

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 11TH – 20TH FEB 2023

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 1. Ashwini Vaishnaw launches 'Digital Payments Utsav' to Promote Digital Transformation :** The "Digital Payments Utsav", a comprehensive campaign aiming at promoting digital payments across India, has been launched by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). 'Digital Payments Utsav' - This campaign, which is a part of the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) event, aims to highlight India's path towards digital transformation. It will take place from February 9, 2023 to October 9, 2023. Various initiatives with respect to digital payment in India i. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is mandated to take the lead in the development of the digital credit system, which will be fully implemented in 2023. ii. UPI 123 Pay is now accessible in more than 20 regional languages through a collaboration between UPI and the National Language Translation Mission (Mission Bhashini).
- 2. GSI discovered Lithium Reserves for the 1st Time in India at Salal-Haimana, J&K :** Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office to the Ministry of Mines, has discovered lithium inferred resources(G3) for the first time in India. A 5.9 million tonnes of lithium inferred resources have been established at Salal-Haimana in the Reasi district of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K). Lithium: i. Lithium, a non-ferrous metal. is a vital part of rechargeable batteries used in electric vehicles, laptops, digital cameras, mobile phones, and other electronic devices. ii. It is also used in some non-rechargeable batteries for devices like clocks, toys, and heart pacemakers.
- 3. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates AMRITPEX 2023 at New Delhi :**On February 11, 2023, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Communications inaugurated a 5-day long AMRITPEX 2023, the National Philatelic Exhibition at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi (Delhi) as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations. It will culminate on February 15, 2023. **Key Points:** i. AMRITPEX, the national platform will highlight 5000 years of India's history, culture, art, and heritage through stamps and pictorial collections. The exhibition displays more than 20,000 exhibits under 13 competitive categories and invitees. AMRITPEX 2023 saw the number of workshops, panel discussions and cultural programs.
- 4. 1st G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting 2023 held in Bengaluru:** i. From February 9-11, 2023, the First G20 (Group of Twenty) Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka under India's G20 Presidency. ii. It was led by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India. iii. Indian Presidency will publish the 5th report on actions against marine plastic litter under the G20 Framework for Marine Plastic Litter, in collaboration with Japan. iv. The Indian Presidency also announced a coordinated beach cleaning event to be conducted on May 21, 2023 on the sidelines of the Ocean 20 dialogue.

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- 5. Girish Chandra Murmu led 6th SCO SAI Leaders' Meeting; MoUs Signed with SAIs of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan :** The 6th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Supreme Audit Institutes (SCO SAI) Leaders' meeting was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) from February 6 to 8, 2023. Discussions were held at the SCO SAI Leaders' meeting led by Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) India, under the theme of **"Integrating Emerging Technologies in Audit"** with a focus on Artificial Intelligence and Cyber-security. On the sidelines of the SCO SAI Leader's meeting, on 13 February 2023, Girish Chandra Murmu signed 2 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with SAIs of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to strengthen cooperation and exchange of expertise in the field of auditing. Under the SCO SAIs Leader's meeting, Girish Chandra Murmu stressed the need for proper auditing of the country's local bodies as India is aiming to achieve a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): Headquarters - Beijing, China Establishment - 15 June 2001 Secretary-General - Zhang Ming.
- 6. 37th APEDA Foundation Day - 13th February 2023 :** The Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Trade, observed the 37th APEDA Foundation Day on 13th February 2023 across India. APEDA, established in 1986, has achieved phenomenal success in the promotion export of agricultural products in its successful journey of 37 years. APEDA's Growth History- 1986 to 2023: i. Due to APEDA's active interventions, the export of agricultural products has increased from USD 0.6 billion in 1987-88 to USD 19.69 billion till April-December 2022-23 and expanded the export basket to more than 200 countries. The APEDA exported agricultural products worth USD 24.77 billion in 2021-22.
- 7. Boeing launches its 1st Global Support Center in India at Gurugram :** i. On February 13, 2022, The Boeing Company, an aerospace company based in the United States of America(USA), launched its first Global Support Center (GSC) in India at Gurugram, Haryana, which will offer customized operational efficiency and safety improvement projects for Boeing's airline customers, regulatory bodies, and other stakeholders. ii. It will also transfer knowledge to enhance safety and efficiency for airline partners in India. iii. It also plans to invest in a new logistics center to cater to its regional customers. In the initial phase of the operations, the India logistics centre will focus on supporting airline customers. iv. Seven teams comprising university students and early stage start-up entrepreneurs became the winners of Boeing University Innovation Leadership Development (BUILD) program 2022-23. About Boeing India: President- Salil Gupte Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka President and Chief Executive Officer(The Boeing Company)- David L. Calhoun
- 8. PMC & TGBL partners to set up India's 1st Solid Waste to Hydrogen plant in Pune :** Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has partnered with The Green Billions Limited(TGBL) to set up India's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant in Hadapsar Industrial Estate in Pune, Maharashtra, at an investment of Rs 350 crore. TGBL will spend an additional Rs 82 crore to construct the storage facility and logistics support. The solid waste-to-hydrogen plant will be set up in Pune at a total cost of over Rs 430 crore. TGBL has entered into a 30-year-long agreement with PMC to set up this plant.

