Current Affairs - Feb 2023 to July 2023

- ▶ **1095** *Current Affairs were found in **Last Six Months** for Type - **All***

Appointments

1. ▶ **Manoj Soni** has been appointed as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
   - 🖋 Also, Suman Sharma has been named as Member (UPSC).
2. ▶ *Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad* has been named new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Maharatna PSU **Coal India** Limited (CIL).
3. ▶ *Prashant Kumar Mishra* & *K V Viswanathan* have been named new Judges in Supreme Court, taking number of sitting judges in SC to 31 (including Chief Justice), against maximum possible strength of 34.
4. ▶ *Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti* has been named Chief Justice of **Kerala** High Court.
5. ▶ *Manmeet K Nanda* is named as new MD & CEO of **Invest India,** the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India.
6. ▶ **Ajay Singh** (SpiceJet CMD) has been named new President of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**ASSOCHAM**).
7. ▶ **Ajit Kumar Mohanty** (BARC Director) has been appointed as chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and secretary in Department of Atomic Energy.
8. ▶ **Amarendu Prakash** has been appointed as new CMD of Maharatna PSU Steel Authority of India Ltd (**SAIL**).
9. ▶ **Anant Maheshwari** (President of Microsoft India) has been appointed as Chairperson of **NASSCOM** (National Association of Software and Service Companies) for 2023-24.
10. ▶ **Aparesh Kumar Singh** has been appointed new Chief Justice of **Tripura** High Court.
11. ▶ **Ashutosh Dixit** has been named new **Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.**
    - 🖋 Notably, the position is different from Vice Chief of the Air Staff.
12. ▶ **Ashwani Kumar** has been named new MD & CEO of PSB **UCO Bank**.
13. ▶ **Celeste Saulo** (Argentina) has been appointed as first female Secretary-General of Geneva (Switzerland) based *World Meteorological Organization (WMO).*
    - 🖋 Also, UAE's **Abdulla Al Mandous** has been elected as **President** of World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
14. ▶ **Edgars Rinkēvičs** has been named new President of European Nation **Latvia**.
15. ▶ **G. Krishnakumar** has been named CMD of Maharatna PSU Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (**BPCL**).
16. ▶ **Karnataka Bank** named **Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma** as its MD & CEO.
17. ▶ **Kyriakos Mitsotakis** has been elected as new Prime minister of **Greece**, for his 2nd term.
18. ▶ **Li Qiang** has been named new **Chinese Premier**, which is 2nd powerful position in China, after president.
    - 🖋 Also, **Xi Jinping** too formally began his unprecedented 3rd term as **China**'s president.
19. ▶ **Mohammad Shahabuddin** has been elected as new **President of Bangladesh**.
20. ▶ **Nivruti Rai** has been named as MD & CEO of **Invest India**, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India.
21. ▶ **Petteri Orpo** has been named **Finland**'s new prime minister.
22. ▶ **R. Dinesh** (TVS) has been named as President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2023-24, while ITC MD Sanjiv Puri has been named as President-designate.
23. ▶ **Ram Chandra Paudel** has been elected as new president of **Nepal**.
    - 🖋 Also, Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav has been named new Vice President of Nepal.

24. ▶ **Rashmi Shukla** has been appointed as Director-General of **Sashastra Seema Bal** (SSB), the border-guarding paramilitary force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border.

25. ▶ **Ravi Sinha** has been named new chief of India's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (**RAW**).

26. ▶ **Sanjay Jasjit Singh** has been appointed as new Vice chief of Indian Navy.

27. ▶ **Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani** has been named **Qatar**'s new prime minister.

28. ▶ **Suchindra Kumar** has been named new Vice Chief of Indian Army.

29. ▶ **Swaminathan Janakiraman** has been named as new **Deputy Governor** of RBI, for a term of 3 years.
    - ✎ Other 3 RBI Deputy Governors are M D Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao & T Rabi Sankar.

30. ▶ **TS Singh Deo** has been named **first deputy chief minister** of **Chhattisgarh.**

31. ▶ **Vo Van Thuong** has been named new President of **Vietnam** *(Southeast Asia)*.

32. ▶ BCCI named former cricketer **Ajit Agarkar** as chairman of Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee.

33. ▶ Bola Ahmed Tinubu has been elected as new President of **Nigeria** (West Africa).

34. ▶ China's *Qu Dongyu* has been re-elected as Director General of UN *Food and Agriculture Organization* (FAO).

35. ▶ Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been re-elected as External Auditor of World Health Organisation (**WHO**) for 4 year term till 2027.

36. ▶ Economist **Shamika Ravi** has been appointed as a member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (**EAC-PM**), which is chaired by Bibek Debroy.

37. ▶ Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) named *N Ramaswamy* as CMD of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) & *M Rajeswari Singh* as CMD of National Insurance Company (NICL).

38. ▶ Former Brazilian President **Dilma Vana Rousseff** has been elected as new President of Shanghai based **New Development Bank** (NDB), also known as the BRICS bank.
    - ✎ It is a multilateral financial institution created by BRICS Bloc (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

39. ▶ Former bureaucrat **Shailesh Pathak** has been appointed new Secretary General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

40. ▶ Gianni Infantino (Switzerland) has been re-elected as Global Football governing body FIFA's president until 2027.

41. ▶ Govt announced New Union Minister Level appointments -
    - ✎ **Arjun Ram Meghwal** - Minister of Law and Justice (Independent Charge)
    - ✎ **Kiren Rijiju** -Minister of Earth Sciences.
    - ✎ **S P Singh Baghel** - Minister of State in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

42. ▶ Govt appointed as *SS Dubey* as *Controller General of Accounts* (CGA) under Ministry of Finance.

43. ▶ Govt cleared Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to appoint 7 new judges to Supreme court -
    - ✎ Pankaj Mithal (Chief Justice *Rajasthan HC*)
    - ✎ Sanjay Karol (Chief Justice *Patna HC*)
    - ✎ P V Sanjay Kumar (Chief Justice *Manipur HC*)
    - ✎ Rajesh Bindal (Chief Justice *Allahabad HC*)
    - ✎ Aravind Kumar (Chief Justice *Gujarat HC*)
    - ✎ Ahsanuddin Amanullah (Judge *Patna HC*)
    - ✎ Manoj Misra (Judge *Allahabad HC*)
    - ✎ With this, working strength of SC rose to 34 (Maxium sanctioned strength).

44. ▶ Govt named **K Rajaraman** (telecom secretary) as new chairperson of GIFT City (Gujarat) based International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**).

45. ▶ Govt named **Rakesh Pal** as new (25th) Director General of **Indian Coast Guard** (ICG).

46. ▶ Govt named **Amit Agrawal** as CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

47. ▶ Govt named **BVR Subrahmanyam** as new CEO of **NITI Aayog** for 2 years, succeeding Parameswaran lyer, who has been named as Executive Director at World Bank.

48. ▶ Govt named **Deepak Mohanty** as new chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**).

49. ▶ Govt named **Janardan Prasad** as new Director General of **Geological Survey of India** (GSI).

50. ▶ Govt named **K Satyanarayana Raju** as MD & CEO of **Canara Bank**.

51. ▶ Govt named **Praveen Sood** as new director general of Central Bureau of Investigation (**CBI**).

52. ▶ Govt named **Ravneet Kaur** as Chairperson of **Competition Commission of India** (CCI).

53. ▶ Govt named **Sat Pal Bhanoo** as a Managing Director (MD) in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

54. ▶ Govt named **Siddhartha Mohanty** as chairman of Life Insurance Company of India (**LIC**).
55. ▶ Govt named Angshumali Rastogi as India's representative to Montreal (Canada)-based council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
56. ▶ Govt named **Manoj Yadava** as new Director General of Railway Protection Force (**RPF**).
57. ▶ Govt re-appointed **Tushar Mehta** as **Solicitor General of India**, for 3 year term.
    - ✎ Solicitor General of India (SGI) is second-highest law officer of the country, and assists the Attorney General (highest law officer of the country).
58. ▶ Indian Industrialist (RIL Chairman) **Mukesh Ambani** has been appointed as member of Advisory Committee to the President of 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
    - ✎ Notably, UAE is chair for 28th *Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 2023* (Also called Conference of Parties, COP). COP 28 is to be held in Dubai in Nov-Dec 2023.
    - ✎ Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, is President-Designate of upcoming COP28 climate change conference.
59. ▶ Indian-American *Neera Tandon* has been named to head *Domestic Policy Council* (US)*,* as first Asian-American to lead any of the three major White House policy councils. Other 2 are National Security Council & National Economic Council.
60. ▶ Indian-American Neal Mohan has been named CEO of Alphabet-owned video Sharing platform **YouTube.**
61. ▶ Indian-origin Person **Ajay Banga** (former Mastercard CEO) has been appointed as new **President of World Bank**, becoming first Indian to assume this role.
62. ▶ Indian-origin satellite industry expert **Aarti Holla-Maini** has been named Director of United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (**UNOOSA**) by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
    - ✎ UNOOSA works to promote international cooperation in peaceful use and exploration of space for sustainable economic and social development.
63. ▶ Jishnu Barua has been named new chairperson of power regulator Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
64. ▶ Kuwait'*s Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah* has been elected as new President of Kuwait-based *Olympic Council of Asia* (OCA).
65. ▶ Ludovit Odor has been named New Prime Minister of **Slovakia** (Central Europe).
66. ▶ Manuela Roka Botey has been named as First Female Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea (Central Africa).
67. ▶ Misc. Appointments (Apr 2023) -
    - ✎ Senior level appointments in Indian Navy -
        - ✎ Suraj Berry - Chief of Personnel.
        - ✎ Atul Anand - Director General Naval Operations (DGNO).
    - ✎ *Rajesh Kumar Singh* has been named as Secretary in Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (Ministry of Commerce and Industry).
    - ✎ LIC named Ratnakar Patnaik as its new *Chief Investment Officer* and PC Paikray as *Chief Risk Officer*.
    - ✎ *Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo* is named as President of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), which administers Rifle shooting sports in India.
    - ✎ *Pankaj Singh* has been named president of Cycling Federation of India (CFI), which administers cycling sports in India.
    - ✎ Sudha Shivkumar has been named president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber in Southeast Asia.
    - ✎ Indian-American engineer Amit Kshatriya has been named first head of NASA's newly-established *Moon to Mars* Programme, that will help NASA in ensuring a long-term lunar presence needed to prepare for humanity's next giant leap to MARS.
    - ✎ RBI named **Neeraj Nigam** as an executive director (ED).
    - ✎ RBI approved re-appointment of Sanjay Agarwal as MD and CEO of AU Small Finance Bank.
    - ✎ HDFC Bank named *Kaizad Bharucha* as its Deputy Managing Director.
    - ✎ Miguel Díaz-Canel has been re-appointed as Cuba's President, for his 2nd term.
    - ✎ Govt named Arun Sinha as new Chairman of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
    - ✎ A Madhavarao has been named as new CMD of Defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
68. ▶ Misc. Appointments (Feb 2023) -
    - ✎ RS Reen has been appointed as new Director General Quality Assurance, under Department of Defence Production (Ministry of Defence).
    - ✎ Indian-American Ami Bera has been appointed as a member of a US House Committee handling intelligence-related matters.

- Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company appointed Madhvendra Singh as first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Maritime Cluster (GMC).
  - GMC is first of its kind Commercial Maritime Cluster in India, aimed at creating a hub for maritime services of international standards.
  - Gujarat Maritime Board had established GMC through its subsidiary Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited.
- American Financial Services Giant Morgan Stanley named Arun Kohli as head of its India Operations.
- Aniket Sunil Talati has been named as president of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for 2023-24.
- Former cricketer Shiv Sundar Das has been named BCCI Interim Chief Selector of Men's Cricket team, after earlier chief selector Chetan Sharma resigned.
- Tata Motors named Rajan Amba as MD of its subsidiary *Jaguar Land Rover*. Notably, Tata Motors had acquired *Jaguar Land Rover* businesses from Ford Motor Company in 2008, for US $2.3 billion.
- Govt appointed Rajesh Rai as CMD of PSU Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI Ltd).
- Indo-Canadian Afshan Khan has been named by UN as coordinator of *Scaling Up Nutrition* Movement, aimed at ending all types of malnutrition by 2030.
- Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde has been named ruling party Shiv Sena's prime leader, replacing Uddhav Thackeray.

69. ▶ Misc. Appointments (Jul 2023) -
- RBI named *P. Vasudevan* as an Executive Director (ED). RBI currently has 16 EDs.
- Govt extended tenure of Brajendra Navnit as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to World Trade Organisation (*WTO*), for 9 months (till 31 March 2024).
- SBI named *Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti* as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- Govt named *M U Nair* as new *National Cybersecurity Coordinator*.
- Aadhav Arjuna has been named president of Basketball Federation of India.
- Krishan Mishra has been named CEO of Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB India).
  - FPSB India is a Public–Private Enterprise and a Professional Standards Setting body for Financial Planners in India.
- FMCG Major ITC re-appointed Sanjiv Puri as its CMD.
- Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected for the post, in Presidential elections that were observed by Anup Chandra Pandey (Election Commissioner of India).
- International Myeloma Foundation named famed Indian researcher *S. Vincent Rajkumar* as its Chairman.
- *Rajay Kumar Sinha* has been named as MD & CEO of SBI Subsidiary SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS).

70. ▶ Misc. Appointments (June 2023) -
- Bidyut Bihari Swain has been named Member (UPSC).
  - Notably, Manoj Soni was recently named Chairman of UPSC.
- India-based Airline IndiGo's CEO, *Pieter Elbers* has been elected as chair-elect of International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors.
- *V Anantharaman* has been named as chairman of credit bureau *TransUnion CIBIL*.
- Nirmala Lakshman has been named Chairperson of Publishing House *The Hindu Group*.
- Govt named *Sanjay Swarup* as CMD of Railways PSU Container Corporation of India (CONCOR).
- Govt named Ajay Bhatnagar as Special Director in Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
  - Notably, Govt had recently named Praveen Sood as new director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Rohit Jawa has been named MD & CEO of FMCG major *Hindustan Unilever*.
- Hasmukh Adhia has been named Chairman of GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance-Tec City).
- UK named *Jane Marriott* as its first female High Commissioner to Pakistan.
- Bangladesh origin person Nusrat Chowdhury has been named as first Muslim female federal judge in US history.
- India's Aalok Kumar (NEC Corporation) has been named as member of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) High-level Advisory Group on *Digital Technology for Development*.
- BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) named India's *Ruby Sinha* (SheAtWork founder) as president of its women's vertical BRICS CCI WE.

71. ▶ Misc. Appointments (Mar 2023) -
- Savlon India named Noted Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as its *Hand Ambassador*.
- Mohit Joshi has been named IT Firm Tech Mahindra's MD & CEO.
- Lalit Kumar Gupta is named as CMD of PSU Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

- Media house NDTV named Former SEBI Chief Upendra Kumar Sinha as non-executive chairperson.
- Election Commission named padma shri awardee transgender folk dancer Manjamma Jogati as a poll icon to encourage more members of transgender community to vote.
- *Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan* has been named as Vice President of UAE.

72. Misc. Appointments (May 2023) -
  - New Indian Air Force Command Chiefs -
    - *Narmdeshwar Tiwari* - South Western Air Command.
    - *Balakrishnan Manikantan* - Southern Air Command.
  - *Ajay Yadav* has been named MD of PSU Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI).
  - *Saju Balakrishnan* has been appointed as new Commander-in-Chief of Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only tri-service theater command of Indian Armed Forces.
  - India's Omar Rashid has been named Chair for Technical Officials Committee of Badminton Asia.
  - Former England cricketer Mark Nicholas has been named next president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
  - P Krishna Bhat (Former judge of Karnataka HC) has been named as administrator of Basketball Federation of India (BFI), until a newly-elected body takes charge of BFI.
  - British telecom giant Vodafone named Margherita Della Valle as its CEO.
  - Govt named *A K Jain* as chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
  - Paytm parent firm One97 Communications named Bhavesh Gupta as its President and Chief Operating Officer (COO).
  - Indian American Geeta Rao Gupta has been named by US as *Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues*.
  - Linda Yaccarino has been named new CEO of social network Twitter, succeding Elon Musk.
  - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) named Rajiv Dhar as MD & CEO.
    - NIIF is investment platform for international / Indian investors anchored by Government of India.
  - Actress Alia Bhatt has been named first global ambassador from India by Italian Fashion Brand Gucci.
  - S N Subrahmanyan has been named CMD of India-based multinational engineering Firm Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
  - Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has been named Ambassador for Maharashtra's Swachh Mukh Abhiyan, to spread awareness about oral health and hygiene across state.
  - K Govindaraj has been elected as President of International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Asia.
  - Former cricketer Sourav Ganguly has been named brand ambassador by Tripura govt for promoting Tourism in state.

73. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader **Ajit Pawar** has been named **Deputy chief minister** of **Maharashtra**.

74. New Chief Justices Named in Various High Courts -
  - Gujarat - Ashish Jitendra Desai (Acting)
  - Manipur - M. V. Muralidaran (Acting)
  - Rajasthan - Manindra Mohan Shrivastava (Acting)
  - Jharkhand - Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
  - Gauhati (Covering Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland) - Sandeep Mehta
  - Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh - N. Kotiswar Singh

75. New Chief Justices named in Various high courts (July 2023) -
  - Bombay HC - Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya
  - Andhra Pradesh HC - Dhiraj Singh Thakur
  - Gujarat HC - Sunita Agarwal
  - Telangana HC - Alok Aradhe
  - Kerala HC - Ashish Jitendra Desai
  - Notably, This came after Ujjal Bhuyan (Former Telangana HC Chief Justice) and Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti (Kerala HC Chief Justice) were named as Judges in Supreme Court of India.
    - There are currently 32 judges (including Chief Justice) sitting in Supreme Court, against maximum possible strength of 34.

76. New Chief Justices named in Various high courts -
  - Chhattisgarh HC - Ramesh Sinha
  - Patna HC - K Vinod Chandran
  - Allahabad HC - Pritinker Diwaker

77. New Governors Appointed in Several States -
  - Gulab Chand Kataria - Assam

- Biswa Bhusan Harichandan - Chhattisgarh
- Anusuiya Uikye - Manipur
- S. Abdul Nazeer - Andhra Pradesh
- La. Ganesan - Nagaland
- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar - Bihar
- C.P. Radhakrishnan - Jharkhand
- Shiv Pratap Shukla - Himachal Pradesh
- Phagu Chauhan - Meghalaya
- Ramesh Bais - Maharashtra
- Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik - Arunachal Pradesh
- Lakshman Prasad Acharya - Sikkim
- B.D. Mishra - Lt. Governor of Ladakh

78. New Managing Directors (MD) named by Govt in Public Sector Banks -
- Debadatta Chand - Bank of Baroda.
- Rajneesh Karnatak - Bank of India.

79. Newly appointed Chief justices in various High courts -
- Bombay HC - Nitin Madhukar Jamdar (Acting)
- Himachal Pradesh HC - M S Ramachandra Rao
- Rajasthan HC - Augustine George Masih
- Madras HC - Sanjay V. Gangapurwala
- Andhra Pradesh HC - Akula Venkata Sesha Sai (Acting)
- Calcutta HC - T. S. Sivagnanam

80. Nikos Christodoulides has been named new President of **Cyprus** (island country in Mediterranean Sea).

81. Pakistani-origin Scottish politician **Humza Yousaf** has been named Scotland's new **First Minister**, becoming first person of colour to serve the post.
- First minister of Scotland is *head of the Scottish Government and keeper of Great Seal of Scotland*.

82. Rajesh Malhotra has been appointed as Principal Director General in Press Information Bureau (PIB).

83. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar reconstituted panel of vice-chairpersons of Rajya Sabha (Parliament's upper house).
- New members are *P T Usha, S Phangnon Konyak, Fauzia Khan, Sulata Deo, V Vijaysai Reddy, Ghanshyam Tiwari, L Hanumanthaiah and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray*.
  - Notably, *S Phangnon Konyak* became first woman from Nagaland to preside over Rajya Sabha.

84. Tayyip Erdogan has been re-elected as President of **Türkiye,** for his 5th term.

85. Trinidad and Tobago's Permanent Representative to the UN, **Dennis Francis** has been named President of **78th session** of UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- He will take over from Hungary's *Csaba Kőrösi* (President of 77th UNGA), from Sep 2023 onwards.

86. UAE Minister for Foreign Trade *Thani Al Zeyoudi* has been elected as chair of World Trade Organisation (**WTO**)'s **13th Ministerial Conference**, to be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024.

87. US Govt named **Eric Garcetti** as new US Ambassador to India.

88. US President Joe Biden nominated new Chiefs for US Navy & Air Force -
- Lisa Franchetti - US Navy (to become first female to hold the post).
- David Allvin - US Air Force.

Top

Awards

1. 13 Members of Parliament (MPs) have been named winners of **Sansad Ratna Awards 2023**, including 8 from Lok Sabha and 5 from Rajya Sabha -
- Lok Sabha -
  - Buidyut Baran Mahato (Jharkhand)
  - Sukanta Majumdar (West Bengal)
  - Adhir Ranjan Chauidhary (West Bengal)
  - Sudhir Gupta (Madhya Pradesh)

- 🖋 Kuldeep Rai Sharma (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)
- 🖋 Heena Vijayakumar Gavit (Maharashtra)
- 🖋 Gopal Chinayya Shettty (Maharashtra)
- 🖋 Amol Ramsingh Kolhe (Maharashtra)
  - 🖋 Rajya Sabha -
    - 🖋 John Brittas (Kerala)
    - 🖋 Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar)
    - 🖋 Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan (Maharashtra)
    - 🖋 Vishambhar Prasad Nishad (Uttar Pradesh)
    - 🖋 Chhaya Verma (Chhattisgarh)
  - 🖋 Notably, T K Rangarajan (Former Rajya Sabha MP & CPIM Leader) has been named winner of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award.

2. ▶ 65th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony -
   - 🖋 Grammy Awards (Earlier called *Gramophone Award*) are presented by US Based *The Recording Academy* to recognize achievements in music industry. Notable Winners in 2023 Edition -

Category	Winner
Album of the Year	*Harry's House* - Harry Styles
Record of the Year	*About Damn Time* - Lizzo
Song of The Year	*Just Like That*
Best New Artist	*Samara Joy*

   - 🖋 Notably, Indian music composer and environmentalist **Ricky Kej** won his 3rd Grammy Award during 2023 edition. This time he won *Best Immersive Audio Album* for *Divine Tides,* his collaborative work with *Stewart Copeland.*

3. ▶ 6th Hollywood Critics Association Film Awards -
   - 🖋 Indian film **RRR** won 4 awards - Best Action Film, Best International Film, Best Stunts, Best Original Song (Naatu Naatu)
   - 🖋 Other notable awards -
     - 🖋 Best Film - Everything Everywhere All at Once
     - 🖋 Best Director - Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert (for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*)
     - 🖋 Best Actor - Brendan Fraser (for *The Whale*)
     - 🖋 Best Actress - Michelle Yeoh (for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*)

4. ▶ 75th British Academy Film Awards 2023 (BAFTA) Winners -
   - 🖋 Best Film - The Power of the Dog
   - 🖋 Best Director - Jane Campion (for *The Power of the Dog*)
   - 🖋 Best Actor - Will Smith (for *King Richard*)
   - 🖋 Best Actress - Joanna Scanlan (for *After Love)*
   - 🖋 Best Actor in a Supporting Role - Troy Kotsur (for *CODA*)
   - 🖋 Best Actress in a Supporting Role - Ariana DeBose (for *West Side Story*)
   - 🖋 Outstanding British Film - Belfast
   - 🖋 Best Film (Other than English) - Drive My Car (Japan)
   - 🖋 Facts -
     - 🖋 American Film *Dune* received most nominations (11) and also won most awards (5).

5. ▶ 8th National Photography awards have been conferred on 13 awardees, including -
   - 🖋 Lifetime Achievement Award - Sipra Das.
   - 🖋 Professional Photographer of the year Award - Sasi Kumar Ramachandran
   - 🖋 Amateur Photographer of the Year award - Shri Arun Saha

6. ▶ 95th Academy Awards (**Oscars 2023**) -
   - 🖋 Awardees -

Category	Winner
Best Picture	*Everything Everywhere All at Once* (USA), directed by Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Brendan Fraser for *The Whale*
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Michelle Yeoh for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
Best Direction	Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

Best Supporting Actor	Ke Huy Quan for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
Best Supporting Actress	Jamie Lee Curtis for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
Best Original Screenplay	Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
Best Adapted Screenplay	Sarah Polley for *Women Talking,* based on novel by *Miriam Toews*
Best Original Score	Volker Bertelmann for *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Best Original Song	**Naatu Naatu** from **Indian** Film **RRR,** Music by ***M. M. Keeravani***, Lyrics by ***Chandrabose* [INDIA]**
Best Animated Feature Film	Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio
Best International Feature Film / Foreign Language Film	All Quiet on the Western Front (Germany), directed by *Edward Berger*
Best Documentary Feature	Navalny
Best Documentary Short	**Kartiki Gonsalves** and **Guneet Monga** for Tamil Film **The Elephant Whisperers [INDIA]**
Best Cinematography	James Friend for *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Best Film editing	Paul Rogers for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

- Facts -
    - Oscars are most prestigious honour in Film Industry globally.
    - Hosted at Dolby Theatre Hollywood, California (USA)
    - Most awards this year - Everything Everywhere All at Once (7)
    - Most nominations - Everything Everywhere All at Once (11)
    - India won 2 Awards at Oscars 2023 - For **Best Original Song** and **Best Documentary Short**. Notably, RRR Song *Naatu Naatu* also won Best Original Song at Golden Globe Awards 2023.
    - Other Notable Awards -
        - Academy Honorary Awards -
            - Euzhan Palcy
            - Diane Warren
            - Peter Weir Jean
        - Hersholt Humanitarian Award
            - Michael J. Fox

7. *Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival* 2023 Awardees -

Category	Winner
Best Film	The Kashmir Files
Film Of The Year	RRR
Best Actor	Ranbir Kapoor (Brahmastra Part One: Shiva)
Best Actress	Alia Bhatt (Gangubhai Khatiawadi)
Best Director	R Balki (Chup)
Best Actor In A Supporting Role	Manish Paul (Jug jug Jeeyo)
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Sachet Tandon (Maiyya Mainu – Jersey)
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Neeti Mohan (Meri Jaan – Gangubhai Khatiawadi)
Outstanding Contribution in Film Industry	Rekha
Outstanding Contribution in Music Industry	Hariharan

- Notably, Concerned *Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival awards* are different from *Dadasaheb Phalke Award,* which is India's highest award in field of cinema and is presented annually at National Film Awards ceremony by Directorate of Film Festivals (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting).

8. **Bulgarian** author **Georgi Gospodinov** won **International Booker Prize 2023**, for his Novel **Time Shelter**. It has been translated into English by Angela Rodel (US).
    - About -
        - International Booker Prize (formerly *Man Booker International Prize*) is an international literary award hosted in UK.
            - Background -
                - Introduction of International Prize to complement *Man Booker Prize* was announced in 2004. Between 2005 - 2015, the award was given every two years to a living author of any nationality for work published in English or generally available in English translation.

- Since 2016, the award has been given annually to a single book translated into English and published in UK/Ireland, with £50,000 prize for winning title, shared equally between author and translator.
- Notably -
  - *International Booker Prize* is different from *Booker Prize,* Earlier called *Man Booker Prize,* which is a literary prize awarded each year for best novel written in English and published in UK / Ireland.
  - Indian Author Perumal Murugan's novel *Pyre* was nominated for 2023 International Booker Prize longlist, Originally written in Tamil under title *Pukkuli*.

9. ▶ **Filmfare Awards** 2023 winners -
   - Best Film - Gangubai Kathiawadi
   - Best Actor -
     - Male - Rajkummar Rao for Badhaai Do
     - Female - Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
   - Best Director - Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi
   - Best Actor in a Supporting Role -
     - Male - Anil Kapoor for Jug Jugg Jeeyo
     - Female - Sheeba Chaddha for Badhaai Do
   - Best Music Album - Pritam for Brahmastra: Part One
   - Lifetime Achievement Award - Prem Chopra
   - Best Playback Singer -
     - Male - Arijit Singh for Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One
     - Female - Kavita Seth for Rangisari from Jug Jugg Jeeyo
   - RD Burman Award for Upcoming Music Talent - Jahnvi Shrimankar for Dholida from Gangubai Kathiawadi

10. ▶ **Gandhi Peace Prize** for 2021 has been conferred on **Gita Press** (Gorakhpur).
    - Gandhi Peace Prize is awarded annually (to Institutions / Individuals) since its inception by govt in 1995, on occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of M K Gandhi. It carries Prize money of Rs 1 crore.
    - Gita Press is world's largest publisher of Hindu religious texts, located in Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh). It completed 100 years of existence on 3 May, 2023.

11. ▶ **Neelesh B Mehta** has been selected for 32nd **GD Birla Award for Scientific Research** by K K Birla Foundation, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to field of wireless communications.
    - About the award -
      - Instituted in 1991 by K K Birla Foundation, *G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research* honors eminent Indian scientists below age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science. It consists of 5 Lakh Prize Money.
      - Awards Instituted by K K Birla Foundation in 1991 -
        - Saraswati Samman - For literary work in any Indian language
        - Vyas Samman - For prose/poetry work in Hindi
        - Bihari Puraskar - For prose/poetry work in Hindi/Rajasthani, only authors from Rajasthan are eligible
        - Shankar Puraskar - For a work in Hindi concerning Indian philosophy, culture and/or art.
        - Vachaspati Puraskar - For any work in Sanskrit.
        - G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research

12. ▶ **Neeli Bendapudi** (India-Born President of Pennsylvania State University (US)) has been honored with **2023 Immigrant Achievement Award** by Washington DC based American Immigration Council.

13. ▶ **Sahitya Akademi Awards** 2022 announced for 24 languages. It contains prize money of 1 Lakh INR. Awardees -

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Assamese	Bhool Satya (Short Stories)	Manoj Kumar Goswami
Bengali	Birbal (Novel)	Tapan Bandopadhyay
Bodo	Sansrini Modira (Poetry)	Rashmi Choudhury
Dogri	Chhe Roopak (Drama)	Veena Gupta
English	All The Lives We Never Lived (Novel)	Anuradha Roy
Gujarati	Gher Jatan (Autobiographical Essays)	Gulam Mohammad Shaikh
Hindi	Tumadi Ke Shabd (Poetry)	Badri Narayan
Kannada	Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvikate (Collection of Articles)	Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy
Kashmiri	Zael Dab (Literary Criticism)	Farooq Fayaz
Konkani	Amrutvel (Novel)	Maya Anil Kharangate

Maithili	Pen-Drive Me Prithvi (Poetry)	Ajit Azad
Malayalam	Ashaante Seethayanam (Literary Criticism)	M. Thomas Mathew
Manipuri	Leironnung (Poetry)	Koijam Shantibala
Marathi	Ujavya Sondechya Bahulya (Novel)	Praveen Dashrath Bandekar
Nepali	Saino (Drama)	K.B. Nepali
Odia	Dayanadi (Poetry)	Gayatribala Panda
Punjabi	Main Aynghosh Nahi (Short Stories)	Sukhjit
Rajasthani	Alekhun Amba (Play)	Kamal Ranga
Sanskrit	Deepmanikyam (Poetry)	Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani'
Santali	Sabarnaka Balire Sanan' Panjay (Poetry)	Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren)
Sindhi	Sindhi Sahit Jo Mukhtasar Itihas (Literary History)	Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani
Tamil	Kaala Paani (Novel)	M. Rajendran
Telugu	Manodharmaparagam (Novel)	Madhuranthakam Narendra
Urdu	Khwab Saraab (Novel)	Anis Ashfaq

- 🪶 Sahitya Akademi also announced -
  - 🪶 *Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2022,* on Dr Udaya Nath Jha (Central Sanskrit University Puri). It carries prize of Rs 1 Lakh.
  - 🪶 *Bal Sahtiya Puraskar 2023* on 22 writers & *Yuva Puraskar 2023 on* 20 writers, each carrying prize money of 50000.

14. ▶ **Subhash Chandran**'s novel *Samudrashila* has been chosen for **Akbar Kakkattil Award** in Kerala.

15. ▶ **T Pradeep** (IIT Madras) has been named among winners of **Eni Award**, considered among top global honours for scientific research in energy and environment.
   - 🪶 ENI Awards 2023 Winners -
     - 🪶 Energy Frontiers Award - Matthew Rosseinsky (University of Liverpool (UK)).
     - 🪶 Advanced Environmental Solutions Award - **Thalappil Pradeep (IIT Madras)**.
     - 🪶 Energy Transition Award - Yu Huang & Jeffrey R. Long (Both from University of California (USA))
   - 🪶 Eni Award is conferred by Italian oil and gas firm *Eni,* to encourage better use of energy sources and increased environmental research.

16. ▶ American Novelist **Barbara Kingsolver** won UK's **Women's Prize for Fiction 2023** for her novel *Demon Copperhead*. The award carries grant of £30000.
   - 🪶 Earlier, she won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2010 for her novel *The Lacuna*. This makes her the first author to win the award twice.
   - 🪶 About -
     - 🪶 *Women's Prize for Fiction* is an annual award given to best novel written by a woman in previous year, and published in Ireland and the UK.
     - 🪶 Notably, *Women's Prize for Non-Fiction* has been established in 2023, as a sister prize to *Women's Prize for Fiction*. It will first be awarded in 2024, also carrying a grant of £30000.

17. ▶ Argentine - American mathematician **Luis Ángel Caffarelli** has been named winner of **Abel Prize 2023**.
   - 🪶 It is awarded annually by King of Norway to outstanding mathematician(s).
   - 🪶 Named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel, Abel prize carries monetary award of 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (Approx .7 USD).

18. ▶ Assam NGO *Tapoban,* which supports children with special needs, has been honoured with Children's Champion Award 2023 by Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

19. ▶ British Indian Army Veteran *Rajindar Singh Dhatt* has been honored with *Points of Light* award by *UK govt*, for his efforts to bring together British Indian war veterans.
   - 🪶 Also, 7 year-old Indian-origin British girl Moksha Roy has also been awarded British PM's Points of Light award, for volunteering for a United Nations' sustainability initiative against microplastic pollution.

20. ▶ British Monarch *King Charles III* and Queen *Camilla* presented *Elephant Family environmental awards* to Indian conservationists.
   - 🪶 **Kartiki Gonsalves**, the debut director of Oscar winning documentary *The Elephant Whisperers*, received *Tara Award*.
     - 🪶 Notably, *The Elephant Whisperers* had earlier won *Best Documentary Short* title at Oscars 2023.
   - 🪶 *The Real Elephant Collective (Group of 70 Adivasi artists)* was honored with *Mark Shand Award*, named after late founder of Elephant Family.
   - 🪶 Also, King Charles III was presented with Scottish Crown Jewels, as symbols of his authority in Scotland.

21. ▶ British architect **David Alan Chipperfield** has been named winner of **Pritzker Architecture Prize** 2023**.

- Founded in 1979 by Jay A. Pritzker, the award is funded by Pritzker family and sponsored by Hyatt Foundation.
- It is referred to as Nobel Prize of architecture. The recipients receive US$100,000.

22. British children's writer **Michael Rosen** has been awarded **PEN Pinter Prize 2023.**
    - The Prize is conferred by *English PEN* in honour of late Nobel Literature Prize-winning playwright *Harold Pinter*.
    - It is given to a writer from UK, Ireland and the Commonwealth whose work is committed to a fearless exposition of truth about contemporary life.

23. English Author **Paterson Joseph** has been named winner of **2023 Royal Society of Literature (RSL) Christopher Bland Prize** for his debut novel*'The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho.*
    - RSL Christopher Bland Prize was strated by Royal Society of Literature to encourage work of older writers, awarded annually to an author who was first published when aged 50 or over. It carries prize of £10000.

24. First *ASI Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement award* has been conferred on **Jayant V. Narlikar** (Former ASI President).
    - In 2022, Astronomical Society of India (ASI) instituted Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement award to recognise eminent Indian astronomers, in honour of Prof. Govind Swarup, who is regarded as founder of Indian radio astronomy.

25. Former German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** received *Grand Cross 1st Class, Special issue of Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany,* as Germany's highest federal decoration, becoming 3rd german leader to receive this.

26. Former PM **Manmohan Singh** has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by India-UK Achievers Honours in London, for his economic and political contributions.

27. Foundation of *SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL)* conferred special literary award on Bangabandhu Sheikh **Mujibur Rahman,** for his trilogy- *The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries and the New China 1952*.

28. Home Minister Amit Shah presented *President's Colour* Award to Haryana state police, as highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military / police unit 'in India, also known as *Nishaan*.

29. Home Minister Amit Shah presented **Maharashtra Bhushan** award **2022** to Social activist **Appasaheb Dharmadhikari.**
    - Maharashtra Bhushan is highest civilian award presented annually by Government of Maharashtra.

30. India's **Jagdish Bakan** (*Wildlife Warden and Director of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve*) has been awarded biennial **Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management,** for introducing *green jobs* and *microcredit,* to stimulate community-led efforts to conserve biodiversity in Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve in India.
    - He received US$12,000 award as part of the honor, under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

31. India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) received *Porter Prize 2023* as recognition for its effective COVID-19 management.
    - The prize was conferred at *The India Dialog* organized by Institute for Competitiveness (IFC) and US Asia Technology Management Center (USATMC) at Stanford University.
    - Porter Prize is named after noted American economist & researcher Michael E. Porter. Notably, it is different from Porter Prize conferred by Porter Fund Literary Prize, awarded annually to a notaable writer with connection with US State Arkansas.

32. India-Born MIT (US) Professor **Hari Balakrishnan** has been named winner of **Marconi Prize 2023,** an annual award recognizing achievements in field of communications (radio, mobile, wireless, telecommunications, data communications, networks, and Internet).
    - This prize is awarded by Marconi Society, and includes $100,000 honorarium.

33. Indian author **Arundhati Roy** has been awarded **European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement 2023** for French translation of her book **Azadi**, by Charles Veillon Foundation.

34. Indian short film *When climate change turns violent* (Directed by Vandita Sariya) has been named winner in *Special Prize Climate Change and Health Film* category, at 4th Annual *Health for All Film Festival* 2023, held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva.

35. Indian-origin American Actress *Vera Mindy Chokalingam* (known as Mindy Kaling) is among awardees of *2021 National Humanities Medal* to be presented by US President Joe Biden.

36. International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2023 Winners -
    - Best Film - Drishyam 2
    - Best Director - R Madhavan for Rocketry: The Nambi Effect
    - Best Actor (Female) - Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
    - Best Actor (Male) - Hrithik Roshan for Vikram Vedha
    - Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female) - Mouni Roy for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
    - Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male) - Anil Kapoor for Jugg Jugg Jeeyo
    - Best Playback Singer (Female) - Shreya Ghoshal for Rasiya from Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
    - Best Playback Singer (Male) - Arijit Singh for the song Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva

- Best Music Direction - Pritam for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
- Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema - Kamal Haasan

37. ▶ JSW Group CMD Sajjan Jindal has been named winner of *EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022*, to now represent India at *EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2022* to be held in Monaco in June 2023.

38. ▶ Kerala Govt conferred *Swaraj Trophy* awards for 2021-22, honoring best performing district panchayat, block panchayat and municipalities across state. Notably, Kollam district panchayat was named best district panchayat.

39. ▶ Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi's annual fellowships and awards 2022 -
- Akademi fellowships Awardees - *Gopinath Kozhikode* (Theatre director), *Vidyadharan Master* (Musician) and *Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan* (chenda and idakka exponent). Fellowships carry cash prize of 50000.

40. ▶ Maharashtra govt honored noted social worker and reformer **Appasaheb Dharmadikari** (*Dattatreya*) with **Maharashtra Bhushan award** for 2022.
- Maharashtra Bhushan is highest civilian award presented annually by Government of Maharashtra, carrying 25 Lakh prize money.

41. ▶ Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan Awards 2023 **-**
- **Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Award** - **Asha Bhosle**.
  - This award was formed in 2022, after Bharat Ratna awardee legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away. PM Narendra Modi was 1st recepient of this award.
  - This award is given to a person who has made an outstanding and exemplary contribution to their work for country, people and society.
- Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award - Pankaj Udhas.
- Actress Vidya Balan has also been felicitated for her contribution to cinema.

42. ▶ Misc / Industrial Awards (Apr 2023) -
- Nilesh Bhagwan Sambre (founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation) has been honored with *Maratha Udyog Ratna* award at *Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023*.
- Kumar Mangalam Birla (Chairman of Aditya Birla Group) has been named *Business Leader of the Decade*, by All India Management Association (AIMA).
- Indian Pharma firm *Bharat Biotech* has been awarded Best Production/Process Development award at World Vaccine Congress 2023 (Washington, USA).
- Indian-American physician Nitya Abraham has been honoured with *Young Urologist of the Year Award* by American Urological Association.
- Noted surgeon *Raghu Ram Pillarisetti* has been awarded lifetime achievement award by *Telugu Association of London*.
- Colombian singer *Shakira* has been named winner of inaugural *Latin Women of the Year* award by Billboard (American music and entertainment magazine.
- India's Maharatna PSU Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) has been conferred Global Gold Award by *The Green Organization*, at Green World Awards 2023 in Miami (USA).
  - Award is a recognition of PGCIL's CSR work for improving Agriculture Productivity and Rural Livelihood through watershed management, community participation and better crop management practices in 10 villages of Odisha.
- Karnataka won national award for best implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in FY 2022-23.

43. ▶ Misc. / Industrial Awards (Feb 2023) -
- VP Nandakumar (Manappuram Finance MD & CEO) received *Hurun Industry Achievement Award 2022* for achievements in business.
- PSU NTPC has been honoured with *ATD Best Awards 2023* by Association for Talent Development (USA), as 6th time that NTPC Limited has won this award.
- *Karnataka Bank* has been awarded with *Prathista Puraskar* under 'Digidhan Awards 2021-22 by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, for achieving target with highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions in private sector bank category.

44. ▶ Misc. / Industrial Awards (Jul 2023) -
- President Draupadi Murmu presented Visitor's Awards 2021, during *Visitor's Conference 2023* held at Rashtrapati Bhavan -
  - Innovation - Venktesh Singh (Central University of South Bihar)
  - Research in Physical Sciences - Surajit Dhara (University of Hyderabad)
  - Research in Biological Sciences - Mohammed Latif Khan (Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar)
  - Technology Development - KC James Raju (University of Hyderabad).
  - Notably, President of India is the Visitor of 162 Central Institutions of Higher Learning.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred National Geoscience Awards 2022 to 22 Geoscientists, notably including -

- Life Time Achievement - Om Narain Bhargava, *for his work in the Himalayas.*
- National Young Geoscientist Award - Amiya Kumar Samal (BHU)

45. Misc. / Industrial Awards (June 2023) -

- 12 start-ups have been named winners of 5th Edition of *Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Dialogue India* 2022, making them eligible for receiving seed funding up to $5000.
  - Youth Co:Lab was created in 2017 by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Citi Foundation, to establish a common agenda for countries in Asia-Pacific region to empower youth. In India, Youth Co:Lab was launched in 2019 in partnership with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- President Droupadi Murmu conferred *National Florence Nightingale Awards* for 2022 and 2023 to 30 nursing professionals, for their service to the community.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented 4th National Water Awards to 41 winner in 11 categories. Notable Awardees -
  - Best State - Madhya Pradesh
  - Best District - Ganjam District (Odisha)
  - Best Village Panchayat - Jagannadhapuram (Telangana)
  - Best Urban Local Body - Chandigarh Municipal Corporation
  - Best Industry - NTPC Barauni Thermal Power Station (Bihar)
- Indian PSU NTPC has been recognized as Team Marksmen's *Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24.*
- Noted Indian Singer & Musician *Shankar Mahadevan* has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Birmingham City University (UK), for his services to music and the arts.
- As first such honor for India, 5 buildings/structures from Telangana have been selected for *International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings,* by London-based *The Green Organisation*.
- Music industry's top honor Grammy Awards will introduce three new categories from next edition onwards - Best African Music Performance, Best Pop Dance Recording, and Best Alternative Jazz Album.

46. Misc. / Industrial Awards (March 2023) -

- CBIP (Central Board Of Irrigation And Power) Awards 2022 -
  - Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation - *NTPC's Vindhyachal super thermal power station*.
  - Best Contribution in Solar Energy - *Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)*.
  - Best-performing transmission power sector - *Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL)*.
- India's Ministry of Tourism won Golden & Silver Star at International *Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023* in *TV/Cinema Commercials International* Category at ITB Berlin 2023 (*world's leading tourism trade show*).
  - Promotional films / commercials that received awards were produced by Ministry as part of its Post Covid Promotional Global Campaign on India reopening.
- GSM Association (GSMA) conferred Government Leadership Award 2023 to India, for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.
- HDFC Bank MD & CEO, Sashidhar Jagdishan has been named as Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022.

47. Misc. / Industrial Awards (May 2023) -

- PSU RINL has been conferred with *GreenTech Safety Award 2023* by Greentech Foundation, for its contribution to improve workplace safety**.**
- Noted Sanskrit scholar and Executive Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan centre in London, *M.N. Nandakumara* has been awarded an honorary MBE by King Charles III for his contributions to Indian classical arts in Britain.
- Buddhanjali Research Foundation honoured Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath with its *Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award*, for creating a fear-free State. Award was presented by Former President Ram Nath Kovind.

48. Notable **Pulitzer Prize Winners 2023** -

- Letters, Drama, and Music -
  - Fiction - Demon Copperhead by *Barbara Kingsolver* & Trust by *Hernan Diaz*
  - Drama - English by *Sanaz Toossi*
  - History - Freedom's Dominion by *Jefferson Cowie*
  - Biography - G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century by *Beverly Gage*
  - Autobiography - Stay True by *Hua Hsu*
  - Poetry - Then the War by *Carl Phillips*

- Music - Omar by *Rhiannon Giddens* and *Michael Abels*
- General Non-fiction - *His Name Is George Floyd* by *Robert Samuels* and *Toluse Olorunnipa*
- Journalism -
  - Public Service - *Associated Press*
  - Breaking News Reporting - Staff of *The Los Angeles Times*
  - Investigative Reporting - Staff of *The Wall Street Journal*
  - Explanatory Reporting - Caitlin Dickerson of *The Atlantic*
  - Local Reporting - Anna Wolfe of *Mississippi Today*
  - National Reporting - Caroline Kitchener of *The Washington Post*
  - International Reporting - Staff of *The New York Times*
  - Criticsm - Andrea Long Chu of *New York magazine*
- About -
  - Pulitzer Prize is administered by Columbia University for achievements in newspaper, magazine, online journalism, literature, and musical composition within US. It was established in 1917 by provisions in will of Joseph Pulitzer, who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher.
  - Prizes are awarded annually in 22 two categories. In 21 categories, each winner receives US$15,000 cash award. The winner in public service category is awarded a gold medal.

49. Notable Awardees at 2023 Cannes Film Festival (France) -
- Palme d'Or (Best Film) - Anatomy of a Fall by *Justine Triet*
- Best Director - Tran Anh Hung for *The Pot-au-Feu*
- Best Actress - Merve Dizdar for *About Dry Grasses*
- Best Actor - Kōji Yakusho for *Perfect Days*
- Honorary Palme d'Or - Michael Douglas (US) and Harrison Ford (US), for their outstanding career and contributions to cinema.

50. Notable Awardees at *5th UK-India Awards 2023* (London) -
- Global Indian Icon - **Mary Kom** (India's first Olympic medallist in women's boxing).
- Lifetime Contribution to UK-India Relations - **Shekhar Kapur** (Filmmaker)

51. Noted **Hindi** writer **Gyan Chaturvedi** has been selected for **32nd Vyas Samman** 2022 by K K Birla Foundation, for his 2018 novel *Pagalkhana*.
- About the award -
  - Instituted in 1991 by K K Birla Foundation, Vyas Samman recognises an outstanding Hindi literary work by an Indian citizen published during last 10 years. It carries an award money of ₹4 lakh.
  - Awards Institited by K K Birla Foundation in 1991 -
    - Saraswati Samman - For literary work in any Indian language
    - Vyas Samman - For prose/poetry work in Hindi
    - Bihari Puraskar - For prose/poetry work in Hindi/Rajasthani, only authors from Rajasthan are eligible
    - Shankar Puraskar - For a work in Hindi concerning Indian philosophy, culture and/or art.
    - Vachaspati Puraskar - For any work in Sanskrit.
    - G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research

52. Noted Anglo Indian author **Peggy Mohan** received Mathrubhumi Book of the Year Award 2022, for her work *Wanderers, Kings and Merchants*. Award comprises Rs 2 lakh monetary prize.

53. Noted India-born British-American author **Salman Rushdie** has named winner of **Peace Prize of the German Book Trade** 2023 (*Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels*), carrying grant of €25000.

54. Noted Indian historian **Ramachandra Guha**'s book **Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom** won **Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023**.
- This award was established in memory of British author & historian Elizabeth Longford, carrying £5,000 monetary grant.

55. Noted Indian industrialist **Ratan Tata** has been appointed as an Honorary Officer in General Division of **Order of Australia,** the highest civil honour in Australia.

56. Noted Indian writer **Vinod Kumar Shukla** won **2023 PEN/Nabokov** Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Referred to as PEN/Nabokov Award, it is awarded biennially by PEN America, carrying $50,000 monetary reward.

57. Noted Indian-American mathematician and statistician **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao** has been honorerd with **2023 International Prize in Statistics**, the equivalent to Nobel Prize in Statistics.

- Awarded every 2 years, International Prize in Statistics carries $80000 Monetary Reward.
- International Prize in Statistics & COPSS Presidents' Award, are 2 highest honours in field of Statistics.
- C R Rao is currently professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University and Research Professor at University at Buffalo (US).

58. ▶ Noted Konkani novelist **Damodar Mauzo** received **57th Jnanpith Award** (for 2022).
- Jnanpith Awards, India's highest literary honour is bestowed on writers for their outstanding contribution to the Literature. It includes cash prize of 11 lakh.

59. ▶ Noted Ladakh based inventor **Sonam Wangchuk** has been honored with **Santokbaa Humanitarian Award**, an initiative of diamond crafting and exports firm Shree Ramkrishna Exports (SRK). The award carries cash prize of 1 crore.

60. ▶ Noted economist **Utsa Patnaik** has been named winner of **Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023**, given by Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust. It carries prize money of 2 lakh.

61. ▶ Noted journalist **A B K Prasad** has been chosen for **Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award** for excellence in journalism.

62. ▶ Noted poet and Sahitya Akademi Award recipient **Acharya N. Gopi** has been selected for First **Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar** Award instituted by **Bharat Jagruthi**, the extended arm of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (Telangana).

63. ▶ Noted singer & musician **Bombay Jayashri** has bean chosen for Madras Music Academy's **Sangita Kalanidhi award 2023**.
- Other notable awards announced on the occasion -
  - Nritya Kalanidhi - Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari
  - Musicologist - Arimalam S Padmanabhan

64. ▶ Poet **V Madhusoodanan Nair** has been awarded **Jnanappana Prize** 2023, for his contribution to *Malayalam* literature.
- This award is instituted by Guruvayur Devaswom, and carries cash prize of 50001.

65. ▶ RBI Governor *Shaktikanta Das* received *Governor of the Year 2023* Award by international publication Central Banking, for steering through multiple crises including pandemic and inflation due to war in Ukraine.

66. ▶ RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has been named Winner of ***Governor of the year*** Award at Central Banking Awards 2023 (London).
- Also, National Bank of Ukraine has been named Central Bank of the year.

67. ▶ Russian Novelist **Maria Stepanova** has been Awarded *2023 Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding*, for her poetry collection *Girls without Clothes*.
- *Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding* is a prominent literature prize in Germany, with prize money of 20,000 euros.

68. ▶ Sangeet Natak Akademi honored total 102 artists with **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** for **2019, 2020 and 2021.**
- About -
  - Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar is annually given by Sangeet Natak Akademi to outstanding artists under 40 years age, in fields of music, dance and drama.
  - Every year up to 33 artists are selected. Award winners receive a prize of 25000.

69. ▶ Tamil writer **Sivasankari** has been chosen for **Saraswati Samman 2022** by K K Birla Foundation, for her 2019 memoir *Surya Vamsam*.
- About the award -
  - Instituted in 1991 by K K Birla Foundation, Saraswati Samman honors outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of 22 languages of India listed in Schedule VIII of Constitution. It consists of 15 Lakh Prize Money.
  - Awards Instituted by K K Birla Foundation in 1991 -
    - Saraswati Samman - For literary work in any Indian language
    - Vyas Samman - For prose/poetry work in Hindi
    - Bihari Puraskar - For prose/poetry work in Hindi/Rajasthani, only authors from Rajasthan are eligible
    - Shankar Puraskar - For a work in Hindi concerning Indian philosophy, culture and/or art.
    - Vachaspati Puraskar - For any work in Sanskrit.
    - G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research

70. ▶ Tata Group Chairman **N. Chandrasekaran** has been honored with **France**'s highest civilian award *Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur,* for his contributions in strengthening trade relationships between India and France.

71. ▶ Tata Sons' Chairman Emeritus **Ratan Tata** has been conferred with **Order of Australia** (Australia's highest civilian honour), for his efforts in strengthening India-Australia bilateral relations.

72. ▶ Tibetan spiritual leader **Dalai Lama** has been physically presented **Ramon Magsaysay** Award which was conferred on him in **1959** *(an year after inception of Ramon Magsaysay Awards in 1958).*

73. ▶ US Department of Labor honored Chennai based Child Rights Advocate **Lalitha Natarajan** with **2023 Iqbal Masih Award** for the Elimination of Child Labor.

74. ▶ Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has been honored with *Order of the White Eagle* (Poland's highest distinction), for his services to security, resilience and the defense of human rights, amid war with Russia.

75. ▶ University of Texas (US) conferred Indian industrialist (and University's alumnus) **Naveen Jindal** with a lifetime achievement award for his accomplishments in industry, politics and education.

76. ▶ Winners of **Goldman Environment Prize 2023** -

   🔍 Zafer Kizilkaya (Turkey) - In collaboration with local fishing cooperatives and Turkish authorities, He expanded Turkey's network of marine protected areas along 310 miles of Mediterranean coast.

   🔍 Alessandra Korap (Brazil) - An Indigenous woman from Amazon, who organized community efforts to stop mining development by a British mining company in Brazil's Amazon rainforest.

   🔍 Chilekwa Mumba (Zambia) - He Alarmed pollution produced by Konkola Copper Mines operation in Copperbelt Province of Zambia, and organized a lawsuit to hold mine's parent company, Vedanta Resources, responsible.

   🔍 Tero Mustonen (Finland) - He led restoration of 62 severely degraded former industrial peat mining and forestry sites throughout Finland, totaling 86,000 acres.

   🔍 Delima Silalahi (Indonesia) - Led a campaign to secure legal stewardship of approx 18000 acres of tropical forest land for six Indigenous communities in North Sumatra.

   🔍 Diane Wilson (USA) - She won a landmark case against Huge pharma firm Formosa Plastics, for illegal dumping of toxic plastic waste on Texas' Gulf Coast.

   🔍 About -

      🔍 Goldman Environmental Prize is awarded annually to grassroots environmental activists, one from each of world's six geographic regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands and Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America).

      🔍 Awarded by San Francisco (US) based Goldman Environmental Foundation, It is also called Green Nobel, and carries prize money of USD 200000.

Books

1. ▶ Author *Shantanu Gupta* launched his graphic novel *Ajay to Yogi Adityanath,* based on life of Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.

2. ▶ Autobiography of Rayala Corporation MD *Ranjit Pratap*, titled *As the wheel turns,* has been released by Former Vice President *Venkaiah Naidu.*

3. ▶ Book **Nalanda**, written by Poet-Diplomat **Abhay K** has been released.

4. ▶ Book *As Good as My Word*, written by **KM Chandrasekhar** (former Cabinet Secretary) has been released.

5. ▶ Book *Collective Spirit, Concrete Action,* by former Prasar Bharti CEO **Shashi Shekhar** has been released, documenting PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme.

6. ▶ Book *Colours of devotion* : *The Legendary Paintings and Textiles of the Vallabha Sampradaya 1500-1900,* authored by *Anita Bharat Shah* has been released.

7. ▶ Book *Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills* written by **Kasturi Ray** has been released.

8. ▶ Book *Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta,* authored by **Piyush Babele** has been released.

9. ▶ Book *India Rising Memoir of a Scientist,* authored by *R. Chidambaram* (Noted Physicist) and *Suresh Gangotra* has been released.

10. ▶ Book *India's Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era*, authored by *P. Jyothimani* & *G. Balan*, has been released.

11. ▶ Book *Karma Sutras - Leadership and Wisdom in Uncertain Times,* by Debashis Chatterjee (Director IIM-Kozhikode) has been released.

   🔍 Also, Malayalam translation of *Krishna – the 7th Sense* by Debashis Chatterjee was also released.

12. ▶ Book *Kathakali Dance Theatre: A Visual Narrative of Sacred Indian Mime*, authored by *KK Gopalakrishnan* has been released.

13. ▶ Book *Master Residential Real Estate*, authored by *Ashwinder R Singh,* has been released.

14. ▶ Book *Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva*, authored by *Sudha Pai* and *Sajjan Kumar* has been released.

15. ▶ Book *Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux,* edited by Sujan Chinoy, Vijay Chauthaiwale & Uttam Sinha has been released. It has been forwarded by External Affair Minister *S. Jaishankar.*

16. ▶ Book *Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity*, written by **Karan Singh** (former MP) has been released.

