

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY – 2023

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 1. Prime Minister Inaugurates 91 FM Radio Transmitters, To Benefit Border, Aspirational Districts:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated 91 FM transmitters in 18 states and two union territories, aimed at improving FM radio connectivity in border regions and aspirational districts.
- 2. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches 'Millets Experience Centre' at Dilli Haat:** India's Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** recently launched the **Millets Experience Centre (MEC)** at Dilli Haat in New Delhi. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (**NAFED**) established the MEC in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to promote the adoption of **millets** among the general public.
- 3. Indian Army Inducts First Women Officers into Regiment of Artillery:** In a historic first, the **Indian Army** has inducted **five women officers** into its **Regiment of Artillery**. Lt Mehak Saini, Lt Sakshi Dubey, Lt Aditi Yadav, Lt Pious Mudgil, and Lt Akanksha have joined the Army's premier artillery units after successfully completing their training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai.
- 4. Anji Khad bridge, first cable stayed rail bridge in India:** Bridge is part of the challenging **Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL)** Project in the Reasi district of **Jammu and Kashmir**. The bridge connects Katra and Reasi and required detailed geological investigations from **IIT Roorkee** and **IIT Delhi** to navigate the complex and fragile terrain of the **Himalayan mountain** slopes.
- 5. India to join international climate action in civil aviation from 2027:** India has announced that it will participate in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027. ICAO has been tasked with reducing carbon emissions from international civil aviation. To achieve this goal, the global body has adopted several key aspirational goals, including a two per cent annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050, carbon neutral growth, and net zero by 2050. These goals are clubbed under CORSIA and LTAG.
- 6. Unified portal, CU-Chayan launched by UGC for faculty recruitment:** Unified portal, CU-Chayan launched by UGC: University Grant Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar launched a new recruitment portal called CU-Chayan for Central University faculty, The UGC created the **CU-Chayan portal** with the aim of developing an enabling environment for both universities and applicants, with universities able to manage every aspect of the recruitment process independently.

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- 7. Santiniketan in tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage list:** The UNESCO World Heritage Centre has recommended Santiniketan, the cultural site in West Bengal, India, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Santiniketan is a cultural site in **West Bengal's Birbhum district**, known for its historical and cultural importance. It was originally an ashram built by Rabindranath Tagore's father, Debendranath Tagore, and later developed into a university by Rabindranath Tagore himself. India has a **total of 40 sites** that have been awarded the UNESCO World Heritage tag. These include 32 cultural sites such as Agra Fort, Taj Mahal, Harappan-era site in Dholavira, Elephanta Caves, Red Fort complex in Delhi, and Mahabodhi Temple complex in Bodh Gaya in Bihar. India also has 52 sites on the tentative list, including Temples at Bishnupur in West Bengal, Mattanchery Palace in Kerala, and Wild Ass Sanctuary, Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. The tentative list is an inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination.
- 8. India's First Undersea Tunnel Nears Completion: Mumbai Coastal Road Project:** India's first undersea tunnel, which is set to open by November 2023, is a 2.07-kilometer twin tunnels run 17-20 meters below sea level, connecting Girgaon to Priyadarshini Park.
- 9. Bihan Mela of Kondh Tribals:** Since 2019, the Kondh tribe in Nayagarh district, Odisha has been celebrating the Bihan Mela, or the seed festival, to promote the revival of indigenous farming. • This event involves the collection and preservation of indigenous seeds, and farmers from 40 villages in Dasapalla block participate in the festival. • After harvesting kharif crops, women collect the seeds of indigenous varieties and store them in earthen pots. • On a designated day in December, they decorate the pots with red and white motifs, place them in a bamboo basket and carry them on their heads to the village where the fair is being organized. • Men accompany them, beating drums and other traditional instruments.
- 10. Supreme Court uses Article 142 for speedy Divorce by Mutual Consent:** Supreme Court has ruled that it can dissolve a marriage on the ground of irretrievable breakdown, using its power under Article 142(1), without referring the parties to family court for waiting period of 6-18 months for mutual consent divorce. Article 142 titled 'Enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.'
- 11. Article 355 imposed in Manipur:** • Recently, unrest in the state of Manipur was triggered by a decision of the High Court to pursue a 10-year-old recommendation to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the non-tribal Meitei community. • In view of the prevailing unprecedented burning situation, the Centre has imposed Article 355 in the state, in an effort to control the situation, according to reliable sources. • Article 355 of the Indian Constitution is a provision that empowers the Union government to protect every state in India against external aggression and internal disturbances. • It is a provision under Part XVIII of the Constitution, titled "Emergency Provisions".
- 12. All India Radio (AIR) to be renamed Akashvani:** • The order to exclusively refer to AIR as Akashvani is in line with the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, passed by Parliament. •

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Listeners have more of a connect with Akashvani and that the name change is in tune with the law which came into being in 1997.

- 13. Rail Vikas Nigam gets Navratna Status:**• RVNL was incorporated in 2003 with the aim of implementing rail infrastructure projects quickly and raising extra budgetary resources for SPV projects.• The company started operating in 2005 after the appointment of its board of directors.• RVNL was granted Mini-Ratna status in 2013.• The Government runs the CPSEs under the Department of Public Enterprises of Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.• The government grants them the status of Navratna, Miniratna and Maharatna based upon the profit made by these CPSEs.• The Maharatna category has been the most recent one since 2009, other two have been in function since 1997.
- 14. Cyclone Mocha developing in Bay of Bengal:** The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of a developing cyclonic or low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal. It would be named Cyclone Mocha (pronounced 'Mokha').**How are cyclones named?**• Cyclones that form in every ocean basin across the world are named by the regional specialized meteorological centres (RSMCs) and Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs).• The IMD names the cyclones developing over the north Indian Ocean after following a standard procedure.• In 2000, a group of nations called WMO/ESCAP decided to start naming cyclones in the region.• After each country sent in suggestions, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) finalized the list.• This cyclone will be named Mocha (Mokha), a name suggested by Yemen after the Red Sea port city, which is known to have introduced coffee to the world over 500 years ago.
- 15. India coal imports surge to 162 MT in FY23:**• India's coal imports increased by 30% to 162.46 million tonnes in the 2022-23 financial year compared to 124.99 MT in the previous year, according to a report.• The report was released by mjunction, a B2B e-commerce platform that is a joint venture between Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and Tata Steel.• India is among the top five coal-producing countries in the world.• Despite being a major producer, India also imports coal to meet some of its demand.
- 16. Common Uniforms at Higher Ranks of Army:**• All officers of the rank of Brigadier and above will now wear common uniform items.• The common uniform items include berets, badges of rank, belt buckle, and pattern of shoes.• Regimental lanyards and shoulder flashes will no longer be worn by officers of these higher ranks.• There will be no item of uniform that will identify them as belonging to a particular Regiment or Corps.
- 17. Palghat Gap: A break in the Western Ghats:**• The Palghat Gap is a 40 km wide corridor in the Western Ghats, known for its steep hills and serving as a gateway to Kerala.• It is a crucial passage for roads and railways connecting Coimbatore and Palakkad.• The Bharathappuzha River flows through the Palghat Gap.• The vegetation in the gap is classified as dry evergreen forest, different

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from the tropical rainforests of the Western Ghats. • The Palghat Gap marks a distinct divide in the flora and fauna of the region.

- 18. UGC launches new website, UTSAH and PoP portals to promote quality education:** The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has launched a new website, the **UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) Portal**, and the **Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal** to promote quality education in India. The launch of these new initiatives is a significant step by the UGC in its efforts to promote quality education in India. The new website, UTSAH Portal, and PoP Portal will provide valuable resources to students, faculty, and universities, and will help to improve the quality of higher education in India. • The new UGC website is more user-friendly and informative, with categorized information for students, faculty, and universities. • The UTSAH Portal is a comprehensive platform that provides detailed information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education. • The PoP Portal is a new initiative that aims to facilitate the appointment of experienced professional experts as faculty members in higher education institutions. • **University Grants Commission Founded: 1956; • University Grants Commission Headquarters: New Delhi; • University Grants Commission Preceding executive: Sukhadeo Thorat.**
- 19. Shri Bhupender Yadav launches Meri LiFE App:** The **Meri LiFE app**, launched by Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, is set to revolutionize the way individuals and communities track their progress in the global mass movement called **Mission LiFE**. Inspired by the vision of the Prime Minister, this movement aims to nudge people towards taking action to protect the environment and adopt sustainable lifestyles. With a focus on youth engagement, the app encourages individuals to participate in a series of LiFE-related tasks, empowering them to make a positive impact on the environment.
- 20. Govt shuffles cabinet: Kiren Rijiju exited as Union Law Minister:** **Kiren Rijiju** has exited as Union Law Minister and will now take up the portfolio of **Ministry of Earth Sciences**. **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has been assigned the independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice in addition to his existing portfolios. Rijiju took over as the Law and Justice Minister on July 8, 2021. Prior to this, he served as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Youth Affairs and Sports from May 2019 to July 2021. Union Minister Jitendra Singh was holding charge of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Kiren Rijiju is an Indian politician from Arunachal Pradesh who has served in various ministerial positions in the Government of India. **Rijiju's past portfolios include:** • Minister of State for Home Affairs (2014-2019) • Minister of State for Minority Affairs (2019-2021) • Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports (2019-2021) • Cabinet Minister of Law and Justice (2021-2023)
- 21. Dr. L Murugan inaugurates India Pavilion at Marché du Film at 76th Cannes International Film Festival:** The **India Pavilion** was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Information and

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Broadcasting, Dr. L Murugan, at the **76th Cannes International Film Festival** in France. The pavilion showcases India's rich culture, heritage, and its thriving creative economy to the global audience. The event witnessed the presence of Indian Ambassador to France, Jawed Ashraf, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prithul Kumar, and prominent figures from the Indian film industry.

22. PM Modi inaugurates International Museum Expo 2023: The theme for IMD this year is **“museums, sustainability, and well-being.”** The expo aims to initiate a comprehensive dialogue on museums with professionals that will help them develop as cultural centres contributing greatly to India's cultural diplomacy. • PM Modi highlighted the issue of trafficking of ancient Indian art and antiques and noted that other countries are now returning items belonging to Indian heritage as India's status in the world continues to rise. • The Prime Minister also revealed plans to build ten special museums commemorating the tribal community's contribution to India's freedom struggle, and stressed that the destruction of the country's written and unwritten heritage during the period of slavery was not just India's loss but a loss for the whole world. • PM Modi encouraged individuals, households, schools and institutions to make preserving historical artifacts a part of their nature by creating their own museums. • The expo is part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and is being held to celebrate the 47th International Museum Day (IMD). • During the program, PM Modi also inaugurated a virtual walkthrough of the upcoming national museum at North Block and South Block.

23. Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management at Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in Dehradun: In a significant step towards combating land degradation and promoting sustainable land management practices, Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun. The establishment of the CoE-SLM was announced by the Prime Minister of India during the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP-14) of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in September 2019. Recognizing the urgency and importance of addressing land degradation, the CoE-SLM aims to spearhead initiatives that contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets.