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- 9. UIDAI launches new AI/ML Chatbot “Aadhaar Mitra” to Address Aadhaar-Related Queries :**The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched an AI/ML (Artificial intelligence and machine learning)-based new Chatbot called “Aadhaar Mitra” to help people get answers to their queries related to the Aadhaar card.
- 10. First G20 Digital Economy Working Group meeting held in Lucknow, UP :**Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) hosted the first Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) meeting in India, as a part of India's Presidency of the G20(Group of Twenty) from 13th to 15th February 2023 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh(UP). The DEWG meeting in India showcased India's digital transformation journey and brought together G20 members, key knowledge partners, and guest countries to discuss digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity, and digital skilling. The Chair of G20-DEWG was Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) It was Co-Chaired by Sushil Pal, Joint Secretary, MeitY. During the 3 day meeting of the working group, the G20 members, guest countries and international organisations discussed on 3 priority areas identified by India: “Digital Public Infrastructure”, “Cybersecurity in the Digital Economy”, and “Digital Skilling”. About G20 India 2023: India holds the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. Theme- 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth · One Family · One Future' Secretariat- New Delhi, Delhi G20 Sherpa- Amitabh Kant.
- 11. 4th Edition of India-Japan Army exercise ‘Dharma Guardian’ Commenced in Japan :**On 17, February 2023, the 4th edition of the India-Japan joint annual military training exercise ‘Dharma Guardian’ commenced at Camp Imazu in the Shiga province of Japan. The exercise was scheduled to be conducted till 2 March, 2023.
- 12. OECD STRI Index: India Ranked 47; Japan and UK gained 1st two Spots :** India ranked 47th in OECD's (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) report titled 'OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Policy trends up to 2023', which highlights the key outcomes of the 2022 OECD STRI. **Key Points:**
- India's rank of 47 (which was increased from) among 50 countries shows the presence of more market restrictions in the country.
 - OECD STRI index covers 38 OECD members, as well as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Vietnam.
 - Russia, Thailand and Indonesia are the three countries ranked below India.
 - On average, Japan, the United Kingdom (UK) and the Netherlands displayed the lowest regulatory barriers to services trade across sectors in 2022.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 1. GQII 2021: India's Accreditation System under QCI Ranked 5th; Overall QI system Rank at 10 :**The National accreditation system of India under the Quality Council of India (QCI) was ranked 5th globally in the Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII)2021. India's overall QI (Quality infrastructure) system ranking continues to be in the Top 10 unchanged from GQII 2020 at the 10th position, with a
- TEACHERS' VISION SCO-77, TOP FLOOR, SEC-15D CHD PH:- 7529000184**