17. ▶ Book *Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow,* authored by noted short filmmaker **Vinod Mankara** has been released. It focuses on India's Chandrayaan 3 lunar mission.

18. ▶ Book *Ringside*, written by **Vijay Darda** (Lokmat Media) has been released.

19. ▶ Book *Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories*, authored by **Amitav Ghosh** has been released.

20. ▶ Book *The Great Bank Robbery: NPAs, Scams and the Future of Regulation*, co-authored by *Pattabhi Ram* & *Sabyasachee Dash,* has been released.

21. ▶ Book *The Power of One Thought: Master Your Mind, Master Your Life,* authored by **BK Shivani** has been released.

22. ▶ Book *The Yoga Sutras for Children*, authored by *Roopa Pai*, has been released.

23. ▶ Book *Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography*, authored by **TN Seshan** (former Chief Election Commissioner of India) has been released.

24. ▶ Book *Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-77*, authored by **Abhishek Choudhary** has been released. It focuses on former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's early years.

25. ▶ Book *Why Can't Elephants be Red*, authored by Vani Tripathi Tikoo (censor board member) has been released.

26. ▶ Book **Guts Amidst Bloodbath** : **Anshuman Gaekwad Narrative**, authored by **Aditya Bhushan** has been released, based on former cricketer Aunshuman Gaekwad's life.

27. ▶ Book **War and Women***,* authored by **M A Hasan** (Bangladesh) has been released, during 52nd Session of UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva (Switzerland). It highlights suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by Pakistan Army during 1971 war.

28. ▶ Book **A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service**, authored by Indian Diplomat **Satish Chandra** has been released.

29. ▶ Book **A Matter of the Heart: Education in India**, authored by **Anurag Behar** (CEO of Azim Premji Foundation) has been released.

30. ▶ Book **Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema**, authored by **Aniruddha Bhattacharjee** has been released. It is based on life of veteran Indian filmmaker Basu Chatterjee.

31. ▶ Book **Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform**, authored by journalist **Rachna Biswat Rawat** has been released. It is based on life of First Chief of Defence Staff *Bipin Rawat*.

32. ▶ Book **Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire**, written by University of Liverpool (UK) professor **Nandini Das,** has been released.

33. ▶ Book **Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise**, authored by Former NITI Aayog CEO **Amitabh Kant** has been released.

34. ▶ Book **Sachin@50 - Celebrating A Maestro**, written by sports historian **Boria Majumdar** has been released.

35. ▶ Book **Snakes In the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0,** authored by *Rajiv Malhotra* and *Vijaya Viswanathan* has been released.

36. ▶ Book **The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces,** authored by **Feroze Varun Gandhi** has been released.

37. ▶ English translation of Nepali novel *Phoolange* has been released, written by Lekhnath Chhetri. It focuses on failed Gorkha movement for a separate state.

38. ▶ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched book titled **Reflections**, authored by **Narayanan Vaghul**.

39. ▶ Former J&K CM **Ghulam Nabi Azad**'s autobiography, Titled **Azaad**, has been released.

40. ▶ Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya released book **India's Vaccine Growth Story – From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri**, authored by **Sajjan Singh Yadav**. It was released during New Delhi World Book fair 2023.

41. ▶ Home Minister Amit Shah released book **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die**, on the occasion of death anniversry of Noted Scientist & Former President of India *Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam*.

    🖊 The book is English Translation of *Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai*. It has been Written by 2 close people to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam - his niece Nazema Maraikayar and Noted ISRO scientist YS Rajan.

42. ▶ Journalist **Ashok Kumar Bhattacharya**'s new book *India's Finance Ministers: From Independence to Emergency (1947-1977)*, has been released.

43. ▶ KK Shailaja (Kerala Legislative Assembly member)'s autobiography *My Life As A Comrade* has been released.

44. ▶ Marathi author and historian Shrimant Kokate's first English Book *Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (illustrated)*, has been released, translated by Dilip Chavan.

45. ▶ New book *NTR-A Political Biography*, authored by *Ramachandra Murthy Kondubhatla* has been released, based on life of Noted Telugu Actor and Leader Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR).

46. ▶ Noted Former Tennis Player **Jaidip Mukerjea**'s autobiography titled **Crosscourt**, has been released.

47. ▶ Noted India born British-American novelist **Salman Rushdie**'s new novel **Victory City** has been released.

48. ▶ Noted Indian author **Ruskin Bond's** new book *The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life*, has been released.

49. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Released Book *Saurashtra Tamil Sangamprasastih*, compiled by scholars from Gujarat's *Shri Somnath Sanskrit University*, highlighting relationship between Saurashtra and Tamil Nadu.

50. ▶ SBI launched its coffee table book titled *The Banker to Every Indian*.

51. ▶ Short stories collection *The Book of Bihari Literature*, edited by Abhay Kumar has been released.

Committees

1. ▶ Committee formed by govt to promote inter-mandi & inter-State trade through conceptualization and implementation of Market Yard of National Importance (MNI), has submitted its report. It was headed by *Manoj Rajan*.

2. ▶ Finance Ministry has set up a committee under Finance Secretary T V Somanathan, to review pension system for government employees.

3. ▶ Govt formed panel headed by Cabinet Secretary (Rajiv Gauba currently), to monitor implementation of *Mission Karmayogi*, which aims at capacity building of civil servants.

4. ▶ Govt has set up an expert panel led by former law secretary **T K Vishwanathan** to recommend **reforms in Arbitration and Conciliation Act,** to reduce burden on courts.

5. ▶ Govt. formed committee to draft *Digital Competition Act* after studying anticompetitive practices, within 3 months. Panel will be headed by Manoj Govil (secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs).

6. ▶ Group constituted by Ministry of Power for suggesting measures for *Development of Electricity Market in India* submitted its report, under chairmanship of Alok Kumar (Power Secretary).

7. ▶ International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) constituted an expert committee to suggest measures to encourage Indian Fintech / Startups domiciled abroad to relocate to GIFT IFSC. This committee will be chaired by former RBI Executive Director **G. Padmanabhan**.

8. ▶ Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways constituted a Committee under Deendayal Port Authority Chairman (S K Mehta currently), for drafting revised Guidelines for operationalization of Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax ferry services.

9. ▶ RBI Committee for *Review of Customer Service Standards in RBI Regulated Entities* (REs) submitted its report, under Chairmanship of **BP Kanungo** (former RBI Deputy Governor).

10. ▶ To Oversee Cheetah Project, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) constituted a Project Steering Committee*,* headed by **Rajesh Gopal** (Global Tiger Forum).

Days

1. ▶ 8th July is Observed as Rythu Dinotsavam meaning Farmer's Day in Andhra Pradesh. It marks birth anniversary of 14th CM of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S Rajasekhara Reddy, being celebrated since 2019.

2. ▶ **Apr 24** is observed as **National Panchayati Raj Day** in India, since 2010.
   - 🖊 It marks passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.
   - 🖊 On this occasion -
     - 🖊 In Rewa (MP), PM Nardendra Modi inaugurated integrated *eGramSwaraj* and *GeM portal for public procurement at Panchayat level*, to enable Panchayats to procure their goods and services through GeM, leveraging eGramSwaraj platform.

3. ▶ Apr 10 is observed as **World Homoeopathy Day**. It marks Birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homoeopathy. He was born on 10 April 1755.

4. ▶ Apr 11 is observed as *National Safe Motherhood Day in India*.
   - 🖊 In 2003, Govt. marked M K Gandhi's Wife Kasturba Gandhi's birth anniversary on April 11 as National Safe Motherhood Day.
   - 🖊 April 11 is also observed globally as *World Parkinson's Day*.

5. ▶ Apr 12 is marked as *International Day of Human Space Flight*. It commemorates Yuri Gagarin's historic spaceflight on Apr 12, 1961.
   - 🖊 Day was proclaimed by UN in 2011. In 1957, first human made earth satellite Sputnik I was launched into outer space. On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first man to orbit earth successfully.

6. ▶ Apr 13 is also observed as *Siachen Day* by Indian Army. On April 13, 1984, Indian Army launched "Operation Meghdoot" to secure Bilafond La and other passes on Saltoro Ridgeline from Pakistan.

7. ▶ Apr 15 is observed as *World Art Day*, being observed since 2012.

8. ▶ Apr 16 is observed as World Voice Day.
   - 🖊 Apr 16 is also observed globally as *Save the elephants day*. On this occasion, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated *Gaj Utsav 2023* at Kaziranga National Park (Assam).

9. ▶ Apr 17 is observed as *World Hemophilia Day*, observed by World Federation of Hemophilia

10. ▶ Apr 18 is observed as **World Heritage Day**, also as International Day of Monuments and sites. It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1983. 2023 Theme is *Heritage Changes*.

11. ▶ Apr 19 is observed globally as *World Liver Day,* to raise awareness about liver-related diseases.

12. ▶ Apr 2 is observed as World Autism Awareness Day, proclaimed in 2007.

   🖌 Apr 2 is also observed as International Children's Book Day (ICBD).

13. ▶ Apr 20 is observed as UN Chinese Language Day, being observed since 2010.

14. ▶ Apr 21 is marked as **National Civil Services Day**.

   🖌 It was on this day in 1947, That First Home Minister Sardar Shri Vallabhai Patel addressed first batch probationers of Administrative Services. On this occasion -

      🖌 *Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022* was conferred to *Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT),* for successful implementation of *PM GatiShakti National Master Plan* programme.

   🖌 Apr 21 is also observed by UN as **World Creativity and Innovation Day**.

15. ▶ Apr 22 is observed as **World Earth Day** (or International Mother Earth Day), Being Observed Since 1970. 2023 Theme is ***Invest In Our Planet***.

   🖌 On this occasion, Rajasthan's Forest Department announced three new conservation reserves that will protect rare and endangered wildlife. These are - Sorsan in Baran, Khichan in Jodhpur, and Hamirgarh in Bhilwara.

16. ▶ Apr 23 is observed as UNESCO **World Book and Copyright Day**. It is being observed since 1995. 2023 theme is ***Indigenous Languages***. For 2023, **Accra** (Capital of **Ghana**) is declared as World Book Capital.

   🖌 Apr 23 is also observed as Global English Language Day and Spanish Language Day.

   🖌 April 23 also observed as Khongjom Day in Indian state of Manipur, commemorating warriors who fought in 1891 Anglo-Manipur war.

      🖌 War was fought between 31 March and 27 April of 1891. It resulted in victory of British.

      🖌 The war has its significance in Indian history for bravery of soldiers that fought against three sides of British attack, that is, from Silchar, Kohima and Myanmar. Battle was fought at the Kheba hills of Khongjom in Manipur, hence named Khongjom Day.

17. ▶ Apr 25 is observed as **World Malaria Day**, established by World Health Organization in 2007. 2023 Theme is *Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement.*

   🖌 Apr 25 also marks UN **International Delegate's Day**. It was first observed in 2020, on 75th anniversary of San Francisco Conference (1945).

   🖌 Apr 25 is also observed as *World Penguin Day.*

18. ▶ Apr 26 is observed as **World Intellectual Property Day**, established by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000. On 26 Apr in 1970, WIPO had come in force. 2023 Theme is *Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity*.

   🖌 Apr 26 is also observed as *UN International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day*, Proclaimed in 2016. It aims to raise awareness of consequences of 1986 Chernobyl disaster and risks of nuclear energy.

19. ▶ Apr 28 - *World Day for Safety and Health at Work*, observed annually since 2003.

   🖌 It is also observed as *Workers' Memorial Day.*

20. ▶ Apr 29 - International Dance Day. It marks birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (born on 29 April 1727), a French dancer, and creator of modern ballet, and great reformer of dance.

   🖌 Apr 29, 2023 is observed as World Veterinary Day. It is observed on Last Saturday of April.

21. ▶ Apr 30 is observed as *Ayushman Bharat Diwas*, being observed since 2018. Under Ayushman Bharat / Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Health Insurance of 5 lakh rupees per family is given to a family.

   🖌 Apr 30 is also Observed as *International Jazz Day*, declared by UNESCO in 2011.

   🖌 Also, Apr 24-30 is globally observed as *World Immunization Week*, with 2023 theme *The Big Catch-up*.

22. ▶ Apr 4 is observed as International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

23. ▶ Apr 5 is observed as **National Maritime Day** in India, being observed since 1964.

   🖌 The saga of India shipping started on April 5, 1919, when SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company travelled from Mumbai to United Kingdom (London).

24. ▶ Apr 5 is observed as UN **International Day of Conscience**, being observed by UN since 2020.

25. ▶ Apr 6 is observed as International **Day of Sport for Development and Peace.**

26. ▶ Apr 7 is observed as **World Health Day**, with 2023 theme *Health for all*. It marks establishment of World Health Organization, on Apr 7, 1948.

- Also, *Prevention of Blindness Week* is observed in India between April 1-7.

27. Apr 8 is observed as International Romani Day, to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of issues facing Romani people.

28. Apr 9 is observed as CRPF's Valour Day.
   - A CRPF contingent on April 9, 1965 fought against Pakistanis in Rann of Kutch,eliminating 34 Pakistani Soldiers, losing 6 CRPF Soldiers.

29. April 14th is Birth Anniversary of **B R Ambedkar**. He campaigned against social discrimination towards *Dalits*. He was independent India's first law and justice minister, and architect of Constitution of India. His Birth anniversary is observed as Social Justice Day, announced in 2018. Note that UN World Day of Social Justice is observed on Feb 20.
   - On this occasion -
     - *Baba Saheb Ambedkar Yatra - Bharat Gaurav Train* was flagged off.
     - 70-feet tall statue of Dr. **Babasaheb Ambedkar** has been unveiled in Latur city (Maharashtra), to be known as *Statue of Knowledge*.
     - Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao unveiled 125-foot bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad, as tallest statue of Ambedkar in India.
   - April 14 is also observed as World Chagas Disease Day, to increase awareness of Chagas disease. It is observed since 2020.
   - Apr 14 is also observed as National Fire Service Day in India.

30. April 15 is observed as Himachal Day.
   - Himachal Pradesh State came into being as a centrally administered territory on 15 April 1948, after integration of thirty erstwhile princely states.
   - Himachal Pradesh became a union territory on 1 November 1956.
   - Later, on 25 Jan 1971, Himachal Pradesh became 18th state of India.

31. April 24 is Observed as -
   - International Day of *Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace*, observed since 2019.
   - *World Day for Laboratory Animals*.

32. Feb 01 is Foundation day of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), which was established on 1 February 1977.

33. Feb 1-7 is observed globally by UN as World Interfaith Harmony Week.
   - Also, Feb 7 is observed as *Safer Internet day*. On this occasion, Facebook parent Meta partnered with ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) for *G20 stay safe online campaign,* amid India's G20 presidency in 2023.

34. Feb 10 is observed as **World Pulses Day,** by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of UN since 2019.
   - Feb 10 is also observed annually by Indian Health Ministry as *National Deworming Day*, to deworm all children across nation in age group of 1 to 19.

35. Feb 11 is observed as UN **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, observed since 2015. 2023 Theme is *Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance. Sustain. (I.D.E.A.S.)*.
   - Feb 11 is also observed as World **Unani Day**, to mark birth anniversary of India's noted Unani scholar and social reformer Hakim Ajmal Khan. He was one of the founders of the Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.

36. Feb 12 is observed as **National Productivity Day** in India, with National Productivity Week observed between February 12 - 18 every year. It marks foundation day of National Productivity Council (NPC).
   - February 12 is also observed globally as Darwin Day, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin.

37. Feb 13 is observed as National Women's Day in India, marking birth anniversary of **Sarojini Naidu**. She is known as sobriquet Nightingale of India (Bharat Kokila). She was born on February 13, 1879.
   - After India's independence in 1947, She was appointed as governor of he United Provinces (present-day Uttar Pradesh), making her India's first woman governor. She remained in office until her death in March 1949.
     - Her daughter, Padmaja Naidu, is longest-serving Indian female governor with 11-year tenure in West Bengal.
     - She also became second woman President of Indian National Congress in 1925 (First was Annie Besant).

38. Feb 13 is observed as UNESCO **World Radio Day**, observed since 2013. The Day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2011. 2023 Theme is *Radio and Peace*.

39. Feb 15 is observed as International Childhood Cancer Day.

40. Feb 17 is observed as **UN Global Tourism Resilience Day**. It has been observed for the first time in 2023.

41. Feb 19 is Birth anniversary of Maratha Warrior King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (Born 19 February 1630), who belonged to Bhonsle Maratha clan and had roots from Sisodia Dynasty of Mewar. Shivaji carved out an enclave from declining Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur

that formed genesis of Maratha Empire.

- On this occasion, Home minister Amit Shah inaugurated first phase of **Shiv Srishti** theme park based on life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Pune.
- Feb 19 is also observed as Soil Health Card Day. On Feb 19 in 2015, PM Narendra Modi launched Soil Health Card Scheme at Suratgarh in Rajasthan. It aims at issuing soil health cards to farmers every two years so as to provide a basis to address nutritional deficiencies in soil.

42. ▶ Feb 2 is observed as **World Wetlands Day**. 2023 Theme is *Revive and restore degraded wetlands*. It marks adoption of Convention on Wetlands on February 2 in 1971, when a small group of environmentalists signed an international agreement at Ramsar Convention in Iran.
- As of now, India has 75 Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance).

43. ▶ Feb 20 is observed as **World Day of Social Justice,** being observed since 2009.

44. ▶ Feb 20 is statehood day of northeastern states of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Arunachal Pradesh became a state on 20th February 1987.
- Mizoram, that was a part of Assam was formed on 20th February 1987.

45. ▶ Feb 21 is observed by UN as **International Mother Language Day**.
- On this occasion -
  - Indian educationist **Mahendra Kumr Mishra** has been conferred *International Mother Language Award* in Bangladesh, for his work in promotion of indigenous languages in Odisha. He is first Indian to receive this award.
    - *International Mother Language Award* is a civilian award of Bangladesh, created in 2021 to recognize special contributions to mother languages worldwide, given every 2 years.
  - Kerala High Court became first high court in Country to publish its decisions in Local Lanugage (Malayalam).

46. ▶ Feb 22 is observed globally as Scouts' Day or Guides' Day. It marks birthday of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout Movement.

47. ▶ Feb 24 is observed in India as Central Excise Day. It commemorates legislation of Central Excise and Salt act on 24 February in 1944.
- In 2020, Tamil Nadu government announced to obsrve birth anniversary of former CM Jayaram Jayalalithaa on February 24 as 'State Girl Child Protection Day'.

48. ▶ Feb 27 is observed as World NGO Day. Other observations on Feb 27 -
- Feb 27 is observed as *Marathi Language Pride Day*. It has been observed in 2023 for 1st time. Note that similar sounding *Marathi Language day* is observed on May 1.
- National-level public health initiative Right To Protein observes *Protein Day* on Feb 27, to raise awareness about health benefits of protein.

49. ▶ Feb 28 is observed as **National Science Day in India**. 2023 *Theme is Global Science for Global Wellbeing*.
- It commemorates discovery of 'Raman Effect' by Sir C.V. Raman for which he was awarded Nobel Prize in 1930. India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.
- On this occasion, Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched *VAIBHAV Fellowship* scheme for Indian Diaspora abroad, aimed at improving research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating collaborations between Indian Institutions and best institutions in world through mobility of faculty/researchers.
- Also, Last day of February every year is observed as Rare Disease Day.

50. ▶ Feb 4 is observed as **World Cancer Day**, being observed since 2008. Theme is *Close the Care Gap* (2022 - 2024).
- Feb 4 is also observed by UN as International Day of Human Fraternity, observed since 2021.
- Feb 04 also marks anniversary of Chauri Chaura incident, that took place on 4 February 1922 at Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) in British India. During this, Large group of protesters participating in Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police who opened fire.

51. ▶ Feb 6 is observed as International Day of **Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation**.

52. ▶ Jul 1 is observed by UN as **International Day of Cooperatives**.
- On this occasion, 17th Indian Cooperative Congress held at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi), with theme *Amrit Kaal : Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India*.
- Other Observations on July 1 -
  - July 1 is Observed as GST (Goods & Services Tax) Day. GST regime came into Force on July 1 2017, unifying indirect taxes in India into One.
  - July 1 is observed as Doctors Day in India. This day honours legendary physician and second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
  - July 1 is observed as Chartered Accountants Day In India.

- July 1 is Observed as National Postal Worker Day in India.
- July 1 is observed as Foundation Day of SBI, India's Largest Bank. On 1 July 1955, Imperial Bank of India became State Bank of India.
  - On this occasion, SBI inaugurated 34 Transaction Banking Hubs across country.

53. ▶ Jul 11 is observed by UN as **World Population Day,** with 2023 theme *Unleashing the power of gender equality*. It marks 11 July 1987, approximate date on which world's population reached 5 billion.
- As per UN data, World's population is anticipated to reach 8.5 billion people in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.4 billion in 2100.

54. ▶ Jul 12 is observed by UN as Malala Day, to highlight work for education of children by Pakistani child activist Malala Yousafzai.
- Also, UN observed 12 July, 2023 as first ever *International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms*, to be observed annually.

55. ▶ Jul 17 - **Day of International Criminal Justice**. It marks adoption of Rome Sta*tute in 1998. With help of this treaty International Criminal Court (ICC) was established.*

56. ▶ Jul 2 is observed as -
- World Sports Journalists Day.
- World UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) day, observed since 2001. On some places, it is observed on June 24, the date on which 9 unusual objects were saw flying over Washington (USA) in 1947.

57. ▶ Jul 25 is observed by WHO as World Drowning Prevention Day.

58. ▶ Jul 3 is observed globally as Plastic bag free day.
- On this occasion, New Zealand became first country to implement a complete ban on commonly used thin plastic bags.

59. ▶ Jul 6 - Birth Anniversary of Syama Prasad Mukherjee, founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the predecessor to the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- Jul 6 is also observed as World Zoonoses Day.

60. ▶ July 10 is observed as **National Fish Farmers Day**, proclaimed by Government in 2001.
- It is celebrated in remembrance of scientists Dr. K. H. Alikunhi and Dr. H.L. Chaudhury who successfully demonstrated technology of induced breeding (Hypophysation) in Indian Major Carps on 10th July, 1957 at erstwhile 'Pond Culture Division' of CIFRI at Cuttack.

61. ▶ July 15 is observed by UN as **World Youth Skills Day,** with 2023 theme *Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future*.
- On this occasion, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched *AI for India 2.0*, as a free online training programme on Artificial Intelligence, as joint initiative of *Skill India* and *GUVI*.
- Also, Jul 15 is observed as Educational Development Day in Tamil Nadu, to mark birth Anniversary of Former CM K Kamaraj.
- Also, India's National Plastic Surgery Day, which is observed on July 15, has now been Adopted as World Plastic Surgery Day.

62. ▶ July 18 is observed by UN as **Nelson Mandela International Day**.
- Notably, *United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize* was established by UN in 2014, awarded every 5 years. It was last awarded in 2020, to Guinean doctor Morissana Kouyate and Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece.

63. ▶ July 20 is observed by UN as **International Moon Day**, observed since 2022. It commemorates First Human landing on Moon on 20 July 1969 by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, under Apollo 11 Mission. It is also observed as Space Exploration Day.
- July 20 is also observed by UN as World Chess Day, marking date of establishment of International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.

64. ▶ July 23 is observed as **National broadcasting Day** in India. On this day in 1927, 1st ever radio broadcast in country went on the air from Bombay Station under a private company called Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC).

65. ▶ July 24 is Observed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) as **Income Tax Day** (Aayakar Diwas). On this day in 1860, Income Tax was introduced for first time in India by James Wilson.

66. ▶ July 26 is Observed by UNESCO as International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem.

67. ▶ July 26 marks **Kargil Vijay Diwas**. On this date in 1999, India took command of high outposts which were captured by Intruding Pakistanis.

68. ▶ July 27 is Raising Day of CRPF, which was Formed on July 27, 1939.

69. ▶ July 28 is observed by World Health Organization as *World Hepatitis Day*. 2023 theme is *We're not waiting*.
- July 28 is also observed as World Nature Conservation Day.

70. ▶ July 29 is observed as **World Tiger Day**. It was proclaimed in 2010 at Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia where signatories declared an agreement that the governments of tiger populated counties would double tiger population by 2022, termed as TX2.
- As per latest data, number of tigers globally has increased from 3200 in 2015 to 4500 in 2022.
- In 2018, Nepal became first country to double tiger population. India also doubled tiger population in 2018.

As per 5th All India Tiger Estimation 2022 -

- India has 3682 tigers, making up 75 % of world's tiger population.
- Number of Tiger reserves in India has reached 53 (latest being Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh). Earlier 4 Tiger estimation reports were released in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018.
  - Tiger reserves were set up in India under Project Tiger, which was launched in 1973, aimed at safeguarding nation's tiger population and preserving biodiversity.
- Tiger Count in India grew from 1411 in 2006 to 2226 in 2014, 2967 in 2018 & now 3682 in 2022.
- Top States - Madhya Pradesh (785), Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560) & Maharashtra (444).
- Tiger abundance within Tiger Reserve is highest in Corbett (260), followed by Bandipur (150) & Nagarhole (141).

71. ▶ July 30 is observed by UN as **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons,** with 2023 theme *Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind.*
- July 30 is also birth anniversary of Muthulakshmi Reddi, India's first female legislator and also known as a woman of many firsts. Tamil Nadu Government declared that every year hospitals will celebrate her birth anniversary as 'Hospital Day.'

72. ▶ July 31 is observed as *World Ranger Day*, to mark founding day of International Ranger Federation (IRF) on this day in 1992.

73. ▶ July 4 marks US Independence Day, commemorating Declaration of Independence of United States on July 4, 1776.

74. ▶ July 7 is observed by UNESCO as World Kiswahili Day, proclaimed in 2021. Kiswahili is among most widely spoken languages in Africa and most widely spoken in sub-Saharan Africa.

75. ▶ June 1 - **World Milk Day**. It has been marked by Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), observed since 2001.
- Nov 26 is observed as **National Milk Day** In India, to commemorate birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, father of India's White Revolution. India is top Milk Producer Nation, followed by US.
  - Notably, India ranks 1st in milk production, contributing 24% of global milk production.
- June 1 is also observed by United Nations as Global Day of Parents.

76. ▶ June 11 is observed as Green Mizoram Day in Mizoram State.

77. ▶ June 12 is observed by UN as **World Day against Child Labour**. 2023 theme is *Social Justice for All. End Child Labour*.

78. ▶ June 13 is observed by UN as International **Albinism Awareness Day**. 2023 Theme is *Inclusion is Strength*.

79. ▶ June 14 is observed as **World Blood Donor Day.**

80. ▶ June 15 is observed as Global Wind Day.
- As per govt Data, Rajasthan achieved highest wind capacity addition during FY 23 (2022-23) and Gujarat achieved highest wind capacity addition through open access.
- India's Energy Sector at a Glance -
  - India aims at 500 GW by 2030 from renewable sources (up from Approx 170 GW Currently), which includes installation of 280 GW of solar power and 140 GW of wind power.
  - Current Energy Sector Scenario (At end of Mar 2023) -

Source	Installed Capacity (MW)	% of Share in Total	Global Rank
Fossil Fuels (Total)	**237,269**	**57.7%**	
Coal	205,235	49.3%	
Lignite	6,620	1.6%	
Gas	24,824	6.0%	
Diesel	589	0.1%	
Non-Fossil Fuels (Total)	**178,790**	**43%**	
Hydro *[RE]*	46,850	11.3%	5
Wind *[RE]*	42,633	10.2%	4
Solar *[RE]*	66,780	16.1%	4
Bio Mass Power/Cogen *[RE]*	10,248	2.5%	
Waste to Energy *[RE]*	554	0.1%	
Small Hydro *[RE]*	4,944	1.2%	
Nuclea*r*	6,780	1.6%	12
Total Installed Capacity	*416,059*		3

81. ▶ June 15 is observed by UN as *World **Elder Abuse Awareness** Day*.

82. ▶ June 16 is observed by UN as International Day of **Family Remittances**.

83. ▶ June 17 is observed by UN as World Day to **Combat Desertification and Drought**. 2023 theme is *Her land. Her rights*.

84. ▶ June 18 is observed by UN as International **Day for Countering Hate Speech**, observed since 2022. 2023 theme is *Hate speech: Turning the tide.*

   ✎ June 18 is also observed as -
      ✎ Sustainable Gastronomy Day (UN).
      ✎ Autistic Pride Day.

85. ▶ June 19 is observed by UN as *International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict*.

   ✎ June 19 is also observed as -
      ✎ World Sickle Cell Day.
      ✎ National Reading Day in India, to honour father of Library Movement in Kerala, P.N. Panicker whose death anniversary falls on June 19.

86. ▶ June 2 is Statehood Day of **Telangana**, which was formed in 2014 as India's 29th State.

   ✎ Also, Govt. observed 350th anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Coronation Day, on June 02, 2023.

87. ▶ June 20 is observed by UN as **World Refugee Day**. 2023 Theme is *Hope Away from Home*.

88. ▶ June 21 - UN **International Yoga Day**, being Observed Since 2015. 2023 Theme is *Yoga for Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam*.

   ✎ On this occasion -
      ✎ Main event of 9th edition of International Day of Yoga 2023 held at Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh).
      ✎ Indian Navy deployed its ships on various ports in Indian Ocean region under initiative *Ocean Ring of Yoga*, to strengthen harmony among nations.
      ✎ Yoga Day event organised in Surat (Gujarat) has set a new Guinness World Record for largest gathering for a yoga session at one place, with 1.53 lakh people joining.
      ✎ Oman became First Foreign Government to Promote its Country through Yoga, under *Soulful Yoga, Serene Oman* initiative, in association with Indian Embassy in Oman.

   ✎ Other Observations on June 21 -
      ✎ World Music Day**.** First all-day musical celebration on the day of the summer solstice was celebrated in Paris in 1982.
      ✎ Summer Solstice day. Summer Solstice is longest day of year which marks official start of summer season in Northern hemisphere.
         ✎ International Day of Celebration of the Solstice was proclaimed by UN General Assembly in 2019.
      ✎ World Hydrography Day, Proclaimed by International Hydrographic Organization in 2005.

89. ▶ June 22 is observed as *World Rainforest Day*.

90. ▶ June 23 is observed by UN as **Public Service Day**.

   ✎ June 23 is also observed as -
      ✎ International Olympics Day.
      ✎ International Widows' Day (UN).
      ✎ From 2023 onwards, All India Football Federation (AIFF) declared June 23 (birth anniversary of Noted Former Indian footballer *Pradip Kumar Banerjee*), as *AIFF Grassroots Day*.

91. ▶ June 24 is observed by UN as International *Day for Women in Diplomacy*. It was proclaimed in 2022.

92. ▶ June 25 is observed as *International Day of Seafarer*.

   ✎ June 25 is also observed as *World Vitiligo Day*.

93. ▶ June 26 is observed by UN as *International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*.

   ✎ June 26 is also observed as *International Day in Support of Victims of Torture*.

94. ▶ June 27 is observed by UN as International **MSME Day** (Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day).

   ✎ On this occasion, MSME Minister launched several initiatives including *CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal* and *MSME Idea Hackathon 3.0* for women entrepreneurs.

   ✎ Also, on June 27, *Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)* observed *Helen Keller Day,* to commemorate *Helen Keller*, noted American author and disability rights advocate, who was born deaf and blind.

95. ▶ June 28 is observed as *National Insurance Awareness Day in India*.

96. ▶ June 29 is observed as **National Statistics Day** in India, marking Birth anniversary of India's eminent statistician, Late Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. 2023 theme is *Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals*.

   ✎ On this occasion -

- *International Statistical Institute* named **Arup Bose** (From ISI Kolkata) as winner of **Mahalanobis International Award 2023**.
  - Government of India sponsors **Mahalanobis International Award**, which is presented in alternate years at International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress.
  - Notably,
    - Indian Govt also confers *PC Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics* (setup in 2020) and *PV Sukhatme National Award for life time contribution in statistics* (setup in 2000), to honor noted statisticians at national level.
    - These awards are also conferred in alternate years (other year than the one in which *Mahalanobis International Award* is conferred).
  - RBI launched its next generation data warehouse *Centralised Information Management System (CIMS)*.

97. June 29 is observed by UN as International **Day of the Tropics**, proclaimed by UN in 2016.

98. June 3 - **World Bicycle Day**, declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018. It promotes use of Bicycle for its environmental and health benefits.

99. June 30 is observed annually as International **Asteroid Day**. It marks event anniversary of Tunguska event in 1908, when an asteroid leveled about 2,150 square kilometres forest in Siberia.
    - June 30 is also observed as UN International **Day of Parliamentarism**.
    - June 30 is also observed as World Social Media Day.

100. June 4 is observed by UN as *International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression*

101. June 5 - **World Environment Day**, designated by United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) in 1972. It was first observed in 1973. 2023 theme is *Beat Plastic Pollution*.
    - 2023 marks 50th observance of World Environment Day, hosted in 2023 by Côte D'Ivoire.
    - On this occasion -
      - Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched *Meri LiFE* mobile app, inspired by concept of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).
        - Mission LiFE was envisioned by PM Narendra Modi at COP 26 (Glasgow 2021), which emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and wasteful consumption.
        - Meri LiFE app will help in creating a structured way to track progress being made on Mission LiFE.
        - Also, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep S. Puri launched campaign *Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar*, to champion RRR's of waste management- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
      - PM Narendra Modi launched two schemes - Amrit Dharohar and MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes), aimed at reviving country's wetlands (Ramsar sites) and mangroves.
      - Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released its annual report *State of India's Environment 2023* -
        - Telangana ranked at top in terms of overall environmental performance, based on 4 parameters - environment, agriculture, public health, and infrastructure.
    - June 5 is also observed by UN as *International Day for the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing*.

102. June 6 is observed as UN Russian Language Day, established by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
    - June 6 is also observed as World Pest Day or World Pest Awareness Day.
    - June 6 is also observed as BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Day.

103. June 7 is observed by UN as **World Food Safety Day**, Observed since 2019.
    - On this occasion, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya released 5th State Food Safety Index. This year -
      - Among larger states, Kerala secured the top ranking, followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
      - Among smaller states, Goa secured the top ranking, followed Manipur and Sikkim.
      - Among UTs, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh are top 3.

104. June 8 is observed by UN as **World Oceans Day**. 2023 theme is *Planet Ocean: tides are changing*.

105. June 9 is observed as World Accreditation Day.
    - June 9 is also observed as -
      - Coral Triangle Day, to raise awareness of ocean conservation and protection, especially on Coral Triangle, which are world's epicenter of marine biodiversity.
      - International Archives Day.

🖋 On this occasion, exhibition titled *Hamari Bhasha, Hamari Virasat* organized at National Archives of India.

106. ▶ Maharashtra Govt marked to observe May 28, the birth anniversary of freedom fighter **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**, as *Swatantrya Veer Gaurav Diwas* in state.

107. ▶ Mar 01 is observed as **Zero Discrimination Day** annually by UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS). It has been observed since 2014.

🖋 Other observances on Mar 1 -
  🖋 World Seagrass Day, observed by UN. 2023 marks first observance of World Seagrass Day, with theme *Healthy seagrass, healthy planet*.
  🖋 Civil Accounts Day in India.
  🖋 World Civil Defence Day.

108. ▶ Mar 10 is observed by UN as **International Day of Women Judges**, since 2022.

🖋 Mar 10 is foundation day of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which was set up on Mar 10, 1969.

109. ▶ Mar 14 is observed as International **Pi (π) Day**, observed since 1988.

🖋 Also, UNESCO Observes Mar 14 as **International Day of Mathematics**, Proclaimed in 2019.
  🖋 Note that Dec 22 is observed as *National Mathematics Day* in India, to commemorate birth anniversary of Legendary Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
🖋 Mar 14 is also observed as **International Day of Action for Rivers**.

110. ▶ Mar 15 is observed as **World Consumer Rights Day**. 2023 Theme is *Empowering consumers through clean energy transitions*.

🖋 Mar 15 is also observed by UN as *International Day to Combat Islamophobia*. 2023 is first observance of this day.

111. ▶ Mar 16 is observed annually as National Vaccination Day, (also National Immunization Day), observed since 1995. In 1995, India had started Pulse Polio Programme and first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.

112. ▶ Mar 18 is observed as Ordnance Factory Day in India, to commemorate establishment of first Ordnance Factory in India at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1801.

🖋 Mar 18 is also observed as Global Recycling Day, created in 2018.

113. ▶ Mar 20 is observed as **International Day of Happiness**. It has been observed by UN since 2013.

🖋 UN released World Happiness Report 2023 -
  🖋 India improved to **126th** place, compared to 136th last year. India is still ranked amongst most unhappy nations.
  🖋 Top 5 - Finland (1), Denmark (2), Iceland (3), Israel (4), Netherlands (5)
  🖋 Bottom 3 - Afghanistan (137), Lebanon (136), Sierra Leone (135)
🖋 Other observations on Mar 20 -
  🖋 Mar 20 is also observed as UN French Language Day.
  🖋 Mar 20 is also observed as World Sparrow Day.
  🖋 Mar 20 is also Observed as World day of theatre for children and Young People.
  🖋 Mar 20 is also observed as World Oral Health Day.

114. ▶ Mar 21 is observed as -

🖋 UN International **Day of Forests**, proclaimed in 2012. 2023 Theme is *Forests and health*.
  🖋 On this occasion, J&K Administration honored Aaliya Mir (from J&K) with Wildlife Conservation Award.
🖋 World Down Syndrome Day, Observed since 2006.
🖋 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Proclaimed in 1966. 2021 Theme is *Youth standing up against racism*.
🖋 World Poetry Day, Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999.
🖋 World Puppetry Day.

115. ▶ Mar 22 is observed Globally as **World Water Day**, Being Observed by UN since 1993. 2023 Theme is *Accelerating change*.

🖋 As per a report published by UNESCO at UN 2023 Water Conference in New York, 2 billion people (26% of population) do not have access to safe drinking water and 3.6 billion (46%) lack access to safely managed sanitation.

116. ▶ Mar 22 is observed as **Bihar Diwas**, marking formation of state of Bihar. On Mar 22 in 1912, British had carved out Bihar from Bengal.

117. ▶ Mar 23 is Obvserved As Martyr's Day (Shaheedi Diwas) in India. It marks death anniversary of Great Freedom Fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru. They were executed on 23 March 1931, in Lahore (Pakistan).

🖋 Notably, In India, apart from Mar 23, there are 5 otherd days declared as Martyrs' Day-
  🖋 Jan 30 - Date of Assasination of M K Gandhi by Shri Nathuram Godse, is Observed as Martyr's Day.

- May 19 - Bengali Language Movement of Barak Valley in Assam was a protest against decision of Government of Assam to make Assamese only official language of state, even though significant proportion of population were Bengali. Main incident, in which 15 people were killed by state police, took place on 19 May 1961. 19 May is thus designated Bhasha Shahid Divas ("Language Martyrs Day").
- 21 October is Police Martyrs' Day. On this date in 1959, a CPRF patrol at Indo-Tibetan border in Ladakh was ambushed by Chinese forces.
- Odisha observes 17 November, death anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai as Martyr's Day.
- Birthday of Rani Lakshmibai, 19 November is observed as Martyrs' Day in Maharashtra.

118. Mar 23 is observed as **World Meteorological Day**, to mark establishment of World Meteorological Organization on Mar 23, 1950.

119. Mar 24 - World Tuberculosis Day.
   - On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated **One World TB Summit 2023** in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), and launched *TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative* to leverage support of over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats to raise awareness about TB.
      - Notably, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to end TB epidemic by 2030, while India aims to end TB by 2025.
   - Mar 24 is also observed as International Day for Achievers.

120. Mar 25 is observed as -
   - International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade
   - International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members.
   - Also, on Mar 25, 2023, Earth Hour was observed, as a worldwide movement organized by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
      - Event is held annually by encouraging turning off non-essential electric lights for one hour (8:30 to 9:30 p.m.), on a specific day towards end of March, as a symbol of commitment to the planet.

121. Mar 27 is observed as World Theatre Day, proclaimed in 1961 by International Theatre Institute.

122. Mar 3 is observed as UN **World Wildlife Day**. 2023 Theme is *Partnerships for wildlife conservation*.
   - Mar 3 is also observed as **World Hearing Day**.

123. Mar 31 is observed as *International Transgender Day of Visibility*.

124. Mar 4 is observed as National Security / Safety Day in India, as a tribute to all security forces of country. National Safety Council was set up on 4 March 1966.

125. Mar 6 is observed as *National Pharmacy Education Day* in India, commemorating birth anniversary of M L Shroff (father of Pharmacy Education of India).

126. Mar 7 is observed as *Janaushadhi Diwas*, with Mar 1 - 7 observed as *Janaushadhi Week*. 2023 is 5th observervance of Janaushadhi Diwas.

127. Mar 8 is observed as **International Women's Day**. 2023 Theme is ***DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality***. United Nations began celebrating the day in 1977. On this occasion -
   - BSE and UN Women India launched *FinEMPOWER* programme, as a year-long joint capacity-building programme to empower women towards financial security.
   - Exhibition *Women and Nation Building: 1857 to the Republic* held at National Archives of India (New Delhi).
   - *Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company* launched digital campaign *DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality*.
   - Maharashtra govt announced to introduce fourth women's policy, to give more opportunities to women by considering issues of women from all groups.
   - Suryoday Small Finance Bank launched *Blossom Women's Savings Account* for female customers.

128. May 07, 2023 is observed as ***World Athletics Day***. Date is decided by IAAF, held anually during month of May. 2023 theme is *Athletics for All - A New Beginning*.
   - May 7 is also Birth Anniversary of India's first Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. His birth anniversary is also known as Pochise Boishakh.
      - On this occasion, Home Minister Amit Shah released film *Luminaries of Bengal* in Kolkata (West Bengal).

129. May 1 - Labour Day, also known as International Worker's Day and May Day.
   - In India, first celebration of the Labour Day was organised in Madras by Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923.
   - Labour Day commemorates happenings of May 4, 1886, the Haymarket affair (Haymarket Massacre) in the Chicago. It was a big event as workers were on the general strike for their eight-hour workday, with protests getting violent.

130. May 1 is Formation day of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Both states were formed on May 01, 1960, when Bombay state was split.
   - Also, May 1 is observed in Maharashtra as *Marathi Official Language Day*.
      - Notably, Similar sounding Marathi Language Pride Day is observed on 27th February.

131. ▶ May 10 is observed as *UN International Day of Argania*.
   🔩 Argan tree is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, which is resilient to a harsh environment under water scarcity, risk of erosion and poor soils.

132. ▶ May 11 - **National Technology Day** in India.
   🔩 It marks anniversary of Pokhran Nuclear Tests (Operation Shakti) of 1998. It was coined by late PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as a reminder of India's technological advancements.
   🔩 May 11 also marks flight of Hansa-3, India's first indigenous aircraft which was developed by National Aerospace Laboratories.

133. ▶ May 12 - **International Nurses Day**, Being observed since 1965. It is observed on Birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, noted British social reformer and founder of modern nursing. She was born on May 12, 1820. 2023 Theme is **Our Nurses. Our Future**.
   🔩 Also, UN Observes May 12 as *International Day of Plant Health*, to raise awareness on importance of protecting plant health.

134. ▶ May 13, 2023 is observed as World Migratory Bird Day. It is observed on second Saturday in May and in October. 2023 theme is *Water and its importance for Migratory Bird*.

135. ▶ May 15 is observed as International **Day of Families**, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly in 1993. 2023 theme is *Demographic Trends and Families*.

136. ▶ May 16 Statehood Day of Sikkim. Sikkim Joined Indian Union as 22nd state on May 16, 1975.
   🔩 May 16 is also observed as UN International Day of Living Together in Peace.
   🔩 May 16 is also observed by UNESCO as International Day of Light. It marks anniversary of first successful operation of laser in 1960 by physicist Theodore Maiman.
   🔩 May 16 is also observed as National Dengue Day in India.
   🔩 May 16 is also observed as World Agri Tourism Day.

137. ▶ May 17 - **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** (WTISD). It marks establishment of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and also signing of first International Telegraph Convention in 1865 in Paris.
   🔩 May 17 is also observed as **World Hypertension Day**.

138. ▶ May 18 is Observed as **International Museum Day**. 2023 Theme is *Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing*.
   🔩 On this occasion -
      🔩 PM Narendra Modi inaugurated *International Museum Expo 2023* at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi).
   🔩 May 18 is also observed as *World AIDS Vaccine Day*.
   🔩 May 18, 2023 is also observed by UN as Global *Vesak Day*, as most sacred day to Buddhists around world. In India, it is observed as Buddha Purnima.
   🔩 May 18, 2023 also observed as *Global Accessibility Awareness Day,* marked annually on third Thursday of May.

139. ▶ May 2 - UN World Tuna Day.

140. ▶ May 20 is observed as **UN World Bee Day**.
   🔩 May 20 is also observed as **World Metrology Day**. 2023 theme is *Measurements supporting the global food system*. The date is the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875.

141. ▶ May 21 is observed as **UN International Tea Day**, observed since 2020.
   🔩 May 21 is also observed by UNESCO as World Day for **Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**.
   🔩 May 21 is also observed in India as **National Anti-Terrorism Day**, marking death anniversary of Former PM Rajiv Gandhi.

142. ▶ May 22 is observed as UN **International Day for Biological Diversity**. 2023 Theme is *From agreement to action: build back biodiversity*.

143. ▶ May 23 is observed as World Turtle Day.

144. ▶ May 24 - **Commonwealth Day** in India. It is globally observed on Second Monday of March. However, in some nations Including India, it is observed on May 24.
   🔩 May 24 is Birth Anniversary of Queen Victoria (1819), who was Queen of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death. On 1 May 1876, she adopted additional title of Empress of India.

145. ▶ May 25 is observed as World Thyroid Day.
   🔩 May 25 is also observed as International Missing Children's Day.

146. ▶ May 29 is observed as International **Everest Day**. On this day in 1953, Tenzing Norgay (Nepal) and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary climbed Mt. Everest, as first humans to achieve this feat.
   🔩 Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day in 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.
   🔩 May 29 is also observed as International **Day of UN Peacekeepers**, with 2023 theme *Peace begins with me* (75th anniversary in 2023).

- May 29 is also observed as World Digestive Health Day, by World Gastroenterology Organisation.

147. ▶ May 3 - World **Press Freedom Day**. 2023 Theme is *Shaping a Future of Rights*.
- Annually, UNESCO confers *UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize* on this day.
  - Three imprisoned Iranian women journalists - *Niloofar Hamedi, Elaheh Mohammadi and Narges Mohammadi* have been named laureates of 2023 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- On this occasion, **Global Press Freedom Index 2023** was released by *Reporters Without Borders* -
  - Top 3- Norway (1), Ireland (2), Denmark (3)
  - Bottom 3 - North Korea (180), China (179), Vietnam (178)
  - India ranks **161st,** compared to 150th rank last year.
  - Neighbors - China (179), Sri Lanka (135), Pakistan (150), Bangladesh (163)

148. ▶ May 30 is statehood day for Goa. On this day in 1987, Goa became 25th state of India. It was a Union Territory along with Daman and Diu from December 1961 onwards when Goa was liberated from Portugese rule.

149. ▶ May 31 is Observed as **No Tobacco Day**, established by World Health Organization (WHO)**.** 2023 theme is *Grow food, not tobacco.*
- WNTD is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by WHO, Others are -
  - World Tuberculosis Day - Mar 24
  - World Health Day - Apr 7
  - World Malaria Day - Apr 25
  - World Immunization Week - Last week of April
  - World Blood Donor Day - June 14
  - World Hepatitis Day - July 28
  - World AIDS Day - Dec 1

150. ▶ May 4 is observed as *International Firefighters' Day* (IFFD), established in 1999, after deaths of five firefighters in a bushfire in Australia.

151. ▶ May 5 is observed as -
- World Hand Hygiene Day.
- International Day of the Midwife, Observed since 1991.
- UN World Portuguese Language Day.

152. ▶ May 8 - World Red Cross Day, also known as Red Crescent Day. It commemorates birth anniversary of Henri Dunant (born on 8 May 1828), the founder of Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). May 8 is also observed as -
- *Victory in Europe* Day, Marking formal end of World War II in Europe, when allied powers defeated German leader Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Forces, On May 8, 1945.
  - Notably, May 8 - 9 every year is also observed by UN as Time of Remembrance for Those Who Lost Their Lives during Second World War.
- World Thalassemia Day.
  - On this occasion, Health Ministry launched third phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana, supported by Coal India Limited as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

153. ▶ National Flag Day is observed in India on July 22, marking adoption of tricolour as National flag on this day in 1947.
- July 22 is also observed by World Federation of Neurology as *World Brain Day*.

154. ▶ Odisha Day (Utkala Dibasa) is observed on 1 April, in memory of formation of state as a separate state out of Bihar, Bengal and Odisha provinces with addition of Koraput and Ganjam from Madras Presidency on 1 April 1936.
- Apr 1 is also foundation of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was established on April 1, 1935.

155. ▶ RBI Observed *Financial Literacy Week 2023* between Feb 13-17, 2023. It has been observed since 2016 to propagate financial education, with 2023 theme *Good Financial Behaviour, Your Saviour*.

156. ▶ UN General Assembly marked **November 26** to be observed annually as **World Sustainable Transport Day**.

157. ▶ UN Observes Mar 5 as *International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness*.

158. ▶ UN observed First-ever **International Day of Zero Waste** on Mar 30, to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Humanity generates an estimated 2.24 billion tons of municipal solid waste annually, of which only 55 % is managed in controlled facilities. Every year, around 931 million tons of food is lost or wasted and up to 14 million tons of plastic waste enters aquatic ecosystems.
- Mar 30 is also statehood day of State of **Rajasthan**, established on Mar 30, 1949.

Defence

1. ▶ India gifted Indian Navy's in-service missile corvette **INS Kirpan** to **Vietnam**.
   - ✎ INS Kirpan is 3rd indigenously built *Khukri class* missile corvette. Other corvettes in class are Khukri, Kuthar & Khanjar.

2. ▶ Misc. Defence News / Events (Jul 2023) -
   - ✎ Ministry of Defence signed contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for procurement of 2 Dornier Aircraft for Indian Coast Guard (ICG), for 459 crores. Aircrafts will be indigenously manufactured at HAL Transport Aircraft Division (Kanpur).
   - ✎ Indian Navy held Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy, in Bay of Bengal.
   - ✎ Home Minister Amit shah foundation stone of *Shri Motibhai R. Chaudhary Sagar Sainik School* in Boriyavi village of Mehsana (Gujarat), as first Sainik School in India to be operated by a cooperative organization.
   - ✎ Italy govt unveiled *V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial* at Montone (Perugia, Italy), as a tribute to Indian troops who fought during Italian Campaign during Second World War.
     - ✎ Yeshwant Ghadge is known for his bravery on heights of Upper Tiber Valley. He was honored with *Victoria Cross*, the highest gallantry award to be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.
   - ✎ Australia hosted its largest bilateral military exercise named *Talisman Sabre*, with US Army.
   - ✎ Indian Navy launched 2nd edition of its *G20 THINQ* Quiz, conceptualized for class 9 to 12 students from across nation.
     - ✎ It will also include an International Round, featuring invitees from G20 nations in Finals at India Gate.
   - ✎ Navies from China, Iran and Russia held joint drills in Gulf of Oman, named *Security Bond 2023*.

3. ▶ 14th Edition of biennial air show and aviation exhibition **Aero India 2023** held at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru (Karnataka), organised by Defence Exhibition Organisation (Ministry of Defence). Theme of Aero India 2023 is *The Runway to a Billion Opportunities*. Notably -
   - ✎ Drone startup Garuda Aerospace unveiled its solar-powered drone *SURAJ*, designed specifically for surveillance operations.
   - ✎ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched *iDEX Investor Hub* (iIH), and 9th edition of *Defence India Startup Challenges (DISC 9)* on Cybersecurity.
     - ✎ Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) is flagship initiative of Department of Defence Production, to encourage start-ups engaged in defence innovation.
   - ✎ Indian Air Force unveiled *Vayulink,* as 'innovative solution to help pilots in dealing with bad weather and provide them jammer-proof uninterrupted communication with base.
   - ✎ Navratna Defence PSU BEL signed MoU with DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.
     - ✎ HAL AMCA programme aims to develop a 5th generation stealth, multirole combat aircraft for Indian Air Force and Indian Navy, which will also include 6th generation technologies.

4. ▶ 1st Joint Military Exercise **FRINJEX-23** between Indian Army and **French Army** conducted at Pangode Military Station, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).

5. ▶ 1st edition of Joint **India**, **France** and **UAE** Maritime Partnership Exercise held in Gulf of Oman.

6. ▶ 2023 edition of World's largest cyber defense exercise, **Locked Shields** hosted by NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn (**Estonia**).

7. ▶ 2nd edition of bilateral Naval exercise **Al Mohed Al Hindi 23** between Indian Navy and **Saudi Arabia** Navy held at Al Jubail (Saudi Arabia).

8. ▶ 2nd edition of joint military exercise **The Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023)** held at Foreign Training Node, Pune (Maharashtra). 25 nations of African continent participated in the exercise.

9. ▶ 2nd edition of joint military exercise **Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023)** held at Foreign Training Node, Aundh, Pune (Maharashtra). 25 nations of African continent paticipated in it, along with Indian Army.

10. ▶ 4th **India-Indonesia** bilateral Naval Exercise **Samudra Shakti-23** conducted in the South China Sea.

11. ▶ 4th edition of joint military exercise **DUSTLIK** between Indian Army and **Uzbekistan** Army held at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).

12. ▶ 6th edition of **Cope India 2023**, an Air Exercise between **Indian** Air Force and **US** Air Force conducted at Air Force Stations Kalaikunda, Panagarh and Agra.

13. ▶ 7th edition of Joint Indian Navy - US Navy Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise **SALVEX** conducted at Kochi (Kerala).

14. ▶ 7th edition of biennial joint Indo-UK Army exercise **AJEYA WARRIOR-23** conducted at Salisbury Plains (UK).

15. ▶ *Germany* hosted *Air Defender 23* exercise, as NATO's biggest air deployment exercise.

16. ▶ *INS Magar* has been decommissioned after serving in Indian Navy for 36 years.
    🔧 INS Magar was lead ship of Magar-class amphibious warfare vessels of Indian Navy.
17. ▶ **Australia** will host **Malabar 2023** multilateral naval exercise, consisting of **India, Australia, Japan and US**. This will be First hosting of Malabar exercise by Australia.
18. ▶ **Sanshodhak,** 4th of four ships of Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project, being built by GRSE for Indian Navy, has been launched.
    🔧 Other 3 ships under this project are - Sandhayak, Nirdeshak, Ikshak.
19. ▶ **Singapore** Army and Indian Army participated in 13th edition of Exercise **Bold Kurukshetra**, held at Jodhpur Military Station (Rajasthan).
20. ▶ Andaman and Nicobar Command (only tri-service theater command of Indian Armed Forces) conducted large-scale Joint Military Exercise **Ex KAVACH**, involving assets of Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.
21. ▶ Annual Joint Army exercise **Ex Ekuverin** between Indian Army & **Maldves** National Defence Force held at Chaubatia (Uttarakhand).
22. ▶ Annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and **UK's Royal Navy,** called **Konkan 2023**, held off Konkan coast in Arabian Sea.
23. ▶ As per *2023 Military Strength Ranking* by *Global Firepower* -
    🔧 Top 5 most powerful military forces are US, Russia, China, India & UK.
    🔧 Pakistan ranks 7th in List.
24. ▶ As per *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)* Data -
    🔧 India remained world's largest importer of military equipment, despite 11% decline in arms purchases between 2018–22, compared to 2013–17.
    🔧 Russia's share in Indian arms imports fell from 64% to 45% (during 2018-22, compared to 2013–17), while France emerged as 2nd largest supplier between 2018-22.
25. ▶ As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2023 on state of global nuclear arsenals -
    🔧 9 nuclear-armed Nations (US, Russia, China, UK, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel) possess 12512 nuclear warheads as of Jan 2023.
    🔧 Top 3 - Russia (5889), US (5244), China (410).
    🔧 India's nuclear arsenal expanded from 160 in 2022 to 164 in 2023, and that of Pakistan increased from 165 to 170 in the same period.
26. ▶ Bangalore-based *NewSpace Research and Technologies* completed delivery of 100 **SWARM** drones to Indian Army, referred to as *Autonomous surveillance and armed drone swarm* (A-SADS).
27. ▶ Bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (**JIMEX 23**) hosted by Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam coast.
28. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh approved notable Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) proposals -
    🔧 Procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft for Indian Navy from France, based on Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA).
    🔧 Procurement of 3 additional Scorpene submarines under Buy (Indian) category, to be constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL).
29. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) has been inaugurated at **IIT Hyderabad**.
    🔧 DIA CoE IITH is largest centre among all 15 DIA CoEs in country.
30. ▶ India - Sri Lanka bilateral Naval exercise **SLINEX-23** conducted at Colombo (Sri Lanka).
31. ▶ India and Japan conducted Joint Defence Exercises, hosted by Japan -
    🔧 India-Japan Air Forces participated in Exercise **Shinyuu Maitri.**
    🔧 India-Japan Armies participated in Exercise **Dharma Guardian**.
32. ▶ India and US Agencies conducted *Operation Broader Sword,* targeting illicit pharmaceuticals, devices or precursor chemicals shipped using international mail system.
33. ▶ India completed handling over Indian Navy's missile corvette **INS Kirpan** to **Vietnam**, after 32 years of service in Indian Navy.
    🔧 It is 1st occasion that India gifted a fully-operational Corvette to a Friendly Nation.
    🔧 INS Kirpan is 3rd indigenously built *Khukri class* missile corvette. Other corvettes in class are Khukri, Kuthar & Khanjar.
34. ▶ India launched **Operation Kaveri,** to bring back Indian nationals stranded in **Sudan,** amid fierce conflict between regular army and paramilitary force in Sudan.
35. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise **PRALAY**, along LAC in northeastern sector.
36. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in **Exercise Orion**, a multi-national air exercise hosted by **French** Air and Space Force, with participation of 9 countries.

37. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise **INIOCHOS-23**, a multi-national air exercise hosted by Hellenic Air Force (Greece), with participation of 12 countries.

38. ▶ Indian Air Force participated in Joint Exercise with **UK's Royal Air Force,** named **Exercise Cobra Warrior.** It was held at Waddington Air Force Base in UK.

39. ▶ Indian Air Force participated in multilateral air exercise ***Desert Flag VIII***, hosted by UAE.

40. ▶ Indian Air Force will host exercise **Tarang Shakti** later in 2023, with participation of air forces from 12 nations.
    - ✎ 6 air forces will take part in the exercise, while rest will attend as observers.

41. ▶ Indian Army and Air Force conducted a joint exercise ***Vayu Prahar*** in eastern sector.

42. ▶ Indian Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) conducted a joint training exercise called **Trishakri Prahar** in North Bengal, to test coordination in an integrated battle.

43. ▶ Indian Army participated in Joint Exercise with **Mongolian** Army, named **NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23**, be conducted at Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia).

44. ▶ Indian Army participated in Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise **Ex Khaan Quest 2023**, held in **Mongolia**.

45. ▶ Indian Navy launched ***Androth*** (built by GRSE Kolkata), as 2nd of 16 anti-submarine warfare vessels being built under *Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft* project.
    - ✎ Notably, INS Androth has been claimed to be *most silent ship* in Indian Navy.
    - ✎ Under this project, 8 ships are being made by each of Cochin Shipyard (CSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). 1st ship to be launched under this project was *Arnala*.
    - ✎ ASW SWC project consists 16 planned ships, with over 80% indigenous content.

46. ▶ Indian Navy launched ***Anjadip*** (built by GRSE Kolkata), as 3rd of 16 anti-submarine warfare vessels being built under *Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft* project.
    - ✎ Under this project, 8 ships are being made by each of Cochin Shipyard (CSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). 1st ship to be launched under this project was *Arnala*.
    - ✎ ASW SWC project consists 16 planned ships, with over 80% indigenous content.

47. ▶ Indian Navy participated in 3rd edition of Exercise **Sea Dragon 23**, the multi-lateral ASW exercise for Long Range MR ASW aircraft, conducted by US Navy. It includes navies from India, US, Japan, Canada & Souh Korea.

48. ▶ Indian Navy participated in 3rd edition of biennial multilateral exercise **La Perouse** in Indian Ocean Region, hosted by French Navy. It included navies from Australia, France, India, Japan, UK & US.

49. ▶ Indian Navy participated in Inaugural **ASEAN India Maritime Exercise** (AIME-2023).
    - ✎ Harbour Phase of the exercise was held at Changi Naval Base (Singapore), and Sea Phase conducted in South China Sea.

50. ▶ Indian Navy's INS Sunayna attended **Op Southern Readiness 2023** conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) at *Seychelles*.
    - ✎ CMF is a multinational maritime partnership of 38 Nations.

51. ▶ Indian Navy's INS Trikand participated in Sea Phase-I of **International Maritime Exercise/Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23)** held in the Gulf, including participation from 50 nations.

52. ▶ Indian Navy's Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (**TROPEX 2023)** concluded in Arabian Sea, including Coastal Defence exercise **Sea Vigil** and Amphibious Exercise **AMPHEX**. These exercises also witnessed participation from Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.

53. ▶ Indian Navy's third indigenous stealth destroyer of Project 15B class, Named **Imphal**, has been set on its sea trials.
    - ✎ Contract for four ships of Project 15B was signed with *Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders* in 2011, as a follow-on of Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers.
    - ✎ 2 ships have been commissioned into Indian Navy under Project 15B, named INS Visakhapatnam & INS Mormugao.
    - ✎ Another ship Surat has also been launched. Imphal and Surat will be commissioned into Indian Navy in 2023 & 2024 respectively.

54. ▶ Joint **INDO-US** counter-terrorism exercise **Tarkash** held between India's National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF), in Chennai.

55. ▶ Keel has been laid for 2 ships to be made under Indian Navy's Multi Purpose Vessel (**MPV**) Project - Named **Samarthak** & **Utkarsh**, as first Indian Navy Warships to be constructed by L&T Kattupalli (Tamil Nadu).
    - ✎ MPVs are a planned Multi Purpose Vessel for the Indian Navy, to acquire 2 advanced warships. Project cost is 887 crores.

56. ▶ Keel laying undertaken at CSL Kochi for 2nd & 3rd warship ((BY 524, Malwan) & (BY 525, Mangrol)) of *Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Craft* project of Indian Navy.
    - ✎ ASW-SWC anti-submarine warfare vessels are currently being built for Indian Navy by Cochin Shipyard (CSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) (8 each), conceived as a replacement to ageing Abhay-class corvettes.

- Total 16 vessels are being built under the project, planned to have all 16 vessels in active service by 2026.
57. ▶ Misc. Defence News (Apr 2023) -
- Indian Army signed deal with Nagpur based Solar Industries to supply *Nagastra* Loitering munition to Indian Army, with over 75 % indigenous content.
- P8I simulator *Ashok Roy Training Simulator Complex* (ARTSC) has been inaugurated at INS Rajali (Arakkonam).
- Combined Commanders' Conference 2023 held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), as annual event of India's top military commanders to discuss on military matters.
- Wing Commander Deepika Misra became first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry medal, which was Vayu Seva Medal conferred on her on Independence Day 2022.
58. ▶ Misc. Defence News (Feb 2023) -
- Indian armed forces intiatiated Operation Dost, as ongoing search and rescue operation to aid Syria and Turkey after recent devastating earthquakes.
- Indian Navy's Annual Refit Conference 23 (ARC-23) and Annual Infrastructure & Indigenisation Conference 23 (AIIC-23) conducted Eastern Naval Command Headquarters at Visakhapatnam.
- Defence PSU BEL partnered with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for domestic manufacturing of its LORA Weapon System for Indian Tri-services.
- Biennial arms and defence technology sales exhibition International Defence Exhibition & Conference (IDEX) 2023 held in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
  - Indian Navy's INS Sumedha Participated In IDEX And NAVDEX 23, on India's behalf.
- Procurements -
  - Approved purchase of 41 indigenous modular bridges from Larsen & Toubro (L&T), for Corps of Engineers of Indian Army, valued at 2585 crores.
59. ▶ Misc. Defence News / Events (June 2023) -
- DRDO tested New Generation Ballistic Missile *Agni Prime*, with operational range 1000 - 2000 KM.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated Integrated Simulator Complex (ISC) *Dhruv* at Southern Naval Command (Kochi), to enhance practical training in Indian Navy.
- Indigenously developed Naval Airfield Integrated Security System (*NAISS*) and Naval Anti-Drone System (*NADS*) have been inaugurated at naval air station INS Dega (Visakhapatnam), both developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- Indian Navy launched outreach program *Julley Ladakh* (Hello Ladakh) to increase awareness about Navy and engage with youth and civil society in Ladakh.
  - A 5000 km Motorcycle Expedition was flagged off from National War Memorial, as part of this initiative.
60. ▶ Misc. Defence News / Events (March 2023) -
- Indian Navy participated in Maritime Partnership Exercises (MPX) with French & Japanese Navies in Arabian Sea.
- Notable Procurements approved by Ministry of Defence -
  - Approved signing contract with Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) for acquisition of 3 Cadet Training Ships at cost 3108 crores.
  - Approved procurement of 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for Indian Air Force, at cost 6828 crores.
  - Signed contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for procurement of two Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems *Project Himshakti*, at cost 3000 crores.
  - Approved procurement of improved Akash Weapon System and 12 Weapon Locating Radars, WLR Swathi (Plains) for Indian Army at cost 9100 crores.
  - Signed contracts with Indian shipyards for acquisition of 11 Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels and 6 Next Generation Missile Vessels at cost 19600 crores.
    - 11 Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels will be procured from Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
    - 6 Next Generation Missile Vessels will be procured from Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).
  - Defence Acquisition Council approved procurement of HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles & VSHORAD (Very Short Range Air Defence System) missile defence system for Indian Army.
61. ▶ Misc. Defence News / Events (May 2023) -
- Ministry of Defence's flagship initiative *Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)* signed its 250th contract (also first under Mission DefSpace), with *InspeCity*.

- Also, 100th SPRINT (Navy) contract was also signed, with *Siliconia Technologies Pvt Ltd*.
- DRDO conducted successful maiden test trial of indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container *ADC-150,* with 150 kg payload capacity.
- Indian Navy Sailboat INSV Tarini completed 17000-nm long trans-ocean inter-continental voyage in seven months.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre in Chandigarh, as an embodiment of IAF's history and legacy.
- 35th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) conducted in the Andaman Sea.
- Indian Army's Gajraj Corps conducted Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise *Jal Rahat* at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River (Assam).
- Joint Bangladesh-US Naval Exercise **Tiger Shark 40** held at Chattogram (Bangladesh).

62. President Droupadi Murmu awarded *President's Colour* award to **INS Dronacharya**, the Navy's gunnery and missile warfare school. President's Colour, also called Nishaan, is highest honour bestowed on a military unit for its exceptional service to the nation.

63. President Droupadi Murmu presented **President's Colour** to **INS Dronacharya** (Kochi based gunnery school of Indian Navy)**,** as highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military / police unit 'in India, also known as *Nishaan*.
- Recently, President's Colour was also conferred upon Haryana state police.

64. Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army conducted exercise **Sudarshan Shakti 2023** along western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab.

65. South Africa, Russia and China held joint naval exercise called **Mosi-2** (Means Smoke), in the Indian Ocean, off the South African coast.

Economy

1. *Ministry of Corporate Affairs* established *Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)*, as a step towards centralising strike off process of companies.
- C-PACE will help reduce stress on Registry along with keeping registry clean besides availability of more meaningful data to the stakeholders.

2. GST Revenue Collected in Feb 2023 stood at 1.50 Lakh crores (including CGST 27662 crores, SGST 34915 crores, IGST 75069 crores & Cess 11931 crores.

3. Japan approved Official Developmet Assistance (ODA) for several projects in India -
- Patna Metro Rail Construction Project (I) - 5509 crores.
- Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal - 520 crores
- Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (II) - 1056 crores.

4. Monthly Trade and Inflation Data (March 2023) -
- **Inflation** and **Trade** Data for **March 2023** -
  - Wholesale price Index Based (**WPI**) -
    - WPI based inflation fell to **1.34 %** in **March** 2023, which is lowest in 29 months.
    - WPI Inflation in last 12 months -
      - February 2023 - 3.85 %
      - January 2023 - 4.73 %
      - December 2022 - 4.95 %
      - November 2022 - 5.85 %
      - October 2022 - 8.39 %
      - September 2022 - 10.07 %
      - August 2022 - 12.41 %
      - July 2022 - 13.93 %
      - June 2022 - 15.18 %
      - May 2022 - 15.88 % *(30 Year High)*
      - April 2022 - 15.08 %
      - March 2022 - 14.55 %
  - Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) Based (retail inflation) -
    - CPI-based inflation rate for **March** 2023 fell to **5.66 %**.
    - CPI Inflation in Last 12 Months -
      - February 2023 - 6.44 %
      - January 2023 - 6.52 %

- December 2022 - 5.72 %
- November 2022 - 5.88 %
- October 2022 - 6.77 %
- September 2022 - 7.41 %
- August 2022 - 7.01 %
- July 2022 - 6.71 %
- June 2022 - 7.01 %
- May 2022 - 7.04%
- April 2022 - 7.79 % *(8 Year High)*
- March 2022 - 6.95 %

🖋 **Trade** -
- Overall Trade in **March** 2023 (Merchandise + Services) -
  - Overall Imports - 72.18
  - Overall Exports - 66.14
  - Overall Trade Deficit - 6.04 **Billion USD**
- Compared to Last Month (February 2023)
  - Overall Imports - 65.85
  - Overall Exports - 63.02
  - Overall Trade Deficit - 2.83 **Billion USD**
- Notably, India's overall exports stood at highest ever USD **770.18 billion** during FY 2022-23, growing 13.84 % over FY 2021-22.
  - Out of this, Merchandise exports stood at USD 447.46 billion & Services exports at USD 322.72 billion, both a new annual record.
  - US and UAE retained first and second places respectively as India's largest export destinations, during FY 2022-23. Netherlands rose to third place, replacing China.
  - In terms of overall trade too (exports + imports), US remained India's top partner in 2022-23, with $128.55 Billion Trade (Exports $78.31 billion & imports $50.24 billion).

5. ▸ Stock exchange NSE received approval from capital markets regulator SEBI, to set-up a **social stock exchange** as a separate segment, aimed at benefitting social enterprises contributing to sustainable development goals.
   - Any social enterprise, Non-Profit Organization (NPOs) or For-Profit Social Enterprises (FPEs), that establishes its primacy of social intent can get listed on SSE segment.

6. ▸ *India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC)* has been established to boost Bilateral Trade and Investment between India and UAE, on the occasion of 1st anniversary of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
   - UIBC-UC is aimed at playing crucial role in increasing bilateral trade to USD 100 billion and attracting USD 75 billion investment from UAE to India.

7. ▸ *India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM)* operationalised mechanism to settle India-Malaysia trade in Indian rupees, by opening a special Rupee Vostro account through its corresponding bank in India, which is Union Bank of India. Vostro accounts are used to make payments in domestic currency.
   - This is under RBI's guidelins issued in July 2022, to allow settlement of international trade in Indian currency.

8. ▸ *Mobicule* launched *mCollect* Repossession module for banks and NBFCs, that maps all complex processes in repossession of an asset, as a part of its debt collection and recovery product.

9. ▸ *NSE Indices Limited* (NSE's index services subsidiary) launched India's first-ever Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) Index – the Nifty REITs & InvITs Index.
   - It will track performance of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded at NSE.

10. ▸ *Reliance General Insurance* became first general insurance company to accept Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency **e-Rupee** for premium payments, under a tie up with Yes Bank to facilitate collection of premiums in digital mode.

11. ▸ *Union Bank of India* launched 4 niche bank account schemes targeting women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners and cooperative housing societies.
    - Unnati - Current account specifically designed for women entrepreneurs and professionals.
    - Samriddhi - Tailored to empower women by providing them with a safe and convenient savings and financial management avenue.
    - Samman - Savings account aimed at pensioners.

🖊 SBCHS - Acknowledges significance of co-operative housing societies.

12. ▶ **Bank of Baroda** (BoB) announced facility to withdraw cash from its ATMs via Unified Payments Interface (UPI), in line with RBI's recent order to offer *Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal* option.

13. ▶ **Canara Bank** and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) launched cross-border inward bill payment services for Indians based in **Oman,** to enable them to make bill payments on behalf of their families through Musandam Exchange (managed by Canara Bank).
    🖊 This makes Canara Bank first public sector bank in India to offer inbound cross-border bill payments through BBPS.

14. ▶ **HDFC** Bank became first to launch UPI QR code interoperable with Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), to allow HDFC Bank merchants, who have been onboarded on the bank's CBDC platform, to accept payments from their customers in form of RBI's Digital Rupee currency.

15. ▶ **HDFC Bank** signed *Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement* with **Export Import Bank of Korea,** for **USD 300 million** line of credit.
    🖊 This line of credit will be utilised by HDFC Bank towards funding requirements of companies having equity participation by Korean companies, and companies having business relationship with Korean companies.

16. ▶ **ICICI Bank** launched *Startup Ecosystem Banking* as set of digital / physical solutions to cater to all banking needs of startups across their various life stages.

17. ▶ **PhonePe** launched new feature called *UPI International*, that will allow Indians traveling abroad (UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan) to pay foreign businesses using Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

18. ▶ **RBI Released its Annual Report for FY 23 (2022-23)** -
    🖊 Global -
        🖊 Global inflation surged to 8.7 % in 2022 from 4.7 % in 2021.
        🖊 Global trade (goods and services) growth slowed from 10.4 % in 2021 to 5.1 % in 2022.
    🖊 Indian Economy -
        🖊 Amidst strong global headwinds, Indian economy recorded real GDP growth of 7.0 % in 2022-23. Real GDP growth for 2023-24 is projected at 6.5 %.
        🖊 To tackle rising inflation, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased policy repo rate by 250 bps during 2022-23 in phases, from 4.00 % to 6.50 %.
        🖊 Gross fiscal deficit (GFD) of govt declined from 6.75 % of GDP in 2021-22 to 6.45 % of GDP in 2022-23.
        🖊 Overall, headline inflation increased to 6.7% in 202223 from 5.5% in 202122, reaching 8 year peak of 7.8 % in April 2022.
        🖊 General govt deficit and debt moderated to 9.4% and 86.5% of GDP respectively, in FY23 from peak levels of 13.1% and 89.4% in FY21, respectively.
        🖊 Key fiscal Indicators (As % of GDP) -

Year	Primary Deficit	Revenue Deficit	Primary Revenue Deficit	Gross Fiscal Deficit	Outstanding Liabilities@	Outstanding Liabilities$
2021-22	3.3	4.4	1.0	6.8	58.4	60.1
2022-23 (Revised estimates)	3.0	4.1	0.6	6.5	56.6	58.0
2023-24 (Budget estimates)	2.3	2.9	-0.7	5.9	56.6	57.8

    🖊 RBI Financials in FY 23 (2022-23) -
        🖊 RBI's balance sheet grew by 2.50 % in FY 23, to 63.45 Lakh crores.
        🖊 Key metrices of RBI Financials -

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Income	1,93,035.88	1,49,672.46	1,33,272.75	1,60,112.13	2,35,457.26
Total Expenditure	17,044.152	92,540.933	34,146.754	1,29,800.685	1,48,037.046
Net Income	1,75,991.73	57,131.53	99,126.00	30,311.45	87,420.22
Transfer to funds	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Surplus transferred to Central Government	1,75,987.73	57,127.53	99,122.00	30,307.45	87,416.22

    🖊 RBI Assets -
        🖊 Increase on the asset side was due to rise in foreign investments, gold, and loans and advances by 2.31 %, 15.30 % and 38.33 %, respectively.
        🖊 Domestic assets constituted 27.69 % while foreign currency assets and gold (including gold deposit and gold held in India) constituted 72.31 % of total assets.
        🖊 As on March 31, 2023, total gold held by RBI was 794.63 metric tonnes, compared to 760.42 metric tonnes as on March 31, 2022.

- RBI's holding of domestic securities decreased by 5.53 per cent, from 14.89 lakh crores as on March 31, 2022 to 14.06 lakh crores as on March 31, 2023.
- Govt debt -
  - General government deficit moderated to 9.4% of GDP, while government debt stood at 86.5% of GDP. These figures represent a decline from peak levels of 13.1% and 89.4% recorded in 2020-21, respectively.
- FDI Inflows -

Source/Industry	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (P)
Total FDI	44.4	50.0	59.6	58.8	46.0
Country-wise Inflows					
Singapore	16.2	14.7	17.4	15.9	17.2
Mauritius	8.1	8.2	5.6	9.4	6.1
US	3.1	4.1	13.8	10.5	6.0
UAE	0.9	0.3	4.2	1.0	3.4
Netherlands	3.9	6.5	2.8	4.6	2.5

- Top 3 sectors for FDI Inflows - Manufacturing, Financial Services, Computer Services.
- NPAs / Bank Frauds -
  - Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPA) as share of total advances has decreased from 15.5% in 2018-19 to 5.8% in quarter ending December 2022 (Q3).
  - 13530 cases of bank frauds were identified in 202223 involving an amount of 30252 crores, compared to 9097 frauds amounting 59819 crores in 2021-22.
- Currency Notes in Circulation -
  - Value and volume of banknotes in circulation increased by 7.8% and 4.4%, respectively, during 2022-23.
  - In value terms, share of ₹500 and ₹2000 banknotes together accounted for 87.9% of total value of banknotes in circulation.
  - In volume terms, ₹500 denomination constituted highest share at 37.9%, followed by ₹10 denomination banknotes which constituted 19.2% of total banknotes in circulation.
- Credit -
  - Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) reported credit growth of 15.4 % in FY23, against 9.7 % in FY22.

19. **SBI** announced completion of a $1 billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility, as largest ESG loan by a commercial bank in Asia Pacific and second-largest social loan globally.
   - This $1 billion loan facility is arranged through *MLABs*, *MUFG Bank*, and *Taipei Fubon Commercial Bank*, with MUFG as Lead Social Loan Coordinator.

20. **World Bank** approved loan of **500 Million USD** for construction of **Green National Highway Corridors** of 781 km length, in 4 Indian states - *Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh*.

21. **World Bank** approved two complementary loans for India, of **$500 million** each, to support and enhance India's health sector development.
   - Through this combined financing of $1 billion, World Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), to improve public healthcare infrastructure.

22. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched National Crop Insurance Portal's digitized claim settlement module namely **DigiClaim,** under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). It will enable electronic disbursal of claims, to benefit farmers.

23. Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja launched new campaign for banks under *Agri Infra Fund*, titled *BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation)*, to last till 15th August 2023, with a target of Rs 7200 crores.

24. Airtel Payments Bank launched its *BizKhata* current account for small merchants, with features such as Instant activation, Zero minimum balance and others.

25. American Chipmaker & Semiconductor Firm **AMD** announced to invest $400 million in India over 5 years, to expand research, development and engineering Operations.
   - AMD also announced to open new campus in Bangalore, with its largest R&D facility globally.

26. As per *Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation* 2023 by *UNESCAP* -
   - India's score on global trade facilitation improved to 93.55% in 2023, Best in South Asia.
   - India scored perfect 100% score in four areas - Transparency, Formalities, Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation, and Paperless Trade. India also witnessed noticeable improvement in score for *Women in Trade Facilitation* component, from 66.7% in 2021 to 77.8% in 2023.

27. As per *Goldman Sachs,* India will become world's second-largest economy by 2075, surpassing Japan, Germany and US.

- Currently, India is fifth-largest economy, behind Germany, Japan, China and US.

28. As per *Hurun India's 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list* -
    - Mukesh Ambani led *Reliance Industries* stayed at top, as most valuable private company in India. It is followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and HDFC Bank.

29. As per *National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22,* conducted by *Department of Science and Technology* in collaboration with UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) -
    - **Karnataka** is most innovative in its manufacturing sector, followed by Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
    - Uttarakhand ranked best among hill states, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has highest score among UTs.

30. As per *Trade in services for development* report by *World Trade Organization* (WTO) -
    - India doubled its share of global commercial services exports from 2005 to 2022, from 2.0 % to 4.4 %.
    - China also nearly doubled its share of global commercial services exports during same period, from 3.0 % to 5.4 %.

31. As per FDI Data for FY 23 (2022-23) by DPIIT -
    - FDI into India declined by 22 % to **$46 billion** in **FY23** (2022-23), down from FDI inflows of $58.77 billion during FY22 (2021-22).
    - Total FDI inflows (which include equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital), declined to $70.97 billion FY 23 (2022-23), compared to US$83.57 billion in FY 22 (2021-22).
    - Top 5 Source nations for FDI in India (During FY 23) - Singapore, Mauritius, USA, UAE, Netherlands.

32. As per RBI Data -
    - India must maintain a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.6% in real GDP during 2023-24 to 2047-48, to be known as a developed country by 2047.
    - Currently estimated at $2500, India's per capita income needs to surpass $21664 by 2047, as per World Bank standards, to be classified as a high-income country.
    - Notably, India's historical best over 25-year period was a CAGR of 8.1% during 1993-94 to 2017-18.

33. As per RBI data, India's **current account deficit** (CAD) declined to US$ 18.2 billion, or 2.2 % of GDP, in Q3 of FY 23 (Oct - Dec 2022), due to narrowing merchandise trade deficit and robust services and private transfer receipts.

34. As per UNCTAD's *World Investment Report 2023* -
    - Globally, Foreign direct investment (FDI) fell 12% in 2022, to $1.3 trillion.
    - India received $49.35 Billion FDI in 2022, compared to $44.7 Billion received in 2021.

35. As per data by National Securities Depository -
    - Overseas flows into Indian capital markets originating from tax-haven Mauritius witnessed sharp decline, as total assets under custody from Mauritius declined 42 % to Rs 3.25 Lakh crores.
    - US, followed by Singapore are now Top 2 jurisdictions for foreign portfolio investor (FPI) flows to India. Mauritius has slipped to 4th place (from 2nd). Luxembourg stands 3rd.

36. As per govt data on Steel Sector -
    - India is 2nd Largest Producer of Crude Steel, surpassing Japan in 2018.
    - Also, in FY 23 (2022-23), India remained net exporter of steel, witnessing export of 6.72 MT of finished steel against import of 6.02 MT.
    - India aims at total crude steel capacity of 300 MTPA (154 MTPA currently) and total crude steel demand/production of 255 MTPA by 2030-31.

37. As per govt data, Govt met its fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) for FY 23 (2022-23), due to robust tax revenue.
    - In FY24 (2023-24), govt aims to bring fiscal deficit down to of 5.9 % of GDP.

38. Asian Development Bank (ADB) Approved **$141 million** loan to support development of high-quality internal infrastructure in three industrial clusters in state of **Andhra Pradesh**.
    - This financing is 2nd tranche of $500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for program approved by ADB in 2016.

39. Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved **$200 million loan** as additional financing for ongoing **Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project,** to expand water supply and sanitation systems and enhance urban resilience and heritage living in selected towns.

40. Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved **$295 million loan** for India, to upgrade around 265 kilometer state highways with climate and disaster resilient design, and road safety elements in **Bihar**.

41. Asian Development Bank (ADB) proposed to provide $20-$25 billion to India during next 5 years, to fund India's infrastructure creation under PM Gati Shakti initiative, and social development / climate action.

42. ▸ Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed agreement with Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL), to subscribe non-convertible debentures worth 150 crores of TPDDL, to enhance Delhi's power distribution through grid enhancements.
    ✎ ADB also agreed to provide USD 2 million grant to partially finance purchase and integration of a pilot battery energy storage system (BESS).

43. ▸ Axis Bank completed acquisition of India consumer business of Citigroup-owned foreign bank Citibank, for 12325 crores. The deal was announced in March 2022.

44. ▸ Axis Bank launched *Sarathi* as first-of-its-kind digital onboarding assistant for merchants to adopt Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (PoS).

45. ▸ Bangladesh and India launched settlement of trade transactions in Indian rupees, aimed at reducing dependence on US dollar and strengthening regional currency and trade.
    ✎ This is first time Bangladesh has done bilateral trade with a foreign country in addition to US dollar.
    ✎ Trade would be transacted in Indian rupee and then gradually in Bangladeshi currency Taka upon trade gap decreasing. Exports from Bangladesh to India currently are approx 2 Billion USD, while imports are Approx 14 Billion USD.

46. ▸ Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has been recognized as best bank in managing bad loans, with low net non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio of 0.25% during FY 23. It is best among all banks with business exceeding 3 lakh crores.

47. ▸ Chinese e-commerce giant **Alibaba** sold its remaining 3.16 % stake in Indian Digital Payments Firm **Paytm**, for approx $167 million.
    ✎ Earlier In January 2023, Alibaba had sold its 3.1 % in Paytm for $125 million.
    ✎ With these 2 deals, Alibaba has sold its entire 6.26% stake in Paytm.

48. ▸ Department of Economic Affairs has permitted eligible Scheduled Banks (Public/Private) to implement *Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme (MSSC) 2023*, to enhance access to scheme for girls/women, which was announced in Budget 2023-24.
    ✎ Notably, MSSC scheme has been in operation since April 1 2023 through Department of Post. Now, it will also be available through eligible Scheduled Banks.
    ✎ Features -
        ✎ Account can be opened under this scheme on or before 31 March 2025, for a tenure of two years.
        ✎ Deposits will be in range of 1000 - 200000, bearing interest at the rate of 7.5% per annum.

49. ▸ Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) approved capital investment proposals of 56415 crores in 16 States, under scheme *Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24*, which was announced in Budget 2023-24.
    ✎ Under this, special assistance is being provided to States in form of 50-year interest free loan up to an 1.3 lakh crores during FY 24 (2023-24).
    ✎ The scheme has 8 parts, Part-I being largest with allocation of 1 lakh crores, allocated amongst States in proportion to their share of central taxes & duties as per award of 15th Finance Commission. Other parts of scheme are either linked to reforms or are for sector specific projects.

50. ▸ Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) launched scheme **Vivad se Vishwas I − Relief to MSMEs**, for providing relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for COVID-19 period, as announced in Union Budget 2023-24. Under it -
    ✎ 95 % of forfeited performance security / bid security / Liquidated Damages amount will be returned to MSMEs, in cases of failure by MSMEs to execute contracts during COVID period. Claims can be submitted till 30-06-2023.

51. ▸ E-commerce Firm **Amazon** joined Indian government's *ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)* platform, beginning with integration of its Smart Commerce and logistics services with ONDC network.
    ✎ ONDC is set up by Commerce Ministry's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to provide small e-commerce stores and online sellers with a level playing field.

52. ▸ Edelweiss General Insurance rebranded itself as *Zuno General Insurance,* with focus on digital insurance space.

53. ▸ European Investment Bank (EIB) proposed investing €1 billion in India's renewable energy sector.
    ✎ Notably, European Investment Bank (EIB) earlier had joined *India Hydrogen Alliance* (IH2A) and proposed to support large-scale green hydrogen hubs and projects in India.
        ✎ IH2A is an industry coalition of firms committed to creation of a hydrogen value-chain and economy in India.

54. ▸ Finance Minister *Nirmala Sitharaman* announced several important measures to strengthen **Corporate Debt Market** in India -
    ✎ Inaugurated **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF),** aimed at installing confidence amongst participants in corporate bond market.
        ✎ Creation of a permanent institutional framework to enhance secondary market liquidity in Corporate Bond market was announced in Speech of Union Budget 2021-22. It has now manifested in form of Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (*CDMDF*).

- Notified establishment of *Guarantee Scheme for Corporate Debt* (**GSCD**) for providing guarantee cover against debt to be raised by Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF), which will act as a backstop in corporate debt market, in times of market dislocation.
    - GSCD will be managed by Guarantee Fund for Corporate Debt (GFCD), a Trust Fund formed by DEA with corpus of 310 crores.
    - GFCD will be managed by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC) under Ministry of Finance. The Trust would provide guarantee cover for loans under 30000 crores, to be raised by CDMDF during times of market dislocation. NCGTC will give guarantee as a standing facility, initially for 15 years.
- As another initiative to deepen corporate bond markets, Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) named as AMC Repo Clearing Corporation Limited (**ARCL**) started functioning.
    - LPCC aims at clearing and settlement of corporate bond repo transactions and to develop an active repo market, which will improve liquidity in underlying corporate bond market.
- Govt also announced to enable direct listing of listed/unlisted companies on IFSC exchanges, which will enable start-ups and companies of like nature to access global market through GIFT IFSC. This will also facilitate access to global capital and result in better valuation for Indian companies.

55. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Presented Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament, as her 5th Union Budget and 4th Full Budget of newly elected NDA Government forming 17th Lok Sabha, led by PM Narendra Modi. Details can be seen here.

56. GST Revenue Collection in April 2023 stood at **1.87 Lakh Crores (Highest ever)**, including CGST 38440 crores, SGST 47412 crores, IGST 89158 crores & cess 12025 crores.

57. GST revenue collected in March 2023 stood at 1.6 lakh crores (of which CGST 29546 crores, SGST 37314 crores, IGST 82907 crores and cess 10355 crores.

58. GST revenue collected in May 2023 stood at **157090** crores (CGST 28411 crores, SGST 35828 crores, IGST 81363 crores & cess is 11489 crores).

59. Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN) launched its first **Greenwashing TechSprint** (hosted on FCA's Digital Sandbox), to run between June 5 - Sep 05, aiming to develop a solution that can help regulators in effectively tackling risks of **greenwashing** in financial services.
    - TechSprint will bring together 13 international regulators (Including India's RBI), with aim of addressing GFIN's priority on environmental, social and governance (ESG) and sustainable finance.
    - About -
        - GFIN is a group of over 80 international organisations committed to supporting financial innovation in interest of consumers, currently chaired by UK's Financial Conduct Authority.
        - Greenwashing is when a company makes an environmental claim about something it is doing that is intended to promote a sense of environmental impact, that doesn't exist.

60. Global power technology firm Cummins partnered with India's Tata Motors, to manufacture range of low-to zero-emission tech products in India.
    - Under it, entity called *TCPL Green Energy Solutions Private Ltd* has been set up, for manufacturing sustainable technology products such as hydrogen-powered internal combustion engines, fuel delivery systems, battery electric powertrains and fuel cell electric systems.

61. Govt announced to form 1100 New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Cooperative Sector, to boost vision of *Sahkar se Samriddhi*.
    - National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will set up these FPOs, under its *Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs* scheme.
    - Under it, assistance of 33 lakhs is provided to each FPO. Also, assistance of 25 lakhs per FPO is provided to *Cluster Based Business Organizations*.
    - With integration of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in FPO scheme, PACS will be able to expand their business in several areas, including higher income generating activities.

62. Govt extended PM-KUSUM scheme till March 2026, as its implementation was significantly affected due to the p0andemic.
    - Launched in 2019, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) aimed at adding solar capacity of 30800 MW by 2022, with central financial support of over 34000 crores.

63. Govt granted Navratna Status to Railways PSU **Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)**, making it 13th PSU to have Navaratna Status.
    - Also, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has been accorded status of Miniratna Category-I.

64. Govt has invited new applications for setting up of *Semiconductor Fabs and Display Fabs* in India, under *Modified Semicon India* Programme, implemented by *India Semiconductor Mission* -

- Under it, Fiscal Incentive of 50 % of project cost is available to firms for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs (any node) / Display Fabs in India. Application window of is open till December 2024.
  - Govt had launched *Semicon India Programme* in December 2021 with outlay of 76000 crores, for development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India.

65. ▶ Govt hiked rate of interests on various small savings schemes - for Q1:FY 24 (April - June 2024) -
  - Senior citizens savings scheme - 8.2 % (from 8 % earlier)
  - Kisan Vikas Patra - 7.5 % (7.2 % earlier)
  - Monthly Income Account scheme - 7.4 % (from 7.1 % earlier)
  - National Savings Certificate - 7.7 % (from 7 % earlier)
  - Sukanya Samriddhi - 8 % (from 7.6 % earlier).
  - Notably, Interest rate on Most popular small savings scheme PPF (Public Provident Fund), has been kept unchanged at 7.1%.

66. ▶ Govt in consultation with RBI, has issued details for Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs), to be issued in 2 tranches for FY 24 (2023 - 24) (in June & Sep 2023) -

Item	Details
Issuance	To be issued by RBI on behalf of Government of India, through through Scheduled Commercial banks (except SFBs, Payment Banks and RRBs), Stock Holding Corporation of India (SHCIL), Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL), designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges.
Tenor	Tenor of SGB will be for 8 years with an option of premature redemption after 5th year, to be exercised on date on which interest is payable.
Limits	Permissible investment will be between 1 gram to 4 Kg for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal year (April-March).
Price	Price (Issue & Redemption) will be fixed on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, published by India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited (IBJA). Issue price will be less by ₹50 per gram for online payments. Payment will be through cash (upto ₹20000) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.
Interest rate	Investors will get fixed rate of 2.50 % per annum payable semi-annually.
Usability	SGBs can be used as collateral for loans. SGBs shall also be eligible for trading.
Commission	Commission for distribution of SGB shall be paid at rate of 1 % of total subscription received by receiving offices and receiving offices shall share at least 50 % of commission with agents for business procured through them.

67. ▶ Govt increased maximum age for Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's (PFRDA) ombudsman from 65 to 70 years, who is responsible for helping to resolve grievances that come under PFRDA regulations.

68. ▶ Govt notified Notable changes in Tax Collected at Source (TCS) under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) -
  - For first Rs 7 Lakh remittance under LRS, there shall be no TCS. Beyond this threshold, TCS shall be -
    - 0.5% (if remittance for education is financed by education loan)
    - 5% (in case of remittance for education/medical treatment)
    - 20% for others.
    - Increased TCS rates to apply from 1st October 2023.
  - Credit card transactions will be brought under LRS, thus attracting applicable TCS.
  - About -
    - Under *Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)*, all resident individuals are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year.

69. ▶ Govt raised interest rates on select savings schemes for July-September quarter (Q2 FY 24 (2023-24)) -
  - 5 year recurring deposit (RD) - 6.5 % (Hike of .30 %).
  - 1 year term deposits - 6.9 % (Hike of 0.1 %)
  - 2 year term deposits - 7 % (Hike of 01. %)
  - Interest rates for term deposits with tenors of 3 & 5 years remain unchanged at 7 % and 7.5 %, respectively.
  - Inrerest Rates on other small savings schemes (Kept unchanged) -
    - Public Provident Fund (PPF) - 7.1 %
    - Savings deposits - 4 %
    - National Savings Certificate (NSC) - 7.7 %
    - Girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi - 8 %
    - Senior citizen savings scheme - 8.2 %
    - Kisan Vikas Patra - 7.5 %

70. ▶ Highlights from 50th GST Council meeting held in New Delhi, under chairpersonship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman -

- Reduced rate on uncooked/unfried snack pellets, fish soluble paste, LD Slag, imitation zari thread/yarn, to 5 %.
- Casino, Horse Racing and Online gaming to be taxed at uniform rate of 28%.
- GST exemption on satellite launch services supplied by ISRO and its subsidiaries will be extended to such services supplied by organisations in private sector also, to encourage start ups.

71. ▶ Home Affairs Ministry launched *Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States*, from allocation of Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), for strengthening fire services in States, with outlay of 5000 crores.
   - Amount of 500 crores (out of total outlay) has been kept for incentivizing States on the basis of their legal and infrastructure-based reforms.

72. ▶ India signed **$130 million** loan agreement with **Asian Development Bank** (ADB), to increase agricultural productivity, improve irrigation and promote horticulture agribusinesses in **Himachal Pradesh**.

73. ▶ India's Adani Group acquired strategic Israeli port of **Haifa** for **USD 1.2 billion.**

74. ▶ India's external debt position at end of FY 23 (2022-23) -
   - External debt stood at US$ 624.7 billion, compared to US$ 619.1 billion at end of FY 22 (2021-22).
   - External debt to GDP ratio declined to 18.9 % from 20 %, during the same period.

75. ▶ Indian Airline **IndiGo** made a record order for **500 Airbus A320** aircrafts, the largest single purchase agreement by any airline in commercial aviation history. The deal worth **$55 Billion** was announced during *Paris Airshow 2023*.
   - Also, Tata Group owned **Air India** also finalized order for total **470 aircrafts** with Airbus (250) and Boeing (220), during *Paris Airshow 2023*. It was announced earlier in feb 2023.

76. ▶ Indian PM Narendra Modi and Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong jointly launched **cross-border linkage** between **India** and **Singapore**, using their respective Fast Payment Systems - **Unified Payments Interface** (India) and **PayNow** (Singapore).
   - UPI-PayNow linkage will enable users of the two fast payment systems in either country to make instant and safe cross-border funds transfers using their respective mobile apps. Funds can be transferred using UPI-id / mobile number / Virtual Payment Address (VPA).
   - To begin with, an Indian user can remit up to ₹60,000 in a day (around SGD 1000).
   - Notably, RBI also issued a facility to enable all in-bound travellers visiting India to make local payments using Unified Payments Interface (UPI), while they are in India.

77. ▶ Inflation and Trade data (Jan 2023) -
   - **Inflation** and **Trade** Data for **January 2023** -
     - Wholesale price Index Based (**WPI**) -
       - WPI based inflation fell to **4.73 %** in January 2023, which is lowest in 24 months.
       - WPI Inflation in last 12 months -
         - December 2022 - 4.95 %
         - November 2022 - 5.85 %
         - October 2022 - 8.39 %
         - September 2022 - 10.07 %
         - August 2022 - 12.41 %
         - July 2022 - 13.93 %
         - June 2022 - 15.18 %
         - May 2022 - 15.88 % *(30 Year High)*
         - April 2022 - 15.08 %
         - March 2022 - 14.55 %
         - Feb 2022 - 13.11 %
         - Jan 2022 - 12.96 %
     - Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) Based (retail inflation) -
       - CPI-based inflation rate for January 2023 rose to **6.52 %**.
       - CPI Inflation in Last 12 Months -
         - December 2022 - 5.72 %
         - November 2022 - 5.88 %
         - October 2022 - 6.77 %
         - September 2022 - 7.41 %

- August 2022 - 7.01 %
- July 2022 - 6.71 %
- June 2022 - 7.01 %
- May 2022 - 7.04%
- April 2022 - 7.79 % *(8 Year High)*
- March 2022 - 6.95 %
- Feb 2022 - 6.07 %
- Jan 2022 - 6.01 %

- **Trade** -
  - Overall Trade in January 2023 (Merchandise + Services) -
    - Overall Imports - 66.42
    - Overall Exports - 65.15
    - Overall Trade Deficit - 1.27 **Billion USD**
    - Compared to Last Month (December 2022)
      - Overall Imports - 73.80
      - Overall Exports - 61.82
      - Overall Trade Deficit - **11.98 Billion USD**

78. ▶ Japan approved to provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) to India, including INR 1728 crores for *Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Project (III)* and INR 560 crores for *Establishment of Mizoram State Super-Specialty Cancer and Research Centre.*

79. ▶ MSME Minister Narayan Rane launched **MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme** under MSME Champions Scheme, to provide a roadmap to global competitiveness for MSMEs of India.
    - LEAN manufacturing is a production method aimed primarily at reducing times within production system, closely related to *just-in-time manufacturing.*
    - LEAN manufacturing adopts just-in-time approach and also focuses on reducing cycle, flow and throughput times by further eliminating activities which do not add any value for customer.

80. ▶ MSME Minister Narayan Rane launched revamped CGTMSE (*Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises*) Scheme, with additional corpus support of ₹9,000 crore as allotted in Union Budget FY 2023-24, to provide guarantee for additional ₹2 lakh crore to Micro & Small Enterprises.
    - Modifications include -
      - Reduction in guarantee fees for loans upto ₹1 crore by 50% bringing minimum guarantee fee to the level of 0.37% PA.
      - Raising of ceiling for guarantee from ₹2 crore to ₹ 5 crore and enhancing threshold limit for claim settlement without initiation of legal ction to ₹10 lakh.
      - CGTMSE will also collaborate with Hyderabad-based National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NI-MSME), for setting up a Centre of Financial Inclusion for MSME.

81. ▶ Merger of **HDFC** Bank and its Parent Entity Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) came into effect from July 01, 2023.
    - Merged entity has become world's fourth largest bank by market capitalisation (approx $170 Billion), behind *JPMorgan Chase & Co*, *Industrial and Commercial Bank of China* and *Bank of America*. It is also 2nd most valued firm on Indian stock exchanges, after RIL.
    - Notably, Boards of *IDFC First Bank Ltd* and *IDFC Limited* also approved their merger with each other.

82. ▶ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's National Statistical Office released Provisional Estimates of National Income for 2022-23 and Quarterly Estimates of GDP for quarter January -March of 2022-23 (**Q4 FY 23** (2022-23)) -
    - At Constant Prices ((2011-12) -
      - GDP estimated at ₹43.62 lakh crores in Q4 FY 23 (2022-23), as against ₹41.12 lakh crore in Q4 FY 22 (2021-22), showing growth of **6.1 %**.
        - GDP Growth for last 4 Quarters -
          - Q3 FY 23 (2022-23) - 4.4 %
          - Q2 FY 23 (2022-23) - 6.3 %
          - Q1 FY 23 (2022-23) - 13.5 %
          - Q4 FY 22 (2021-22) - 4.1 %
      - GDP estimated to attain a level of ₹160.06 lakh crores, as against ₹149.26 lakh crore for FY 2021-22, showing growth of **7.2 %**.

- At Current Prices -
    - GDP Growth in Q4 (2022-23) came to be 10.4 %.
    - FY 23 (2022-23) GDP growth came to be 16.1 %.
- Also, As per data on Accounts of Union Govt (Provisional) for FY 2022-2023 -
    - Govt received ₹24,55,706 crore during 2022-23, Notably comprising -
        - ₹20,97,368 crore as Tax Revenue
        - ₹2,86,151 crore as Non-Tax Revenue
    - Total Expenditure incurred by Govt is ₹41,88,837 crore, Notably comprising -
        - ₹34,52,518 crore on Revenue Account
            - Out of Total Revenue Expenditure, ₹9,28,424 crore is on account of Interest Payments and ₹5,30,959 crore is on account of Major Subsidies.
        - ₹7,36,319 crore on Capital Account.

83. ▶ Misc. Economy / Financial News (Jul 2023) -
    - RBI Canceled banking license of several regional co-operative banks -
        - Buldhana (Maharashtra) based *Malkapur Urban Co-operative Bank*.
        - Satara (Maharashtra) based *Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank*.
        - Tumkur (Karnataka) based *Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank*.
        - Bengaluru (Karnataka) based *Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank*.
        - Nagina (Uttar Pradesh) based *United India Co-operative Bank*.
    - GST revenue collected in June 2023 stood at 1,61,497 crores (CGST 31,013 crores, SGST 38,292 crores, IGST 80,292 crores & cess 11,900 crores.
    - Housing Finance Firm Piramal Finance (Earlier Known as Dewan Housing Finance) opened its first all-women branch named *Maitreyi* in Kochi (Kerala).
    - PNB launched UPI 123PAY, as an IVR-based UPI solution, to boost cashless payments.
        - *UPI 123Pay* framework was earlier launched by RBI in March 2022, which allows cashless transactions without smartphones or internet connections using feature phones.
    - Used car platform *CarTrade* acquired online marketplace OLX's auto sales business for 537 crores.
    - Miniratna PSU Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has been upgraded to Schedule A from Schedule B, by Petroleum Ministry.
    - *Max Life Insurance* signed bancassurance partnership with DCB Bank, to offer variety of life insurance products to insurer's customers.
    - Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) become first Indian PSU to get certified for Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) by international accredited certification body *InterCert USA*.
    - PFRDA announced to allow pension funds to invest in Sovereign Green Bonds.
        - Eartlier, govt had raised 16000 crores from maiden issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds for funding public sector projects seeking to reduce carbon emissions.
    - Reliance Industries renamed its demerged entity *Reliance Strategic Investments* to *Jio Financial Services*
    - RBI clarified that Star (*) symbol is inserted in number panel of a banknote that is used as replacement for defectively printed banknotes, and are legal tender like other banknotes.
    - Govt approved increasing interest rate of deposits in EPFO's Provident Fund (PF) to 8.15% for current Financial year (from 8.10 % earlier).
    - IT Firm HCL joined *XR Startup Program* initiative of *Meta* and Indian government, to promote extended reality (XR) technology companies.
    - Indian Payments Firm Razorpay launched India's first international Payment Gateway in Malaysia, after acquiring Malaysian fintech start-up *Curlec* for $20 million.
    - Russia's Sberbank received RBI Approval to establish a large scale IT unit in Bangalore, as its in-house data processing center.
    - Indian GDP Growth Forecasts -
        - International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 24 (2023-24), to 6.1% (from previous prediction of 5.9%).
            - Other Notable info from IMF's World Economic Outlook July 2023 Update -
                - Global growth is projected to fall from 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3.0 % in both 2023 and 2024.
                    - Notably, Global growth projection in 2023 has been raised from 2.8 % to 3.0 %, in July update.

- Global headline inflation is expected to fall from 8.7 % in 2022 to 6.8 % in 2023 and 5.2 % in 2024.

84. ▶ Misc. Economy / Financial News (Feb 2023) -
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das laid foundation stone for establishment of a *Greenfield Data Centre* and *Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute* in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), to cater to emerging requirements of RBI and financial sector.
- RBI barred State Bank of Mauritius (SBM)'s Indian subsidiary SBM Bank (India) from processing foreign exchange remittances under *Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS),* amid certain supervisory concerns.
  - Later, as a relief to customers, RBI allowed ATM/POS transactions under LRS through KYC compliant internationally active debit cards issued by bank.
  - Under LRS scheme introduced in 2004, all resident Indian individuals are allowed to remit up to $250000 per financial year for any transaction abroad.

85. ▶ Misc. Economy / Financial News (June 2023) -
- Notable Penalties imposed by RBI -
  - J&K Bank - 2.5 Crores
  - Indian Overseas Bank - 2.20 Crores
  - Bank of Maharashtra - 1.45 Crores
- RBI revoked banking license of Dharwad (Karnataka) based *Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank,* and allowed it to operate as a non-banking institution.
- RBI inaugurated Sub-office in Kohima (Nagaland), to expand its presence in north-eastern region.
- Govt initiated disbursement of pending dues of employees at Ministry of Textiles' PSU *British India Corporation* (BIC), as per a Union Budget 2023-24 announcement.
  - BIC is a historic textile enterprise dating back to 1876, headquartered in Kanpur. It operates two woolen mills - Lalimli (Kanpur) & Dhariwal (Punjab). It ceased manufacturing in 2005 but still employs 1800 people.
- Govt authorized State Bank of India (SBI)'s designated branches for issuing and encashing Electoral Bonds in July 2023.
- Maharatna PSU REC Limited announced assistance of 3045 crores for Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL), for development of Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro.
- Fino Payments Bank partnered with Fintech startup *Hubble* to launch India's first spending account, allowing customers to conveniently park their funds, make purchases across various categories, and also make additional savings.
- As per govt data, India topped globally in number of digital payments in 2022, with 89.5 million digital transactions.
- Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (June 2023) -
  - JP Morgan - 5.5% for FY24 (2023-24).
  - S&P Global Ratings - 6 % for FY 24 (2023-24).
  - Fitch - 6.3% for FY24 (2023-24).
  - As per World Bank Global Economic Prospects (June 2023) -
    - Indian GDP Growth is expected to be 6.3 % in FY24 (2023-24), 6.4 % in FY25 (2024-25) & 6.5 % in FY26 (2025-26).
    - Global growth is expected to be 2.1% in 2023, 2.4% in 2024 & 3.0% in 2025.
- Govt sold 3 % of its stake in Maharatna PSU **Coal India,** fetching 4185 Crores. This has brought down govt's holdings in Coal India to 63.13 %.
- Fintech firm Razorpay introduced *Turbo UPI* one-step UPI payments solution, in collaboration with Axis Bank. It will allow payments directly without being redirected to a third-party UPI app during checkout.
- As first such micro-marketing initiative in banking, Federal Bank launched *I am Adyar, Adyar is me* campaign in Tamil Nadu, to celebrate local culture by transforming a bank branch into a museum of local stories.
- IRDAI granted life insurance business licence to *Go Digit Life Insurance Limited*, making it 26th insurer in life insurance segment.
- Facebook parent *Meta* launched a new Mixed Reality programme in India under its *Presence* platform, with an award of $250000 for upto 5 homegrown new companies to construct applications.
- Indian IT Firm Infosys acquired $454 million deal from Danish Firm *Danske Bank,* to accelerate bank's digital transformation goals.
- Indian IT Firm TCS acquired £840 million deal from UK's National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), to digitally transform NEST's administration services over 10 years. Contract is extendable to 18 years, with value reaching £1.5 billion.
- As per *Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2023*, *Tata Power* has been named India's most *attractive employer brand*, followed by Amazon and Tata Steel.
- UK's Lloyds Banking Group announced to establish a technology centre in Hyderabad, to enhance group's digital capabilities.

86. ▶ Misc. Economy / Financial News (March 2023) -

- NTPC completed transfer of its 15 renewable energy assets to its subsidiary NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL), for a consideration of Rs 10067 crores. Also -
  - NTPC Subsidiary *NGEL* signed Joint Venture Agreement with IOCL for setting up of renewable energy projects to meet power requirement of IOCL Refineries.
  - NTPC Subsidiary *NTPC Renewable Energy Limited* -
    - Signed MoU with Indian Army for setting up Green Hydrogen Projects in Army its establishments.
    - Partnered with *Greenko ZeroC Pvt Ltd,* to Supply 1300 MW RE Power for Greenko's upcoming Green Ammonia Plant at Kakinada.
  - NTPC commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project, in piped natural gas (PNG) network of NTPC Kawas township (Surat).
- Notable Competition Commission of India approvals -
  - *LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Limited*'s acquisition of management rights over schemes of IDBI MF, from IDBI Asset Management Limited.
  - Approved acquisition of *METRO Cash and Carry India Private Limited* by *Reliance Retail Ventures Limited,* for approx 2850 crores.
- RBI launched Mission *Har Payment Digital* on occasion of *Digital Payments Awareness Week 2023* (March 6-12, 2023).
- EPFO approved 8.15 % annual rate of interest for EPF subscribers for FY 23 (2022-23), up from 8.10 % last year.
- Kolkata based *UCO Bank* observed its 80 anniversary (founded on Jan 6, 1943).
- *RBL Bank* partnered with Export-Import Bank of India under Trade Assistance Programme (TAP), to support cross-border trade transactions. It aims to facilitate India's exports globally by providing credit enhancement to trade instruments.
- Tata group owned *Air India* announced to discontinue *Vistara* brand, on completion of its merger with Tata SIA Airlines (operator of Vistara airline). The resultant full service carrier of Tata group will be known as Air India.
  - Earlier in Nov 2022, TATA group announced to merge its Airlines *Air India* and *Vistara.*
    - Tata Group owned 51 % stake in Vistara, while remaining 49 % was held by Singapore Airlines.
    - As part of transaction, Singapore Airlines (SIA) invested 2058 crores in Air India. This gave SIA 25.1 % stake in enlarged Air India group.
- Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (Mar 2023) -
  - Moody's - 5.5% (FY 2024 (2023-24)) & 6.5% in FY 2025 (2024-25).
  - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) - 5.9% (FY 2024 (2023-24)).
  - CRISIL - 6 % (FY 2024 (2023-24)).
  - S&P Global Ratings - 6 % (FY 2024 (2023-24)) & 6.9% in FY 2025 (2024-25)
- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launched *Nishchit Aayush Plan*, as a non-linked non-participating individual savings life insurance plan.
- Finance Ministry amended *Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)* by bringing cryptocurrencies and other virtual digital assets trade under its ambit.
- Axis Bank launched payments solution *MicroPay,* as a *PIN on Mobile* solution that turns a merchant's smartphone into a Point-of-Sale (POS) terminal.
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance introduced an industry-first feature for health insurance policyholders called *Anywhere Cashless*, which allows customers to receive cashless facilities at any hospital, regardless of whether or not it is currently part of ICICI Lombard's hospital network.

87. ▶ Misc. Economy / Financial News (May 2023) -
- RBI imposed penalty of 2.92 crores on Canara Bank, for violation of several RBI norms.
- RBI imposed penalty of 1.73 crore on Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC Bank) for violating several Credit related norms.
- Defence PSU Shipyard Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) launched *GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2023)*, to identify innovative solutions towards technological advances in shipbuilding by Startups.
- RBI launched *100 Days 100 Pays* campaign for banks to trace and settle top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district, within 100 days, effecttive between Jun - Aug 2023.
  - Unclaimed Deposits are Balances in bank accounts / term deposits which are not operated / claimed for 10 years.
- SBI announced raising $750 million worth of foreign currency bonds, as part of SBI's $10 billion 'Global Medium Note' programme under which it will fund its overseas business growth.

- Funds were raised at platforms like India INX's Global Securities Market (GSM) and GIFT International Financial Services Centre (Gujarat).
- To boost off-shore wind energy projects, govt granted complete waiver of ISTS (Inter-State Transmission) Charges for 25 years to projects commissioned on or before 31st Dec, 2032.
  - Also, ISTS waiver of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia projects has been extended from 30 June 2025 to 31 Dec 2030.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved proposed merger of Swiss Financial Giants *Credit Suisse Group* with *UBS Group*.
  - *Notably, both entities are Switzerland based. Still, the merger requires seperate CCI approval to be effective for operations in India.*
- Fintech *Firm BharatPe* rebranded multi-brand loyalty program PAYBACK India, as *Zillion*.
  - BharatPe had acquired *Payback* earlier in 2021.
- Fitch Ratings affirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at **BBB-**, with a stable outlook.
  - It cited India's robust growth outlook and resilient external finances, despite concerns over weak public finances and lagging structural indicators.
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) concluded Myanmar Port sale for $30 million.
- Sri Lankan telecom firm Dialog Axiata and India's Bharti Airtel announced merger of their operations in Sri Lanka, creating Sri Lanka's largest telecom operator.
- Amazon Web Services (AWS) announced to invest USD 12.7 billion into cloud infrastructure in India by 2030, to meet growing demand for cloud services in India.
- Indian GDP Growth Forecasts -
  - UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 (UN WESP) - 5.8 % in FY 2023 (2022-23) & 6.7 % in FY 24 (2023-24).
    - As per UN WESP, Global GDP growth is projected to decelerate from 3 % in 2022 to 1.9 % in 2023, and pick up to 2.7 % later in 2024.
- All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has set up portal named *Bank Clinic*, to assist customers with grievance redressal.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank partnered with IT Firm IBM, to develop a digital banking platform, to enhance Equitas' digital product offerings and service capabilities.
- HDFC Bank partnered with Manipal Global Skills Academy to launch *Leadership Excellence Program*, to hire and train women branch managers and enhance gender diversity.
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) announced to provide 30 % financial support for promotion of green shipping.