24. Namami Gange Mission Guardians of the Ganga: Task Force Keeps a Watchful Eye on the River: The **Namami Gange mission**, launched in 2014 by the Government of India, is a significant initiative aimed at cleaning and restoring the **Ganga River** and its ecosystem. With over 4,000 dedicated volunteers, known as the Guardians of the Ganga, this mission ensures the preservation of the river's flora and fauna. In collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, the Namami Gange initiative also provides livelihood training to these volunteers, empowering them to safeguard the river's ecological balance. The Namami Gange mission falls under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, the government ministry responsible for water resources and river development. It was launched in the year 2014 with the vision of rejuvenating the holy Ganga River, a lifeline for millions of

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people in India. The primary objectives of the Namami Gange mission are multi-fold. Firstly, it aims to clean the Ganga River and rid it of pollutants and waste that have accumulated over the years. Secondly, the mission focuses on the conservation and rejuvenation of the river's ecosystem, including its flora and fauna. Additionally, the initiative seeks to ensure the sustainable development of the villages situated along the banks of the river.

25. Supreme Court appointed Sapre Committee submits report on Adani-Hindenburg issue:

The **Supreme Court**-appointed Expert Committee recently made a significant announcement regarding the **Adani-Hindenburg controversy**. According to the committee, it is currently unable to determine whether SEBI's handling of the alleged securities law contravention by the **Adani Group** or other companies constitutes "**regulatory failure**." The committee's goal is to assess the situation and recommend measures to promote investor awareness, strengthen the statutory framework, and ensure compliance with existing regulations.

26. NEP SAARTHI and NEP 2020: A Transformative Vision for India's Education System:

The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has introduced a new program called 'NEP SAARTHI – Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India' with the aim of involving students in the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. The UGC has requested vice chancellors, directors, and principals of **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** to nominate three students from their respective institutions to be considered as NEP SAARTHIs. The nominations should include a justification and a brief description. The UGC intends to create an environment where students can actively engage and effectively utilize the provisions of NEP 2020.

27. AFSPA in News: Assam CM Aims to Withdraw AFSPA by End of 2023: AFSPA, which stands for the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, is a controversial legislation in India that grants special powers and immunity to the armed forces deployed in "disturbed areas." It was enacted by the Indian Parliament in 1958 to combat separatist movements and insurgencies in certain regions of the country. In recent news, Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced the government's aim to completely withdraw AFSPA from the state by the end of 2023. This decision is part of an effort to restore normalcy, build trust, and address concerns related to human rights violations associated with the act. Additionally, the government plans to involve ex-military personnel in training the state police force, indicating a shift towards enhancing the state's internal security capabilities while reducing the reliance on the armed forces under AFSPA.

28. Logo and Theme of India's G20 Presidency: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The logo chosen for India's G20 Presidency captures the essence of unity and progress. It comprises a harmonious blend of elements that reflect India's rich cultural heritage and its commitment to inclusive development. The logo prominently features the iconic **Ashoka Chakra**, a symbol of peace, progress, and eternal motion, at its center. The vibrant colors used in the logo represent diversity and inclusivity, reflecting India's ethos of unity in diversity. Additionally, the design incorporates motifs inspired by Indian art forms, symbolizing the nation's creative spirit and cultural vibrancy. The logo's elegant and

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contemporary design signifies India's vision for a modern and progressive world. Dr. Jitendra Singh, in his address to the delegates, expressed his appreciation and extended a warm welcome. He stated that the theme of India's G20 Presidency, which is "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" or "**One Earth, One Family, One Future**," is derived from the ancient Sanskrit text called the Maha Upanishad. Dr. Singh highlighted that this theme signifies the significance of all forms of life, including humans, animals, plants, and microorganisms, as well as their interconnectedness on Earth and beyond.

29. Kerala Becomes India's First Fully E-Governed State, Achieving Total E-Governance: Kerala,

the southern state of India, is set to make history by declaring itself as the country's first "total e-governed state." Building upon its reputation as the first fully-literate state in **India**, Kerala has achieved this milestone through a series of policy initiatives aimed at transforming the state into a digitally-empowered society. With a focus on a knowledge-based economy and 100% digital literacy, the government has digitized the delivery of vital services across various domains, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and accessibility for all citizens.

30. Maharashtra Government Launches 'Shasan Aplya Dari' Initiative to Bring Government

Schemes and Services to Citizens' Doorsteps: The **Maharashtra** government, under the leadership of Chief Minister **Ek Nath Shinde**, is set to launch a new initiative called '**Shasan Aplya Dari**' (government at your doorstep). The primary objective of this initiative is to provide citizens with easy access to government schemes and documents, all in one place. District administrations have been directed to organize two-day camps in their respective areas to facilitate the distribution of benefits to approximately 75,000 locals. The inaugural event for this campaign will be held in Satara district, the Chief Minister's home district.

31. Historic Scepter 'Sengol' Finds Home in New Parliament Building: This sceptre holds historical significance as it was originally presented to India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, symbolizing the transfer of power from the **British** to the Indian people. The Home Minister explained that the sceptre, known as "sengol," derives from the Tamil word "**semmai**," meaning "**righteousness**." □ The origins of the sengol can be traced back to a series of events that began with a question posed by Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of British India, to **Prime Minister Nehru**. □ Historical accounts and news reports reveal that **Mountbatten** inquired about the symbol that would commemorate the transfer of power upon India's independence. □ In response, Prime Minister Nehru consulted **C Rajagopalachari**, the last Governor General of India, for advice. □ **Rajagopalachari**, also known as **Rajaji**, informed Nehru about the Tamil tradition of the high priest presenting a sceptre to a new king upon assuming power. □ He mentioned that this practice was followed during the Chola dynasty and suggested that it could symbolize India's liberation from British rule. **Rajaji** took on the responsibility of procuring a sceptre for this historic moment. □ Tasked with the challenge of arranging the sceptre, **Rajaji** contacted the Thiruvaduthurai Atheenam, a prominent religious institution in present-day Tamil Nadu. □ The head of the institution at that time accepted the responsibility. □ The sengol was crafted by Vummidi Bangaru

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Chetty, a jeweler in the former Madras. It stands at a height of five feet and features a 'nandi' bull atop it, representing justice. Made of silver and gold, the five-foot long sceptre was handed over by Lord Mountbatten to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on August 14, 1947, as a symbol of the transfer of power, according to the government. The Sengol, a symbol of governance in Tamil kingdoms of yore, was then kept for display in The Allahabad Museum.

32. Key Facts about India's New Parliament House: □ Triangular Design for Optimum Space

Utilization: The new Parliament House features a unique triangular shape, ensuring efficient space utilization within the complex. This design allows for maximum functionality and accommodates larger legislative chambers. □ **Lok Sabha: Inspired by the Peacock:** The Lok Sabha, based on India's national bird, the peacock, will have an expanded seating capacity. With 888 seats, it will accommodate nearly three times the current capacity. The Lok Sabha hall will also be able to accommodate 1,272 seats for joint sessions. □ **Rajya Sabha: Inspired by the Lotus:** The Rajya Sabha, inspired by the national flower, the lotus, will have 348 seats. The new design accounts for future increases in the number of Rajya Sabha members, ensuring sufficient space in the House. □ **Constitutional Hall:** A notable addition to the new Parliament House is the Constitutional Hall, located in the center of the complex. This hall will serve as a significant space within the building. □ **No Central Hall:** Unlike the old Parliament House, the new complex will not feature a Central Hall. The low capacity of the previous Central Hall necessitated additional chairs during joint sessions, creating security challenges. The Lok Sabha Hall in the new Parliament House is designed to easily accommodate joint sessions. □ **Earthquake-resistant Construction:** The new Parliament building is designed to withstand earthquakes. As Delhi is now in Zone 4, characterized by a higher earthquake risk, the new structure will be fortified to endure strong shocks in Zone 5. □ **Modern Facilities:** Each seat in the new Parliament House will be equipped with a multimedia display in front, providing modern amenities to members of Parliament. This enhancement will enhance the legislative experience and facilitate communication. □ **Eco-friendly Construction:** The new Parliament House adopts eco-friendly practices, utilizing green construction materials. The building incorporates energy-saving devices, reducing electricity consumption by 30%. Rainwater harvesting and solar power generation systems are also incorporated into the design.

33. Giriraj Singh Launches SAMARTH Campaign to Promote Digital Transactions at Gram Panchayat Level:

The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, **Shri Giriraj Singh**, recently launched the 'SAMARTH Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats' under the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav in Lucknow. This campaign, initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development, aims to promote digital transactions in rural areas, with a particular focus on empowering women. This initiative aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, which commemorates 75 years of India's independence. The campaign commenced on February 1, 2023, and will continue until August 15, 2023.

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- 34. Centre to Launch New ₹75 Coin to Mark New Parliament Inauguration:** The newly minted ₹75 coin will feature the iconic Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar on one side, with the words “**Satyamev Jayate**” below it. The coin will bear the inscription “Bharat” in Devanagari script on the left side and “India” in English on the right. It will also display the rupee symbol and the denomination value of 75 in international numerals beneath the Lion Capital. On the reverse side, an image of the parliament complex will be depicted, with “Sansad Sankul” written in Devanagari script on the upper periphery and “Parliament Complex” in English on the lower periphery.
- 35. PM Modi Chairs 8th Governing Council Meeting of Niti Aayog, Emphasizes Team India Approach for a Developed Nation by 2047:** Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** recently presided over the **8th Governing Council** Meeting of Niti Aayog, held at the New Convention Centre in New Delhi. The meeting saw the participation of Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors representing 19 states and 6 union territories. In his address, Prime Minister Modi underscored the importance of collaborative efforts between the central government, states, and union territories to realize the aspirations of the people and transform India into a developed nation by 2047. He urged the states and union territories to align their developmental agendas with the national goals and work together as “Team India” to achieve the vision of a prosperous and developed India by 2047, termed as “Viksit Bharat.”
- 36. First Vande Bharat Express Train of Northeast to be Flagged Off by PM Modi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off Assam’s first Vande Bharat Express train.** The state-of-the-art Vande Bharat train will be flagged off by the Prime Minister through video conferencing. The new service will cover the distance of 411 km between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri in 5 hours 30 minutes reducing the present shortest journey time by the speediest train significantly. Get to know all the features included in the first Vande Bharat Express train of Northeast India. It is the first of its kind premium semi-high speed aesthetically designed, well-equipped fully Air Conditioner service between Guwahati in Assam and New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. This will be the third Vande Bharat for West Bengal after the Howrah-NJP Vande Bharat Express and the Howrah-Puri Vande Bharat Express.
- 37. India Secured Approval to Set Up Second Hydropower Project in Nepal:** Nepal has decided to allow India’s **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)** Limited to develop a second hydropower project in the country. At present SJVN is developing a 900-MW Arun -III hydroelectric project, a run-of-river located on the Arun River in Eastern Nepal, scheduled to be completed in 2024. The development of this 669-MW transformative project will prove to be a milestone for the socio-economic development of the country. This is the third project undertaken, all through negotiation windows, on the Arun River after the 900 MW Arun-III and 695 MW Arun-IV hydroelectricity projects. The three projects will generate nearly 2,300 MW of electricity from the river in the Sankhuwasabha district.
- 38. Justice Rao Sworn In As Himachal Pradesh High Court CJ: Justice Mamidanna Satya Ratna Sri Ramachandra Rao** has officially become the 28th Chief Justice of the **Himachal Pradesh High**

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Court. In a ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla administered the oath of office to Justice Rao. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was also present at the event.

