



Current Affairs - May 2023 to July 2023

Month Type






















- 537 Current Affairs were found in **Last Three Months** for Type - All

Appointments

- ▶ **Manoj Soni** has been appointed as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
 Also, Suman Sharma has been named as Member (UPSC).
- ▶ **Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad** has been named new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Maharatna PSU **Coal India** Limited (CIL).
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti** has been named Chief Justice of **Kerala** High Court.
- ▶ **Ajit Kumar Mohanty** (BARC Director) has been appointed as chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and secretary in Department of Atomic Energy.
- ▶ **Amarendu Prakash** has been appointed as new CMD of Maharatna PSU Steel Authority of India Ltd (**SAIL**).
- ▶ **Ashutosh Dixit** has been named new **Deputy Chief of the Air Staff**.
 Notably, the position is different from Vice Chief of the Air Staff.
- ▶ **Ashwani Kumar** has been named new MD & CEO of PSB **UCO Bank**.
- ▶ **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).
- ▶ **Edgars Rinkēvičs** has been named new President of European Nation **Latvia**.
- ▶ **Karnataka Bank** named **Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma** as its MD & CEO.
- ▶ **Kyriakos Mitsotakis** has been elected as new Prime minister of **Greece**, for his 2nd term.
- ▶ **Nivruti Rai** has been named as MD & CEO of **Invest India**, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India.
- ▶ **Petteri Orpo** has been named **Finland's** new prime minister.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Ravi Sinha** has been named new chief of India's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (**RAW**).
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **TS Singh Deo** has been named **first deputy chief minister** of **Chhattisgarh**.
- ▶ BCCI named former cricketer **Ajit Agarkar** as chairman of Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee.
- ▶ China's **Qu Dongyu** has been re-elected as Director General of UN *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Govt announced New Union Minister Level appointments -
 ▶ **Arjun Ram Meghwal** - Minister of Law and Justice (Independent Charge)
 ▶ **Kiren Rijju** - Minister of Earth Sciences.

 **S P Singh Baghel** - Minister of State in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

24. ▶ Govt named **K Rajaraman** (telecom secretary) as new chairperson of GIFT City (Gujarat) based International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
25. ▶ Govt named **Rakesh Pal** as new (25th) Director General of **Indian Coast Guard** (ICG).
26. ▶ Govt named **Amit Agrawal** as CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
27. ▶ Govt named **Janardan Prasad** as new Director General of **Geological Survey of India** (GSI).
28. ▶ Govt named **Praveen Sood** as new director general of Central Bureau of Investigation (**CBI**).
29. ▶ Govt named **Ravneet Kaur** as Chairperson of **Competition Commission of India** (CCI).
30. ▶ Govt named **Sat Pal Bhanoo** as a Managing Director (MD) in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
31. ▶ Govt named Angshumali Rastogi as India's representative to Montreal (Canada)-based council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
32. ▶ Govt named **Manoj Yadava** as new Director General of Railway Protection Force (**RPF**).
33. ▶ 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).
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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.
36. ▶ Indian-origin Person **Ajay Banga** (former Mastercard CEO) has been appointed as new **President of World Bank**, becoming first Indian to assume this role.
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ Kuwait's *Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah* has been elected as new President of Kuwait-based *Olympic Council of Asia* (OCA).
39. ▶ Ludovit Odor has been named New Prime Minister of **Slovakia** (Central Europe).
40. ▶ 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).
41. ▶ 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*.
 - ✎ Has Mukh 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.
42. ▶ Misc. Appointments (May 2023) -
- ✎ New Indian Air Force Command Chiefs -
 - ✎ *Narmadeshwar 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, succeeding 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 Subrahmanyam 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.
43. ▶ Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader **Ajit Pawar** has been named **Deputy chief minister of Maharashtra**.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ New Managing Directors (MD) named by Govt in Public Sector Banks -
- ✎ Debadatta Chand - Bank of Baroda.
 - ✎ Rajneesh Karnatak - Bank of India.
46. ▶ 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
47. ▶ 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.
48. ▶ Tayyip Erdogan has been re-elected as President of **Türkiye**, for his 5th term.
49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ 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.

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Awards

1. ▶ **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*.
2. ▶ **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.
3. ▶ **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)	Kojam 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)	Sukhjot
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.

4. ▶ **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.

5. ▶ 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.

6. ▶ 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.

7. ▶ 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.

8. ▶ 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.