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GQII score of 0.932. What is GQII 2021? The GQII Index is a pioneer in measuring the development status and dynamics of QI worldwide. The GQII ranks 184 countries according to the relative development of their QI. A formula calculates a score for each country based on its position in the sub-rankings for metrology, standards and accreditation (the 3 QI pillars). A country that ranks first in all areas would score 1. In the GQII 2021, the top-ranked country (Germany) scored 0.9958, while the lowest-ranked country (Timor-Leste) scored 0.1190.

- 2. India jumps to 55th rank in ICAO's Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking: DGCA :** As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), India's position has improved in the Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as India's aviation security monitoring ranking has improved to the 55th position from 112th place. Under the continuous monitoring approach of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP), the Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was launched in India from November 9 to 16, 2022. **Key Points:** i. This ranking is dynamic and is contingent upon the outcomes of various Audits undertaken by ICAO. USOAP allows the ICAO to continuously monitor the safety obligations of its 187 member states. ii. The USOAP is based on eight critical elements (CE) of a safety oversight system, which are measured by a set of protocol questions (PQs).
- 3. FT Global MBA Ranking 2023: ISB Placed First Among Indian B-Schools; Six Indian B-Schools Listed Among World's Top 100 MBA Institutes :** According to the "Financial Times (FT) Global MBA Ranking 2023," the Post Graduate Programme (PGP) from the Indian School of Business (ISB) has retained its prominence among Indian B-Schools and is the only Indian B-school (Business School) to rank in the top 50 globally. (As of February 13, 2023). ISB dropped to 39th rank in the world from 32nd in 2022 and 23rd in 2021. It is currently ranked sixth in Asia. ISB has campuses in Hyderabad (Telangana) and Mohali (Punjab). In addition to ISB, the Financial Times' top 100 list includes five Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). In 2022, India had four B-schools in the list. Note: For the 2023 edition, 142 schools participated in the ranking process. According to the Financial Times, IIM Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and IIM Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) are among the top 100 global MBA institutes. IIM Ahmedabad (Gujarat) rose to 51st in the 2023 ranking from 62nd in 2022. IIM Bangalore (Karnataka) is ranked 52nd, IIM Calcutta (West Bengal) is ranked 76th, IIM Indore is ranked 89th, and IIM Lucknow is ranked 90th.
- 4. India ranks 4th among 51 countries in having quality entrepreneurship ecosystem: GEM NECI 2022/2023 Report:** According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) and National Entrepreneurship Context Index's (NECI) report titled 'Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2022/2023 Global Report Adapting to a "New Normal" India is ranked 4th out of 51 nations in terms of having a high- quality entrepreneurial ecosystem. India's most recent score of 6.1 demonstrates an overall improvement in the nation's entrepreneurial environment over time. This is a significant improvement over the 2021 ranking of 16th overall. The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Taiwan are the top 3 countries in the GEM 2022/2023 Global Report.