88. ▶ Misc. Financial / Economy News (Apr 2023) -
- Digital payments firm **PhonePe** launched its hyperlocal commerce app **Pincode**, by going live on ONDC, starting from Bangalore.
- Ashneer Grover (BharatPe's ousted co-founder) launched his new cricket-focused fantasy sports app named *CrickPe*.
- Indian defence exports reached highest ever figures of Rs 15,920 crores in FY 23 (2022-23), seeing ten-fold increase since 2016-17.
- City Union Bank (CUB) introduced voice biometric authentication for accessing mobile app services, aimed at improving security, as first such offering by an Indian bank.
- SBI anounced to launch new variants of current account and Parivar (family) savings account during FY24, to minimise gap between deposit growth and credit growth.
- SBI re-introduced its retail term deposit scheme *Amrit Kalash,* offering special tenor of 400 days and interest rate of 7.6% for senior citizens and 7.1% for others.
- RBI imposed penalty of 6.77 crores on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, for non-compliance with norms related to disclosure of interest rates to borrowers at time of sanction of loans.
- RBI issued guidelines for acceptance of *green deposits* by banks and NBFCs, wherein funds could be used for financing activities like renewable energy, green transport and green buildings.
- Shivalik Small Finance Bank partnered with grain commerce platform *Arya.ag*, to provide financing to small farmers against warehouse receipts, to boost financial inclusion.
- Neobanking start-up Junior has been granted a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license by RBI, allowing it to boost lending business by offering credit directly to customers.
- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) clocked its highest-ever number of transactions at 8.7 billion in March 2023.
- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) opened its first dedicated branch for startups in Pune (Maharashtra).
  - Notably, SBI had earlier opened several startup dedicated branches across country.
- Canara Bank partnered with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), to enable Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H.

- Form 15G / 15H are self-declaration forms that an individual submits to the bank requesting not to deduct TDS on interest income as their income is below basic exemption limit.
- Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (April 2023) -
    - As per World Bank's *South Asia Economic Focus: Expanding Opportunities: Toward Inclusive Growth* report -
        - Indian GDP Growth Rate will be **6.3%** for FY 24 (2023-24), down from 7 % predicted earlier, due to high borrowing costs, slower income growth and govt tightening fiscal expenditure.
        - Report also stated Pakistan as Weakest economy in South Asia.
    - As per IMF's Bi-annual World Economic Outlook (April 2023 Edition, Titled *A Rocky Recovery*) -
        - India -
            - Indian GDP to grow at **5.9 %** during FY 24 (2023-24).
            - India's retail inflation to ease from 6.7 % in FY23 to 4.9 % in FY24, and current account deficit to come down to 2.2 % of GDP from 2.6 % in FY23.
        - Global -
            - Global growth will stay 2.8 % in 2023 before rising to 3 % in 2024.
            - Global inflation will fall from 8.7 % in 2022 to 7 % in 2023 & 4.9 % in 2024.
    - As per UN Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD)'s Trade and Development Report Update (Apr 2023) -
        - Indian GDP to grow at **6 %** during FY 24 (2023-24).
        - Global growth to stay 2.1% in 2023.
    - Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects Indian GDP growth to be **6.4%** in FY 24 (2023-24) & 6.7% in FY2025 (2024-25)
    - Japan based Financial firm Nomura predicted Indian GDP to grow at **5.3 %** in FY 24 (2023-24).
    - RBI predicted Indian GDP to grow at **6.5 %** in FY 24 (2023-24), with Q1 at 7.8 %, Q2 at 6.2 %, Q3 at 6.1 % & Q4 at 5.9 %.
89. ▶ Misc. Financial / Economy News (Feb 2023) -
    - Competition Commission of India (CCI) approvals -
        - Approved acquisition of upto 25% shareholding in Hindustan Ports Private Limited (HPPL) by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), and proposed merger of Hindustan Infralog Private Limited (HIPL) into HPPL.
        - Approved acquisition of 100% equity of Lanco Anpara Power Limited (LAPL) by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL).
        - Approved acquisition of clinker, cement and power plants belonging to Jaiprakash Associates Limited and its associate, by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, for approx 5666 crores.
    - IREDA announced to establish an office in Gujarat's GIFT City, to finance Renewable Energy projects in foreign currency.
    - New India Assurance (NIA) launched *Pay as You Drive* policy, which offers a comprehensive motor insurance policy that charges premium based on usage of vehicle.
    - Hyderabad-based *Azad Engineering Private Limited* became first Indian company to supply critical rotating parts for nuclear turbines, signing a long-term supply agreement with General Electric (GE) Steam Power for supply of nuclear turbine parts, to be assembled on nuclear turbines manufactured in Belfort (France).
    - India's Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL), partnered with Sri Lanka-headquartered Maliban Biscuit Manufactories Ltd, to strengthen reach and enhance its FMCG portfolio.
    - MobiKwik became first fintech firm to support RuPay Credit Cards on UPI, to enable customers to make UPI payments using RuPay Credit Cards.
    - RBI expanded scope of Trade Receivable Discounting System (TReDS platform) by *allowing use of insurance facilities*, *permitting entities eligible to undertake factoring business to participate as financiers on TReDS* and *allowing secondary market operations* on the platform. It will boost trade of receivables increasing cash flows to MSMEs.
    - RBI announced to launch pilot project including *QR Code-based Coin Vending Machine (QCVM)* in collaboration with few leading banks, to improve distribution of coins.
        - QCVM will dispense coins against debit to customer's bank account using Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Unlike cash-based traditional Coin Vending Machines. It will eliminate need for physical tendering of banknotes and their authentication.
    - SBI Opened its 3rd dedicated branch for start-ups, in Gurugram, after first two in Bangalore & Chennai.
    - Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched *Hello Ujjivan*, as India's first banking app with *voice, visual, and vernacular* enabled features, to assist individuals with limited reading and writing skills.
    - Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) emerged as top performer among state-owned banks in terms of loan growth percentage, for 10 consecutive quarters.

- Kotak Mahindra Bank launched *fyn*, as an integrated portal for its business banking and corporate clients.
- HDFC Bank and UAE-based financial services company Lulu Exchange partnered to strengthen cross-border payments between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- Saraswat Bank partnered with Singapore based digital banking solutions provider *Tagit,* to implement omnichannel digital banking solutions for its customers.
- Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (Feb 2023) -
    - Morgan Stanley - 6.2 % in FY 2024 (2023-24).
90. Monthly Trade and Inflation Data (April 2023) -
    - **Inflation** and **Trade** Data for **April 2023** -
        - Wholesale price Index Based (**WPI**) -
            - WPI based inflation fell to **-.92 %** (Negative) in **April** 2023, which is lowest in 34 months.
            - WPI Inflation in last 12 months -
                - March 2023 - 1.34 %
                - February 2023 - 3.85 %
                - January 2023 - 4.73 %
                - December 2022 - 4.95 %
                - November 2022 - 5.85 %
                - October 2022 - 8.39 %
                - September 2022 - 10.07 %
                - August 2022 - 12.41 %
                - July 2022 - 13.93 %
                - June 2022 - 15.18 %
                - May 2022 - 15.88 % *(30 Year High)*
                - April 2022 - 15.08 %
        - Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) Based (retail inflation) -
            - CPI-based inflation rate for **April** 2023 fell to **4.7 %** (18 month low).
            - CPI Inflation in Last 12 Months -
                - March 2023 - 5.66 %
                - February 2023 - 6.44 %
                - January 2023 - 6.52 %
                - December 2022 - 5.72 %
                - November 2022 - 5.88 %
                - October 2022 - 6.77 %
                - September 2022 - 7.41 %
                - August 2022 - 7.01 %
                - July 2022 - 6.71 %
                - June 2022 - 7.01 %
                - May 2022 - 7.04%
                - April 2022 - 7.79 % *(8 Year High)*
        - **Trade** -
            - Overall Trade in **April** 2023 (Merchandise + Services) -
                - Overall Imports - 66.40
                - Overall Exports - 65.02
                - Overall Trade Deficit - 1.38 **Billion USD** (21 month low)
            - Compared to Last Month (March 2023)
                - Overall Imports - 72.18
                - Overall Exports - 66.14
                - Overall Trade Deficit - 6.04 **Billion USD**
            - Notably, India's overall exports stood at highest ever USD **770.18 billion** during FY 2022-23, growing 13.84 % over FY 2021-22.

- Out of this, Merchandise exports stood at USD 447.46 billion & Services exports at USD 322.72 billion, both a new annual record.
- US and UAE retained first and second places respectively as India's largest export destinations, during FY 2022-23. Netherlands rose to third place, replacing China.
- In terms of overall trade too (exports + imports), US remained India's top partner in 2022-23, with $128.55 Billion Trade (Exports $78.31 billion & imports $50.24 billion).

91. Monthly Trade and Inflation Data (Feb 2023) -
- **Inflation** and **Trade** Data for **February 2023** -
  - Wholesale price Index Based (**WPI**) -
    - WPI based inflation fell to **3.85 %** in **February** 2023, which is lowest in 25 months.
    - WPI Inflation in last 12 months -
      - January 2023 - 4.73 %
      - December 2022 - 4.95 %
      - November 2022 - 5.85 %
      - October 2022 - 8.39 %
      - September 2022 - 10.07 %
      - August 2022 - 12.41 %
      - July 2022 - 13.93 %
      - June 2022 - 15.18 %
      - May 2022 - 15.88 % *(30 Year High)*
      - April 2022 - 15.08 %
      - March 2022 - 14.55 %
      - Feb 2022 - 13.11 %
  - Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) Based (retail inflation) -
    - CPI-based inflation rate for **February** 2023 fell to **6.44 %**.
    - CPI Inflation in Last 12 Months -
      - January 2023 - 6.52 %
      - December 2022 - 5.72 %
      - November 2022 - 5.88 %
      - October 2022 - 6.77 %
      - September 2022 - 7.41 %
      - August 2022 - 7.01 %
      - July 2022 - 6.71 %
      - June 2022 - 7.01 %
      - May 2022 - 7.04%
      - April 2022 - 7.79 % *(8 Year High)*
      - March 2022 - 6.95 %
      - Feb 2022 - 6.07 %
  - **Trade** -
    - Overall Trade in **February** 2023 (Merchandise + Services) -
      - Overall Imports - 65.85
      - Overall Exports - 63.02
      - Overall Trade Deficit - 2.83 **Billion USD**
    - Compared to Last Month (January 2023)
      - Overall Imports - 66.42
      - Overall Exports - 65.15
      - Overall Trade Deficit - 1.27 **Billion USD**

92. Monthly Trade and Inflation Data (June 2023) -
- **Inflation** and **Trade** Data for **June 2023** -
  - Wholesale price Index Based (**WPI**) -
    - WPI based inflation fell to **(-) 4.12 %** *(Negative)* in **June** 2023, which is lowest in 8 years.

- ✎ WPI Inflation in last 12 months -
  - ✎ May 2023 - (-) 3.48 % (**Negative**)
  - ✎ April 2023 - (-) 0.92 % (**Negative**)
  - ✎ March 2023 - 1.34 %
  - ✎ February 2023 - 3.85 %
  - ✎ January 2023 - 4.73 %
  - ✎ December 2022 - 4.95 %
  - ✎ November 2022 - 5.85 %
  - ✎ October 2022 - 8.39 %
  - ✎ September 2022 - 10.07 %
  - ✎ August 2022 - 12.41 %
  - ✎ July 2022 - 13.93 %
  - ✎ June 2022 - 15.18 %
- ✎ Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) Based (retail inflation) -
  - ✎ CPI-based inflation rate for **June** 2023 rose to **4.81 %**.
  - ✎ CPI Inflation in Last 12 Months -
    - ✎ May 2023 - 4.25 % *(25 Month Low)*
    - ✎ April 2023 - 4.7 %
    - ✎ March 2023 - 5.66 %
    - ✎ February 2023 - 6.44 %
    - ✎ January 2023 - 6.52 %
    - ✎ December 2022 - 5.72 %
    - ✎ November 2022 - 5.88 %
    - ✎ October 2022 - 6.77 %
    - ✎ September 2022 - 7.41 %
    - ✎ August 2022 - 7.01 %
    - ✎ July 2022 - 6.71 %
    - ✎ June 2022 - 7.01 %
- ✎ **Trade** -
  - ✎ Overall Trade in **June** 2023 (Merchandise + Services) -
    - ✎ Overall Imports - 68.98
    - ✎ Overall Exports - 60.09
    - ✎ Overall Trade Deficit - **8.89 Billion USD**
  - ✎ Compared to Last Month (May 2023)
    - ✎ Overall Imports - 70.64
    - ✎ Overall Exports - 60.29
    - ✎ Overall Trade Deficit - **10.35 Billion USD**
    - ✎ Notably, India's Overall Trade Deficit stood at 21 month low of 1.38 **Billion USD**, in April 2023.
  - ✎ Notable facts about *India's Trade during Previous Financial Year* (FY 23 (2022-23)) -
    - ✎ Exports stood at highest ever USD **770.18 billion** during FY 2022-23, growing 13.84 % over FY 2021-22.
      - ✎ Out of this, Merchandise exports stood at USD 447.46 billion & Services exports at USD 322.72 billion, both a new annual record.
      - ✎ US and UAE retained first and second places respectively as India's largest export destinations, during FY 2022-23. Netherlands rose to third place, replacing China.
    - ✎ In terms of overall trade too (exports + imports), US remained India's top partner in 2022-23, with $128.55 Billion Trade (Exports $78.31 billion & imports $50.24 billion).
    - ✎ As per data by *National Import-Export for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT)* portal -
      - ✎ Tamil Nadu stayed at top in terms of export of electronic goods for FY 23 (2022-23), tripling in a year at $5.37 billion from $1.86 billion in previous year.
- 93. ▶ Monthly Trade and Inflation Data (May 2023) -
  - ✎ **Inflation** and **Trade** Data for **May 2023** -

- Wholesale price Index Based (**WPI**) -
  - WPI based inflation fell to **(-) 3.48 %** *(Negative)* in **May** 2023, which is lowest in 3 years.
  - WPI Inflation in last 12 months -
    - April 2023 - (-) 0.92 % (**Negative**)
    - March 2023 - 1.34 %
    - February 2023 - 3.85 %
    - January 2023 - 4.73 %
    - December 2022 - 4.95 %
    - November 2022 - 5.85 %
    - October 2022 - 8.39 %
    - September 2022 - 10.07 %
    - August 2022 - 12.41 %
    - July 2022 - 13.93 %
    - June 2022 - 15.18 %
    - May 2022 - 15.88 % *(30 Year High)*
- Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) Based (retail inflation) -
  - CPI-based inflation rate for **May** 2023 fell to **4.25 %** *(25 Month Low)*.
  - CPI Inflation in Last 12 Months -
    - April 2023 - 4.7 %
    - March 2023 - 5.66 %
    - February 2023 - 6.44 %
    - January 2023 - 6.52 %
    - December 2022 - 5.72 %
    - November 2022 - 5.88 %
    - October 2022 - 6.77 %
    - September 2022 - 7.41 %
    - August 2022 - 7.01 %
    - July 2022 - 6.71 %
    - June 2022 - 7.01 %
    - May 2022 - 7.04%
- **Trade** -
  - Overall Trade in **May** 2023 (Merchandise + Services) -
    - Overall Imports - 70.64
    - Overall Exports - 60.29
    - Overall Trade Deficit - **10.35 Billion USD**
  - Compared to Last Month (April 2023)
    - Overall Imports - 66.40
    - Overall Exports - 65.02
    - Overall Trade Deficit - 1.38 **Billion USD** (21 month low)
  - Notable facts about India's Trade during Previous Financial Year (FY 23 (2022-23)) -
    - Exports stood at highest ever USD **770.18 billion** during FY 2022-23, growing 13.84 % over FY 2021-22.
      - Out of this, Merchandise exports stood at USD 447.46 billion & Services exports at USD 322.72 billion, both a new annual record.
      - US and UAE retained first and second places respectively as India's largest export destinations, during FY 2022-23. Netherlands rose to third place, replacing China.
    - In terms of overall trade too (exports + imports), US remained India's top partner in 2022-23, with $128.55 Billion Trade (Exports $78.31 billion & imports $50.24 billion).
94. NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) launched NOCS platform, to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions undertaken on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network.
95. NPCI's wallet interoperability norms went live from April 1st, 2023 -

- It will allow prepaid payment instruments (PPI) wallets to be part of an interoperable UPI ecosystem, with fixed interchange fee of 1.1% for using PPIs for transactions above 2000 using UPI.

96. ▶ NSE's index services subsidiary *NSE Indices Limited* launched India's first Municipal Bond Index, **Nifty India Municipal Bond Index,** which will track performance of municipal bonds issued by Indian municipal corporations across maturities and has investment-grade credit ratings.
    - Presently, index has 28 municipal bonds issued by 10 issuers all having credit ratings in AA rating category. Index constituents are assigned weights based on their outstanding amount.

97. ▶ National Health Authority (NHA) invited participation in *Health Claims Exchange Ecosystem* by onboarding on *HCX – Sandbox Environment.*
    - NHA had earlier announced HCX as a new initiative under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), to tackle challenges and streamline process of health insurance claims settlement process in country, which is mostly manual, non-digital and laborious in nature at present.
    - HCX enables interoperability of health claims and serves as a protocol for exchanging claims-related information among various entities involved in claim process. HCX will lead to reduction in operational overheads and increase trust among payers and providers through a transparent and rule-based mechanism.

98. ▶ National Statistical Office (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) released -
    - **Quarterly GDP Estimates** for *October-December (Q3) of 2022-23* -
        - Real GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q3 (2022-23) is estimated to be 40.19 lakh crores, as against 38.51 lakh crores in Q3 (2021-22), showing growth of **4.4 %**
            - Earlier 4 Quarter GDP Growth -
                - Q2 FY 23 (2022-23) - 6.3 %
                - Q1 FY 23 (2022-23) - 13.5 %
                - Q4 FY 22 (2021-22) - 4.1 %
                - Q3 FY 22 (2021-22) - 5.4 %
        - Nominal GDP (GDP at Current Prices) in Q3 (2022-23) is estimated to grow at 11.20 %.
    - **Second Advance Estimates** of National Income **2022-23** -
        - Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in 2022-23 is estimated at 159.71 lakh crores, as against First Revised Estimates of GDP for 2021-22 of 149.26 lakh crore, estimating growth in real GDP during 2022-23 at **7.0 %,** as compared to 9.1 % in 2021-22.
            - Also, Nominal GDP (GDP at Current Prices) in 2022-23 is estimated to grow at 15.9 %, as compared to 18.4 % in 2021-22.

99. ▶ PSB **Union Bank of India** became first Indian bank to open a Special Rupee Vostro Account through its corresponding bank in **Malaysia,** i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia.
    - This will enable settlement of trade between India and Malaysia now in Indian rupee, in line with RBI's directions in July 2022, allowing settlement of international trade in Indian Rupees.
    - India International Bank (Malaysia) Berhad (IIBM) is joint venture between 3 Indian banks - Bank of Baroda (40%), Indian Overseas Bank (35%) and Union Bank of India (25%).

100. ▶ Paytm Money launched a bonds platform for retail investors in India, aimed at easing up investment in government bonds, corporate bonds, and tax-free bonds.

101. ▶ Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched its virtual branch named *PNB Metaverse*, which will enable customers to access bank's services virtually.
    - Notably, Union Bank of India was first to launch a banking metaverse in India, named Uni-verse.

102. ▶ RBI Announced hike in Key Monetary Policy Rates. New Rates -
    - Repo rate - **6.50 %** (Hiked by 25 basis points).
    - Standing Deposit Facility Rate - 6.25%
    - Marginal Standing Facility Rate - 6.75%
    - Bank Rate - **6.75** %
    - Reverse Repo Rate - 3.35 %
    - CRR - 4.50 %
    - SLR - 18.00 %
    - History of Key rate Hikes throughout 2022 & 2023 -

- 6.25% to 6.50% (08 Feb 2023)
- 5.90% to 6.25% (21 Dec 2022)
- 5.40% to 5.90% (30 Sep 2022)
- 4.90% to 5.40% (8 Aug 2022)
- 4.40% to 4.90% (8 June 2022)
- 4.00% to 4.40% (4 May 2022)
- GDP Growth Rate Projections -
  - Revised real GDP growth rate for FY 23 (2022-23) is 6.8 % (Compared to 7.0 % projected earlier), with Q3 and Q4 at 4.4 and 4.2 % respectively.

103. ▶ RBI Kept key monetary policy rates unchanged, in bimonthly MPC Meet -
- Current Key monetary policy rates -
  - Repo Rate - 6.50%
  - Bank Rate - 6.75%
  - Reverse Repo Rate - 3.35%
  - Standing Deposit Facility Rate - 6.25%
  - Marginal Standing Facility Rate - 6.75%
- RBI predictions -
  - Real GDP growth for 2023-24 is projected at **6.5 %**, with Q1 at 7.8 %; Q2 at 6.2 %; Q3 at 6.1 %; and Q4 at 5.9 %.
  - CPI inflation is projected to moderate to **5.2 %** for 2023-24.
- Other Notable announcements -
  - Web based centralised portal **PRAVAAH (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And AutHorisation)** will be developed, to enable entities to apply for license / authorisation or regulatory approvals from RBI.
  - A centralised web portal will be developed to enable search across multiple banks for possible **unclaimed deposits**, to help beneficiaries in getting back unclaimed deposits.
    - Notably, public sector banks recently transferred 35,012 crores in unclaimed deposits to RBI.
  - Scope of UPI (Unified Payments Interface) will be expanded by permitting operation of pre-sanctioned credit lines at banks through UPI.

104. ▶ RBI Published composite *Digital Payments Index March 2023* (RBI-DPI), to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across country.
- Index for March 2023 stands at **395.57,** against 377.46 for September 2022.
- It has been published since 1 Jan 2021, with March 2018 as base.

105. ▶ RBI announced its second global hackathon **HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation**, with theme **Inclusive Digital Services.**
- Problem Statements include -
  - Innovative, easy-to-use, digital banking services for differently abled (Divyaang).
  - RegTech solutions to facilitate more efficient compliance by Regulated Entities (REs).
  - Exploring use cases/solutions for CBDC-Retail transactions, including transactions in offline mode.
  - Increasing Transactions Per Second (TPS)/ throughput and scalability of blockchains.
- Winner will be felicitated with an amount of 40 lakh, while Runner-up will get 20 lakh.

106. ▶ RBI approved Amalgamation of *Maratha Sahakari Bank* with Pune-based *Cosmos Co-operative Bank*.
- *Maratha Sahakari Bank* was placed under regulatory directions by RBI in August 2016.

107. ▶ RBI approved bilateral trade settlement between India and Tanzania using their national currencies, to reduce cost of transactions and enhance efficiency of trade.

108. ▶ RBI directed banks / regulated entities to ensure complete transition away from London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) or Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR), by July 01, 2023.

109. ▶ RBI granted *Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)* status to **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**, which was earlier classified as *Investment and Credit Company (ICC)*.
- This will enable IREDA to take higher exposure in RE financing, and will help it in accessing wider investor base for fund mobilisation, resulting in more economical fund raising.

110. ▶ RBI included **South Korea** based agricultural bank **NongHyup Bank** in *Second Schedule of RBI Act 1934*, enabling it to enhance presence across Indian market.

111. ▶ RBI launched Financial Inclusion Dashboard named **ANTARDRISHTI**, which will provide required insight to monitor progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters.
    - It will also enable to gauge extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across country, so that such areas can be addressed.
112. ▶ RBI released Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for 2022-23, with theme *Towards a Greener Cleaner India*. Highlights -
    - India's goal of achieving the net zero target by 2070 would require an accelerated reduction in energy intensity of GDP by around 5 % annually, and a significant improvement in its energy-mix in favour of renewables to around 80 % by 2070-71.
    - India's green financing requirement is estimated to be at least 2.5 % of GDP annually till 2030.
113. ▶ Russian bank **Sberbank** enabled facility to open accounts in Indian rupees (INR), expanding range of foreign currencies available, to reduce dependency on US dollar and euro.
114. ▶ SEBI introduced Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers that have listed / planning to list non-convertible securities, securitised debt instruments and security receipts.
    - LEI is a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions. It is a unique 20-character code to identify legally distinct entities that engage in financial transactions.
    - Presently, RBI mandates non-individual borrowers having aggregate exposure of above 25 crores to obtain LEI code.
115. ▶ State Govt. budgets 2023-24 -
    - Assam -
        - Expenditure is estimated to be 135348 crores, a decrease of 11% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
        - *Mukhya Mantri Sva-Niyojan Mission* scheme proposes to promote microentrepreneurship among families below poverty line and low income-households. Under it, seed capital of two lakh rupees each will be given to one lakh beneficiaries. Sectors covered will include manufacturing, food processing, and handicraft.
        - Under *Mukhya Mantri Ayushman Asom Yojana* - Health insurance coverage of 5 lakh rupees will be extended to 27 lakh additional families.
        - *Mission for Prevention of Child Marriage* - All Gram Panchayat Secretaries will be designated as Child Marriage Prevention Officers. State scheme aims at eliminating child marriage by 2026.
    - Andhra Pradesh -
        - Expenditure is estimated to be 260868 crores, an increase of 16% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
        - *YSR Pasu Bhima Yojana* has been approved which seeks to provide livestock insurance to farmers. It will cover improved and indigenous as well as nondescript breeds of animals.
    - Bihar -
        - Expenditure is estimated to be 238327 crores, a decrease of 12% from revised estimate of 2022-23.
        - Agriculture -
            - Multiple missions are proposed to be launched, incluidng *Bihar Millet Mission*, *Bihar Pulses and Oilseeds Development Mission*, and *Crop Diversification Mission*.
            - Fourth Agriculture Roadmap will be implemented with special focus on pulses and oilseeds.
        - A centre of excellence will be established for groundwater conservation.
        - Requisition has been given for filling 63900 posts by Bihar Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, and Technical Service Commission. Approval has been given for creation of 75543 posts in state police.
    - Chhattisgarh -
        - Expenditure is estimated to be 121495 crores, an increase of 8% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
        - 2500 per month will be provided to educated unemployed as unemployment allowance.
        - *Rajiv Gandhi Rural Landless Agricultural Labourers Nyay Yojana* will be extended from rural areas to nagar panchayat areas. Under this, landless labourers receive financial assistance of 6000 annually.
        - 101 new *Swami Atmanand English medium schools* will be opened, with budgetary outlay of 870 crore.
        - 25 crore will be allocated for establishment of a new thermal power plant in Korba.
        - Light metro service will be introduced between New Raipur and Durg.
    - Delhi -
        - Expenditure is estimated to be 73760 crore, an increase of 8.8% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
        - *Mohalla Bus Scheme* - Small electric buses will be used to connect major metro and bus networks to residential colonies to improve last mile connectivity.
        - Govt will launch 30 EV charging stations by March 2023 and launch 59 more stations by the end of 2023-24.

- Schools of Applied Learning -12 schools will have a professional industrial setup to aid in skill development of students and prepare them for new-age jobs.
- Mohalla clinics will now offer 450 kinds of tests free of cost as compared to 250 earlier.
- From 2023-24, Tax Policy and Revenue Augmentation Unit will identify opportunities to increase revenue, help detect revenue leakages and support policy formulation.

- Gujarat -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 270270 crores, an increase of 18% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - *Shreshtha Gujarat* scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs 4,200 crore over next five years with World Bank assistance. It will cover multiple sectors including health, infrastructure, and nutrition.
  - *Parikrama Path* - Border areas will be connected with road network over 3 years through Parikrama Path scheme.
  - Share of renewables in the energy consumption basket of state will be increased to 42%.
  - A Bill will be introduced to amend *Electricity Duty Act*, to streamline administration of electricity duty.
  - Rates of Value Added Tax on piped natural gas for domestic consumption and compressed natural gas for automobiles has been lowered from 15% to 5%.

- Haryana -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 148730 crores, an increase of 12% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - *Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antyodyay Parivar Suraksha Yojana* will be launched to provide financial assistance in case of death or disability of a member whose family has an annual income of up to 1.80 lakh.
  - A new scheme will be introduced for farmers to facilitate the adoption of green manuring through dhaincha cultivation. Govt will bear 80% of total cost (720 per acre) and 20% cost will be contributed by farmer.
  - Three new centres of excellence for horticultural crops will be established.
  - *Haryana Pashudhan Utthan Mission* will be introduced to promote entrepreneurship development in animal husbandry.
  - A new scheme for installation of grid connected roof top (GCRT) solar power plants in social and community institutions will be formulated in 2023-24.
  - State government will prepare a Toy Manufacturing Policy for electronic toys and a Medical Device Manufacturing Policy for promoting investments in medical devices.

- Himachal Pradesh -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 47926 crores, a decrease of 7% from revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - Under *Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holding Act 1972*, daughter of a family will be made a separate unit to give them right to own land.
  - Youth will be provided 40% subsidy to set up solar power projects on their own/leased land.
  - *Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Programme* will be launched to set up solar power projects, sub-stations, and distribution lines.
  - *GST Revenue Enhancement Project* will be launched to reduce loss of GST compensation.
  - State will levy milk cess of Rs 10 per bottle of liquor to increase income of milk producers. Water cess will be imposed on hydro power projects.
  - *Mukhya Mantri Vidyarthi Protsahan Yojana* will be launched to provide education loans to economically weaker children at the interest rate of 1 %, for pursuing higher/professional education.

- Jharkhand -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 110093 crores, an increase of 19% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - *Birsa Irrigation Well Enrichment Mission* has been announced, under which irrigation wells will be constructed on land of 1 lakh farmers.
  - New *Anganwadi Chalo Abhiyan* will provide clothes, textbooks, furniture, and other necessities for pre-school children in anganwadis.
  - To improve irrigation and conserve water resources, allocation has been made for desilting of lakes under five acres in area.

- Jammu and Kashmir -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 118000 crores.

- Kerala -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 176089 crores, an increase of 6% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - A Social Security Cess of two rupees per litre will be charged on liquor, petrol, and diesel. Proceeds of approx 1150 crores will go to Social Security Seed Fund.

- *Make in Kerala* project will be launched to boost manufacturing in state, with 100 crores allocated.
- *Nava Kerala Nagara Nayam* will be set up to formulate a new policy for urbanisation.
- 2000 crore has been earmarked for interventions to control inflation in 2023-24.
- Madhya Pradesh -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 281552 crores, 12% increase over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - Under new Food subsidy scheme, Rs 1000 will be transferred to bank accounts of women belonging to backward tribes (Baiga, Bariya, and Sahariya), to address malnutrition.
  - *Chief Minister Skill Apprenticeship Scheme* will be formulated to provide skill development to the youth.
  - Under new *Chief Minister's Balika Scooty Scheme*, e-scooters will be distributed to female students who attain highest marks at higher secondary level.
- Maharashtra -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 547450 crores, an increase of 3.6% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - *Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Scheme* will provide an annual amount of 6000 per farmer, to benefit 1.2 crore farmer families, with outlay of 6900 crores in 2023-24.
  - Girls born in families with annual income below 1 lakh rupees will receive grants at various stages of education, and will receive grant of 75000 on attaining age of 18.
  - 50% concession will be provided in state transport bus tickets for women.
  - Profession tax limit for women will be increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000.
  - VAT on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) will be reduced from 25% to 18%.
  - An amnesty scheme for waiving taxes payable prior to implementation of GST has been announced. It proposes a full waiver for arrears up to two lakh rupees, and an 80% waiver for arrears between Rs 50 lakh and two lakh rupees. The Scheme will apply to arrears pending as of May 1, 2023.
- Mizoram -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 12767 crores, a decrease of 12% from revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - Under Socio Economic Development Program (SEDP), state has committed to distribute Rs 50,000 each to 60,000 families, to help them support ongoing economic activities or start new ventures.
- Meghalaya -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 21781 crores.
  - Introduction of 'Household ID' for effective implementation of welfare and development programs across departments.
  - Upper limit for interest-free working capital provided to the co-operatives enhanced from ₹ 50 Lakh to ₹ 1 Cr.
  - Introduction of *Chief Minister's Rural Connectivity Scheme* to connect villages roads, suspension and foot bridges across streams and rivers to ensure last mile connectivity.
  - Introduction of *Chief Minister's Service Delivery Centers* in about 750 locations to act as one-stop-shop for providing all citizen services.
  - A mission-mode program - *Drug Reduction. Elimination and Action Mission,* will be launched as a key step in making Meghalaya drug-free.
- Nagaland -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 23085 crores.
- Odisha -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 211214 crores, an increase of 14% over revised estimate of 2022-23.
  - MSMEs-
    - New scheme will be launched to provide interest subvention on working capital loan to MSMEs.
    - New procurement policy will be formulated to make it mandatory for Odisha govt entities to procure from micro and small manufacturing units of Odisha.
  - *Mukhyamantri Janajati Jeebika Mission* will be launched to mitigate critical infrastructural needs incidental to livelihood promotion. It will cover 14.5 lakh households in Phase-I.
  - *Mukhyamantri Van Surakshya Kendra* initiative will be launched to build 10,000 kendras in the areas of Van Suraksha Samiti to promote forest conservation at grassroot level.
  - Under Odisha Chip Program, A new centre of excellence will be set up to create an ecosystem in field of electronics design and manufacturing.
- Punjab -

- Expenditure is estimated to be 134836 crores, an increase of 5.9% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
- A new Agriculture Policy will be launched to conserve natural resources and increase farmers income. A Crop Insurance Policy will also be formulated.
- 5 horticulture estates will be set up in districts of Ludhiana, Gurdaspur, Patiala, Bathinda, and Faridkot.
- Two new schemes- Professional Coaching for Employment, and Soft Skill and Communication Training will be launched. A new Sports Policy will be formulated to prepare players for national and international competition.

- Rajasthan -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 297091 crores, an increase of 7.1% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - A Gig Workers Welfare Act will be introduced under which the Gig Workers Welfare Board and Gig Workers Welfare and Development Fund will be set up. The Fund will be provided with Rs 200 crore.
  - Under *Chief Minister's Free Electricity Scheme*, consumers were provided with free electricity up to 50 units. This has been increased up to 100 units.
  - Beneficiaries under National Food Security Act 2013 will be provided with free ration and Chief Minister's Annapurna Food Packet (includes rice, sugar, oil).
  - A Youth Policy will be formulated under which a Youth Development and Welfare Fund will be set up to provide for education, skill development, and employment.

- Tamil Nadu-
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 365321 crores, an increase of 14% over revised estimate of 2022-23.
  - Under *Magalir Urimai Thogai* - Women heads of eligible households will be provided Rs 1,000 per month in 2023-24
  - Tamil Nadu Tech City will be established in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Hosur.
  - Energy -
    - 33 GW of electricity generation capacity will be added by 2030, with high priority to renewables.
    - A special purpose vehicle will be created for renewables.
    - A new policy for wind mills will be prepared.
  - *Chief Minister's breakfast scheme* will be expanded to cover all government primary schools.
  - A new law will be enacted to ensure adequate allocation of funds and effective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plans.

- Telangana -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 277690 crores, an increase of 23% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - 60 Courts will be established in 2023-24 including Junior, Senior and District Judge Courts.
  - 9 new medical colleges will be established in 2023. This will increase number of medical colleges in Telangana to 26.

- Uttar Pradesh -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 659061 crores, an increase of 17% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - Subsidy on electricity consumption of private tube-well owners will be increased from 50% to 100% in 2023-24.

- Uttarakhand -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 66179 crores, an increase of 10% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - Over 3 years, 50000 polyhouses (a type of greenhouse) will be set up to promote cluster-based horticulture.
  - Six 'aroma valleys' will also be developed, such as the Cinnamon Valley in Nainital and Mint Valley in Haridwar.
  - 1000 crores allocated towards reconstruction of subsidence-hit towns, such as Joshimath.

- West Bengal -
  - Expenditure is estimated to be 278622 crores, an increase of 8.6% over revised estimates of 2022-23.
  - Rebate of 2% on stamp duty and 10% on circle rate of land/property for home buyers will be available till September 30, 2023.
  - Agricultural income tax on tea gardens will be waived for 2023-24 and 2024-25.
  - Under *Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalp*, annual allocation for each MLA will be increased from Rs 60 lakh to Rs 70 lakh for local area development works.
  - Beneficiaries under *Lakshmir Bhandar scheme* will receive an old age pension of 1000 per month after attaining 60 years of age.
  - Under *Matsyajeebi Bandhu Scheme*, On death of a registered fisherman in age group of 18-60 years, dependent family will receive grant of 2 lakh rupees.
  - *Bhavishyat Credit Card scheme* will be launched, which will provide loans up to 5 lakh rupees to 2 lakh people in age group of 18-45 years, for setting up micro enterprises.

116. ▶ Tata Group owned **Air India** placed order for total **470** aircrafts with **Airbus** (250) and **Boeing** (220).
  - 🖊 Order comprises 40 *Airbus A350,* 210 Airbus A320/321 Neo, 20 *Boeing 787,* 10 *Boeing 777-9* wide-body aircraft, and 190 Boeing 737 MAX single-aisle aircraft. It is largest aircraft order in history of Indian aviation.
  - 🖊 Also, Air India also signed MoU with British Aero engine Manufacturer **Rolls Royce** for 68 Trent XWB-97 engines, as biggest order for Trent XWB-97 globally, which exclusively powers Airbus A350-1000. It will make Air India largest operator of *Trent XWB-97* in world.

117. ▶ Under *Clean Note Policy,* RBI announced to withdraw ₹**2000** denomination banknotes from circulation, though they will continue to be legal tender.
  - 🖊 Citizens can deposit ₹2000 banknotes into their bank accounts and/or exchange them into banknotes of other denominations at any bank branch, until Sep 30, 2023.
    - 🖊 There is no restrictions on Deposit of ₹**2000** into bank accounts. However, exchange of ₹2000 banknotes into banknotes of other denominations can be made upto ₹20000 at a time.
  - 🖊 About -
    - 🖊 ₹2000 denomination banknote was introduced in Nov 2016, to meet currency requirement of economy after withdrawal of legal tender status of all ₹500 and ₹1000 banknotes.
    - 🖊 Printing of ₹2000 banknotes was stopped in 2018-19. Total value of these banknotes in circulation declined from ₹6.73 lakh crore on March 31, 2018 to ₹3.62 lakh crore on March 31, 2023.
  - 🖊 Notably, this is different from **demonetisation**, as ₹2000 banknotes continue to be a legal tender.

118. ▶ Under India's G20 Presidency, **RBI** and BIS Innovation Hub (**BISIH**) of Bank for International Settlements jointly launched 4th edition of **G20 TechSprint**, a global technology competition to promote innovative solutions aimed at improving cross-border payments.
  - 🖊 It will focus on 3 problem statements -
    - 🖊 AML/CFT/Sanctions technology solutions to reduce illicit finance risk.
    - 🖊 FX and liquidity technology solutions to enable settlement in emerging market and developing economy (EMDE) currencies.
    - 🖊 Technology solutions for multilateral cross-border CBDC platforms.
  - 🖊 Winners for each problem statement will receive an award of INR 40 Lakh

119. ▶ Under vision of *Sahkar Se Samridhi*, govt annouced several initiatives to strengthen 1514 *Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)* across country -
  - 🖊 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) can now open new branches, up to 10% (maximum 5 branches) of number of branches in previous financial year, without RBI's prior approval.
  - 🖊 UCBs can also do technical write-offs / One Time Settlement at par with Commercial Banks.
  - 🖊 RBI has extended timeline for UCBs to achieve Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets by two years (March 31,2026).
  - 🖊 RBI has notified a nodal officer, to meet long pending demand of cooperative sector for closer coordination and focused interaction.

120. ▶ Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched **Foreign Trade Policy 2023** (FTP 2023) **,** to succeed FTP 2015-20.
  - 🖊 4 pillars of FTP include *Incentive to Remission*, *Export promotion through collaboration*, *Ease of doing business* and *Emerging Areas*. It seeks to take India's exports to 2 trillion USD by 2030, up from US$ 750 Billion currently.
  - 🖊 Key features -
    - 🖊 *Process Re-Engineering and Automation -*
      - 🖊 Policy emphasizes export promotion and development, moving away from an incentive regime to a regime which is facilitating, based on technology interface and principles of collaboration.
    - 🖊 *Towns of Export Excellence -*
      - 🖊 Four new towns - **Faridabad, Mirzapur, Moradabad,** and **Varanasi**, have been designated as Towns of Export Excellence (TEE) in addition to existing 39 towns. TEEs will have priority access to export promotion funds under MAI scheme (Market Access Initiative) and will be able to avail Common Service Provider (CSP) benefits for export fulfillment under EPCG Scheme (Export Promotion Capital Goods).
    - 🖊 *Recognition of Exporters -*
      - 🖊 Exporter firms recognized with 'status' based on export performance will now be partners in capacity-building initiatives. Similar to the 'each one teach one' initiative, 2-star and above status holders would be encouraged to provide trade-related training to interested individuals.
    - 🖊 *Promoting export from the districts -*
      - 🖊 FTP aims at building partnerships with State governments and taking forward Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative to promote exports at district level and accelerate development of grassroots trade ecosystem.

- *Streamlining SCOMET Policy -*
  - There is a wider outreach and understanding of SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies) among stakeholders, and policy regime is being made more robust to implement international treaties and agreements entered into by India.
- *Facilitating E-Commerce Exports -*
  - E-commerce exports are a promising category that requires distinct policy interventions from traditional offline trade. e-commerce export potential is in range of $200 - $300 billion by 2030.
  - FTP 2023 outlines intent and roadmap for establishing e-commerce hubs and related elements. Such as -
    - Consignment wise cap on E-Commerce exports through courier has been raised from ₹5Lakh to ₹10 Lakh. Depending on feedback of exporters, this cap will be further revised or eventually removed.
    - Integration of Courier and Postal exports with ICEGATE will enable exporters to claim benefits under FTP.
    - Extensive training activities will be taken up to build capacity of artisans, weavers, gems and jewellery designers to onboard them on E-Commerce platforms and facilitate higher exports.
- *Facilitation under Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme -*
  - EPCG Scheme, which allows import of capital goods at zero Customs duty for export production, is being further rationalized. Some key changes -
    - Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) scheme has been added as an additional scheme eligible to claim benefits under CSP (Common Service Provider) Scheme of EPCG.
    - Dairy sector to be exempted from maintaining Average Export Obligation.
    - Battery Electric Vehicles, Vertical Farming equipment, Wastewater Treatment and Recycling and Green Hydrogen are added to Green Technology products, will now be eligible for reduced Export Obligation requirement under EPCG Scheme.
- *Facilitation under Advance authorization Scheme -*
  - Advance authorisation Scheme accessed by DTA units provides duty-free import of raw materials for manufacturing export items and is placed at a similar footing to EOU and SEZ Scheme. Certain facilitation provisions have been added in FTP -
    - Special Advance Authorisation Scheme extended to export of Apparel and Clothing sector self-declaration basis, to facilitate prompt execution of export orders.
    - Benefits of Self-Ratification Scheme for fixation of Input-Output Norms extended to 2 star and above status holders in addition to Authorised Economic Operators at present.
- *Merchanting trade -*
  - To develop India into a merchanting trade hub, FTP 2023 has introduced provisions for merchanting trade.
  - Merchanting trade involves shipment of goods from one foreign country to another foreign country without touching Indian ports, involving an Indian intermediary. This won't be applicable for goods/items classified in CITES and SCOMET list.
  - This will allow conversion of hubs like GIFT city, into major merchanting hubs.
- *Amnesty Scheme -*
  - To reduce litigation and foster trust-based relationships to help alleviate issues faced by exporters, FTP introduces a special one-time Amnesty Scheme, to address default on Export Obligations. This is in line with *Vivaad se Vishwaas* initiative, which sought to settle tax disputes amicably.
  - This will provide relief to exporters who have been unable to meet their obligations under EPCG and Advance Authorizations, and are burdened by high duty and interest costs associated with pending cases. This amnesty scheme is aimed at giving exporters an opportunity to come into compliance.

121. Value of defence production in FY 23 (2022-23) crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for first time ever, standing at 1,06,800 crores, compared to 95,000 crores in FY 22 (2021-22).

122. World Bank approved **$1.5 billion** loan for India, to accelerate India's development of **low-carbon energy**, by scaling up renewable energy, developing green hydrogen, and stimulating climate finance for low-carbon energy investments.

123. World Bank approved **$148 million** loan for India, to support **West Bengal** in harnessing surface and ground water through better irrigation practices.

124. World Bank approved **$150 million loan** for India, to support **Resilient Kerala** Program to strengthen Kerala's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and disease outbreaks.

125. ▶ World Bank approved **$200 million** loan for India, to facilitate power sector reforms in **Himachal Pradesh**, and increase share of renewable energy in state's electricity generation.

126. ▶ World Bank approved **$300 million** loan for India, to help expand and improve quality of education in government-run schools in **Chhattisgarh,** to benefit over 4 million students from poor and vulnerable communities.

127. ▶ World Bank approved **$82 million** loan for India, towards adoption of global best practices for animal health management to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases.

128. ▶ World Bank approved **USD 255.5 million** loan for India, to support **enhancement of technical education** in government-run institutions across India, benefitting over 350000 students each year.

International

1. ▶ Ireland became first country to mandate health labelling on alcoholic drinks, to alert people on various health risks associated with alcohol consumption.

2. ▶ *2023 International IP (Intellectual property) Index* released by US Chamber of Commerce -
   - ✎ Top 3 - USA (1), UK (2), France (3)
   - ✎ India Ranks **42nd** in list.
   - ✎ Neighbors - China (24), Pakistan (52)

3. ▶ ***Index of Economic Freedom*** *2023* report by *The Heritage Foundation* -
   - ✎ Top 3 - Singapore (1), Switzerland (2), Ireland (3).
   - ✎ Bottom 3 - North Korea (176), Cuba (175), Venezuela (174)
   - ✎ India ranked **131st**.
   - ✎ Neighbors - China (154), Pakistan (152), Sri Lanka (136), Bangladesh (123)

4. ▶ *As per* UN's *A World of Debt* Report -
   - ✎ In 2022, global public debt (comprising general government domestic and external debt) reached record USD 92 trillion, with Developing countries owing approx 30% of it.
   - ✎ Number of countries facing high levels of debt increased from 22 countries in 2011 to 59 countries in 2022.
   - ✎ India ranks 7th in terms of Public debt, with $2.8 Trillion Debt. List is topped by US ($31 Trillion), China ($14 Trillion), Japan ($11 Trillion).

5. ▶ *World Competitiveness Index 2023* by *International Institute for Management Development (IMD)* -
   - ✎ Top 3 - Denmark (1), Ireland (2), Switzerland (3)
   - ✎ India ranked **40th**.
   - ✎ Neighbors - China (21).

6. ▶ *World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023* by *Henley & Partners* -
   - ✎ Top 5 - New York (USA), Tokyo (Japan), The Bay Area (USA), London (UK), Singapore.
   - ✎ Mumbai is top ranked Indian City (21st rank globally), followed by Delhi (36th).

7. ▶ **Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Sierra Leone** and **Slovenia** have been elected to United Nations Security Council as non-permanent members for 2-year term starting January 2024.
   - ✎ UNSC has 15 members (5 permanent and 10 temporary) -
     - ✎ Permanent members - China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States.
     - ✎ Non-permanent - Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, UAE, Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique & Switzerland.
       - ✎ Note that after latest election, *Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and UAE* will be replaced by newly elected *Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Sierra Leone and Slovenia*.

8. ▶ **Algeria** (North Africa) applied to join BRICS group and submitted request to become a shareholder member of BRICS Nations' New Development Bank, with an amount of $1.5 billion.
   - ✎ BRICS Nations are Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa.
   - ✎ BRICS New Develpment Bank Members include Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa, UAE, Uruguay, Bangladesh, Egypt.

9. ▶ **Australia** announced to remove British monarch from its banknotes, replacing late Queen Elizabeth II's image on its $5 note with a design honoring Indigenous culture.

10. ▶ **Bangladesh** PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurated country's first naval submarine base named **BNS Sheikh Hasina**, at Pekua in Cox's Bazar.

11. ▶ **Bhutan** became 7th nation to graduate from United Nations' **Least Developed Countries** (LDC) List, after its inclusion in first group of LDCs in 1971.

- Bhutan fulfilled the requirements for graduation in 2015 and then again in 2018, thereby qualifying for graduating from LDC list in 2021.

12. **Coronation of Charles III** and his wife, Camilla, as king and queen of United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms, took place on 6 May 2023.
    - Charles acceded to throne upon death of his mother, Elizabeth II.

13. **Denmark** launched a project called *Greensand,* to store CO2 1800 metres beneath North Sea. It makes Denmark first country to bury CO2 imported from abroad.
    - The project to store CO2, to prevent further warming of atmosphere, is on the site of an old oil field.
    - Led by British firm *Ineos* and German firm *Wintershall Dea*, this is expected to store up to 8 million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030.

14. **Egypt** joined BRICS Nations' New Development Bank (NDB), Taking number of Member Nations to 9.
    - BRICS Bank Members - Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Russia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay.

15. **Finland** became North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO)'s 31st member, upon depositing its instrument of accession to NATO.

16. **First Republic Bank** became 3rd large American bank to fail recently, after a bank run (Sudden withdrawal of deposits by many depositors). Similar fate was recently observed with *Silicon Valley Bank* & *Signature Bank*.
    - Struggling FRB was seized and sold by California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, to *JP Morgan Chase and Co*.
        - Notably, failed *Silicon Valley Bank* was acquired by *First Citizens Bank* & *Signature Bank* was acquired by *Flagstar Bank*.
    - Failure of FRB was third-largest bank failure in US history, after *Silicon Valley Bank* collapse (2023) and *Washington Mutual*'s closure in 2008.

17. **Georgia** Assembly passed a resolution condemning *Hinduphobia*, making it first American State to take such a legislative measure.

18. **Ghana** (West Africa) became first country to approve a highly effective malaria vaccine developed at Oxford university (UK).
    - R21/Matrix-M vaccine, the first to exceed the World Health Organization's target of 75% efficacy, has been cleared for use by Ghana, in children aged 5-36 months.

19. **India**, **France** and United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) announced creation of a formal trilateral cooperation initiative for projects in solar and nuclear energy.

20. **Saudi Arabia** joined Shanghai Cooperation Organization as a **dialogue partner.**
    - SCO has 8 members (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), 4 Observer states & 13 Dialogue partners.
    - Notably, India is holding SCO presidency in 2023, along with G20 presidency.

21. **UK** joined 11-nation Indo-Pacific free-trade bloc named *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)*, becoming its first new member since its creation in 2018, in a bid to strengthen economic ties with new partners following Brexit.

22. American Financial Firm *Blackstone* acquired belgium based diamond, colored stone and jewelry certification organization *International Gemological Institute (IGI)*, for approx 550 Million USD.

23. American Payments Firm *Visa* acquired Brazilian payments infrastructure firm *Pismo* for $1 billion.

24. American Pharma Giant **Pfizer** acquired American Biotech Firm **Seagen** for **$43 billion**, to extend research in cancer treatments.

25. As per *Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023* by *Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)* -
    - Globally, over 18% people are estimated to live in acute multidimensional poverty.
    - 25 countries halved their global *Multidimensional Poverty Index* value during last 15 years, with India being one of them. India managed to pull 41.5 crore people out of poverty during 2005 - 2021.
    - Notably, as per NITI Aayog's Report *National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023 (*2nd edition*)* -
        - 13.5 crore Indians escaped Multidimensional Poverty in 5 years, with number of multidimensionally poor down to 14.96% in 2019-20, compared to 24.85% in 2015-16.
        - Rural areas saw fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%.
        - India is on track to achieve SDG Target 1.2 much ahead of 2030 deadline.
        - Uttar Pradesh registered highest decline in number of poor with 3.43 crore, followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

26. As per 2023 **Mercer Cost of Living Ranking -**
    - Top 3 Costliest cities - Hong Kong, Singapore, Zurich (Switzerland)
    - Mumbai is India's costliest city, ranked 147th globally. It is followed by Delhi (169), Chennai (184).

27. As per *Energy Transition Index 2023* released by World Economic Forum (WEF) -
    - Top 3 - Sweden (1), Denmark (2), Norway (3)
    - Bottom 3 - Yemen (120), DR Congo (119), Tanzania (118)
    - India ranks **67th.**

- Neighbors - Bangladesh (113), Pakistan (107), Sri Lanka (66), China (17)

28. ▶ As per *Global 500* Ranking 2023 by *Brand Finance,* listing world's 500 strongest brands -
    - Top 5 - Amazon ($299 Billion), Apple ($297 Billion), Google ($281 Billion), Microsoft ($191 Billion), Walmart ($113 Billion).
    - **Tata Group** retained its title of India's most valuable brand, with brand value of $26.4 billion, ranking 69th globally.
        - Among Indian Brands, Tata group is followed by Infosys (150th), LIC (212th).

29. ▶ As per *Global Gender Gap Report 2023* by *World Economic Forum* (WEF) -
    - Top 3 - Iceland (1), Norway (2), Finland (3)
    - Bottom 3 - Afghanistan (146), Chad (145), Algeria (144)
    - India ranks **127th**.
    - Neighbors - China (107), Pakistan (142), Sri Lanka (115), Bangladesh (59)

30. ▶ As per *Global Passport Index 2023* by Arton Capital -
    - Top 3 Powerful Passport - UAE (1), Sweden (2), Germany (3).
    - Indian Passport has Passport Power Rank of 69 and ranked 144th globally, jointly with Uganda & Uzbekistan.

31. ▶ As per *Global Peace Index 2023* by *Institute for Economics & Peace* -
    - Top 3 - Iceland (1), Denmark (2), Ireland (3)
    - Bottom 3 - Afghanistan (163), Yemen (162), Syria (161)
    - India ranked **126th**
    - Neighbors - China (80), Pakistan (146), Bangladesh (88), Sri Lanka (107)

32. ▶ As per *Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021* -
    - India has been ranked **10th** globally, in overall GQII ranking.
        - Also, In *Accreditation* sub-ranking, India's national accreditation system under Quality Council of India (QCI) has been ranked 5th.
    - Top 5 - Germany (1), China (2), US (3), UK (4), Japan (5).

33. ▶ As per *Global Skills Report 2023* by *Coursera* -
    - Top 3 - Switzerland (1), Spain (2), Germany (3)
    - India ranked **60th** on the list.
    - Neighbors - China (34), Pakistan (92), Bangladesh (73), Sri Lanka (79)

34. ▶ As per *Global Slavery Index 2023* released by *Walk Free Foundation* -
    - Top 3 (Slavery Most prevalent) - North Korea (1), Eritrea (2), Mauritania (3)
    - Bottom 3 (Slavery Least prevalent) - Switzerland (160), Norway (159), Germany (158)
    - Approx 50 million people worldwide lived in modern slavery in 2021, with 11 million in India.

35. ▶ As per *Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 (GSER)* by *Starup Genome* -
    - Top 3 -
        - Silicon Valley (US) (1)
        - London (UK) & New York City (US) (Tied at 2nd place)
    - India's **Bengaluru** ranks 20th, jointly with Sydney (Australia). Bengaluru is followed by Delhi (24), Mumbai (31).

36. ▶ As per *Global Terrorism Index 2023* -
    - Top 3 most affected nations - Afghanistan (1), Burkina Faso (2), Somalia (3)
    - India ranks 13th, among nations most affected by terrorism.

37. ▶ As per *Global Trade Outlook and Statistics* Update by WTO (World Trade Organization) -
    - World merchandise trade volume is projected to grow **1.7%** in 2023, before picking up to 3.2% in 2024. It stayed 2.7 % in 2022.

38. ▶ As per *Henley Passport Index* (Q3 2023 Global Ranking) -
    - **Singapore** is top as World's most powerful passport, followed by Germany, Italy & Spain Jointly at 2nd place. Japan is at 3rd place (jointly with 6 other nations).
    - Indian passport is at **81st** place, jointly with Senegal & Togo.

39. ▶ As per *QS World University Rankings 2024* -
    - Top 5 -
        - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
        - University of Cambridge (UK)
        - University of Oxford (UK)
        - Harvard University (US)

     🖊 Stanford University (US)
- 🖊 Indian universities in list -
  - 🖊 IIT Bombay is best ranked Indian university, ranked 149th. It is followed by IIT Delhi (197), IISC Bengaluru (225).
  - 🖊 Total 45 Indian universities are featured in list of world's best 1500 universities.

40. ▶ As per *QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023 : Engineering & Technology* -
- 🖊 Top 3 - MIT (US), Standford University (US), Cambridge University (UK).
- 🖊 10 Indian Institutes have been named in List, topped by IIT Bombay (47), IIT Delhi (48), IIT Madras (68).

41. ▶ As per **Forbes' The Global 2000 List 2023** -
- 🖊 Top 5 Firms globally -
  - 🖊 JPMorgan Chase (US)
  - 🖊 Saudi Aramco (Saudi Arabia)
  - 🖊 ICBC (China)
  - 🖊 China Construction Bank (China)
  - 🖊 Agricultural Bank of China (China)
- 🖊 Indian Firms in List -
  - 🖊 Total 55 Indian Firms are in List.
  - 🖊 Top 5 Indian Firms in List (with global ranks) -
    - 🖊 Reliance Industries (45)
    - 🖊 State Bank of India (77)
    - 🖊 HDFC Bank (128)
    - 🖊 ICICI Bank (163)
    - 🖊 ONGC (226)

42. ▶ As per **Logistics Performance Index 2023** by World Bank -
- 🖊 Top 3 - Singapore (1), Finland (2), Denmark (3)
- 🖊 Afghanistan is at bottom of list.
- 🖊 India ranked **38th** in list.