9. ▶ 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 started 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.
10. ▶ 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.
11. ▶ India's **Jagdish Bhanu** (*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.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 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
15. ▶ Misc. / Industrial Awards (Jul 2023) -
- 📌 President Draupadi Murmu presented Visitor's Awards 2021, during *Visitor's Conference 2023* held at Rashtrapati Bhavan -
 - 📌 Innovation - Venkatesh 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)
16. ▶ 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.
- 17. ▶ 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.
- 18. ▶ 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*
 - ✎ Criticism - 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.
- 19. ▶ 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.
- 20. ▶ 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)
- 21. ▶ 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.
- 22. ▶ 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.
- 23. ▶ 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.

24. ▶ 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).
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ US Department of Labor honored Chennai based Child Rights Advocate **Lalitha Natarajan** with **2023 Iqbal Masih Award** for the Elimination of Child Labor.

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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 *Collective Spirit, Concrete Action*, by former Prasar Bharti CEO **Shashi Shekhar** has been released, documenting PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme.
5. ▶ Book *Colours of devotion : The Legendary Paintings and Textiles of the Vallabha Sampradaya 1500-1900*, authored by *Anita Bharat Shah* has been released.
6. ▶ Book *Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills* written by **Kasturi Ray** has been released.
7. ▶ Book *India Rising Memoir of a Scientist*, authored by *R. Chidambaram* (Noted Physicist) and *Suresh Gangotra* has been released.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ Book *Kathakali Dance Theatre: A Visual Narrative of Sacred Indian Mime*, authored by *KK Gopalakrishnan* has been released.
10. ▶ Book *Master Residential Real Estate*, authored by *Ashwinder R Singh*, has been released.
11. ▶ Book *Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva*, authored by *Sudha Pai* and *Sajjan Kumar* has been released.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ Book *Ringside*, written by **Vijay Darda** (Lokmat Media) has been released.
14. ▶ Book *Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories*, authored by **Amitav Ghosh** has been released.
15. ▶ Book *The Power of One Thought: Master Your Mind, Master Your Life*, authored by **BK Shivani** has been released.
16. ▶ Book *The Yoga Sutras for Children*, authored by *Roopa Pai*, has been released.
17. ▶ Book *Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography*, authored by **TN Seshan** (former Chief Election Commissioner of India) has been released.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ Book **Guts Amidst Bloodbath : Anshuman Gaekwad Narrative**, authored by **Aditya Bhushan** has been released, based on former cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad's life.
20. ▶ Book **A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service**, authored by Indian Diplomat **Satish Chandra** has been released.
21. ▶ Book **Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise**, authored by Former NITI Aayog CEO **Amitabh Kant** has been released.
22. ▶ Book **The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces**, authored by **Feroze Varun Gandhi** has been released.
23. ▶ Home Minister Amit Shah released book **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die**, on the occasion of death anniversary 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.

24. ▶ Journalist **Ashok Kumar Bhattacharya**'s new book ***India's Finance Ministers: From Independence to Emergency (1947-1977)***, has been released.
25. ▶ KK Shailaja (Kerala Legislative Assembly member)'s autobiography *My Life As A Comrade* has been released.
26. ▶ 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).
27. ▶ Noted Indian author **Ruskin Bond**'s new book *The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life*, has been released.













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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. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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).
4. ▶ 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).
5. ▶ To Oversee Cheetah Project, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) constituted a Project Steering Committee, headed by **Rajesh Gopal** (Global Tiger Forum).

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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. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ Jul 17 - **Day of International Criminal Justice**. It marks adoption of Rome Statute in 1998. **With help of this treaty International Criminal Court (ICC) was established.**
6. ▶ 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.

7. ▶ Jul 25 is observed by WHO as World Drowning Prevention Day.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ 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.
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 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).
15. ▶ 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.
16. ▶ July 26 is Observed by UNESCO as International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem.
17. ▶ July 26 marks **Kargil Vijay Diwas**. On this date in 1999, India took command of high outposts which were captured by Intruding Pakistanis.
18. ▶ July 27 is Raising Day of CRPF, which was Formed on July 27, 1939.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ 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).
21. ▶ 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.'
22. ▶ July 31 is observed as *World Ranger Day*, to mark founding day of International Ranger Federation (IRF) on this day in 1992.
23. ▶ July 4 marks US Independence Day, commemorating Declaration of Independence of United States on July 4, 1776.