- 39. Meri LiFE Mera Swachh Shehar Campaign launched:** The Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' campaign. The campaign focuses on waste management and promotes the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (RRR). It aims to create awareness and encourage individuals to adopt sustainable daily habits for environmental protection. The campaign strengthens citizens' commitment to reducing, reusing, and recycling under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0. It aligns with Mission LiFE's objective of adopting sustainable daily habits for environmental conservation. The LiFE (**Lifestyle for the Environment**) movement was introduced by India during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021. LiFE aims to promote an environmentally conscious lifestyle that emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilization rather than mindless and wasteful consumption. LiFE plans to create and nurture a global network of individuals known as 'Pro-Planet People' (P3) who are committed to adopting and promoting environmentally friendly lifestyles. Through the P3 community, the LiFE mission aims to establish an ecosystem that supports and sustains environmentally friendly behaviours.
- 40. 'Adopt a Heritage' Scheme:** The 'Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan' scheme is a collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Launched in September 2017, it aims to develop selected monuments and heritage sites across India with the participation of public and private entities. The scheme focuses on providing and maintaining basic amenities, improving accessibility, cleanliness, illumination, and advanced facilities like surveillance systems and night-viewing facilities. Private firms, companies, and public sector units can adopt and maintain State-owned archaeological sites or monuments through agreements with the Union Ministry of Culture. These businesses are referred to as "Monument Mitras" under the '**Adopt a Heritage**' Scheme.

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41. India's Pension Reforms: Ensuring Pension Security:

Parameters	The Old Pension Scheme(OPS)	The New Pension Scheme (NPS)
Nature of the schemes	OPS offer pensions to government employees on the basis of their last drawn salary	NPS pays the employees for their investments in the NPS Scheme during their employment.
Amount of pension derived	50 per cent of the last drawn salary	60% lump sum after retirement and 40% to be invested in annuities for getting a monthly pension
Benefits in taxes	No tax benefits	The employee can claim tax deductions of 1.5 lakh under Section 80C of income tax and up to 50,000 on other investments under 80CCD (1b)
Tax on pension	No tax on pension	60% of the NPS Corpus is tax-free while the remaining 40% is taxable
Option of Investment	No option	Two choices: Active and Automatic
Who can avail?	Only government employees	Any Indian Citizen between 18-65 years.
Switching Schemes	OPS scheme can be switched to NPS	NPS scheme cannot be switched back to OPS in general, but central government employees can switch back to OPS in case of death and disablement of the employee.

42. 25 years of Kudumbashree Scheme: Kudumbashree is a poverty eradication and women empowerment program implemented by the State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM) in Kerala, India. The program was established in 1997 based on recommendations from a task force appointed by the state government. It was created in the context of devolving powers to the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the People's Plan Campaign in Kerala. Membership in Kudumbashree is open to all adult women, with one membership allowed per family. In 2011, the Centre recognized Kudumbashree as the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

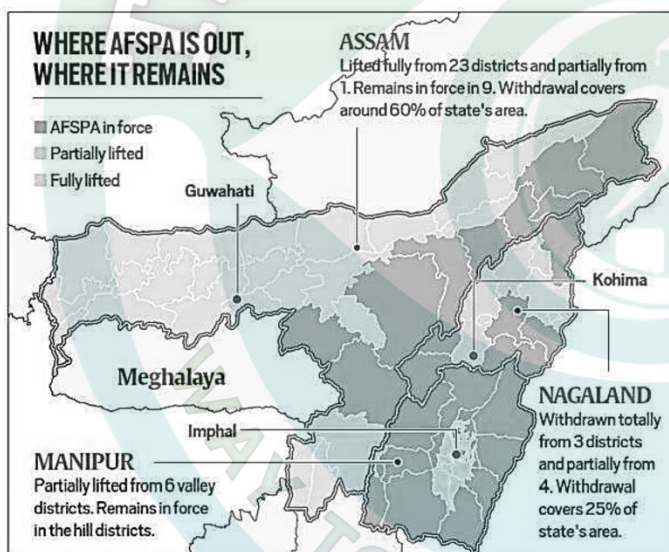
43. PARAKH Program: The Ministry of Education has organized a workshop in New Delhi to discuss the unification of 60 school examination boards operating across different states and union territories. The key component of this plan is PARAKH, the National Assessment Centre established under the National Council of Educational Research and Training. PARAKH stands for Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development. It is an organization created to bring school boards from various states and union territories onto a unified platform. It has

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been launched as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020. It acts as a constituent unit of the NCERT. It is tasked with holding periodic learning outcome tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys. It will work on three major assessment areas: large-scale assessments, school-based assessment, and examination reforms.

- 44. AFSPA likely to end from Assam:** Armed Forces Special Powers Act, to put it simply, gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “**disturbed areas.**” AFSPA gives armed forces the authority use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law. The Act further provides that if “**reasonable suspicion exists**”, the armed forces can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms. The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy Commission:** The 2004 Committee headed by Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy, the content of which has never officially been revealed by the Government, recommended that AFSPA be repealed. **ARC II:** The Administrative Reforms Commission in its 5th Report on ‘Public Order’ had also recommended that AFSPA be repealed.



- 45. Withdrawal of ₹2,000 Note:** The ₹2000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of RBI Act, 1934. It primarily aimed to meet the currency requirement of the economy in an expeditious manner after withdrawal of the legal tender status of all ₹500 and ₹1000 banknotes in circulation at that time. As of March 31, 2023, the ₹2,000 note accounted for only 10.8% of all notes in circulation, down from 37.3% on March 31, 2018. This significant reduction indicates that the withdrawal of the ₹2,000 note will have a relatively small direct impact on the overall currency circulation in the country.

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- 46. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue unveiled by Devendra Fadnavis in Mauritius:** Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra **Devendra Fadnavis** revealed a statue of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** in **Mauritius**. He highlighted Maharashtra's potential as a leading industrial and investment destination in India at the Indo-Mauritius Business Forum and signed an MoU to promote trade between **Mauritius** and **Maharashtra**. • President of Mauritius: **Prithvirajsing Roopun** • Prime Minister of Mauritius: **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth** • Mauritian Currency: **Mauritian rupee** • Capital of Mauritius: **Port Louis**
- 47. 'Gigachat' Russia's Sberbank launches AI to compete with ChatGPT:** Sberbank has developed a technology named **GigaChat** to compete with **ChatGPT** in the artificial intelligence chatbot race. Initially available in an invite-only testing mode, **GigaChat** stands out with its ability to communicate more intelligently in Russian than other foreign neural networks. • The release of Microsoft-backed OpenAI's ChatGPT last year has spurred the technology industry to incorporate AI further into users' hands to reshape how people work and win business. • Sberbank, Russia's leading bank, has invested heavily in technology to reduce the country's dependence on imports, which has become critically important due to export cuts and sanctions over Moscow's actions in Ukraine by Western nations.
- 48. First Border Haat Inaugurated at Bholaganj in Sylhet Division between India and Bangladesh:** **First-ever border haat** in Sylhet division along the India border was opened at **Bholaganj** in Companiganj upazila. Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad and Indian High Commissioner in Sylhet Niraj Kumar Jaiswal jointly inaugurated the haat, which is located between East Khasi Hills of India's Meghalaya and Sylhet's Bholaganj.
- 49. Sri Lanka Supreme Court clears way to decriminalise homosexuality:** The **Supreme Court** of **Sri Lanka** has approved a bill seeking to decriminalize **homosexuality**, according to the Speaker of Parliament, in a move welcomed by **LGBTQ+** rights campaigners. Under current laws, **homosexuality** is punishable by imprisonment and fines, but activists have long campaigned for change. After hearing submissions from both sides, the **Supreme Court** ruled that the proposed legislation was not unconstitutional. The decision has been praised as a "**historic development**", but supporters of the bill will still need to garner support from parliamentarians. The government and opposition have not yet commented.
- 50. Pakistan's economic crisis: Hajj quota given up to Saudi Arabia:** For the first time in 75 years, **Pakistan** has made the decision to surrender its **Hajj quota** to **Saudi Arabia**. This move was prompted by the rising inflation in the country, which has caused thousands of Pakistanis to forgo the pilgrimage this year. In total, **Pakistan** has returned 8,000 unused seats, which will save the government a considerable amount of money totalling \$24 million.
- 51. India leads as top source market for Sri Lanka's tourism for April 2023:** **India** led as the top source market for **Sri Lanka's tourism sector for the month of April 2023**. India regained the top

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spot after six months as almost 20,000 Indian tourists arrived in the island nation last month. • Sri Lanka has two official languages: Sinhala and Tamil. • The country has a total land area of approximately 65,610 square kilometers. • Sri Lanka has a tropical climate, with the rainy season lasting from May to September and the dry season lasting from December to March. • The Sri Lankan rupee is the official currency of the country. • The highest point in Sri Lanka is Pidurutalagala, which stands at 2,524 meters (8,281 feet) tall. • Sri Lanka is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, and the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy. • Buddhism is the largest religion in Sri Lanka, with approximately 70% of the population practicing Buddhism. • Sri Lanka is known for its tea production, with tea plantations covering large areas of the country. • The national symbol of Sri Lanka is the Sri Lankan lion. • The Sri Lankan flag features a yellow border, two stripes (green and orange), and a maroon background with a golden lion holding a sword.

52. India Extends \$1 Billion Credit Line to Sri Lanka Amid Economic Crisis: In the midst of an economic crisis, India has decided to extend a **\$1 billion credit line** to Sri Lanka for another year, providing the much-needed funds to pay for essential imports. The credit line is part of the \$4 billion emergency assistance extended by India to Sri Lanka during its peak crisis time last year. In April last year, **Sri Lanka's reserves** dropped to record lows, triggering its worst financial crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948. The country struggled to pay for essential imports such as fuel, cooking gas, and medicine, and defaulted on its foreign debt. • Sri Lanka is a country located in South Asia, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, southeast of India. • Its capital is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, while the largest city is Colombo. • The President of Sri Lanka is Ranil Wickremesinghe, who assumed office in May 2022. • The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka is Dinesh Gunawardena, who took office on July 22, 2022. • The official languages of Sri Lanka are Sinhala and Tamil, while English is also widely spoken. • Sri Lanka's economy is mainly based on agriculture, with tea, rubber, and coconuts being some of its major exports. It also has a growing tourism industry and a developing manufacturing sector. • Sri Lanka has several important ports, including the Port of Colombo, which is one of the busiest ports in South Asia and a major transshipment hub. • Sri Lanka has a long history and culture, with several UNESCO World Heritage sites, such as the ancient city of Anuradhapura and the Sigiriya rock fortress. • Sri Lanka has a diverse population, with Sinhalese being the largest ethnic group followed by Tamils and Muslims. • Sri Lanka has had a turbulent political history, including a long civil war that ended in 2009 after more than 25 years of conflict.

53. India among seven countries to benefit from Saudi Arabia's new e-visa system: Saudi Arabia has introduced a new e-visa system to replace traditional visa stickers on passports. The initiative, which began in May 2023, is aimed at digitizing consular services and creating a new way to issue work, residency, and visit visas in seven countries: **Jordan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Indonesia.** The move comes as part of efforts to

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automate consular services and “develop a mechanism for granting different kinds of visas”. The **current King of Saudi Arabia is King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**, who ascended to the throne in 2015 after the death of his half-brother, King Abdullah. King Salman is the head of the royal family and holds significant power in the country. **Riyadh is the capital of Saudi Arabia**. Saudi Arabia is **the birthplace of Islam** and is **home to the two holiest sites in Islam, Mecca and Medina**. The country is governed by strict Islamic law. Saudi Arabia has the largest economy in the Middle East and is **heavily dependent on oil exports**. The country has made efforts to diversify its economy in recent years, with a **focus on developing its tourism industry**. **The currency of Saudi Arabia is the Saudi riyal (SAR)**. The Saudi riyal is pegged to the US dollar at a rate of 1 USD = 3.75 SAR.

