference, in Pune, had an opportunity to get a first-hand glimpse of **Warkari community's palhki** from Pune Municipal Corporation's special pavilion.

16. ANSWER: B

Explanation: A documentary titled 'When Climate Change Turns Violent has won a special prize in the 'Health for All' category at the 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival held at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva. The documentary has been directed by VanditaSaharia of Rajasthan.

17. ANSWER: B

Explanation: Google on Friday the 'Indian Languages Programme' under its News Initiative to support local news publishers in India. According to the company, the Indian Languages Programme is a comprehensive initiative designed to empower publishers through various components, including access to training, technical support, and funding, to help them improve their digital operations and reach more readers.

18. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday restricted online bond platform providers from offering products other than listed debt securities on their platforms. In addition, the regulator allowed them to offer securities such as Government Securities, Treasury Bills, listed Sovereign Gold Bonds, listed municipal debt securities, and listed securitised debt instruments on their online bond platforms, according to a circular.

19. ANSWER: D

Explanation: The National Legislators' Conference Bharat (NLC Bharat) was officially inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Mumbai. The APJ Abdul Kalam expo pavilion was also inaugurated reflecting the theme of Bharat's 75th year of independence and celebrating the spirit of democracy.

20. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Multinational Peacekeeping Joint Exercise "Ex Khaan Quest 2023" featuring participation from military contingents and observers from over 20 countries has commenced in Mongolia

21. ANSWER: B

Explanation: The Government of Karnataka recently launched its Griha Jyoti Yojana, which aims to provide affordable housing to the poor and middle class families of the state. The scheme is a part of the state's ambitious "Housing for All" scheme and aims to provide housing to around 4.5 lakh families in the next five years.

22. ANSWER: B

Explanation: An active duty missile corvette of the Indian Navy is on its way to Vietnam as a gift, the first warship given by India to any country. The domestically built corvette INS Kirpan left India's east coast.

23. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Oman creates history as first foreign government to promote country through yoga. The Indian Embassy in the Sultanate of Oman has introduced a video called 'Soulful Yoga, Serene Oman' on the eve of the International Day of Yoga 2023.

24. ANSWER: B

Explanation: The DARPG and Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh with Knowledge Partner CGG, Hyderabad jointly released the first District Good Governance Index of Arunachal Pradesh on 8th June 2023.

25. ANSWER: D

Explanation: C.A. Bhavani Devi, an Olympian from Chennai, made history by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian fencing championships held in Wuxi, China. Bhavani's outstanding

performance and determination earned her a well-deserved bronze medal in this prestigious event.

26. Answer: D

Explanation: A ranking of the Indian states based on four criteria—environment, agriculture, public health, and infrastructure—is one of the report's standout features this year. At the top are Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, and Gujarat.

27. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Among the larger states, Kerala secured the top ranking, followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu Among the smaller states, Goa emerged as the leader, followed Manipur and Sikkim Additionally, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured the first, second, and third ranks respectively among the union territories. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya also commended states that demonstrated significant improvement in their State Food Safety Index scores.

28. ANSWER: D

Explanation: Cyclone 'Biparjoy' was suggested by Bangladesh and the word means 'disaster' or 'calamity' in Bengali. The naming of cyclones is done by countries on a rotational basis, following certain existing guidelines.

29. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Experiments conducted by the European Space Agency (ESA) have revealed that frying works even in the microgravity experienced in space. The research could help determine what cooking processes and food will be available to astronauts as they explore alien worlds.

30. ANSWER: B

Explanation: Ritu Kalra, investment banking and financial management expert of Indian-American origin, has been appointed as the vice president for finance and chief financial officer at Harvard University.

31. ANSWER: A

Explanation: 'Sanshodhak', the fourth of four ships of Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project, being built by L&T/ GRSE for Indian Navy was launched on 13 Jun 23 at Kattupalli, Chennai.

32. ANSWER: B

Explanation: The first-ever national conference of tribal writers was held in Jammu and Kashmir with its participants setting up a forum to safeguard authentic tribal literature and encourage youngsters to showcase their unique culture through writings.

33. ANSWER: D

Explanation: Odisha's Ganjam district has got the first ranking in Best District category of the 4th National Water Awards 2022 announced by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

34. ANSWER: A

Explanation: Sarojini Naidu was a gifted artist, whose poetry is appreciated for its bird like quality and sophisticated style. The three volumes of her poems, The Golden Threshold (1905), The Bird of Time (1912) and The Broken Wing (1917), occupy a place of eminence in the history of Indo-Anglian poetry.

