

सम-सामयिक

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परीक्षा संवाद के 30 वर्ष

2023

CURRENT

DRISHTI

YEARLY



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5. Uttarakhand RO/ARO (Mains), 2023 (13-14 September, 2023)
6. Uttarakhand US (Mains), 2023 (11-15 December, 2023)

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CURRENT DRISHTI YEARLY

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P.T.R.

Points to Remember

- ➔ ISRO has announced that India's first Sun mission, Aditya-L1, is scheduled to take off from Sriharikota on **–September 2, 2023 (to Langrange Point L1)**
- ➔ On 28 August, 2023 India defeated which country to win inaugural Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier? **–Thailand (7-2)**
- ➔ Famous Chokuwa Rice or "Magic Rice" of which state gets the GI tag (August, 2023) **–Assam**
- ➔ To address the complex relationship between human mobility and climate change which declaration has been adopted by 48 African countries?
–Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and climate change (KDMECC)
- ➔ The largest train route in India, covered by Vivek Express (Spanning 4154.1 km through 8 state) is from **–Kanyakumari to Dibrugarh (75 hours)**
- ➔ On August 27, 2023, India officially handed over the B-20 (Business-20) Presidency to which country **–Brazil**
- ➔ Name of the place on the moon where Chandrayaan-1 probe struck impact on the moon's surface
–Jawahar Point or Jawalar Sthal
- ➔ Who will be the first Indian Filmmaker to receive the International Directorate Award at the 51st International Emmy Awards Ceremony on November, 2023 (August, 2023) **–Ekta Kapoor**
- ➔ Reserve Bank of India has launched which centralized web portal to help track unclaimed deposits in multiple banks?(August 17, 2023)
– UD GAM (Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to access Information)
- ➔ Where was India's first medical technology expo, 'India MedTech Expo 2023' organized?(17-19 August 2023) **– Gandhinagar Gujarat**
- ➔ At which place in Bihar, the 660 MW unit of NTPC Super Thermal Power Project was dedicated to the nation?(18 August 2023) **– Barh**
- ➔ Which state has announced the implementation of the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste scheme to increase road connectivity in the tribal areas of the state? (18 August 2023) **– Maharashtra**
- ➔ Where was the 9th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Conference organized? (21-22 August 2023)
– Udaipur, Rajasthan
- ➔ Who won the 'Entrepreneurship Challenge 2022-2023?(18 Aug 2023) **– Ms. Ninna Lego**
- ➔ Where was the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting (TIMM) held? (24-25 August 2023)
– Jaipur, Rajasthan
- ➔ Which tulip garden of India has been recognized as the largest tulip garden in Asia by the World Book of Records in London?(August 2023)
– Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, Srinagar
- ➔ Who started the Bharat New Car Assessment Program (Bharat NCAP)?(22 August 2023)
– Union Road and Transport Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari
- ➔ The first airport in Northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility-(August 2023)
– Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati Assam
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh government has announced to set up a temple museum to showcase the architectural heritage and scientific aspects of Indian temples at -(August 2023) **– Ayodhya**
- ➔ Which state has announced to bring a new education policy by scrapping the National Education Policy, 2020? (21 August 2023) **– Karnataka**
- ➔ The first country in the world to reach the south pole of the moon? (23 August 2023) **– India**
- ➔ India became a country to reach the moon **– 4th**
- ➔ The other three countries are
– USA, Russia, and China
- ➔ When was Chandrayaan-3 launched? **– 14 July 2023**
- ➔ Chandrayaan-3 was launched by which rocket?
– LVM 3 / M4
- ➔ Which grade was awarded to the University of Madras in the NAAC assessment?(August 2023) **– A+ +**
- ➔ Fifth Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan- (22 August 2023)
– Dholpur - Karauli Tiger Reserve

- ➔ Which state has included sanitary workers in Ayushman Bharat Yojana? (22 August 2023)
– **Himachal Pradesh**
- ➔ Which Indian won the silver medal in the Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC)? (August 2023)
– **Raja AnirudhSriram**
- ➔ Where was the B20 Summit India 2023 organized? (25-27 August 2023)
– **New Delhi**
- ➔ The theme of the conference
– **Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable (RAISE) Business**
- ➔ How many new countries were announced to be included in the BRICS block during the BRICS Summit 2023? (24 August 2023)
– **6**
- ➔ These 6 new countries are
– **Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE**
- ➔ Where was the BRICS Summit 2023 held? (22-24 August 2023)
– **Johannesburg, South Africa**
- ➔ Who has released the 'Nutrition Awareness Index 2023'? (August 2023)
– **Right to Protein Campaign**
- ➔ Which state has topped the index?
– **Punjab**
- ➔ Bottom 3 States in the index
– **Bihar < Andhra Pradesh < Rajasthan**
- ➔ Which state has issued a notification to ban plastic water bottles? (23 August 2023)
– **Assam**
- ➔ Which country honored Prime Minister Narendra Modi with its National Award? The Grand cross of the Order (25 August 2023)
– **Greece**
- ➔ The National Smart City Award 2022 was announced by - (25 August, 2023)
– **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**
- ➔ Which city has won the National Smart City Award for 2022?
– **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**
- ➔ Second place
– **Surat, Gujarat**
- ➔ Third place
– **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ Which state topped the states category?
– **Madhya Pradesh**
Tamil Nadu (2nd)
Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh Jointly(3rd)
- ➔ Union Territories First Place
– **Chandigarh**
- ➔ Where was the first meeting of the newly constituted Joint Technical Team on the delimitation of the disputed border between China and Bhutan held? (August 2023)
– **Beijing, China**
- ➔ Who has been appointed as its brand ambassador by Infosys to promote its digital innovation? (24 August 2023)
– **Inga Swiatek and Rafael Nadal**
- ➔ Which state's Chief Minister distributed land rights certificates to poor families living in slums of 5 metropolitan cities? (28 August 2023)
– **Odisha**
- ➔ Sixth census report on minor irrigation schemes released by- (28 August 2023)
– **Ministry of Jal Shakti**
- ➔ Where was the 7th Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) held? (22-26 August 2023)
– **Vancouver, Canada**
- ➔ Who became the first woman to head the Indian mission in Pakistan? (August)
– **Geetika Srivastava**
- ➔ Where was India's first solar rooftop cycling track set up? (August 2023)
– **Hyderabad, Telangana**
- ➔ Where was the world's first 100 percent Ethanol-fueled car launched? (29 August 2023)
– **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which state has constituted the Guru Gorakhnath Board to identify the problems of Jogi, Yogi, and Nath communities? (5 August 2023)
– **Rajasthan**
- ➔ Where was the 3-day G20 Forum be organized? (22-24 August 2023)
– **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which state will set up animal birth control centers in all municipal corporations?
– **Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ Where was the first phase of the country's first Digital Science Park inaugurated? (1 August 2023)
– **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**
- ➔ How many Indian products have been granted GI tags by the Geographical Indications Registry located in Chennai? (August 2023)
– **7 (Rajasthan-4, Goa-2 and Uttar Pradesh-1)**
- ➔ GI Tags of Rajasthan is
– **Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft', 'Bikaner Kashidakari Craft', 'Jodhpur Bandhej Craft', and 'Bikaner Usta Kala Craft'**
- ➔ Who was conferred with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award? (1 August, 2023)
– **Prime Minister Narendra Modi,**
- ➔ Where will the world's largest museum 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' be established?
– **New Delhi**
- ➔ First Indian city to join World Cities Culture Forum (July 2023)
– **Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- ➔ Who inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts? (3 August, 2023)
– **President, Smt Droupadi Murmu**
- ➔ Which city hosted 'Unmesha' and 'Utkarsh' events?
– **Bhopal, (Madhya Pradesh)**
- ➔ Which Indian-American has been designated as Special Agent in the FBI? (31st July 2023)
– **Shohini Sinha**
- ➔ At which city 'Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment' under the G20 Indian Presidency is organized? (2- 4 August, 2023)
– **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

- ➔ India has received anti-tank Spike NLOS missiles from which country? (August 2023) – **Israel**
- ➔ India's CERT team has issued an alert about which ransom ware? (July 2023) – **Akira**
- ➔ Which Public Sector Enterprise has been given Navratna status by the Ministry of Finance?(August 3, 2023) – **ONGC Videsh Ltd**
- ➔ Morgan Stanley has given which country the highest position in the list of emerging markets? (3 August 2023) – **India**
- ➔ Which state has approved the country's first hydrogen fuel-related industry?(29 July 2023) – **Jharkhand**
- ➔ Which scheme has been announced by the PM Narendra Modi for the artisans? (15 August 2023) – **'Vishwakarma Yojana'**
- ➔ Where was the Youth 20 Summit-2023 organized? (17-20 August 2023) – **Varanasi**
- ➔ Where was the first Traditional Medicine Global Summit organized? (17-18 August 2023) – **Gandhi Nagar Gujarat**
- ➔ Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone of Sant Ravidas Temple?(12 August 2023) – **Bartuma, Madhya Pradesh**
- ➔ What was the theme of this year's Independence Day?
Nation First, Always First
- ➔ “Meri Maati Mera Desh” campaign to honour the martyrs of the nation is launched under which ministry? (9 August, 2023) – **Ministry of Culture**
- ➔ The Supreme Court of India has launched which online facility for visitors to generate electronic passes online to enter the premises of the Apex Court?(10 August 2023) – **SuSwagatam**
- ➔ Where was the 2nd edition of India Startup Festival 2023 held? (10-12 August 2023) – **Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- ➔ Indira Gandhi Smart Phone Scheme has been started by which state? (10 August 2023) – **Rajasthan**
- ➔ Which station was inaugurated by Central Railway as the first "Pink Station" in Bhusaval Division? (August 2023) – **New Amravati station**
- ➔ Where was a special initiative on 'Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the North-East' inaugurated?(8 August 2023) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ The Union Cabinet has approved how much rupees for broadband connectivity in villages under the BharatNet project-(4 August 2023) – **Rs 1.39 Lakh Crore**
- ➔ Where was the 5th meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission (JTSC) held?(8 August 2023) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which Indian city will host fifth edition of the World Coffee Conference & Expo (WCC 2023)? (25 -28 September, 2023) – **Bengaluru**
- ➔ The National Space Innovation Challenge (NSIC) 2023 was launched for students by-(11 August 2023) – **Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog**
- ➔ Where was India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (Adex) and Agricultural Data Management Framework (ADMF) launched?(August 11, 2023) – **Hyderabad, Telangana**
- ➔ Which city bus service has been approved by the cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?(16 August 2023) – **PM-eBus service**
- ➔ India made the first payment of crude oil in local currency to which gulf country? -(14 August 2023) – **United Arab Emirates**
- ➔ Which state has topped the Fiscal Health Report ranking, based on the Revised Budget Estimates for the financial year 2022-23,? (August 2023) – **Maharashtra**
- ➔ Where was the 'One District One Product' wall inaugurated at Saras Aajeevika Store? (12 August 2023) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which products of Jammu and Kashmir have been given GI tag? (August 2023) – **Rajouri Chikri woodcraft and Mushqbudji rice**
- ➔ Commonwealth weightlifting Championship, 2023 has organised at which place? (12-16 July, 2023) – **Greater Noida, U.P.**
- ➔ How many medals have won by Indian senior weightlifters? – **20 (9 gold, 9 silver, 2 Bronze)**
- ➔ ACC Men's Emerging Team Asia Cup-2023 has organised in which Country? (13-23 July, 2023) – **Sri Lanka**
- ➔ According to All India Tiger Estimation -2022 (5th cycle) the number of tigers in India (29 July 2023) – **3,682 in 2022 (2,967 in 2018)**
- ➔ Which state has given approval to set up the country's first vertical university campus? (July,2023) – **Maharashtra**
- ➔ Who has announced the opening of its first floating store in Dal Lake?(July, 2023) – **Amazon India**
- ➔ Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicate one lakh 25 thousand Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendra to the nation?(27 July, 2023) – **Sikar, Rajasthan**
- ➔ Who was honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the field of journalism? (July, 2023) – **Prem Prakash**
- ➔ How many Railway Stations have been identified under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for their development till now? – **(August, 2023) 1309**

- ➔ Who has become the second longest serving Chief Minister in India leaving behind Jyoti Basu (West Bengal) (22 July, 2023)
– **Naveen Patnaik (Odisha)**
- ➔ Who became the first trans-gender person in Rajasthan to be issued a birth certificate in which the gender is recorded as trans-gender? (19 July, 2023)
– **Noor Shekhawat**
- ➔ Which state has become the first in the country to pass a bill which provide social security to gig workers? (July, 2023)
– **Rajasthan**
- ➔ Where was foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram laid by HM Amit Shah?(23 July, 2023)
– **Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**
- ➔ Which state to get country's 1st 'Satellite Network Portal Site'? (19 July, 2023)
– **Gujarat**
- ➔ India secures which place in Henley Passport Index, 2023? (9 August, 2023)
– **85th**
- ➔ 3rd Export Preparedness Index, 2022 was released by- (17 July, 2023)
– **NITI Aayog**
- ➔ Overall Rank of Rajasthan & Bihar
– **13th (score-54.80) & 22nd (score-41.06) respectively**
- ➔ Which country hosted the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) via video conference? (4 July, 2023)
– **India**
- ➔ How many Indian-origin women feature in the Forbes 2023 list of America's 100 Richest Self - Made Women? (1 June, 2023)
– **4**
- ➔ The names of these women are?
– **Jayshree Ullal, Neerja Sethi, Neha Narkhede and Indra Nooyi**
- ➔ Who bagged the SKOCH Award under the theme "State of Governance India 2047" in Gold category? (July, 2023)
– **Jammu & Kashmir**
- ➔ Which Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) has been launched to strengthen maritime sector? (July 12, 2023)
– **SAGAR SAMPARK**
- ➔ PM Narendra Modi was conferred with which highest honour of France? (July, 2023)
– **Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**
- ➔ Who was sworn in as the new president of Nigeria on May 29, 2023?
– **Bola Tinubu**
- ➔ What is the theme of the 14th Clean Energy Ministerial and 8th Mission Innovation meeting?
– **Advancing Clean Energy Together**
- ➔ Which government ministry launched the website and logo for the CEM-14 / MI-8 meetings?
– **Ministry of Power**
- ➔ Which country is hosting the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in Cape Town (as of May 2023)?
– **South Africa**
- ➔ Which ministry is the nodal department for implementing the GOBARdhan scheme?
– **Ministry of Jal Shakti**
- ➔ Which country has won the bid to host the 2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC)?
– **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**
- ➔ Which scheme launched by PM Modi focuses on the conservation of existing Ramsar sites in India?
– **Amrit Dharohar Yojana**
- ➔ Under the MISHTI scheme, how many states and union territories will witness the development of mangrove cover? – **11 states and 2 union territories**
- ➔ Where was the third edition of the Khelo India University Games concluded?
– **IIT BHU (Varanasi)**
- ➔ Who signed the outline deal to build a lithium-ion cell factory in Gujarat, India (as of June 2023)?
– **Tata Group**
- ➔ What does the name Biparjoy mean in Bengali?
– **Disaster**
- ➔ According to the RBI's Annual Report 2022-23, Which country was the largest contributor to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India in FY23?
– **Singapore**
- ➔ Who launched the 'Sagar Samridhhi' online dredging monitoring system?
– **Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
- ➔ How many Grand Slam titles has Novak Djokovic won after the French Open 2023 victory?
– **23**
- ➔ World Day Against Child Labour, observed on June 12th, aims to inspire a global movement against child labour. The International Labour Organization initiated this event in 2002, turning it into an international occasion. What is the theme for World Day Against Child Labour 2023?
– **"Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!"**
- ➔ Australia won the World Test Championship 2021-23. Who was awarded the Player of the Match in the World Test Championship Final?
– **Travis Head**
- ➔ Under which section of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, did the RBI cancel Equitas Holdings' registration?
– **Section 45-IA (6)**
- ➔ According to the Community Spirit Index, which city has the highest score for "friendly staff" among the least friendly cities?
– **Mumbai**
- ➔ Which state topped the Best State category at the National Water Awards 2022?
– **Madhya Pradesh**