24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ June 11 is observed as Green Mizoram Day in Mizoram State.
27. ▶ June 12 is observed by UN as **World Day against Child Labour**. 2023 theme is *Social Justice for All. End Child Labour*.
28. ▶ June 13 is observed by UN as International **Albinism Awareness Day**. 2023 Theme is *Inclusion is Strength*.
29. ▶ June 14 is observed as **World Blood Donor Day**.
30. ▶ 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%	
Nuclear	6,780	1.6%	12
Total Installed Capacity	416,059		3

31. ▶ June 15 is observed by UN as *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*.
32. ▶ June 16 is observed by UN as International Day of **Family Remittances**.
33. ▶ June 17 is observed by UN as World Day to **Combat Desertification and Drought**. 2023 theme is *Her land. Her rights*.
34. ▶ 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.

35. ▶ 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.

36. ▶ 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.

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

38. ▶ 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.

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

40. ▶ 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*.

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

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

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

43. ▶ 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*.

44. ▶ 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.

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

46. ▶ 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)*.

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

48. ▶ 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.

49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ June 4 is observed by UN as *International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression*
51. ▶ 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*.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ 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.
54. ▶ June 8 is observed by UN as **World Oceans Day**. 2023 theme is *Planet Ocean: tides are changing*.
55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ Maharashtra Govt marked to observe May 28, the birth anniversary of freedom fighter **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**, as *Swatantrya Veer Gaurav Diwas* in state.
57. ▶ May 07, 2023 is observed as **World Athletics Day**. Date is decided by IAAF, held annually 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).
58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ 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.

60. ▶ 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.
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ 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.
63. ▶ 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*.
64. ▶ May 15 is observed as International **Day of Families**, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly in 1993. 2023 theme is *Demographic Trends and Families*.
65. ▶ 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.
66. ▶ 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**.
67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ May 2 - UN World Tuna Day.
69. ▶ 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.
70. ▶ 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.
71. ▶ May 22 is observed as UN **International Day for Biological Diversity**. 2023 Theme is *From agreement to action: build back biodiversity*.
72. ▶ May 23 is observed as World Turtle Day.
73. ▶ 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.
74. ▶ May 25 is observed as World Thyroid Day.
 - ✍ May 25 is also observed as International Missing Children's Day.
75. ▶ 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.
- 76. ▶ 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 Hamed, 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)
- 77. ▶ 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 Portuguese rule.
- 78. ▶ 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
- 79. ▶ May 4 is observed as *International Firefighters' Day* (IFFD), established in 1999, after deaths of five firefighters in a bushfire in Australia.
- 80. ▶ May 5 is observed as -
 - ✎ World Hand Hygiene Day.
 - ✎ International Day of the Midwife, Observed since 1991.
 - ✎ UN World Portuguese Language Day.
- 81. ▶ 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 Thalassaemia Day.
 - ✎ On this occasion, Health Ministry launched third phase of Thalassaemia Bal Sewa Yojana, supported by Coal India Limited as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.
- 82. ▶ 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*.
- 83. ▶ UN General Assembly marked **November 26** to be observed annually as **World Sustainable Transport Day**.

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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. ▶ 1st edition of Joint **India, France** and **UAE** Maritime Partnership Exercise held in Gulf of Oman.
- 4. ▶ 2nd edition of bilateral Naval exercise **Al Mohed Al Hindi 23** between Indian Navy and **Saudi Arabia** Navy held at Al Jubail (Saudi Arabia).
- 5. ▶ 4th **India-Indonesia** bilateral Naval Exercise **Samudra Shakti-23** conducted in the South China Sea.
- 6. ▶ 7th edition of Joint Indian Navy - US Navy Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise **SALVEX** conducted at Kochi (Kerala).
- 7. ▶ 7th edition of biennial joint Indo-UK Army exercise **AJEYA WARRIOR-23** conducted at Salisbury Plains (UK).
- 8. ▶ *Germany* hosted **Air Defender 23** exercise, as NATO's biggest air deployment exercise.
- 9. ▶ *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.
- 10. ▶ **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.
- 11. ▶ Annual Joint Army exercise **Ex Ekuverin** between Indian Army & **Maldives** National Defence Force held at Chaubatia (Uttarakhand).
- 12. ▶ 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.
- 13. ▶ 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.
- 14. ▶ Bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (**JIMEX 23**) hosted by Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam coast.
- 15. ▶ 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).
- 16. ▶ India and US Agencies conducted *Operation Broader Sword*, targeting illicit pharmaceuticals, devices or precursor chemicals shipped using international mail system.
- 17. ▶ India completed handing 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*.
- 18. ▶ 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.
- 19. ▶ 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.
- 20. ▶ 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.
- 21. ▶ Indian Army participated in Joint Exercise with **Mongolian** Army, named **NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23**, be conducted at Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia).
- 22. ▶ Indian Army participated in Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise **Ex Khaan Quest 2023**, held in **Mongolia**.