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BANKING AND FINANCE

- 1. HARBINGER 2023 Innovation for Transformation: RBI announces 2nd Global Hackathon :** On February 14, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched its 2nd global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation' on the theme 'Inclusive Digital Services'. Registration for the hackathon starts from February 22, 2023. The hackathon is owned and sponsored by RBI and is hosted on Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX) platform. HARBINGER 2023 aims to identify and enable solutions and/or business models to solve the following challenges in the digital financial services landscape.
- 2. RBI introduced FCRA related Transaction Code in NEFT, RTGS Systems :** On February 16, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) related transaction code in National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Systems. The instructions for the same were issued under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007). It will be effective from March 15, 2023. What are the changes? i. Originating banks are required to select two mandatory fields of NEFT/RTGS systems while remitting foreign donations to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) account at SBI. ii. Originating banks are also required to pass on donor details relating to 'transaction without Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) details' and 'transaction without LEI details' as part of 'Sender to remitter information' in NEFT and RTGS. Background: i. Under the FCRA, 2010 (amended as on September 28, 2020), foreign contributions must be received only in the FCRA account of the SBI, New Delhi Main Branch (NDMB), Delhi. ii. The contributions to the FCRA account are received directly from foreign banks through SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications) and from Indian intermediary banks through NEFT and RTGS systems.
- 3. SBI launched new term deposit scheme Amrit Kalash with 7.6% interest rate for Senior Citizens :** State Bank of India (SBI) has launched Amrit Kalash, a new limited-period term deposit scheme with an interest rate of 7.6% for senior citizens and 7.1% for others. SBI staff and pensioners are applicable for an additional 1% interest rate. The scheme is launched for both domestic and NRI (Non-Resident Indian) customers. About Amrit Kalash deposit scheme: i. Tenure: The deposit period under the scheme was 400 days ii. Interest rate: The interest rate is 7.6% for senior citizens and 7.1% for others. For the case of depositing Rs 1 lakh under the Amrit Kalash scheme, it will provide an interest of around Rs 8600 to senior citizens and Rs 8017 for others.
- 4. Paytm Payments Bank becomes the first in India to launch UPI LITE feature :** Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) has launched UPI LITE, a feature enabled by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for multiple small-value UPI transactions. PPBL has become the first payments bank to deploy such a UPI LITE feature as part of its commitment to promote innovation. UPI Lite allows transactions of up to Rs 200 without using a UPI PIN. UPI LITE i. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the UPI LITE feature, designed by NPCI, in September 2022. UPI LITE offers customers a better experience by enabling faster and safer real-time small value payments. ii. A UPI LITE wallet,

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once loaded, enables a user to make instant transactions of up to Rs. 200, making the entire experience quick and seamless. A maximum of Rs. 2,000 can be added to UPI LITE twice daily, increasing the cumulative daily usage to Rs. 4,000. iii. At present, only debit from the customers' wallet is permitted and all credits to UPI Lite, including refunds, will directly go to their bank account. **Note:** According to official NPCI data, about 75% of the total volume of retail transactions, including cash, in India are below Rs 100 in transaction value and 50% of all daily UPI transactions in India are for less than Rs. 200.

ECONOMY

- 1. January 2023: India's WPI inflation eases to 2-year low of 4.73%; CPI inflation rises to 3-month high at 6.52%** :As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's annual rate of a wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation in January 2023 (provisional) was eased to a two-year low of 4.73% from 4.95% in December 2022. Considering the month-on-month change the WPI index increased by 0.13% in January 2023 as against a contraction of 1.12% in December 2022. The decrease in the rate of inflation in January 2023 was mainly due to a fall in the price of mineral oils, chemicals & chemical products, textiles, crude petroleum & natural gas, textiles, and food products. The rate of inflation based on the WPI Food Index increased from 0.65% in December 2022 to 2.95% in January 2023.

AWARDS

- 1. Former Federal Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel honoured with Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize 2022** :On 8th February 2023, Angela Merkel, former Federal Chancellor of Germany, received the Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Peace Prize 2022 during the ceremony held in Yamoussoukro, the capital of the Ivory Coast. She received the prize in recognition of her efforts to welcome refugees during her term in the office. About the Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize: i. The Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize is intended to honour an individual, an institution, or a private or public body which has significantly contributed to the promotion, research, safeguarding or maintenance of peace. ii. The Prize was established in 1989 by a resolution supported by 120 countries and adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 25th session. iii. The award is named after Félix Houphouët-Boigny, the first president of Ivory Coast(Côte d'Ivoire), serving from 1960 until his death in 1993. About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Director-General- Audrey Azoulay Headquarters- Paris, France Establishment- 1945
- 2. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Presented Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2019, 2020 and 2021 to 102 Artists of India** :On 15th February 2023, G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister, Ministry of Culture presented the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (UBKYP) for 2019, 2020 and 2021 to

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around 102 Artists (including three joint awards) at Meghdoot Theatre Complex, Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi. About Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar: i. Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar is presented to artists up to the age of 40 years to encourage young talents in diverse fields of the performing arts. ii. The award was introduced in 2006 with the objective to identify and encourage young talents and give them national recognition early in their life. iii. The award carries a purse money of Rs 25,000, an Angavastram and a plaque.

APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Gol Appoints Chief Justice for 4 High Courts : Details of the Appointments of CJ of 4 High courts: Gujarat High Court:** Justice Sonia G Gokani, a Judge in Gujarat HC, was appointed as the Chief Justice of Gujarat HC. she succeeds Chief Justice Aravind Kumar who was elevated to the Supreme Court of India. Gauhati High Court: Justice Sandeep Mehta, a judge of the Rajasthan High Court, was appointed as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court. Justice Jaswant Singh, Judge in Orissa HC (Odisha), was appointed as the Chief Justice of Tripura High Court. Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, Judge in Gauhati HC, was appointed as the new CJ of Jammu & Kashmir(J&K) and Ladakh High Court.
- 2. ICAI elects Aniket Sunil Talati & Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as President & Vice-President for 2023-24 :**The Central Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has elected CA. Aniket Sunil Talati and CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as President and Vice President of ICAI for the term 2023-24.
- 3. Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu was declared the Next President of Bangladesh :**Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu, (74 years old), a former judge and freedom fighter, has been declared the next President of Bangladesh by Bangladesh's Election Commission. The ruling Awami League (AL) party nominee, Shahabuddin Chuppu, was elected unopposed as the 22nd President of Bangladesh. Shahabuddin Chuppu will replace the incumbent President Mohammad Abdul Hamid, the longest-serving president of Bangladesh(2013 to 2023), whose tenure ends in April 2023. About Bangladesh: President- Mohammad Abdul Hamid Prime Minister- Sheikh Hasina Capital- Dhaka Currency- Bangladeshi Taka
- 4. Indian-Origin Neal Mohan Replaces Susan Wojcicki as Youtube's New CEO :**Neal Mohan, a longtime Google and YouTube executive who is an Indian-American, has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of YouTube. Mohan will succeed Susan Wojcicki, YouTube's outgoing CEO, who is departing after nine years in the position. She had been with Alphabet Inc., YouTube's parent company, for nearly 25 years. About YouTube CEO – Neal Mohan Founded – 2005 Headquarters – San Bruno, California, United States (US)
- 5. Appointments in Army: Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar as new Army Vice Chief :**The Government of India (Gol) has approved major appointment in the Indian Army, Lieutenant general MV Suchindra Kumar, who is currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) in the Army Headquarters, was

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appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff. He succeeds Lt Gen B S Raju as the Vice Chief of Army Staff.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- 1. Gol launched Mobile app: 'Khanan Prahari' & Web App: CMSMS to Curb Illegal Mining :**The Government of India (GoI) has launched a mobile application of the Ministry of Coal, "Khanan Prahari", and a web app "Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System" (CMSMS) for reporting unauthorised coal mining activities so that the responsible Law & Order enforcing body can monitor them and take appropriate action. The CMSMS was created as a GoI e-Governance initiative on using Space Technology to report illegal mining and take transparent action.
About the Ministry of Coal: Union Minister- Pralhad Joshi
- 2. Aero India 2023: Garuda Aerospace unveils its Solar-Powered Drone SURAJ :** On 15th February 2023, drone startup Garuda Aerospace Private Limited unveiled its "SURAJ", a solar-powered unmanned reconnaissance J-Glider, at Aero India 2023, which is being held from 13th to 17th February at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka. SURAJ, an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) high-altitude drone, is designed specifically for surveillance operations, providing high command real-time data and protecting jawans on the ground. SURAJ will carry a versatile payload of high-resolution zoom cameras with thermal imagery and foliage-penetrating lidar sensors with a maximum capacity of 10 Kilograms(Kg). About the Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd: Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Agnishwar Jayaprakash Headquarters- Chennai, Tamil Nadu Establishment- 2015
- 3. MEA launched 'mPassport Police App' to Fast Track Passport Verification Process :** The Ministry of External Affairs(MEA), Government of India launched 'mPassport Police App' to streamline and expedite the passport issuance system. This app will also help with the timely updation and issuance of passports. Background: i. Police verification is one of the integral parts of the passport issuance system. ii. Various efforts have been undertaken to streamline and expedite the process of the passport issuance system. iii. The MEA introduced the 'mPassport Police App' to further expedite the process.