54. China and Pakistan agree to extend CPEC to Afghanistan: Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan have agreed to enhance their economic relations by extending the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, which is supported by **Beijing**, to **Afghanistan**. This move aims to fully exploit the potential of Afghanistan as a regional connectivity hub.

55. ASEAN-India maritime exercise in South China Sea:• The first ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) is set to commence on May 2, 2023, with war games to be held in the South China Sea. • INS Satpura and INS Delhi will participate in the exercise. • The exercise is divided into two phases: 'Harbour Phase' and 'Sea Phase.' • The exercise is aimed at fostering close cooperation and conducting seamless operations in the maritime domain between the Indian Navy and ASEAN navies.

About ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

	Details
Members	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
Formation	August 8, 1967
Headquarters	Jakarta, Indonesia
Purpose	To promote economic growth, social progress, and cultural development
Economic integration	ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

56. India drops 11 places to rank 161 in World Press Freedom Index: India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF). • In 2022, India was ranked at 150. • Pakistan has fared better when it comes to media freedom as it was placed at 150, an improvement from last year's 157th rank. • Afghanistan was ranked 152nd. This raises some questions about the methodology of the index. • Sri Lanka also made significant improvement on the index, ranking 135th this year as against 146th in 2022. • Norway, Ireland and Denmark occupied the top three positions in press freedom, while Vietnam, China and North Korea constituted the bottom three.

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- 57. India operationalizes Sittwe Port in Myanmar:**• The Sittwe Port in Myanmar has been made operational with the departure of the inaugural shipment, the MV-ITT LION (V-273), from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata.• This development is part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project, which aims to provide alternate connectivity from the eastern coast of India to the northeastern states through the Sittwe port.• The Sittwe Port in Myanmar has been built under a grant assistance from the Indian government.• It has been developed under a framework agreement between India and Myanmar for the construction and operation of a multimodal transit transport facility on the Kaladan river.
- 58. UTF (Uthuru Thila Falhu- Island) Harbour Project:** The article discusses the recent commissioning of the Indian grant-in-aid UTF (Uthuru Thila Falhu- Island) Harbour Project, the coastal surveillance radar system, in the Maldives. The project is a significant milestone in the growing defence ties between the two countries.• The UTF project was announced during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit in February 2021.• It is among the biggest Indian grant-in-aid projects in the Maldives.• It is aimed at developing a maintenance and repair hub for naval vessels and will help the Maldives become self-sufficient.
- 59. Ludovit Odor Assumes Office as Slovakia's Caretaker Prime Minister:** Ludovit Odor, a former Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia, has been appointed as **Slovakia's new caretaker Prime Minister**. Following the resignation of former caretaker Prime Minister Eduard Heger on May 7, Slovak President **Zuzana Caputova** entrusted Odor with the responsibility of leading the country until the snap elections scheduled for September. In his inaugural address, Odor expressed his commitment to bringing calm and professionalism to the governance of Slovakia. Slovakia is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It has a population of approximately 5.5 million people. The country is known for its diverse landscapes, including the Carpathian Mountains, lowlands, and numerous rivers. The Tatra Mountains, located in the northern part of the country, are a popular destination for outdoor activities and tourism. Slovakia became a member of the European Union (EU) on May 1, 2004. It is also a member of the eurozone and uses the Euro as its currency. Additionally, Slovakia is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since 2004.
- 60. Brazil, top chicken exporter, confirms first ever avian flu cases in wild birds:** **Brazil**, known as the world's leading chicken exporter, has recently confirmed cases of **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** in wild birds. Although these cases mark the first-ever occurrence in the country, the Brazilian government emphasizes that the situation will not lead to a ban on the importation of **Brazilian poultry products**, in accordance with guidelines from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). While the avian influenza virus poses a threat to bird populations and the farming sector, the impact on Brazil's poultry industry remains limited. The Brazilian government has officially announced the identification of two cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza caused by the **H5N1 subtype**. Avian Influenza viruses are classified into two main types: Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The HPAI strains are more severe and cause
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higher mortality rates among birds. Avian Influenza viruses are further categorized based on different hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) proteins. Common subtypes include H5N1, H7N9, H9N2, among others. These subtypes can vary in their pathogenicity and ability to infect humans. Avian Influenza viruses are primarily transmitted among birds through direct contact with infected birds, their droppings, nasal secretions, or contaminated surfaces. The viruses can also be carried by migratory birds, which can spread the disease over long distances. Brazil is located in South America and covers a vast area of approximately 8.5 million square kilometers, making it the fifth largest country globally in terms of land area. The official language of Brazil is Portuguese. The currency of Brazil is the Brazilian Real (BRL). The President of Brazil is Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, also known as Lula da Silva.

- 61. World Bank Approves \$82 Million Loan For Controlling Zoonotic Diseases in India:** The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved an \$82 million loan to support India's efforts in adopting global best practices for **animal health management**. The loan aims to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases, recognizing the interconnectedness of people, animals, and the environment. The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for development projects. It aims to reduce poverty and promote sustainable economic growth. The World Bank Group consists of five institutions, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). The other three institutions are the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- 62. India begins "Operation Karuna" to assist Myanmar:** India has taken an initiative to aid those affected by **Cyclone Mocha** in Myanmar by launching "**Operation Karuna**." On May 18th, three ships, namely Indian Naval Ships **Shivalik**, **Kamorta**, and **Savitri**, arrived in Yangon with emergency relief material such as food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, and hygiene items. • Cyclone Mocha, which recently hit Myanmar, has been classified as an extremely severe cyclonic storm by the IMD and a 'Super Cyclone' by the global weather website Zoom Earth. • The storm emerged in the Bay of Bengal and has been recorded as the strongest all-season cyclone to form in the **Arabian Sea** and **Bay of Bengal** since 1982, with a wind speed of 277 kmph. The name of the Cyclone '**Mocha**' has been suggested by Yemen.
- 63. Nepal designates 2025 as a 'Special tourism year':** During the joint meeting of the federal parliament, President **Ram Chandra Paudel** announced that the decade of the 2080s in the **Bikram Samvat calendar** would be recognized as '**the Visit Nepal decade**' and that the year 2025 will be designated as a special year for tourism. These declarations were presented as part of the policies and programmes for the 2080/81 fiscal year. Finally, recognizing the vital role that foreigners can play in elevating the prominence of Nepal's art, culture, language, and literature on the world stage, the

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President announced that a special honor called the 'Samarmatha Special Honour' will be conferred on foreign nationals who contribute to promoting Nepal's cultural values. This effort will be undertaken in partnership with the private sector.

64. Japan 'seriously looking' at joining India's UPI payments system:

Japan is "seriously" evaluating adopting India's UPI payments system as both governments look at promoting digital cooperation by creating interoperability where the digital payments system could bring ease of cross-border payments. Japan and India aim to boost digital collaboration by creating interoperability through the real-time funds transfer system to ease digital payments. • Japan Prime minister: Fumio Kishida; • Japan Capital: Tokyo; • Japan Currency: Yen;

65. Israel ties up with IIT-M to set up water technology centre: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has entered into a partnership with Israel to establish the 'India-Israel Center of Water Technology' (CoWT). This joint initiative aims to address the challenges in water resources management and water technologies in India. The Letter of Intent (LoI) for the center was signed by representatives from both countries, highlighting the significance of this collaboration in ensuring water security for India. • President: Isaac Herzog • Prime Minister: Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu • Capital: Jerusalem • Currency: Israeli Shekel (ILS) • Official Language: Hebrew • Major Cities: Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, Ashdod

66. Indian Railways Hands Over 20 Broad Gauge Locomotives to Bangladesh: In a bid to strengthen bilateral relations, Indian Railways has handed over 20 broad gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh. The virtual handing over ceremony, held at Rail Bhavan, was attended by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bangladesh's Minister of Railway, Md Nurul Islam Sujan. This gesture fulfills a commitment made by the Indian government during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in October 2019. The locomotives, valued at over Rs 100 crore, will help augment Bangladesh's railway network and improve passenger and freight train operations.

67. Bangladesh-US Joint Naval Exercise held in Chattogram: The 'Tiger Shark 40' Joint Bangladesh-US Naval drill Exercise commenced at BNS Nirvik in Chattogram. The main aim of the exercise is to enhance the strategic capabilities of both countries and promote mutual exchange of technical and procedural knowledge. • Capital of USA: Washington, D.C. • Currency of USA: United States dollar (USD) • President of USA: Joe Biden • Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka • Currency of Bangladesh: Bangladeshi taka (BDT) • PM of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina

68. 'World Health Assembly' PM Modi addresses 76th Session in Geneva, Switzerland: The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the 76th Session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. He congratulated the World Health Organization (WHO) on serving the world for 75 years and expressed confidence that the WHO would set goals for the next 25 years as it reaches its 100 year milestone. The Prime Minister stressed the need for greater

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collaboration in healthcare, particularly in building resilient global systems and boosting global health equity.

- 69. Nigeria: Bola Tinubu Sworn in as President:** The capital city of Nigeria is Abuja. President of Nigeria is Bola Tinubu. The currency of Nigeria is the Nigerian Naira (NGN). Lagos is the largest city in Nigeria and one of the fastest-growing cities in the world.
- 70. Tayyip Erdogan re-elected as President of Turkey:** The Turkish President, **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, has emerged victorious in the recent election following a tense run-off, according to unofficial data from the state-run **Anadolu Agency** and the country's **Supreme Election Council**.
- 71. UN General Assembly Declares November 26 as World Sustainable Transport Day:** The **United Nations General Assembly** took a significant step towards promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation by adopting a resolution to designate November 26 as **World Sustainable Transport Day**. This global initiative aims to raise awareness, educate the public, and foster international cooperation in addressing pressing issues related to transport sustainability. The resolution encourages member states, UN organizations, international and regional entities, and civil society to commemorate this day through educational activities and events focused on enhancing knowledge about sustainable transport • The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. • It is composed of all 193 member states of the UN, with each country having one vote. • The UNGA meets annually in a regular session, which begins in September and ends in December. • The UNGA discusses and makes decisions on various global issues, including peace and security, development, human rights, and international law. • The General Assembly resolutions are non-binding but carry significant political weight and can influence international norms and policies. • The UNGA also elects non-permanent members of the UN Security Council and appoints the UN Secretary-General.
- 72. G-7 Japan Summit:** • The 49th annual G7 Summit took place in Hiroshima. Japan hosted the summit in its capacity as the President of the G7 • Prime Minister Kishida's commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation was evident through the choice of Hiroshima as the host city. • Prime Minister Modi attended the summit at the invitation of the Japanese Prime Minister. • The participating leaders issued a leaders' communiqué on the second day of the summit. The communiqué will be adopted officially at the end of the summit on the 21st. • Current Members: US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan

APPOINTMENTS

- 73. Debadatta Chand named as new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda:** • Bank of Baroda Founder: Sayajirao Gaekwad III; • Bank of Baroda Founded: 20 July 1908, Vadodara; • Bank of Baroda Headquarters: Alkapuri, Vadodara.