23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ 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).
28. ▶ Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army conducted exercise **Sudarshan Shakti 2023** along western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab.

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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. ▶ *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 guidelines issued in July 2022, to allow settlement of international trade in Indian currency.
3. ▶ *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.
 - Samridhi - 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.
4. ▶ **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.

5. ▶ **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.

6. ▶ **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 2022-23 from 5.5% in 2021-22, 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 metrics 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 2022-23 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.

7. ▶ 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.

8. ▶ 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.

9. ▶ 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.

10. ▶ 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.

11. ▶ 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.

12. ▶ 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.

13. ▶ 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 %.

14. ▶ 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.

15. ▶ 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.

16. ▶ 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.

17. ▶ 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.
- 18. ▶ 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.
- 19. ▶ 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.
- 20. ▶ 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.
- 21. ▶ 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**.
- 22. ▶ 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).
- 23. ▶ 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.
- 24. ▶ 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.
- 25. ▶ 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.
- 26. ▶ 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.
- 27. ▶ 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.
- 28. ▶ 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.
- 29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ GST revenue collected in May 2023 stood at **157090** crores (CGST 28411 crores, SGST 35828 crores, IGST 81363 crores & cess is 11489 crores).
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ Govt announced to form 1100 New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Cooperative Sector, to boost vision of *Sahkar se Samridhi*.
 - ✎ 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.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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.

36. ▶ 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.
37. ▶ 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 0.1 %)
 - ▶ Interest rates for term deposits with tenors of 3 & 5 years remain unchanged at 7 % and 7.5 %, respectively.
 - ▶ Interest 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 Samridhi - 8 %
 - ▶ Senior citizen savings scheme - 8.2 %
 - ▶ Kisan Vikas Patra - 7.5 %
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ India signed **\$130 million** loan agreement with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, to increase agricultural productivity, improve irrigation and promote horticulture agribusinesses in **Himachal Pradesh**.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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.

44. ▶ 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.
 - 45. ▶ 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 OLY'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.
 - ✎ Earlier, 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.

46. ▶ 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 (BMRL), 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.
47. ▶ 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, effective 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 separate 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.
48. ▶ Monthly Trade and Inflation Data (April 2023) -
- ✎ **Inflation and Trade Data for April 2023** -
 - ✎ Wholesale price Index Based (WPI) -
 - ✎ WPI based inflation fell to **-0.92 %** (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).

49. ▶ 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.

50. ▶ 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 %
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- 📌 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 %
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- 📌 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).

51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ 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.
54. ▶ 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.

55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ RBI included **South Korea** based agricultural bank **NongHyup Bank** in *Second Schedule of RBI Act 1934*, enabling it to enhance presence across Indian market.
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ 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.
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ 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
63. ▶ Under vision of *Sahkar Se Samridhi*, govt announced 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.
64. ▶ 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).
65. ▶ 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.
66. ▶ World Bank approved **\$148 million** loan for India, to support **West Bengal** in harnessing surface and ground water through better irrigation practices.

67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ 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.
69. ▶ 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.
70. ▶ 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.
71. ▶ 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.

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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. ▶ 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).
3. ▶ *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).
4. ▶ **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*.
5. ▶ **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 Development Bank Members include Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa, UAE, Uruguay, Bangladesh, Egypt.
6. ▶ **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.
7. ▶ **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.
8. ▶ American Financial Firm *Blackstone* acquired belgium based diamond, colored stone and jewelry certification organization *International Gemological Institute (IGI)*, for approx 550 Million USD.
9. ▶ American Payments Firm *Visa* acquired Brazilian payments infrastructure firm *Pismo* for \$1 billion.
10. ▶ 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.
- 11. ▶ 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).
- 12. ▶ 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)
- 13. ▶ 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).
- 14. ▶ 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)
- 15. ▶ 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)
- 16. ▶ 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)
- 17. ▶ 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.
- 18. ▶ As per *Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 (GSER)* by *Startup 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).
- 19. ▶ 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.
- 20. ▶ 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.

21. ▶ 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)

22. ▶ 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)

23. ▶ 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.

24. ▶ 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.

25. ▶ 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).

26. ▶ 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.

27. ▶ 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.

28. ▶ 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.