- ➔ Which district received the Best District award at the National Water Awards 2022?
– **Ganjam District (Odisha)**
- ➔ Which Village Panchayat received the Best Village Panchayat award at the National Water Awards?
– **Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat (Telangana)**
- ➔ Who was conferred with the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021?
– **Gita Press**
- ➔ Which media organization received the second-best award in the Media category at the National Water Awards?
– **Akashvani, Guwahati**
- ➔ Which company claimed the title of the most valuable private sector company in India according to the Hurun India's '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500' list?
– **Reliance Industries Limited**
- ➔ Who led the historic yoga session at the United Nations Headquarters to commemorate the 9th International Day of Yoga?
– **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**
- ➔ What was the theme highlighted by Prime Minister Modi on International Yoga Day?
– **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**
- ➔ Who has been awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023?
– **Salman Rushdie**
- ➔ What is the name of the multinational peacekeeping joint exercise taking place in Mongolia?
– **Ex Khaan Quest 2023**
- ➔ According to the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2023, which company emerged as India's most attractive employer brand?
– **Tata Power**
- ➔ What is the objective of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)?
– **To facilitate the establishment of micro enterprises**
- ➔ In which dimension does India lag behind in the Global Gender Gap Index?
– **Economic Participation and Opportunity**
- ➔ Which country holds the top position for gender equality in the world?
– **Iceland**
- ➔ Which is the primary goal of the Artemis Accords?
– **Promoting international cooperation in lunar missions**
- ➔ In addition to signing the Artemis Accords, what other collaboration has been agreed upon between NASA and ISRO?
– **Joint mission to the International Space Station in 2024**
- ➔ Who has been appointed as the president of BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women's Vertical (BRICS CCI WE)?
– **Ruby Sinha**
- ➔ On June 21, 2023, the Indian Naval Hydro-graphic Department celebrated World Hydrography Day (WHD). What is the theme for World Hydrography Day 2023?
– **Hydrography - Underpinning the Digital Twin of the Ocean**
- ➔ According to the Global Liveability Index 2023 report, which city has been ranked as the most livable city globally?
– **Vienna**
- ➔ Which region has shown notable progress in this year's Global Liveability rankings, according to the report?
– **Asia-Pacific**
- ➔ What is the name of the collaborative platform launched between India and the United States in the defense sector?
– **INDUS X**
- ➔ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was founded in 2003 under the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002. Which ministry does the CCI come under?
– **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**
- ➔ According to the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023, which city holds the top position in the global startup ecosystem rankings?
– **Silicon Valley**
- ➔ Which city secured the 20th position in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 (GSER 2023)?
– **Bengaluru**
- ➔ Which country secured the top position in the 2023 Global Competitiveness Index?
– **Denmark**
- ➔ Which country ranked last in the 2023 Global Competitiveness Index?
– **Venezuela**
- ➔ How many international awards has Prime Minister Narendra Modi received since 2014?
– **13**
- ➔ What is the purpose of the Nandi portal launched by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying?
– **To streamline the regulatory approval process for veterinary drugs and vaccines**
- ➔ Which sports event will Indonesia host as announced by FIFA?
– **U-17 World Cup**
- ➔ What was the theme of the 8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2023?
– **Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality**
- ➔ Which Indian university secured the highest position in the Asia University Rankings 2023?
– **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**
- ➔ Which country holds the first position in terms of the number of universities featured in the Asia University Rankings 2023?
– **Japan**
- ➔ Which state has been allocated the highest amount under the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' scheme?
– **Bihar**

- ➔ Which app was launched to facilitate geo-tagging of cluster projects and technology centers?
– **GeoTagMSME**
- ➔ How many Indian universities are included in the QS World University Rankings 2024? – **45**
- ➔ Which university is the only Asian institution to break into the top 10 of the QS World University Rankings 2024?– **National University of Singapore (NUS)**
- ➔ For which novel did Priya A S receive the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023?
– **Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal (The Children Who Never Withered)**
- ➔ Who won the 2023 Paraguay presidential election?
– **Santiago Pena**
- ➔ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches 'Millets Experience Centre' at Dilli Haat. Who established the Millets Experience Centre in New Delhi?
– **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)**
- ➔ Which states have been identified as highly stressed states based on the debt/GSDP ratio as per the analysis?
– **Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, and West Bengal**
- ➔ India to join international climate action in civil aviation from 2027. What is the name of the global market-based measure designed to offset international aviation CO2 emissions in order to stabilize the levels of such emissions?
– **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA)**
- ➔ Which state has been ranked as the most innovative state in the National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22? – **Karnataka**
- ➔ What is the Vivad se Vishwas scheme?
– **A scheme to offer assistance to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**
- ➔ Who has launched the G20 TechSprint 2023?
– **Both the Bank for International Settlements and the Reserve Bank of India**
- ➔ Where is the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) headquartered? – **Basel, Switzerland**
- ➔ India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park is being built in _____. – **Jogighopa**
- ➔ What is CU-Chayan?
– **A new portal for faculty recruitment in Central Universities**
- ➔ The first-ever border haat in Sylhet division along the India border was opened at Bholaganj in Companiganj upazila. How many border haats are currently operational between India and Bangladesh? – **13**
- ➔ To promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh, the Dawki land port was inaugurated by Union Minister Nityanand Rai. Where is the Dawki land port located? – **Meghalaya**
- ➔ What is the name of the integrated training exercise being conducted in Arunachal Pradesh(as of May 2023)? – **Operation Buland Bharat**
- ➔ What is the name of the introductory-level online training program launched by ISRO for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology? – **START**
- ➔ What is the name of the port that has been put into operation by India in Myanmar? – **Sittwe Port**
- ➔ The Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport initiative is a project aimed at developing a multimodal transport system to connect which two locations?
– **Kolkata and Sittwe**
- ➔ Which national park in India has been identified as the potential site for reintroducing cheetahs under Project Cheetah? – **Kuno National Park**
- ➔ Where was the Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change hosted in May 2023? – **Berlin, Germany**
- ➔ The Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) called SAKSHAM was launched by the Union Health Secretary. What does SAKSHAM stand for? – **Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management**
- ➔ Which countries will benefit from Saudi Arabia's new e-visa system?
– **Jordan, UAE, Egypt, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Indonesia**
- ➔ The 'Harit Sagar Guidelines - 2023' launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways aims to achieve _____. – **Zero Carbon Emission**
- ➔ Which port received the award for the best absolute performance for the year 2022-23?
– **Deendayal Port**
- ➔ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum 2023 is organized by _____. – **Startup India**
- ➔ What is the origin country of mpox, a disease formerly known as monkeypox?
– **Democratic Republic of the Congo**
- ➔ Where will the Global Ayurveda Festival 2023 be held?
– **Thiruvananthapuram**
- ➔ What is the theme of the Global Ayurveda Festival 2023?
– **Emerging Challenges in Healthcare & A Resurgent Ayurveda**
- ➔ What is the total number of Grandmasters in India after V. Prraneeth's achievement? – **82**

- ➔ What is the theme for the 7th UN Global Road Safety Week? – **Sustainable Transport**
- ➔ What is the ranking of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) in the Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)? – **2nd**
- ➔ Who inaugurated the National Homoeopathic Convention 'Homeocon 2023' in Uttarakhand? – **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama**
- ➔ Who launched the UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) Portal and the Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal? – **University Grants Commission (UGC)**
- ➔ Which martial art will be featured in the 37th National Games-2023 for the first time? – **Gatka**
- ➔ Who has been appointed as the US Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in the State Department? – **Geeta Rao Gupta**
- ➔ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) plans to set up an ethanol plant in which district of Himachal Pradesh? – **Una**
- ➔ The Indian Navy's submarine, Vaghsheer, has begun its sea trials. Vaghsheer is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024 after completion of these trials. What is the class of the Vaghsheer submarine? – **Kalvari**
- ➔ Which ministry is responsible for implementing the "Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Seher" campaign? – **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**
- ➔ Which operation involved the evacuation of Indian nationals from Sudan in April 2023? – **Operation Kaveri**
- ➔ Who is the first Saudi female astronaut to go to space? – **Rayyanah Barnawi**
- ➔ Which cricketer is an investor in Garuda Aerospace and also serves as its brand ambassador? – **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**
- ➔ Which state is hosting the third edition of 'Khelo India' University Games? – **Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ Which state in India has declared itself as the first fully e-governed state? – **Kerala**
- ➔ What is the name of the initiative launched to enhance the capabilities of civil servants across various government organizations? – **Mission Karmayogi**
- ➔ What is the name of the AI supercomputer located at C-DAC, Pune, which achieved a global ranking of 75th on the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List? – **AIRAWAT**
- ➔ Which organization has launched the Jugalbandi chatbot? – **Microsoft**
- ➔ "Time Shelter" won the International Booker Prize. Who is the author of the novel "Time Shelter"? – **Georgi Gospodinov**
- ➔ Which national symbol inspired the design of the Rajya Sabha in the new Parliament House? – **Lotus**
- ➔ Under the SAMARTH Campaign, the Ministry of Rural Development aims to achieve digital transformation in how many Gram Panchayats? – **50,000**
- ➔ Which organization is organizing the first-ever Urban Climate Film Festival? – **National Institute of Urban Affairs**
- ➔ Where was the Sudarshan Shakti Exercise 2023 conducted? – **Rajasthan and Punjab**
- ➔ Which ministry is involved in the implementation of the IMPRINT India scheme? – **Ministry of Science and Technology**
- ➔ Where will the COP28 conference take place? – **Dubai, UAE**
- ➔ Who has been re-elected as the External Auditor of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027? – **Girish Chandra Murmu**
- ➔ Which state has become the first state in India to have 100% electrified railway network? – **Haryana**
- ➔ Who launched the 'SAGAR-SETU' mobile app of National Logistics Portal Marine? – **Union Minister for Shipping, Ports and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal**
- ➔ Which airport has recently been ranked as the 9th busiest airport in the world? – **Indira Gandhi International Airport**
- ➔ What is the name of the rice for which Bihar has received the GI tag? – **Marcha Rice**
- ➔ Who inaugurated Gaj Utsav-2023 in India? – **President of India**
- ➔ What are the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh panel on natural gas pricing? – **To increase the price of natural gas to incentivize exploration and production**
- ➔ Which company won an award at the World Vaccine Congress 2023? – **Bharat Biotech**
- ➔ Who is the winner of the International Prize in Statistics 2023? – **C.R. Rao**
- ➔ Which two countries have gained as FPI destinations in FY23? – **Norway and Singapore**
- ➔ Which country is the largest importer of gold in the world? – **India**
- ➔ Who launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Uganda? – **S. Jaishankar**
- ➔ Which city is home to India's first 3D-printed post office? – **Bengaluru**
- ➔ Which country ranks first in AI investment according to the CB Insights report? – **United States**

- ➔ Who is launching the "Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)" under the National One Health Mission?
 - **Union Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**
- ➔ Which country is set to host the maiden Global Buddhist meet?
 - **India**
- ➔ Which city's metro train has become the first in India to run under a river?
 - **Kolkata**
- ➔ From where was the Bharat Gaurav Tourist train flagged off?
 - **New Delhi**
- ➔ The first city in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) region to be granted the rotating title of 'Cultural & Tourism capital of SCO' is
 - **Varanasi**
- ➔ Election Commission of India recognised Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a national party, which came into existence in
 - **October, 2012**
- ➔ Which only two Indians have been named in TIME100: The Most Influential People of 2023 (in April, 2023)
 - **Shahrukh Khan & S.S. Rajamouli**
- ➔ On April 10, 2023, Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Vibrant Village program from which place
 - **Kibithoo - a border village in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh**
- ➔ On April 9, 2023, the Prime Minister of India has launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) at
 - **Mysuru University in Mysuru, Karnataka**
- ➔ In September 17, 2022, 8 Cheetahs were brought to India from Namibia to
 - **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**
- ➔ The African Cheetah, with several subspecies occurring in different African countries, is listed as
 - **Vulnerable (VU) species in IUCN Red List**
- ➔ Recently, the 17th Annual Summit of G-20 was held in Bali (Indonesia) under Indonesian presidency under the theme
 - **'Recover Together, Recovery Stronger'**
- ➔ India has assumed the charge of the G20 presidency and the 18th Summit (2023), which will be held in
 - **New Delhi, India**
- ➔ The theme of India's G20 Presidency - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth · One Family · One Future" - is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text
 - **Maha Upanishad**
- ➔ On February 24, 2023 the Kerala government has launched robotic scavenger and become first state to use robotic scavengers to clean manholes, it is named as
 - **Bandicoot**
- ➔ The theme of Pravasi Bhatiya Divas Convention, 2023 was
 - **"Diaspora : Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal"**
- ➔ On 9 October 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of various projects (worth over Rs. 3900 crore) in which village and declared it as India's first 24×7 solar-powered village
 - **Modhera, Gujarat**
- ➔ First I2U2 Leaders' Virtual Summit quadrilateral forum (virtually) held recently for the first time; where I2U2 stands for
 - **India, Israel, UAE and USA**
- ➔ Which country was named the world's happiest country for the sixth year in a row in the World Happiness Report, 2023
 - **Finland**
- ➔ In the World Happiness Report -2023 in the list of 137 countries, India was ranked at
 - **126**
- ➔ According to fresh data released by the Sweden-based Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the world's largest arms importer between 2018 and 2022 accounting for
 - **11 per cent of global imports**
- ➔ 11th International IP Index was released by the US Chambers of Commerce; among 55 leading global economies India was ranked at
 - **42nd Rank**
- ➔ The Theme of the Human Development Report 2021/22 was
 - **"Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World"**
- ➔ This edition of Youth Summit is set to take place on 26th February 2023 in
 - **Bangalore.**
- ➔ Which state tableau has won the top prize at the 74th Republic Day Parade
 - **Uttarakhand Tableau**
- ➔ Name the author of the book "The Poverty Of Political Economy: How Economics Abandoned the Poor"
 - **Meghnad Desai**
- ➔ First State to Set up Divyang department is
 - **Maharashtra**
- ➔ On September 21, 2022 the USA lawmakers voted to ratify the Kigali Amendment, which is related to
 - **The Montreal Protocol**
- ➔ Operation London Bridge (also known by its code phrase "London Bridge is down") was the known for
 - **Funeral plan for Queen Elizabeth II**
- ➔ UN 2023 Water Conference 2023 was held in
 - **New York, USA (March 22- 24, 2023)**
- ➔ The Conference was co-hosted by the Governments of
 - **Tajikistan and the Netherlands**
- ➔ The Chief Guest of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 was
 - **Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, (President of Cooperative Republic of Guyana)**
- ➔ Recently, who took oath as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh on December 11, 2022
 - **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**

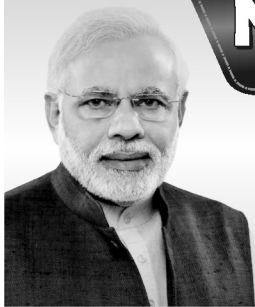
- ➔ The coveted International eco-label “Blue Flag”, has been accorded to two new beaches of India
– **Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach (Lakshadweep)**
- ➔ First women elected to the 60-member Nagaland Assembly in recent election? (7 March, 2023)
– **Hekani Jakhalu and Salhoutuono Kruse**
- ➔ Who took oath as the Chief Minister of Tripura for the second term? (8 March, 2023) – **Manik Saha**
- ➔ Where was the Youth Festival - India @ 2047 launched? (4 March 2023) – **IIT Ropar, Punjab**
- ➔ How many Cities targeted to become 3-Star Garbage Free by October 2024?(March,2023) –**1000**
- ➔ Which project was launched to green 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states?(25 March, 2023) – **Aravalli Green Wall Project**
- ➔ The first India-Central Asia Culture Ministers’ meeting hosted by(3 April, 2023)
– **Ministry of Culture, India**
- ➔ How many women WASH Champions were conferred with the ‘Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023’ by President Draupadi Murmu? (4 March 2023)
– **36**
- ➔ Where was the Global Millets Conference organized? (18-19 March 2023) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which city host B20 meeting under India’s G20 presidency? (16 March 2023) – **Gangtok, Sikkim**
- ➔ Where was the 2nd G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) meeting held under India’s G20 presidency? (21-23 March 2023)
– **Udaipur, Rajasthan**
- ➔ Top state (large and mid-sized category) in India Justice Report (IJR) 2022 overall ranking (April, 2023)
– **Karnataka (score-6.38)**
- ➔ Which country has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit as a guest at the annual Bastille Day parade in July? – **France**
- ➔ Which country became 31st member of NATO? (4 April, 2023) – **Finland(a Nordic country)**
- ➔ On the occasion of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) Reserve Bank of India launched (6-12 March 2023) – **‘Har Payment Digital’ mission**
- ➔ Where was the ‘Semicon India Conference’ inaugurated? (18 February 2023) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Where was Asia’s largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh? (March, 2023)
– **Devasthal, Uttarakhand**
- ➔ First Indian state to pass the Right to Health Bill (21 March 2023) – **Rajasthan**
- ➔ 10th edition of annual bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23 held at (3 - 8 April 2023)
– **Colombo, Sri Lanka**
- ➔ Who becomes 1st woman to command combat unit in Indian Air Force? (7 March 2023)
– **Shalija Dhani**
- ➔ Who has been selected for the prestigious Sangeet Kalanidhi Award 2023? (19 March, 2023)
– **Bombay Jayshree**
- ➔ NMDC has appointed whom as its brand ambassador?
–**Nikhat Zareen**
- ➔ India’s G-20 Sherpa inaugurates India’s first Model G-20 Summit. The India’s G-20 Sherpa was
–**Amitabh Kant**
- ➔ Which state government has launched a campaign, ‘Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan’ to make daughters of the underprivileged classes capable and self-reliant?
–**Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on
–**2nd February**
- ➔ Who was recently conferred a Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours.
–**Dr Manmohan Singh**
- ➔ Who has been conferred with FIH’s President’s Award 2023?
–**V. Karthikeyan Pandian**
- ➔ Which country is to host football’s 2027 Asian Cup?
–**Saudi Arabia**
- ➔ Where will be the next edition of the Asian Football Cup hosted in 2023?
–**Qatar**
- ➔ Who launched Visit India Year 2023 initiative?
–**Minister of Tourism G.Kishan Reddy**
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world’s first nano urea plant in 2022 at which place?
–**Kalol, Gujarat**
- ➔ Yaya Tso to be the first biodiversity heritage site located in which Union Territory?
–**Ladakh**
- ➔ Which Indian city becomes the first civic body to launch green bonds.
–**Indore**
- ➔ Deepak Chopra received Golden Book Awards 2023 for which book?
–**The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success: A Practical Guide to Achieving Your Dreams**
- ➔ ISRO-NASA combined satellite to be launched from India in September 2023
–**NISAR**
- ➔ Which university is declared the world’s first living heritage university by UNESCO?
–**Visva-Bharati University**
- ➔ Where were Lithium reserves found for the first time in India?
–**Jammu & Kashmir**
- ➔ Who received the UNESCO Peace Prize in Ivory Coast?
–**Angela Merkel**