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- 74. Rajneesh Karnatak Named As New MD and Chairman Of Bank Of India:** • Bank of India Founder: Ramnarain Ruia; • Bank of India Founded: 7 September 1906, Mumbai; • Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai
- 75. BARC director A K Mohanty appointed as new Atomic Energy Commission chairman: Ajit Kumar Mohanty,** who is a well-known physicist and also serves as the director of the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)**, has been selected as the new chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy. This appointment means he will be responsible for overseeing India's nuclear program and exploring the use of atomic power for non-military purposes. Mohanty will take over from K N Vyas. • BARC stands for Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, which is India's premier nuclear research facility located in Trombay, Mumbai. It was founded in 1954 by Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, a renowned physicist and founding director of the institute. • BARC is involved in nuclear energy research, including the design and development of nuclear reactors, nuclear fuel cycle technologies, and radiation processing, as well as basic and applied research in several areas of physics, chemistry, and biology. • It also operates a number of nuclear facilities, including the Dhruva reactor, the CIRUS reactor, and the Purnima-II reactor, among others. The organization is governed by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), which reports directly to the Prime Minister's Office.
- 76. Indian origin Ajay Banga confirmed as the 14th President of World Bank: Ajay Banga,** who is of Indian origin, has been officially selected as the 14th **President of the World Bank**. The 25-member executive board of the **World Bank** elected Ajay Banga, who previously served as the CEO of Mastercard, to hold the position for a period of five years, starting from June 2.
- 77. Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad to be next Coal India chief:** • Coal India Headquarters: Kolkata; • Coal India Founded: November 1975.
- 78. Parminder Chopra becomes first woman to become CMD of India's largest NBFC, PFC: Parminder Chopra** has been recommended by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) to become the next **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**, India's largest **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** by net worth. If appointed, she will be the first woman to hold the position.

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- 79. Alia Bhatt appointed as first Indian Global Ambassador of Gucci:** Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy, has appointed Alia Bhatt as its first global ambassador from India. She will debut as the brand's newest global ambassador at the **Gucci Cruise 2024 show** in **Seoul** next week. This appointment is an important moment for both the brand and the Indian fashion industry, especially since it comes after **Bhatt's Met Gala debut**.
- 80. Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood appointed next CBI director:** Praveen Sood, the **Director General of Police** in **Karnataka**, has been appointed as the next **director** of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. The 59-year-old will take on the position for two years after **Subodh Kumar Jaiswal's** term ends on May 25.
- 81. Ex-NBCUniversal ad chief Linda Yaccarino named as new Twitter CEO:** Ex-NBCUniversal advertising executive **Linda Yaccarino** will take over as **CEO of Twitter**, Elon Musk said. Musk, who runs Tesla and Space X, said a day prior that he plans to transition to a role as executive chairman and chief technology officer. The announcement comes months after Musk pledged in December to step down as the head of Twitter as soon as he found someone "foolish enough to take the job." Yaccarino, who stepped down earlier on Friday as the ad sales chief at NBCUniversal, oversaw an international team of about 2,000 employees, according to the NBCUniversal website. • Twitter Parent organization: X Corp; • Twitter Founders: Jack Dorsey, Evan Williams, Biz Stone, Noah Glass; • Twitter Founded: 21 March 2006, San Francisco, California, United States; • Twitter Headquarters: San Francisco, California, United States.
- 82. Geeta Rao Gupta appointed as US Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues:** The **US Senate** has approved **Geeta Rao Gupta**, an Indian American, as the **Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues** in the State Department. In a tweet, the department expressed its eagerness for **Gupta** to use her efforts to advance women and girls' rights through **US foreign policy**. • **Geeta Rao Gupta**, who was born in Mumbai, India in 1956, is a prominent figure in matters of gender, women's concerns, and HIV/AIDS. • She has held the position of executive director at the 3D Program for Girls and Women, as well as being a senior fellow at the United Nations Foundation since 2017. • **Geeta Rao Gupta** is widely recognized for her expertise on issues related to **AIDS** prevention and the vulnerability of women to **HIV**. • She is a strong proponent of empowering women economically and socially as a means of fighting disease, poverty, and hunger. • Recently, she was nominated by **US President Joe Biden** to serve as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues.
- 83. Manoj Soni to take oath as UPSC chairman:** **Manoj Soni** will take oath as the chairman of **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. Soni, who joined the Commission as the member on June 28, 2017, has been performing the duties of the UPSC chairman since April 5, 2022. Prior to his appointment in the UPSC, Soni has served three terms as Vice-Chancellor. These include two consecutive terms from August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2015 as VC of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Gujarat; and one term as VC of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

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(The MSU of Baroda) from April 2005 to April 2008. A scholar of political science with specialisation in international relations studies, he has taught international relations at Sardar Patel University (SPU), Vallabh Vidyanagar between 1991 and 2016, except for the period when he served as Vice-Chancellor of the two universities • **The UPSC was established on 1 October 1926** by the Government of India under the **Government of India Act, 1919**. The Commission is headquartered in New Delhi and has regional offices in Allahabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, and Patna. • The UPSC is headed by a Chairman who is appointed by the President of India. The Chairman is assisted by a number of members who are also appointed by the President of India. The members of the UPSC are drawn from a variety of backgrounds, including the civil services, the armed forces, and the academia. • UPSC is an independent constitutional body and its decisions are not subject to the approval of any other authority. The Commission is committed to ensuring that the recruitment of Group 'A' officers is based on merit and that the officers recruited are of the highest caliber.

- 84. Duroflex appoints Virat Kohli as Brand Ambassador:** The Indian mattress brand, **Duroflex** has appointed former Indian captain, and one of the best batters of the current era, **Virat Kohli** as its brand ambassador. Following this association with the 34-year-old star batter, the company would like to amplify the message of quality sleep to a wider audience.
- 85. Paytm appoints Bhavesh Gupta as president and COO:** One 97 Communications Ltd, the parent company of **Paytm**, announced the appointment of **Bhavesh Gupta** as the President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the fintech company. Previously serving as the Senior Vice President, Gupta will now take on the responsibility of overseeing various verticals within Paytm, including lending, insurance, online and offline payments, consumer payments, and spearheading important initiatives such as user growth, operational risk, fraud risk, and compliance. Gupta will report directly to Paytm's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Vijay Shekhar Sharma. • Paytm Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma; • Paytm CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma (Dec 2010–); • Paytm Parent organization: One97 Communications; • Paytm Founded: August 2010.
- 86. AK Jain appoints as new PNGRB Chairman by Government:** The chairman position of the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** has finally been filled. A K Jain, the former Coal Secretary, has been appointed by the **Appointments Committee** of the Cabinet to take on this role for a period of five years. The position has been vacant since December 2020. AK Jain himself has extensive experience in the energy and environment sectors, having worked as Joint Secretary in the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)** and as Joint Secretary and then Additional Secretary in the Niti Aayog handling energy. Before taking over as Coal Secretary, he also served as Additional Secretary and Special Secretary in the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**.

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- 87. KV Viswanathan, Prashant Mishra take oath as Supreme Court judges: Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra** and senior advocate **KV Viswanathan** will be sworn in as Supreme Court judges, after the Central government cleared the appointment of the advocates. Their names were recommended to the Centre by the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India (**CJI**) **DY Chandrachud**. The five-member Collegium said the Supreme Court has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges and is currently functioning with 32. Two Supreme Court judges – Dinesh Maheshwari and MR Shah – retired recently. Four more vacancies are going to arise by the second week of July and the working strength of judges will further come down, the collegium noted as it recommended the names of Viswanathan and Mishra.
- 88. Sourav Ganguly named as brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism:** Former India cricket captain and ex-BCCI chief **Sourav Ganguly** was roped in as the brand ambassador for Tripura Tourism. Ganguly expressed his willingness to be the brand ambassador for Tripura tourism after the state's Tourism Minister **Sushanta Chowdhury** met him at his residence in Kolkata. Ganguly's selection as the brand ambassador for Tripura Tourism is expected to draw significant attention to the state's unexplored tourist destinations. Tripura is a state in Northeast India. It is bordered by Assam and Mizoram to the east and by Bangladesh to the north, south and west. Tripura is divided into 8 districts and 23 sub-divisions, where Agartala is the capital and the largest city in the state. Tripura has 19 different tribal communities with a majority Bengali population. Bengali, English and Kokborok are the state's official languages. It became a full-fledged state of India in 1972. Tripura lies in a geographically isolated location in India, as only one major highway, National Highway 8, connects it with the rest of the country. Five mountain ranges — Hathai Kotor, Atharamura, Longtharai, Shakhan and Jampui Hills — run north to south, with intervening valleys; Agartala, the capital, is located on a plain to the west. The state has a tropical savanna climate, and receives seasonal heavy rains from the south west monsoon. • Tripura Capital: Agartala; • Tripura Governor: Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya; • Tripura CM: Dr. Manik Saha.
- 89. Dr K. Govindaraj Elected As New President of Basketball Federation of India: Dr K. Govindaraj** elected as the **President of International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Asia**. He is a Congress MLC. He is also the President of Basketball Federation of India and President of Karnataka Olympic Association. Govindaraj was unanimously nominated to take over as President of FIBA Asia. This is the first time that an Indian has been nominated as the President of FIBA Asia. The nomination was ratified at the FIBA Asia Congress making Govindaraj, the first Indian to lead the International Basketball Federation in Asia, which includes 44 countries. • International Basketball Federation Founded: 18 June 1932; • International Basketball Federation Headquarters: Mies, Switzerland; • International Basketball Federation President: Hamane Niang.
- 90. Jayakumar S. Pillai Appointed as Deputy Managing Director of IDBI Bank: IDBI Bank** announced via an official filing that **Jayakumar S. Pillai** has been appointed as **Deputy Managing Director** on the bank's Board.

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- 91. Praveen Kumar Srivastava Sworn In as Central Vigilance Commissioner:** The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the apex body responsible for maintaining probity in public administration, preventing corruption, and promoting good governance. The Commissioner acts as the watchdog, overseeing the vigilance activities in various government departments and organizations.
- 92. Govt appoints Ashwani Kumar as MD of UCO Bank:** UCO Bank, formerly United Commercial Bank, is an Indian public sector bank, established in **1943 in Kolkata. The bank was founded by G.D. Birla, an Indian industrialist, in 1943.** The bank was started with Kolkata as its head office with an issued capital of ₹2 crores, of which ₹1 crore was actually paid up. Birla was its chairman; the Board of Directors included eminent personalities of India drawn from many fields. **The bank was nationalized by the Government of India on July 19, 1969.**
- 93. Amarendu Prakash takes charge as SAIL chairman:** Amarendu Prakash has taken charge as the new **Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** from May 31. He was previously the Director (In-charge) of SAIL's Bokaro steel plan. • SAIL Founded: 24 January 1973; • SAIL Headquarters: New Delhi; • SAIL CEO: Soma Mondal (1 Jan 2021–).
- 94. R Dinesh Appointed as CII President for 2023-24:** The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering with Industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes. CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led, and industry-managed organization, with around 9000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 286 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.
- 95. CAG Girish Chandra Murmu re-elected External Auditor of WHO for 4 year term:** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been re-elected as the **External Auditor of the World Health Organisation (WHO)** for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027. The CAG is already holding this position in the WHO since 2019 for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023. • World Health Organization Director-General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; • World Health Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; • World Health Organization Founded: 7 April 1948.

SPORTS

- 96. Sergio Pérez wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023:** Red Bull's **Sergio Perez** won the **Azerbaijan Grand Prix**, the fourth round of the 2023 Formula 1 World Championship, in Baku. Sergio Pérez took advantage of a fortunately timed safety car to beat his teammate Max Verstappen to the victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. Verstappen started second behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc but swept past him on the long start-finish straight at the end of lap 3, the first lap on which drivers were allowed to use the DRS overtake assist system on the rear wing. Fernando Alonso finished in fourth place, showing strong pace for Aston Martin after issues in qualifying.
- 97. Ding Liren becomes China's first world chess champion:** **Ding Liren** has become 17th world chess champion – the first from China – defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker. Ding

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defeated Nepo in the last of the four Rapid tiebreaks. Ding takes over as winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen, who chose not to defend his title after a 10-year reign. He and Nepomniachtchi had finished on seven points each after the 14 first-stage games played in the Kazakh capital, Astana.