ENVIRONMENT

- 1. 1st Sundarban Bird Festival: 145 bird species spotted in Sundarban Biosphere Reserve :** Wildlife enthusiasts and forest officials have sighted 145 different bird species during the first-ever Sundarban Bird Festival, organised by the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR) and South 24 Parganas division of West Bengal Forest Department. The birds were sighted by 6 teams that visited different parts of the Sunderban Biosphere Reserve during the 2-day exercise. The Sundarban Bird Festival was held from 7th to 10th February 2023 at Sajnekhali Beat Complex, Sundarban Tiger Reserve. Sundarbans: i.

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Sundarbans National Park, a national park, tiger reserve and biosphere reserve in West Bengal, India, houses the largest population of Bengal Tigers (endangered species). ii. The Sundarbans, located between India and Bangladesh, is the largest single block of tidal, halophytic mangrove forests in the world.

- 2. Scientists discovered a New Beetle Species 'Omorgus Khandesh' in India** : Scientist Aparna Sureshchandra Kalawate, working with Zoological Survey of India(ZSI), Western Regional Centre (WRC), Pune, Maharashtra, has discovered a new beetle species of Trogidae family named "Omorgus Khandesh" in India. The beetle was found in the collections of WRC, Pune, Maharashtra. The paper, co-authored by Werner P Strümpher of the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History, Pretoria, South Africa was published in New Zealand-based journal Zootaxa. About Omorgus Khandesh: Omorgus Khandesh, a necrophagous (feeds on dead or decaying animal flesh), is also called a keratin beetle. With the addition of this new species, now there are a total of 14 extant species of Trogidae family in India. These beetles are also called hide beetles since they cover their body under soil and hide. They have a bumpy appearance with short, dense setae all over its body.

STATE NEWS

- 1. UP Government launches Portal for Family ID - "One Family, One ID"** :The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has launched the portal for creation of "Parivar Pehchan (Family Identity (ID))-One Family One ID" to identify families as a unit to implement the 'One Family One Job' scheme. Aim: To give free or discounted rations to families without ration cards who are ineligible for the National Food Security Scheme. The database entered in the portal will help with better beneficiary scheme management, timely targeting, and transparent operation, giving 100% of the benefit of the scheme to eligible persons, and streamlining public access to government services.

SPORTS

- 1. 5th edition of Khelo India Youth Games held in Madhya Pradesh; Maharashtra tops Medal Tally** :The 5th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG 2022) hosted by Madhya Pradesh was held from 30th January to 11th February 2023. Maharashtra won the overall championship and topped the medal tally of the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 with 161 medals (56 gold, 55 silver, and 50 bronze). Haryana (40 golds) and Madhya Pradesh (39 golds), were ranked 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Madhya Pradesh was the 5th Indian State to host the Khelo India Youth Games. The sporting events were held at 11 venues in 8 different cities in the state of Madhya Pradesh and New Delhi (for Track Cycling). At KIYG 2023, 11 athletes from various sports set a total of 15 new youth national records. About the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports: Union Minister- Anurag Singh Thakur.