- ➔ Where will India's First Frozen Lake Marathon be hosted? **-Ladakh**
- ➔ PM Modi Virtually Inaugurated Jal Jan Abhiyan in which state? **-Rajasthan**
- ➔ Which film won the Best Film Award at the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023? **-The Kashmir Files**
- ➔ Who was awarded the 'Entrepreneur of the Year 2022' title? **-Sajjan Jindal**
- ➔ Which country hosted the first I2U2 Vice-Ministerial meeting to discuss investment opportunities? **-UAE**
- ➔ Who won the 2023 Marconi Prize? **-Hari Balakrishnan**
- ➔ Which year announced as the "International Year of millets"? **-2023**
- ➔ Which country becomes the first Asian nation and second in the world to launch Hydrogen powered Train. **-China**
- ➔ Which state has celebrated the Imoinu Eratpa festival? **-Manipur**
- ➔ How many overseas Indian are awarded this year by the Indian government for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards? **-27**
- ➔ Ministry of Jal Shakti organized "1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water" with the theme "Water Vision@2047" in which city? **-Bhopal**
- ➔ Which state has declared as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service? **-Kerala**
- ➔ What is the theme of World Hindi Conference 2023? **-Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence**
- ➔ Which Indian song won the best song category in Golden Globe Awards 2023? **-Naatu Naatu**
- ➔ Name the author of the book Jadunama, a book written on veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar. **-Arvind Mandloi**
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh emerged as the top destination for mobile gamers according to India Mobile Gaming Report 2022. Which states were the second and third states? **-Maharashtra and Rajasthan**
- ➔ ISRO 'Shukrayaan I' mission to planet Venus reportedly shifted to **-2031**
- ➔ Which city was selected to host WEF Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution? **-Hyderabad**
- ➔ Which airport won the prestigious "Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport" award? **-Manohar International Airport, Goa**
- ➔ Which police station was awarded as the number one police station in the country? **-Aska Police Station, Odisha**
- ➔ Who has become the 1st-ever Indian cricketer to have won the ICC Men's T20 Cricketer of the Year award? **-Surya Kumar Yadav**
- ➔ Which former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh received Padma Vibhushan recently? **-Mulayam Singh Yadav**
- ➔ The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved which animal as a 'food animal' recently? **-Himalayan Yak**
- ➔ Who has been awarded the Para Sports Person of the Year 2022? **-Avani Lekhara**
- ➔ Who has won the Best Director Award at the New York Film Critics Circle? **-S.S. Rajamouli**
- ➔ India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve will be set up in which state/UT of India? **-Ladakh**
- ➔ India's first Gold ATM and world's first Real Time Gold ATM has launched in which city? **-Hyderabad**
- ➔ Who unveiled the FIFA World Cup trophy in Qatar 2022? **-Deepika Padukone**
- ➔ Which President has been named Time Magazine's Person of the Year Award for 2022? **-Volodymyr Zelensky**
- ➔ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets 2023 in **-Rome, Italy**
- ➔ Who has made a world record of making the fastest double century in a One Day International (ODI) against Bangladesh recently? **-Ishan Kishan**
- ➔ Which player won the Golden Boot Award in the FIFA World Cup 2022? **-Kylian Mbappe**
- ➔ In FIFA World Cup 2022, Golden Ball Award goes to? **-Lionel Messi**
- ➔ Who actress has been awarded PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title? **-Sonakshi Sinha**
- ➔ Which legendary athlete has been nominated by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to the panel of vice-chairperson in the upper house of the Parliament? **-P.T. Usha**
- ➔ Which country hosted the next football Club World Cup in February 2023? **-Morocco**
- ➔ Recently, Anuradha Roy was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award, 2022 for her novel? **-All the Lives We Never Lived**
- ➔ Who breaks all the records and became the most expensive cricketer ever to be bought by any franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL)? **-Sam Curran**
- ➔ Who is the only Indian player in the top 25 in Forbes' annual list of the highest-paid female athletes in the world? **-PV Sindhu**

- ➔ The famous Losar festival, is celebrated in which state/UT of India? **–Ladakh**
- ➔ Who has been awarded Atal Samman Award? **–Prabhu Chandra Mishra**
- ➔ Mawmluh Cave has become the first Indian Geoheritage Site to be recognised by UNESCO. It is located in **–Meghalaya**
- ➔ Recently, Saudi Arabia won the bid to host Winter Games for **–2029**
- ➔ Which state is hosting the three day Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) Conference 2022 from 1st to 3rd November 2022? **–Goa**
- ➔ Falcon Heavy, the world’s most-powerful active rocket was launched by which space technology companies? **–SpaceX**
- ➔ Which word has been chosen as the Collins Dictionary’s word of the year? **–Permacrisis**
- ➔ India Post Payments Bank has conducted India’s first Floating Financial Literacy Camp in **–Srinagar**
- ➔ Who is the 1st voter of Independent India, exercised his right to franchise for the 34th time for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections? **–Shyam Saran Negi**
- ➔ Who has won the titles in the Open men’s in the Asian Continental Chess championship 2022? **–R. Praggnanandhaa**
- ➔ UP government aims to make one of India’s largest pilgrimage centres, Mathura-Vrindavan a “net zero carbon emission” tourist destination by which year? **–2041**
- ➔ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has partnered with whom to promote energy efficiency financing for MSMEs in November 2022. **–SIDBI**
- ➔ What is the theme of India’s G20 presidency 2023? **–Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future**
- ➔ India’s first private sector rocket Vikram-S, was developed by which space technology companies? **–Skyroot Aerospace**
- ➔ Who has been awarded 31st Bihari Puraskar 2021 for her 2018 novel ‘Hum Yahan The’? **–Madhu Kankariya**
- ➔ Who has been awarded 32nd Bihari Puraskar 2022 for his 2015 literary criticism book ‘Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri’? **–Dr. Madhav Hada**
- ➔ Which country will host the U-19 Men’s T-20 World Cup 2024? **–Sri Lanka**
- ➔ United Nation’s Day of Eight Billion is celebrated on which day? **–15 November 2022**
- ➔ Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award was given to **–Carlos Saura**
- ➔ Which group has launched a plan named ‘Global Shield’ at the 27th UN Climate Change Conference? **–G7**
- ➔ What is the objective of “In our LiFEtime” Campaign launched by India at COP 27? **–To encourage the youth to follow sustainable lifestyle.**
- ➔ What is the rank of India in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023? **–8th**
- ➔ Cambridge Dictionary has declared which word as the Word of the Year 2022? **–Homer**
- ➔ What is the name of official mascot of the Qatar World Cup 2022? **–La’eeb**
- ➔ Who was conferred the Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 by Himachal Pradesh governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar? **–Dalai Lama**
- ➔ What is the theme of SCO summit 2023? **–For a SECURE SCO**
- ➔ Who was named as one of the five recipients of the U.N.’s highest environmental award ‘Champions of the Earth’ in November 2022? **–Purnima Devi Barman**
- ➔ Which city becomes the first city in South Asia to top CDP’s climate action list? **–Mumbai**
- ➔ Which has signed the world’s ‘longest’ gas supply deal with China in November 2022? **–Qatar**
- ➔ Arittapatti village has been declared as the first Biodiversity Site of which state? **–Tamil Nadu**
- ➔ The Indian government has invited which country’s President as the chief guest for the Republic day parade 2023? **–Egypt**
- ➔ Which state government has launched AMLAN (Anemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan) programme recently? **–Odisha**
- ➔ Which city will host the first G20 Sherpa Meeting in India from 4 to 7 December? **–Udaipur**
- ➔ Who has become the first Women President of Indian Olympic Association? **–P.T. Usha**
- ➔ What is the maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme will be enhanced from? **–15 lakh to 30 lakh**
- ➔ The outlay for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is being enhanced by 66% to over **–Rs. 79,000 cr**
- ➔ What is the rate of tax for Income tax slab between the income of Rs 3 Lakh to Rs 6 Lakh for assessment year 2023-24? **–5%**
- ➔ The Finance Minister proposed to reduce the highest surcharge rate in the New tax regime from 37 percent to **–25 per cent**

- ➔ In the which year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman replaced the Budget briefcase with the traditional 'Bahi Khata' having the National Emblem?
–2019
- ➔ How much fiscal deficit center has Pegged for FY 2024
–5.9 percent
- ➔ What is the budget allocated for National Green Hydrogen Mission to shift low-carbon economy and reduce reliance on fossil fuel?
–Rs 19,700 crore
- ➔ The Total Expenditure of the Union Budget 2023-24 is:
–45.03 Lakh Crore
- ➔ The Total Receipt of The Union Budget 2023-24 is:
–27.13 Lakh Crore
- ➔ The Fiscal Deficit of The Union Budget 2023-24 is:
–17.87 Lakh Crore
- ➔ Total resources being transferred to the States in The Union Budget 2023-24 is:
–17.98 Lakh Crore
- ➔ Which of the following has the highest share in the Proposed Expenditure from the Union Budget 2023-24.
–Interest Payment
- ➔ Which of the following has the least share in the Proposed Expenditure from the Union Budget 2023-24
–Pensions
- ➔ National Data Governance Policy to be brought out in the Union Budget 2023-24 for
–Start-ups and academia
- ➔ PM-PRANAM Scheme to be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote
–Alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers
- ➔ In the new tax regime rebate limit of Personal Income Tax to be increased to
–7 Lakh
- ➔ Which Scheme that was announced in the Union Budget 2023 includes skilled people who are engaged in various traditional and skilled professions?
–PM VIKAS (Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman)
- ➔ By which year the government aims to produce 5 MMT of green hydrogen?
–2030
- ➔ What is the new MSME scheme announced in the Union Budget 2023?
–Revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs
- ➔ Which was the first budget that was a digital one?
–2021-22
- ➔ Total number of LPG connections provided under Ujjwala scheme
–9.6 crore
- ➔ Total number of bank accounts opened under PM Jan Dhan scheme according to the Budget 2023-24
–47.8 crore
- ➔ 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under which scheme to be established for promoting circular economy at total investment of Rs 10,000 crore?
–GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme
- ➔ How many Skill India International Centres to be set up across different States to skill youth for international opportunities
–30 Skill India International Centres
- ➔ The Economic Survey 2022-23 estimated India's GDP growth
–6.5 %
- ➔ Which government of India ministry won the best prize at the 74th Republic Day parade?
–Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- ➔ A 5-day 'Jeevan Vidya Shivir' was organized for the teachers of government schools of which state/UT?
- ➔ The 30th National Child Science Congress has organized at which city?
–Ahmedabad
- ➔ UNESCO has designated 'Odesa' a World Heritage in danger site. It is situated in which country?
–Ukraine
- ➔ City which will be made the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.
–Visakhapatnam
- ➔ Which song has won the Song of the Year Award in Grammy Awards 2023?
–'Just like That'
- ➔ First Youth20 inception meeting 2023 begins in which city?
–Guwahati
- ➔ Which state has the highest unemployment rate in India as of January 2023?
–Jammu and Kashmir
- ➔ Which country is the highest milk producer in the world contributing twenty-four percent of global milk production in the year 2021-22.
–India
- ➔ India is ranked in which place in the ICAO's Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking?
–55th
- ➔ Which city is going to host the World Government Summit 2023?
–Dubai
- ➔ Who launched 'Digital Payments Utsav'?
–Ashwini Vaishnav
- ➔ Which payment platform released a QR Code with a G20 theme to commemorate India's presidency?
–Paytm
- ➔ Who joined as the team mentor of Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Women's Premier League?
–Sania Mirza
- ➔ Which organization launched its second global hackathon - 'HARBINGER 2023 - Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'Inclusive Digital Services'?
–Reserve Bank of India
- ➔ When was the first Divya Kala Mela organized?
–December 2022

- ➔ Where will be the World's highest weather station rebuilt? –**Mount Everest**
- ➔ India's First Agri Chatbot Ama KrushAI Launched in which state? –**Odisha**
- ➔ 18th World Security Congress Begins in which city? –**Jaipur**
- ➔ Who won the Argentina Open title in 2023? –**Carlos Alcaraz**
- ➔ Who became the first digital citizen of the Bhutan? –**Prince Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck**
- ➔ Which state became the first state to use robotic scavengers to clean manholes? –**Kerala**
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation in –**Kolkata**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book titled 'Ambedkar: A Life'? –**Shashi Tharoor**
- ➔ Which state of India has began the International Kite Festival 2023? –**Gujarat**
- ➔ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently unveiled a 120 feet tall statue of a polo player in which state? –**Manipur**
- ➔ On which date the first Plastic Overshoot Day was Marked –**July 28, 2023**
- ➔ A nurse from Bihar, who was awarded the National Florence Nightingale Award, 2023 (June 22, 2023) –**Gayatri Kumari**
- ➔ Where did the construction work of the "world's largest Ramayana temple" start from June 20, 2023? –**In Bihar's East Champaran district**
- ➔ Sampoorna Kranti Divas is celebrated on? –**5 June**
- ➔ Where was Thawe festival organized? (April 15-16, 2023) –**Gopalganj, Bihar**
- ➔ Which grand campaign was launched for the technical information of Kharif crops to the farmers and the information about the schemes run by the Agriculture Department in the Kharif season? (May 24, 2023) –**Kharif campaign**
- ➔ When is Bihar Day celebrated? –**22 March**
- ➔ Bihar Day is being celebrated from which year? –**Year 2010**
- ➔ The theme of Bihar Diwas, 2023 is –**"Yuva Shakti Bihar Ki Pragati"**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book 'Jeevan Gita: Bhagavadgita Mein JyotishVigyan (Set of Volume 1 & 2)?' –**Dr. Arun Kumar Jaiswal**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book 'Manvi (EkSangharsh Gatha)?' –**Dr. Vandana Vijayalakshmi**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book 'Rashtranayak Narendra Modi: Rashtravad se Samajvadki or?' –**Dr. Usha Vidyarthi**
- ➔ Who took oath as the 41st Governor of Bihar? (February 17, 2023) –**Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**
- ➔ In which city of Bihar, L-20 summit under G-20, was organized? (June 22-23, 2023) –**Patna**
- ➔ The first Municipal Corporation in the country to use Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)? (May, 2023) –**Patna**
- ➔ For the year 2020-21 and the year 2021-22, how many litterateurs were honored in the Hindi Sevi Samman and Award distribution ceremony? (July 31, 2023) –**29**
- ➔ Chief Minister Nitish Kumar requested to organize this program every year on which day? –**Every year on '14 September' (National Hindi Day)**
- ➔ How many stations of Bihar have been included under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme? (February, 2023) –**86**
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations. How many stations of Bihar are included in this?(August 6, 2023) –**49**
- ➔ Where did the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveil the life size statue of Maharana Pratap? (January 19, 2023) –**Patna, Bihar**
- ➔ Kajra Solar Power Plant (250 MW) is being set up in which district of Bihar? –**Lakhisarai**
- ➔ Where is India's largest statue of 'Lord Buddha in the sleeping posture' being constructed? –**Bodhgaya**
- ➔ What will be the length and height of this statue? –**100 feet and 30 feet respectively**
- ➔ Where is Bihar's first multi-modal logistics park being set up? (January 13, 2023) –**Fatuha, Patna**
- ➔ Who has been made an icon by the Election Commission of India to make voters aware in Bihar? (January, 2023) –**Maithili Thakur**
- ➔ Where did the Dalai Lama lay the foundation stone of the 'Center for the Study of Indo-Tibetan Thought'? (January, 2023) –**Bodh Gaya**
- ➔ Which police station of Bihar has been declared as the third best police station in the country? (January, 2023) –**Women's Police Station, Arwal**
- ➔ Mohd. Jabir Ansari belongs to which state, who received gold medal in All India Inter-University Karate Competition? (January, 2023) –**Bihar (Patna University)**
- ➔ In which district of Bihar, the second 'Planetarium cum Science Museum' of the state was opened? (January, 2023) –**Darbhanga**
- ➔ Where was the 48th Junior National Kabaddi Girls Championship, 2022 held? (September 1, 2022) –**Patna**



Focus on the
Country's Political, Social,
Religious, Educational Events
and Various Ministries



A. National Schemes & Initiatives

UDAN 5.2

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation launched **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) 5.2** in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh on July 25, 2023.

- ➔ In the same event the 5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit (Heli Summit 2023) was jointly organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in association with the **Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd.** and the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.
- ➔ Theme of the Event : “**Reaching the last Mile : Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Aircraft**”.

Objectives of the Summit were

- ➔ Providing common platform for all industry stakeholders and policymakers to discuss the growth story of Indian Helicopter and Small Aircraft industry.
- ➔ Enhancing the scope of UDAN Scheme in remote and hilly terrains and expanding the country's rural-to-urban connectivity.

Key Highlights of UDAN 5.2

- ➔ **UDAN 5.2** is launched for enhancing the connectivity in remote and regional areas of the nation and also achieving last-mile connectivity through small aircraft such as **1A (< 9 seats)** and **Category 1 (< 20 seats)**.
- ➔ Scheme is introduced for helicopter services, under this **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** is increased and fare cap is reduced.
- ➔ **22 new routes** also allocated.
- ➔ **Heli-Sewa** mobile application was launched in the program, building common platform, connecting Helicopter operators and district officials, ensuring better access to improved content towards enhancing user experience.