29. ▶ 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.

30. ▶ 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 **Myanmar**.
- ✍ 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.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ 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 Network) deployment in oceaania 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.
35. ▶ 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).
- 36. ▶ 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)
- 37. ▶ 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).
- 38. ▶ 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 compete with OpenAI's chatGPT and Google Bard.
- 39. ▶ 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.
- 40. ▶ 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.
- 41. ▶ 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.
- 42. ▶ UAE became 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.
- 43. ▶ 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.
- 44. ▶ 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*.
- 45. ▶ World Bank launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia, with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed with Bangladesh.
- 46. ▶ 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 CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O 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.
 - ✍ CO₂ remains in atmosphere for many decades. Methane is more potent but has a shorter life-span of about 10 years.
- 47. ▶ 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.

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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. ▶ 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.
- 4. ▶ 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.
- 5. ▶ 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.
- 6. ▶ **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).
- 7. ▶ **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.
- 8. ▶ Annual *6th Indian Ocean Conference 2023* held in Dhaka (Bangladesh), attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on India's Behalf.
- 9. ▶ 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.
- 10. ▶ 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.
- 11. ▶ Ministry of Tourism organised first Global Tourism Investor's Summit (**GTIS**) in New Delhi, As an initiative under India's 2023 G20 Presidency.
- 12. ▶ 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 Karyakram*.
 - ✎ *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.

[Top](#)

National

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ *Gujarat* govt announced doubling insurance cover under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (*PMJAY*) for its citizens, from 5 lakh to 10 lakh.
6. ▶ *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.
7. ▶ *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.
8. ▶ **Assam** govt announced to develop State's first underwater tunnel between Numaligarh and Gohpur at cost 6000 crores, under Brahmaputra river.
9. ▶ **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.
- 10. ▶ **Kerala** became India's first *fully e-governed* state, after several initiatives aimed at transforming state into digitally-empowered.
- 11. ▶ **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.
- 12. ▶ **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.
- 13. ▶ 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.
- 14. ▶ 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.
- 15. ▶ 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.
- 16. ▶ 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.
- 17. ▶ 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.

18. 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%).

19. ▶ 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).

20. ▶ 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

21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ 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). There 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.
27. ▶ 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 (Telangana)
- Agriculture -
 - IARI
 - ICAR - NDRI (Haryana)
 - PAU Ludhiana
- Innovation -
 - IIT Kanpur
 - IIT Madras
 - IIT Hyderabad

28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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).
32. ▶ 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 Shraavan month.
 - ▶ World Hindu Foundation will hold 3rd World Hindu Congress (WHC) in Bangkok (Thailand) in Nov 2023.
33. ▶ General News / Events (Jul 11-20, 2023) -
- ▶ India's first *Cannabis Medicine Project* launched at CSIR-IIIM Jammu (Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine), to explore 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.

34. ▶ 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.

35. ▶ 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).

36. ▶ 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 *Anecy 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.

37. ▶ 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.

38. ▶ 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.

39. ▶ 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.

40. ▶ 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.

41. ▶ 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.

42. ▶ 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.

43. ▶ 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.

44. ▶ 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).

45. ▶ 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.

46. ▶ 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.

47. ▶ 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.

48. ▶ Haryana Govt announced monthly pension of ₹10000 for **Padma** awardees from the state.
49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Cabinet approved 1500 per month as *Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi* to all eligible women (above 18 years age) of **Spiti** Valley.
51. ▶ Himachal Pradesh govt announced to formulate state green hydrogen policy, to promote commercial use of hydrogen, using state's abundant renewable energy resources.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ 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.
54. ▶ 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.
55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ 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.
57. ▶ 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*.
58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ 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 - Assistance 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.

60. ▶ 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.
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ 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.
63. ▶ 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*.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ 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.
66. ▶ 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.
67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ 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.
69. ▶ Ministry of Power released report *National Energy Data: Survey and Analysis 2021-22* prepared 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.
70. ▶ 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.

71. ▶ 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.

72. ▶ 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.
73. ▶ 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.
74. ▶ 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.*
75. ▶ 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

76. ▶ 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.

77. ▶ 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.

78. ▶ 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, assessing 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.

79. ▶ 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.

80. ▶ 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.

81. ▶ Notable Points from PM Narendra Modi's visit to *Gujarat & Rajasthan* -

- ▶ Rajasthan -

- ▶ Sikar -

- ▶ Dedicated 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samridhhi 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*.

82. ▶ 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.

83. ▶ 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.