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIR QUIZ 1ST – 10TH FEB 2023

- Which of the following points is 'Incorrect' with respect to the RBI's Bi-monthly monetary policy of FY23 held in February 2023?
 - India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 6.4% for FY24 (lower than 7% in FY23)
 - The MPC raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.50% from 6.25%.
 - The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate adjusted to 6.25% from 6.0% and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate to 6.75% from 6.50%.
 - The Bank Rate remained unchanged at 6.50%.
 - Inflation is projected at 6.5% in FY23.
- In February 2023, K Satyanarayana Raju was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which bank?
 - Union Bank of India
 - Punjab & Sind Bank
 - Canara Bank
 - Bank of India
 - Bank of Baroda
- Which company has recently (in Feb '23) become India's First Fintech Platform to support cross-border UPI Payments?
 - Paytm
 - PhonePe
 - BharatPe
 - Razorpay
 - Freecharge
- Who was recently (in Feb '23) awarded with "The Most Distinguished Scientist of the Year 2022" at the Indian Achievers Award 2022 by the union minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur?
 - Arun Kumar Shukla
 - Amit Singh
 - R Vishnu Prasad
 - Karthik Pattabiraman
 - Vasan S. Ramachandran
- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s report released in February 2023, India's Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE) Initiative can save consumers around USD 440 billion globally in _____.
 - 2027
 - 2030
 - 2025
 - 2028
 - 2026
- Which of the following countries were recently (in Feb' 23) announced plans for Trilateral Framework cooperation with India?
 - United Arab Emirates
 - France
 - Australia
 - Both 1 & 2
 - Both 2 & 3
- Who has recently (in Feb '23) received 'The Hurun Industry Achievement Award 2022' for remarkable achievements in the world of business?
 - VP Nandakumar
 - Rishad Premji
 - Nandan Nilekani
 - N. S. Raghavan
 - N. R. Narayana Murthy
- Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) framework to strengthen the green bonds, as of February 2023?
 - SEBI has strengthened the green bond framework by introducing "Blue" and "Yellow" bonds as new modes of sustainable finance.

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B) These bonds are subcategories of Green Debt Securities (GDS), with 'Blue Bonds' pertaining to water management & the marine sector & 'Yellow Bonds' pertaining to crude oil.

C) A public offering of debt securities /non-convertible redeemable preference shares will be kept open for subscription for a minimum of 3 & a maximum of 10 working days.

A. Only A B. Only A & B C. Only B & C D. Only A & C E. All A, B & C

9. Vani Jairam, Veteran Singer & Padma Bhushan awardee passed away in February 2023. In which year, she was honoured with "Padma Bhushan award" in the field of Art?

A. 2022 B. 2019 C. 2021 D. 2023 E. 2020

10. In February 2023, the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh, and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), Manoj Sinha, launched the mascot, theme song, and jersey for the _____ edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, to be held in Gulmarg, J&K.

A. 3rd B. 1st C. 4th D. 6th E. 2nd

11. Name the company that has recently (in Feb '23) introduced drone technology in coal mines by launching "VIHANGAM," a web- based portal.

A. Eastern Coalfields Ltd B. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd C. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd
D. Northern Coalfield Ltd E. Central Coalfields Ltd

12. Which state Government has recently (in Jan '23) launched a 'Ladli Bahna' scheme to provide Rs 1,000 per month to women from financially poor backgrounds?

A. West Bengal B. Andhra Pradesh C. Maharashtra D. Gujarat E. Madhya Pradesh

13. Who was recently (in Jan '23) appointed as the 1st Female Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea?

A. Ignacio Milam Tang B. Silvestre Siale Bileka C. Manuela Roka Botey
D. Vicente Ehaté Tomi E. Francisco Pascual Obama

14. Name the bank that has recently (in Feb '23) announced the implementation of the first phase of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or "Digital Rupee" (e*).