- 98. Luca Brecel wins snooker World Championship title:** Luca Brecel, the 28-year-old **Belgian snooker player**, has claimed his first world title after defeating Mark Selby in a thrilling final at the Crucible in Sheffield. The match went down to the wire, with Selby putting up a strong fightback to push Brecel to the brink. However, Brecel held his nerve and eventually prevailed with an 18-15 victory.
- 99. Odisha extends Indian Hockey team sponsorship till 2033:** The Odisha government has decided to further extend its sponsorship for both the **Men and Women Indian Hockey Teams (senior and junior)** for another ten years from 2023 to 2033. • Odisha Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik • Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar • Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- 100. Geoffrey Emmanuel first Indian to compete in FIM JuniorGP:** Geoffrey Emmanuel will become the first Indian to participate in the **FIM World JuniorGP World Championship**. Geoffrey, son of seven-time National Champion Emmanuel Jebaraj, will race for Cuna De Campeones in his maiden FIM JuniorGP season. The first round of the 2023 season is scheduled for May 5-7 at the Circuit de Estoril in Portugal.
- 101. South Africa fast bowler Shabnim Ismail quits international cricket:** Shabnim Ismail, the fastest bowler in women's cricket, has announced her retirement from international cricket. This is a significant blow to South Africa, who heavily relied on Ismail's pace and skill in their recent **Twenty20 World Cup** campaign, where they finished as runners-up. Ismail, who is 34 years old, played in 241 international matches across all formats, including one-day Internationals, Twenty20s, and tests.
- 102. Nepal wins ACC Men's Premier Cup:** Nepal have qualified for the **Asia Cup 2023** after winning the **ACC Men's Premier Cup**. The team, led by Rohit Paudel defeated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by seven wickets in the final that was played across two days at the Tribhuvan University International Cricket Ground in Kirtipur. Nepal, therefore, joined India and Pakistan in Group A of the Asia Cup to be played in September. Nepal, UAE and Oman will also take part in the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup in July where they will face 'A' teams of five full-member teams.
- 103. Olympic silver medallist Nijel Amos gets 3-year ban for doping:** According to the Athletics Integrity Unit, **Nijel Amos**, who won a silver medal in the men's 800m at the 2012 Olympics, has been given a three-year ban for doping. Amos, who hails from Botswana, tested positive for the banned substance GW1516 in the lead-up to last year's track world championships. However, he received a reduction on the standard four-year ban for admitting to the charges. Unfortunately, this means that Amos will not be able to participate in the Paris Olympics next year due to the ban.

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104. Neeraj Chopra secures victory with 88.67 m throw at Diamond League 2023: Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra has secured victory with 88.67 m throw at Doha Diamond League 2023. Chopra's first throw was 88.67 which was a great way to start the new season.

105. Anurag Thakur Launches Logo, Mascot, Torch, Anthem & Jersey of Khelo India University Games 2022: Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the official logo, mascot, torch, anthem, and jersey of the **Khelo India University Games Uttar Pradesh 2022** on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima in Lucknow. The Khelo India University Games 2022, Uttar Pradesh, is set to be a grand celebration of sportsmanship, heritage and culture. The event, officially scheduled from May 25 to June 3, 2023, will see more than 4000 athletes from 200 Indian universities competing in 21 sporting disciplines in the cities of Varanasi, Noida, Gorakhpur and Lucknow. The official logo of the Khelo India University Games 2022 Uttar Pradesh represents the rich heritage of Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state. The logo is a representation of the state's rich traditional and historical legacy which has been the foundation for its development in all aspects viz; education, infrastructure and sports. The mascot, Jitu, represents **the Barasingha**, an incredible mammal that embodies the spirit of Khelo India University Games, Uttar Pradesh. Jitu will serve as a source of excitement, fostering fan engagement and building team spirit throughout the tournament. The mascot will also help promote team sponsors, merchandise, and other marketing activities, making him an essential part of the event's success. The 12-day-long Khelo India University Games 2022 will see athletes competing in 21 sporting disciplines across four cities. The Kabaddi competition begins in Noida on May 23, 2023, while a few others begin at the various venues on May 24, 2023. The opening ceremony is slated for May 25, 2023 in Lucknow. The Khelo India initiative has brought significant changes to the landscape of Indian sports over the last five years. The games provide a platform for budding athletes to showcase their skills and progress easily from one level of competition to the other. The synergy in the sports ecosystem that has been created through these competitions and various schemes has indeed helped Indian athletes to excel in multiple international competitions.

106. Argentina's Lionel Messi wins Laureus sportsman of the year 2023: Lionel Messi, who led Argentina to victory in the 2022 World Cup as their captain, was honored with the **Laureus Sportsman of the Year award** at a ceremony held in Paris. In addition to that, Messi accepted the World Team of the Year award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who won the championship in Qatar. Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year.

107. Telangana's Vuppala Prraneeth became India's 82nd Grandmaster: **V. Prraneeth**, a 15-year-old chess player from Telangana, achieved the title of Grandmaster, **becoming the sixth from the state and the 82nd in India.** He secured this milestone by defeating GM Hans Niemann from the US during the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023.

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- 108. FC Barcelona lifts 27th La Liga Title, First La Liga since 2019:** Football Club Barcelona (FC Barcelona) has become the champions of Spain for the 27th time in the club's 123-year history, securing their first title since 2019. They achieved this feat by winning against local rivals Espanyol with a score of 4-2, which helped them to move 14 points ahead of Real Madrid, who are in second place.
- 109. Gatka Martial Art to feature in 37th National Games:** The traditional game of Gatka is set to receive a major boost on a national level as it has been officially included in the 37th National Games-2023, which are scheduled to take place in Goa in October of this year. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will be organizing competitions for a total of 43 disciplines during this national event, in collaboration with the Government of Goa. • President of the National Gatka Association of India (NGAI): Harjeet Singh Grewal • IOA President: PT Usha • Gatka Technical Conduct Committee (GTCC) Chairman: Amitabh Sharma
- 110. South Asian Youth TT Championship 2023: India bags 16 gold medals:** The South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023, a three-day international event, came to a close on May 17 in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. Over 100 athletes from six countries, including Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, participated in the championship. Lt. General KT Parnaik (Retd.), the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest at the Dorjee Khandu Indoor Stadium in Itanagar. On the final day, the host nation India achieved a remarkable feat by winning all the available gold medals at the tournament.
- 111. Neeraj Chopra becomes World No.1 in men's javelin rankings:** Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has claimed number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time. Neeraj Chopra has topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters. On 30 August, 2022, the Indian javelin throw ace rose to World No. 2, but was stuck behind Peters, the reigning world champion, since then.
- 112. Adidas named new India cricket team kit sponsor:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Adidas will be the new kit sponsor of the Indian team. Adidas will replace Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd, maker of Killer Jeans, which came in as interim sponsor after the then-sponsor Mobile Premier League Sports (MPL Sports) pulled out of the deal midway. Adidas is a German multinational corporation that designs and manufactures athletic shoes, apparel, and equipment. The company is headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Germany, and is the largest sportswear manufacturer in the world. Adidas has been involved in cricket for many years, and is the current kit sponsor for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA).
- 113. IPL 2023 final: Chennai Super Kings Beats Gujarat Titans: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) clinched their fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) title, equaling a record with Mumbai Indians.** They secured a five-wicket victory over the Gujarat Titans (GT) amidst a backdrop of fireworks and jubilant celebrations. CSK's captain, Dhoni, received the IPL trophy and subsequently

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handed it over to Rayudu and Jadeja. Chennai Super Kings beat Gujarat Titans in the IPL 2023 final by five wickets in a rain-hit match at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Chasing a mammoth 215-run chase against GT, rain curtailed the CSK chase after just three balls into the first over with four runs on the board.

Year	IPL Winners List	Runner up	Venue
2008	Rajasthan Royals	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai
2009	Deccan Chargers	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Johannesburg
2010	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	Mumbai
2011	Chennai Super Kings	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Chennai
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai
2013	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders	Kings XI Punjab	Bangalore
2015	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Bangalore
2017	Mumbai Indians	Rising Pune Supergiants	Hyderabad
2018	Chennai Super Kings	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Mumbai
2019	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Hyderabad
2020	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Dubai
2021	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Dubai
2022	Gujarat Titans	Rajasthan Royals	Ahmedabad
2023	Chennai Super Kings	Gujarat Titans	Ahmedabad

114. IPL Orange Cap Winner 2023 "Shubman Gill": The Orange Cap in the Indian Premier League (IPL) is awarded to the player who scores the most runs in a season. The player who holds the Orange Cap at the end of the season is awarded the cap. The Orange Cap is a prestigious award, and is seen as a mark of excellence for batsmen in the IPL. The Orange Cap was first awarded in the 2008 season, and has been won by 12 different batsmen since then. The most successful batsman in Orange Cap history is David Warner, who has won the award three times. Other multiple winners include Chris Gayle and Virat Kohli, who have each won the award twice.

AWARDS

115. Russian poet Maria Stepanova wins Leipzig Book Prize 2023: Maria Stepanova, a renowned Russian writer currently residing in Berlin, has been awarded the **Leipzig Book Prize** for European

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Understanding in 2023. Her novel, **In Memory of Memory**, which delves into the themes of Stalinism and the collapse of the Soviet Union, earned her a nomination for the Booker Prize in 2021. However, it was her volume of poetry, *Girls Without Clothes*, that earned her the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize. This collection of poetry sensitively explores the often concealed violence against women and the power dynamics that fuel this oppression in a highly poetic manner.

116. Pulitzer Prizes 2023 Announced: The **2023 Pulitzer Prize** winners were announced, with four of the 16 awards for journalism across 15 categories going to local outlets reporting on corruption among local officials. The Pulitzers are regarded as the highest honor that a U.S.-based journalist or organization can receive. The awards were announced by **Marjorie Miller**, the administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes. There are 22 Pulitzer categories. In 21 of those categories the winners receive a **\$15,000 cash award** and a certificate. The annual Pulitzer awards, first presented in 1917, are the most prestigious honors in U.S. journalism. They are named for newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, who died in 1911. In his will, Pulitzer left money to create the prizes and establish a journalism school at Columbia University. Here is a brief history of the Pulitzer Prizes:

2023 Pulitzer Prizes: BOOKS, DRAMA & MUSIC

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

117. CM Yogi Adityanath honoured Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award: Former President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, presented the **Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award** to Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** for his efforts in creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh. The award ceremony took place at the Shri Shanmukhananda Auditorium in Mumbai, where Dr. Lalji Prasad Nirmal, a member of the UP legislative council, received the award on behalf of the Chief Minister. The event was organized by the Buddhanjali Research Foundation and was attended by Ramnath Kovind as the chief guest. This was the 13th edition of the award ceremony. The Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award is an annual award presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to society in the areas of education, social welfare, and economics, in the spirit of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The award was instituted in 1996 by the Government of Maharashtra in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and it is presented every year on his birth anniversary. The award carries a cash prize and a citation.