84. ▶ 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).

85. ▶ 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.

86. ▶ 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 -

- Following 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).
87. ▶ 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.
88. ▶ 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.
89. ▶ Ports & Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off India's 1st **International Cruise Vessel - *MV Empress***, from Chennai to Sri Lanka.
90. ▶ 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.
91. ▶ 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).
92. ▶ 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.
93. ▶ 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.
94. ▶ 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.
95. ▶ 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.
96. ▶ 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.
97. ▶ 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 allotted 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.


98. ▶ 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.



99. ▶ 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.

100. ▶ 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.

101. ▶ 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.

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Persons

1. ▶ *N Muthamizh Selvi* became first woman from *Tamil Nadu* to scale Mount Everest.

2. ▶ *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.

3. ▶ *Forbes America's 100 most successful women 2023* features 4 Indian-origin women - *Jayshree Ullal* (Arista Networks), *Indira Nooyi* (Pepsi CO), *Neha Narkhede* (Confluent), and *Neerja Sethi* (Syntel).

4. ▶ 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*.

5. ▶ 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.

6. ▶ 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.

7. ▶ 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.

8. ▶ 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.

9. ▶ 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.

10. ▶ 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).

11. ▶ Visit to India (May 2023) -

- Israeli Foreign Minister *Eli Cohen* visited India.
- *Norodom Sihamoni*, King of Cambodia visited India.

12. ▶ 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).

13. ▶ 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 launched 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 -

- ✍ 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.

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Science

1. ▶ 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 Astronauts Ali AlQarni & Rayyanah Barnawi.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ Chinese firm LandSpace launched world's first *methane-liquid oxygen space rocket* into orbit, named **Zhuque-2**.
4. ▶ 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*.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ India's AI Supercomputer **AIRAWAT PSAI** (installed at C-DAC Pune) has been ranked **75th** globally, in latest Top 500 Global Supercomputing List released 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.
10. ▶ 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).
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ 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 Paleanthropologist 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 (Telangana), 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.
13. ▶ 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).
14. ▶ 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.

Top

Sports

1. ▶ 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.

2. ▶ *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

3. ▶ *2023 ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup* Cricket (Hosted by **Sri Lanka**) -

✍️ **Pakistan A** won the title (their 2nd), defeating *India A* in final.

4. ▶ *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

5. ▶ 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.

6. ▶ 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)

7. ▶ 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

8. ▶ 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

9. ▶ 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.

10. ▶ 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.

11. ▶ 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)

12. ▶ 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)

13. ▶ 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.

14. ▶ 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)

15. ▶ 2023 **Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup** (Hosted in Salalah, Oman) -

- 🎨 **India** won the title (their 4th), defeating Pakistan in final.

16. ▶ 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.

17. ▶ 2023 **Women's Hockey Junior Asia Cup** (Kakamigahara, Japan) -

- 🎨 **India** won the title (their 1st), defeating *South Korea* in Final.

18. ▶ 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)*.

19. ▶ 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

20. ▶ 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 (Javelin Throw, (F-64))

🎨 He broke his own world record in javelin throw event, with a throw of 70.83 meters.

🎨 Ajeeth Singh (Javelin Throw, (F-46))

🎨 Sachin Khilari Men's Shot Put (F-46)

21. ▶ 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
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 Bhorla (Flyweight)

22. ▶ 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 -

🎨 Rudranksh 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)

23. ▶ 2023 Open Aix Provence Men's Tennis (France) -

🎨 Singles - Andy Murray (UK)

- 🏆 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 Sports person of the year - Eileen Gu (Freestyle Skiing, US-China)
34. ▶ **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.
35. ▶ **South Zone** won **2023 Duleep Trophy** Domestic Cricket Title, Defeating *West Zone* in final.
36. ▶ 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.
37. ▶ 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
38. ▶ India won *Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023* (8th title), defeating Iran in final (hosted in Busan, South Korea).
39. ▶ India won *NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup 2023* held in Kathmandu (Nepal), defeating Kazakhstan in final.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ Luca Brecl (Belgium) won **World Snooker Championship 2023** at Sheffield (England), defeating Mark Selby (England).
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ 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.
47. ▶ 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

48. ▶ 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

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
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

49. ▶ 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

50. ▶ 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
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
Italian Grand Prix		3 September

Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
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

51. ▶ 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
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	Max Verstappen (Dutch-Belgian)	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

52. ▶ 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
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


Grand Prix	Winner	Race date
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

53. ▶ 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

54. ▶ 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
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