43. ▶ As per Airports Council International (ACI) Data -
- 🖊 Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport remained 9th busiest airport in 2022, handling 59.5 million passengers annually.
- 🖊 Also, with 93.6 million passengers in 2022, Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport remained world's busiest.

44. ▶ As per Annual Report 2022 of Philippines based Asian Development Bank (ADB) -
- 🖊 Pakistan was largest recipient of ADB funded programmes in 2022, receiving loans worth USD 5.58 billion out of total USD 31.8 billion disbursed by ADB to 40 countries in 2022.
- 🖊 However, cash strapped Pakistan used these loans to avert default, and not for financing developmental projects.

45. ▶ As per Data from analytics firm *Kpler* -
- 🖊 India became Europe's largest supplier of refined fuels. Europe's refined fuel imports from India surged above 360,000 barrels a day, leaving past Saudi Arabia.
- 🖊 Europe's reliance on Indian crude oil products has grown since the ban on Russian oil.

46. ▶ As per Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'*s Global Liveability Index 2023* -
- 🖊 Top 5 most liveable cities -
  - 🖊 Vienna (Austria)
  - 🖊 Copenhagen (Denmark)
  - 🖊 Melbourne (Australia)
  - 🖊 Sydney (Australia)
  - 🖊 Vancouver (Canada)

47. ▶ As per Fortune Most admired companies list 2023 -
- 🖊 Top 5 - Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, Berkshire Hathaway, JPMorgan Chase
- 🖊 Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is only Indian company named in list.

48. ▶ As per International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), India's aviation safety oversight ranking improved to 55th position from 112th place earlier, with improvement in score under ICAO's coordinated validation mission.

49. ▶ As per M3M Hurun Global Rich List -
- 🖊 China has most (969) Billionaires, followed by USA (691) & India (187).

- Top 2 Richest - Bernard Arnault (US $202BN), Elon Musk (US $157BN).

50. ▶ As per UK-based consultancy *Skytrax* -
   - For 5th year in a row, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been declared best airport in South Asian region, and ranked 36th globally.
   - Top 3 -
     - Changi Airport (Singapore)
     - Hamad Airport (Doha)
     - Haneda Airport (Tokyo)

51. ▶ As per UN data, India has overtaken China as world's most populous country. Indian population now stands at 142 crores, and expected to grow for several decades.
   - China's population reached its peak size recently and experienced a decline during 2022. Chinese population will continue to fall and could drop below 1 billion before 2100.

52. ▶ Australia's Deakin University & Wollongong University became first foreign universities to set up an International Branch Campus in GIFT-IFSC City (Gujarat).
   - Deakin University is first foreign university to get approval for setting up an International Branch Campus in GIFT-IFSC City.

53. ▶ Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) announced to open its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi (UAE), as an Interim Operational Hub.

54. ▶ Bhutan Launched its *National Digital Identity (NDI) mobile wallet*, as a step towards digitization. Bhutan's Prince Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck became nation's first digital citizen by onboarding with *NDI*.

55. ▶ Canada announced its first-ever Tech Talent Strategy, aimed at using immigration to strengthen its tech sector.
   - Under it, Canada govt will launch several new initiatives to attract top tech talent to Canada.

56. ▶ Central African nation **Republic of the Congo** joined India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA).
   - Notably, Other similar named nation **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** has already ratified ISA Framework Agreement.
   - International Solar Alliance (ISA) is Gurugram (Haryana, India) based international organisation with 114 Signatory countries (92 nations have ratified ISA Framework Agreement). It is First India-headquartered treaty-based international organisation.
   - It works with governments to promote solar power as a sustainable transition to a carbon-neutral future, and aims to unlock US$ 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030.

57. ▶ Central Bank of **Zimbabwe** introduced a digital token backed by gold as legal tender, to help stabilize Zimbabwean dollar and protect citizens from currency fluctuations.
   - Over past year, value of Zimbabwean dollar has declined by approx 700 %, amid catastrophic inflation.

58. ▶ China completed construction of most powerful wind tunnel in world, in mountainous Huairou district of northern Beijing.
   - The wind tunnel, called JF-22, has a diameter of 4 metres and can generate airflow speeds of up to 10 kilometres per second, making it capable of simulating hypersonic flight conditions up to Mach 30 (30 times speed of sound).

59. ▶ China's yuan replaced US dollar as most traded currency in Russia, after invasion of Ukraine led to several global sanctions against Russia.

60. ▶ Global money laundering and terrorism financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) suspended Russia's membership, amid its war in Ukraine.

61. ▶ Hindu Festival Diwali has been declared Official state Holiday in US State of **Pennsylvania**.

62. ▶ India and European Union announced establishment of 3 Working Groups under India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC).
   - They are Working group on *Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance and Digital Connectivity*, Working Group on *Green and Clean Energy Technologies* and Working Group on *Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains*.
   - TTC was launched during President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen's visit to India in April 2022.

63. ▶ India announced to start participating in International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) *Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)* and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.
   - To mitigate carbon emissions from aviation sector and its impacts on climate change, ICAO has adopted the aspirational goals, viz. 2% annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050, Carbon Neutral Growth from 2020 onwards, and net zero by 2050. Measures identified by ICAO to achieve these goals include CORSIA and LTAG.
   - CORSIA is implemented in three phases, out of which participation is voluntary in the first two phases for (2021-2026). India has decided not to participate in the voluntary phases of CORSIA.

64. ▸ India contributed **USD 1 million** as part of a voluntary contribution to UN to *promote use of Hindi language* in UN, and to foster inclusive dialogue and understanding.

65. ▸ India handed over contribution of US$ 2 million to United Nations Trust Fund in support of African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

   ✎ ATMIS was established in April 2022 by UN, to support implementation of Somali Transitional Plan towards a full handover of security responsibility to Somali institutions by end 2024, and reduce threat posed by terrorist group Al-Shabaab.

66. ▸ India has been elected as a member of *United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs* & *Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS*, both subsidiary bodies of UN ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council).

67. ▸ India joined **Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C)**, a global platform launched by US and UAE, which aims to accelerate investment and support climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation.

   ✎ India joined AIM4C during I2U2 (Israel, India, US and UAE) Business Forum in Abu Dhabi (UAE).

68. ▸ India joined Champions Group of the *Global Crisis Response Group* (GCRG), which was set up by UN in March 2022, to address critical global issues pertaining to interlinked crises in food security, energy, and finance and to coordinate a global response.

69. ▸ India received 12 **cheetahs** from **South Africa**, as part of initiative to expand cheetah population in India, which was declared extinct in India in 1952.

   ✎ Cheetahs will be translocated to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, Cheetahs were brought in from Nambia too, and kept in Kuno National Park.

   ✎ Earlier in Jan 2023, Indian and South Africa had signed MoU on Cooperation on Re-introduction of Cheetah to India.

   ✎ Worldwide, cheetah numbers have declined from an estimated 15000 in 1975 to current global population of under 7000.

70. ▸ India stood 8th in list of the world's most polluted countries in terms of air quality in 2022, as per Swiss company IQAir's World Air Quality Report.

   ✎ Top 3 polluted nations - Chad (1), Iraq (2), Pakistan (3)

71. ▸ India submitted its draft statement supporting high ambition coalition for early conclusion of International Legally Binding Instrument - *Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)* under United Nation's Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS).

72. ▸ India's **Mukesh Ambani** led Forbes's *World's Richest Sports Owners 2023* List, who owns Mumbai Indians IPL Franchise.

   ✎ Top 3 -
      ✎ Mukesh Ambani (Mumbai Indians, Cricket). Source of Wealth - Reliance Industries.
      ✎ Steve Ballmer (Los Angeles Clippers, Basketball). Source of Wealth - Microsoft.
      ✎ Rob Walton (Denver Broncos, American Football). Source of Wealth- Walmart.

73. ▸ India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) acquired contract to develop a second hydropower project in Nepal, as 669-megawatt (MW) Lower Arun Hydropower project.

   ✎ 1st SJVN project in Nepal is under-construction 900-MW Arun -III hydroelectric project, on Arun River.

74. ▸ Indian PM Narendra Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** as first cross border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh, with a capacity to transport 1 Million Metric Ton Per Annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel (HSD) to Bangladesh.

   ✎ It is 2nd cross-border energy pipeline between India and its neighbours, while first was with Nepal, opened in 2019.

75. ▸ Indonesia announced to move its capital from Jakarta to **Borneo** over environmental issues such as being congested, sinking into seawater, and being prone to earthquakes.

76. ▸ Jamaica based *International Seabed Authority* officially designated India as a *Pioneer Investor*.

77. ▸ Japan, US, South Korea and Taiwan launched a new framework called **Chip 4** alliance, to help ensure a stable supply of semiconductors.

78. ▸ Minister of State for Ports and Shipping, Shantanu Thakur flagged off MV-ITT LION (V-273) from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata), as inaugural shipment to operationalise **Sittwe** Port in Rakhine State of **Myanma**r.

   ✎ Sittwe Port was built by India in 2016, with US$120 Million financing, under Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, aimed at developing transport infrastructure in Southwestern Myanmar and Northeastern India.

79. ▸ Ministry of Education (India) and US Department of State launched *India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development*, to enhance cooperation in field of education and skill development.

   ✎ It is in line with announcement made during 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held between India and US in Apr 2022.

80. ▸ NITI Aayog (India) and UN signed *India-United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027*.

   ✎ It represents UN development system's collective offer to Government of India, in line with national vision for development, achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.

81. ▶ NTPC has been ranked *No.1 Independent Power Producers and Energy Traders* Globally in S&P Global Commodity Insights Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings 2022.
    ✎ NTPC contributes 24% of total electricity produced in India. By 2032, NTPC is targeting non-fossil fuel-based capacity to make up nearly 50 % of its portfolio.
82. ▶ NTPC marked its first overseas capacity addition by adding Unit-1 (660 MW capacity) of 1320 MW (2x660) Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTPP) in Rampal (Bangladesh). It takes Installed Capacity of NTPC to 72304 MW.
83. ▶ New stamps featuring image of King Charles have been revealed for first time in England, since death of Queen Elizabeth, Keeping with tradition dating back to the first Penny Black in 1840.
    ✎ Penny Black was world's first adhesive postage stamp used in a public postal system. It was first issued in UK on 1 May 1840, and featured a profile of Queen Victoria.
84. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's Tri-nation tour to **Japan**, **Papua New Guinea** & **Australia**.
    ✎ Japan -
        ✎ Attended G7 summit 2023 as an Invited Country, held in Hiroshima. G7 Includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US.
        ✎ Attended 3rd in-person Quad Summit in Hiroshima, Along with US, Japan, and Australia. Some notable initiatives announced during 3rd Quad Summit -
            ✎ *Clean Energy Supply Chains Initiative*, to facilitate research and development and support Indo-Pacific's energy transition.
            ✎ *Quad Infrastructure Fellowships Programme*, to support policy makers in region to design, build and manage sustainable and viable infrastructure in their countries.
            ✎ *Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience*, to leverage Quad's collective expertise in operations of undersea cables, to secure and diversify these critical networks.
            ✎ Quad support for a *small-scale ORAN (Open Radio Access Networ) deployment in oceania nation Palau*, the first in the Pacific region.
            ✎ *Quad Investors' Network,* launched as a private sector led platform to facilitate investments in strategic technologies.
    ✎ Papua New Guinea -
        ✎ This was first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Papua New Guinea.
        ✎ Attended 3rd FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation) summit, which was launched during PM Modi's visit to Fiji in 2014.
            ✎ FIPIC includes 14 island countries that are located in Pacific Ocean, to the northeast of Australia.
        ✎ PM Modi was honored with *Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu,* highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea.
            ✎ He was also honored with *Order of Fiji,* the highest honour of Fiji.
    ✎ Australia -
        ✎ Announced to open a new Indian consulate in Brisbane. Also, Australia announced establishment of a new Australian Consulate in Bengaluru.
        ✎ India and Australia signed agreements in field of migration and mobility partnership and on the Green Hydrogen task force.
85. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to **France** & **UAE** -
    ✎ France -
        ✎ Attended *Bastille Day* Parade (French National Day) on 14 July 2023, where a tri-services Indian armed forces contingent also participated.
            ✎ 2023 also marks 25th anniversary of India - France Strategic Partnership.
        ✎ France honored Indian PM Narendra Modi with France's highest honour, the *Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour*.
            ✎ Notably, PM Narendra Modi is first Indian PM to receive France's highest award.
        ✎ Notable Agreements / Announcements during visit -
            ✎ MOUs were signed for co-operation in Digital Technologies, Civil Aviation Security, Investments, Ocean Exploration.
            ✎ Letter of Intent signed on *New National Museum and Cooperation on Museology, Broadcasting, Health and Medicine*.
            ✎ Implementing Arrangements signed for *India-France joint Earth Observation mission* **TRISHNA** & Maritime Domain Awareness short-term programme.
                ✎ Thermal InfraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment (TRISHNA) is a joint development by French Space Agency (CNES) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), to be launched during dec 2024.

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) signed Agreement with Total Energies Gas and Power Ltd (France) to establish a long-term LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA), for import of 0.8 million tonnes a year of LNG for 10 years starting in 2026.
- Agreement between Proparco (subsidiary of French Development Agency) and India's *Satya Microfinance* for $20 million to support Satya in growing its microcredit/MSME portfolio and foster financial inclusion.
- India's NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and France's Lyra Collect signed an agreement to implement India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments system in France.
- India announced opening of its second consulate in France, which will be located in Marseille.
- India and France will jointly set up Indo-Pacific Triangular Cooperation (IPTDC) Fund aimed at supporting climate and SDG focused innovations and Start-ups from third countries of Indo-Pacific, to scale up green technologies in the region,
  - Notably, during 8th Edition of Raisina Dialogue 2023 held in New Delhi, Sustainable Finance in the Indo-Pacific (SUFIP) Network was launched as a collaboration between France's Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Mumbai Based think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
- UAE -
  - Notable Agreements / Announcements during visit -
    - MoU between RBI and UAE Central Bank for establishment of a framework to promote the use of local currencies (INR - AED) for cross-border transactions.
    - MoU between RBI and UAE Central Bank for the bilateral cooperation on interlinking their payment and messaging systems.
    - MoU to enable setting up Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) campus in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
    - Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) signed Agreement with ADNOC (UAE) to establish a long-term LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA), for import of 1.2 million tonnes a year of LNG for 14 years starting in 2026.
  - Notably,
    - India-UAE trade rose to USD 85 billion in 2022, making UAE India's third-largest trading partner for 2022-23 and India's second-largest export destination. In February 2022, India became first country with which UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

86. ▶ Power Minister R K Singh launched *South Asia Distribution Utility Network (SADUN)*, an initiative by Ministry of Power, PFC & USAID to modernise distribution utilities in South Asia through knowledge sharing among DISCOMS.

87. ▶ QS *Best Student Cities 2024* List -
  - Top 3 - London (UK), Tokyo (Japan), Seoul (South Korea)
  - Indian Cities in List -
    - Mumbai (118)
    - Delhi (132)
    - Bangalore (147)
    - Chennai (151-160)

88. ▶ Quad nations (Plurilateral framework comprising India, Australia, Japan, and US) announced launch of a public campaign to improve cyber security, Named *Quad Cyber Challenge*.

89. ▶ Russia suspended participation in **New START** (*Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty*), the last remaining major military agreement with USA.
  - However, Russia did not withdraw from the treaty, and clarified that it would continue to abide by numerical limits in the treaty.
  - New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between USA and Russian Federation, with formal name *Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms*. It was signed in April 2010 and ratified in February 2011, effective for 15 years.

90. ▶ Saudi Arabia become 51st country to accede to *Treaty of Amity and Cooperation* (TAC), during 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta (Indonesia).
  - TAC is a peace treaty among Southeast Asian countries established by founding members of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

91. ▶ Seattle (Washington state) became first US city to pass an explicit ban on caste-based discrimination, after city council passed an ordinance adding caste to list of protected classes in city's municipal code, along with groups like race, religion, and gender identity.

92. ▶ Social Media Firm *Twitter* announced rebranding as **X**, doing away with its bird logo which has been its identification since its inception.
  - Twitter was recently acquired by Tesla Owner Elon Musk, and was brought under Musk-owned *X Holdings Corp.*

🖊 Musk also launched artificial intelligence startup *xAI*, to complete with OpenAI's chatGPT and Google Bard.

93. ▶ South American Nation **Colombia** opened military service to women, for first time in 25 years.

    🖊 Colombia has long had compulsory military service for men aged 18 - 24, which army relies on for carrying out basic administrative tasks.

    🖊 This year, Army allowed females in same age range to voluntarily join the military.

94. ▶ Startup-focused American Bank **Silicon Valley Bank** collapsed after a bank run (Sudden withdrawal of deposits by many depositors), becoming largest bank to fail since 2008 financial crisis.

    🖊 California banking regulators closed the bank, and appointed Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver for later disposition of its assets. FIDC Further named *Tim Mayopoulos* to lead erstwhile Silicon Valley Bank.

    🖊 Also, *First-Citizens Bank* signed a purchase and assumption agreement with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to acquire all loans and deposits of failed Silicon Valley Bank.

95. ▶ Switzerland based financial firm **UBS Group** acquired Switzerland based **Credit Suisse,** for approx 3.2 Billion USD, resulting in merger of Switzerland's two biggest banks.

96. ▶ Taiwan announced setting up a new representative office in Mumbai, as 3rd such office in India.

    🖊 India and Taiwan do not maintain formal diplomatic ties, but the two sides opened representative offices in 1995, as Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) in New Delhi and *India Taipei Association* in Taipei. 2nd office was set up by Taiwan in Chennai in 2012.

97. ▶ Taking note of India's measures to protect children, UN removed India from its annual report on *impact of armed conflict on children*.

    🖊 India was included in the list in 2010, amid allegations of recruitment of young boys by armed groups in J&K and detainment of boys by security forces on grounds of association with armed groups.

98. ▶ Times Higher Education (THE) *Asia University Rankings 2023* -

    🖊 Top 5 -

        🖊 Tsinghua University (China)

        🖊 Peking University (China)

        🖊 National University of Singapore

        🖊 University of Hong

        🖊 Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)

    🖊 Indian Universities in List -

        🖊 *IISC Bengaluru* is best ranked Indian university, ranked **48th**. It is followed by *JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research* (68) & *Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences* (77).

        🖊 Total 101 Indian universities have been featured in list of Asia's best 928 universities.

99. ▶ UAE beacme first Arab country to be granted observer status at *Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering* (APG), a FATF Like regional body committed to implementing standards against money laundering & terror financing. It has 42 member nations and 8 observer nations.

100. ▶ UK and European Union signed **Windsor framework** as a new legal agreement, which is designed to address problem of movement of goods between European Single Market and United Kingdom in current Northern Ireland Protocol.

101. ▶ UK and US signed a new *Atlantic Declaration*, for greater cooperation on pressing economic challenges in key areas like artificial intelligence, critical minerals, clean energy and security.

102. ▶ US Senate formally recognised **McMahon Line** as international boundary between India's **Arunachal Pradesh** and **China**.

    🖊 The resolution rejected Beijing's claim on Arunachal Pradesh, and also condemned Chinese provocations in the region.

103. ▶ Under India's 2023 G20 Presidency, India proposed MAHARISHI Initiative (*Millets And OtHer Ancient Grains International ReSearcH Initiative*), which will focus on Research and Awareness in agro-biodiversity, food security, and nutrition aligning with International Year of Millets 2023.

    🖊 It was proposed during G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in Varanasi.

104. ▶ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution piloted by **India,** to establish a **new memorial wall** at United Nations Headquarters for **fallen peacekeepers**.

    🖊 UNGA also adopted **Bangladesh**'s flagship resolution on *Culture of Peace*.

105. ▶ United Nations signed first **High Seas Treaty**, to protect ocean bodies of world that lie outside national boundaries and form almost two-thirds of world's oceans.

    🖊 *UN High Seas Treaty* brings 30 % of world's oceans into protected domain, puts more money into marine conservation and sets new rules for mining at sea.

    🖊 The last international agreement on ocean protection was signed 40 years ago in 1982 - *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea*.

106. ▶ World Bank launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia, with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed with Bangladesh.
107. ▶ World Bank released its *Women, Business and the Law* Report 2023, highlighting need of increased labour force participation by women and more effective allocation of resources.
108. ▶ World Meteorological Congress approved to establish *Global Greenhouse Gas Watch* as a new greenhouse gas monitoring initiative, to support urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases which are fuelling temperature rise across globe.
   - Global Greenhouse Gas Watch will include satellite-based system for observation of CO_2, CH_4 and N_2O concentrations. Notably -
      - Between 1990 - 2021, warming effect on our climate by long-lived greenhouse gases rose by nearly 50%, with carbon dioxide accounting for about 80% of this increase.
      - CO_2 remains in atmosphere for many decades. Methane is more potent but has a shorter life-span of about 10 years.
109. ▶ World's fourth-largest economy and Europe's largest, **Germany** entered into recession after its GDP recorded second consecutive quarterly contraction.
   - German economy fell by 0.3 % in Jan-Mar 2023 quarter, and earlier by 0.5 % in Oct-Dec 2022 Quarter.
   - Notably -
      - 2 consecutive quarters of decline constitute a technical recession.
      - New Zealand's economy has also slipped into recession, with GDP falling 0.1 % in Jan-Mar 2023 quarter and earlier by 0.7 % in Oct-Dec 2022 quarter.

Meetings

1. ▶ India hosted 23rd **Shanghai Cooperation Summit (SCO) summit** 2023 in **virtual** format, under its 2023 SCO Presidency. Theme of summit is **Towards a SECURE SCO**.
   - Other notable meets hosted by India under its 2023 SCO presidency -
      - SCO Defence Ministers' meet - New Delhi.
      - SCO Tourism Ministers' Meet - Kashi (Varanasi). Kashi is also noted as first tourism & cultural capital of SCO.
      - First international conference of SCO on *Shared Buddhist Heritage* - New Delhi.
   - Notably -
      - Iran joined as new full member of SCO.
         - SCO Members - China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan & Iran.
         - Observers - Afghanistan, Belarus, Mongolia.
      - *Kazakhstan* took over SCO chairmanship from India, to last until 2024 SCO Summit to be held in Astana.
2. ▶ 12th *Mekong Ganga Cooperation* meet held in Bangkok (Thailand), attended by External Affairs Minister *S. Jaishankar* on India's behalf.
   - During the meet -
      - India re-affirmed its commitment to implement *India-Myanmar-Thailand* Trilateral Highway (IMT Highway).
         - IMT Highway is a 1360 km long 4-lane highway under construction under India's Look East policy, that will connect Moreh (India) with Mae Sot (Thailand) via Myanmar.
      - It was decided to establish a Mekong Ganga Cooperation Business Council, to boost cooperation in economy, agriculture, technology and water resources management.
   - About -
      - Mekong-Ganga Cooperation was established in November 2000, and comprises of 6 member countries - India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.
3. ▶ 2023 World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meetings held in Washington DC (USA).
   - On the sidelines, inaugural Commonwealth Finance Ministers High-Level Working Group Meeting was also held. During the meet, **India** was named as chair (And Nigeria deputy chair) of Finance Ministers Working Group for a Commonwealth Call for Reform of Global Financial Architecture.
4. ▶ 2nd Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (**IPEF**) Ministerial Meeting held in Detroit (US), attended virtually by Piyush Goyal (Minister for Commerce and Industry) on India's behalf.
   - IPEF was launched in May 2022 jointly by USA and 13 other partner countries of Indo-Pacific region, to strengthen economic engagement among partner countries.

- Framework is structured around 4 pillars relating to Trade (Pillar I), Supply Chains (Pillar II), Clean Economy (Pillar III) & Fair Economy (Pillar IV). India had joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it has an observer status in Pillar-I.

5. 2nd edition of **World Food India 2023** will be organised by Ministry of Food Processing Industries at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi), during Nov 2023.

6. 42nd Summit of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) hosted by Indonesia.
   - ASEAN Summit Meetings are hosted twice annually, by member state holding ASEAN Chairmanship (Indonesia currently).
   - Laos will hold 10-Nations ASEAN grouping Chairmanship in 2024.

7. 76th WHO World Health Assembly held in Geneva (Switzerland), with theme *WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all.*
   - It was attended by Health and Family Welfare Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** on India's behalf.
     - He also attended BRICS Health Ministers Meeting 2023, held on side-lines of World Health Assembly in Geneva.
     - India reiterated its goal to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of global Sustainable Development Goal of UN.

8. 8th Edition of Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy, held in New Delhi.
   - Giorgia Meloni (Prime Minister of Italy) was chief guest at the event, held with theme *Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest.*

9. *National Youth Conclave* has been organized jointly by Smart Cities Mission (MoHUA), Department of Youth Affairs and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi).
   - It has been organized under aegis of India's 2023 G20 presidency, aligning with Urban20 and Youth20 engagement groups.

10. *Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) 2023* has been organized at Rashtrapati Bhavan (New Delhi) -
    - During the event, A Grassroots Innovations Accelerator program was announced, to help grassroots innovators in farming with support for entrepreneurial, product, and market development. It is launched by NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council (NIFientreC) and digital business transformation company Publicis Sapient.

11. *World Government Summit 2023* held in Dubai, with theme *Shaping Future Governments*.
    - During the summit, IIT Indore students won **AED 1** million prize for creating *Blockbill*, a blockchain-based app that generates digital receipts for all users' transactions.

12. **12th World Hindi Conference** Hosted by Oceania nation **Fiji**, with theme *Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence*. It was inaugurated by visiting Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar. He also unveiled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's bust in India House in Suva (Fiji).

13. **1st Global Buddhist Summit** held in New Delhi, organized by Ministry of Culture in collaboration with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

14. **30th National Child Science Congress** organized in Ahmedabad (Gujarat), by Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) with theme *Understanding Eco System for Health & Well-being*.

15. **Abu Dhabi (UAE)** has been named host of Next **World Conservation Congress,** to be held in 2025.
    - Held every 4 years, IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together decision-makers, with goal of conserving environment and harnessing solutions nature offers to global challenges.
    - Most recent World Conservation Congress was hosted in 2021 in Marseille (France).

16. **International Conference on Green Hydrogen** (ICGH 2023) organized at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi), to bring together global scientific community to discuss emerging technologies in green hydrogen value chain.

17. Annual *6th Indian Ocean Conference 2023* held in Dhaka (Bangladesh), attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on India's Behalf.

18. Annual **Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023** co-hosted by Germany and UAE, in Berlin (Germany).
    - Notably, UAE is chair for 28th *Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 2023* (Also called Conference of Parties, COP). COP 28 is to be held in Dubai in Nov-Dec 2023.

19. Group of Seven (G7) Ministers' Meeting on *Climate, Energy and Environment* held in Sapporo (Japan).
    - G7 Nations committed to collectively increase offshore wind capacity to 173 gigawatts (From 22.5 GW Currently) and solar capacity to 1300 GW (From 320 GW Currently).

20. India hosted 14th Clean Energy Ministerial and 8th Mission Innovation meeting (CEM14/MI-8) in Goa, with theme *Advancing Clean Energy Together*. G20 Energy Transition Ministerial Meet was also held along.
    - During event, India pushed its proposal of forming *Global Biofuel Alliance*, which seeks to accelerate sustainable biofuels deployment in support of global energy transition.
    - India's biofuels push -

- In FY 21 (2020-21), India produced 4.08 billion litres of ethanol (resulting in blending rate of 10.02 %), This lead to reduction of 2.7 million tonnes of CO2 emissions and saved 41500 crores in foreign exchange. India aims to reach 20 % ethanol blending by 2025, by enhancing production capacity for ethanol to 17 billion litres.
- India has also been promoting compressed bio-gas (CBG) as a clean fuel derived from waste. Under Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) programme, 46 CBG plants have been established as of March 2023, against target of installing 5000 CBG plants by 2024.
- India recently conducted its first commercial passenger flight using sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) blend produced domestically to address decarbonisation in aviation sector. India aims for 1 % SAF blend in jet fuel by 2025 would require around 140 million litres of SAF per year.
- Also, International Energy Agency (IEA) states that global sustainable biofuels production would need to triple by 2030 to put world's energy system on track towards net zero emissions by 2050.
- About -
  - *Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)* was established in 2009 to promote policies that advance clean energy technology. It has 29 members, the European Commission and 28 Nations.
  - Mission Innovation (MI) is a forum of 23 Countries and European Commission (on behalf of European Union) to accelerate Clean Energy revolution and progress towards Paris Agreement goals and pathways to Net Zero.

21. India hosted 1st Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in New Delhi.
- On the occasion, PM Narendra Modi unveiled a customised postal stamp and currency coin on International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023, being observed by UN.
- Also, Hyderabad based ICAR-IIMR (Indian Institute of Millet Research) has been announced as Global Centre of Excellence.

22. Ministry of Tourism organised first Global Tourism Investor's Summit (**GTIS**) in New Delhi, As an initiative under India's 2023 G20 Presidency.

23. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam** at newly inaugurated redeveloped ITPO complex International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) named Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi).
- It coincides with 3rd anniversary of National Education Policy 2020 (enacted on 29 July 2020).
- Released first instalment of funds under *PM SHRI* (PM Schools for Rising India) Scheme.
  - Scheme aims to set up over **14500** PM SHRI Schools by strengthening existing schools. These schools will showcase implementation of National Education Policy 2020 and offer leadership to other schools in neighborhood. Cost of project will be 27360 crores over 5 years, which includes central share of 18128 crores.
  - PM also released education and skill curriculum books translated into 12 Indian languages.
- During the event, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched logo, slogan (*Jan Jan Sakshar*) and mobile application of *ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakra*m.
  - ULLAS (*Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society)* initiative aims to bridge gaps in basic literacy and critical lifeskills by fostering a learning ecosystem that reaches every individual.
  - It imparts basic education, digital and financial literacy and critical life skills to citizens over 15 years age who lost on the opportunity to go to school. It is being implemented through volunteerism.

24. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated *7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference 2023*. It has been organised by India Foundation & Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, in Bhopal (MP). 2023 Theme is *eastern Humanism for the New Era.*

25. UIC World Security Congress 2023 jointly organized by Railway Protection Force (RPF) and International Union of Railways (UIC) in Jaipur (Rajasthan), with theme *Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Futur*e.

26. United Nations held its first water conference in 46 years on World water day (Mar 22, 2023) in New York (USA), co-hosted by Governments of Tajikistan and Netherlands.
- It aimed to get the world back on track for reaching targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), to ensure access to water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Top

National

1. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched first of its kind *Millets Experience Centre* at Dilli Haat (New Delhi), to raise awareness on Millets and encourage its adoption among general public.
2. General News / Events (Apr 1-10, 2023) -
- *International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure* 2023 held in Hybrid format, in New Delhi.

- ICDRI is annual conference of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) member nations, which was initiated by India, and aims to strengthen global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.
- Kolkata Metro Wednesday became first metro rail in Indian to make an under-river journey, as its rakes passed through an underwater tunnel below Hooghly river.
- Conservation and breeding centre for critically endangered Asian king vulture has been set up in Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district.
- Uttar Pradesh govt announced target to convert vehicles used in government departments into Electric (EVs), by 2030.

3. Govt launched Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (**VAIBHAV**) fellowships programme to be implemented by Department of Science and Technology (DST), to connect Indian STEMM diaspora with Indian academic and R&D institutions for collaborative research leading to sharing of knowledge, and best practices in frontier areas of science & technology.
   - Under it, 75 selected fellows would be invited to work in 18 identified knowledge verticals.

4. Ministry of Civil Aviation launched **UDAN 5.1,** to further enhance connectivity to remote areas of country and achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters.
   - For the first time under RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes.
   - Features -
      - Scheme will now allow routes where one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area. Earlier both points had to be in priority areas.
      - Airfare caps have been reduced by up to 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable.

5. Notable points from PM Narendraa Modi's Visit to Karnataka -
   - Inaugurated *Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (SMSIMSR)* in Chikkaballapur, to provide free of cost medical education and quality medical care.
   - Inaugurated 13.71 km stretch from Whitefield (Kadugodi) Metro to Krishnarajapura Metro Line under Bangalore Metro Phase 2, Built at cost 4250 crores.

6. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launched **A-HELP (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production)** programme,
   - Under this, trained A-HELPs will give their vital contribution in preventing various infectious diseases of animals, artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), tagging of animals and animal insurance.

7. 2023 **Karnataka** Legislative Assembly elections -
   - Indian National Congress won Majority, winning 135 out of 224 seats. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remained 2nd largest party, with 66 seats.
   - **Siddaramaiah** (INC) has been named New **Chief Minister** of Karnataka, for his 2nd term. Also, *D K Sivakumar* has been named as Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka.

8. 3 new Centers of Excellence (CoE) have been approved for Horticultural crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) -
   - CoE for Kamlam (Dragon Fruit) by Indian Institute of Horticultural Research Bengaluru (Karnataka).
   - CoE for Mango and Vegetables under Indo-Israel Action Plan at Panikoili, Jajpur District (Odisha)
   - CoE for Vegetables and Flowers under Indo-Israel Action Plan at Govt. Agricultural Farm, Ponda (Goa).

9. 46th International Kolkata Book Fair held at Salt Lake (Kolkata), with **Spain** as theme country.
   - Notably, India will be invited as focal country at Spain's 2025 Madrid International Book Fair.

10. 4th edition of *National Youth Parliament Festival 2023* concluded in New Delhi, with theme *Ideas for a Better tomorrow: India for the World.*
   - Under it, District Youth Parliaments were conducted across country, followed by State Youth Parliament attended by top 2 position holders at District level. Winners of State Youth Parliament (SYP) attended finals held at national level in New Delhi.

11. *Adani Power* commissioned its first 800 MW ultra-super-critical thermal power generation unit at Godda in Jharkhand, from which 748 MW of power will be supplied to Bangladesh.
   - Earlier in 2016, Adani Power had signed MoU with Bangladesh Power Development Board, to set up 2x800 MW thermal power plants in India on build-and-operate basis.

12. *Assam* govt launched *Gajah Kotha* campaign, to mitigate escalating human-elephant conflict by involving participation of over 1200 individuals and promoting coexistence.
   - It emphasizes importance of conservation efforts to ensure well-being of both humans and elephants, Spearheaded by wildlife NGO Aaranyak.

13. ▶ *Gujarat* govt announced doubling insurance cover under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (*PMJAY*) for its citizens, from 5 lakh to 10 lakh.

14. ▶ *Odisha* Govt & Quality Council of India launched *Odisha Gunvatta Sankalp (Odisha Quality Mission)* at Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with several industry associations, to promote and prioritize quality across various sectors in state.

15. ▶ *Uttar Pradesh* Govt approved implementation of *Mukhya Mantri Khet Suraksha Yojana* in state, which involves installation of a solar fence around fields with a low 12-volt current, to deter wild animals without causing harm to them.

16. ▶ **Assam** govt announnced to develop State's first underwater tunnel between Numaligarh and Gohpur at cost 6000 crores, under Brahmaputra river.

17. ▶ **Bhopal** (Madhya Pradesh) became 1st Indian city to join global movement on localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with launch of *An Agenda for Action: Sustainable Urban Transformation,* India's first city-level Voluntary Local Review (VLR).
    - In 2015, 193 UN member-states adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.

18. ▶ **Budget Session 2023** of Parliament has been concluded (Held between Jan 31 to Apr 6, 2023, with recess between Feb 13 to Mar 12, 2023) -
    - Notable Info Disseminated during session -
        - Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will launch Bima Sugam portal, as a common platform to meet all insurance-related needs, and address existing protection gap across life, health and general insurance businesses in country.
        - RBI has permitted banks from 19 countries to open Special Vostro Rupee Accounts (SVRAs) to settle payments in rupees, including neighboring Sri Lanka & Bangladesh.
        - As per Ministry of Education -
            - Lowest Literacy states/UTs - Bihar (61.8 %), Arunachal Pradesh (65.3 %), Rajasthan (66.1 %).
            - Highest Literacy states/UTs - Kerala (94%), Lakshadweep (91.85%), Mizoram (91.33%).
            - Literacy rate in rural India is 67.77 %, compared to 84.11 % in urban India.
        - Ministry of Earth Sciences is implementing umbrella scheme *Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT),* with sub-schemes -*R&D in Earth System Science (RDESS), International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOocean)* & *Program for Development of Skilled manpower in Earth System Sciences (DESK).*
        - India's first-ever coal gasification based Fertiliser plant in Talcher (Odisha) will be launched by October 2024.
        - As per Railways Ministry, India's first hydrogen-powered train will be launched by December 2023, to check carbon emission in Railways.
            - Hydrogen train will be indigenously manufactured and will initially run on heritage circuits.
            - Also, Indian Railways earned record revenue of Rs 2.4 lakh cr during FY 23 (2022-23), including freight revenue 1.62 lakh crores and passenger revenues at 63300 crores.
        - 1st nuclear power plant in North India is being built in Gorakhpur (Haryana).
            - Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP), near Gorakhpur village of Fatehabad district of Haryana, has capacity 2800 MW (2 phases of 1400 MW Each).
            - Phase 1 shall be launched by 2029. Project cost is approx 21000 crores for each phase.
        - State of Renewable Energy in India -
            - India's installed non-fossil fuel capacity increased 4 times in last 8.5 years and stands at 179 Giga Watts (4th highest in world), which is 43% of country's total power generation capacity. Break up -
                - Wind power: 42.6 GW (4th highest)
                - Solar Power: 66.7 GW (4th highest)
                - Large Hydro: 46.85 GW
                - Biomass/Co-generation: 10.2 GW
                - Small Hydro Power: 4.94 GW
                - Waste To Energy: 0.55 GW
            - As per India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) communicated to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Aug 2022, India aims to -
                - Reduce carbon intensity of nation's economy by less than 45% by 2030.
                - Achieve 50 % cumulative electric power installed (500 GW) by 2030 from renewables.

- *Notably, Govt announced to invite bids for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for next 5 years (2023-24 till 2027-28), also including setting up of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW per annum.*
    - Achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- India also submitted its Long-Term Low Carbon Development Strategy in Nov 2022 under Paris Agreement, to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during COP 27 meet at Sharm-el-Sheikh (Egypt).
- As per Dehradun-based Forest Survey of India (FSI)'s *India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021* -
    - Total forest cover is 713789 sq km, which is 21.71% of geographical area. Forest cover increased by 1540 square kilometer between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021.
    - States with Max area under forests - Rajasthan (342239), Madhya Pradesh (308252), Maharashtra (307713).
- During FY 22 (2021-22), India received foreign inward remittances of $89 Billion, highest ever inward remittances received in a single year. Top 3 source nations - US (23.4 %), UAE (18 %), UK (6.8).
- Govt has approved *Namami Gange Mission-II* with budgetary outlay of 22500 crores till 202.
    - Namami Gange Programme was effective between Jun 2014 - Mar 2021, to rejuvenate River Ganga and its tributaries with a budgetary outlay of 20000 crores.
- Under National Health Authority (NHA)'s flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), 25 crore health records of individuals have been linked to their ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account), enabling them avail paper-less health services across ABDM network.
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) initiative *Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions* (SWAYATT) has been launched to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage through e-Transactions on GeM.
- India's coal production grew by 14.65 % on a Y-o-Y basis to hit an all-time high of 892.21 million tonnes (MT) in FY 23 (2022-23).
- NHAI will develop 10000 km of Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) infrastructure across country by FY2024-25, through SPV National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML).
- For 4th year in a row, Rajasthan topped in terms of persondays generation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, by generating 35.61 crore persondays in 2022-23, followed by Tamil Nadu (33.45 crore), Uttar Pradesh (31.18 crore).
- Govt will introduce *Vande Metro* by December 2023, to connect major cities and provide a cost-effective mode of transportation. It comes after successful launch of semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express trains.
- Bills -
    - Bills passed by Parliament (Passed by both houses Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha)
        - Finance Bill, 2023
        - The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2023
        - The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2023
        - The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2023
        - The Appropriation Bill, 2023
        - **The Competition (Amendment) Bill 2023 -**
            - Bill seeks to amend *Competition Act 2002*, to regulate mergers and acquisitions based on the value of transactions. Key Features -
                - *Regulation of combinations based on transaction value* - Act prohibits any person / enterprise from entering into a combination which may cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition. Prohibition applies to transactions where parties involved have *cumulative assets of more than 1000 crore*, or *cumulative turnover of more than 3000 crore*s. Bill expands the definition of combinations to include transactions with a **value *above 2000 crores*.**
                - Act requires the CCI to pass an order on an application for approval of combinations within 210 days. The Bill reduces this time limit to **150 days**.
                - For classification of combinations, the Act defines control as control over the affairs or management by one or more enterprises over another enterprise or group. Bill modifies the definition of control as the ability to exercise material influence over the management, affairs, or strategic commercial decisions.
                - Under the Act, anti-competitive agreements include any agreement related to production, supply, storage, or control of goods / services, which can cause an adverse effect on competition in India. Bill adds that

enterprises or persons not engaged in identical businesses shall be presumed to be part of such agreements, if they actively participate in furtherance of such agreements.

- Under the Act, CCI may initiate proceedings against enterprises on grounds of *entering into anti-competitive agreements* or *abuse of dominant position.* Bill permits CCI to close inquiry proceedings if enterprise offers *settlement (may involve payment)* or *commitments (may be structural or behavioural in nature).*
- Bill changes nature of punishment for certain offences from imposition of fine to penalty.

- Bills Introduced in Lok Sabha (In pending state currently) -
  - The Finance Bill, 2023
  - The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2023
  - The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2023
  - The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2023
  - The Appropriation Bill, 2023
  - The **Inter-services Organizations (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill 2023**
    - It seeks to empower Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of Inter-services Organisations to exercise administrative control over service personnel under their command, irrespective of their service.
    - Key features -
      - **Inter-services Organisation -**
        - Existing Inter-services Organisations will be deemed to have been constituted under the Bill, including Andaman and Nicobar Command, Defence Space Agency, and National Defence Academy.
        - Govt may constitute an Inter-services Organisation which has personnel belonging to at least 2 of the 3 services, which may be placed under command of an Officer-in-Command.
      - **Control of Inter-services Organisations -**
        - Bill empowers Commander-in-Chief or the Officer-in-Command of an Inter-services Organisation to exercise command and control over personnel serving in or attached to it.
        - Central govt may notify any force maintained in India to which the Bill will apply, in addition to army, navy, and air force personnel.
      - Bill provides for a Commanding Officer who will be in command of a unit/ship/establishment. The officer will also perform duties assigned by Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of the Inter-services Organisation.
  - The **Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill 2023** (*Referred to Joint Committee*)
    - It aims to amend **Forest Conservation Act 1980,** which provides for conservation of forest land.
    - Bill adds and exempts certain types of land from purview of the Act. It also expands list of activities permitted to be carried out on forest land.
    - Key features -
      - **Restrictions on activities in forest -**
        - Act restricts de-reservation of forest or use of forest land for non-forest purposes, which may be lifted with govt approval.
          - Non-forest purposes include use of land for cultivating horticultural crops or for any purpose other than reafforestation.
          - Act specifies certain activities that will be excluded from non-forest purposes. Bill adds more activities to this list.
      - **Exempted categories of land -**
        - Bill also exempts certain types of land from provisions of Act such as forest land along a rail line or a public road maintained by government providing access to a habitation, or to a rail, and roadside amenity up to a maximum size of 0.10 hectare.
        - Forest land that will also be exempted includes land situated within 100 km along international borders (Line of Control), proposed to be used for construction of strategic linear project for national importance or security.
      - **Assigning of land through a lease or otherwise -**
        - Under the Act, state government or any authority requires prior approval of central govt to direct assigning of forest land through a lease or otherwise to any organisation not owned by government.

Bill provides that such assigning may be done to any organisation subject to terms and conditions prescribed by central government.

- **Power to issue directions** -
    - Bill adds that central government may issue directions for implementation of the Act to any other authority/ organisation.
- The **Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023** -
    - It amends **Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act 2005,** which established Coastal Aquaculture Authority for regulating coastal aquaculture, which refers to rearing and cultivation of fish under controlled conditions.
    - Key features -
        - **Regulation of allied coastal aquaculture activities -**
            - Act regulates coastal aquaculture farms which carry out activities such as culturing of shrimp, prawns or any other aquatic life under controlled conditions in saline or brackish water.
            - Bill adds that any facility that is engaged in coastal aquaculture or any allied activity will be regulated as a coastal aquaculture unit.
        - **Some allied activities to be allowed in certain protected areas -**
            - Act prohibits coastal aquaculture: (i) within 200 metres from high tide lines and (ii) in creeks, rivers, and backwaters within Coastal Regulation Zones under Environment (Protection) Act 1986.
            - Bill replaces this to prohibit coastal aquaculture activities in: (i) ecologically sensitive areas or in geo-morphological features such as mountains, valleys, or volcanoes, (ii) no-development zones in seas and buffer zones in creeks, rivers, and backwaters, and (iii) creeks, rivers, and backwaters within Coastal Regulation Zones.
        - **Coastal Aquaculture Authority -**
            - Functions of Authority include: (i) regulating construction and operation of aquaculture farms in coastal areas, (ii) registering coastal aquaculture farms, and (iii) removing/demolishing farms that cause pollution.
            - Bill adds that Authority shall:(i) prohibit coastal aquaculture inputs to prevent harm to coastal aquaculture, (ii) fix standards and regulate such units to prevent diseases, and (iii) fix standards for emission/discharge of effluents from coastal aquaculture units.
    - Under the Act, Authority may authorise any person to enter any coastal aquaculture land and carry out inspections and remove any structures. Occupier of the land must be given a notice of at least 24 hours before entering such premises. Bill empowers Authority to waive the notice requirement.
        - **Composition of the Authority -**
            - Authority comprises 11 members. Bill adds a representative from Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying as a member.
        - **Penalties -**
            - Act penalises carrying out coastal aquaculture without registering with Authority with imprisonment up to 3 years, or fine up to 1 lakh rupees. Bill provides for different penalties for different contraventions.
        - **Adjudication and appeals -**
            - Under the Bill, govt may authorise an officer of at least Under Secretary level to adjudicate penalties. It may also authorise an officer of at least a Deputy Secretary level as an Appellate Authority for orders passed by adjudicating officer.

19. **Kerala** became India's first *fully e-governed* state, after several initiatives aimed at transforming state into digitally-empowered.
20. **Kerala** govt announced a 200 crores scheme for developing green hydrogen hubs at Trivandrum and Kochi.
    - Notably, Kerala aims to become completely renewable energy dependent state by 2040 and a carbon neutral state by 2050.
21. **Kerala** govt launched project named *One Panchayat, One Playground*, for reviving sports culture in State by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat.
22. **Odisha** state cabinet approved proposal to recommend inclusion of **Kui** language (with approx 1 million speakers across state) in *8th schedule* of Constitution of India.
    - 8th Schedule to the Constitution of India lists official languages of India, currently consisting of 22 languages.
23. **Rajasthan** govt passed *Right to Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill 2023*, to boost social security for citizens.

The Bill promises 125 days of work a year for all families in state. It also guarantees minimum pension of 1000 per month to elderly, specially abled, widows and single women, which will increased by 15% every year.

24. **Tamil Nadu** govt notifed *Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary* as 18th wildlife sanctuary in state, including reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai and Chennampatti.

25. **Uttarakhand** CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launched **Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana,** aimed at making single women (aged 25-45 years) self-reliant, by giving them self-employment in their village itself.

26. **Uttarakhand** govt approved 10 % horizontal reservation for statehood activists in state government jobs.

27. **Yaya Tso**, known as birds' paradise (located at an altitude of 4820 metres), has been proposed as **Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site**, under Biological Diversity Act 2002.

28. Adani Green Energy (AGEL) commissioned **world's largest wind-solar hybrid** power plant of **700 MW** Capacity, in Jaisalmer (Rajasthan).
    - With this, AGEL's operating wind-solar hybrid portfolio reached 2140 MW, continuing to be largest in world.
    - Earlier Commissioning at Jaisalmer by AGEL -
        - May 2022 - India's first hybrid power plant of 390 MW.
        - Sep 2022 - Co-located hybrid power plant of 600 MW.
        - Dec 2022 - 3rd hybrid power plant of 450 MW.

29. Adani Group commissioned India's first transnational project at Godda (Jharkhand), to supply power to Bangladesh.
    - Godda Thermal Power Station has capacity of 1600 megawatts, being constructed under an agreement between India and Bangladesh.

30. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched **SATHI** (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and App, as a Centralized Online System for seed traceability, authentication and inventory designed to deal with challenges of seed production, quality seed identification and seed certification.
    - It has been developed by NIC, on theme *Uttam Beej – Samriddh Kisan*.

31. Agriculture Ministry launched several new technological initiatives under *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana,* including *YES-Tech Manual*, *WINDS portal* and door to door enrollment app *AIDE/Sahayak*, to increasing farmers enrolment.
    - YES-TECH Manual facilitates implementation of YES-TECH, a technology-driven yield estimation system, offering methodologies and insights for accurate yield assessments at Gram Panchayat level.
    - WINDS Portal processes hyper-local weather data collected by Automatic Weather Stations and Rain Gauges at Taluk/Block and Gram Panchayat levels.

32. Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Mohan Reddy laid foundation stone for development of **Bhogapuram International Airport** (Visakhapatnam)**.**
    - 1st phase will be developed as a Greenfield airport, to serve 6 million passengers per annum (MPPA), with capacity addition of 6 MPPA in successive 2 more phases.
    - Cost for phase 1 will be 4592 crores, to be developed by GMR Group.

33. Andhra Pradesh CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy laid foundation stone for Mulapeta greenfield port in Srikakulam district, to be developed with cost 4362 crores.

34. Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu inaugurated *Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa)* at Gyangkhar village, in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
    - The Gonpa has notable historical importance for well-being and betterment of humans, particularly for people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists.

35. As first such initiative across country, Telangana Govt introduced a *Robotics Framework*, which provides a roadmap to promote robotic ecosystem in State.
    - State govt will set up a Telangana Robotics Innovation Centre (TRIC), to implement the framework.

36. As first such initiative in Country, **Indore** Municipal Corporation (Madhya Pradesh) launched green bonds in form of public issue, to raise up to 245 crores capital for setting up a solar power plant (60 MW).

37. As part of its three-capital plan, Andhra Pradesh Govt declared Visakhapatnam as its new capital.
    - It involves dividing state capital into three parts - a legislative capital in Amaravati, an executive capital in Visakhapatnam, and a judicial capital in Kurnool.

38. As per *India Justice Report 2022* by Tata Trusts -
    - Top 5 states in terms of providing access to justice - Karnataka (1), Tamil Nadu (2), Telangana (3), Gujarat (4), Andhra Pradesh (5)

Report also states that India has 19 judges for every 10 lakh people, against Law Commission's suggestion of 50 judges for every 10 lakh people.

39. As per National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India for 2019-20 -
- Share of *Out-of-Pocket Expenditure* in Total Health Expenditure declined from 62.6% in 2014-15 to 47.1% in 2019-20.
- Government Health Expenditure's share in country's GDP increased from 1.13% (2014-15) to 1.35% (2019-20).
- Share of Government Health Expenditure in Total Health Expenditure increased from 29% (2014-15) to 41.4% (2019-20), with doubling of Per capita Government spending.

40. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated Centre's Mission **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)** in state, as a global mass movement to encourage an environmentally conscious lifestyle, with a focus on utilizing resources rather than engaging in wasteful consumption.
- Mission **LiFE** *(Lifestyle for Environment)* was launched earlier in Oct 2022 by PM Narendra Modi & UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, at Statue of Unity (Gujarat).

41. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma laid foundation stone of North East India's first compressed biogas plant project at Domora Pathar in Sonapur (Kamrup district), with capacity of 5 tonne-per-day of compressed biogas.

42. Assam and Arunachal Pradesh State govts signed MoU, to resolve long pending border disputes.
- Other notable Assam cabinet aprovals -
  - Approved monthly pension of 15000 to 301 Loktantra Senani of 1975 Emergency.
  - Approved a joint venture company of Oil India Limited (49 % share) and Assam Gas Company (51 % share), to lay, build and operate city natural gas distribution networks in parts of Assam and Tripura.

43. Cabinet Approvals (Apr 19, 2023) -
- General -
  - Approved **National Quantum Mission** (NQM) at cost 6004 crores between 2023-24 to 2030-31, aiming to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).
    - It targets developing intermediate scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology.
      - Other deliverables include Satellite based secure quantum communications between ground stations over range of 2000 KMs within India, long distance secure quantum communications with other countries, inter-city quantum key distribution over 2000 km and multi-node Quantum network with quantum memories.
    - Mission will help develop magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and Atomic Clocks for precision timing, communications and navigation.
    - Under it, 4 Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) will be set up in top academic and National R&D institutes on domains - Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing & Metrology and Quantum Materials & Devices.

44. Cabinet Approvals (Apr 26, 2023) -
- General -
  - Approved *National Medical Devices Policy 2023*, to facilitate growth of medical device sector to meet public health objectives of access, affordability & quality.
    - Aim is to emerge as global leader in manufacturing and innovation of medical devices by achieving 10-12% share in expanding global market over 25 years. Policy is expected to help Medical Devices Sector grow from present $11 Bn to $50 Bn by 2030.
    - Strategies for sector promotion will include *Regulatory Streamlining*, *Enabling Infrastructure*, *Industry Facilitating R&D and Innovation*, *Attracting Investments, Human Resources Development* & *Brand Positioning and Awareness Creation*.
- CCEA -
  - To strengthen nursing workforce in country and address geographical and rural-urban imbalances in healthcare sector, CCEA approved establishment of 157 new nursing colleges (100 seats each) in co-location with existing medical colleges established since 2014. It will have financial implication of 1570 crores.

45. Cabinet Approvals (Feb 15, 2023) -
- General -
  - Approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)** for FY 2022-23 to 2025-26, with financial allocation 4800 Crores.

- The scheme will provide funds for development of essential infrastructure and livelihood opportunities in 19 Districts and 46 Border blocks in 4 states and 1 UT along northern land border of country, to help achieve inclusive growth.
- In first phase 663 Villages will be taken up in the program me.
- Approved measures for strengthening cooperative movement in country and deepening its reach. It includes -
  - Establishing viable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) & dairy cooperatives in each uncovered Panchayat, Viable fishery cooperatives in coastal Panchayats / and Panchayats having large water bodies. Initially, 2 lakh PACS/ Dairy/ Fishery cooperatives would be established in 5 years.
  - Schemes to be converged into this project are -
    - Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying's National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) & Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) .
    - Department of Fisheries's Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development (FIDF).
  - This would provide farmers with requisite linkages to market their produce, obtain credit facilities and other services at village level itself.
- MOUs -
  - Chile - cooperation in field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
  - Cooperation MOU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW).
  - South Africa - cooperation in Disability Sector.

46. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Feb 22, 2023) -
- General -
  - Approved signing of Air Services Agreement between India and **Guyana** (South American Nation), to enable air services between two countries.
  - Approved extension of term of 22nd Law Commission of India, upto **31st August, 2024**. It is chaired by Justice **Ritu Raj Awasthi**.
    - Commission was constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted from time to time. Tenure of present 22nd Law Commission was due to end on 20th Feb 2023.
  - Approved ratification of 3 Protocols relating to amendments in convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) 1944.
    - Insert *Article 3 bis* - Refrain member States from resorting to use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight.
    - Amend Article 50 (a) - Raising strength of ICAO Council from 36 to 40.
    - Amend Article 56 - Raising strength of Air Navigation Commission from 18 to 21.

47. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Jun 28, 2023) -
- CCEA -
  - Approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2023-24 (October - September) at **315/qtl,** for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%.
    - This is against cost of production of sugarcane for sugar season 2023-24 at **157/qtl.** FRP is higher by 100.6% over production cost.
    - For mills sugar mills where recovery is below 9.5% -
      - Farmers will get 291.975/qtl for sugarcane in ensuing sugar season 2023-24, against 282.125/qtl in current sugar season 2022-23.
  - Approved a unique package for farmers with total outlay of **370129 crores**, focused at overall betterment of farmers by promoting sustainable agriculture.
    - Package includes -
      - Commitment of 368677 Crores for **urea subsidy for 3 years** (2022-23 to 2024-25), to enable farmers to purchase urea at subsidized price of 242 per 45 kg bag of urea, whereas actual cost of bag comes around 2200.
        - Notably, this is apart from recently approved Nutrient Based Subsidy of 38000 Crore for Kharif season 2023-24.
      - Market Development Assistance (MDA) incentive scheme of Rs 1500 per MT to support marketing of organic fertilizers.