A. Axis Bank B. Kotak Mahindra Bank C. Canara Bank
D. Punjab National Bank E. Bank of India

15. Which city was recently (in Jan '23) declared as the capital of Andhra Pradesh by the Chief Minister (CM) of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy?

A. Guntur B. Amaravati C. Kurnool D. Visakhapatnam E. Tirupati

16. Name the personality from India who was recently (in Jan' 23) honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Honour at the 2023 edition of the India-United Kingdom (UK) Achievers Honours.

A. Manmohan Singh B. Amartya Kumar Sen C. Raghuram Rajan
D. Raja Chelliah E. Shankar Acharya

17. In January 2023, the first "G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting", under the G20 (Group of Twenty) Indian Presidency, was held in _____.

A. Gujarat B. Chandigarh C. Puducherry D. Maharashtra E. Delhi

TEACHERS' VISION

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- 18.** According to the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate declined to 4 months low at _____ in January 2023.
A. 8.03% B. 7.92% C. 8.30% D. 6.43% E. 7.14%
- 19.** In which state, Indian Army's Exercise Topchi 2023, the annual firepower demonstration and training exercise, was conducted by the School of Artillery in January 2023?
A. Odisha B. Rajasthan C. West Bengal D. Gujarat E. Maharashtra
- 20.** In January 2023, India won the 1st ICC (International Cricket Council) Under-19 Women's T20 (Twenty 20) World Cup 2023 by defeating which country?
A. New Zealand B. Australia C. England D. West Indies E. South Africa
- 21.** When was Martyrs Day 2023, also known as Sarvodaya day, observed across India?
A. 29th January 2023 B. 31st January 2023 C. 27th January 2023
D. 30th January 2023 E. 28th January 2023
- 22.** Which company has recently (in Jan '23) emerged as India's first payment gateway player to process Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee (e-rupee) transactions for online retail merchants?
A. Cashfree B. CCAvenue C. Razorpay
D. Worldline ePayments India E. NineHertz
- 23.** India's G-20 Sherpa inaugurates India's first Model G-20 Summit. Who is the India's G-20 Sherpa?
A. Narendra Modi B. Rajnath Singh C. Amit Shah
D. Amitabh Kant E. Amitabh Bachchan
- 24.** In January 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected India's growth to decline from 6.8% in 2022 to _____ in 2023.
A. 6.2% B. 5.9% C. 6.5% D. 6.1% E. 6.4%
- 25.** Which of the following Stock Exchange has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2022, in terms of the number of contracts traded?
A. Calcutta Stock Exchange B. Madras Stock Exchange C. Bombay Stock Exchange
D. National Stock Exchange E. Frankfurt Stock Exchange
- 26.** _____ is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair.
A. China B. America C. South Korea D. Spain E. Columbia
- 27.** Union Railway Minister confirmed that India's _____ will come by Dec 2023 on Heritage Routes.
A. 1st Hydrogen Train B. 1st Warship C. 1st Steam Engine
D. 1st Eco Train E. 1st Vintage Train
- 28.** The Budget 2023 focuses on _____ priorities, which the FM called the "Saptrishis guiding us through Amrit Kaal".
A. Fifth B. Sixth C. Seven D. Eighth E. Nine
- 29.** Which will be the theme Country at the 2025 Madrid International Book Fair?

TEACHERS' VISION

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A. Malaysia B. Sri Lanka C. China D. India E. Afghanistan

30. Retired army general, Petr Pavel was elected as President of which country?

A. Ireland B. Thailand C. UK D. Czech Republic E. Israel

ANSWERS

1) D	6) D	11) B	16) A	21) D	26) D
2) C	7) A	12) E	17) B	22) B	27) A
3) B	8) D	13) C	18) E	23) D	28) C
4) C	9) D	14) B	19) E	24) D	29) D
5) B	10) A	15) D	20) C	25) D	30) D

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