35. ANSWER: C

Explanation: God's own country, Kerala, recently got its own internet service. It is the first and only state in India to have received access to its own internet service. Along with this, the Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, declared the internet as one of the basic rights of the people of the state. The ISP license access is given by the Department of Telecommunications of the Government of India to the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd (KFON).

36. ANSWER: A

Explanation: Indian-origin professor Joyeeta Gupta has been awarded the Spinoza Prize, the highest distinction in Dutch science, for her scientific work focusing on a 'just and sustainable world'.

37. ANSWER: C

Explanation: A recent excavation at Juna Khatiya village of Kutch district Gujarat has revealed some new findings on burial practice of Harrapan and early Harrapan times. Juna Khatiya village is the biggest cemetery of Harappan era. It has around 500 graves from 3,200 BCE to 2,600 BCE eras.

38. ANSWER: B

Explanation: The India Rankings 2023 has been released, which serves as a valuable tool for students in selecting universities. The selection of universities is based on their relative standing in various categories and subject domain. The multi-dimensional parameters of India Rankings have successfully captured the quality and excellence of HEIs in the country. Indian Institute of Technology Madras retains its 1st position in Overall Category for fifth consecutive year and in engineering for eighth consecutive year. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru tops the Universities Category for eighth consecutive years. It stood first in Research Institutions Category for the third consecutive year.

39. ANSWER: B

Explanation: The objective of this unique conference is to associate and connect with the various space agencies, start-ups, industry and academia within and outside India. The conference aims to bring all space leaders together to share their views on existing technologies and its challenges, while previewing the state of the art technologies that are being conceived globally to make space mission operations more secure and robust. This conference will also provide a unique platform for ISRO to boost the synergy between academia, industry and other space agencies.

40. ANSWER: A

Explanation: Janardan Prasad has been appointed as the new Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI). Prasad, who took charge of the 174-year-old institution on Thursday, succeeds Dr S Raju, who held the post since 2020. Prasad is an MSc in Geology from Patna University and joined GSI, Gandhinagar, as a geologist in 1988.

41. ANSWER: B

Explanation: Author Shantanu Gupta launched his graphic novel titled 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' on the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister for young readers in Tamil Nadu.

42. ANSWER: A

Explanation: Meta and Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), launched the Amrit Generation campaign, an initiative to empower and engage the youth of India by encouraging them to express their aspirations and dreams for the future.

43. ANSWER: D

Explanation: Malaysia Masters 2023 badminton: India's HS Prannoy wins maiden BWF World Tour title. World No. 9 HS Prannoy beat Weng Hong Yang 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 in the final to bag his first BWF badminton title since the US Open 2017. HS Prannoy clinched the men's singles crown at the Malaysia Masters 2023 in June.

44. ANSWER: B

Explanation: The government in Odisha has recently introduced the Mo Ghara (My House) scheme to provide credit-linked financial assistance to economically and socially weaker households.

45. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Mukesh Ambani named as member of advisory committee of COP28". The COP28 UAE Advisory Committee brings together the climate expertise of thought leaders from countries across 6 continents.

46. ANSWER: B

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conceptualised a lightweight payment and settlements system, which it is calling a "bunker" equivalent of digital payments, which can be operated from anywhere by a bare minimum staff in exigencies such as natural calamities or war.

47. ANSWER: C

Explanation: The Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party government in Maharashtra has appointed legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the state's 'Smile Ambassador' for the Swachh Mukh Abhiyan (SMA) campaign.

48. ANSWER: C

Explanation: 76th World Health Assembly adopted its first ever resolution on drowning prevention requesting governments and their partners, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), to accelerate action on drowning prevention through 2029.

49. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Haryana Women & Child Development Department bagged the highest independent honour with the Gold Skoch Award for "Mukhya Mantri DoodhUpharYojna. An award ceremony was organized by the SKOCH group for National award winners.

50. ANSWER: C

Explanation: Latvia has elected a new president - making history the first openly gay head of state in Europe. Rinkēvičs has spent a long time in Latvian politics, serving as the country's minister of foreign affairs since 2011, and worked in the civil service before that.