UDAN 5.1

- ➔ **Launched on:** May 24, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by:** Ministry of Civil Aviation

Features of the UDAN 5.1

- ➔ An increase in the scope of operations for operators wherein the 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 as much as 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.

UDAN 5.0

- ➔ The government on **April 21, 2023** launched the fifth round of the regional air connectivity scheme to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas.

Key Features of UDAN 5.0 are as follows:

- ➔ This round of UDAN focuses on **Category-2 (20-80 seats)** and **Category-3 (>80 seats)**.
- ➔ The earlier stage length cap of 600 km is waived off and there is no restriction on the distance between the origin and destination of the flight.
- ➔ **Viability gap funding (VGF)** to be provided will be capped at 600 km stage length for **both Priority and Non-Priority areas** which was earlier capped at 500 km.

UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)

- ➔ The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for regional airport development and regional connectivity enhancement. It is a part of the **National Civil Aviation Policy 2016**.
- ➔ The scheme is applicable for a period of 10 years.
- ➔ **Outcome:**
 - ☞ The number of operational airports has gone up to 141 from 74 in 2014.

- 73 underserved/unserved destinations which include **62 Airports, 9 Heliports & 2 Water Aerodromes** have been connected under UDAN scheme.
- With **425 new routes initiated**, UDAN has provided air connectivity to more than 29 States/ UTs across the country.

Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) and ULLAS Initiative

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 3rd Anniversary of NEP-2020 (July 30, 2023).

- Additionally the Union Minister of Education launched the logo, slogan – Jan Jan Sakshar and Mobile application The “ULLAS” : Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.

Key Highlights of ABSS

- The PM released the first installment of funds under the PM SHRI Scheme.
 - To support the establishment of schools that nurture engaged, productive and contributing citizens.
- He also released education and skill curriculum books translated into 12 Indian languages.

About ULLAS : Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram

- The ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is a transformative initiative launched by the Indian Government.
- To promote lifelong learning and bridge the gaps in basic literacy and critical life among citizens aged 15 and above.
- To empower individuals with essential knowledge and skills for personal and national development.
- The app serves as a digital gateway to diverse learning resources the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.

Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 103rd Man Ki Baat announced the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign which starts from 9th August 2023 for honouring the martyred brave-hearts of the country.

- Under this campaign, ‘**Amrit Kalash Yatra**’ will also be organised across the country.
- Prime Minister has suggested the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign give true value to its tagline ‘**Mitti ko naman, veeron ka vandan.**’

- The campaign will include various programs across the country to remember the bravehearts (Veers).

Amrit Kalash Yatra

- During the campaign of “Meri Maati Mera Desh”, an Amrit Kalash Yatra will also be taken out.
- This ‘Amrit Kalash Yatra’ will reach Delhi, carrying the soil in 7,500 Kalash from villages and various corners of the country.

Bhoomi Samman, 2023

Recently, the President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu** presented the “**Bhoomi Samman**” 2023 at a function organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi.

- **Function organized at** – New Delhi (July 18, 2023)
- **Function organized by-** Union Ministry of Rural Development
- **The awards were received by-** State Secretaries and District Collectors along with their teams.
- **Best state-** Odisha

About “Bhoomi Samman”

- Bhoomi Samman is given to State Secretaries and District Collectors along with their teams who have excelled in achieving saturation of the core components of **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme**.
- This year **9 State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors of the aforesaid Districts** was presented with “Bhoomi Samman” recognizing their efforts in achieving outstanding performance.
- The grading system is largely based on reports and inputs of the States and UTs in the core components of computerization and digitization of land records.
- Name of Bhoomi Samman awardee 2023 state are Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, West Bengal, Odisha.
- **Odisha** has been awarded the Prestigious “**Bhoomi Samman**” as the **best state in India for its outstanding contribution in digitisation of land records.**

4th National Water Awards, 2022

On June 17, 2023, Vice President (VP) of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, conferred the 4th National Water Awards, 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, 41 winners in 11 categories are declared.

- The award ceremony was organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS).

- ➔ The National Water Awards were launched in 2018 by DoWR, RD & GR. These are a part of the ongoing nationwide drive of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat' or 'Water Prosperous India'.

Category	Winners
Best State	1. Madhya Pradesh (MP) 2. Odisha 3. Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.
Best District	1. Ganjam District, Odisha 2. Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu (TN) 3. Adilabad District, Telangana
Best Village Panchayat	1. Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Telangana 2. Kadavur Village Panchayat, Karur district, Tamil Nadu and Manickal Village Panchayat, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala
Best Urban Local Body	1. Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, 2. Indore Municipal Corporation, Indore, MP
Best Media	1. Advance Water Digest Private Limited Gurugram, Haryana
Best School	1. Jamiyatpura Primary School, Mehsana, Gujarat 2. KGBV School, Chagalamarri, Nandyal, AP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ The Award for the Best Industry conferred on Barauni Thermal Power Station, Begusarai, Bihar. ➔ The Award for the Best NGO conferred on Arpan Seva Sansthan, Udaipur, Rajasthan. ➔ The Award for the Best Industry for CSR Activities will be conferred on HCL Technologies Ltd., Noida, UP. 	

GI Tags to 7 Products of 3 states

In August, 2023 the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to seven products (four from Rajasthan, 2 from Goa and 1 from Uttar Pradesh)

- ➔ The National Water Awards were launched in 2018 by DoWR, RD & GR. These are a part of the ongoing nationwide drive of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat' or 'Water Prosperous India'.

State	GI	Goods
Rajasthan	Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft	Handi Craft
	Bikaner Kashidakari Craft	Handi Craft
	Bikaner Usta Kala Craft	Handi Craft
	Jodhpur Bandhej Craft	Handi Craft
Goa	Goa Mankur Mango (Malcorado or Mankurad)	Agriculture
	Goan Bebinca	Food Stuffs
Uttar Pradesh	Jalesar Metal Craft (Jalesar Dhatu Shilp)	Handi Craft

GI Tag to Seven Products of Uttar Pradesh

- ➔ In June, 2023 the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has given GI tags to seven different products from Uttar Pradesh.
- ➔ Seven products that get GI tag are as follows-
 - (1) **Amroha Dholak** (musical instrument made of natural wood.)
 - (2) **Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip** (soft stone with scientific name, the 'Pyro Flight Stone')
 - (3) **Baghpat Home Furnishings'** (famous for weaving on the frame loom instead of the pit loom)
 - (4) **Barabanki Handloom Product** (Around 50,000 weavers and 20,000 looms at Barabanki and adjoining area)
 - (5) **Kalpi Handmade Paper** (engaging more than 5,000 craftsmen and approximately 200 units)
 - (6) **Mainpuri Tarkashi** (primarily brass wire inlay work on wood)
 - (7) **Sambhal Horn Craft** (used raw materials procured from dead animals)

PM-PRANAM Scheme

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the PM-PRANAM (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth) scheme.

About PM-PRANAM Scheme

- ➔ **Approved in** - June, 2023
- ➔ **Approved by** - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)
- ➔ **Announced in** - Budget 2023-2024

Key Highlights

- ➔ The PM-PRANAM scheme is a step towards promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing the dependency on chemical fertilizers.
- ➔ Under the scheme, the states which will adopt alternative fertilisers will be incentivised with the subsidy that is saved by reducing the use of chemical fertilisers.
- ➔ The PM-PRANAM scheme was aimed at saving the soil and promote sustainable, balanced use of fertilizers and it involved the participation of State governments.

- ➔ The scheme will be financed by the savings of existing fertilizer subsidies and it will not have separate budget.
- ➔ The Integrated Fertilisers Management System (IFMS) is the platform envisaged to track the use of fertilisers.

Meri LiFE App

Recently, Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav launched a mobile application, called “**Meri LiFE**” (My Life) to catalyze youth action for climate change as a build up to June 5, World Environment Day.

- ➔ **Launched on:** May 15th, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- ➔ **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment):** was launched by the Prime Minister of India on 20 October, 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat.
- ➔ The Meri LiFE app will help in creating a structured way to track the progress being made on Mission LiFE.
- ➔ Upon successful sign-up, users will be guided to participate in a series of LiFE related tasks under the following 5 themes, namely, Save Energy, Save Water, Reduce Single Use Plastic, Adopt Sustainable Food Systems and Adopt Healthy Lifestyle.

‘75/25’ Initiative

Recently, the Union Health Ministry launched an ambitious initiative of screening and putting 75 million people with hypertension and diabetes on Standard Care by 2025, to mark the **World Hypertension Day (May 17, 2023)**

- ➔ **Launched on:** May 17, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Key Highlights

- ➔ The initiative will be the largest expansion of **Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** in primary health care programme in the world with a community based approach starting at the primary healthcare level.
- ➔ Under the initiative, **75 million people** with hypertension and diabetes to be put on **Standard Care by 2025**, through the Primary Health Cares (PHCs).

- ➔ The **Shashakt Portal** was launched for training of **40,000 Primary Health Care Medical Officers** on Standard Treatment Workflow for NCDs initiated to realize health care services closer to the community.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme - PLI 2.0 for IT Hardware

In May, 2023, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to introduce the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware for Enhancing India’s Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports.

About PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware

- ➔ **Approved on:** May 17, 2023
- ➔ **Approved by:** Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister
- ➔ **Budgetary outlay:** Rs. 17,000 crore.
- ➔ **PLI 1.0 scheme was launched in:** 2021

Key Facts

- ➔ **Target Segment:** The Target Segment under PLI 2.0 Scheme shall include (i) Laptops (ii) Tablets (iii) All-in-One PCs (iv) Servers and (v) Ultra Small Form Factor (USFF).
- ➔ **Tenure of the Scheme:** Support under the PLI 2.0 Scheme shall be provided for a period of six 6 years.

Hallmark Unique Identification Number (HUID)

- ➔ **Bureau of India Standards (BIS)** has prohibited the sale of hallmarked gold jewelry or gold artefact’s without 6 digit alphanumeric Hallmark Unique Identification Number (HUID) after **31st March 2023**.
- ➔ Till date, the old hallmarked jewelry with four marks without HUID was also permitted to be sold by the jewelers along with the 6 digit HUID mark.

About Hallmarking of Jewelry

- ➔ Hallmarking scheme for Jewelry was started by BIS in the year 2000.
- ➔ **6 digit HUID** was introduced from **01 July 2021** and all articles hallmarked post 01 July 2021 have to be hallmarked with HUID only.
 - ➔ After introduction of HUID, hallmark consisted of 3 marks viz, **BIS logo, purity of the article and six-digit alphanumeric HUID**.
 - ➔ Each hallmarked article has unique HUID number which is **traceable**.

Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative & Animal Health System Support for One Health

- ➔ Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala** on **April 14, 2023** launched the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative and World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health.
- ➔ The initiative is launched to enhance India's preparedness and response to potential animal pandemics, in line with the **One Health** approach.

Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)

- ➔ This initiative aims to enhance India's preparedness and response to animal pandemics, with a focus on zoonotic diseases that pose a threat to both animal and human health.
- ➔ This initiative will help to improve veterinary services and infrastructure, disease surveillance capabilities, early detection and response, build the capacity of animal health professionals, and awareness among farmers through community outreach.

Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH)

- ➔ It aims to create an ecosystem for a better animal health management system using the One Health approach.
- ➔ The project will be implemented over a five-year period as Central sector scheme.
- ➔ It has set a goal to cover 151 districts in five participating states, focusing on upgrading 75 district/regional laboratories, as well as strengthening 300 veterinary hospitals/dispensaries.

NIMHANS-AHT Comprehensive Mental-Health Action Program

- ➔ National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) and NGO Ashraya Hastha Trust (AHT) on **April 13, 2023** signed a MoU in Bengaluru.
- ➔ The MoU is signed to test the feasibility of a model comprehensive rural mental health programme named **"NAMAN" (NIMHANS-AHT Comprehensive Mental-Health Action Program for Rural Communities)** in two taluks before rolling it out across the country.

- ➔ The two taluks that are selected for implementing NAMAN are **Munsiyari in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand** and **Belur Taluk in Hassan district of Karnataka**.
- ➔ **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) -Rishikesh** will join hands with NIMHANS to implement the program in Uttarakhand.

NAMAN Program

- ➔ NAMAN intends to provide promotive, preventive, therapeutic, and rehabilitative care to the entire population of the target taluks by utilizing the community's existing human resources.

- ➔ It will be implemented in four stages over a three-year period.

Namami Gange Initiative

The United Nations (UN) has recognized Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world.

- ➔ **Awarded on** - December 14, 2022 (World Restoration Day)
- ➔ **Awarded by**- United Nations (UN)
- ➔ **Awarded to**- Namami Gange initiative
- ➔ **Awarded for**- To rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga
- ➔ **Awarded as**- one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world.
- ➔ **Awarded at** - 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada

Namami Gange Programme

- ➔ Is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as **'Flagship Programme'** by the Union Government in **June 2014** with budget outlay of **Rs. 20,000 Crore**.
- ➔ It aims to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

India's first Green Hydrogen blending operation

Recently, State-owned power generator NTPC Ltd. has commissioned the country's **first green hydrogen blending project in Surat, Gujarat**.

About India's first green hydrogen blending operation

- ➔ Started on - January 4, 2023
- ➔ The project is a joint effort of NTPC and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL).
- ➔ The foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister of India on **30th July 2022**.
- ➔ Green hydrogen in Kawas (in Surat) is made by electrolysis of water using power from already installed 1 MW floating solar project.
- ➔ This feat has been achieved only by few countries like the UK, Germany, and Australia.

About National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC):

- ➔ NTPC is India's largest power utility with an installed capacity of 71,594 MW (including JVs), plans to become a 130 GW company by 2032.
- ➔ It was established in 1975.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

India has declared the goal to achieve Net **Zero emissions by 2070**. Energy use has doubled in the last 20 years and is likely to grow by at least another 25% by 2030.

- ➔ India currently imports over 40% of its primary energy requirements, worth over USD 90 billion every year.
- ➔ In this context, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved **National Green Hydrogen Mission**.

About National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)

- ➔ **Approved on:** January 4, 2023
- ➔ **Approved by:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
- ➔ **NGHM is under:** Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
- ➔ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation of the respective components.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The mission is proposed to be implemented in a phased manner, focusing initially on deployment of Green Hydrogen in sectors that are already using hydrogen, and evolving an ecosystem for R&D, regulations and pilot projects.
 - ⊖ PHASE I (2022-23 TO 2025-26) & PHASE II (2026-27 TO 2029-30).

- ➔ The initial outlay for the Mission will be Rs. 19,744 crore.

Mission Sub-Components

1. **SIGHT Programme:** Under the **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT)**, two distinct financial incentive mechanisms— targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and production of Green Hydrogen – will be provided under the Mission.
2. **Pilot projects:** The Mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways.
3. **R&D Projects:** Public-Private Partnership framework for R&D (Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership – SHIP) will be facilitated.
4. **Skill Development:** A coordinated skill development programme will also be undertaken under the Mission.

Vibrant Village Programme

Cabinet approves Centrally Sponsored Scheme-“Vibrant Villages Programme”

- ➔ **Approved in:** February, 2023
- ➔ **Approved by:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister of India
- ➔ **For the Financial Years:** 2022-23 to 2025-26
- ➔ **Financial Allocation:** Rs. 4800 crore
- ➔ Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) has been announced in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech 2022.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The programme envisages **coverage of border villages** on Northern border having sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure, which often get left out from the development gains.
- ➔ It will reverse the outmigration from these villages adding to improved security of the border.
- ➔ The scheme will provide funds for development of essential infrastructure and creation of livelihood opportunities in **19 Districts and 46 Border blocks 4 states and 1 UT** along the northern land border.
 - ⊖ In the first phase 663 Villages will be taken up in the programme.
- ➔ Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.
 - ⊖ 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes will be ensured.

11 New Ramsar Sites in India

The **Convention on Wetlands** is an inter-governmental treaty adopted on **2 February 1971** in the Iranian city of Ramsar and came into force in 1975. In **August 2022**, India added 11 more wetlands in to the list of Ramsar Sites.

Key Points About Ramsar Sites in India

- ➔ **11 new sites included from States:** Tamil Nadu - 4, Odisha - 3, Jammu & Kashmir - 2, and One (1) each from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ➔ **Total Ramsar sites in India at Present:** 75
- ➔ **State having the most number of Ramsar sites:** Tami Nadu (14) and in U.P. 10.
- ➔ **Largest wetland under the Ramsar convention (in India):** Sundarbans, West Bengal (423,000 hectares)
- ➔ **Smallest wetland under the Ramsar convention (in India):** Renuka Wetland, Himachal Pradesh (20 hectares)
- ➔ **First wetland under the Ramsar convention (in India):** Chilka Lake and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) (1981)

Key Highlights

- ➔ India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.
- ➔ The convention entered into force in India on 1st February, 1982.
- ➔ During this year itself (2022) a total of 19 sites have been declared as Ramsar sites.
- ➔ **Goa and Karnataka** got there first Ramsar Sites, this year (in 2022).