118. Cochin Port has bagged the Sagar Shreshtha Sammaan Award 2023: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways honoured the **Cochin Port Authority (CPA)** with the **Sagar Shreshtha**

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Sammaan for the best turnaround time in non-container category during 2022-23. Minister for Ports and Shipping Sarbananda Sonowal presented the award to CPA Chairperson M. Beena in New Delhi. The award is in recognition of the 'excellent performance of the Cochin Port in handling dry bulk and liquid bulk cargo vessels'.

119. Jayant Narlikar awarded Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award 2022: Renowned astronomer and founder director of IUCAA, **Prof Jayant V. Narlikar**, received the inaugural **Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award** from the Astronomical Society of India (ASI). Narlikar is a past president of ASI and was the founding director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). He is known for his work on cosmology and gravitation, and has made significant contributions to the understanding of the evolution of the universe.

120. Narendra Modi conferred with Papua New Guinea and Fiji's highest honour: Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the highest honours of **Papua New Guinea** and **Fiji**, an unprecedented acknowledgement of a non-resident in the two Pacific island nations. During his maiden visit to **Papua New Guinea**, Modi hosted a significant summit between India and 14 Pacific island countries to bolster bilateral ties. Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Bob Dadae, awarded Modi with the Grand Companion of the **Order of Logohu (GCL)**, which is the country's highest civilian award. Prime Minister Modi has been the recipient of multiple prestigious international awards, such as The Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud, the State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan, the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award, and the Order of Zayed Award. These awards are the highest honours awarded to non-Muslim dignitaries by **Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Palestine, and the United Arab Emirates** respectively. Additionally, Prime Minister Modi has been honoured with the Order of St. Andrew Award (Russia's highest civilian honour), the Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin (the highest honour awarded to foreign dignitaries by the Maldives), and the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance (a top honour bestowed by a Gulf country).

121. Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov wins International Booker Prize for 'Time Shelter: Georgi Gospodinov's captivating novel, "Time Shelter," translated by Angela Rodel, has secured the prestigious **2023 International Booker Prize**. This remarkable achievement marks the first time a Bulgarian novel has been awarded this renowned **literary honor**.

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BANKING, FINANCE, ECONOMY & BUSINESS

122. HDFC Bank launches digital distribution platform for its agents and partners: HDFC Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, has introduced its digital distribution platform, **HDFC Bank Smart Saathi**, to connect business correspondents (BCs) and business facilitators (BFs) to the bank. The platform aims to take banking products and services to the last mile, and contribute to the development of the country. The launch of **HDFC Bank Smart Saathi** is a significant milestone in HDFC Bank's mission to provide innovative solutions that cater to the evolving needs of its customers. By establishing a network of business correspondents and **business facilitators**, the bank is committed to boosting financial inclusion in India. This network will play a vital role in taking banking products and services to the rural and remote areas of the country, where the majority of the population resides.

123. RBI, BIS launch fourth edition of G20 Tech Sprint competition: The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** have announced the launch of the **G20 TechSprint 2023**, a global competition aimed at improving cross-border payments through innovative technology solutions. The fourth edition of the competition was unveiled on May 4, and it is open to global innovators. The TechSprint 2023 will focus on three problem statements formulated by the **BIS Innovation Hub (BISIH)** and RBI. The problem statements include the following: • Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) 2) Sanctions technology solutions to reduce illicit finance risk, forex (FX), and liquidity technology solutions to enable settlement in emerging market and developing economy (EMDE) currencies • Technology solutions for multilateral cross-border central banking digital currency (CBDC) platforms.

124. RBI Mandates Complete Information for Money Transfers to Curb Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing: The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued new instructions to all banks and financial institutions in the country to ensure that all **wire transfers**, whether domestic or international, contain complete information about the originator and beneficiary. The move is aimed at preventing wire transfers from being used as a channel for **money laundering and financing terrorism**. The updated instructions are part of the Master Direction on Know Your Customer (KYC) and are aligned with the recommendations of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.

125. RBI Study: India's Green Financing Requirement Estimated At 2.5% Of GDP: As per the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** report on **Currency and Finance (RCF)** for the year 2022-23, India would require at least 2.5% of GDP annually until 2030 for green financing. The report addresses various areas such as the extensive and rapid impact of climate change, implications for financial stability, and policy choices to mitigate climate-related risks. India has set an objective to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. According to the report, if the **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** or e-rupee is developed with environmentally friendly and socially responsible goals, it could prove to be a better alternative to other cashless methods. **India's Green Financing Requirement Estimated At 2.5% Of GDP: Key Points:** •The report covers four main areas: the unprecedented

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scale and pace of climate change, its macroeconomic impact, implications for financial stability, and policy options for mitigating climate risks. • To achieve its net zero target by 2070, India would need to reduce the energy intensity of its **GDP** by about 5% annually and increase the use of renewable energy to around 80% by 2070-71. • The report estimates that India's green financing requirement should be at least 2.5% of **GDP** annually until 2030. • A balanced policy approach that addresses all aspects of the issue can help the country reach its green transition goals by 2030 and eventually achieve its net zero target by 2070. • The report emphasises that climate change is a pressing issue and highlights that the 2015-22 period was the warmest on record, according to the World Meteorological Organisation.

- 126. HDFC Bank launched programme for Bharat, to onboard 1 lakh customers:** HDFC Bank has launched a retail banking initiative called 'Vishesh' aimed at customers in **semi-urban and rural areas**. The bank is hoping to attract around 100,000 new customers through the programme, which involves increasing its branch network and developing bespoke financial products for the market segment. **HDFC Bank** plans to add 675 branches in rural and semi-urban areas by 2024, with the total number expected to reach almost 5,000. • The bank has already created a '**Classic**' programme for **HNI customers**, which will be hived off under the new scheme. • Features of the **Vishesh programme** include personal bankers, discounts on processing fees and access to healthcare.
- 127. Reserve Bank's gold reserves rose 4.5% to 794.64 tonnes in 2022-23:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has increased its **gold reserves** by 4.5% to 794.64 metric tonnes in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2023. The bank added 34.22 metric tonnes of gold during this period, which brought its total gold reserves up from 760.42 metric tonnes at the end of the previous fiscal year. The RBI has been building up its gold reserves for the last five to six years. As of March 31, 2023, the **RBI's gold reserves** were valued at \$45.2 billion, representing 7.81% of the country's total foreign exchange reserves, up from 7% at the end of the previous fiscal year. The country's foreign exchange reserves were valued at \$578.449 billion as of March 31, 2023.
- 128. BharatPe rebrands PAYBACK India as 'Zillion':** **BharatPe**, a leading fintech company in India, has announced the rebranding of **PAYBACK India**, the country's largest multi-brand loyalty program, as '**Zillion**.' This move aligns with the company's vision to make Zillion a ubiquitous loyalty and rewards program across the nation. Zillion aims to target customers of all age groups and add a new dimension to their shopping experience across various categories and brands. With the **new brand identity**, the loyalty program will offer customers a wide range of options to earn and redeem rewards at a network of offline and online partners, including groceries, fuel, entertainment, travel, apparel, and more.
- 129. RBI Imposes Rs 1.73 Crore Penalty On HSBC Bank:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on the **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC Bank)** for violating the **Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006**. The **RBI** stated that

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during their examination of the Risk Assessment Report and all related correspondences pertaining to the same, it was discovered that the bank had breached the aforementioned rules.

- 130. AIBEA Introduces “Bank Clinic” to Assist Bank Customers with Grievance Redressal:** The **All India Bank Employees’ Association (AIBEA)** has announced plans to establish an online “**Bank Clinic**” to assist retail bank customers with grievance redressal. AIBEA General Secretary CH Venkatachalam stated that once a customer files a complaint with the Bank Clinic, AIBEA’s team will work with the bank to address the issue. The primary objective of the Bank Clinic is to assist customers with their complaints and to provide feedback to banks on areas where there are service deficiencies. This will assist banks in improving their services and customer satisfaction. The AIBEA hopes that the Bank Clinic will help to establish good relations between customers and banks, resulting in increased customer loyalty.
- 131. AU Small Finance Bank introduces RuPay credit card for self-employed Customers:** **AU Small Finance Bank** has teamed up with **RuPay** to introduce the **Business Cashback RuPay credit card**, a novel solution designed to fulfill the financial requirements of self-employed clients. The latest product is intended to provide a wide range of advantages to small enterprises. • MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank: **Sanjay Agarwal** • Headquarters of AU Small Finance Bank: **Jaipur, Rajasthan, India** • CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI): **Dilip Asbe**.
- 132. Export lender Exim Bank Plans to Raise Record \$4 Billion in FY24 for Trade Finance and Term Loans:** **Export Import Bank of India**, commonly known as Exim Bank, plans to raise up to a record \$4 billion in financial year 2023-24 (FY24) for extending trade finance and term loans. The amount will depend on market conditions and Exim, which raised \$3.47 billion in FY23, has a broad investor base and will look at different currencies. **Harsha Bangari**, managing director of the export credit agency, stated that the funds will be used to support the bank’s growth plans.
- 133. RBI expects banks to completely stop using LIBOR by July:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has instructed financial institutions and banks to adopt an Alternative Reference Rate, primarily the **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)**, and end their reliance on the scandal-shrouded **London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)** and **Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR)** by July 1. The central bank has said that most new transactions now use **SOFR** and the Modified **Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MMIFOR)** as benchmarks.
- 134. Bank of Baroda launches Electronic Bank Guarantee on its Digital Platform:** **Bank of Baroda**, a public sector bank, has announced its partnership with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**, a government-backed information utility appointed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, to launch the **Electronic Bank Guarantee (BG) system**. The system enables the issuance of inland bank guarantees securely and conveniently through the bank’s digital platform BarodaINSTA. • MD & CEO of NeSL: **Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri** • RBI Governor: **Shaktikanta Das**
- 135. RBI Cancels Certificate of Registration of 7 NBFCs and Surrender Permits of 14 NBFCs:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken significant actions in the financial sector, canceling the

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certificate of registration of seven **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** and accepting the surrender permits of 14 NBFCs. These moves aim to regulate and maintain the stability of the non-banking financial institution (NBFI) sector. Here are the details of the RBI's actions: The RBI has canceled the certificate of registration of the following seven NBFCs: • Coorg Tea Company• Trimurthi Finvest• East West Finvest India• J.V. Modi Securities• K K Patel Finance• Purvi Finvest• Genfin Capital Pvt Ltd

136. SBI Records Highest-Ever Quarterly Profit in Q4 2022-23: Key Highlights from Earnings

Report: The **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country's largest public-sector lender, has reported impressive financial results for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2023. The bank's net profit witnessed a significant surge of 83 percent, reaching a record high of Rs 16,694 crore.

137. RBI Announces Withdrawal of ₹2000 Banknotes from Circulation: The Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) has made a significant decision to withdraw the ₹2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. Although these banknotes will no longer be issued, they will retain their status as legal tender. The move comes as the objective of introducing the ₹2000 banknotes has been fulfilled, and other denominations now adequately meet the currency requirements of the economy. The introduction of **₹2000 banknotes** in November 2016 was a response to the withdrawal of legal tender status for ₹500 and ₹1000 banknotes. This measure aimed to fulfill the urgent currency requirements at the time. However, the printing of ₹2000 banknotes was halted in 2018-19 as their purpose had been served. Furthermore, the RBI noted that the usage of ₹2000 banknotes for transactions was not common.