- Organic fertilizers includes Fermented Organic Manures (FOM)/Liquid FOM/Phosphate Rich Organic Manures (PROM) produced as by-product from Bio- gas Plants/Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plants set up under umbrella GOBARdhan initiative.
  - This will facilitate implementation of Budget announcement of establishing 500 new waste to wealth plants under GOBARdhan scheme for promoting circular economy, by increasing viability of these BG/CBG plants.
- Sulphur coated Urea (Urea Gold) is being introduced in country for the first time.
  - It is more economical and efficient than currently used Neem coated urea, and will address Sulphur deficiency in soil.
- Other notable progress in Fertilizer sector -
  - By 2025-26, eight Nano urea plants with production capacity of 44 Crore bottles equaling to 195 LMT of conventional urea will be commissioned. Application of Nano Urea has demonstrated increase in crop yield.
  - Setting up and revival of 6 urea production plants has helped increase indigenous production of urea from 225 LMT during 2014-15 to 250 LMT during 2021-22. These along with Nano Urea Plants will reduce India's import dependency in urea and help in govt's target to make India self-sufficient in urea by 2025- 26.
  - Also, *PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother – Earth (PMPRANAM)* was announced in budget 2023-24, to incentivize States/ UTs to promote alternate fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- General -
  - Approved ratification of Headquarters Agreement (HQA) between Government of India and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), signed in August 2022. It will provide CDRI an independent and international legal persona, so that it can carry out its functions internationally, more efficiently.
    - Notably, New Delhi-based CDRI was launched by India during UN Climate Action Summit in Sep 2019, as a major global initiative to strengthen global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.
  - Approved introduction of *National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill 2023* in Parliament, to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
    - The bill will also repeal Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established in 2008, and will subsume it into NRF, which has an expanded mandate and covers activities over and above activities of SERB.
48. Cabinet Approvals (June 07, 2023) -
  - General -
    - Approved Metro Connectivity Between New Gurugram & Old Gurugram (HUDA City Centre to Cyber City with Spur to Dwarka Expressway), covering 28.50 km having 27 stations.
      - This 5452 crores project will be implemented by Harayana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation Limited (HMRTC), which will be set up as a 50:50 Special Purpose Vehicle by Central & Haryana State Govt.
    - Approved 3rd revival package for telecom PSU BSNL with outlay 89047 crores, including allotment of 4G/5G spectrum for BSNL through equity infusion, and increasing authorized capital of BSNL from 1.5 lakh crores to 2.1 lakh crores.
      - With concerned spectrum allotment, BSNL will be able to -
        - Provide pan India 4G and 5G services.
        - Provide Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services for high-speed internet.
        - Provide services/spectrum for Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN).
      - Background -
        - Government had approved first revival package for BSNL/MTNL in 2019, worth 69000 Crores.
        - In 2022, Govt approved second revival package for BSNL/MTNL amounting to 1.64 Lakh Crores.
        - As a result -
          - BSNL's revenue from operations surged to 20699 crore in FY23, up from 18595 crore in FY21. Revenue target set by Govt is 28476 crore by FY 26.
          - BSNL also started earning operating profits since FY 22, with debt reduced from 32944 to 22289 Crores.
  - CCEA -
    - Approved continuation of Central Sector Scheme of *Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme*, with expenditure of 2980 crores between 2021-22 to 2025-26 (co-terminus with 15th Finance Commission cycle).

- Under it, exploration for Coal and Lignite is conducted in two broad stages - Promotional (Regional) Exploration and Detailed Exploration in Non-Coal India Limited blocks.
- Approval will provide 1650 crores for Promotional (Regional) Exploration (1300 sq km) and 1330 crores for Detailed Drilling in Non-CIL areas (650 sq km).
- Approved increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24.
  - Increase in MSP for Kharif Crops is in line with Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of All-India weighted average Cost of Production. Margin for farmers over cost of production is to be highest for bajra (82%).

49. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Mar 17, 2023) -
  - CCEA -
    - Approved listing of IREDA (CPSE under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy) on Stock Exchanges through an Initial Public Offer (IPO), by part sale of Government's stake in it and to raise funds for IREDA through issue of fresh equity shares.
    - Aproved exemption to NTPC from extant guidelines of delegation of power to Maharatna CPSEs for making investment in its subsidiary NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL).
      - CCEA also exempted NGEL's investment in NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL) and its other JVs/subsidiaries subject to a ceiling of 15% of its net worth beyond monetary ceiling of 5000 crore to 7500 crore, towards achieving a target of 60 GW Renewable Energy (RE) Capacity by NTPC Limited.

50. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Mar 24, 2023) -
  - CCEA -
    - Approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2023-24 season, fixed at 5050 per quintal, ensuring return of 63.20 % over all India weighted average cost of production.
    - Approved subsidy of 200 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year to be provided to approx 9.6 crore beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). It will cost 6100 crores for FY 23 and 7680 crore for FY 24.

51. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 17, 2023) -
  - General -
    - Approved Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware with a budgetary outlay of 17000 crores, and tenure 6 years.
      - Features -
        - PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware covers laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, servers and ultra small form factor devices.
        - Expected incremental production is 3.35 Lakh crores, with Expected incremental direct employment of 75000.
      - Notably -
        - Seeing consistent growth, Electronics manufacturing in India crossed 105 billion USD in 2022, a new benchmark. India also became 2nd largest manufacturer of mobile phones.
  - MOUs -
    - Approved signing of Project Collaboration Agreement between Department of Health Research (DHR) and World Health Organization (WHO) for promoting access to high quality affordable assistive technology mainly through fostering research, innovation, and capacity building.
    - Approved MOU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Chartered Accountants of the Maldives (CA Maldives).
    - Approved MoU between Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA).

52. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 31, 2023) -
  - General -
    - Approved **City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)** program for 2023-2027, conceived by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
      - It envisages to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy, with focus on integrated waste management at city level, climate-oriented reform actions at State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at National level.
      - Funding for CITIIS 2.0 will include loan of *EUR 200 million* from AFD and KfW *(EUR 100 million each)* and assistance grant of *EUR 12 million* from EU.
      - CITIIS 2.0 aims to leverage and scale up learnings and successes of CITIIS 1.0, which was launched in 2018.

- Approved to establish a Regional Office of Universal Postal Union (UPU) in New Delhi, to undertake UPU's development cooperation and technical assistance activities in region.
- Approved constitution and empowerment of an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) for facilitation of *World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector*, by convergence of various schemes of Ministry of *Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*, Ministry of *Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution* and Ministry of *Food Processing Industries*.
  - It will be chaired by Minister of Cooperation (*Amit Shah* Currently).
  - Schemes to be converged -
    - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare -
      - Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
      - Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI)
      - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
      - Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)
    - Ministry of Food Processing Industries -
      - Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)
      - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)
    - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution -
      - Allocation of food grains under National Food Security Act
      - Procurement operations at Minimum Support Price

53. Cabinet Apprpovals (Apr 06, 2023) -
- General -
  - Approved *Indian Space Policy 2023*, which aims to boost space department's role and give larger participation to research, academia, startups, and industry.
    - It lays down roles of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and related private sector entities, to boost inclusivity in space research.
- CCEA -
  - Approved revised domestic natural gas pricing guidelines for gas produced from nomination fields of ONGC/OIL, New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) blocks and pre-NELP blocks, where Production Sharing Contract (PSC) provides for Government's approval of prices.
    - Price of such natural gas shall be 10% of the monthly average of Indian Crude Basket and shall be notified on a monthly basis.
    - New guidelines aim to ensure stable pricing regime for domestic gas consumers while providing adequate protection to producers from adverse market fluctuation, with incentives for enhancing production.
    - Government aims to increase share of natural gas in primary energy mix in India from current 6.5% to 15% by 2030. Reforms shall help expand consumption of natural gas and will contribute to achievement of target of emission reduction and net zero.
    - Reforms will lead to significant decrease in prices of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport.
    - Approved Measures are in line with recommendations of panel on natural gas pricing, headed by Kirit Parikh.

54. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) notified National Electricity Plan (NEP) for period 2022-32, including review of last five years (2017-22), detailed plan for next five years (2022-27) and prospective plan for next five years (2027-32).
- Likely Installed Capacity for 2026-27 will be approx 610 GW, and 900 GW for 2031-32, up from 416 GW Currently.
  - Share of non-fossil based capacity will increase to 57.4% by end of 2026-27 and 68.4% by end of 2031-32, from 42.5% currently.
  - Projection of capacity addition is in line with India's target of achieving non-fossil based installed capacity of 500 GW by 2029-30.

55. Central Govt promulgated Article 355 in Manipur, amid arson and violence in hills and valley areas of state.
- Article 355 mandates Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance.

56. Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel launched rural housing scheme **Gramin Awas Nyay Yojana**, aimed at providing homes to homeless rural people in state, by easing process of receiving grants for eligible beneficiaries.

57. Churchgate railway station (Mumbai) has been renamed as *Chintamanrao Deshmukh station,* named after first governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) CD Deshmukh.

58. ▶ Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia laid foundation stone of **Rewa Airport** (Madhya Pradesh), by upgrading existing Rewa Airfield. AAI will undertake revival and construction of facilities to operate 19-seater aircrafts.

59. ▶ Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia launched *UDAN 5.2* mission, to further enhance connectivity to remote and regional areas and achieving last-mile connectivity through small aircraft such as 1A (<9 seats) and Category 1(<20 seats).
   - 🖌 It was launched during Heli Summit 2023 in Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh).
   - 🖌 *HeliSewa-App* was also launched on the occasion, which aims to create a common platform to create an ecosystem between helicopter operators and district authorities.

60. ▶ Communications & IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched **'Sanchar Saathi** portal, which aims to provide various services related to mobile connections and telecommunications. Modules include -
   - 🖌 Central Equipment Identity Register, which has been introduced for blocking stolen or lost mobiles.
   - 🖌 Know your mobile connections.
   - 🖌 Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification, to identify fraudulent subscribers.

61. ▶ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched **eSARAS** mobile App & fulfillment centre, to strengthen marketing support for products made by women of Self-help Groups (SHGs).
   - 🖌 eSARAS fulfillment centre will be managed by Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains *(FDRVC - a Not for Profit Company constituted jointly by Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Trust)*, and will be used for processing customers purchase through eSARAS Portal/App.

62. ▶ Delhi Metro launched *Momentum 2.0* shopping app, as India's first such app, which will enable commuters to buy products / services while travelling in metro and collect their orders at destination stations.

63. ▶ Department of School Education & Literacy (Ministry of Education) released Performance Grading Index (PGI) for 2021-22 (called PGI 2.0), which assesses performance of school education system at State/UT level. PGI is being released since 2017-18.
   - 🖌 PGI 2.0 classifies States/UTs into 10 grades, with highest achievable Grade being Daksh (score over 940), and lowest being Akanshi-3 (score up to 460). Their are no states in any of Top 5 grades (Daksh, Utkarsh, Atti Uttam, Uttam, Prachesta I).
   - 🖌 Best ranked states/UTs are Chandigarh & Punjab (Prachesta-II). Lowest ranked states (Akanshi-III) are Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram.

64. ▶ Education Minister Rajkumar Ranjan Singh (MoS) Released *India Rankings 2023* of higher educational institutes, which implements National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) drafted in 2015 -
   - 🖌 Overall -
     - 🖌 IIT Madras (5th consecutive year)
     - 🖌 IISc Bengaluru
     - 🖌 IIT Delhi
   - 🖌 University -
     - 🖌 IISC Bengaluru
     - 🖌 JNU
     - 🖌 Jamia Millia Islamia
   - 🖌 Research -
     - 🖌 IISc Bengaluru
     - 🖌 IIT Madras
     - 🖌 IIT Delhi
   - 🖌 Engineering -
     - 🖌 IIT Madras
     - 🖌 IIT Delhi
     - 🖌 IIT Bombay
   - 🖌 Management -
     - 🖌 IIM Ahmedabad
     - 🖌 IIM Bangalore
     - 🖌 IIM Kozhikode
   - 🖌 Medical -
     - 🖌 AIIMS Delhi
     - 🖌 PGIMER Chandigarh

- CMC Vellore
- Law -
    - National Law School of India University Bangalore
    - NLU Delhi
    - Nalsar University of Law (Telengaga)
- Agriculture -
    - IARI
    - ICAR - NDRI (Haryana)
    - PAU Ludhiana
- Innovation -
    - IIT Kanpur
    - IIT Madras
    - IIT Hyderabad

65. ▶ Election Commission of India granted national party status to the Aam Aadmi Party (**AAP**), based on its electoral performance in 4 states- Delhi, Goa, Punjab, and Gujarat.
   - Also, Trinamool Congress (TMC), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Communist Party of India (CPI) lost their national party status.
   - As per *Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968*, a political party can be recognized as a national party if any of given 3 conditions are met -
       - If party wins at least 2% of seats in Lok Sabha from at least three different states in a general election.
       - If party secures at least 6% of total valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to Lok Sabha or to Legislative Assembly.
       - If party is recognized as a state party in at least four states.

66. ▶ Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) approved changing its membership status with International Social Security Association (ISSA) from associate member (since 1962) to *affiliate member* now.
   - This will enable EPFO to access guidelines and expert knowledge from ISSA for its pension subscribers, while gaining international recognition as a full administrative social security institution.

67. ▶ Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav Launched *Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition (**RECEIC**),* during G20 Environment and Climate Ministers meeting in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), as an industry-driven initiative aimed at promoting resource efficiency and circular economy practices globally.
   - 39 companies headquartered in 11 different countries have joined the coalition as its founding members.

68. ▶ Environment Ministry notified draft *Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules 2023*, to help combat climate change & achieve net zero targets.
   - It proposes launch of a national level Green Credit programme, to leverage a competitive market-based approach for Green Credits and to incentivise voluntary environmental actions.
   - This is in line with govt's *LiFE- Lifestyle for Environment* movement which seeks to combat climate change and incentivise environment-friendly activities.

69. ▶ European Commission (EC) granted protected geographical indication (PGI) for India's unique **Kangra tea**, which is grown in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district.

70. ▶ Fisheries & Animal Husbandry Minister Parshottam Rupala launched **Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative** and World Bank-funded *Animal Health System Support for One Health,* to enhance India's preparedness and response to potential animal pandemics, in line with One Health approach.

71. ▶ Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala launched **Nandi** (*NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System)* portal, to facilitate regulatory approval process with transparency.
   - It will enable better assessment of veterinary product proposals, through integration with SUGAM portal of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

72. ▶ General Conferences (Feb 11-20, 2023) -
   - 23rd India International Seafood Show (IISS) has been organized in Kolkata, Jointly by *Seafood Exporters Association of India* and *Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).*
   - Jammu and Kashmir govt hosted their first SARAS Fair 2023, to enable artisans and women's self-help groups from across country to showcase their crafts, Handicrafts, handloom, and food.

- *National Aadi Mahotsav* held at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium (New Delhi), with participation of tribal artists from across country.
- 2nd Indian Rice Congress 2023 held in Cuttack (Odisha).
- 14th World Spice Congress (WSC) held in Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- AMRITPEX 2023 - National Philatelic Exhibition held at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi).
- Severe Tropical Cyclone *Gabrielle* struck North Island of New Zealand, and affected parts of Vanuatu and Australia. It was costliest tropical cyclone on record in Southern Hemisphere, with total damages over US$8 billion.
- 1st G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meet under India's 2023 G20 Presidency held in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- Economic Times Global Business Summit 2023 held in Delhi, with theme *Resilience. Influence. Dominance.*
- DHARA 2023 (Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers) conference organised by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in Pune.
- Khajuraho Dance Festival 2023 held at Khajuraho Group of Monuments (Madhya Pradesh), a UNESCO world heritage site.
- Spain becmae first european nation to approve a law for granting paid medical leave to women suffering from menstrual pain.
- Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a play-based learning material for children in age group of 3-8 years called *Jaadui Pitara*, to be made mandatory in central government-run schools from upcoming academic session.

73. General Conferences (Feb 21-28, 2023) -
- India's premier show on Technical Textiles - *Technotex 2023* has been organized in Mumbai, by Ministry of Textiles under National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).
- ELECRAMA 2023 held at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida (UP), as largest solo electrical exhibition in world.
- India's Agricultural and Process Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) participated in Gulfood 2023 held in Dubai (UAE), as a platform that connects food and beverage sectors across globe.
- *Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava* cultural festival held in New Delhi.
- 31st New Delhi World Book Fair held in New Delhi, with **France** as Guest of Honor country.
- International Engineering and Technology Fair (IETF) 2023 held in New Delhi.
- Asia Economic Dialogue 2023 held at Pune International Centre (Maharashtra).
- *International Bio-resource Conclave 2023* held in Imphal (Manipur), as first International Conference on Biotechnology to be held in North East Region.
- *Siang Unying Festival* of Adi community held at Boleng (Arunachal Pradesh).
- Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched *Grievance Appellate Committee*, as a faceless dispute resolution mechanism that makes digital platforms accountable to users.
- Ministry of Culture organized 14th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav in Bikaner (Rajasthan).
- 19th Annual Zone III Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) held in Gangtok (Sikkim).

74. General News / Events (Apr 11-20, 2023) -
- Ministry of Steel organised *India Steel 2023* International Exhibition on steel industry in Mumbai, in association with Department of Commerce, and FICCI.
- Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched *Yuva Portal,* which aims at helping in connecting and identifying potential young Start-Ups.
  - He also launched CSIR's *One Week - One Lab* programme, which will offer opportunity to 37 CSIR labs to showcase work being done by them.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) jointly launched a whitepaper aimed at making India a global leader in Agri-Tech innovation and expanding innovations to least developed countries in Asia and Africa.
- Doordarshan broadcasted documentary named *DHAROHAR BHARAT KI - Punruthaan ki Kahaani,* showcasing recent achievements of Govt.
- *International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics (ICDFE-2023)* held in New Delhi.
- Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) launched India's first solar-powered hybrid boat, named Sooryamshu, in Kochi.
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of US retained India's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) category as Best possible - *Category 1*, stating that India meets international standards for aviation safety oversight.
- Odisha forest department conducted India's first mangrove pitta birds census, with habitats of these birds confined to mangrove forest areas in Odisha's Bhitarkanika and Sundarban in West Bengal.

- Maharashtra Govt announced 4% reservation for Divyang employees in promotions, applicable to cadres in which proportion of recruitment through direct service is under 75 %.
- National Medical Commission (NMC) approved setting up Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Kohima, as first medical college in Nagaland since its statehood in 1963.

75. General News / Events (Apr 21-30, 2023) -
- SCO Millets Food Festival held in Mumbai, under India's 2023 SCO Presidency.
- Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched *Sangathan Se Samridhhi– Leaving no Rural Woman Behind* campaign, aimed at bringing 10 crore women from eligible rural households under Self-Help Group (SHG) fold, to enable them to draw benefits provided under the programme.
- *One Earth One Health – Advantage Healthcare India 2023* summit held in New Delhi, under India's 2023 G20 Presidency.
  - Notably, India's 2023 G20 Presidency theme is *One Earth, One Family, One Future*.
- Telangana govt hosted *Food Conclave 2023* in Hyderabad, to attract agri-food industry stakeholders.
- India's first post office constructed using 3D printing technology will soon open in Bengaluru, at Cambridge Layout in Ulsoor.
- *Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX)* held in Dubai (UAE), with Indian pavilion titled *Study in India*.
- IIT Madras will set its first International campus in Zanzibar (Tanzania), by end of 2023.
- Belgian firm Vito announced to start a project to produce biodiesel from trash, in Temple town of Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh).
- India proposed to develop a G20 park in New Delhi, as part of India's G20 presidency in 2023. Park will showcase sculptures depicting national animals and birds of G20 countries made with *Waste to wonder* concept.
- 1st trilateral political consultations between Armenia, Iran and India held in Yerevan (Armeni). India was represented by J P Singh (Joint Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs).

76. General News / Events (Feb 1 - 10, 2023) -
- Madhya Pradesh govt renamed Islam Nagar village in Bhopal district as *Jagdishpur*.
- Goa govt launched *Vision for All School Eye Health* program, in partnership with OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation and Prasad Netralaya.
- Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) organized 1st edition of *upnext India 2023* in Gurugram (Haryana), under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme. It has been organized in association with Japan.
- 2nd SCO Young Scientist Conclave held in Bengaluru (Karnataka), as part of India's 2023 SCO Presidency.
- Annual Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2023 held at Faridabad (Haryana).
- Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) launched *Bal Mitra* WhatsApp chatbot service, designed to improve communication between kids and parents.
- *Kala Ghoda Arts Festival* held in Mumbai, as India's biggest multicultural festival.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated new campus of *Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah Arabic Academy* in Mumbai.
- Yuva Sangam registration portal has been launched, to build close ties between youth of the North East Region and rest of India under spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

77. General News / Events (Jul 1-10, 2023) -
- PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated *Sai Hira Global Convention Centre* in Puttaparthi (Andhra Pradesh).
- Greater Chennai City Police launched India's first *Police Drone Unit*, for aerial surveillance over vast areas and quick detection of criminal activities.
- Home Minister Amit Shah launched Made in India *Akshar River Cruise* on Sabarmati Riverfront (Gujarat), to boost tourism.
- Ports & Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation of Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal to be developed at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh (Assam), by bank of River Brahmaputra.
  - Also launched campaign to transform iconic 75 Lighthouses across India into Tourism Spots.
- Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched 2nd edition of *Social Trailblazer Program,* organized jointly by LIC HFL & IRMA Ahmedabad, aimed at boosting social entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- *Purvodaya* Conclave held at Guwahati (Assam), showcasing work done by govt in Northeast during last 9 years.
- Guinness World Record has been set for *largest display of Lambani items (*total 1755) during 3rd G20 Culture Working Group Meet in Hampi (Karnataka).
- Annual Shravani Mela began at Baba Baidyanathdham temple in Deoghar (Jharkhand), held in holy Shravan month.
- World Hindu Foundation will hold 3rd World Hindu Congress (WHC) in Bangkok (Thailand) in Nov 2023.

78. General News / Events (Jul 11-20, 2023) -

- India's first *Cannabis Medicine Project* launched at CSIR-IIIM Jammu (Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine), to epxlore medicinal properties of Cannabis, to aid in cure of several widespread diseases.
- Home Minister Amit Shah laid foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Ram, at Mantralayam (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh), to be built at cost 500 crores.
    - Notably, tallest Statue of Lord Rama will be built in Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), which will be 181 meters (594 ft) tall and 251 m (823 ft) tall including plinth and umbrella. Its cost will be 2500 crores.
- *National Martyr's Memorial and National Museum for Railway Security* inaugurated at *Jagjivan RPF Academy Lucknow,* with names of over 1000 martyred RPF personnel.
- Annual *Ker Puja* festival observed in state of Tripura.
- India hosted *Conference on Traditional Medicines* for *ASEAN* Countries, in New Delhi.
- 1st *Global Food Regulators Summit 2023* held in New Delhi.
- India and Indonesia announced launch of *India - Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue*, during G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet in New Delhi, held under India's 2023 G20 Presidency.
- Geographical Indication (GI) certificate has been granted to Authoor betel leaves from Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approved *EKVI Air Training Organization* as first flying training organisation (FTO) in Tamil Nadu, and India's 36th.
- National Law University (NLU) Delhi launched *Eklavya* Research Affiliate programme, for those who do not have a traditional law degree.
    - It is open for any individual with at least 3 years experience working on issues that have significant interface with the law.
- Telangana HC struck down *Telangana Eunuchs Act, 1329 Fasli*, terming it unconstitutional, as it violated the rights of transgender people.

79. General News / Events (Jul 21-31, 2023) -
- Chachin grazing festival observed by local graziers of Tawang region (Arunachal Pradesh).
- Newly opened building of *Surat Diamond Bourse* (Gujarat) surpassed US' Pentagon to be known as world's largest office building, with floor area over 7.1 million square feet.
- Supreme Court updated guidelines for designating senior advocates in SC. Notable changes include mandating minimum age of 45 years & experience of 10 years.
- *SemiconIndia 2023* exhibition held at Gandhinagar (Gujarat), as 2nd edition of the event, organised by India Semiconductor Mission.
- Ministry of Ayush established Ayush health care & research facilities at Ribandar (Goa), to provide high-quality and affordable Ayush healthcare to local community and promote research in traditional medicine.
- Startup20 Engagement Group (under India's 2023 G20 presidency) partnered with Jagriti Foundation to launch *Jagriti-Startup20-G20 Yatra 2023,* to promote spirit of entrepreneurship across India.
- DPIIT's One District One Product (*ODOP*) initiative launched its first collaboration with Gujarat Govt, to promote indigenous crafts and artisans of the State, along with ODOP Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan (Delhi).
- Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a new legislation to ban gender change & transgender marriages across nation.
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport became first airport in India to have four runways & Eastern Cross Taxiways.

80. General News / Events (Jun 1-10, 2023) -
- Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm **Biparjoy** (East-Central Arabian Sea) struck Indian States of Gujarat & Rajasthan, with speeds upto 195 KMPH.
- Ministry of Law and Justice launched *Nyaya Vikas Portal,* for Monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure for Judiciary, to facilitate better delivery of judicial infrastructural projects.
- Shipping & Ports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched *SAGAR SAMRIDDHI* online dredging monitoring system, to accelerate *Waste to Wealth* initiative.
- National Commission for Women (NCW) & Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) launched 100 Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) for potential women entrepreneurs across country, at Vikram University (Ujjain, MP).
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 1st *National Training Conclave*, at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi), to foster collaboration among training institutes and strengthen training infrastructure for civil servants.
- India-EU Connectivity Conference held in Shillong (Meghalaya), under India-EU Connectivity partnership (launched in 2021).
- Maharashtra govt renamed *Ahmednagar* district to *Ahilyadevi Nagar,* to honor 18th-century warrior-queen Ahilyadevi Holkar.

AIIMS Nagpur became first among AIIMS institutions in country, to receive accreditation from National Board for Hospitals (NABH).

81. ▶ General News / Events (Jun 11-20, 2023) -

- Hyderabad-based Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) functioning under Ministry of Mines, has been awarded with accreditation by National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET), with grading of *Athi Uttam,* in recognition of its services and high standards maintained in field of earth science training.
- India participated in France's *Annecy International Animation Festival* (AIAF) for the first time in 2023.
- PSU Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) participated in *Intersolar Europe 2023* exhibition in Munich (Germany).
- As part of broader vision of *One Nation One Helpline,* govt announced to integrate Women Helpline, Child Helpline (1098) with ERSS-112 (Emergency Response Support System).
- Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off Central African Nation *Gabon*'s first Agri- SEZ project, to be implemented by India's *AOM group* with *Centurion University* as technical and knowledge partner.
- New curated collection *DAKSHTA (Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skill for Holistic Transformation in Administration) For Young Professionals* has been integrated on iGOT Karmayogi Platform, which has been developed as an integral part of Digital India stack for capacity building of all government employees.
- First Hindu-American Summit held at US Capitol Hill (Washington DC).
- American Chipmaker Giant Intel and German government signed agreement to set up a chip manufacturing unit in Magdeburg (Germany), with investment over $33 billion.
- *Guwahati* Railway Station (Assam) became first under North East Frontier Railway to receive *Eat Right Station* certification by FSSAI, in recognition of providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- Uttar Pradesh govt notified Jails in state to be called Reform Homes (Sudhaar Grah), in line with recently formed *Model Prisons Act 2023* by central govt, which is aimed at addressing gaps in existing colonial-era Prisons Act 1894.
- NHAI launched *Knowledge Sharing* platform, to enable experts / citizens to share knowledge and insights related to road design, construction, road safety and environment sustainability.

82. ▶ General News / Events (Jun 21-30, 2023) -

- Home Minister Amit Shah laid foundation stone of *Balidan Stambh* in Srinagar, to commemorate martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir Police.
  - Notably, He also laid foundation stone of Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Samba, and inaugurated *Vitasta-The Festival of Kashmir*, in Srinagar.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched 4th and final quarter of field assessment for 8th edition of world's largest urban sanitation survey, *Swachh Survekshan 2023*.
  - SS 2023 was Rolled out in May 2022, having completed 3 Quarters of surveying and fourth quarter is now being launched from 1 July 2023, to be completed within a month. It will Assess 4500+ cities across 46 indicators.
  - Swachh Survekshan 2023 champions Waste to Wealth and is curated towards processing and scientific management of waste.
- Department of Telecommunications launched *5G & Beyond Hackathon 2023*, aimed at shortlisting India-focused cutting-edge ideas that can be converted into workable 5G & beyond products and solutions.
  - 100 winners of the hackathon will share a total prize pool of 1 crore.
- Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala launched *Report Fish Disease* mobile app developed under National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (*NSPAAD*).
  - It will enable farmers to connect directly to district fisheries officers and scientists, which will reduce their losses due to diseases.
- Song *Abundance in Millets* performed by Grammy Award-winning Indian-American singer Falguni Shah has been released, to promote benefits of millets and their potential to alleviate world hunger. The song also features PM Narendra Modi.
- World Mining Congress 2023 hosted in Brisbane (Australia).
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) published Standard *IS 18267: 2023* for Agri By-Product Utensils, aimed at reducing plastic pollution and promoting sustainability.
- Shipping & Ports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched Ministry's new Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) guidelines named *Sagar Samajik Sahayyog,* empowering ports to undertake CSR activities directly.
- Hemis Festival observed in Ladakh, marking birth anniversary of Lord Padmasambhava.
- Geographical Indication (GI) Registry recognised 7 Handicrafts products from Uttar Pradesh with Geographical Indication (GI) Tags.

- 8th *Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2023* organized in Mumbai.
- *Raja Parba* (Mithuna Sankranti) womanhood festival observed in Odisha.
- Arunachal Pradesh police launched *Arunpol* mobile app, to enable citizens to register complaints online, along with emergency assistance feature.
- Estonia legalized same-sex marriage, becoming first central European nation to do so.
- As per Railways Ministry, Indian Railways will start operating 35 Hydrogen Trains as part of *Hydrogen for Heritage* initiative, to reduce carbon emissions.
    - Field trials of first prototype hydrogen train will take place on Jind-Sonipat section of Northern Railway, by March 2024.

83. ▶ General News / Events (Mar 1-10, 2023) -
- International Yoga Festival 2023 held at Rishikesh (Uttarakhand).
- India hosted first meeting of Governing Board of *BIMSTEC Energy Centre* in Bengaluru, with India's *Ghanshyam Prasad* (Central Electricity Authority Chairman) named as first Executive Director of BIMSTEC Energy Centre.
- 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference held in Goa.
- 3rd Session of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in New Delhi.
- 5th Asean-India Business Summit hosted in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).
- Yaoshang festival observed across Manipur, which resembles Hindu Festival Holi.

84. ▶ General News / Events (Mar 11-20, 2023) -
- National Gallery of Modern Art (New Delhi) inaugurated exhibition *Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential to be There*, commemorating noted Sri Lankan architect *Geoffrey Manning Bawa*. Notably, it is under 75th Anniversary celebrations of Indo-Lanka Diplomatic Relations.
- Health Ministry and WHO South-East Asia organized Global Conference on Digital Health – *Taking Universal Health Coverage to the last citizen*, in New Delhi.
- 3rd annual *International SME Convention 2023* organized in New Delhi, with Madhya Pradesh as Key State Partner and Uttar Pradesh as Associate State Partner.
- Indonesia's most active volcano Mount Merapi erupted.
- *Aahaar 2023* has been organized in New Delhi, as Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) launched *Learning Science via Standards* initiative, to promote science learning among school students.

85. ▶ General News / Events (Mar 21-31, 2023) -
- IIT Kanpur organized **Techkriti** 2023, among Asia's largest technical and entrepreneurial festivals, with theme *Enigmatic Tessellations*.
- India become first country to develop a mathematical model to estimate prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) cases in country. Using this model, TB data for India will be available by March every year, way before annual World Health Organization (WHO) estimates released in October.
- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated *Vedic Heritage portal,* aimed at communicating message enshrined in the Vedas.
- Tesla & Twitter CEO Elon Musk became most followed person on Twitter, leaving past former US president Barack Obama.

86. ▶ General News / Events (May 1-10, 2023) -
- Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan launched SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management) Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of Health Ministry.
- BizAmp outreach programme organized by Ministry of MSME in association with NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFL) under its Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund at Dimapur (Nagaland), aimed at empowering MSMEs from North Eastern States.
- To strengthen bilateral relationship, Indian Railways handed over 20 Broad Gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh Railways.
- India's Ministry of Tourism participated in Arabian Travel Market 2023, held in Dubai (UAE).
- MyGov and Ministry of Culture jointly launched *YUVA PRATIBHA – Painting & Singing Talent Hunt*, to promote India's rich heritage and culture at grassroots level, by identifying new art talent in various painting / singing styles.
    - 1st prize will be 1 lakh for painting and 1.5 lakh for singing competitions.
- India's first International Multi Modal Logistics park will be launched in Jogighopa (Assam), in 2024.
- Tripura govt announced to go paperless, to ensure digitized, smart & people-friendly governance.
- Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid foundation for 400 feet tall Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad.
- First movie in *Tagin* language of Arunachal Pradesh has been released, named *Love in 90s*.
- Uttar Pradesh govt approved establishment of state's first Pharma Park in Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand.

- Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai inaugurated Land Port at Dawki (Meghalaya), to strengthen trade ties with Bangladesh.
- UAE hosted *Machines Can See 2023* Summit in Dubai, as an international conferences on Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- As first such move, Australian High Commission in India announced its Government Grant for a Project in Kargil, named *Return to Roots*. The project aims to integrate traditional knowledge with current school science curriculum in alignment with new National Education Policy.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) suspended Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration of Delhi-based think tank *Centre for Policy Research (CPR)*, for 180 days.

87. ▶ General News / Events (May 11-20, 2023) -

- India's first elevated 8-lane access controlled Dwarka expressway of 29.6 km length will be completed in April 2024, being built at cost 9000 crores. 34 meter wide single pillar expressway will connect Dwarka in Delhi to Gurgaon (Haryana).
- Ministry of Civil Aviation will organize *Wings India 2024* in Hyderabad (Telangana), during January 2024. It will be organized as Asia's largest commercial, general, and business aviation event.
- Home Minister Amit Shah laid foundation stone of permanent campus of National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) at Dwarka (Gujarat).
- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav Inaugurated *Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management* at ICFRE Dehradun, to help check land degradation and improve soil quality.
    - He also inaugurated Pashmina Certification Centre (PCC) set up in Wildlife Institute of India (Dehradun).
- WCD Minister *Smriti Zubin Irani* launched *Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi* Early Childhood Care and Education program under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, to ensure holistic development of children under 6 years age, with focus on building skills in key development domains identified under NEP.
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) announced to set up an ethanol plant at Una district (Himachal Pradesh).
- India and Bangladesh launched *50 start-ups exchange* programme, under which 50 Start-ups from both countries will exchange visits to each other's countries, for exploring partnerships.
- University Grants Commission (UGC) launched portals UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) & PoP (Professors of Practice) to facilitate recruitment of experienced professionals. UGC also launched CU-Chayan, a unified faculty recruitment portal for Central Universities.
- National Homeopathic Conference *Homeocon-2023* held at Dehradun (Uttarakhand).
- North Indian Ocean Severe Cyclonic Storm *Mocha* struck Myanmar & Bangladesh.
- Ministry of Education and World Bank organised first workshop on School-to-Work Transition under STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States) Program in Mumbai.
    - World Bank sponsored STARS Project is being implemented in 6 States - Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.

88. ▶ General News / Events (May 21-31, 2023) -

- 1st Mining Start-up Summit organized by Ministry of Mines in collaboration with IIT Bombay.
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment organized *Divya Kala Shakti* Program in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), for disabled artists.
- Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched fibre connectivity at Chardham, along with country's 200000th 5G site (at Gangotri).
- PM Narendra Modi flagged off Assam's (And Northeast region's) first Vande Bharat Express, connecting Guwahati with New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal).
- 1st Ministerial meeting of *India- EU Trade and Technology Council* held in Brussels (Belgium).
- National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Indian National Science Academy (INSA) jointly launched *NCGG – INSA Leadership Programme in Science & Technology (LEADS)*, to empower scientific leadership with capabilities required to effectively navigate evolving landscape of science and technology.
- *Mumbai Trans Harbour Link* (named after Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee) will be completed by Dec 2023, as longest sea bridge in India.
    - This 21.8 km 6-lane bridge will connect Mumbai with Navi Mumbai.
- *International Climate Research Conclave* held at DST's Centre of Excellence in Climate Studies at IIT Bombay. India's National Climate Research agenda was released on the occasion.
- As per 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for agricultural year 2022-23, foodgrain production of 3305.34 Lakh Tonnes is estimated during 2022-23.

89. ▶ General News /Events (Mar 21-31, 2023) -
   🔧 Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW *Sagar Manthan*.
   🔧 Home Minister Amit Shah Laid foundation stone of *Sahakar Samridhi Soudha* market yard at Bengaluru, for agriculture marketing.
      🔧 He also unveiled statues of Lord Basaveshwara and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda at State Assembly premises in Bengaluru.
   🔧 Digital India Startup Hub through the Software Technology Parks of India has set up India's first Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming at Shillong (Meghalaya), to catalyse startups from entire North East Region to build Next Gen Online Gaming ecosystem.

90. ▶ Geological Survey of India discovered gold deposits at several locations in three districts of Odisha - Deogarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj.
   🔧 Notably, India has three functional gold mines - Hutti and Uti mines in Karnataka and Hirabuddini mines in Jharkhand. India produces around 1.6 tonnes of gold annually.

91. ▶ Govt amended *Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules 2020*, to introduce *Time of Day (ToD)* Tariff system -
   🔧 Under it, Tariff during 8 specified solar hours shall be 10%-20% lesser than normal tariff, while tariff during peak hours will be 10 -20 % higher.
   🔧 ToD tariff would be applicable for Commercial consumers from 1st April 2024 and for all other consumers (except agricultural) from 1st April 2025.

92. ▶ Govt announced sites for setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (**PM MITRA**) Parks in 7 states - Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
   🔧 Inspired by 5F vision (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign), PM MITRA Parks will assist in making India a global hub for textile manufacturing and exports.
   🔧 Ministry of Textiles will oversee execution of these projects, through an SPV to be set up for each park. Development Capital Support upto 500 crore & Competitive Incentive Support upto 300 crore will be alloted to every park.

93. ▶ Govt announced to allow 2000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (**PACS**) across country to open *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras,* to increase income of PACS, create employment and make medicines available at affordable prices to the people.
   🔧 Some other notable decisions to boost PACS were also taken -
      🔧 PACS which are not functioning as fertilizer retailers will be encouraged to function as retailers on the basis of feasibility.
      🔧 PACS which are not functioning as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK) will be brought under ambit of PMKSK.
      🔧 PACS will be connected with marketing of organic fertilizers.
      🔧 PACS can also be employed as Drone entrepreneurs for spraying fertilizers and pesticides.

94. ▶ Govt announced to develop Indian Carbon Market (ICM), where a national framework will be established to decarbonise Indian economy by pricing Green House Gas (GHG) emission through trading of *Carbon Credit Certificates*.
   🔧 It is intended to help India in achieving NDC goal of reducing Emissions Intensity of GDP by 45 % by 2030 against 2005 levels.

95. ▶ Govt approved renaming two Maharashtra cities - Aurangabad as *Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar* and Osmanabad as *Dharashiv*.

96. ▶ Govt granted GI (Geographical Indication) tag to 33 new products from several states, which notably includes -
   🔧 Marcha Rice - Bihar
   🔧 Rewa Sunderja Mango - Madhya Pradesh
   🔧 Ladakh Shingskos (Wood Carving) - Ladakh
   🔧 Nagri Dubraj Rice - Chhattisgarh

97. ▶ Govt issued commemorative coin of Rs 100, on occcasion of airing of 100th episode of radio programme PM Narendra Modi's Maan Ki Baat (broadcasted on April 30).
   🔧 Though commemorative coins are considered a legal tender, they are not released for general circulation.

98. ▶ Govt launched *High Price Day Ahead Market and Surplus Power Portal (PUShP),* as an initiative to ensure greater availability of power during peak demand season.

99. ▶ Govt marked Tungnath Shiva Temple (Uttarakhand) as a national monument. It was built by The Pandavas.
   🔧 Tungnath is third of Panch Kedar temples, and is also highest temple of Lord Shiva in world (at 12106 feet).

100. ▶ Govt released a unique cover of Department of Posts, titled *Go Green, Go Organic* for Sikkim.
   🔧 Notably, World Book Of Records London has Recognised Sikkim as *World's First Organic & Crime-Free State*. Sikkim has been felicitated for establishing a 100% organic policy, which includes banning of chemical fertilisers and pesticides throughout state.

101. ▶ Govt renamed *Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society* as *Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society*.
   🔧 Earlier in 2016, NMML approved construction of Museum of all Prime Ministers in Teen Murti Estate, which was opened to the public in April 2022.

102. ▸ Govt. launched ERSO (Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing) Pilot initiative to validate certain transformational policy and process changes to make India *Repair Capital of the World*, and fetch India upto 20 billion USD revenue in 5 years.

103. ▸ Gujarat Govt released State's First *District Good Governance Index*, in collaboration with Centre for Good Governance (Hyderabad), as first such state DGGI for a large Indian State.
   - 🖌 Similar *District Good Governance Index* was released for Arunachal Pradesh too, as first DGGI for a north-eastern Indian state.
   - 🖌 About -
     - 🖌 GGI helps to identify impact of various government interventions at District-level and provides a futuristic roadmap for improving District-level governance and service delivery with targeted interventions.
     - 🖌 1st DGGI in India was prepared for UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

104. ▸ Haryana Govt announced monthly pension of ₹**10000** for **Padma** awardees from the state.

105. ▸ Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched *Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojna,* as a collateral-free loan scheme for women.
   - 🖌 This initiative of Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (HPSCB) will provide loans to women for pursuing their entrepreneurial dreams, engage in livelihood activities and uplift families.

106. ▸ Himachal Pradesh Cabinet approved 1500 per month as *Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi* to all eligible women (above 18 years age) of **Spiti** Valley.

107. ▸ Himachal Pradesh govt announced to formulate state green hydrogen policy, to promote commercial use of hydrogen, using state's abundant renewable energy resources.

108. ▸ Himachal Pradesh govt launched project *Sanjeevani,* to help empower livelihoods of small dairy farmers and livestock owners, as state economy is largely banking on agriculture and animal husbandry.
   - 🖌 Under it, doorstep delivery of livestock care and all veterinary services will be made available for farmers, in association with IndusInd Bank subsidiary Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd. (BFIL).

109. ▸ Home Minister Amit Shah Laid foundation stone of **Hariharpur Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya** in Azamgarh, to honor *Harihar Gharana* - the heritage of Azamgarh.

110. ▸ Home Minister Amit Shah launched **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar** initiative as part of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav,* as a pan-India initiative of Ministry of Culture under National Mission on Cultural Mapping, in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
   - 🖌 It aims at culturally mapping India's 6.5 lakh villages, on a comprehensive virtual platform (*https://mgmd.gov.in*).
   - 🖌 Through MGMD, people may experience diverse and vibrant cultural heritage of India and its villages.

111. ▸ Home Minister Amit Shah launched **Vibrant Villages Programme** in Kibithoo, a border village in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.
   - 🖌 This Programme was approved in Feb 2023 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with financial allocation 4800 Crores, between FY 2022-23 to 2025-26.
   - 🖌 Under it -
     - 🖌 2500 crores will be used exclusively for road connectivity.
     - 🖌 2967 villages in 46 blocks of 19 districts abutting northern border in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh and UT of Ladakh have been identified for comprehensive development.

112. ▸ Home Minister Amit Shah launched several notable Projects in Mizoam -
   - 🖌 Inaugurated new Battalion Headquarter of Assam Rifles near Aizawl.
   - 🖌 Laid foundation stone of Laldenga Lammual Cultural Centre.

113. ▸ Home Ministry formed *Model Prisons Act 2023*, aimed at addressing gaps in existing colonial-era *Prisons Act 1894*.
   - 🖌 Along with Prisons Act 1894, relevant provisions of *The Prisoners Act 1900* and *The Transfer of Prisoners Act 1950* have also been assimilated in *Model Prisons Act 2023*. Old Acts mainly focused on keeping criminals in custody and enforcement of discipline and order in prisons, with no provision for reform and rehabilitation of prisoners.
   - 🖌 *Model Prisons Act 2023* -
     - 🖌 Aims at reforming prison management and ensuring transformation of inmates into law-abiding citizens and their rehabilitation in society.
     - 🖌 Will lay more emphasis on safety of women & transgender prisoners and bring transparency in prison management and provide for correction and rehabilitation of prisoners.

114. ▸ Home ministry announced 10 % reservation for former Agniveers in vacancies in Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) & Border Security Force (BSF).

115. ▶ Hydro Power PSU **SJVN** announced to build 5 hydroelectric projects in Arunachal Pradesh on tributaries of Dibang River, with collective generation capacity of **5097 MW**.
   - Projects are 3097 MW Etalin, 680 MW Attunli, 500 MW Emini, 420 MW Amulin, and 400 MW Mihumdon.

116. ▶ IT & Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced Formation of **Bharat 6G Alliance** (B6GA), as a collaborative platform to drive innovation and collaboration in Next-Generation wireless technology.
   - B6GA aims to bring together Indian firms and manufacturing ecosystem to establish consortia that can drive design, development and deployment of 6G technologies in India.
   - B6GA will also forge coalitions with other 6G Global Alliances, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

117. ▶ India's first chatbot dedicated to agro sector has been launched in **Odisha**, named *Ama KrushAI*. It aims to aid farmers in adopting best agronomic practices.

118. ▶ India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services have been named **RAPIDX,** by National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
   - Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) is an 82.15 km semi-high speed rail corridor, which will connect Delhi, Ghaziabad, and Meerut. Entire corridor will be open for public in 2025. Project cost is 30274 crores.
   - Other 2 approved corridors under phase 1 for RAPIDX project are *Delhi-Alwar* & *Delhi-Panipat*.

119. ▶ India-based Vedanta and Taiwan-based electronics manufacturer Foxconn will set up their joint semiconductor and display manufacturing facility in Gujarati city of Ahmedabad's Dholera Special Investment Region (**Dholera SIR**).
   - Earlier in Sep 2022, MoU was signed Between Gujarat government, Vedanta and Foxconn, to invest 1.5 Lakh crores to establish the facility in the state, making it largest corporate investment in independent India's history. This will also be India's first semiconductor manufacturing facility.

120. ▶ Indian Railways News (Feb 2023) -
   - South Central Railway (SCR) completed Vikarabad-Parli Vaijnath electrification project, electrifying 268 km section from Vikarabad to Parli Vaijnath (including 3 states - Maharashtra, Telangana and Karnataka).
   - Indian Railways and India Posts launched *Rail Post Gati Shakti Express Cargo Service*, Joint Parcel Product of Railways and India Post, in compliance with Budget Announcement of FY 2022-23. It has been started on 4 sectors - Delhi to Kolkata; Bangalore to Guwahati, Surat to Muzaffarpur and Hyderabad to Hazrat Nizamuddin.

121. ▶ India's first *National Metro Rail Knowledge Centre* will be constructed at Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station in Delhi, on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model by GA Infra Pvt Ltd.

122. ▶ India's first cable-stayed Railway Bridge **Anji Khad** has been completed, as part of 326-km rail line connecting Udhampur to Baramulla, a crucial connector between Kashmir and rest of India via railways.
   - The bridge has total length 473.25 meters, at a height of 196 meters.
   - Notably, The Railway line also includes Chenab Bridge, the world's highest rail bridge, at 359 Metres height from river bed.

123. ▶ India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor (*Kakrapar 3*) at Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (Gujarat) started commercial operations.
   - Unit is part of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project, whose Phase I began commercial operations in 1993, with two 220 MW units.
   - Kakrapar 4 (Unit 4) of project is expected to begin commercial operations around March 2024.

124. ▶ J&K UT Govt launched **Mobile Dost** App, aimed at providing single point of interface to citizens for accessing all Government Services, in sync with vision of *Apka-Mobile-Hamara-Daftar*.

125. ▶ Jal Shakti Minister *Gajendra Singh Shekhawat* launched Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan (*Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan*), as a one stop repository to assess investment and participation in Biogas/CBG sector at pan India level and streamline setting up CBG/Biogas plants in India.

126. ▶ KAVACH 2023 national level hackathon launched by AICTE and BPRD, to identify innovative solutions for addressing cyber security and cybercrime challenges.

127. ▶ Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah launched registrations for **Gruha Lakshmi** scheme, which will provide 2000 monthly assistance to female head of every family across state, to benefit 1.28 crore families.
   - Notably, Siddaramaiah-led Newly elected Karnataka govt has recently launched several initiatives, as part of poll promises made by Congress party under Karnataka assembly elections 2023 -
     - Shakti scheme - It will facilitate Free bus travel for women in Karnataka.
     - Gruha Jyoti scheme - It will provide free electricity upto 200 units, to every household in Karnataka.
     - Anna Bhagya - 10 kilograms of rice free to every member of below poverty line (BPL) households.
       - Under it, state govt has arranged to transfer Rs 170 per month to each beneficiary, instead of distributing rice.

- Yuva Nidhi - Assistantce of 3000 every month to graduates and 1500 to diploma holders for 2 years if they remain unemployed for six months after graduation.
- These schemes will cost over 50000 crores annually to state govt, adding to the debt burden of state.

128. ▶ Karnataka govt will set up India's 1st Marina (a specially designed place for small boats and yachts), at Byndoor in Udupi district, to promote coastal tourism in state.

129. ▶ Kerala Govt launched *Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework* (KIRF), modelled on the lines of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), to assess quality of higher education institutions in State.
- Kerala became first state in country to establish a State-specific ranking framework for its higher education institutions.

130. ▶ Kerala govt adopted a **Water Budget,** as first of its kind in country, to tackle acute water scarcity in many areas of state in summers.

131. ▶ Kerala govt launched its flagship project *Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON)*, to decrease digital divide and ensure high-speed broadband internet access across state.
- KFON is an optical fibre cable network of 30000 km, with 375 Points-of-Presence across state.
- Notably, Kerala was first state to declare right to internet as a basic right.

132. ▶ Kerala-based startup **Farmers Fresh Zone (FarmersFZ)** has been named among 12 agri-food startups selected from across globe, for *Accelerator Programme by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)* of UN.
- FarmersFZ connects over 300000 consumers and 2000 farmers in Kerala, delivering pesticide-free fresh produce straight from fields to table within 24 hours of harvest.

133. ▶ Law Minister Kiren Rijiju released first edition of the **Dogri** version of Constitution of India.
- Dogri is an Indo-Aryan language primarily spoken in Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir.

134. ▶ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched *Ladli Bahna Yojana*, for poor and lower middle class women of state, irrespective of caste / category.
- Under it, INR 1000 funds will be deposited each month into accounts of recipients from every eligible family.
- Notably, state govt earlier implemented Ladli Laxmi Yojna, To empower state's underprivileged women.

135. ▶ Maharashtra government announced *Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha* as state song, to now be played on official occasions, after national anthem.

136. ▶ Maharashtra govt launched **Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana,** under which over 1 crore farmers in state will be paid Rs **6000** annually.
- Notably, This will be in addition to Rs 6000 being paid annually to farmers by Central govt under *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.*

137. ▶ Maharashtra govt launched initiative called **Shasan Aplya Dari** (government at your doorstep), to provide citizens with easy access to government schemes and documents, all in one place.

138. ▶ Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura Assembly Elections 2023 -
- **Meghalaya** -
  - National People's Party remained largest party, winning 26 out of 60 seats. This enabled **Conrad Sangma** to be re-appointed as CM of Meghalaya, for his 2nd term.
- **Tripura** -
  - BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) remained largest party, winning 32 out of 60 seats. This enabled **Manik Saha** to be re-appointed as CM of Tripura, for his 2nd term.
- **Nagaland** -
  - Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) remained largest party, winning 25 out of 60 seats. This enabled **Neiphiu Rio** to be re-appointed as CM of Nagaland, for his 5th term.
  - Notably, *Salhoutuonuo Kruse* and *Hekani Jakhalu* became first women MLAs in Nagaland state, after winning in state assembly elections 2023.

139. ▶ Microsoft launched **Jugalbandi** AI-driven multilingual chatbot for India's rural areas, to assist farmers. It has been developed in collaboration with IIT Madras initiative AI4Bharat.

140. ▶ Mines Ministry released first ever report on **Critical Minerals for India**, which identifies list of **30** critical minerals for India, taking into account requirements of various key sectors.

141. ▶ Ministry of *Power* and Ministry of *New and Renewable Energy* jointly launched **Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR),** as National Mission to identify emerging technologies in power sector and develop them indigenously. MAHIR has been Planned initially for 5 years (2023-24 to 2027-28).
- Mission will have a two-tier structure - a Technical Scoping Committee and an Apex Committee.

- Technical Scoping Committee (chaired by Chairperson of Central Electricity Authority), will identify emerging research areas globally, recommend potential technologies for development, provide research outlines, and conduct periodic monitoring of approved research projects.
- Apex Committee, chaired by Union Minister for Power & New and Renewable Energy will deliberate on technology and products to be developed and approve research proposals.

142. ▶ Ministry of Civil Aviation launched 5th round of **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN),** to further enhance connectivity to remote and regional areas. Key features -
- This round of UDAN focuses on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats).
- Earlier stage length cap of 600 km is waived off and there is no restriction on distance between origin and destination.
- Viability gap funding (VGF) to be provided will be capped at 600 km stage length, which was earlier capped at 500 km.
- No predetermined routes would be offered. Only Network and Individual Route Proposal proposed by airlines will be considered.
- Airlines would be required to commence operations within 4 months of the award of the route. Earlier this deadline was 6 months.

143. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) introduced *mPassport Police app,* to streamline and expedite police verification during passport issuance process.

144. ▶ Ministry of Jal Shakti released India's **first water bodies census** report, as comprehensive database of ponds, tanks, lakes, and reservoirs in country.
- The census was conducted in 2018-19, and enumerated more than 2.4 million water bodies across country.
- As per the report -
  - 24,24,540 water bodies have been enumerated in country, out of which 97.1% are in rural areas and 2.9% in urban areas.
  - 59.5% are ponds, followed by tanks (15.7%), reservoirs (12.1%), Water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams (9.3%), lakes (0.9%) and others (2.5%).
  - West Bengal has highest (7.47 lakh) water bodies among states, whereas Sikkim has least (134). Also, Maharashtra is leading State in water conservation schemes.

145. ▶ Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways launched **Harit Sagar** Green Port Guidelines, to help meet vision of achieving Zero Carbon Emission Goals.
- These Guidelines envisage ecosystem dynamics in port development and operation while aligning with *Working with Nature* concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbor ecosystem.

146. ▶ Ministry of Power released report *National Energy Data: Survey and Analysis 2021-22* preparerd by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, including granular information about energy supply and consumption patterns across various sectors of Indian economy.
- It includes data compiled for last 6 years (FY 2016-17 to FY 2021-22), along with analysis of fuel-wise energy consumption in major end-use sectors.
- It also provides overview of impact of various energy conservation policies and their associated CO2 emission reduction and monetary savings.

147. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways initiated *One Nation, One Challan initiative,* which aims to integrate all related agencies such as traffic police and Regional Transport Offices (RTO) on a single platform for seamless collection of traffic fines and data transfer.
- Notably, Gujarat govt announced setting up of virtual traffic courts under *One Nation One Challan* initiative.

148. ▶ Ministry of Tribal Affairs introduced new scheme called **Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)**, which aims at benefitting Scheduled Tribes of Northeastern Region.
- It will strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North East.
- It will apply to *Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim*.

149. ▶ Misc. Indian Railways News (Mar 2023) -
- Northeast Frontier Railway brought Electrified train tracks to Meghalaya for the first time. Notably -
  - Mendipathar is only railway station in north-eastern state of Meghalaya, which is in operation since 2014.
  - Indian Railways aims to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030, with December 2023 deadline for 100% electrification of India's rail network. As of 31st Mar 2023, 14 States / UTs have achieved 100% rail network electrification.

150. ▶ Misc. MOUs (Apr 2023) -
- World Trade Centers Association and real estate developer Merlin Group signed MOU to develop a World Trade Center in Kolkata (West bengal).
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting partnered with Amazon India, for co-operation in field of media, entertainment and public awareness.

- DST's bangalore-based Raman Research Institute (RRI) signed MoU with Indian Navy's R&D establishment Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE), for developing secure maritime communications.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) signed MoU to pursue technological partnership in select domains across Energy value chain.
- Tripartite MOU has been signed between Central Govt, Assam Govt and Dimasa National Liberation Army/Dimasa Peoples' Supreme Council (DNLA/DPSC), aimed at bringing end to insurgency in Dima Hasao District of Assam.
- NHAI Subsidiary Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) signed MoU with Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve spread across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, to provide FASTag based payment system at Forest entry points.
- MoU signed between Indian Army and Tezpur University, for training Indian Army personnel in Chinese language.

151. ▶ Misc. MOUs (Feb 2023) -
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas's Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with International Energy Agency (IEA), to strengthen cooperation in field of data and research & enhance global energy security, stability, and sustainability.
- MoU signed between *Ministry of Cooperation*, *Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology*, *NABARD* and *CSC e-Governance Services India Limited*, to enable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to provide services offered by Common Service Centers.
- Moscow (Russia) based Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) and India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) partnered for cooperation on Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) Access through a Non-Disclosure Agreement.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signed MoU with IIT Guwahati, IIT Gandhinagar and NIT Calicut for establishment of *BIS Standardization Chair Professor* at these institutes, as an initiative towards securing active participation of academia in standards formulation and making teaching of Indian standards an integral part of the curriculum.
- Letter of Intent (LoI) has been signed between India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Germany's Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems, for a long-term collaboration focusing on hydrogen technologies.
- CSC Academy (subsidiary of Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Limited), and NIELIT (National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology) signed MoU to enhance digital literacy and skill development in India.
- University of Auckland (New Zealand) and Tata Memorial Hospital (Mumbai) signed MOU to engage in long-term cooperation in cancer care.
- Agriculture Ministry signed MoU with *Digital Green,* under public private partnership framework, to build a national level digital extension platform, to host a digital library of curated multi-format multi-lingual content, help extension workers access and deliver curated content to farmers on time.
- Nagaland government signed MoU with Patanjali Foods Limited, for development and area expansion under palm oil cultivation under National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).
- IIT Madras signed MoU with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), to develop training module for Indian Spaceflight Program using Augmented Reality / Virtual Reality / Mixed Reality.
  - It would utilize advanced technologies created at newly-established eXperiential Technology Innovation Centre (XTIC) at IIT Madras to promote Research in domain of Extended Reality.
- Ministry of Jal Shakti's Central Water Commission signerd Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IIT Roorkee for Development of *International Centre of Excellence for Dams* (ICED) under externally funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement (DRIP) Project Phase 2 & 3, valid for 10 years.
- To enhance cooperation in maritime safety and security, Gurugram-based IFC-IOR (Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean region) signed MoU with Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC), Seychelles.