Wetlands in India

- ➔ India's wetlands cover 4.63 per cent of the geographical area of the country.
- ➔ In state-wise distribution of wetlands:
 - ☉ **Gujarat** is at the top with 34,749.5 sq km followed by **Andhra Pradesh** (14,471.33 sq km), **Uttar Pradesh** (12,425.3 sq km) and **West Bengal** (11,079.07 sq km).
- ➔ Ramsar site of Bihar is Kabartal Wetland (July 21, 2020).

Other Facts

- ➔ The countries with the most Ramsar Sites are the **United Kingdom (175)** and **Mexico (144)**, as per the Ramsar List.

- ➔ **Bolivia** has the largest area with 148,424.05 sq km under the Convention protection.
- ➔ **Canada, Chad, Congo** and the **Russian Federation** have also each designated over 100,000 sq km.

Launch of 5G Service in India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi finally launched 5G in India, at the 6th edition of **India Mobile Congress** (IMC) held from **October 1-4, 2022**, at Pragati Maidan, **New Delhi**.

About 5G Technology

- ➔ 5G is the 5th generation mobile network. 5G is the latest upgrade in the **Long-Term Evolution (LTE)** mobile broadband networks with reduced latency than 4G.
 - ☉ From **lower than 50 milliseconds** for 4G, 5G brings it down to below 10 **millisecond**
- ➔ It works in **three bands of the spectrum**.

About India Mobile Congress, 2022

- ➔ India Mobile Congress (IMC), 2022 was held from October 1 to 4, 2022.
- ➔ It is organized with the theme **“New digital Universe”**.
- ➔ It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ➔ The event acts as the largest 'TMT' forum in Asia.
- ➔ It is jointly organized by the **Indian Government's Telecom Department** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**.

PM SHRI Schools Scheme

On **7th September 2022**, Government of India approved PM SHRI Schools (PM ScHools for Rising India) scheme.

About PM SHRI Schools Scheme

- ➔ **Approved on:** 7th September 2022
- ➔ **Approved by:** Union Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi
- ➔ **Objective:** Test bed for National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Structure of the Scheme

- ➔ This is completely **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- ➔ In the first phase of the scheme a total of 14500 schools across the country will be converted into PM SHRI Schools.
- ➔ These schools will be strengthened academically, infrastructure wise, technologically etc. to showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020.

B. Political / National Affairs

Chandrayaan-3: India's 3rd Lunar Mission

India has created history as it became the **first country to land near the South Pole of lunar surface**. After a 40-day journey starting from the **Sathish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota**, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) **Chandrayaan-3 mission has landed successfully**. August 23 will be celebrated as **National Space Day**.

➔ The **Vikram Lander** touched down on the **lunar South Pole at 6.04 pm on August 23, 2023**, propelling the country to an exclusive club of four and making it the first country to land on the uncharted surface of south pole

About Chandrayaan-3 Himexam.com

- ➔ **Launched on-** July 14, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by-** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- ➔ **Launched from-** Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- ➔ **Landing date-** The spacecraft successfully landed at south-pole of the Moon on August 23, 2023.
- ➔ **Budget-** around Rs. 615 crore
- ➔ **August 5, 2023-** the ISRO completed the Lunar-Orbit Insertion (LOI) to successfully put the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into the moon's orbit.
- ➔ **August 17, 2023-** Lander Module is successfully separated from the Propulsion Module.
- ➔ India joined the coveted list of countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon.
 - ☉ So far the **US**, the erstwhile **Soviet Union**, and **China** are the only countries to accomplish it.
- ➔ Landing point name of Chandrayaan-3 is Shivashakti and of Chandrayaan-2 is Tiranga.

- ➔ The **Emirates Lunar Mission** was the first mission to the Moon from the United Arab Emirates.
- ➔ The mission by **Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)** sent a **lunar rover named Rashid** to the Moon aboard **Ispac's Hakuto-R Mission 1 lander**.
- ➔ It was launched on 11 December 2022 on a Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket, and the rover attempted to land in Atlas crater. On 25 April 2023, seconds before an attempted landing, communication with the Hakuto-R lander was lost and mission was declared failed.

History of Lunar Exploration

- ➔ In the year 1959, **'Luna-1'** of the then Soviet Union became the first spacecraft to reach the Moon.

- ➔ Later, in the year 1959, **'Luna-2'** landed on the surface of the moon. It was the first spacecraft to do so.
- ➔ **'Apollo 10'** did a simulated moon landing in May 1969, while in **July 1969 'Apollo-11' mission** of America made the human landing possible; **Neil Armstrong** became the first person to walk on the Moon.
- ➔ In the year 1970, the then Soviet Union's **'Lunokhod-1'** became the first robotic rover to successfully explore the surface of another planet/satellite beyond Earth.
- ➔ China's first lunar mission **Chang'e-1** was launched in the year 2007.

Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) -M4

- ➔ LVM3 is the operational heavy lift launch vehicle of ISRO and has a spectacular pedigree of completing 6 consecutive successful missions.

LVM3-M4 Vehicle
Height : 43.5 m
Lift-off Mass : 642 t

- ➔ This is the 4th operational flight of LVM3, that launched the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft to Geo Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Key Features of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission

- ➔ Chandrayaan-3 consists of an indigenous **propulsion module, lander module (lander name- Vikram), and a rover (name – Pragyan)** with an objective of developing and demonstrating new technologies required for inter-planetary missions.
- ➔ The **propulsion module** carried the lander and rover from injection orbit to till 100 km lunar orbit.
 - ☉ It also carries a **Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planetary Earth (SHAPE)** payload to **study the spectral and polarimetric measurements of earth** from the lunar orbit.
- ➔ The main function of Propulsion Module is to carry the Lander module (LM) from launch vehicle injection orbit to till Lander separation.

Lander payloads

- ➔ **RAMBHA-LP (Langmuir Probe)** - To measure the near surface plasma (ions and electrons) density and its changes with time.
- ➔ **ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermo-physical Experiment)** - To carry out the measurements of thermal properties of lunar surface near polar region.
- ➔ **ILSA (Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity)**- To measure seismicity around the landing site and delineating the structure of the lunar crust and mantle.

Rover Payloads

- ➔ **APXS (Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer)-**
To derive the chemical composition and infer mineralogical composition to further enhance our understanding of lunar surface.
- ➔ **LIBS (Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy)-**
To determine the elemental composition (Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, Ti, Fe) of lunar soil and rocks around the lunar landing site.
 - ⊖ **Name** - Pragyan
 - ⊖ **Payload** - 2
 - ⊖ **Power** - 50 Watt
 - ⊖ **Mission Life** - 1 Lunar Day
 - ⊖ **Total Mass** - 26 kg
 - ⊖ **Payload** - APXS, LIBS

Previous Missions to Moon by India

- ➔ **Chandrayaan-1: India's Maiden Lunar Mission**
 - ⊖ India's lunar exploration missions began with **Chandrayaan-1 in 2008**, which aimed to create a **three-dimensional atlas of the moon** and conduct mineralogical mapping.
 - ⊖ It was launched by launch Vehicle - **PSLV – C11**.
 - ⊖ Chandrayaan-1 made significant discoveries, including the **detection of water and hydroxyl on the lunar surface**.
- ➔ **Chandrayaan-2: Partial Success and Discoveries**
 - ⊖ It was launched on July 22, 2019, Chandrayaan-2 aimed for a soft landing on the moon's South Pole. Consisted of an **orbiter, a lander named Vikram, and a rover named Pragyan**.
 - ⊖ It was launched by launch Vehicle - **GSLV MkIII-M1**
 - ⊖ Although the **lander and rover crashed on the moon's surface, the Orbiter successfully collected data** and found signatures of water at all latitudes.
- ➔ **Changes and Improvements in Chandrayaan-3**
 - ⊖ The rover is equipped with hazard detection and avoidance systems, ensuring a safe traversal of the moon's surface.
 - ⊖ **Landing site** - The site is at around 70 degree S near the Southern pole of the moon. Physical modifications have been made to enhance stability and sturdiness.
 - ⊖ The Chandrayaan-3 Lander has solar panels on four sides, instead of only two in Chandrayaan-2.
 - ⊖ The landing area has also been expanded from a patch of 500mx500m to a broad 4kmx2.4km area.

- ➔ Additional navigational and guidance instruments are on board Chandrayaan-3 to continuously monitor the Lander's speed and make the necessary corrections.

The objectives of Chandrayaan-3

- ➔ The mission objectives of Chandrayaan-3 are:
 - ⊖ To demonstrate Safe and Soft Landing on Lunar Surface.
 - ⊖ To demonstrate Rover roving on the moon.
 - ⊖ To conduct in-situ scientific experiments.

About Luna-25

- ➔ Luna-25 is Russia's first moon mission since Luna-24 in 1976.
- ➔ Luna-25 was launched on August 11, 2023 from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's far eastern Amur Region.
- ➔ Luna-25 circled the moon, the earth's only natural satellite, for around 5 days, then changed course for a soft landing on the lunar south pole planned for August 21, 2023. On August 19, 2023, the lander was crashed on the moon's surface after a failed orbital manoeuvre.

Violence in Manipur

- Violent communal clashes erupted in Manipur as the Manipur High Court directed the State Government to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Meitei community based on a 10 year old recommendation.
- ➔ The latest round of unrest erupted on May 3, 2023 when a tribal student union organized a march to protest **against the demand of the non-tribal Meitei Community to be included in the Scheduled Tribe (ST)**.
 - ➔ The divide between the **Meiteis** and the **Kukis** on various issues has aggravated in recent years.
 - ➔ The **Manipur High Court on April 19, 2023** asked the Manipur government to submit a 10 year old recommendation to the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry for the inclusion of the Meitei community in the ST list within four weeks.

Manipur Historical Background

- ➔ There are 16 districts in Manipur and the State is said to be divided into valley and hill districts.
- ➔ The valley accounts for about 10% of Manipur's landmass and is dominated by the non-tribal Meitei.
- ➔ People belonging to the Meitei community account for over 53% of the state population and yield 40 out of 60 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of the state.

- ➔ The hills that account for close to 90% of the geographical area of the state are inhabited by about 35% recognised tribes but are represented by 20 MLAs.
- ➔ The majority of the Meiteis are Hindus followed by Muslims and the 33 recognised tribes who are broadly categorised as “Any Naga tribes” and “Any Kuki tribes” are mainly Christians.

Meitei Community’s Demands for ST States

- ➔ Since 2012, there has been a constant demand led by the **Scheduled Tribes Demand Committee of Manipur (STDCM)** for granting the Scheduled Tribes (ST) status to the Meitei community.
- ➔ According to STDCM, the population of the Meitei Community has reduced from 59% of the total population of Manipur in 1951 to 44% as per 2011 census data.

Several Committees are given the following recommendations

- ➔ **The Lokur Committee (1965)** - Recommended 5 criteria for identification, namely, primitive, traits, distinct culture, geographical isolation.
- ➔ **Bhuria Commission (2002-2004)** – Focused on a wide range of issues from the 5th schedule to tribal land and forests, health and education the working of Panchayats and the states of tribal women.
- ➔ **A High-Level Committee (in 2013)** – Under the chairmanship of Prof. Virginius Xaxa was constituted to study the 5 critical issues related to tribal communities – livelihood and employment, education, health, involuntary displacement and migration and legal and constitutional matters.

Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023

On August 11, 2023 President Draupadi Murmu has given assent to contentious ‘Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023’ to become an act.

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, tabled and passed in the Indian parliament and replaced a current ordinance which overrides a directive of the Supreme Court that gives command to the government of Delhi over most services.

- ➔ The ordinance has been a major reasons for contention between Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal’s Aam Aadmi Party and the central government.
- ➔ The Bill was passed in both the upper and lower Houses of Indian parliament on August 7, 2023.

All About the New Act

- ➔ The act states that the LG will be empowered to exercise his sole discretion on various matters, which will include the National Capital Civil Services authority’s recommendations and the prorogation, summoning and dissolution of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Key Points

- ➔ Designating LG as the final authority.
- ➔ Empowering LG to appoint heads of Boards and Commissions.
- ➔ Creation of the National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA).
- ➔ **Composition of the NCCSA** : The NCCSA will be chaired by the Chief Minister of Delhi, who will be ex-officio chairperson of the authority. The Chief Secretary will serve as a member, and the principal Home Secretary of Delhi will be the member secretary. Decisions of NCCSA will be made by a majority vote of the members present and voting.
- ➔ **Lieutenant Governor**
 - ➔ The LG can return the NCCSA’s recommendation if the disagrees with it.
 - ➔ L-G’s decision is final, in case of disputes.

Background of the Issue

- ➔ The government of Delhi and LG have been in a legal Battle since 2015, over control of “services” in Delhi.
- ➔ The Supreme Court gave a split verdict in 2019, and a five Judge Constitution Bench recently (May, 2023) granted more powers to the Delhi government over services.
- ➔ It ordered that the Delhi government will have control over administrative services other than matters related to public order, police and land.

Kerala becomes India’s 1st e-governed state

In May, 2023, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced that Kerala has achieved the distinction of becoming India’s first **fully e-governed state**. The southern state has successfully digitized an extensive range of government services, ensuring prompt and transparent delivery to its citizens.

Key Facts

- ➔ The government is making various interventions to ensure internet rights for people.
- ➔ A single-window portal named **e-Sevanam** has been launched.
 - ➔ It offers **900 government services online**.

- ➔ The **Kerala State Wide Area Network programme** is being launched to connect the data centre with 14 district centres and 152 block panchayats.
- ➔ The **KFi programme** to offer wifi at public places is being implemented.
- ➔ Over **2,000 hotspots** have been set up and steps are being taken to launch another 2,000.

AAP Gets ‘National Party’ Status

- ➔ On April 10, 2023, the Election Commission of India withdrew the national party status of **Trinamool Congress (TMC), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)** and the **Communist Party of India (CPI)** and recognised Arvind Kejriwal’s **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a national party.**
- ➔ **AAP:** Besides **Delhi, Goa and Punjab**, AAP became a state party in **Gujarat** after the 2022 Assembly elections where it secured **12.92% of the votes.**
- ➔ India now has **six national parties** - (1) Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) (2) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) (3) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) (4) Communist Party of India (Marxist) (5) Indian National Congress (INC) (6) National People’s Party (NPP)

Criteria for recognition as a national Party

- ➔ As per the ECI’s Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019 handbook, a political party would be considered a national party if
 - ⊖ If it has won at least 2% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha from not less than three states.
 - ⊖ If its candidates polled at least 6% of total valid votes in any four or more states in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly elections and has at least four MPs in the last Lok Sabha polls.
 - ⊖ It is ‘recognised’ in four or more states.

50th Anniversary of the Kesavananda Bharati judgment

On **April 24, 2023**, at the 50th anniversary of the Kesavananda Bharati judgment, the Supreme Court have created a dedicated webpage for the verdict and all the petitions and documents in that case.

About the Case

- ➔ The case was heard by a full court of **13 judges**, the largest bench ever, and the judgment was delivered on **April 24, 1973.**
- ➔ The case was filed by **Swami Kesavananda Bharati**, the senior plaintiff and **head of the Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district of Kerala**, who challenged the Kerala government’s attempts, through two land reform acts, to impose restrictions on the management of the Mutt’s property.

- ➔ The Kesavananda Bharati judgment held that provisions of the Indian Constitution can be amended by Parliament in order to fulfill its socio-economic obligations.
 - ⊖ However, more importantly, the judgment also held that the **basic structure of the Constitution cannot be altered by Parliament no matter what.**

Doctrine of Basic Structure

- ➔ The Constitutional Bench in Kesavananda Bharati case ruled by a 7-6 verdict that Parliament could amend any part of the Constitution so long as it did not alter or amend the basic structure or essential features of the Constitution.
 - ➔ However, the court did not define the term ‘basic structure’, and only listed a few principles — federalism, secularism, democracy — as being its part.
 - ➔ The ‘basic structure’ doctrine has since been interpreted to include—
 - ⊖ The supremacy of the Constitution,
 - ⊖ The rule of law,
 - ⊖ Independence of the judiciary,
 - ⊖ Doctrine of separation of powers,
 - ⊖ Sovereign democratic republic,
 - ⊖ The parliamentary system of government,
 - ⊖ The principle of free and fair elections,
 - ⊖ Welfare state, etc.

Assembly Elections, 2023

Tripura Legislative Assembly Election

On **February 16, 2023**, Elections to the Tripura Legislative Assembly were held to elect all **60 members** of the Tripura Legislative Assembly.

- ➔ The votes were counted and the results were declared on **March 2, 2023.**
- ➔ BJP has come to power once again in the state as it bagged a majority of **32 seats**, followed by Tipra Motha with 13 seats.
 - ⊖ Meanwhile, the Congress bagged 3 seats, and CPI(M) got 11.
- ➔ BJP leader **Manik Saha** took charge as the Chief Minister of Tripura for the second time on March 8, 2023.

Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Election

- ➔ Legislative Assembly elections were held in Meghalaya on **27 February 2023** to elect all **60 members** of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.
- ➔ Meghalaya recorded **81.57% voter turnout** in the polling held on February 27, 2023.

- ➔ But **voting was held in 59 constituencies** because a candidate of the United Democratic Party died in Meghalaya.
- ➔ The votes were counted and the results were declared on **March 2, 2023**.
- ➔ On March 7, 2023, **Conrad Sangma** was sworn in as the Meghalaya chief minister for the second successive term.