138. RBI Approves Rs 87,416 Crore Surplus Transfer to Government for FY23, Triple the Previous

Year's Amount: The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the transfer of **Rs 87,416 crore surplus** to the government for the financial year 2022-23. This amount is nearly three times higher than the previous year's transfer of Rs 30,307 crore. The surge in surplus is attributed to increased income from the sale of foreign exchange reserves. Despite facing challenges such as rising yields on US treasuries, the RBI's surplus transfer is expected to provide a significant boost to the government's revenue.

139. Google Pay Introduces Support for RuPay Credit Cards on UPI, Expanding Digital Payment

Options: **Google Pay**, in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has announced the integration of RuPay credit cards onto the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform. This new feature allows users to link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay, enabling them to make payments at both online and offline merchants that accept RuPay credit cards. With this development, Google Pay aims to provide users with greater flexibility and choice in their payment options, ultimately driving the adoption of digital payments in India.

140. Axis Bank Introduces 'Sarathi' – A Digital Onboarding Platform for PoS Terminals: Axis Bank

has launched **'Sarathi,'** a revolutionary digital onboarding platform aimed at simplifying the process for merchants to adopt Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or **Point of Sale (PoS)** terminals. By

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eliminating the need for lengthy paperwork and long waiting periods, Sarathi offers a streamlined and hassle-free experience to merchants, enabling them to begin accepting digital payments quickly and efficiently.

- 141. RBI Approves Merger of Maratha Co-op Bank with Cosmos Co-op Bank:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval for the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank. The merger is set to take effect from May 29, 2023, as announced by the RBI. This decision comes after Maratha Sahakari Bank, established in 1946 with seven branches in Mumbai, had been placed under regulatory directions by the central bank since August 31, 2016. The Scheme has been sanctioned under the authority of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- 142. Bank of Maharashtra Emerges as Top Performer in NPA Management during FY23:** Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), a Pune-based state-owned lender, has been recognized as the best bank in managing bad loans, achieving a remarkably low net **non-performing assets (NPAs)** ratio of 0.25% during the financial year that ended in March 2023. This achievement positions BoM as the leader among all banks with total business exceeding Rs 3 lakh crore, not limited to public sector banks (PSBs), according to the published yearly data of banks.
- 143. YES Bank unveils New Logo, to introduce Gradually in Three Months:** YES Bank announced the unveiling of its new logo, which forms part of its “refreshed brand identity.” According to MD and CEO **Prashant Kumar**, the bank aims to roll it out across its branch network in the next three months. • In 2018, YES Bank faced regulatory issues when the Reserve Bank of India established a moratorium on it due to fraudulent lending. • Since the YES Bank Reconstruction Scheme was executed in March 2020 to rescue the bank, the financial institution has undergone significant changes to enhance its finances and return to profitability.
- 144. RBI Surplus Transfer to Govt.:** The Central Board of Directors of the RBI approved the transfer of ₹87,416 crore as surplus to the Union government for the accounting year 2022-23. This amount is almost three times the ₹30,307 crore transferred in the previous fiscal year. RBI's surplus is the amount transferred to the government after meeting its needs and provisions. The surplus is determined by deducting expenses, including provisions made to the Contingency Fund, from the RBI's income, mainly generated through interest on securities. The RBI, as a central bank, is not a commercial organization owned or controlled by the government. The RBI was initially a private shareholders' bank but was nationalized by the government in January 1949. According to **Section 47** (Allocation of Surplus Profits) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the RBI transfers the excess of income over expenditure to the government. This provision mandates the transfer of profits to the Central Government after accounting for necessary provisions and obligations.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

- 145. Labour Day 2023: Know Date, History And Significance: Labour Day 2023:** May 1st is a globally recognized holiday that acknowledges the accomplishments of the labour movement. It is commonly referred to as **International Worker's Day** or **May Day**, and is commemorated with a public holiday across more than 80 countries. The celebration, known as Labour Day in several nations, honors the contributions of working individuals to society, emphasizing the importance of work and the strides made by the labour movement.
- 146. World Press Freedom Day 2023 observed on 3rd May:** Every year on **May 3**, we observe **World Press Freedom Day** to increase understanding about the significance of a press that is free and not influenced by external forces. The occasion emphasizes the importance of unrestricted journalism and advocates for the fundamental right of freedom of speech. This year's World Press Freedom Day focuses on the theme of "**Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights**," which emphasizes the critical role of freedom of expression in safeguarding and promoting other human rights.
- 147. World Asthma Day 2023 observed on 2nd May: World Asthma Day** is a yearly event that takes place on the **first Tuesday of May**. Its aim is to increase awareness and encourage better management and care of asthma on a global scale. The day is coordinated by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) in partnership with healthcare providers, patient groups, and public health agencies. In 2023, World Asthma Day observed on May 2. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) has designated "**Asthma Care for All**" as the theme for the 2023 World Asthma Day. The majority of asthma-related illnesses and deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- 148. World Athletics Day 2023 observed on 7th May: World Athletics Day**, established by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, is celebrated on **May 7th each year**. The aim of this day is to promote sports and exercise as a means of preventing diseases and maintaining good health. The focus is on encouraging people to participate in athletics and other fitness activities to keep themselves healthy. The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is "**Athletics for All – A New Beginning**," which focuses on promoting diversity and inclusivity in athletics and making sports accessible to people regardless of their gender, age, ability, or background.
- 149. World Thalassaemia Day 2023 celebrates on 08th May: May 8 marks World Thalassaemia Day**, which is a special day dedicated to raising awareness about a genetic disorder called Thalassaemia. This disorder causes the body to produce insufficient amounts of haemoglobin, which is essential for carrying oxygen in the blood. Individuals with Thalassaemia inherit this condition, and it results in reduced levels of oxygen-carrying proteins in their blood. The aim of World Thalassaemia Day is to increase understanding and knowledge about this blood disorder and show support for those who live with it. The theme for this year's International Thalassaemia Day is "**Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap**." The theme is aimed at enhancing the

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understanding and expertise of individuals affected by the disease, with the goal of narrowing the gap in thalassaemia care.

- 150. World Red Cross Day 2023 observed on 8th May: World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** is celebrated annually on **May 8th** to honor the birth anniversary of **Henry Dunant**, who founded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and was the first person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a worldwide humanitarian network that operates in almost every country across the globe. The network offers aid and support to people in need during various emergencies, conflicts, disasters, and other crises. The movement strives to alleviate human suffering, safeguard human dignity, and promote health, peace, and overall well-being. The theme of World Red Cross Day for 2023 is **“Everything we do comes from the heart.”** The objective is to recognize and pay tribute to the people in our communities who are always ready to provide assistance to those in need, often without receiving any acknowledgment or appreciation.
- 151. National Technology Day 2023 Observed on 11th May:** Every year on **May 11th**, India observes **National Technology Day** to recognize and honor the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of its scientists, engineers, and technologists in the development of the country. This day holds great cultural and historical importance, underscoring India's dedication to innovation and its quest for technological progress. This year's theme is **‘School to Startups- Igniting Young Minds to Innovate’**.
- 152. International Day of Plant Health 2023 celebrates on 12th May:** The United Nations designated **12 May** the **International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)** to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development. The theme of this year's celebration of International Day of Plant Health is **“Plant Health for Environmental Protection,**
- 153. International Nurses Day 2023 Observed on 12th May: International Nurses Day** is observed on the **12th of May** every year to commemorate the birth of **Florence Nightingale**, the founder of modern nursing, who was born on **May 12, 1820**. Nightingale was a British nurse, statistician, and social reformer who lay the foundation for what we see as modern nursing – a structured, methodical process of nursing the sick back to health. International Nurses Day is a Global celebration that acknowledges and celebrates the commitment and bravery of nurses around the world. **The theme** for International Nurses Day 2023 is **‘Our Nurses. Our Future.’**
- 154. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 celebrates on May 13: World Migratory Bird Day** is a global event held twice a year on the second Saturday of May and October. It brings together bird enthusiasts to promote the conservation of migratory birds and raise awareness about their significance. In 2023, the focus is on water and its importance for these birds. Today, May 13, marks the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will be officially held

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on **13 May and 14 October**. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will focus on the topic of **water** and its importance for migratory birds.

- 155. Mother's Day 2023: Mother's Day 2023** is a special day that honours and celebrates mothers worldwide. We will commemorate **Mother's Day 2023** on May 14th May. The day holds a significant place in our hearts because it gives us a chance to express our gratitude, love, and appreciation for our mothers.
- 156. UN Global Road Safety Week: May 15-21, 2023: UN Global Road Safety Week** is an annual event held in May to raise awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to prevent accidents. The week is organized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the UN regional commissions, and it is supported by a wide range of partners, including governments, NGOs, businesses, and individuals. The week was first marked in **2007**. It was no longer observed until 2013, and it had been recorded every two years since then until 2019. It is a special global road safety campaign hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) that aims to raise awareness about road safety and accident prevention. The **7th UN Global Road Safety Week** will take this year from **15-21 May**. The theme is **sustainable transport**, and specifically the need for governments to facilitate a shift to walking, cycling and using public transport. Road safety is both a prerequisite for this shift to happen and an outcome of it. The slogan is **#RethinkMobility**.
- 157. International Day of Families 2023 observed on 15 May: International Day of Families** is celebrated on **May 15** to raise awareness of the importance of families and their role in society. The day focuses on the important role that families play in our society while also highlighting the issues faced by them. The International Day of Families is a global observance that is celebrated by countries around the world. In the United States, the day is celebrated by a variety of organizations, including the National Council on Family Relations, the Family Resource Coalition of America, and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association. The theme of International Day of Families 2023 is '**Demographic Trends and Families**'.
- 158. World AIDS Vaccine Day Or HIV Vaccine Awareness Day 2023:** May 18 is recognized as **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, an occasion that emphasizes the importance of creating a vaccine for the incurable illness. This day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, not only raises awareness but also pays tribute to the dedicated scientists and researchers who are committed to developing a vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS. • World Health Organization Head: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; • World Health Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; • World Health Organization Founded: 7 April 1948; • World Health Organization Parent organization: United Nations.
- 159. International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 observed on 22 May:** The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 is "**From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity.**" This theme reflects the urgent need to move beyond commitments and translate them into tangible actions to restore and protect biodiversity.

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- 160. India observes the National Anti-Terrorism Day on May 21:** National Anti-Terrorism Day in India has its roots in a tragic event that took place on May 21, 1991. Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India, was assassinated in **Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu**, during an election campaign rally. The assassination was carried out by a suicide bomber belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a Sri Lankan separatist group. In response to this heinous act of terrorism, the Government of India decided to observe May 21 as National Anti-Terrorism Day. The objective was to raise awareness about the destructive consequences of terrorism and promote unity and resilience in the face of this global menace.
- 161. World Metrology Day 2023 is celebrated on 20 May:** The theme for World Metrology Day 2023 is **Measurements supporting the global food system**. This theme was chosen because of the increasing challenges of climate change, and global distribution of food in a world whose population reached 8 billion at the end of 2022.
- 162. World Thyroid Awareness Day 2023 observed on 25th May:** Thyroid is a small butterfly-shaped gland located in the front of the neck, just below the Adam's apple. It plays a crucial role in regulating various bodily functions by producing hormones that control metabolism, growth, development, and energy levels.
- 163. International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2023 observed on 29th May:** The theme of the 75th anniversary "**Peace begins with me**" recognizes the service and sacrifice of peacekeepers, past and present, including more than 4200 who have given their lives under the UN flag. It also pays tribute to the resilience of the communities that we serve, who continue to strive for peace despite many obstacles. This campaign also calls on each of us to join the global movement for peace. Alone, we can never succeed. But, together, we can be a strong force for change.

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