152. ▶ Misc. MOUs (July 2023) -
- Between Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy & Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd, for construction of gallery named *Evolution of Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard* at National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), being constructed as World's biggest maritime museum complex, at Lothal (Gujarat), with cost 4500 Crores.
- International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) signed MOUs with IIM Lucknow & BITS Pilani, to support and facilitate FinTech and TechFin entities.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) signed MOU with Climate Policy Initiative - India (CPI), for cooperation to increase mobilisation of global sustainable capital flows into India.
- India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) signed MoU with European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for cooperation in Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility.

- India's National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) signed MoU with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO), to increase anti-doping Regional Cooperation in sports.
- MoU signed between Ministry of Education (India) and Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (Zanzibar- Tanzania) for setting up of campus of **IIT Madras** in Zanzibar (Tanzania), as first IIT campus to be set up outside India.
- India & Singapore extended current MoU on Cooperation in field of Personnel Management and Public Administration, till 2028.
- Between *Ministry of Culture* and *Indian Navy,* to revive and preserve 2000-year-old technique of shipbuilding known as *stitched shipbuilding* (*Tankai*).
- Between *Ministry of Culture* and *Canara Bank,* for disbursal of financial assistance to selected beneficiaries under *Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists* (earlier known as *Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artists*).
- Between *India AI* (an IBD under Digital India Corporation) and *Meta India,* to foster collaboration in field of AI and Emerging Technologies, to make Meta's open-source AI models available for use by Indian AI ecosystem.
- Between Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)'s *TRAI Centre of Studies and Research* and Centre for Development of Telematics (*C-DoT*), to establish a mechanism of technical / institutional cooperation in field of telecommunications.
- Between United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Absolute Foods (Indian bioscience firm specializing in agri-tech), to strengthen govt's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), and enhance resilience of the farmers.

153. ▶ Misc. MOUs (Mar 2023) -
- Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between India's Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT), to promote joint research.
- Ministry of Rural Development signed MoU with Ministry of Ayush, to collaborate in imparting training to rural poor youth and women for Ayush healthcare system under *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana*, aimed at enabling Women to earn over 1 lakh annual earnings from Self Help Groups.
- MoU signed between Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Brahma Kumaris Mount Abu, to promote Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.
- To improve self reliance on information security, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (part of Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt), for joint R&D in deep tech domains including Quantum Computing, IoT Security and Cyber Security.
- Kerala government signed MoU with UN Women India, to work towards promoting gender-inclusive tourism sites in State.
- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) & National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed MoU to strengthen value based sport education amongst school children and teachers.
- RBI signed MOU with Central Bank of United Arab Emirates, for promoting innovation in financial product and services.

154. ▶ Misc. MOUs (May 2023) -
- India Post signed MoU with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Tripta Technologies, to facilitate operationalisation of *Bharat EMart* portal, which will enable pick-up of consignments from premises of traders and will ensure delivery at doorsteps of consignees, to benefit 8 crore traders across country.
- NTPC signed Joint Venture Agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL), for development of Nuclear Power Projects.
    - Initially, the JV company shall develop two Pressurized Heavy-Water Reactor (PHWR) projects, Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project 2x700 MW and Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 4x700 MW.
- NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and HPCL Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL) signed MoU, to collaborate in field of Renewable Energy through sourcing of 250 MW RE-RTC (Round-The-Clock) power by HMEL and also exploring opportunities in Green Hydrogen business & its derivatives (Green Ammonia & Green Methanol).
- MoU has been signed among IWAI, Sagarmala Development Corporation (SDCL), Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) and Assam govt's Department of Inland Waterways Transport (DIWT), for development of *Riverine Based Religious Tourism Circuit*, to connect seven Religious places on Brahmaputra river.
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for *Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail* (Project-SMART), to develop surrounding areas of *Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Railway* Stations to enhance accessibility and convenience for commuters.
- MoU signed between India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Israel's Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D), for Industrial Research and Development Cooperation in high tech areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum and semiconductors, synthetic biology etc.

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed MoU with PSU RITES Limited, for technical assistance in Solid Waste Management (SWM) & Used Water Management (UWM) under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.
- MoU signed between Telangana govt and London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), to establish a Technology Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad.
- State govt of Goa and Uttarakhand signed MoU, to enhance tourism activities across both states.
- India & Israel signed letter of Intent to establish an *India - Israel Center of Water Technology* (CoWT) in Water Resources Management and Water Technologies at IIT Madras.

155. ▶ Misc. MoUs (June 2023) -
- Between PSU NHPC Limited and State Govts of Maharashtra & Odisha, for development of Pumped Storage schemes and other Renewable Energy Source projects in Maharashtra & Odisha.
    - Maharashtra - Includes development of 4 Pumped Storage Projects with total capacity 7350 MW - Kalu (1150 MW), Savitri (2250 MW), Jalond (2400 MW) & Kengadi (1550 MW).
    - Odisha - Includes setting up Self-identified Pumped Storage Projects of at least 2000 MW and Renewable Energy Projects (Ground-Mounted / Floating) of at least 1000 MW.
- Between Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & *Amazon Kisan*, to guide farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income.
- Between Agriculture Ministry & *Pixxel Space India Pvt Ltd*, to develop various geospatial solutions for Indian Agriculture Ecosystem using Pixxel's hyperspectral dataset.
- Between Ministry of Culture and *Canara Bank*, for disbursal of financial assistance to veteran artists under the *Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists*.
    - Under it, Assistance of 6000 / month is provided to artists and scholars above age of 60 years who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture.
- Between Indian Railways & United States Agency for International Development (*USAID*), for working to reduce its carbon footprints, to achieve target of Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030.
- Between United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), for empowering women to make well-informed entrepreneurial choices.
- Between IT Firm *Microsoft* & Directorate General of Training (Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship), to train students and educators at government-led Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skills Training Institutions (NSTIs).
    - Under it, Microsoft will offer wide range of courses including training in AI, cloud computing, web development and cybersecurity skills for nearly 6000 students and 200 faculty.
- Between Tata Group's *Agratas Energy Storage Solutions* and Gujarat govt, to set up a lithium-ion cell factory in *Sanand* with investment of 13000 crores ($1.58 billion), to help India's efforts to create its own electric vehicle supply chain.
    - It will have initial manufacturing capacity of 20 Gigawatt hours (GWh), to be doubled in 2nd phase.
- Between IT Firm Microsoft & Rural Internet connectivity solutions provider *Airjaldi,* under program titled *Contentful Connectivity,* which aims to advance access to high-speed internet and build solutions for broadband adoption and digital transformation, benefitting underserved communities in India's hinterlands.
- Between Maharatna PSU *Indian Oil Corp* and US Based sustainable fuels technology firm LanzaJet, to set up an 80000 tonnes sustainable aviation fuel plant in Haryana.
- Between Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), to develop Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for submarines of Indian Navy, beginning with Kalvari Class submarines.
- Between *Paytm Payment Services Limited (PPSL)* and *Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park* (APIIP), to boost startup ecosystem in state.

156. ▶ MoU signed Between Gujarat government & *OneWeb India Communications,* for setting up India's first *satellite network portal site*, at Mehsana.
- It will provide continuous and secure satellite internet access at affordable rates, to villages, district panchayats, local administrative bodies and others.
- Under this project, 2 Satellite Network Portals (SMPs) will be set up in India, with other coming up in Tamil Nadu.

157. ▶ Monsoon session of Parliament 2023 began, to last till Aug 11, 2023.
- *Detailed info about proceedings of the session shall be available on Aug 11, including Bills passed / introduced and notable info disseminated during the session.*

158. ▶ NITI Aayog 's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) launched *ATL Sarthi*, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
    - ✎ Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India to foster creativity in young minds. ATL Sarthi will enable ATLs to be more efficient and effective.

159. ▶ NITI Aayog released 3rd edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs for year 2022 -
    - ✎ EPI assess Exports performance of States / UTs across four pillars - Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance.
    - ✎ Overall Ranking -
        - ✎ Top 3 -
            - ✎ Tamil Nadu
            - ✎ Maharashtra
            - ✎ Karnataka
        - ✎ Bottom 3 -
            - ✎ Dadra Nagar and Haveli & Daman and Diu (34)
            - ✎ Mizoram (35)
            - ✎ Lakshadweep (36)
    - ✎ Category Wise -
        - ✎ Coastal -
            - ✎ Tamil Nadu
            - ✎ Maharashtra
            - ✎ Karnataka
        - ✎ Himalayan -
            - ✎ Uttarakhand
            - ✎ Himachal Pradesh
            - ✎ Manipur
        - ✎ Landlocked -
            - ✎ Haryana
            - ✎ Telangana
            - ✎ Uttar Pradesh
        - ✎ UT/Small States -
            - ✎ Goa
            - ✎ Jammu and Kashmir
            - ✎ Delhi

160. ▶ NITI Aayog released *India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0,* as one-stop platform for near real-time data on energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets.
    - ✎ ICED 3.0 enables users to freely access and analyse datasets using an analytical engine, while identifying the key challenges.

161. ▶ NITI Aayog released *Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix)* Framework, as a pioneering assessment tool designed to boost technology evolution and entrepreneurship across India.

162. ▶ NITI Aayog released Revamped *India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047* (3.0) to assess integrated impact of various green energy policies of Govt.
    - ✎ IESS incorporates several policies related to alternative energy resources, asessing demand and supply of energy. It helps in analysing emissions, cost, land, and water requirements till 2047.
    - ✎ Designed with help of IIT Bombay, revamped IESS 2047 will be updated on yearly basis. Baseline has been standardised at 2020 and calibrated up to 2022.

163. ▶ NITI Aayog's *Atal Innovation Mission* (AIM) and *Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare* partnered to promote innovation in agricultural sector among school students across India, by connecting Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMAs).

164. ▶ NTPC began commercial operations of 1st Unit of 660 MW at North Karanpura (3*660 MW), in Jharkhand.
    - ✎ Notably, NTPC commissioned India's first Air cooled condenser at North Karanpura Super Critical plant in Jharkhand, enabling better water conservation through reduce, reuse and recycle.

165. ▶ NTPC commissioned 660 MW capacity Unit-2 of Stage-I (3 x 660 MW) of Barh Super Thermal Power Project (Bihar), taking NTPC group's installed to 73024 MW.

166. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed 10 crores fine on Kerala government, for being unable to prevent uncontrolled pollution of designated Ramsar sites in state.

167. ▶ National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) organized first Urban Climate Film Festival through CITIIS program under U20 engagement events, under India's 2023 G20 Presidency.
   - ✎ It has been organised with support from Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, French Development Agency (AFD), and European Union.

168. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Rajasthan & Karnataka -
   - ✎ Rajasthan -
      - ✎ Launched 246 KM Long *Delhi – Dausa – Lalsot* section of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, developed at cost 12150 crores. It will reduce travel time from Delhi to Jaipur from 5 to 3.5 hours.
         - ✎ Delhi Mumbai Expressway will be India's longest expressway with length 1386 km. It will reduce travel time between Delhi and Mumbai from 24 to 12 hrs, and will pass through six states - Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
   - ✎ Karnataka -
      - ✎ Inaugurated 14th edition of Aero India 2023 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru. Theme of Aero India 2023 is *The Runway to a Billion Opportunities*.

169. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to *Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Rajasthan* -
   - ✎ Uttar Pradesh -
      - ✎ Gorakhpur -
         - ✎ Attended centenary celebrations of historic Gita Press in Gorakhpur.
         - ✎ Laid foundation stone of Gorakhpur Railway Station redevelopment, at approx 500 crores cost.
      - ✎ Varanasi -
         - ✎ Launched *Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Junction - Son Nagar* line of Dedicated Freight Corridor, Built at cost 6760 crores, to facilitate faster movement of goods.
   - ✎ Telangana -
      - ✎ Laid foundation of Railway Manufacturing Unit (Kazipet) which will have enhanced Rolling Stock manufacturing capacity, and advanced tech facilities.
   - ✎ Rajasthan -
      - ✎ Launched greenfield expressway section of *Amritsar - Jamnagar Economic Corridor*, Spanning over 500 km in Rajasthan, built at cost 11125 crores.
      - ✎ Launched phase-I of Inter-State Transmission Line for Green Energy Corridor, worth 10950 Crores, which will integrate 6 GW of renewable power and strengthen transmission capacity between Northern and Western Region.
      - ✎ Laid foundation for redevelopment of Bikaner Railway station, at cost 450 Crores.

170. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to *Gujarat* & *Rajasthan* -
   - ✎ Rajasthan -
      - ✎ Sikar -
         - ✎ Dedicated 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samriddhi Kendras (**PMKSKs**) to the nation, to provide a one-stop solution for all farmers' needs.
         - ✎ Launched **Urea Gold** as a new variety of Urea coated with Sulphur, aimed at addressing sulphur deficiencies in soil and enhance crop efficiency, quality.
         - ✎ Launched onboarding of 1500 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which will enable FPOs to access digital tools, Business-to-business (B2B) and Business-to-consumer transactions, and encourages local value addition.
         - ✎ 5 new medical colleges inaugurated and laid foundation for 7 medical colleges in Rajasthan, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme *Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/ referral hospitals*.
      - ✎ Rajkot -
         - ✎ Launched a new Greenfield International Airport in Rajkot, developed in area over 2500 acres and cost 1400 crores.
            - ✎ Terminal building is GRIHA -4 compliant (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) and equipped with various sustainability features. It also showcases local architectural heritage of Gujarat.

- Gujarat -
  - Gandhinagar -
    - Inaugurated *SemiconIndia 2023* at Mahatma Mandir, as 2nd edition of the event, organised by *India Semiconductor Mission* with theme *Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem*.

171. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to Assam -
  - Dedicated AIIMS Guwahati to the Nation.
  - Launched HPCL's LPG Bottling Plant at Goalpara.
  - Inaugurated 500 TPD Menthol Plant in Namrup.
  - Laid foundation stone of Assam Advanced Health Care Innovation Institute (AAHII) and launched *Aapke Dwar Ayushman* campaign, by distributing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) cards to eligible beneficiaries.
  - During the visit, New Guinness World Record was made with over 11000 dancers and drummers performing traditional *Bihu* dance.

172. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka -
  - Inaugurated **India Energy Week (IEW)** 2023 in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
  - Inaugurated **HAL Helicopter Factory** in **Tumakuru**, as a greenfield helicopter factory and Asia's largest helicopter manufacturing facility.
    - It will initially produce Light Utility Helicopters (LUH), and later be expanded to manufacture other helicopters such as Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Indian Multirole Helicopter (IMRH).
  - Laid foundation of *Tumakuru Industrial Township*, as south india's 1st Industrial Corridor Project, as part of National Industrial Corridor programme. It will be spread over 8500 Acres of land under Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

173. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka -
  - Mandya -
    - Launched 118 Km long *Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway* in Mandya, developed at cost 8480 crores. It will reduce travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru from 3 hours to 75 minutes.
  - Hubballi-Dharwad -
    - Dedicated IIT Dharwad to the nation, whose foundation stone was laid by PM in February 2019.
    - Launched longest railway platform in world (with length 1507 metres) at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubballi Station, recognized by Guinness Book of World Records.

174. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to Uttar Pradesh & Maharashtra -
  - Inaugurated annual flagship investment summit of Uttar Pradesh govt, *Global Investors Summit 2023* in Lucknow. Also launched Invest UP 2.0, as investor centric and service oriented investment ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh.
  - Launched *Mumbai-Solapur* and *Mumbai-Sainagar Shirdi* Vande Bharat Trains as 9th and 10th Vande Bharat Trains across country, to improve regional connectivity.

175. ▶ Notable points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to *Kerala, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu* -
  - Kerala -
    - Launched **Kochi Water Metro** (Kerala) as first of its kind project in country, which connects 10 islands around the city with mainland.
    - Lauched Kerala's first Vande Bharat express train, between Kasaragod & Thiruvananthapuram.
    - Laid foundation stone for **India's First Digital Science Park**, to be set up in Thiruvananthapuram.
      - In 2022–23 state budget, Kerala govt announced 4 science parks with investment of 1000 crores, to utilize achievements in field of science and technology.
  - UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu -
    - Launched *NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute* in *Silvassa*, to provide better healthcare services for citizens of UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
    - Launched *Devka Seafront* in Daman, as one of its kind coastal promenade in country, to boost local economy and attract more tourists.

176. ▶ Notable points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka -
  - Inaugurated **Shivamogga Airport**, capable of handling 300 Passengers per hour.
  - Dedicated redeveloped Belagavi Railway Station building to the nation, with world-class amenities for passengers.

177. ▶ Notable points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka -
  - Telangana -
    - Laid foundation stone of AIIMS Bibinagar (Hyderabad).

- Tamil Nadu -
  - Inaugurated New Integrated Terminal Building (Phase- 1) of Chennai International Airport, increasing passenger serving capacity of airport from 23 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) to 30 MPPA.
  - Attended celebrations commemorating 125th Anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna Math in Chennai.
- Karnataka -
  - Launched **International Big Cats Alliance** (IBCA) at Bandipura Tiger Reserve, which will focus on protection and conservation of 7 major big cats - Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and Cheetah, with membership of the range countries harbouring these species.
  - It was launched to Commemorate occasion of 50 years of *Project Tiger*, which was launched on April 1, 1973.
    - Notably, tiger population in India has reached 3167 in 2022, marking significant increase compared to previous census figures of 1411 in 2006, 1706 in 2010, 2226 in 2014, and 2967 in 2018.
  - Also, Nepal became a founding member of International Big Cats Alliance.

178. OPPO India in collaboration with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) as its knowledge partner has established *India's first Atal Tinkering Lab* to be set up on PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model, at St Paul's CEHSS in Thrissur (Kerala).
  - ATLs aim to nurture an innovative mindset amongst high school students across India.

179. Odisha govt approved *Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana*, under which interest subvention on bank loans up to 1 lakh will be provided to beneficiaries to purchase a scooter.

180. Odisha's **Mayurbhanj** district and Union Territory of **Ladakh** have been featured in **TIME Magazine's World's Greatest Places of 2023** List, noted as *50 extraordinary destinations to explore.*

181. On occasion of World Intellectual Property Day (April 26), G20 engagement group *Startup20,* along with Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation *launched UPAJ: A Festival of Innovations in Arts*, at NITI Aayog (New Delhi).

182. Online Gambling has been banned in Tamil Nadu, after state governor RN Ravi gave his assent to Bill for Banning Online Gambling and Regulating Online Games*,* with fines upto 10 lakhs and 3 year jail term for violations.

183. PM Narendra Modi Launched *National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission* at Shahdol (Madhya Pradesh), as announced in Union Budget 2023-24.
  - It aims to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047.
  - Mission will be implemented in 278 districts of 17 high focus states.

184. PM Narendra Modi commissioned Low Power FM Transmitters of capacity of 100 Watt at 91 locations in 20 states.
  - With this, network of transmitters with All India Radio has increased from 524 to 615, to boost coverage of AIR to 73.5% of population of the country.

185. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **India Energy Week (IEW)** 2023 in **Bengaluru** (Karnataka).
  - Some Notable launches by PM Narendra Modi during IEW 2023 -
    - Launched uniforms made of recycled PET bottles under *Unbottled* initiative of Indian Oil, along with twin-cooktop model of IndianOil's Indoor Solar Cooking System.
    - Launched E20 fuel at 84 retail outlets of Oil Marketing Companies in 11 States/UTs.
      - E20 is a blend of 20% ethanol with petrol. Govt aims to achieve complete 20% blending of ethanol by 2025.
      - Notably -
        - India increased ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53 % in 2013-14 to 10.17 % in 2022.
        - Further, India has pledged to become net-zero emitter by 2070 and cut down emissions by 1 billion tons by end of 2030.
    - Flagged off Green Mobility Rally, with participation of vehicles running on green energy sources.
    - Dedicated twin-cooktop model of IndianOil's Indoor Solar Cooking System and flagged-off its commercial roll-out. It works on both solar and auxiliary energy sources simultaneously.
  - During IEW 2023, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) signed MoU with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council (IMT-GT JBC), to promote energy efficiency and sustainabiliy in region.

186. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **new Parliament building** in New Delhi, developed As part of India's **Central Vista Redevelopment Project**.
  - Features -
    - Shaped Hexagonally and with area of 2.25 Lakh sq ft (10 % lesser than older house), the new building is designed to have lifespan of over 150 years.

- Lok Sabha chamber has 888 seats and Rajya Sabha chamber has 384, to accommodate more members in future as number of MPs may increase with India's growing population.
- Notably -
  - Follwing a Tamil tradition, Adheenam priests handed over a gold-plated scepter, **Sengol** to PM Narendra Modi, who installed it in Lok Sabha in new Parliament building.
  - Sengol was originally gifted to First PM Jawaharlal Nehru on eve of Independence (14 August 1947), by a delegation of holy men from Adheenam monastery.
  - New parliament house also houses a map of *Akhand Bharat,* depicting spread of an ancient Indian civilization encompassing today's Pakistan in north and Bangladesh and Nepal in east.
- On this occasion -
  - PM Narendra Modi launched a special ₹75 coin to commemorate inauguration of India's new parliament building, coinciding with celebration of 75 years of independence.
- Background -
  - Proposals for a new parliament building to replace existing complex emerged in early 2010s due to stability concerns with 93 year old older structure, which was constructed between 1921 and 1927. It was largely influenced by Hindu Yogini Temple at Mitaoli.
- About **Central Vista Redevelopment Project** -
  - It refers to ongoing redevelopment to revamp Central Vista, India's central administrative area located near Raisina Hills (New Delhi), which was originally designed by British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker during British rule.
  - It aims to revamp -
    - 3 km long Kartvyapath between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate
    - Convert North and South Blocks to publicly accessible museums by creating a new common Central Secretariat to house all ministries
    - New Parliament building with increased seating capacity for future expansion.
    - New residence and office for Vice-President and Prime Minister and convert some older structures into museums.
  - Overall Cost is 13450 crores, spread over four years (till 2026).

187. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated new **International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office & Innovation Centre** in New Delhi (India).
  - PM also unveiled *Bharat 6G Vision Document,* launched 6G R&D Test Bed & *Call before u Dig* App.
  - ITU is United Nations' specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). New ITU Area Office in India will serve India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran.

188. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated new integrated terminal building of *Veer Savarkar International Airport* at Port Blair (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
  - It has been constructed in area over 40800 Sqm at cost 710 Crores, with capacity to handle 50 lakh passengers annually.

189. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated redeveloped ITPO complex International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (**IECC**) named **Bharat Mandapam,** in **New Delhi**.
  - It has been developed at cost 2700 crores, as India's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) destination.
  - With shape of Shankha and spread over 123 acres, it incorporates several architectural elements of India's traditional art and culture.
  - Notably, This redeveloped ITPO complex will be venue for G-20 leaders' meeting in September 2023.

190. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched **Jal-Jan Abhiyan** of Brahma Kumaris, in Sirohi district of Rajasthan, aimed at promoting water conservation.

191. ▶ Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)'s amended Zonal unified tariffs have been brought under effect from 1st April 2023, to incorporate provisions for Unified Tariff for natural gas pipelines, targeted at *One Nation, One Grid and One tariff*.
  - Based on new regulations, PNGRB notified a levelized Unified Tariff of Rs 73.93/MMBTU and created three tariff zones for Unified Tariff.
  - 1st zone is up to a distance of 300 kms from gas source, second zone is 300 – 1200 kms and third is beyond 1200 kms.

192. ▶ Ports & Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off India's 1st **International Cruise Vessel - *MV Empress***, from Chennai to Sri Lanka.

193. ▶ Ports & Shipping Minister *Sarbananda Sonowal* inaugurated indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (*DGNSS*) **SAGAR SAMPARK,** as a boost to digital initiatives in maritime sector.

- DGNSS is a terrestrial based enhancement system which corrects errors and minimizes inaccuracies in Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), allowing for more accurate positioning information.
- Launched at 6 locations under DGLL, DGNSS will enhance capabilities of DGLL in field of Radio Aids to Marine Navigation.

194. Ports & Shipping Minister launched *Sagar-Setu* App of National Logistics Portal (Marine), to help custodians with real time monitoring, approvals and transactions.

195. Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated **National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCWPC)** at IIT Madras, established Under Sagarmala Programme.
- The centre will act as a technological arm of the Ministry, to develop cutting-edge technologies and application products to provide solutions to various challenges faced by Ports & Shipping Sector.

196. Power & Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh released report of *State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22*, developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- Front Runner States - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana.
- Achievers States - Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab.

197. Power Minister R K Singh launched Industrial Decarbonization and EE Knowledge-Sharing Platform *iDEEKSHA Portal*.
- He also launched *Voluntary Star-rated appliances program* for 4 more types of appliances, bringing number of appliances under BEE's voluntary star rating program to 34.
- It aims to help achieve India's increased target of 45% reduction in emissions by 2030 in updated NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) in COP'26.

198. Power Ministry has set up a dedicated Centre of Excellence to accelerate industry adoption of clean technologies and scale up India's contribution to global energy transition, Named *UTPRERAK (Unnat Takniki Pradarshan Kendra)*.
- The Centre, named otherwise as Advanced Industrial Technology Demonstration Centre (AITDC), has been set up at Badarpur (New Delhi) campus of National Power Training Institute (NPTI).

199. President Droupadi Murmu launched *Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain 2023* campaign in New Delhi, with theme *source sustainability for drinking water*.
- It will run until 30 November 2023, focusing on saving and conserving rainwater, primarily in 150 water stressed districts of country, identified by Jal Jeevan Mission.

200. Rajasthan Assembly passed *Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill,* aimed at extending social security to gig workers by giving them certain rights.
- It is first such bill in India, aimed at rights of Gig Workers. Its notable proposals include setting up of *Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board* and setting up a social security and welfare fund for gig workers.

201. Rajasthan Govt announced creation of **19 new districts** and **3 new divisions** in state, taking number of districts to 50 and divisions to 10.
- New Districts -
  - Jaipur North
  - Jaipur South
  - Jodhpur East
  - Jodhpur West
  - Anupgarh
  - Balotra
  - Beawar
  - Deeg
  - Deedwana Kuchaman
  - Gangapur City
  - Neem ka Thana
  - Kotputli Behror
  - Khairthal
  - Dudu
  - Kekri
  - Phalodi
  - Salumber
  - Sanchore

- 🖊 Shahpura
  - New Divisions -
    - 🖊 Banswara
    - 🖊 Pali
    - 🖊 Sikar

202. ▶ Reliance Jio announced a national Digital Skill program in association with GSMA, aiming to offer need-based training to rural women and individuals from low-income groups.

203. ▶ Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh initiated *Captive Employers* initiative under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), under which Captive employers will train Rural Poor Youth and provide employment to trained youth in their company / subsidiary.
    - 🖊 Under it, 19 Captive Employers signed MoU with Ministry of Rural Development, for training / placing 31000 rural youth in their own establishment / subsidiary companies.

204. ▶ Serum Institute of India announced to set up *Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla Centre of Excellence in Infectious Diseases and Pandemic Preparedness* at Indian Institute of Public Health (Hyderabad).

205. ▶ Siddaramaiah-led Newly elected Karnataka govt launched several initiatives, as part of poll promises made by Congress party in Karnataka for assembly elections 2023 -
    - 🖊 *Shakti* scheme - It will facilitate Free bus travel for women in Karnataka.
    - 🖊 *Gruha Jyoti* scheme - It will provide free electricity upto 200 units, to every household in Karnataka.
    - 🖊 Other poll promises which have been approved and are awaiting implementation -
      - 🖊 Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (**Gruha Lakshmi**)
      - 🖊 10 kilograms of rice free to every member of a below poverty line (BPL) household (**Anna Bhagya**)
      - 🖊 Rs 3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and Rs 1,500 for unemployed diploma holders aged 18-25 for two years (**YuvaNidhi**)
    - 🖊 Notably, these schemes will cost over 50000 crores annually to the state govt.

206. ▶ Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Ministry approved setting of an *Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)* at Dharwad (Karnataka), which is expected to create over 18000 jobs.
    - 🖊 It will be set up at Kotur-Balur Industrial Area in Dharwad District of Karnataka under EMC 2.0 scheme.

207. ▶ Strict **Anti-Copying Law** come into force in Uttarakhand, in name of *Uttarakhand Competitive Examination (Measures for Prevention and Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Ordinance 2023*.
    - 🖊 It provisions to impose fine of 10 crores rupees along with life imprisonment or 10 years in jail for copying mafia.

208. ▶ Supreme Court issued 2 notable rulings -
    - 🖊 In response to pleas seeking a collegium-like system for appointment of *election commissioners* and *Chief Election Commissioner*, SC Ruled that these Appointments will be made by President of India, on advise of a committee comprising Prime Minister, leader of opposition in Lok Sabha and chief justice of India. This norm will continue to hold good till a law on the issue is made by Parliament.
    - 🖊 SC ordered setting up of a six-member committee headed by former SC judge **AM Sapre,** to probe recent share crash of Adani Group triggered by short-seller Hindenburg Research's fraud allegations.
      - 🖊 Notably, Adani Enterprises was also removed from US' Dow Jones Sustainability Indices, amid allegations of fraud and stock manipulation put on it by Hindenburg Research.

209. ▶ Supreme Court ruled in favour of Delhi government on the issue of who controls bureaucracy in national capital.
    - 🖊 SC held that legislature has control over bureaucrats in administration of services, except in areas outside legislative powers of National Capital Territory (NCT).
    - 🖊 There are three areas outside control of Delhi government - public order, police and land.

210. ▶ Tamil Nadu Assembly passed *Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill 2023*, which extends daily working shifts of factory workers to 12 hours (from existing 8), in case they opt for four-day working weeks. Total working hours in a week will remain unchanged at 48.

211. ▶ Tamil Nadu govt formulated *Tamil Nadu Regional Aerial Connectivity through Helicopters (TN REACH)* mechanism, to use over 80 unused helipads for travel across state.

212. ▶ Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurated India's **largest private rail coach factory** in Kondakal village (Rangareddy district), built by *Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd*. It has production capacity of 500 coaches and 50 locomotives per year.

213. ▶ Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao launched *Geetha Karmikula Bhima* (insurance for *toddy tappers*), on the lines of *Rythu Bhima* for *farmers*.
    - 🖊 It will provide 5 lakh life insurance in case any toddy tapper dies accidentally while collecting toddy from palm trees in the fields.

214. ▶ Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal Launched development work on Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (*PM MITRA*) Park in *Amravati* (Maharashtra).
   - 🖌 MoU was signed between Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Maharashtra govt and Ministry of Textiles (Central Govt), for establishment of PM MITRA Park on 1020 acres land.
   - 🖌 Background -
      - 🖌 Govt announced sites for setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (**PM MITRA**) Parks in 7 states - *Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra*.
         - 🖌 About PM Mitra Parks -
            - 🖌 Inspired by 5F vision (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign), PM MITRA Parks will assist in making India a global hub for textile manufacturing and exports.
            - 🖌 Ministry of Textiles will oversee execution of these projects, through an SPV to be set up for each park. Development Capital Support upto 500 crore & Competitive Incentive Support upto 300 crore will be alloted to every park. Each park will be built on at least 1000 acres of land.
            - 🖌 Collectively, 7 Parks will attract 70000 crores investment and 20 lakhs employment generation is expected.
         - 🖌 Sites notified for PM Mitra parks in 7 states -
            - 🖌 Tamil Nadu - Virudhunagar District.
            - 🖌 Telangana - Warangal District.
            - 🖌 Gujarat - Navsari District.
            - 🖌 Karnataka - Kalaburagi District.
            - 🖌 MP - Dhar District.
            - 🖌 UP - Lucknow.
            - 🖌 Maharashtra - Amravati District.
215. ▶ To ensure adequate availability of *Non Basmati White Rice* in Indian market and check rise in prices, govt Prohibited Export of *Non Basmati White Rice* by amending its Export Policy from *Free with export duty of 20%* to *Prohibited*. Notably -
   - 🖌 There is no change in Export policy of Non Basmati Rice (Par Boiled Rice) and Basmati Rice, which forms the Bulk of Rice exports.
   - 🖌 India is world's biggest rice exporter, accounting for over 40 % of global rice exports.
216. ▶ To ensure implementation of *Greater Panna Landscape Management plan* as part of Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP), *Greater Panna Landscape Council (GPLC)* has been constituted under chairmanship of Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary (Iqbal Singh Bains currently).
   - 🖌 Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) aims to boost socio-economic prosperity of drought prone Bundelkhand region.
217. ▶ Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari laid Foundation Stone of world's largest and unique Divyang Park - **Anubhuti Inclusive Park** in Nagpur (Maharashtra).
218. ▶ Transport minsiter Nitin Gadkari inaugurated **Z-Morh Tunnel,** as 6.5 km long tunnel between Gagangair and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.
   - 🖌 It is named after the Z-shaped stretch of road that the tunnel will replace.
   - 🖌 Together with adjacent Zoji-La Tunnel, this geostrategically important tunnel on NH1 Srinagar-Leh Highway will provide year-round weather-proof connectivity to Ladakh and Baltal (Amarnath cave), reducing 3.5 hours travel time to 15 minutes drive.
   - 🖌 Notably -
      - 🖌 Under construction Zoji La Tunnel will be Asia's longest tunnel, with 14.2 km length, situated at height 11575 feet.
      - 🖌 It passes under Zoji La pass in Himalayas between Ganderbal of Kashmir (J&K) and Drass town in Kargil district of Ladakh.
219. ▶ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched chatbot *Aadhaar Mitra*, to help people with queries related to Aadhaar card.
220. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt & Quality Council of India launched *Uttar Pradesh Gunvatta Sankalp (Uttar Pradesh Quality Mission),* in collaboration with several industry associations.
221. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt inaugurated online rural education programme *Pahal*, prepared by state department of secondary education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.
   - 🖌 Under this, free online education will be provided at 10 government secondary schools of state in initial phase, to be expanded across state later.
222. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt launched *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan* Campaign*,* to empower girls from the underprivileged class.
   - 🖌 SSA will work under Aarohini Initiative Training Programme for safety and security of girls in 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools across state.
223. ▶ Uttar Pradesh govt approved construction of 2 thermal power projects in *Obra* (Sonbhadra district), with capacity of 800MW each, to address rising power demand and provide cheaper electricity to people.

The plants will be executed in collaboration with NTPC, using ultra-supercritical technology, which offers high efficiency and reduced coal consumption. It will have investment of approx 18000 crores.

224. ▶ Uttar Pradesh govt launched portal for creation of *Family ID – One Family One Identity*, to identify families as a unit for implementing *one job per family*.

   🖎 Families that are not eligible for National Food Security Scheme will be able to avail of the ID, while the ration card ID of the families having it, will be considered as their family ID.

225. ▶ Uttar Pradesh state govt launched *Nand Baba Milk Mission* scheme with cost 1000 crores, aimed at boosting milk production in state.

   🖎 It will enable milk producers to sell their milk at a reasonable price in villages, through dairy co-operative societies.

   🖎 Under it, Dairy farmer producer organisations (Dairy FPO) will be formed to facilitate sale of milk in producers' villages itself.

226. ▶ Uttarakhand became first state to start insurance scheme for its sericulturists, named *Resham Keet Bima*.

227. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) announced to set up mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine hub in Hyderabad (Telangana).

228. ▶ World's first *Nano DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate) Liquid Fertiliser* by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has been launched by Home Minister Amit Shah at IFFCO Sadan (New Delhi), to provide farmers the means to boost productivity and help increase their income.

229. ▶ Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched pan India *Yuva Utsava-India@2047,* from IIT Ropar (Punjab), to be organized in 150 Districts across country by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).

   🖎 Yuva Utsav will follow a 3-tier format, beginning with District Level Yuva Utsav to be held till June 2023, followed by State level Yuva Utsav in August - September 2023 (For district winners) & National Level Yuva Utsav be held in October 2023 at Delhi.

   🖎 Notably, *Yuva Utsava-India@2047* is different from *Annual National Youth Parliament*.

Top

Persons

1. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 2023) -

   🖎 US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo visited India.

      🖎 During the visit, India & US signed a pact on setting up a semiconductor supply chain and innovation partnerships, and established a semiconductor sub-committee under framework of India-US Commercial Dialogue.

   🖎 Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited India. Several Agreements were signed -

      🖎 NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) & Australia's national science agency Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), signed Letter of Intent to boost cooperation to drive innovation in areas of national challenges and shared priorities.

      🖎 India and Australia signed Framework Mechanism for **Mutual Recognition of Qualifications,** to help ease mobility of students and professionals between two countries**.**

   🖎 Mexican foreign Minister *Marcelo Ebrard* visited India.

      🖎 During the visit, Multi-Sectoral MOU was signed between India and Mexico, on research, technology and innovation collaborations in several key areas.

   🖎 UK Navy Chief Ben Key visited India.

   🖎 Australian Navy Chief Mark Hammond visited India.

2. ▶ *N Muthamizh* Selvi became first woman from *Tamil Nadu* to scale Mount Everest.

3. ▶ *Odisha* CM *Naveen Patnaik* became second longest serving chief minister of a state in India, surpassing tenure of former West Bengal CM Jyoti Basu (23 years, 138 days).

   🖎 Patnaik has been holding Odisha CM posts since March 5, 2000.

   🖎 Notably, Pawan Kumar Chamling holds record for longest serving CM of a state in India. He remained Sikkim CM for 24 years, 166 days.

4. ▶ **SHE Changes Climate** campaign named Climate entrepreneur **Shreya Ghodawat** as its India's ambassador. The campaign aims at driving awareness of crucial role of women in accelerating climate action.

5. ▶ As per *Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022* by Kroll -

   🖎 Actor Ranveer Singh is India's most valued celebrity of 2022, with a brand value of $181.7 million. He left past cricketer Virat Kohli to claim the spot.

6. ▶ Film director *SS Rajamouli* and Actor *Shah Rukh Khan* have been named in *Time magazine's List of 100 most influential people of 2023*.

   🖎 Also, Actor Shah Rukh Khan topped 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll.

7. ▶ Forbes *America's 100 most successful women 2023* features 4 Indian-origin women - Jayshree Ullal (Arista Networs), Indira Nooyi (Pepsi CO), Neha Narkhede (Confluent), and Neerja Sethi (Syntel).

8. ▶ Former Indian Navy Officer Abhilash Tomy completed Golden Globe Race, a solo non-stop yacht race around the world. He became first Asian to complete this race.
   - 🖋 He finished 2nd after South African sailor Kirsten Neuschafer.

9. ▶ Indian Origin World Bank president **Ajay Banga** has been recognised on Carnegie Corporation of New York's annual ***Great Immigrants*** list, for his efforts in enriching America and its democracy.

10. ▶ Indian mountaineer **Arjun Vajpai** became first Indian man to summit **Mt. Annapurna 1** (Nepal), world's 10th highest mountain at height 8091 meters.

11. ▶ Microsoft founder Bill Gates acquired minority stake (3.8%) in Netherlands based *Heineken Holding,* world's second-largest brewer, for $902 million.

12. ▶ Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte resigned from his post, amid inability to handle migration issues.
   - 🖋 He will continue to serve as caretaker PM till a regular appointment is done.

13. ▶ Noted Nepalese climber **Kami Rita Sherpa** has set new record for most *Mount Everest* climbs by a single person, after climbing it for 28th time.
   - 🖋 Also, Ex-British Gurkha soldier from Nepal, Hari Budha Magar became first double-amputee climber to climb Mount Everest with artificial legs.

14. ▶ Obituaries (Apr 2023) -
   - 🖋 Salim Durani - Former Cricketer.
   - 🖋 Chandan Ram Dass - Minister in Uttarakhand Government.
   - 🖋 Parkash Singh Badal - Former Chief Minister of Punjab.
   - 🖋 N Gopalakrishnan - Noted scientist, known for establishment of Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage.
   - 🖋 Jalabala Vaidya - Noted theatre artist and co-founder of Delhi's Akshara Theatre.
   - 🖋 Keshub Mahindra - Noted industrialist and Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra. He was India's oldest billionaire.
   - 🖋 Zafrullah Chowdhury - Noted Bangladeshi Liberation War fighter and public health activist.
   - 🖋 Jagarnath Mahto - Jharkhand Cabinet Minister.
   - 🖋 Uttara Baokar - Noted film and television actress.
   - 🖋 Allu Ramesh - Telugu actor and comedian.
   - 🖋 Sarah Thomas - Noted Malayalam language writer from Kerala.
   - 🖋 Trilochan Kanungo - Former MP and MLA from Odisha.
   - 🖋 Mamukkoya - Noted Malayalam actor.
   - 🖋 Tarek Fatah - Noted Pakistani-Canadian journalist, recognized for his critiques of Islamic extremism and Pakistani establishment.

15. ▶ Obituaries (Feb 2023) -
   - 🖋 Kasinadhuni Viswanath - Noted Telugu film director and lyricist.
   - 🖋 Vani Jairam - Noted playback singer, referred to as *Meera of modern India*.
   - 🖋 Balipa Narayana Bhagavataru - Noted Yakshagana playback singer (Karnataka).
   - 🖋 Om Prakash Kohli - Former Governor of Gujarat.
   - 🖋 Nandamuri Taraka Ratna - Noted Telugu Actor.
   - 🖋 K.V. Tirumalesh - Noted Kannada writer.
   - 🖋 Pervez Musharraf - Pakistan's former president.
   - 🖋 B K S Varma - Noted Indian Artist (painter) from Karnataka, who portrayed mainly environment and social issues.
   - 🖋 Burt Bacharach - Noted American pop songwriter.
   - 🖋 Javed Khan Amrohi - Noted Hindi actor.
   - 🖋 Lalitha Lajmi - Noted Artist (Painter).
   - 🖋 Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat - Former first gentleman of India, as husband of Former President Pratibha Patil.
   - 🖋 Tulsidas Balaram - Noted Indian footballer. He played in two Olympics in 1956 and 1960, and was also part of Indian team that won gold in Asian Games 1962 in Jakarta.
   - 🖋 Kanak Rele - Noted Classical dance exponent from Kerala (Mohiniyattam Expert).

16. ▶ Obituaries (Jul 2023) -
   - 🖋 Oommen Chandy - Former Chief Minister of Kerala.
   - 🖋 Namboothiri - Noted Indian Artist (painter and sculptor).

- Nikki McCray-Penson - Noted American basketball player and twice olympic gold medalist.
- Ravindra Mahajani - Noted Marathi actor.
- Luis Suárez - Noted Spanish footballer.
  - Notably, different from Uruguayan footballer *Luis Suárez*.
- Tony Bennett - Noted American Pop & Jazz singer.
- Brian Taber - Former Australian Cricketer.
- Mangala Narlikar - Noted mathematician.
- Shirish Kanekar - Noted Marathi writer and Journalist.

17. Obituaries (June 2023) -
- Hardwar Dubey - Serving Member of Parliament (MP) from Uttar Pradesh and former state cabinet minister.
- Sulochana Latkar - Noted Marathi and Hindi actress.
- Cormac McCarthy - Noted American writer and Pulitzer Awardee.
- Aamir Raza Husain - Noted theatre Artist, and Padma Shri Awardee.
- Ved Kumari Ghai - Noted Sanskrit scholar from Jammu and Kashmir.
- Ama Ata Aidoo - Noted Ghanaian writer & Activist.
- Sudhi Das (Kollam Sudhi) - Noted Malayalam Actor.
- John Bannister Goodenough - Noted American scientist. He was co-inventor of Lithium-ion batteries, and also a co-winner of 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- S Rama Rao - Noted Tollywood (Telugu) choreographer, known as Rakesh Master.

18. Obituaries (March 2023) -
- Satyabrata Mookherjee - Former Union minister and noted BJP Leader from West bengal.
- Aziz Mushabber Ahmadi - Former chief justice of India.
- Girish Bapat - Former member of Parliament from Maharashtra.
- Satish Kaushik - Noted Hindi Actor & Director.
- Innocent Vareed Thekkethala - Noted Malayalam Actor and Former Parliamentarian.
- Indibor Deuri- Noted Assamese Scholar.
- Chandrashekhar Dasgupta - Noted former Indian diplomat and Padma Bhushan Awardee.
- Innocent Vareed Thekkethala - Noted Malayalam Actor (comedian).
- Gordon Moore - Amerivcan Inventor who helped start Chip maker Intel. He proposed Moore's law which predicts that number of transistors in an integrated circuit doubles about every two years.
- Pradeep Sarkar - Noted Indian filmmaker.

19. Obituaries (May 2023) -
- Tina Turner - Noted American singer, Known as the *Queen of Rock 'n' Roll*.
- Samares Majumdar - Noted Bengali writer.
- Sathyam Babu Dixithulu (known as Sarath Babu) - Noted Tamil and Telugu actor.
- Rattan Lal Kataria - Former Union Minister (from Haryana).
- Ved Kumari Ghai - Noted Sanskrit scholar (from J&K).
- Tori Bowie - Noted American Sprinter and Former 100m world champion.
- Ranajit Guha - Noted historian.
- Srichand Parmanand Hinduja - Noted Industrialist & chairman of Hinduja Group.
- Antonio Carbajal - Noted Former Mexican Footballer.
- AR Khaleel - Former Indian Football Administrator (AIFF VP).

20. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated year long celebrations commemorating **200th** birth anniversary of noted social reformer **Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati**, who founded *Arya Samaj*, a reform movement of Vedic dharma. He was born on 12th February, 1824.

21. Swimmer **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar** become fastest Indian in under 21 group to swim across *Palk Strait* from Talaimannar (Sri Lanka) to Dhanuskodi (Tamil Nadu), completing 29 Kms in in 5 hours and 30 minutes.
   - Also, IPS officer Krishna Prakash became 1st person to swim from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves (Mumbai), completing 16.20 kms in 5 hours 26 minutes.

22. UAE astronaut *Sultan Al-Neyadi* became first Arab Astronaut to undertake a spacewalk, venturing out of International Space Station (ISS) for 7 hours during Expedition 69 Mission.

       🖊 Niyadi was part of American Space exploration firm SpaceX's **Crew-6** Mission to ISS (carrying 4 Astronauts), as final of six missions it was awarded by NASA.

          🖊 Crew-6 members will stay in ISS for 6 months. The mission is SpaceX's sixth operational crew launch for NASA and its ninth human spaceflight so far.

23. ▸ Visit to India (May 2023) -

       🖊 Israeli Foreign Minister *Eli Cohen* visited India.

       🖊 *Norodom Sihamoni*, King of Cambodia visited India.

24. ▸ Visits from India (Apr 2023)-

       🖊 Union Minister Jitendra Singh visited UK.

          🖊 During the visit, India and United Kingdom partnered to jointly create *India-UK NET Zero Innovation Virtual Centre*.

          🖊 Notably, India aims to become Net Zero by 2070, while UK's aim is to become Net Zero by 2050.

       🖊 External affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited African Nations Uganda, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

          🖊 In Uganda -

             🖊 Launched EXIM Bank funded project that will supply drinking water to half a million people in 20 districts of Uganda.

             🖊 Inaugurated first overseas campus of India's National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), in Uganda.

             🖊 Launched Restoration Project for Tulsi Ghat (Varanasi).

          🖊 In Mozambique -

             🖊 Inaugurated Buzi Bridge in Mozambique, constructed by India.

       🖊 Piyush Goyal (Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles) visited Italy.

25. ▸ Visits from India (Feb 2023) -

       🖊 National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visited USA, to launch **US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)**, to boost co-operation.

26. ▸ Visits from India (July 2023) -

       🖊 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Visited Malaysia.

          🖊 Notably, he inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)'s Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur, to facilitate close defence industrial collaboration between India & Malaysia.

       🖊 Chief Election Commissioner of India *Rajiv Kumar* visited Panama, and signed MOU with Panama to establish framework for cooperation in field of electoral administration.

          🖊 CEC also visited Colombia, to attend 11th meeting of Executive Board of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) in Cartagena.

       🖊 Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visited UK, to take further ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between India and UK.

       🖊 Indian Navy Chief R Hari Kumar visited Oman.

       🖊 Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to **France** & **UAE** -

          🖊 France -

             🖊 Attended *Bastille Day* Parade (French National Day) on 14 July 2023, where a tri-services Indian armed forces contingent also participated.

               🖊 2023 also marks 25th anniversary of India - France Strategic Partnership.

             🖊 France honored Indian PM Narendra Modi with France's highest honour, the *Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour*.

               🖊 Notably, PM Narendra Modi is first Indian PM to receive France's highest award.

             🖊 Notable Agreements / Announcements during visit -

               🖊 MOUs were signed for co-operation in Digital Technologies, Civil Aviation Security, Investments, Ocean Exploration.

               🖊 Letter of Intent signed on *New National Museum and Cooperation on Museology, Broadcasting, Health and Medicine*.

               🖊 Implementing Arrangements signed for *India-France joint Earth Observation mission **TRISHNA*** & Maritime Domain Awareness short-term programme.

                  🖊 Thermal InfraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment (TRISHNA) is a joint development by French Space Agency (CNES) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), to be launched during dec 2024.

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) signed Agreement with Total Energies Gas and Power Ltd (France) to establish a long-term LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA), for import of 0.8 million tonnes a year of LNG for 10 years starting in 2026.
- Agreement between Proparco (subsidiary of French Development Agency) and India's *Satya Microfinance* for $20 million to support Satya in growing its microcredit/MSME portfolio and foster financial inclusion.
- India's NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and France's Lyra Collect signed an agreement to implement India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments system in France.
- India announced opening of its second consulate in France, which will be located in Marseille.
- India and France will jointly set up Indo-Pacific Triangular Cooperation (IPTDC) Fund aimed at supporting climate and SDG focused innovations and Start-ups from third countries of Indo-Pacific, to scale up green technologies in the region,
- Notably, during 8th Edition of Raisina Dialogue 2023 held in New Delhi, Sustainable Finance in the Indo-Pacific (SUFIP) Network was launched as a collaboration between France's Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Mumbai Based think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
  - UAE -
    - Notable Agreements / Announcements during visit -
      - MoU between RBI and UAE Central Bank for establishment of a framework to promote the use of local currencies (INR - AED) for cross-border transactions.
      - MoU between RBI and UAE Central Bank for the bilateral cooperation on interlinking their payment and messaging systems.
      - MoU to enable setting up Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) campus in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
      - Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) signed Agreement with ADNOC (UAE) to establish a long-term LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA), for import of 1.2 million tonnes a year of LNG for 14 years starting in 2026.
    - Notably,
      - India-UAE trade rose to USD 85 billion in 2022, making UAE India's third-largest trading partner for 2022-23 and India's second-largest export destination. In February 2022, India became first country with which UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
27. ▶ Visits from India (June 2023) -
    - Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's Visit to USA & Egypt -
      - USA -
        - This was PM Narendra Modi's 1st *State visit* to the US. He became 3rd Indian leader to make a State visit to US, after former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and former PM Manmohan Singh.
          - About -
            - A state visit is made by any nation's head of government or state at the invitation of US president. A leader can receive just one such invite during a US president's 4 year term.
        - PM Narendra Modi Addressed Joint Session of US Congress, becoming first Indian PM to address US Congress twice (his first address came in June 2016).
        - Agreements / Launches during the visit -
          - Space Exploration -
            - NASA and ISRO will jointly develop a strategic framework for human spaceflight cooperation by end of 2023.
              - NASA will provide advanced training to Indian astronauts at Johnson Space Center in Houston (Texas), under a planned joint mission to International Space Station in 2024.
            - India also signed *Artemis Accords*, a US-led international agreement to cooperate with NASA on peaceful, safe, sustainable, and transparent space exploration.
              - Artemis Accords is a US led effort to return humans to Moon by 2025, and to expand and deepen space exploration.
          - Semiconductors -
            - MoU signed on Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership.
            - US Firm *Micron Technology* will invest up to $825 million to build a new semiconductor assembly and test facility in Gujarat.

- *Lam Research* will also train 60000 Indian engineers through its Semiverse Solution virtual fabrication platform to accelerate India's semiconductor sector.
- *Applied Materials* will invest $400 million to establish a collaborative engineering center in India.
- Launched two Joint Task Forces on advanced telecommunications, focused on Open RAN and research and development in 5G/6G technologies.
  - Public-private cooperation between vendors and operators will be led by India's Bharat 6G Alliance and US Next G Alliance.
- *India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X)* launched during event *India and USA: Skilling for Future* held at National Science Centre in Washington DC.
  - INDUS X factsheet was released for operationalising *Defence Innovation Bridge* under *Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)*. INDUS X will facilitate joint defense technology innovation, and co-production of advanced defense technology between respective industries.
  - Notably, India and US agreed to establish a regular monitoring group to track progress in deepening cooperation in bilateral high-tech trade and technology partnership, during recently held First India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue (IUSSTD) held under India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).
- MoU signed between **General Electric** and **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** for manufacture of **GE F-414 jet engines** in India, for HAL Light Combat Aircraft Mk 2.
- India announced to procure General Atomics MQ-9B HALE UAVs (drones) from US, to enhance ISR capabilities of India's armed forces.
  - As part of this, General Atomics will establish a Comprehensive Global MRO facility in India.
- MOU signed between Indian Railways and US Agency for International Development (USAID), to support Indian Railways' target to become a *net-zero* carbon emitter by 2030.
- India announced to join US-Led *Mineral Security Partnership (MSP)*, a strategic grouping of 13 member states, which aims to catalyse public and private investment in critical mineral supply chains globally.
- Establishment of a joint Indo-U.S. Quantum Coordination Mechanism to facilitate collaboration among industry, academia, and government.
  - $2 million grant program lauched under India - US Science and Technology Endowment fund for joint development and commercialization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum technologies.
- Egypt -
  - Egypt govt conferred highest Egypt state honor on PM Narendra Modi, *'The Order of Nile Award*.
- Notable points from President Draupadi Murmu's visit to **Suriname** & **Serbia** (Her first state visit as President of India) -
- Suriname -
  - MoUs were signed -
    - MoU between Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation of India (CDSCO) and Ministry of Health of Suriname,for cooperation in field of medical products regulation.
    - MoU between Ministries of Health of India and Suriname for extending recognition to Indian pharmacopeia.
    - Joint Work plan for period 2023-27 in Agriculture and Allied sectors.
  - President Droupadi Murmu was honored with Suriname's highest honor, the *Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star*.
- Serbia -
  - India and Serbia agreed to enhance target for bilateral trade from present 3.5 Million Euros to 1 billion euros by 2030.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited South Africa and Namibia.
  - Participated in BRICS foreign ministers' meet in Cape Town (South Africa).
  - Inaugurated India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (INCEIT) in Windhoek (Namibia).
28. Visits from India (May 2023) -
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited Maldives.
  - During the visit, India handed over a Fast Patrol Vessel and a Landing Craft Assault ship to Maldives National Defence Forces.
  - He also visited Nigeria, as first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Nigeria.
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Singapore.
29. Visits to India (Apr 2023) -

- Bhutan King *Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck* visited India.
- World's most valued firm Apple's CEO Tim Cook visited India.
  - He launched Apple's first 2 official stores in India, in Mumbai (1st) & Delhi (2nd).
- Olivier Becht, French Minister of *Foreign Trade, Attractiveness and French Nationals Abroad*, visited India.

30. Visits to India (Feb 2023) -
- David Malpaas, President of World Bank Group visited India.
- Jan Christian Vestre, Minister of Trade and Industry of *Norway* visited India.
- Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of *Germany* visited India.
- Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary of *Denmark* visited India.
- Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President of *Guyana* visited India.
- Karolis Žemaitis, Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation of Lithuania visited India.

31. Visits to India (July 2023) -
- *Le Thanh Long*, Minister of Justice of Vietnam visited India.
- Masahiko Metoki (Director General of Universal Postal Union) visited India, for inauguration of UPU Regional Office in New Delhi.
  - UPU also agreed to evaluate India's UPI platform for integrating it with cross border money remittance through postal channels.
- Yasutoshi Nishimura (Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan) Visited India.
  - During the visit -
    - Japan signed agreement with India for joint development of semiconductor ecosystem and maintain resilience of its global supply chain. Japan is 2nd Quad partner after US to sign such a pact with India.
      - Maharatna PSU Power Finance Corporation (**PFC**) became first Indian PSU to be named in Japanese initiative *Asia Transition Finance Study Group* (ATFSG), to promote sustainable transition finance in Asian countries.
  - Notably, *Yoshihide Suga* (Chairman of Japan-India Association (JIA) and former PM of Japan) also visited India.
- Jorge Enrique Taiana (Defence Minister of Argentina) visited India.
  - Letter of Intent (LoI) signed with India's HAL, for productive cooperation and acquisition of Light and Medium Utility Helicopters for Argentina's armed forces.
- Ranil Wickremesinghe (President of Sri Lanka) visited India.
  - During the visit, India urged Sri Lanka to proceed with 13th Amendment to Sri Lanka Constitution, which flows from Indo-Sri Lanka Accord 1987.
    - The accord aims at amending the Sri Lankan constitution to transfer some powers such as agriculture, health etc. to country's nine provinces and find a constitutional solution to the civil war.
- Timothy Mark Masiu (Minister for ICT of Papua New Guinea) visited India.
  - During the visit, an MoU was signed Between India & Papua New Guinea, to share INDIA STACK - a collection of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to facilitate identity, data, and payment services on a large scale.