Nagaland Legislative Assembly Election

- ➔ The Nagaland Legislative Assembly election was held in Nagaland on **February 27, 2023** to elect all **60 members** of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.
- ➔ The votes were counted and the results were declared on **2 March 2023**.
- ➔ The ruling NDPP-BJP has retained power in Nagaland election, with two parties having secured 33 seats in the 60-member Assembly.
- ➔ Nagaland also scripted history as it elected women lawmakers for the first time ever - **Salhoutuonuo Kruse** won from the Western Angami assembly seat and **Hekani Jakhalu** from Dimapur-III constituency.
- ➔ Nagaland political stalwart **Neiphiu Rio** took oath as the chief minister of Nagaland for the fifth straight term on **March 7, 2023**.

All India Presiding Officers' Conference

- ➔ **Held on** – January 11-12, 2023
- ➔ **Held in** – Jaipur, Rajasthan
- ➔ **Conference presided by**- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla
- ➔ Earlier this conference was held in Rajasthan in the year 2011 (fourth time in Jaipur).

Background

- ➔ The **All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC)** is the apex body of the Legislatures in India that completed its hundred years in 2021.
- ➔ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the **82nd AIPOC in 2021 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**.
- ➔ The first Conference was held in Shimla in **1921**.

Modhera: India's first 24×7 solar-powered village

- ➔ On 9 October 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated various projects worth over Rs 3900 crore to the nation in Modhera.
- ➔ During the occasion, PM also declared village Modhera as India's first 24×7 solar-powered village.

About the Solar Powered Village

- ➔ Modhera will be India's **first village to become a net renewable energy generator**.
 - ☉ It will be the first modern village to have a solar-based ultra-modern electric vehicle charging station.
- ➔ It is India's first grid-connected megawatt-hours (MWh) scale battery energy storage system.

Modhera Temple

- ➔ Modhera is famous for its Sun temple.
- ➔ It was built by **King Bhima-I** of the **Chalukya dynasty**.
- ➔ It is made to honour the Sun God in Modhera village of Mehsana district on the bank of **River Pushpavati**.
- ➔ In 2014, Modhera Sun Temple entered the list of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.
- ➔ It enjoys the same significance as the other two well-known sun temples in **Kashmir (Martand Sun Temple)** and Odisha (**Konark Sun Temple**).

Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly Election

- ➔ On **December 8, 2022**, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly election results were declared.
- ➔ The BJP has retained power in Gujarat for a record seventh straight term as it won **156 seats** in 182-member State Assembly.
- ➔ **Bhupendra Patel** has sworn in as the **17th Chief Minister of Gujarat** (second time in a row).
- ➔ The people of Gujarat voted in two phases, on 1 and 5 December, 2022 and the overall voter turnout in Gujarat was around **64.65%**.
- ➔ Himachal Pradesh voted in a single phase on 12 November, 2022.
- ➔ Himachal Pradesh's voter turnout was more than 74%.
- ➔ Indian National Congress (INC) won 40 seats in 68-member state assembly and formed the government.
- ➔ Congress's **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** on December 11, 2022 took oath as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- ➔ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** on January 09, 2023.

- ➔ The Prime Minister released a commemorative postal stamp ‘**Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen**’ and also inaugurated the first-ever digital PBD Exhibition on the theme ‘**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle**’.
- ➔ The theme of this PBD Convention is “**Diaspora: Reliable partners for India’s progress in Amrit Kaal**”. Over 3,500 diaspora members from nearly 70 different countries have registered for the PBD Convention.
- ➔ The Chief Guest of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 was **Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali**, the President of **Cooperative Republic of Guyana**, and the Special Guest of Honour was **Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi**, President of the **Republic of Suriname**.

India's 33rd Elephant Reserve to come up in Uttar Pradesh'

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (on October 21, 2022) gave its nod to **Terai Elephant Reserve (TER)**, Spread over 3000sq km. in **Dudhawa-Pilibhit region in Uttar Pradesh**.

- ➔ TER will conserve four wild species - Tiger, Asian Elephant, Swamp deer and one horned rhinoceros in entire landscape.
- ➔ **Project Elephant** : The GoI introduced Project Elephant in 1992 as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** with the objective to protect elephants, their habitats & corridors.
- ➔ **Karnataka** has highest number of elephants followed by **Assam & Kerala** (Elephant census 2017).

C. National Events & Programmes

Bharat Mandapam

Recently on July 26, 2023 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rs 2,700-crore Bharat Mandapam (53,399 sq. m.) in the Pragati Maidan complex is undergoing finishing touches before it is handed over to the Ministry of External Affairs for the Summit.

- ➔ The Bharat Mandapam is the **international exhibition-cum-convention centre (IECC)** complex.
- ➔ The term Bharat Mandapam derives its root from **Lord Basaveshwara’s** idea of **Anubhav Mandapam**, which was a **pavilion** for public ceremonies.
- ➔ The IECC complex has been developed as **India’s largest MICE** (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions) **destination**.

Architecture of Bharat Mandapam

- ➔ The **shape** of the building is derived from the **Shankha** (conch shell).
- ➔ The different **walls** and facades of the centre depict several elements of India’s traditional art and culture including ‘**Surya Shakti**’, ‘**Zero to ISRO**’ and **Pancha Mahabhuta**.
 - ☉ **Pancha Mahabhuta** signifies the **building blocks** of universal foundation - Aakash (Sky), Vayu (Air), Agni (Fire), Jal (Water), Prithvi (Earth).

Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON)

Recently, the Kerala government officially launched the Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON).

About Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON)

- ➔ **Launched on** – June 5, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by** – Kerala Government

Objective

- ➔ It aims to reduce the digital divide by ensuring high speed broadband internet access to all houses and government offices.

Key Highlights

- ➔ Kerala was the first state to declare the right to internet as a basic right, which is intended to give a fillip to e-governance and accelerate Kerala’s journey towards being a knowledge-based economy.
- ➔ It is an optical fibre cable network of 35,000 kms.

City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)

Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India, has approved the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0).

CITIIS 2.0 is a program conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für

Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

About CITIIS 2.0

- ➔ **Approved on** – May 31, 2023
- ➔ **Approved by** – The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India
- ➔ **Duration** – 4 Years (from 2023 till 2027)
- ➔ **CITIIS 1.0 Launched in** – 2018
- ➔ The program aims to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with focus on integrated waste management at the city level.
- ➔ The funding for CITIIS 2.0 would include a loan of Rs.1760 crore (EUR 200 million) from French Development Agency (AFD) and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) (EUR 100 million each) and a technical assistance grant of Rs.106 cr. (EUR 12 million) from the European Union (EU).

Components of CITIIS 2.0

- ➔ CITIIS 2.0 has three major components—
 - **Component 1** : Financial and technical support for developing projects focused on building climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in up to 18 smart cities.
 - **Component 2** : All States and UTs will be eligible for support on demand basis.
 - **Component 3** : Interventions at all three levels; Centre, State and City to further climate governance in urban India through institutional strengthening, knowledge dissemination, partnerships, building capacity, research and development to support scale up across all States and Cities.

India's First Multi-Modal Logistics Park

Recently, **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush**, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal visited the construction site of India's first International Multi Modal Logistics park in Jogighopa, Assam to review the progress.

- ➔ **Foundation stone was laid on:** October 20, 2020
- ➔ **Foundation stone was laid in:** Jogighopa, Assam

Key Facts

- ➔ The park is being developed under the ambitious **Bharatmala Pariyojana** of the Government.
- ➔ India's first multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) is being constructed in Assam, a **project of US\$ 407 million**.

- ➔ This project aims to provide around 2 million direct and indirect employment to the youth in the North East.
- ➔ This MMLP aims to **reduce trade cost by 10%** and have cargo capacity of 13 million metric tonnes.

World's First Nano DAP Liquid Fertiliser

On April 26, 2023 World's first Nano DAP Liquid Fertiliser by **IFFCO** was introduced by Minister of Home Affairs & Cooperation **Amit Shah** at **IFFCO Sadan, New Delhi**.

- ➔ It is an effort to provide farmers the means to boost productivity & help increase their income.
- ➔ This initiative is in line with a Giant Step towards realising PM's dream of **Sahkar Se Samridhhi & Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

About the Production

- ➔ IFFCO has set up manufacturing facilities for production of **Nano DAP Fertilisers at Kalol, Kandla in Gujarat and Paradeep in Odisha**.
- ➔ Production at Kalol Plant has already started and this year **5 crore Bottles of Nano DAP Liquid** equivalent 25 lakh Ton of DAP will be produced.
- ➔ It is expected that by **FY 2025-26**, 18 crore bottles of Nano DAP will be produced through IFFCO's 3 Nano DAP plants.

8th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2022

- ➔ **Held on** - January 21-24, 2023
- ➔ **Held at** - Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
- ➔ **Theme of IISF 2022** - 'Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology and Innovation'
- ➔ **Organized jointly by** - The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Department of Space (DoS), GoI and Government of Madhya Pradesh
- ➔ The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology is the nodal coordinating department for organising IISF-2022.

14th Edition of Aero India, 2023

- ➔ **Inaugurated by** : Narendra Modi
- ➔ **Held on:** February 13th- 17th, 2023
- ➔ **Held at:** Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka

- ➔ **Organized by:** Ministry of Defence
- ➔ **Theme:** The runway to a billion opportunities
- ➔ The Aero India show is held every 2 years

Objectives

- ➔ The event aims to promote export of indigenous air platforms like **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas**, **HTT-40**, **Dornier Light Utility Helicopter (LUH)**, **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)** and **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)**.

108th Indian Science Congress

- ➔ **Held on** – January 3-7, 2023
- ➔ **Held in** - Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra
- ➔ **Inaugurated by** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ➔ **Focal Theme** - Science and Technology for “Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment”
- ➔ **Organized by** - Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA)
- ➔ It is an independent body functioning with the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in the central government.
- ➔ **107th ISC** was held at University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus, **Bangalore, Karnataka from 3-7th January, 2020.**
- ➔ The first session of the Indian Science Congress was held in 1914.

2nd International Conference on ‘Use of Technology and Elections Integrity’

Recently, on **January 23-24, 2023** the Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the 2nd International Conference on the theme ‘**Use of Technology and Elections Integrity**’ at New Delhi.

ECI is leading the Cohort on Elections Integrity which was established as a follow up to the ‘**Summit for Democracy**’ held virtually in December, 2021.

- ➔ The first international conference of the Cohort was organized on 31 Oct – 01 Nov, 2022 at New Delhi on the topic ‘**Role, Framework and Capacity of Election Management Bodies**’.
- ➔ Summit for Democracy’, was an initiative of US President and hosted in December 2021.
- ➔ The 2nd Summit for Democracy held on 29- 30 March 2023 and co-hosted by governments of Costa Rica, Rep. of Korea, Netherlands, Zambia and the US.

ATL Sarthi

Recently, on March 14, 2023 **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) – NITI Aayog** launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ever-growing ecosystem of **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)**.

- ➔ As the name suggests, Sarthi is a charioteer and ATL Sarthi will enable the ATLS to be efficient and effective.
- ➔ The initiative has four pillars ensuring the performance enhancement of ATLS through regular process improvements like—
 - ➔ A self-reporting dashboard known as ‘**MyATL Dashboard**’
 - ➔ **Compliance SOPs** for schools to ensure financial and non-financial compliances,
 - ➔ On-ground enablement of ATLS in collaboration with relevant local authorities through **Cluster-based Approach** and
 - ➔ Providing ownership to schools to analyze their performance through **Performance-Enablement (PE) Matrix**.

Mahakal Lok Project

Recently, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated Phase I of the Mahakal Lok Project to the nation at Shri Mahakal Lok in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

About Mahakal Lok Project Phase-I

- ➔ **Inaugurated on:** October 11, 2022
- ➔ **Inaugurated by:** Prime Minister of India
- ➔ **Inaugurated:** Shri Mahakal Lok corridor in Shri Mahakaleshwar temple Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Key Highlights

- ➔ The project aims to decongest the entire area.
- ➔ The existing footfall of the temple, which is currently around 1.5 crore per annum, is expected to be doubled.
- ➔ The Mahakal Path contains 108 stambhs (pillars) which depict **Anand Tandav Swaroop (Dance form)** of Lord Shiva.

12th Edition of Defence Expo

With an aim to give impetus to the defence sector, India's "biggest ever" defence exhibition - DefExpo 2022 was held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

About 12th DefExpo

- ➔ **Held between:** October 18- 22, 2022
- ➔ **Organised by:** Ministry of Defence (Biennial event)
- ➔ **Theme:** Path to Pride

➔ 11th DefExpo was held in February, 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Key Highlights

- ➔ For the first time, the event has been organised in a four-venue format.
- ➔ It is first- ever edition exclusively for Indian companies.
- ➔ For the first time, 'Invest for Defence', the first ever marquee event of Ministry of Defence, targeted to promote investment in the defence sector.
- ➔ The 2nd edition of **India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)** was held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on **October 18, 2022**.
- ➔ **Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR+)** conclave also took place on October 19, 2022.

India's First Dark Sky Reserve

At the end of 2022, India got its First Dark Sky Reserve in **Hanle, Ladakh**

About Dark Sky Reserve

- ➔ **Announced to be set up in** : September, 2022
- ➔ **Set up by** : Department of Science & Technology (DST)
- ➔ It is located within Changthang Wildlife sanctuary.

What is a Dark Sky Reserve ?

- ➔ A Dark Sky reserve is an area usually surrounding a park or observatory that is kept free of artificial light pollution.
- ➔ The purpose of a dark sky reserve is generally to promote astronomy.

D. Reports / Indices

Performance Grading Index 2.0

Recently, the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India has released the report on the Performance Grading Index 2.0 for State/UTs for the year 2021-22, evaluating the performance of the State and UTs.

About PGI

- ➔ The Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a scoring system that evaluates the performance of State and UTs in school education based on various indicators across different domains, such as learning outcomes, access, infrastructure, equity and governance process.

The PGI Data Collection

- ➔ The data for the PGI is collection from sources such as the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), National Achievement Survey (NAS), and information provided by the Management Information System (MIS) coordinations in each State/UTs, PM POSHAN Portal, PRABAND Portal and Vidyanjali Portal.

Categories and Domains

- ➔ The PGI 2.0 is divided into six domains :
 - ⊖ Learning Outcomes (LO),
 - ⊖ Access (A),
 - ⊖ Infrastructure and Facilities (IF),
 - ⊖ Governance Process (GP),
 - ⊖ Equity (E),
 - ⊖ Teacher's Education and Training (TE&T)
- ➔ These domains cover various aspects of the education system.

Grading System

- ➔ States and Union Territories are assigned grades based on their points scored across the indicators. The report has 10 grades under which districts are categorized,

		Grade Score
1.	Daksh : Highest grade (91% to 100%)	941 – 1,000
2.	Utkarsh : 81% - 90%	881 – 940
3.	Ati-Uttam : 71% - 80%	821 – 880
4.	Uttam : 61% - 70%	761 – 820
5.	Prachesta-1 : 51% - 60%	701 – 760
6.	Prachesta-2 : 41% - 50%	641 – 700
7.	Prachesta-3 : 31% - 40%	581 – 640
8.	Akanshi-1 : 21% - 30%	521 – 580
9.	Akanshi-2 : 11% - 20%	461 – 520
10.	Akanshi-3 (up to 10%)	401 – 460

Note : None of the States/UTs achieved the top grades in the latest edition. Only two State/UTs, namely Punjab and Chandigarh have attained Grade Prachesta-2 (Score 641-700). Andhra Pradesh has secured Grade 8 (Category : Akanshi-1) in PGI 2.0.

NeSDA Framework

Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (MoP, PG&P) launched third edition of the NeSDA portal, this portal displayed the performance of States, Union Territories (UTs) and Pre-determined Central Ministries in delivering e-Governance service to citizens.

NeSDA Framework

- ➔ **Launched in 2018** by the DARPG, to check the effectiveness of existing e-Governance Service delivery mechanisms from the citizen's perspective.
- ➔ DARPG undertakes NeSDA study biennially, helping the respective authorities to improve their delivery of citizen centric services and shares best practices across the country.
- ➔ Department previously released two editions of NeSDA, viz. **NeSDA 2019** and **NeSDA 2021**.
- ➔ In NeSDA 2021, 1400 services across all States and UTs were evaluated as compared to 872 in 2019.
 - ⊖ 74% of respondents of the nationwide citizen survey, satisfied with the e-service provided by governments.
 - ⊖ E-service of Finance and Local Governance & Utility Service Sectors were most popular among citizens.
- ➔ Additions in the NeSDA 2023 framework are proposed under following dimensions :
 - ⊖ **Portal Coverage** : All assessed Government Portals assessed during NeSDA are classified into two categories viz. :
 - (i) State, UT, Central Ministry Portal and
 - (ii) State, UT, Central Ministry Services Portals
- ➔ Framework covers **G2B services across seven sectors** : **Finance, Labour, Employment, Education, Local Governance Utility Services, Social Welfare** (including Health, Agriculture, Home Security), **Environment** (including Fire) and **Tourism Sectors**.