32. Visits to India (June 2023) -
- Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, French Minister of *State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships,* visited India.
- German Minister of Defence *Boris Pistorius* visited India.
- Vietnam's Defence Minister *Gen Phan Van Giang* visited India.
  - During the visit, India announced to gift Indian Navy's in-service missile corvette **INS Kirpan** to Vietnam.
  - INS Kirpan is 3rd indigenously built *Khukri class* missile corvette. Other corvettes in class are Khukri, Kuthar & Khanjar.
- Prime Minister of Nepal, *Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda* visited India. Notable agreements signed during visit -
  - Finalised Agreement for Long-Term Power Trade, to increase export of power from Nepal to India to 10000 MW within 10 years.
  - India's NHPC Limited and Nepal's Vidhyut Utpadan Company Limited (VUCL) signed MoU for development of Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project (480MW) in Nepal.
  - Project Development Agreement signed for development of 669 MW Lower Arun between Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and Investment Board of Nepal (IBN).
    - Notably, 1st SJVN project in Nepal is already under-construction 900-MW Arun -III hydroelectric project, on Arun River.
  - To enhance digital financial connectivity, MoU was signed between NPCI (India) and NCHL (Nepal), for facilitating cross-border digital payments.

🖊 Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi (Minister of State for Foreign Trade of UAE) visited India, to attend 1st Meeting of Joint Committee of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which was signed in Feb 2022.

    🖊 During the meet, India and UAE have set target to boost non-oil bilateral trade from USD 48 billion to USD 100 billion by 2030.

Science

1. ▶ *Martin Foundation*, *Dr APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation* and *Space Zone India* jointly launched *APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission 2023,* from Pattipolam village of Chengalpattu district in Tamil Nadu.
   - 🖊 Under it, over 5000 students from Grades 6-12 from across country will be enabled to develop 150 PICO satellites. Also, India's first hybrid sounding rocket was launched during the occasion, by private players.

2. ▶ American Space exploration firm SpaceX launched **Crew-6** Mission to International Space Station (carrying 4 Astronauts), as final of six missions it was awarded by NASA.
   - 🖊 Crew-6 members will stay in space station for 6 months. The mission is SpaceX's sixth operational crew launch for NASA and its ninth human spaceflight so far.
   - 🖊 Notably, The mission includes UAE Astronaut *Sultan Al Neyadi*, who is one of the first two astronauts from UAE, along with Hazza Al Mansouri.

3. ▶ American space infrastructure developer firm Axiom Space 's Axiom Mission 2 (**Ax-2**) to International Space Station (ISS) has been launched onboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
   - 🖊 The mission was aimed at research for cancer, cloud seeding, and microgravity in space.
   - 🖊 Notably, crew included Saudi Arabian Astranauts Ali AlQarni & Rayyanah Barnawi.

4. ▶ Archaeologists discovered a 4000-year-old sanctuary made up of ditches and burial mounds, in **Netherlands**.
   - 🖊 It is believed to have served a similar purpose as Stonehenge (England), which was built to align with the sun on the solstices.

5. ▶ Archaeologists discovered a statue of Lord Buddha dating back to Roman era, in ancient Egyptian seaport of Berenike, as new evidence of trade links between Egypt and India during Roman times.

6. ▶ Astronomers discovered 12 new moons orbiting around **Jupiter** (Solar System's biggest planet), bringing known total of Jupiter's moons to **92**. This leaves Saturn at 2nd place with 83 moons.

7. ▶ Chinese firm LandSpace launched world's first *methane-liquid oxygen space rocket* into orbit, named **Zhuque-2**.

8. ▶ European Space Agency (ESA) launched **Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE)** mission, from French Guiana.
   - 🖊 The explorer will reach Jupiter in 2031, to study 3 Galilean moons of Jupiter - **Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa**. These are thought to have significant bodies of liquid water beneath their icy surfaces which would make them potentially habitable environments.
   - 🖊 Notably, NASA will also launch its Europa Clipper in October 2023, to study Jupiter's Europa moon.

9. ▶ European Space Agency (ESA)'s **Euclid** Spacecraft has been launched onboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket.
   - 🖊 Euclid spacecraft carries a wide-angle space telescope with a 600-megapixel camera to record visible light and a near-infrared spectrometer and photometer to determine redshift of detected galaxies. It aims to shed light on mysterious cosmic unseen forces known as dark energy and dark matter.
   - 🖊 It is named after *Euclid,* an ancient Greek mathematician Considered as *father of geometry*.

10. ▶ Geological Survey of India confirmed Discovery of **5.9 million tons** of inferred **lithium** resources in Jammu and Kashmir.
    - 🖊 This can be helpful for India as Lithium is one of key components of batteries for electric vehicles (EVs), solar panels, and wind turbines.
    - 🖊 This has put India among top 7 nations with largest Lithium Reserves (in Million Tonnes) -
      - 🖊 Bolivia - 21
      - 🖊 Argentina - 19
      - 🖊 US - 12
      - 🖊 Chile - 11
      - 🖊 Australia - 7.9
      - 🖊 China - 6.8
      - 🖊 India - 5.9
    - 🖊 Resources have been identified in Salal-Haimana area of Reasi district in Jammu and Kashmir, known to be seismically active area, making it a high-damage risk zone. Therefore, Environmentalists are concerned that mining in a geologically and ecologically

sensitive region could lead to disastrous impacts.

11. ▶ Google unveiled experimental conversation AI service called **Bard**, as a rival to chatbot ChatGPT, which is created by microsoft-backed firm OpenAI.
   - 🔧 Chinese search engine Baidu also launched its ChatGPT rival chatbot called *Ernie (*Enhanced Representation through Knowledge Integration).

12. ▶ IIT Madras received grant of 242 crores for 5 years from department of commerce, to promote R&D on lab-grown diamonds (LGD), in line with 2023-24 Budget recommendation.
   - 🔧 LGD diamonds are environment-friendly, having optically and chemically same properties as natural diamonds, and will reduce import dependancy.

13. ▶ ISRO & NASA's jointly developed Earth-observation satellite **NISAR** (*NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar*) has been handed over to ISRO by NASA, for Launch from India in Sep 2023.
   - 🔧 NISAR has been jointly built by ISRO & NASA under a partnership agreement signed in 2014.
   - 🔧 This 2800 kilograms satellite consists of both L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) instruments, which makes it a dual-frequency imaging radar satellite.
     - 🔧 While NASA provided L-band radar, GPS, a high-capacity solid-state recorder to store data, and a payload data subsystem, ISRO has provided S-band radar, GSLV launch system and spacecraft.
   - 🔧 ISRO will use NISAR for a variety of purposes including agricultural mapping, and monitoring of glaciers in the Himalayas, landslide-prone areas and changes in the coastline.

14. ▶ ISRO Launched India's 3rd Lunar Mission **Chandrayaan-3,** onboard LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark 3) Launcher (earlier known as GSLV Mk III), from Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
   - 🔧 The mission has a lander named **Vikram** and a **rover** named Pragyan similar to Chandrayaan-2, but does not have an orbiter. The lander and rover are expected to land near lunar south pole region on 23 August 2023.
   - 🔧 Chandrayaan-3 mission, which costs approx 615 Crores, is a Follow-up of Chandrayaan-2, where a last-minute glitch in landing guidance software led to lander crashing after entering lunar orbit, in Sep 2019.

15. ▶ ISRO Launched its **PSLV-C55** commercial mission from SDSC-SHAR (Sriharikota), carrying **TeLEOS-2** and **Lumelite-4** satellites from Singapore.

16. ▶ ISRO Launched its **PSLV-C56** Rocket as a commercial launch, from SDSC-SHAR Sriharikota.
   - 🔧 It carried **DS-SAR** satellite into its orbit, along with 6 co-passenger satellites (all from Singapore).
   - 🔧 DS-SAR satellite will be used to support satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within Government of Singapore.

17. ▶ ISRO announced to launch its **XPoSat** (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) mission later in 2023, as India's first (and world's 2nd) dedicated polarimetry mission to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions.
   - 🔧 Payloads will include *POLIX* (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays, Developed by Raman Research Institute (RRI)) & *XSPECT* (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing).
   - 🔧 Other such mission is NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), which was launched in 2021.

18. ▶ ISRO launched its **GSLV-F12** Mission from SDSC-SHAR (Sriharikota), to deploy **NVS-01** navigation satellite, weighing about 2232 kg, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
   - 🔧 NVS-01 is first of 2nd generation satellites envisaged for Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) services. NVS satellites will sustain and augment NavIC with enhanced features. For first time, an indigenous atomic clock was flown in NVS-01.

19. ▶ ISRO successfully carried out second developmental flight of **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2),** carrying 3 satellites into their intended orbits - *EOS-07, Janus-1 and AzaadiSAT-2* (450 km circular orbit). Launch was carried out from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota).
   - 🔧 SSLV is new small satellite launch vehicle developed by ISRO to cater launch of small satellites up to 500 kg to Low Earth Orbits.
   - 🔧 About launched satelluttes -
     - 🔧 EOS-07 - ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite.
     - 🔧 Janus-1 - World's First Cloud-Built Tech Demonstration Satellite, developed by ANTARIS.
     - 🔧 AzaadiSAT-2 - A satellite realised by *Space Kidz India*, by integrating various scientific payloads developed by 750 girl students across India.

20. ▶ ISRO's LVM3 (*Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III*), launch vehicle successfully launched 36 satellites of UK-Based satellite broadband Internet services firm **OneWeb,** into intended 450 km orbit.
   - 🔧 With this, ISRO's NSIL has successfully executed its contract to launch 72 satellites of OneWeb to Low Earth Orbit.
   - 🔧 Launch was carried out from from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).

21. ▶ India's AI Supercomputer **AIRAWAT PSAI** (installed at C-DAC Pune) has been ranked **75th** globally, in latest Top 500 Global Supercomputing List releasd at International Supercomputing Conference 2023 in Germany.
   - 🖌 AIRAWAT PSAI (AI Research Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform) gives sustained compute capacity of **8.5 Petaflops (**Double Precision, **Rmax)**. The peak compute capacity (Double Precision, **Rpeak**) is **13.17 Petaflops**.
      - 🖌 Notably, Mixed Precision peak compute capacity is 200 AI for AIRAWAT, planned to be enhanced to 1000 AI Petaflops.
   - 🖌 Other 3 Indian Supercomputers on List -
      - 🖌 PARAM Siddhi-AI (131) - Installed at Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Pune, with RPeak of 5.27 Petaflops.
      - 🖌 Pratyush (169) - Installed at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, with RPeak of 4.01 Petaflops.
      - 🖌 Mihir (316) - Installed at National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, with RPeak of 2.81 Petaflops
   - 🖌 Top 3 Globally (with Rmax/Rpeak capacity in Petaflops) -
      - 🖌 Frontier (Oak Ridge National Laboratory, US) - 1194 / 1680
      - 🖌 Fugaku (RIKEN Center for Computational Science, Japan) - 442/537
      - 🖌 Lumi (Finland) - 309/428
   - 🖌 Notably, India announced to acquire its fastest Supercomputer by March 2024, with RPeak of 18 Petaflops. It will be used to improve weather forecasting.
22. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced to transfer its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) technology to private sector, which can carry payloads upto 500 kg to a 500 km orbit.
   - 🖌 This will help meet growing demand of launch services for nanosatellites (under 10 kg) and micro-satellites (under 100 kg).
23. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) tested **Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission** (RLV LEX), successfully landing in Autonomous mode, at Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga (Karnataka).
   - 🖌 This autonomous landing was executed in conditions similar to that of a Space Re-entry vehicle's landing, which involves high-speed, unmanned and precise landing on same return path.
24. ▶ Misc. Science News (April 2023) -
   - 🖌 India's first cloned Cow named *Ganga,* has been produced at Haryana-based National Dairy Research Institute (ICAR-NDRI).
      - 🖌 Gir cow breed is native tract in Gujarat and is popular for its docile nature, disease-resistance, heat-tolerance and high milk producing qualities.
   - 🖌 Microsoft added new functionality called *Image Creator* in latest preview of its Bing and Edge Browsers, which enables users to generate an image based on their written description, by utilizing an enhanced version of Open AI's DALL-E model.
   - 🖌 World's first mountain-top Lifi laser 5G internet has been tested in Ladakh, led by Innovator Sonam Wangchuk.
      - 🖌 LiFi (Light Fidelity), utilises flickering lights to mimic digital signals, bringing high-speed internet to areas once thought unreachable.
   - 🖌 Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) partnered with IIT Bombay, to develop a robust touchless biometric capture system for easier anytime / anywhere usage.
   - 🖌 Kenya's first operational Earth observation satellite **Taifa-1** has been launched into space, onboard a SpaceX rocket.
   - 🖌 China launched *Fengyun-3* meteorological satellite into orbit, onboard a Chang Zheng-4B carrier rocket.
   - 🖌 IIT Indore researchers in collaboration with NASA-Caltech, University of Gothenburg (Sweden) developed a low-cost camera setup which can provide multispectral imaging of four chemical species in a flame using single DSLR camera.
   - 🖌 Israel launched *Ofek-13* spy satellite, intended to provide advanced intelligence capabilities to Israeli military and intelligence agencies.
   - 🖌 Researchers at NASA's Johnson Space Center successfully extracted oxygen from simulated lunar soil, acheiveing this in a vacuum environment for the first time, paving the way for astronauts to extract and use resources in a lunar environment, called in-situ resource utilization.
   - 🖌 IIT Kanpur based cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub named *C3iHub,* supported by Department of Science and Technology's NM-ICPS Mission, launched its Cybersecurity Skilling Programme, to provide learners with a deeper understanding of technical basics of cyberspace and cyber issues.
   - 🖌 Norwegian ferry operator Norled launched world's first liquid hydrogen-powered vessel named *MF Hydra*, as a step towards sustainable ferry travel.
   - 🖌 Skyroot Aerospace, India's first private rocket builder, tested first 3D-printed cryogenic engine *Dhawan-II*.
25. ▶ Misc. Science News (July 2023) -

- Geological Survey of India Researchers discovered India's biggest natural arch dating back to 184 - 160 million years (lower to middle Jurassic age), During coal exploration in Kenduadihi block in Odisha's Sundargarh district.
- Bengaluru based *Elena Geo Systems* launched India's first hand-held NavIC (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System) based navigation device, capable of providing precise directions in tasks related to several infrastructure projects, priced at Rs 6000.
- *Odisha TV* unveiled India's first regional AI (Artificial intelligence) news anchor named *Lisa*.
- IT Firm Dell Technologies and chip maker *Intel* partnered to launch artificial intelligence (AI) lab in India, by assisting Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology (Telangana) in *demystifying AI for the next-gen* by integrating Intel's *AI for Youth* programme.
- Microsoft researchers claimed discovery of an elusive particle that could boost quantum computing.
  - Quantum computers process information using quantum bits, or qubits, but current iterations can be prone to error.
  - Newly discovered quasiparticles, called *Majorana zero modes,* are collective vibrations that act as their own antiparticle and have a charge and energy that equate to zero. It makes them resilient to disturbances, so they could make unprecedentedly reliable qubits.
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (*INCOIS*) organized a joint expedition of ocean scientists from India, Bangladesh and Mauritius onboard India's research vessel *Sagar Nidhi*, under regional framework of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), to build capacity in ocean observation and help manage changes in regional environment of Indian Ocean.

26. ▶ Misc. Science News (June 2023) -
- India conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters, for a flight from Juhu to Pune using GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) satellite technology.
  - GAGAN is a space-based augmentation system for providing best possible navigational services over Indian FIR (Flight Information Region),with capability of expanding to neighbouring FIRs. It was jointly developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- As per a new research, Homo naledi, an ancient human species with brains about one-third the size of modern humans, engaged in burial practices and created engravings deep within a cave system in southern Africa around 300000 years ago. This challenge the assumption that larger brains are directly linked to higher intelligence.
  - These new claims are made by American-South African Paleoanthropologist Lee Berger, known for his initial discovery of Homo naledi in 2013 within Rising Star cave system near Johannesburg.
- Archaeologists discovered 1000 years old Dwarapala (door keeper of Lord Vishnu) sculptures in Malyala village in Siddipet district (Telangaga), as biggest such findings reported so far.
- IIT Madras Researchers developed a low-cost mobile air pollution monitoring framework under Project *Kaatru.*
  - Traditional method of measuring air quality through monitoring stations needs improvement as air pollution can vary within a few hundred meters, and also at different times of the day.
  - Under new IoT-based mobile air pollution monitoring technology derived by IIT Madras, pollution sensors mounted on public vehicles can dynamically monitor air quality of an extended area at high spatial and temporal resolution.

27. ▶ Misc. Science News / Events (Feb 2023) -
- *IEEE C-DOT Certified Telecom Expert Program (ICCTEP)* has been launched, as collaboration of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics), to upgrade skills in areas of Telecom, including 5G, Cyber Security and Quantum Communication.
- Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR) partnered with Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru (IISc) to promote research and development in field of on-chip Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Protection.
- IT Giant IBM partnered with US Space Agency NASA, to enable use of AI tech developed by IBM to gain new insights on Earth's climate, using NASA's Earth observation and geospatial data.
- *Rayyana Barnawi* will become 1st Saudi Arabian woman astronaut to go in space, on a 10-day mission to International Space Station (ISS), aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft.
- New beetle species have been discovered in India, named *Omorgus Khandesh*. It is necrophagous and also called a keratin beetle.
- Chip maker Intel launched new Xeon W-3400 and Xeon W-2400 desktop workstation processors (code-named Sapphire Rapids), built for professional creators to provide high performance.
- Financial technology startup Velocity launched India's first AI chatbot **Lexi**, integrated with OpenAI's ChatGPT, to assist e-commerce owners by presenting them with business information in a simplified manner.
- Facebook parent Meta released its new large language model called **LLaMA**, to help researchers explore applications for AI such as answering questions / summarizing documents.

28. ▶ Misc. Science News / Events (Mar 2023) -
   - 🔩 China launched *Zhongxing-26* communication satellite onboard Long March 3B rocket.
   - 🔩 As an Environment Friendly Initiative, India's First Truck that runs on M100 (100 % Methanol), has been launched in Bangalore, under a partnership between IOCL, IISc and Ashok Leyland. It is India's first and world's second 100% Methanol (M100) prototype truck.
     - 🔩 Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation also launched buses using MD-15 (15% methanol blended HSD).
   - 🔩 Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) researchers discovered a new species of Moray Eel fish from Cuddalore coast in Tamil Nadu, named *Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis*.
   - 🔩 India's first quantum computing-based telecom network link has been made operational between Sanchar Bhawan and National Informatics Centre office in New Delhi, with 10 lakh prize money for ethical hackers who can break the encryption of the system.
29. ▶ Misc. Science News / Events (May 2023) -
   - 🔩 Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated *Integrated Biological Control Laboratory* at National Institute of Plant Health Management (Hyderabad).
   - 🔩 As a step towards decarbonisation of aviation sector, Airline AirAsia operated India's first commercial passenger flight using an indigenously produced Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blend supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL).
   - 🔩 ISRO announced a new introductory-level online training programme *Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)*, aimed at postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of Physical Sciences and Technology.
   - 🔩 Russian Financial Firm Sberbank launched its AI chatbot GigaChat, to rival OpenAI's much talked about ChatGPT.
   - 🔩 A 5000 year old Patagonian cypress tree in Chile has been officially recognized as world's oldest, located in Alerce Costero National Park. It has been nicknamed Great Grandfather.
   - 🔩 Pune based MIT-World Peace University launched Asia's first Subsea Research Lab, called Centre for Subsea Engineering Research (CSER), showcasing a working prototype of deep-water offshore petroleum operations.
   - 🔩 NASA and IT Firm IBM partnered to develop new artificial intelligence (AI) foundation models to help analyze geospatial satellite data, to help better understand and tackle climate change.
   - 🔩 IT Firm Infosys launched Topaz, as comprehensive suite of services & solutions, that harness power of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI).
30. ▶ NASA launched *Intelsat-40e* geostationary communications satellite, atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
   - 🔩 Notably, *Intelsat-40e* also features payload called Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring Pollution (**TEMPO**), which is designed to measure air pollution across greater North America on hourly basis.
31. ▶ Researchers from *Australian National University* proposed existence of fifth layer of Earth, as its Innermost inner core (apart from earlier known cores - crust, mantle, outer core & inner core).
   - 🔩 Researchers measured speeds at which these seismic waves penetrate and pass through Earth's inner core, using data from about 200 magnitude-6 and above earthquakes from last decade.
   - 🔩 Newly discovered layer is a solid *metallic ball* that sits within center of the inner core.
32. ▶ Sweden announced to build world's first permanent electrified road for Electric Vehicles to charge while driving, to be built by 2025.
   - 🔩 Earlier, European Union countries had approved a landmark law, mandating all new cars sold to have zero CO2 emissions from 2035, and 55% lower CO2 emissions from 2030 (versus 2021 levels).
   - 🔩 Notably, EU aims to be climate-neutral by 2050.
33. ▶ Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launched **Skye UTM** advanced unmanned traffic management system, developed by Drone Delivery Service *Skye Air*. It is capable of handling 4000 flights per hour and 96000 flights per day.
   - 🔩 Skye UTM is a Cloud-based aerial traffic management system that integrates unmanned air traffic with the manned aviation airspace.
34. ▶ US Space Agency NASA announced to launch its **MARS** Mission **Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers (EscaPADE)** in late 2024, as part of NASA's SIMPLEx (*Small Innovative Missions for Planetary Exploration*) program.
   - 🔩 To be launched onboard Jeff Bezos-led **Blue Origin**'s *New Glenn heavy-lift launch vehicle,* ESCAPADE will study Martian magnetosphere and how solar wind affected MARS atmosphere.
35. ▶ US Space Exploration Firm SpaceX's giant new **Starship** rocket exploded shortly after launch, after booster failed to peel away from spacecraft after liftoff.
   - 🔩 Starship is a super heavy-lift space vehicle under development by SpaceX. It has 120 metres height and liftoff mass of 5000 metric tons, making it largest and most powerful rocket ever flown.
36. ▶ Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated Asia's largest **4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope** at Devasthal (Uttarakhand), to enable exploration of deep celestial sky.

- ✎ The telescope is located at altitude of 2450 metre at Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES).

Sports

1. ▶ 2023 **Swiss Open Badminton** -
   - ✎ Men's singles - Koki Watanabe (Japan)
   - ✎ Women's singles - Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand)
   - ✎ Men's doubles - **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty (India)**
   - ✎ Women's doubles - Rena Miyaura & Ayako Sakuramoto (Japan)

2. ▶ India's **Murali Sreeshankar** Won Bronze Medal by finishing 3rd in men's **long jump** event at **Paris Diamond League 2023,** with 8.09 meters jump.
   - ✎ Notably -
     - ✎ This is first ever medal for India in long jump at Diamond League events.
     - ✎ National Long jump record in India is 8.42 m (Jeswin Aldrin), who went past Murali Sreeshankar's earlier record of 8.36 m.
     - ✎ Also, This is 2nd Medal for India in *2023 Diamond League Meets*, after Neeraj Chopra's Gold in Doha Diamond League, with throw of 88.67 meters.

3. ▶ 2022 **FIFA Club World Cup** (Hosted in *Morocco*) -
   - ✎ Spanish Club **Real Madrid** won the title (their 5th), defeating Saudi Arabian club *Al-Hilal* in final.
   - ✎ Notably, FIFA approved format changes for *Club World Cup*, which will be played every four years beginning 2025, and with 32 teams. Last edition of tournament to be played with old format (Biennial, 7 teams) will take place in Saudi Arabia in December 2023.

4. ▶ 2023 *Southeast Asian Games* (Phnom Penh, Cambodia) (*held in May 2023*) -
   - ✎ Medal Table -
     - ✎

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**Vietnam**	136	105	118	359
2	**Thailand**	108	96	108	312
3	**Indonesia**	87	80	109	276
4	**Cambodia**	81	74	127	282
5	**Philippines**	58	85	117	260

5. ▶ 2023 **ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup** Cricket (Hosted by **Sri Lanka**) -
   - ✎ **Pakistan A** won the title (their 2nd), defeating *India A* in final.

6. ▶ 2023 **Argentina Open** Men's Tennis -
   - ✎ Singles - Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
   - ✎ Doubles - Italy's Simone Bolelli & Fabio Fognini

7. ▶ 2023 **Asian Athletics Championships** (*Bangkok, Thailand*) -
   - ✎ Medal Table -
     - ✎

Rank	teams	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Japan	16	11	10	37
2	China	8	8	6	22
3	**India**	**6**	**12**	**9**	**27**
4	Sri Lanka	3	2	3	8
5	Qatar	2	1	1	4

   - ✎ India ranked **3rd,** with 27 medals (including 6 Gold). Indian Gold Medalists -
     - ✎ Ajay Kumar Saroj - Men's 1500 metres
     - ✎ Abdulla Aboobacker - Men's Triple jump
     - ✎ Tajinderpal Singh Toor - Men's Shot put
     - ✎ Jyothi Yarraji India - Women's 100 metres hurdles
     - ✎ Parul Chaudhary - Women's 3000 metres steeplechase
     - ✎ 4×400 metres relay Team - Rajesh Ramesh, Aishwarya Kailash Mishra, Amoj Jacob, Subha Venkatesan

8. ▶ 2023 **Asian Fencing Championships** (Wuxi, China)

✎ Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**Japan**	4	1	4	9
2	**South Korea**	3	5	4	12
3	**China**	2	3	6	11
4	**Hong Kong**	1	1	6	8
5	**Iran**	1	1	1	3

✎ India ranked 9th, winning 1 Bronze Medal.

✎ Medal was won by **C A Bhavani Devi**, making her first Indian fencer to win a medal at Asian Fencing Championships.

9. ▶ 2023 **Asian U20 Athletics Championships** (Hosted in Yecheon (South Korea)) -

✎ Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Japan	14	4	5	23
2	China	11	5	3	19
3	**India**	6	7	6	19
4	Uzbekistan	4	4	1	9
5	Chinese Taipei	3	4	6	13

✎ India Gold Medalists -

   ✎ Men -

   ✎ Siddharth Choudhry (Shot put)

   ✎ Bhartpreet Singh (Discus throw)

   ✎ Sunil Kumar (Decathlon)

   ✎ Women -

   ✎ Rezoana Mallick Heena (400 metres)

   ✎ Laxita Sandilea (1500 metres)

   ✎ 4×400 m Relay (Team Event)

10. ▶ 2023 **Badminton Asia Championships** (Hosted in Dubai (UAE) and sponsored by Cryptocurrency *Floki*)

✎ Men's singles - Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)

✎ Women's singles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)

✎ Men's doubles - **India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty**

✎ Women's doubles - Japan's Yuki Fukushima & Sayaka Hirota

✎ Mixed doubles - China's Jiang Zhenbang & Wei Yaxin

11. ▶ 2023 **Badminton Asia Junior Championships** (Indonesia) -

✎ Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**China**	3	2	4	9
2	**Japan**	2	1	1	4
3	**Indonesia**	1	1	2	4

12. ▶ 2023 **Canada Open Badminton -**

✎ Men's singles - **Lakshya Sen (India).** He defeated Li Shifeng (China) in final.

✎ Women's singles - Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)

✎ Men's doubles - Denmark's Kim Astrup & Anders Skaarup Rasmussen

✎ Women's doubles - Japan's Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida

✎ Mixed doubles - Japan's Hiroki Midorikawa & Natsu Saito

13. ▶ 2023 **FIBA 3x3 World Cup** (Vienna, Austria) -

✎ US stayed at top of Table with 2 medals (1 Gold & 1 Silver).

✎ Serbia won Gold in Men's category, while US won Gold in Women's.

- About -
    - 3x3 basketball is a variation of basketball played three-a-side, with one backboard and in a half-court setup.
14. 2023 **FIFA U-20 Football World Cup** (Hosted by *Argentina*) **-**
    - **Uruguay** won the title (their 1st), defeating Italy in Final. Israel & South Korea remained at 3rd & 4th places respectively.
15. 2023 **French Open Tennis** (Paris, France) Winners -
    - Men's singles - **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)**. He defeated Casper Ruud (Norway) in final.
        - This was Novak Djokovic's 3rd French Open title and his record-breaking 23rd men's singles major title overall, surpassing record previously held jointly with Rafael Nadal.
    - Women's singles - Iga Świątek (Poland). She defeated Karolína Muchová (Czech Republic) in final.
        - This was Iga Świątek's 4th grand slam title.
    - Men's doubles - Ivan Dodig (Croatia) & Austin Krajicek (US)
    - Women's doubles - Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) & Wang Xinyu (China)
    - Mixed doubles - Miyu Kato (Japan) / Tim Pütz (Germany)
    - Boys' singles -Dino Prižmić (Croatia)
    - Girls' singles - Alina Korneeva (Russia)
16. 2023 **ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup** (Hosted in South Africa) **-**
    - **Australia** won the title (their 6th), defeating South Africa in Final.
    - Australia's *Ashleigh Gardner* was named Player of the series.
17. 2023 **Indonesia Open Badminton** -
    - Men's singles - Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
    - Women's singles - Chen Yufei (China)
    - Men's doubles - **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty (India)**
    - Women's doubles - Baek Ha-na & Lee So-hee (South Korea)
    - Mixed doubles - Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong (China)
18. 2023 **Intercontinental Football Cup** (Hosted in Bhubaneswar (India)) **-**
    - **India** won the Title (Their 2nd), beating Lebanon in the final.
    - Other 2 teams in 4 nations tournament were Vanuatu, Mongolia.
19. 2023 **Madrid Open** Tennis (Spain) -
    - Men's singles - Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
    - Women's singles - Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
    - Men's doubles - Karen Khachanov (Russia) / Andrey Rublev (Russia)
    - Women's doubles - Victoria Azarenka (Belarus) & Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil)
20. 2023 **Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup** (Hosted in Salalah, Oman) -
    - **India** won the title (their 4th), defeating Pakistan in final.
21. 2023 **Miami Open Tennis** Winners (Miami, US) -
    - Men's singles - Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
    - Women's singles - Petra Kvitová (Czech Republic)
    - Men's doubles - Santiago González (Mexico) & Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)
    - Women's doubles - Coco Gauff (US) & Jessica Pegula (US)
22. 2023 **Qatar Open** Men's Tennis -
    - Singles - Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
        - Notably, Russian Athletes have to participate as independent athletes, as Russia has been suspended from most sports federations due to war in Ukraine.
    - Doubles - **Rohan Bopanna (India)** & Matthew Ebden (Australia).
23. 2023 **SAFF Football Championship** (Hosted in Bangalore, India) -
    - **India** won the title (9th), defeating *Kuwait* in final.
    - India's *Sunil Chhetri* remained Top scorer & was named Best player.
24. 2023 **Spain Masters Badminton** -
    - Men's singles - Kenta Nishimoto (Japan)
    - Women's singles - Gregoria Mariska Tunjung (Indonesia). She defeated India's P. V. Sindhu in final.
    - Men's doubles - China's He Jiting & Zhou Haodong

- Women's doubles - China's Liu Shengshu & Tan Ning
- Mixed doubles - Denmark's Mathias Christiansen & Alexandra Bøje

25. ▶ 2023 **Women's Hockey Junior Asia Cup** (Kakamigahara, Japan) -
- **India** won the title (their 1st), defeating *South Korea* in Final.

26. ▶ 2023 **World Aquatics Championships** (Fukuoka, Japan) -
- MedaL Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**China**	20	8	12	40
2	**Australia**	15	9	6	30
3	**United States**	7	22	15	44
4	**Japan**	4	1	5	10
5	**France**	4	0	4	8

- India did not win any medal at the Event.
- Next (2024) World Aquatics Championships shall be hosted by *Doha (Qatar).*

27. ▶ 2023 **World Archery Youth Championships** (Limerick, Ireland) -
- Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	South Korea	6	4	1	11
2	**India**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**11**
3	USA	3	3	4	10
4	France	1	1	1	3
	Mexico	1	1	1	3

- India ranked **2nd,** with 11 medals. Noticeable Indian Gold medalists -
  - Men's individual (Recurve) - Parth Suhant Salunkhe
  - Men's individual (Compound) - Priyansh
  - Women's individual (Compound) - Aditi Gopichand

28. ▶ 2023 **World Para Athletics Championships** (Paris, France) -
- Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**China**	16	16	13	45
2	**Brazil**	14	13	20	47
3	**United States**	10	14	15	39
4	**Great Britain**	10	8	11	29
5	**Ukraine**	10	6	6	22

- India ranked **19th**, with 10 Medals (3 Gold, 4 Silver & 3 Bronze). This is India's best ever medal tally at World Para Athletics Championships.
  - Indian Gold Medalists -
    - Sumit Antil (Jevelin Throw, (F-64))
      - He broke his own world record in javelin throw event, with a throw of 70.83 meters.
    - Ajeeth Singh (Jevelin Throw, (F-46))
    - Sachin Khilari Men's Shot Put (F-46)

29. ▶ 2023 IBA **Men's World Boxing** Championships (Tashkent, Uzbekistan) -
- Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**Uzbekistan**	5	2	2	9
2	**Kazakhstan**	4	1	0	5
3	**Russia**	2	0	4	6

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
4	**Cuba**	1	3	2	6
5	**France**	1	1	1	3

🖊 India won 3 Medals (3 Bronze), ranking 12th (Jointly with Spain). Indian Medalists -

  🖊 Mohammad Hussamuddin (Featherweight)

  🖊 Nishant Dev (Light middleweight)

  🖊 Deepak Bhoria (Flyweight)

30. ▶ 2023 IBA **Women's World Boxing Championships** (Hosted in **New Delhi**) -

🖊

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	4	0	0	4
2	China	3	1	3	7
3	Russia	1	1	1	3
4	Italy	1	1	0	2
5	Brazil	1	0	1	2
	Morocco	1	0	1	2

🖊 Notably -

  🖊 **India** topped the medal tally for the first time after 2006.

  🖊 Indian Gold Medalists -

    🖊 Minimumweight - Nitu Ghanghas

    🖊 Light flyweight - Nikhat Zareen

    🖊 Middleweight - Lovlina Borgohain

    🖊 Light heavyweight - Saweety Boora

31. ▶ 2023 ISSF World Cup (Lonato, Italy) (Stage 11) -

🖊 Notably, Calendar for 2023 ISSF World Cup include 12 stages, with final to be held in Doha (Qatar) in Nov 2023.

🖊 Overall medal table so far -

  🖊

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**China**	9	2	2	13
2	**United States**	8	5	3	16
3	**Kazakhstan**	5	6	4	15
4	**Hungary**	5	4	0	9
5	**India**	**5**	**2**	**10**	**17**

🖊 Notable Indian Gold medalists in ISSF World cup so far -

  🖊 Rudrankksh Patil - Men's 10m Air Rifle (Cairo)

  🖊 Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar - Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (Cairo)

  🖊 Sarabjot Singh - Men's 10m Air Pistol (Bhopal)

32. ▶ 2023 Open Aix Provence Men's Tennis (France) -

🖊 Singles - Andy Murray (UK)

🖊 Doubles - Australia's Jason Kubler & John Peers

33. ▶ 3rd **Khelo India Winter Games** (Held in Gulmarg, J&K) -

🖊 **J&K** topped the medal tally with 76 Medals (including 26 Gold), followed by Maharashtra & Himachal Pradesh.

🖊 Also, 40 Khelo India Centers were launched across J&K.

34. ▶ 3rd **Khelo Indian University Games** (KIUG) 2022 organized in various cities across Uttar Pradesh.

🖊 Overall Top 3 -

  🖊 Panjab University (Chandigarh)

  🖊 Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar (GNDU)

  🖊 Jain University (Karnataka)

🖊 Notably,

  🖊 Number of sports disciplines to feature in this edition is 21 (highest ever). Rowing sport was introduced for the first-time.

35. ▶ 5 Former Indian Cricketers have been accorded Honorary Life Membership of England's Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). These are - MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami.

36. ▶ *The Best FIFA Football Awards 2022* (Hosted in Paris (France) -
   - The Best FIFA Player -
     - Men's - Lionel Messi (Argentina)
     - Women's - Alexia Putellas (Spain)
   - The Best FIFA Coach -
     - Men's - Lionel Scaloni (Argentina)
     - Women's - Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands)
   - The Best FIFA Goalkeeper -
     - Men's - Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)
     - Women's - Mary Earps (England)
   - FIFA Puskás Award - Marcin Oleksy (Poland)
   - The Best FIFA Special Award - Pelé (Brazil)

37. ▶ *Triveni Continental Kings* won 1st edition of *Global Chess League,* world's first franchise-based chess league, held at Dubai (UAE).
   - It has been jointly organized by FIDE (International Chess Federation) and Indian IT firm Tech Mahindra.
   - League has 6 teams, with 6 players each.

38. ▶ **1st Women's Premier League** (TATA WPL 2023) -
   - It was 1st season of BCCI's women's franchise Twenty20 cricket league, featuring 5 teams.
   - **Mumbai Indians** won the Title, defeating Delhi Capitals in final.
   - Facts -
     - Viacom 18 acquired media rights for Women's IPL (WPL) for 951 crores, for five years.
     - India's Smriti Mandhana became most expensive player at inaugural WPL, after being acquired by Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for 3.4 crores.
     - Noted India Former Tennis Player Sania Mirza has been named mentor of Royal Challengers Bangalore for inaugural WPL.

39. ▶ **2023 Asian Wrestling Championships** (Astana, Kazakhstan) -
   - Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Kazakhstan	7	4	9	20
2	Japan	6	4	10	20
3	Iran	6	3	4	13
4	Kyrgyzstan	5	3	6	14
5	China	2	4	6	12
6	Uzbekistan	1	5	5	11
7	**India**	**1**	**3**	**10**	**14**

   - Notable Indian Medalists -
     - Gold -
       - Aman Sehrawat - Men's freestyle 57 KG
     - Silver -
       - Rupin Gahlawat- Men's Greco-Roman 55 KG
       - Antim Panghal - Women's freestyle 53 KG
       - Nisha Dahiya - Women's freestyle 68 KG

40. ▶ **2023 Indian Premier League** (16th Edition, Sponsored by TATA) -
   - **Chennai Super Kings** won the title (their 5th), defeating Gujarat Titans in Final.
   - Notable Players -
     - Most runs - Shubman Gill (Gujarat Titans)
     - Most Wickets - Mohammed Shami (Gujarat Titans)
   - Notably -
     - Kagiso Rabada (Punjab Kings) became fastest to get 100 Wickets in IPL.
     - Chennai Super Kings batter Ambati Rayudu announced his retirement from IPL.
   - Also, As per D&P Advisory, IPL became India's first decacorn Sports league, with valuation of $10.9 billion.

41. **2023 Italian Open** Tennis -
    - Men's singles - Daniil Medvedev (Russia). He defeated Holger Rune (Denmark).
    - Women's singles - Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan).
    - Men's doubles - Hugo Nys (Monaco) & Jan Zieliński (Poland)
    - Women's doubles - Storm Hunter (Australia) & Elise Mertens (Belgium)

42. **2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games** (Hosted in *Berlin, Germany*) -
    - India won 202 medals at 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games (including 76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze).
    - Perth (Australia) will host next Special Olympics World Summer Games in 2027.
    - Notably, Actor Ayushmann Khurana was named as Goodwill Ambassador for Special Olympics Bharat, which is official programme of Special Olympics International which operates in India.

43. **AIFF Player of the year** awards 2023 -
    - Men's Footballer of the year - **Lallianzuala Chhangte**
    - Women's Footballer of the year - **Manisha Kalyan**
    - Emerging Player of the Year -
        - Men - Akash Mishra
        - Women - Shilji Shaji

44. **Ding Liren (China)** won World Chess Championship 2023 (Astana, Kazakhstan), becoming 1st world chess champion from China.

45. **ISSF Junior World Cup 2023** (Suhl, Germany) -
    - Medal Table -

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	6	6	3	15
2	Korea	6	5	1	12
3	USA	5	4	0	9
4	Italy	4	0	3	7
5	France	3	2	2	7

    - Notable Indian Gold Medalists -
        - Dhanush Srikanth – Men's 10m Air Rifle
        - Sainyam – Women's 10m Air Pistol
        - Amanpreet Singh – Men's 25m Air Pistol

46. **Indonesia** has been named as host nation for 24 nation *2023 FIFA U-17 World Cup,* to be held in Nov-Dec 2023.
    - It was earlier to be hosted by Peru, withdrawn later due to infrastructure issues.

47. **Karnataka** won **Santosh Trophy** National Football Championship after 54 years, beating Meghalaya in final. Final was hosted in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia).

48. **Kerala** won 1st National Beach Soccer Championships, organized by All India Football Federation (AIFF) at Dumas Beach (Surat).

49. **Khelo India Youth Games** 2022 (5th edition, hosted by Madhya Pradesh) -
    - **Maharashtra** topped the medal table, with 161 medals (56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze), followed by **Haryana** with 128 medals (41 gold, 32 silver and 55 bronze), and **Madhya Pradesh** (96 medals).
    - Notably -
        - For the first time, water sports namely Kayaking Canoeing, Canoe Salam and Fencing were part of Khelo India Games.

50. **Laureus World Sports Awards** 2023 -
    - Sportsman of the year - Lionel Messi (Football, Argentina)
    - Sportswoman of the year -Shelly-ann Fraser Pryce (Athletics, Jamaica)
    - Team of the year - Argentina Men's Football Team
    - Breakthrough of the year - Carlos Alcaraz (Tennis, Spain)
    - Comeback of the year - Christian Eriksen (Football, Denmark)
    - Action Sportsperson of the year - Eileen Gu (Freestyle Skiing, US-China)

51. **Netherlands** won **2022–23 Men's FIH Pro League** Hockey Title (their 2nd), with *Great Britain* as runner up and Belgium at 3rd place.
    - India's *Harmanpreet Singh* was Top scorer of tournament, with 18 goals.
    - Notably, Netherlands also won *2022–23 Women's FIH Pro League* title, with Argentina as Runner-up & Australia at 3rd place.

52. **Odisha FC** won **Hero Super Cup 2023** domestic Football title by defeating Bengaluru FC in final.

53. **South Zone** won 2023 **Duleep Trophy** Domestic Cricket Title, Defeating *West Zone* in final.

54. ▶ England's MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) World Cricket Committee added 3 new former players as members - Heather Knight (England), Eoin Morgan (England) & Jhulan Goswami (India).
   ↘ Also, former England Cricketer Alastair Cook stepped down from Committee.
55. ▶ Five Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2023 - Tom Blundell (NZ), Ben Foakes (ENG), Harmanpreet Kaur (India), Daryl Mitchell (NZ) and Matthew Potts (ENG).
   ↘ Also -
      ↘ Ben Stokes (ENG) and Beth Mooney (AUS) have been named Leading Cricketers in the World, in Men's and Women's categories respectively.
      ↘ Suryakumar Yadav (IND) has been named as Leading T20 Cricketer in the World.
56. ▶ Forbes' **World's Highest-Paid Athletes** 2023 -
   ↘ Top 5 -
      ↘ Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugese Footabller) - $136 Million
      ↘ Lionel Messi (Argentina Footabller) - $130 Million
      ↘ Kylian Mbappé (French Footabller) - $120 Million
      ↘ LeBron James (American Basketballer) - $119.5 Million
      ↘ Canelo Alvarez (Mexican Boxer) - $110 Million
57. ▶ India hosted its first-ever WTT (World Table Tennis) series event in Goa as *WTT Star Contenders Goa 2023*.
   ↘ World Table Tennis replaced ITTF World Tour in 2020 and structured their tournaments into three tiers - WTT Grand Smashes, WTT Star Contenders and WTT Contenders. Annually, 4 Grand Smashes and 6 Star Contenders evants are held.
   ↘ Notable Winners -
      ↘ Women's Singles - Wang Yidi (China).
      ↘ Men's Singles - Liang Jingkun (China).
58. ▶ India won *Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023* (8th title), defeating Iran in final (hosted in Busan, South Korea).
59. ▶ India won *NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup 2023* held in Kathmandu (Nepal), defeating Kazakhstan in final.
60. ▶ Indian Olympic-Gold medalist Javelin Thrower **Neeraj Chopra** won top spot in Doha Diamond League (Qatar), with throw of 88.67 meters.
   ↘ Also, Neeraj Chopra claimed globally number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time.
61. ▶ Luca Brecel (Belgium) won **World Snooker Championship** 2023 at Sheffield (England), defeating Mark Selby (England).
62. ▶ Misc. Sports News / Events (April 2023) -
   ↘ Twice Commonwealth Games Medalist weightlifter Sanjita Chanu has been banned for 4 years by National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), for a doping violation.
   ↘ England's Female Cricketer Katherine Sciver-Brunt announced her retirement from International Cricket.
   ↘ Gary Ballance announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He had played for 2 Nations - Zimbabwe & England.
   ↘ Kim Cotton (New Zealand) became first woman to serve as an on-field umpire in a men's international cricket match, after she officiated in a T20I match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand.
   ↘ Indian Racer Jaden Pariat secured podium position in opening round of British F4 Championship, becoming second Indian racer to achieve an international podium, after Kush Maini in 2017.
   ↘ On occasion of 50th Birth anniversary of Noted Indian Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar -
      ↘ West Stand at renowned Sharjah cricket stadium (UAE) has been renamed as *Sachin Tendulkar Stand*.
      ↘ Gates named After Sachin Tendulkar and Windies Legend Brian Lara inaugurated at Australia's iconic Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).
   ↘ Indian men's and women's teams won titles in 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships concluded in Assam.
   ↘ Kenya's Evans Chebet and Hellen Obiri won men's and women's titles respectively, in 2023 Boston Marathon (US).
63. ▶ Misc. Sports News / Events (Feb 2023) -
   ↘ Indian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been handed a 21-month ban for failing dope test conducted by International Testing Agency.
   ↘ France footballer Raphael Varane announcced his retirement from international football.
   ↘ Australian cricketer Aaron Finch announcced his retirement from all forms of international cricket.
   ↘ Pakistani cricketer Kamran Akmal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
   ↘ Gary Ballance became 2nd Cricketer ever to have scored Test centuries for two different countries, after scoring one for Zimbabwe. Earlier, he represented and scored for England.
      ↘ 1st player to achieve this was Kepler Wessels, who had represented South Africa & Australia.

- Ravichandran Ashwin became fastest Indian Bowler to pick 450 Test wickets.
- Indian Olympian Golfer Aditi Ashok won *2023 Magical Kenya Ladies Open Title*.
- India's first frozen lake marathon (21 KM) held on *Pangong Tso* Lake in *Ladakh*, at altitude of 13862 feet.
- German sporting goods Brand Adidas signed up as Indian Cricket team uniform sponsor, under 350 crore deal (for 5 years).
- Spanish Footballer Sergio Ramos announced retirement from international football.

64. ▶ Misc. Sports News / Events (Feb 2023) -
- Saudi Arabia has been chosen as host of 2027 AFC Asian Cup Football, featuring 24 national teams.
  - Notably, 2023 AFC Asian Cup is to be hosted by Qatar in 2024.
- Chess player *Vignesh NR* became 80th Grandmaster of India, after winning 24th NordWest Cup 2023 in Germany.
  - Vignesh's elder brother Visakh NR had become India's 59th GM in 2019. Thus, Visakh and Vignesh are India's first brothers who are Grandmasters.
- Sayantan Das became India's 81st Chess Grandmaster, after winning Cannes Open.

65. ▶ Misc. Sports News / Events (Jul 2023) -
- India topped medals tally at 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2023 held in Al Ain (UAE), with all 4 Indian participating students winning Gold medals.
- India's *Dipika Pallikal & Sandhu Harinder* won Gold and *Anahat Singh & Abhay Singh* won Bronze medals at first *Asian mixed doubles squash championships 2023* at Huangzhou (China).
- Gaming platform *Dream11* replaced *Byju's* as main jersey sponsor for Indian cricket team, until March 2026.
- Indian Female cricketer *Shreyanka Patil* became first Indian cricketer to be signed for Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL). She is also first Indian player to be offered a contract in an overseas league before making her international debut.
- Sri Lankan cricketer Lahiru Thirimanne announced his retirement from International Cricket.
- Australia's Victoria state withdrew itself as host of 2026 Commonwealth Games, because of massive increase in projected cost of staging the multi-sports event.
- Indian Chess Player *R Praggnanandhaa* won *V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023* (Hungary).
- Indian cricketer Virat Kohli became 10th cricketer globally to make 500 international appearances, during a Test match against West Indies.
  - Other Indians in list are Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and MS Dhoni.
- England Cricketer Stuart Broad announced retirement from all forms of International Cricket.
  - Notably, he is 2nd pace bowler to take 600 wickets in Test cricket, 2nd only to compatriot James anderson.

66. ▶ Misc. Sports News / Events (June 2023) -
- 1st Tribal Sports Festival (जनजातीय खेल महोत्सव) organized at KIIT Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
- Swedish Footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic announced his retirement from football.
- Pakistani Female cricketer Nahida Khan announced retirement from international cricket.
- Goa CM Pramod Sawant launched mascot named *Moga* for upcoming 37th National Games to be held in Goa later this year.
- Portugese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo has set a Guinness World Record after reaching 200 international caps for Portugal.

67. ▶ Misc. Sports News / Events (Mar 2023) -
- *Madhya Pradesh* won 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championships 2023 in Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), defeating *Maharashtra* in final.
- *Manchester United* won 2022-23 EFL Cup English Domestic Football Title (also called Carabao Cup).
  - EFL Cup is one of three top-tier domestic football competitions in England alongside *Premier League* and *FA Cup*.
- Indian Chess Player **D Gukesh** has been honoured with Player-of-the-Year award by Asian Chess Federation (ACF), for winning gold medal at 44th Chess Olympiad hosted in Chennai (Tamil Nadu).
- Indian triple-jumper Aishwarya Babu has been banned for 4 years by National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for a doping violation.
- Australian Cricketer *Tim Paine* announced his retirement from International cricket.
- American Sprinter *Lashinda Demus* has been officially declared winner of gold medal in 400-meter hurdles at 2012 London Olympic Games, after original winner Natalya Antyukh of Russia was later implicated in doping.
- Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) signed MoU with Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) for development of world's 3rd largest cricket stadium (And India's 2nd largest) in village Chonp in Jaipur, to be named *Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium*. It will have seating capacity of 75000.
- UK's Football league Premier League inducted former Manchester United manager *Alex Ferguson* and ex-Arsenal chief *Arsene Wenger* into its Hall of Fame, making it first time that managers have been included in the noted list.

- Uttarakhand Govt announced to set up a new sports university in Kumaun region's Haldwani.
- Female Hockey Player *Salima Tete* has been named AHF (Asian Hockey Federation) Athletes Ambassador from India, for 2 years.
- Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh) surpassed Tim Southee (NZ) to become leading wicket-taker in T20I cricket.

68. Misc. Sports News / Events (May 2023) -
- Indian athletes won 17 medals at Wushu Stars Championship 2023 in Moscow (Russia).
- Athlete Praveen Chithravel created new triple jump national record of 17.37meters at an athletic meet in Havana (Cuba), surpassing previous men's triple jump national record of 17.30m.
- Pakistani cricketer Babar Azam became fastest player to score 5000 runs in One Day International (ODI) cricket.
- South African Female Cricketer *Shabnim Ismail* announced her retirement from international cricket. She is known as fastest bowler in women's cricket, having bowled fastest ball ever recorded in women's cricket, with speed of 128 kph.
- Geoffrey Emmanuel became first Indian to participate in FIM World JuniorGP World Championship, a junior class race event organized by Dorna Sports under FIM regulations.
- Odisha govt extended its sponsorship for Men and Women Indian Hockey Teams (senior and junior) for another 10 years, upto 2033.
- South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023 held in Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).
- Barcelona FC won *2022–23 La Liga* (Spain's premier football competition).
- V. Prraneeth (Telangana) became India's 82nd Chess Grandmaster, during Baku Open 2023.

69. Nepal wicketkeeper **Aasif Sheikh** has been honored with *2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award* by England's Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), for his act of sportsmanship in a T20 international against Ireland.

70. Nepal won ACC Men's Premier Cup 2023 Cricket Title (hosted by Nepal), defeating UAE in final.
- With this, Nepal have qualified for Asia Cup 2023, to be jointly hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Sep 2023.

71. New Zealand Cricket Awards 2023 -
- Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for Cricketer of The year - Daryl Mitchell.
- Men's Test Player of the Year - Tom Blundell.
- Men's T20I Player of the Year - Glenn Philips.
- Men's ODI Player of the Year - Michael Bracewell.
- Umpire of the Year - Chris Brown.
- Bert Sutcliffe Medal for Outstanding service to cricket - Heath Mills
- From 2023, Onwards, New Zealand Cricket introduced *Debbie Hockley* Medal, to annually honor New Zealand's most outstanding female cricketer of the year. **Amelia Kerr** is 1st recepient of this honour.
- Women's T20I Player of the Year - Amelia Kerr
- Women's ODI Player of the Year - Suzie Bates

72. Olympic champion Indian Javelin Thrower **Neeraj Chopra** won his 2nd **Diamond League** title of the year, with a throw of 87.66 meters at Lausanne (Switzerland) edition.
- Earlier, he had won in Doha Diamond league 2023, with a throw of 88.67 meters.
- Notably -
  - This is India's 3rd diamond league medal of the year. India's *Murali Sreeshankar* had also recently Won Bronze in men's long jump event at Paris Diamond League 2023, with 8.09 meters jump.

73. Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **Australian** Grand Prix 2023.
- F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix		30 April
Miami Grand Prix		7 May
Monaco Grand Prix		28 May
Spanish Grand Prix		4 June
Canadian Grand Prix		18 June
Austrian Grand Prix		2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

74. ▶ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **Miami** Grand Prix 2023.

✒ F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	7 May
Monaco Grand Prix		28 May
Spanish Grand Prix		4 June
Canadian Grand Prix		18 June
Austrian Grand Prix		2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

75. ▶ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won season-opening **Bahrain** Grand Prix 2023.

✒ F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix		19 March
Australian Grand Prix		2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix		30 April
Miami Grand Prix		7 May
Monaco Grand Prix		28 May
Spanish Grand Prix		4 June
Canadian Grand Prix		18 June
Austrian Grand Prix		2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

76. ▶ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **Hungarian** Grand Prix 2023.

🖊 F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	7 May
Monaco Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	28 May
Spanish Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	4 June
Canadian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	18 June
Austrian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 July
British Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

77. ▶ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **British** Grand Prix 2023.

🖊 F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	7 May
Monaco Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	28 May
Spanish Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	4 June
Canadian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	18 June
Austrian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 July
British Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

78. ▶ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **Austrian** Grand Prix 2023.

🖊 F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	7 May
Monaco Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	28 May
Spanish Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	4 June
Canadian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	18 June
Austrian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
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Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

79. ▶ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **Belgian** Grand Prix 2023.

✒ F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	7 May
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Canadian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	18 June
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British Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	23 July
Belgian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	30 July
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Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

80. ▶ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **Canadian** Grand Prix 2023.

✒ F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	7 May
Monaco Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	28 May
Spanish Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	4 June
Canadian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	18 June

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Austrian Grand Prix		2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

81. ▸ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **Monaco** Grand Prix 2023.

✎ F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	7 May
Monaco Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	28 May
Spanish Grand Prix		4 June
Canadian Grand Prix		18 June
Austrian Grand Prix		2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

82. ▸ Red Bull's Dutch-Belgian F1 Racer **Max Verstappen** won **Spanish** Grand Prix 2023.

✎ F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	7 May
Monaco Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	28 May
Spanish Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	4 June
Canadian Grand Prix		18 June
Austrian Grand Prix		2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

83. ▶ Red Bull's Mexican F1 Racer **Sergio Pérez** won **Azerbaijan** Grand Prix 2023.

✎ F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	30 April
Miami Grand Prix		7 May
Monaco Grand Prix		28 May
Spanish Grand Prix		4 June
Canadian Grand Prix		18 June
Austrian Grand Prix		2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

84. ▶ Red bull's Mexican F1 Racer **Sergio Pérez** won **Saudi Arabian** Grand Prix 2023.

✎ F1 Season 2023 -

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Bahrain Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	5 March
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	19 March
Australian Grand Prix		2 April
Azerbaijan Grand Prix		30 April
Miami Grand Prix		7 May
Monaco Grand Prix		28 May
Spanish Grand Prix		4 June
Canadian Grand Prix		18 June
Austrian Grand Prix		2 July
British Grand Prix		9 July
Hungarian Grand Prix		23 July
Belgian Grand Prix		30 July
Dutch Grand Prix		27 August
Italian Grand Prix		3 September
Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
Japanese Grand Prix		24 September
Qatar Grand Prix		8 October
United States Grand Prix		22 October
Mexico City Grand Prix		29 October
São Paulo Grand Prix		5 November
Las Vegas Grand Prix		18 November
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

85. ▶ Tamil Nadu's **Jeswin Aldrin** broke national record in men's long jump at AFI National Jumps Competition, with 8.42 meters Jump.
   🖊 Notably, this exceeds Gold winning jump of 8.41 meters at Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
86. ▶ Team *Rest of India* won *Irani Cup 2022/23* domestic cricket trophy, by defeating *Madhya Pradesh* in final.
87. ▶ Weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** won **2022 BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award** after a public vote.
   🖊 She became first athlete to win this award twice in a row (2021 & 2022).

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