5th State Food Safety Index

Recently, the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare has released the 5th State Food Safety Index for the year 2022-2023, on the occasion of World Food Safety Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About 5th State Food Safety Index(SFSI)

- ➔ **Released on** – June 7, 2023 (World Food Safety Day)
- ➔ **Released by** – Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ➔ **First SFSI was released on** - June 7, 2019

Methodology

- ➔ This index is based on performance of State/ UT on **six significant parameters, namely**—
 - A. Human Resources and Institutional Data
 - B. Compliance
 - C. Food Testing – Infrastructure
 - D. Training & Capacity Building
 - E. Consumer Empowerment
 - F. Improvement in SFSI Rank

Key Highlights

Category- Union Territories	
Name	Rank
Jammu & Kashmir	1 st
Delhi	2 nd
Chandigarh	3 rd
Category- Small States	
Name	Rank
Goa	1 st
Manipur	2 nd
Sikkim	3 rd
Category- Larger States	
Name	Rank
Kerala	1 st
Punjab	2 nd
Tamil Nadu	3 rd

NIRF-India Rankings, 2023

Recently, Minister of State for Education and External Affairs, has released the India Rankings 2023, which implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). NIRF was drafted for this purpose by the Ministry of Education in 2015.

About India Rankings 2023

- ➔ **Released on** - June 5, 2023
- ➔ **Released** - 8th edition of India Rankings 2023

Key Findings

- ➔ A total of 5,543 unique institutions participated in India Rankings 2023.
- ➔ **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** retains its 1st position in Overall Category for fifth consecutive year, i.e. 2019 to 2023 and in Engineering for eighth consecutive year, i.e. from 2016 to 2023.
- ➔ **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru** tops the Universities Category for eighth consecutive years, i.e. from 2016 to 2023.
- ➔ **IIM Ahmedabad** tops in Management subject retaining its first position for fourth consecutive year, i.e. from 2020 to 2023.
- ➔ **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi** occupies the top slot in Medical for the sixth consecutive year, i.e. from 2018 to 2023.
- ➔ **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad** tops the ranking in Pharmacy for first time pushing Jamia Hamdard to the second slot.

- ➔ **Miranda House** retains the 1st position amongst Colleges for the seventh consecutive year, i.e. from 2017 to 2023.
- ➔ **IIT Roorkee** stands at 1st position in Architecture subject for third consecutive year, i.e. from 2021 to 2023.
- ➔ **National Law School of India University, Bengaluru** retains its first position in Law for the sixth consecutive year, i.e. from 2018 to 2023
- ➔ **Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi** takes the top slot in Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
- ➔ Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur tops in Innovation category.

Top 3 Institutions in overall category	
Rank	Name
1.	Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
2.	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Karnataka
3.	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi

Top 3 Institutions in University Category	
Rank	Name
1.	Indian Institute of Science ,Bengaluru, Karnataka
2.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
3.	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Critical Minerals for India, Report

Recently, Union Minister of Coal, Mines & Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi has unveiled the first ever report of the country on “Critical Minerals for India”, prepared by an expert team constituted by the Ministry of Mines.

About Critical Minerals for India, report

- ➔ **Released on** - June 14, 2023
- ➔ **Released by** - Ministry of Mines
- ➔ **Report prepared by** - An expert committee headed by Dr. Veena Kumari Dermal (Chairperson) and other Members
- ➔ Critical minerals are those minerals that are essential for economic development and national security.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The Committee has identified a set of 30 minerals as critical minerals. These are as follows—

- ➔ Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

Internet In India Report, 2022

- ➔ **Published on**- May 3, 2023
- ➔ **Prepared by**- Jointly Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and KANTAR

Key Highlights

- ➔ 52 percent of Indians, i.e. 759 Million, are ‘active’ internet users, accessing the internet at least once a month.
- ➔ By 2025 the number is expected to grow to 900 Mn.
- ➔ As per report, out of 759 million ‘active’ internet users in India for 2022, 399 million are from rural India, while 360 million are from urban India, indicating that rural India continues to drive the growth of the internet in the country.
- ➔ Urban India, with approximately 71% internet penetration witnessed only 6% growth, with much of the overall gain in numbers coming from rural India which witnessed 14% growth rate over the past one year.
- ➔ It is estimated that **56% of all new internet users in India will be from Rural India by 2025.**
- ➔ **Digital Payments has witnessed 13% growth over 2021** to reach an estimated 338 million users, of which 36% are from Rural India.
- ➔ 99% of all digital payment users are UPI users.

WHO Report on ‘Har Ghar Jal’ Program

WHO Report on ‘Har Ghar Jal’ Program estimates that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households in the country could avert **nearly 400,000 deaths caused by diarrheal diseases** and prevent approximately 14 million **Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)** related to these diseases.

WHO Report on ‘Har Ghar Jal’ Program

- ➔ **Published in** - June , 2023
- ➔ **Objective** - Study of Har Ghar Jal’ Program

Key Points

- ➔ The analysis focuses on diarrhoeal diseases as it accounts for majority of WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) attributable disease burden.

- ➔ There has been an increase in rural tap water connections from 16.64% in 2019 to 62.84% in a span of 41 months. In 2023 so far, on average, one tap connection has been provided every second.
- ➔ The report reveals that in 2018, 36% of India's total population, including 44% of the rural population, lacked access to improved drinking-water sources on their premises.
- ➔ Five states viz; Gujarat, Telangana, Goa, Haryana, and Punjab and 3 Union Territories — Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli and Puducherry have reported 100% coverage. Himachal Pradesh at 98.87%, followed by Bihar at 96.30%, are also poised to achieve saturation in near future.

Jal Jeevan Mission – Har Ghar Jal

- ➔ Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019, with the aim to provide tap water supply to every rural home by 2024.

India Justice Report, 2022

India Justice Report 2022 ranks police forces of States based on various indicators such as vacancies as against the sanctioned strength of personnel, representation of women and Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe communities and so on.

About India Justice Report: 2022

- ➔ **Released on:** April 4, 2023
- ➔ **Released by:** Tata Trust
- ➔ **First published in:** 2019
- ➔ The IJR is an initiative of Tata Trusts in collaboration with DAKSH, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Common Cause, Centre for Social Justice, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and TISS-Prayas.

Key Findings

1. Large and mid-sized states: Top 3

Rank	States
1	Karnataka
2	Tamil Nadu
3	Telangana
16	Bihar

2. Small states: Top 3

Rank	States
1	Sikkim
2	Arunachal Pradesh
3	Tripura

Wayanad tops Swachh Bharat Mission's ODF Plus rankings

- ➔ **Wayanad** district (100 points) has come first in the ODF Plus rankings of the Swachh Bharat Mission in three-star category, followed by **Mancheriyal district (90.45) in Maharashtra and Anupur (88.79) in Madya Pradesh.**
- ➔ The ODF Plus scores of panchayats and districts were determined using the ODF Plus progress reports given by villages till **October 1, 2022.**
- ➔ Previously, the district had won two national awards in the sanitation and waste management sectors.

About Open defecation free (ODF)

- ➔ 'Open defecation free' (ODF) is a term used to describe communities that have shifted to using toilets instead of open defecation.
- ➔ According to a government committee report, despite the fact that work on three protocols under the next phase of **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban-2) — ODF+, ODF++ and Water Plus — is to be completed by 2024**, the ground situation was not matching with the assigned timeline.
- ➔ Under Phase 1 of the Swachh Bharat Mission (U), 99 per cent of the cities became ODF, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) had claimed in **December 2019.**
- ➔ ODF+ and ODF++ are aimed towards proper maintenance of toilet facilities and safe collection, conveyance, treatment/disposal of all faecal sludge and sewage. While ODF+ focuses on toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene, ODF++ focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management.

National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India for 2019-20

- ➔ **Dr. Vinod K. Paul**, Member (Health) of NITI Aayog launched National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India for 2019-20 on **April 25, 2023**, in the presence of **Rajesh Bhushan**, Secretary, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- ➔ It was produced by the **National Health Systems Resource Centre.**
- ➔ This report provides estimates of healthcare expenditures in India based on the **National Health Accounts Guidelines for India, 2016** (with refinements where required) that adheres to the System of Health Accounts 2011 (SHA 2011), a global standard framework for producing health accounts.

Key Highlights of the Report

- ➔ The share of **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)** in total **Health Expenditure (THE)** declined from **62.6% to 47.1%.**

Total Health Expenditure	3.3% (increased)
Government Health Expenditure	Increased from 1.13% (2014-15) to 1.35% (2019-20)
Government Health Expenditure as % of Total Health Expenditure	Increased from 29% (2014-15) to 41.4% (2019-20)
Share of primary healthcare in Current Government Health Expenditure (CGHE)	Increased from 51.3% in 2014-15 to 55.9% in 2019-20 . National Health Policy 2017 where states that two-thirds of public health spending must be in Primary Health systems.
Share of Out-Of-Pocket expenditure in Total Health Expenditure	Declines from 62.6% in 2014-15 to 47.1% in 2019-20 . This shows progress towards ensuring financial protection and Universal Health Coverage for citizens .
Per capita Government spending on healthcare	Doubles (from Rs. 1,108 to Rs. 2,014 between 2014-15 to 2019-20)
Private health insurance share	Increasing
Social Security Expenditure (SSE) on healthcare	Increased (from 5.7% in 2014-15 to 9.3% in 2019-20). This increase in social security has a direct impact on reducing out-of-pocket payments .

➔ The share of primary healthcare in **Current Government Health Expenditure (CGHE)** has increased from **51.3% in 2014-15 to 55.9% in 2019-20**. The increased focus on primary healthcare reinforces the government's decisions to prioritize primary healthcare in the country.

➔ **Gender Parity Index (GPI)**, the ratio of female GER to male GER, has increased from 1 in 2017-18 to 1.05 in 2020-21.

➔ **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan** are the top 6 States in terms of number of student enrolled.

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021

Recently, on **January 23, 2023** the **Ministry of Education**, has released All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021.

The Ministry has been conducting All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) since 2011, covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory and imparting higher education in the country.

Key Highlights

Student Enrollment

- ➔ The total enrollment in higher education has increased to **nearly 4.13 crore in 2020-21** from 3.85 crore in 2019-20.
- ➔ The Female enrollment has increased to 2.01 crore from 1.88 crore in 2019-20.
- ➔ The percentage of female enrollment to total enrollment has increased from 45% in 2014-15 to around 49% in 2020-21.
- ➔ As per 2011 population projections for 18-23 years age group, Gross Enrollment Ratio(GER) has increased to **27.3 from 25.6 in 2019-20**.
 - ☉ Female GER has overtaken Male GER since 2017-18.

Number of Institutions

- ➔ Highest number of Universities is in Rajasthan (92), Uttar Pradesh (84) and Gujarat (83).
- ➔ Top 8 Districts with Highest number of Colleges: Bangalore Urban (1058), Jaipur (671), Hyderabad (488), Pune (466), Prayagraj (374) etc.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat are top 8 States in terms of number of colleges.

India Tourism Statistics, 2022

India Tourism Statistics 2022 was released in **New Delhi on 27 September, 2022**. It is **63rd edition** of this publication.

- ➔ **Published by** - Ministry of Tourism (GOI)
- ➔ **India is ranked 54th in 2021** in global **Travel and Tourism Development index (TTDI)** released by WEF.

Key Highlights

- ➔ Foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) has decreased in 2021 to 1.52 million from 2.74 million in 2020 owing to Covid 19 restrictions.
- ➔ Non-resident Indians (NRI) and **International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs)** has seen positive growth of 52.6% & 10.6% respectively in 2020-21.

- ➔ Top 5 sources of FTAs in India in 2021 **United States, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Canada & Nepal** with the foreign exchange earnings of US \$ 8.797 billion (26.4% growth).
- ➔ **Maharashtra** and **Tamil Nadu** were the top two states in number of foreign tourist visits in 2021.
- ➔ While **Tamil Nadu** and **Uttar Pradesh** are top two states in number of domestic tourist visits.
- ➔ **Taj Mahal** was most popular destination for domestic tourists (residents visiting in their country itself).

India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021

On 13th January, 2021 the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released the India State of Forest Report-2021. The report assesses the forest and tree cover, and is published **every two years** by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**. The first survey was **published in 1987**, and ISFR 2021 is the 17th.

Key Findings of the Report

- ➔ The **Total Forest Cover (TFC)** increased 1,540 km² between 2019 and 2021. It is 713,789 km² in 2021
- ➔ The TFC in 2021 is 21.71% of the Total Geographical Area (TGA) of the country
 - ⊖ As against 21.67% of the TGA in 2019

- ➔ Tree cover has increased by 721 km²
- ➔ **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest forest cover
- ➔ States showing highest increase
 - ⊖ **Andhra Pradesh** 647 km²; **Telangana** 632 km² & **Odisha** 537 km²

Table : Forest Cover of India (in sq. km.)		
Class	Area	Percentage of geographical Area
Very Dense Forest	99,779	3.04
Moderately Dense Forest	3,06,890	9.33
Open Forest	3,07,120	9.34
Total Forest Cover	7,13,789	21.71
Scrub	46,539	1.42
Non-Forest	25,27,141	76.87
Total Geographical Area	32,87,469	100.00

- ➔ **Highest Forest Cover (States) :** MP > Arunachal Pradesh > Chattisgarh > Odisha > Maharashtra
- ➔ **Forest Cover as percentage of TGA :** Mizoram > Arunachal Pradesh > Meghalaya > Manipur > Nagaland
- ➔ **Increase in Mangrove Cover :** Increase of 17 km². Total mangrove cover is now 4,992 km²

E. Miscellaneous

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027

On June 16, 2023, NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027.

The GoI-UNSDCF is the collective commitment of the UN Development System in India, in support of the India's achievement of Agenda 2030, and the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.

- ➔ **Signed on** - June 16, 2023
- ➔ **Signed by** - NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India
- ➔ **Objective** - India's achievement of Agenda 2030
- ➔ **Period** - 2023-2027

Important Points

- ➔ GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 represents the UN development system's collective offer to the

Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.

- ➔ The GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 is built on four strategic pillars derived from the 2030 Agenda – People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation.

The Sustainable Development Agenda

- ➔ The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.
- ➔ The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals.

The 17 Goals

- ➔ **GOAL 1 :** No Poverty
- ➔ **GOAL 2 :** Zero Hunger

- ➔ **GOAL 3** : Good Health and Well-being
- ➔ **GOAL 4** : Quality Education
- ➔ **GOAL 5** : Gender Equality
- ➔ **GOAL 6** : Clean Water and Sanitation
- ➔ **GOAL 7** : Affordable and Clean Energy
- ➔ **GOAL 8** : Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ➔ **GOAL 9** : Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- ➔ **GOAL 10** : Reduced Inequalities
- ➔ **GOAL 11** : Sustainable Cities and Communities
- ➔ **GOAL 12** : Responsible Consumption and Production
- ➔ **GOAL 13** : Climate Action
- ➔ **GOAL 14** : Life Below Water
- ➔ **GOAL 15** : Life on Land
- ➔ **GOAL 16** : Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- ➔ **GOAL 17** : Partnerships for the Goals

Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on Ambedkar Circuit

- ➔ The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on Ambedkar Circuit was flagged off on **April 14, 2023** by Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Culture and DONER, & Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station.
- ➔ The main objective of this tourist train is to provide passengers with an insight into the life and accomplishments of BR Ambedkar. Additionally, it aims to promote domestic tourism and the idea of “**Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**”.
- ➔ The Yatra will include Visit to prominent places associated with the life of Baba Saheb Ambedkar like **New Delhi, Mhow, Nagpur** and sacred **Buddhist sites** like Sanchi, Sarnath, Gaya and Rajgir and Nalanda in the tour itinerary.
 - ⊖ **Janma Bhoomi** (Mhow Birthplace)
 - ⊖ **Mahaparinivaran Bhoomi** (Delhi place of demise)
 - ⊖ **Chaitya Bhoomi** (Mumbai) (Place of cremation)
 - ⊖ **Deeksha Bhoomi** (Nagpur) where he embraced Buddhism

Ganga-India’s first cloned GirCalf

On **March 16, 2023**, the **National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal, Haryana**, has produced the country’s first cloned female calf of the desi breed Gir, named ‘Ganga.’

- ➔ The **National Dairy Research Institute (ICAR-NDRI)** has become the first institute in the country to produce a cloned calf of cattle.
 - ⊖ Gir cow is a native tract in Gujarat and is popular for its docile nature, disease-resistance, heat-tolerance and high milk producing qualities.
- ➔ The newborn cloned female calf of the cow has been named “**Ganga**”, which weighs 32kg.
- ➔ The project was started in 2021 by the NDRI in collaboration with **Uttarakhand Livestock Development Board (ULDB), Dehradun**, for the cloning of indigenous cows such as **Gir, Sahiwal, and Red Shindhi**.

About ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute

- ➔ The foundation stone of the edifice of NDRI was laid at Bengaluru on July 1, 1923 and later head quarter was shifted to Karnal in 1955.

Banjara Dharmaguru Santh Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti

- On **February 26, 2023**, the Government of India has kick-started the year-long commemoration of the **284th birth anniversary** of Sant Sevalal Maharaj, a spiritual and religious leader of the Banjara community.
- 284th birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj**
- ➔ **Celebrated By:** Ministry of Culture, Government of India
 - ➔ Under the aegis of: **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**
 - ➔ Santh Sevalal Maharaj was born on 15 February 1739 at Surgondankoppa in Shivamogga district of Karnataka.
 - ➔ The Samadhi Sthal of Saint Sewalal Ji is situated in Manora Taluka of Washim District of **Maharashtra** at Pohradevi which is also known as Banjara Kashi.

The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women

- ➔ In December, 2022 **Forbes** released the list of ‘the World’s 100 Most Powerful Women’.
- ➔ For her leadership during the Ukraine war, as well as her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, European Commission President **Ursula Von Der Leyen** sits atop (Rank – 1st) in 19th annual Forbes list of the World’s 100 Most Powerful Women.
- ➔ European Central Bank President **Christine Lagarde** is placed at 2nd position and US Vice President **Kamala Harris** ranked 3rd in the list.

Details of Indian women who made it to the list:

1. Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitaraman**, who is ranked 36, is on the list for the fourth time in a row.
2. **Roshini Nadar Malhotra**, Chairperson of HCLTech, has been ranked 53rd.
3. **Madhabi Puri Buch**, Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is ranked 54th on the list.
4. **Soma Mondal**, Chairperson of the Steel Authority of India, is ranked 67.
5. **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, executive chairperson and founder of Biocon Limited and Biocon Biologics Limited is ranked 77.
6. **Falguni Sanjay Nayar**, the founder and CEO of the beauty and lifestyle retail company Nykaa, is ranked 89th.

Statue of Prosperity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 11, 2022, unveiled the 'Statue of Prosperity' on the premises of the Bengaluru International Airport. On this occasion Prime Minister also flagged off the **Chennai-Mysore Vande Bharat Express at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) railway station**. He also flagged Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan Train at KSR railway station in Bengaluru.

Statue	Depicts	Locations	State	Completed
Statue of Equality (54 feet)	Shri Ramanujacharya	Hyderabad	Telangana	February, 2022
Statue of Unity	Vallabh Bhai Patel	Sadhu Bet, Sardar Sarovar Dam	Gujarat	2018
Thiruvalluvar Statue	Thiruvalluvar	Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu	2000
TathagataTsal	Buddha	Rabong (Ravangla)	Sikkim	2013
Statue of Ahimsa	Rishabhanatha	Mangi-Tungi, Nashik	Maharashtra	–
Statue of Peace	Swami Ramanujacharya	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	2022
Statue of Peace	Jain monk Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj	Jetpura, Pali	Rajasthan	2020

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

The Rajya Sabha passed the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 on August 09, 2023, it was already passed by Lok Sabha on August 07, 2023.

The act seeks “to provide for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises both the right of individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes.”

About the Statue

- ➔ The ‘Statue of Prosperity’ is **108-feet tall bronze statue** of Bengaluru founder **Nadaprabhu Kempegowda**.
- ➔ It is made with **98 tonnes of bronze** and 120 tonnes of steel.
- ➔ The statue was conceptualized and sculpted by **Ram V Sutar**, who also curated the Statue of Unity.

About Nadaprabhu Kempegowda

- ➔ He was a chieftain under the **Vijayanagara Empire**.
- ➔ The capital of Karnataka, Bengaluru, was fortified by Kempe Gowda.

Statue of Belief

Nathdwara Rajasthan has the statue of **Lord Shiva** which is one of the largest Shiva statue in the world. The idol of Lord Shiva is known as **Vishwas Swaroopam**, meaning ‘Statue of Belief’.

Key Highlights

- ➔ This idol of Lord Shiva is built on **Ganesh Tekri Mountain**.
- ➔ The height of the idol of Lord Shiva is **369 feet (112.47m)** and is built on a hill of 51 bighas.
- ➔ Sculptor **Naresh Kumar** has prepared the world’s tallest statue of Lord Shiva.
- ➔ The idol of Lord Shiva located in Nathdwara was inaugurated on **29 October, 2022**.

History of Data Protection Bill

- ➔ In 2017, the central government constituted the B.N.Srikrishna Committee to examine issues relating to data protection in the country.
- ➔ Based on the recommendation of the Committee, the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha.

Key Features

- ➔ The act will apply to the processing of digital personal data within India.

- ➔ **Consent** : Personal data may be processed only for a lawful purpose for which an individual has given consent. A notice must be given before seeking consent.
- ➔ An individual, whose data is being processed (data principal), will have the right to.
- ➔ The central government will establish the Data Protection Board of India.

News in Short

❑ A Help for Animal Husbandry

- ➔ The Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the '**A-Help (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production)** Programme on August 14, 2023 in Gujarat.

Aims

- ➔ The programme was launched under the auspices of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava.

❑ Vindhyagiri Project 17A

- ➔ The president of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, launched the Vindhyagiri, the sixth stealth frigate of project 17A, at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata on **August 17, 2023**.

Key Incidents

- ➔ The Vindhyagiri is named after the Vindhya Mountains range in Karnataka.
- ➔ It is the sixth ship of project 17A frigates.
- ➔ The project 17A frigates are an improved version of the project 17 shivalik class frigates, which are currently the backbone of the Indian Navy's Fleet.

❑ Matti Banana

- ➔ Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari Matti Banana has finally received the GI tags, making Tamil Nadu the region with highest number of GI tagged products.
- ➔ The Banana variety is grown in specific taluks of the Kanyakumari district. The application for GI tag (Matti Banana) was filled by the Kanyakumari Banana and Horticulture farmers producer company limited.

❑ Global Initiative of WHO

- ➔ The Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) was launched by WHO and G20 India presidency on August 19, 2023, at the Health Minister's meeting of the G20 Summit in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.
- ➔ GIHD is a WHO managed network and platform to support the implementation of the Global strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025.

❑ CCEA Approves 7 Multi-tracking Projects

- ➔ The cabinet committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved 7 projects of the ministry of railways with an estimated cost of around Rs. 32,500 crore, with 100% funding from Central Government on August 16, 2023.
- ➔ The projects covering 35 district in 9 states i.e. : (1) Uttar Pradesh, (2) Bihar, (3) Telangana, (4) Andhra Pradesh, (5) Maharashtra, (6) Gujarat, (7) Odisha, (8) Jharkhand, (9) West Bengal.
- ➔ The projects are result of PM-Gati Shakti National Plan for Multi-Model connectivity.

❑ Sai Hira Global Convention Centre

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 04, 2023 virtually inaugurated the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in **Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh**.
- ➔ The Convention Centre, constructed by the **Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust**, stands as a testament to the vision of promoting cultural exchange, spirituality, and global harmony.
- ➔ The Convention Centre, donated by philanthropist Shri Ryuko Hira.

❑ Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar

- ➔ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah on July 27, 2023 launched a unique initiative 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ➔ It is a pan-India initiative of Ministry of Culture under National Mission on Cultural Mapping.

❑ Lambani Embroidary Patches

- ➔ On the sidelines of **3rd Culture Working Group Meeting of G20 in Hampi**, under its '**Culture Unites All**' campaign, the culture working, Group Ministry of Culture achieved **Guinness Work Record** for the '**Largest Display of Lambani Items**'.
- ➔ The Unique exhibition on **Lambani embroidery patches** was inaugurated at the **Yeduru Basavanna complex Hampi** by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Prahlad Joshi.
- ➔ Title of the display : '**Threads of Unity**'

❑ Global Ayurveda Festival

- ➔ Recently, Government of India has announced that the fifth edition of the Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023) will be held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from December 1-5, 2023.

❑ Integrated Election Expenditure Monitoring System (IEMS) Web Portal

- ➔ The Election Commission of India launched new web portal viz. '**Integrated Election Expenditure Monitoring System (IEMS)** facilitating political parties to file their financial accounts online.
- ➔ Necessary document furnished to the Election Commission of India (ECI) are :
 - ☉ Contribution Report
 - ☉ Audited Annual Account
 - ☉ Election Expenditure Statement

❑ OI Chiki Script

- ➔ On **Hul Diwas 2023**, P.M. Narendra Modi saluted the heroes of tribal society viz. **Siddho-Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav** and **Phoolo-Jhano** on his twitter handle using **OI Chiki Script** of **Santhali language**.
- ➔ OI Chiki Script was created by **Raghunath Murmu** in 1925, from Mayurbhanj State (Part of Odisha), as a method to write Santali a Munda language.
- ➔ **OI Chiki** is also known as '**OI Cemet**', **OI Ciki**, **OI**.
- ➔ The script **first publicized in 1939** at the Mayurbhanj state exhibition.
- ➔ It is one of the official scripts of the Indian Republic, it has **30 letters**, design of these letter pertains to natural shapes.
- ➔ **Script written from left to right** and has two styles (**the print Chapa style and Cursive Usara Style**).

❑ Operation 'Karuna'

- ➔ In May 2023, Government of India has launched 'Operation Karuna' to **assist Myanmar which has been devastated by Cyclone Mocha**.

Key Highlights

- ➔ Three Indian Navy ships carrying emergency food items, tents, essential medicines, water pumps.
- ➔ More than 40 tonnes of **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** materials brought by INS Shivalik, INS Kamorta and INS Savitri handed over to Myanmar government.
- ➔ Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Myanmar on 14 May 2023 as a category 4 tropical cyclone, bringing winds of up to 250 km/h, heavy rains, storm surges, flash floods, and landslides.

❑ Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during 2022

- ➔ According to the **Bureau of Immigration**, there were **10.93 million Foreign Tourist Arrivals**

(FTAs) in India during pre-pandemic year 2019. India received 6.19 million Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during 2022 as compare to 1.52 million during the same period of 2021.

Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs):

- ➔ Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism in India during 2021 and 2022 (in Rs. Crore) are as follows-

Year	FEEs through tourism in India (in Rs. crore)
1. 2021	65,070
2. 2022*	1,34,543

Note - * -Provisional Estimates

❑ India gets its first water metro in Kochi

- ➔ On **April 25, 2023**, PM Narendra Modi flagged off the first phase of India's first water metro in Kochi. This is an addition to the existing water transport system in India.
- ➔ As per the reports, this water transport service is called the **Kochi Water Metro**.
- ➔ The project is under **Kochi Metro Rail Corporation Limited**. These boats will act as feeder service, just like we have metro feeder bus services.
- ➔ The Kochi Water Metro project has a total value of **819 crores**.

❑ Water Vision@2047

- ➔ To take forward action plan, the Ministry of Jal Shakti is organizing the "1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water".

About 1st All India Annual States' Ministers Conference on "Water Vision@2047"

- ➔ **Held on:** 5-6 January, 2023
- ➔ **Held in:** Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- ➔ **Organised by:** Ministry of Jal Shakti
- ➔ **Objective of the conference:** Is to deliberate on Water Vision for India for the next 25 years i.e., till 2047 as part of the larger plan of India@2047.

❑ Kerala becomes first state to use robotic scavengers to clean manholes

- ➔ On **February 24, 2023** the Kerala government has launched robotic scavenger, **Bandicoot**, to clean sewages.
- ➔ By doing this, Kerala becomes the first state in the country to use robotic technology to clean all its commissioned manholes.
- ➔ **Bandicoot** is inducted under the Guruvayur Sewerage Project by Kerala Water Authority (KWA), as part of the 100-day action plan of the State Government.

- ➔ **Bandicoot** is developed by Kerala-based Genrobotics.
- ➔ **Genrobotics** has recently bagged '**Kerala Pride**' award at the Huddle Global 2022 conclave organised by the Kerala Startup Mission.

❑ Country's first Waste-to-Hydrogen Plant

- ➔ Recently, the Central government has announced that Country's first waste-to-hydrogen plant is to be set up in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ➔ **Set up by:** Sustainability solutions provider The Green Billions Ltd. (TGBL)
- ➔ **Project cost:** Over 430 Crore
- ➔ The plant will be set up by sustainability solutions provider **TGBL**, who has entered into a 30-year-long agreement with **Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)**.
- ➔ It will treat 350 tonnes of solid garbage every day by next year.
- ➔ The first 10 tonne reactor will be **installed by November 2023** and the target to complete the entire plant is **November 2024**.

❑ Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

- ➔ **On September 9, 2022** the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu virtually launched the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.
- ➔ It's an initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to accelerate the country's progress towards **TB elimination by 2025**.

❑ Kharchi Puja 2023

- ➔ Kharchi Puja was celebrated in the Northeastern state of Tripura from **June 26 to July 2, 2023**.
- ➔ It is also called the '**Festival of 14 Gods**'.
- ➔ Kharchi Puja is observed on the eighth day of the new moon in July or August every year.
- ➔ The festival is centred around the worship of **Chaturdasa Devata**, the ancestral deity of the Tripuri people.

❑ GAJ UTSAV-2023

- ➔ **On April 6, 2023**, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Gaj Utsav-2023 at the Kaziranga National Park Assam.
 - ☉ The event marked **30 years of Project Elephant**.
- ➔ Project Elephant was started in **1992** with the aim of increasing the population of elephants and to secure their habitat.
- ➔ It is included in Schedule I of the Indian **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES).

❑ The first G20 Culture Working Group

- ➔ **Held on:** February 22-25, 2023
- ➔ **Held at:** Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
- ➔ **Organised by:** Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- ➔ **Theme of the CWG meet is:** Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property
- ➔ On the first day of the meeting **Padam Shri Mr. Nek Ram** known as the **Millet man** has been invited to celebrate the **International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023**.

❑ 2nd Indian Rice Congress

- ➔ Recently, the President of India has inaugurated the 2nd Indian Rice Congress.
- ➔ **Held on:** February 11-14, 2023
- ➔ **Held at:** ICAR- National Rice Research Institute (NRRI), Cuttack, Odisha
- ➔ **Organized by:** Association of Rice Research Workers (ARRW), Cuttack
- ➔ **Theme:** Transforming Rice Research: Recent Scientific Developments and Global Food Crisis

About National Rice Research Institute (NRRI)

- ➔ Central Rice Research Institute (CRRRI) was established on April 23, 1946 at **Bidyadharpur, Cuttack, Odisha**.

❑ WHO Global Centre For Traditional Medicine

- ➔ In April, 2022 Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the **World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Centre for Traditional Medicine** in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

❑ NHAI's First 'Sustainability Report'

- ➔ Recently, National Highway Authority of India has released its first 'Sustainability Report' for FY 2021-22.
- ➔ **Released in -** June 2023
- ➔ **Released by -** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India
- ➔ **Title -** Building A Sustainable Road Infrastructure : Sustainability Report For FY 2021-2022.

❑ 2nd Largest Producer of Crude Steel in the world

- ➔ India has emerged as the second-largest producer of crude steel globally, surpassing Japan in 2018 and 2nd largest consumer of finished steel.
- ➔ Crude steel production grew at 4.2% annually (CAGR) from 103.13 MT in 2017-18 to 120.29 MT in 2021-22.

➔ Steel is a key sector for the Indian economy (responsible for 2% of the country's GDP in FY 21-22).

❑ Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre

➔ Recently, on May 08, 2023 the Union Defence Minister has inaugurated the Nation's first Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre in **Chandigarh**.

➔ The heritage Centre, an embodiment of IAF's rich history and legacy, houses a collection of artefacts, murals and 3D dioramas, showcasing the evolution of the force since its inception.

❑ Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) granted Navratna Status

➔ In May, 2023, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) of Ministry of Railways, has been granted Navratna Status.

➔ RVNL was incorporated as Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) on 24th January, 2003.

➔ The company began its operation in 2005 with the appointment of Board of Directors.

❑ Solar Energy Corporation of India

➔ Recently, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

❑ General Lachit Barphukan of Ahom Kingdom

➔ The 400th birth anniversary of Assam's legendary war hero Lachit Barphukan celebrated in New Delhi from **23rd to 25th November, 2022**.

➔ **About Lachit Barphukan** : Born on November 24, 1622 in Charaideo the first capital of the Ahom Kings. Led battles against an alien Mughal Army.

➔ **Battle of Alaboi** : Fought on August 5, 1669 in the Alaboi Hills near Dadara in Kamrup District

❑ First Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav

➔ Recently, the first Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav was held at the **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

➔ The game was hosted by KIIT and the Ministry of Culture (Govt. of India) and the Odisha Government.

➔ Odisha emerged as the overall champion in both the men's and women's categories.

☞ Karnataka emerged as the 1st runners up and Jharkhand as the 2nd runners up in the overall.

❑ Veerangana Rani Durgavati Gaurav Yatra

➔ In **June 2023**, Union Home Minister has inaugurated the six-day Rani Durgavati Gaurav Yatra in the **Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh**.

➔ Rani Durgavati was born in 1524, in the family of King Keerat Rai of the famous Chandel dynasty in Kalanjar, Uttar Pradesh.

➔ She shifted her capital from Singorgarh fort to Chauragarh in the eastern region of Madhya Pradesh.

➔ Rani Durgavati martyrdom on June 24, 1564, is commemorated as "**Balidan Diwas**" and her mausoleum is located in **Barela, Jabalpur**.

❑ Ahmednagar District to be Named after Ahilyabai Holkar

➔ Marking the **298th birth anniversary of Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar** on May 31, 2023, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced that his government would rename Ahmednagar after her.

➔ The Western Maharashtra city will now be known as Ahilyanagar.

➔ Ahilyabai Holkar was born in Chaundi village of Ahmednagar district on May 31, 1725.

❑ CU-Chayan portal

➔ **University Grant Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar in May 2023**, launched a new recruitment portal called CU-Chayan for Central University faculty, declaring it to be completely user-friendly and suitable for the needs of all the stakeholders in the recruitment process.

❑ Sagar Manthan

➔ On **March 23, 2023**, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal virtually launched Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW 'Sagar Manthan'.

☞ It is a **digital platform** having all the integrated data related to the ministry and other subsidiaries.

❑ SMART' Program

➔ **Launched on** - January 2, 2023

➔ **Launched** - 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals) Program

➔ **Launched by** - National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush

➔ **Objective** : It aims to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.

❑ ST status to Gond community in four districts of UP

- ➔ Earlier, on **December 14, 2022**, the Rajya Sabha passed with voice vote the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill-2022.
- ➔ It seeks to give the ST status to the Gond community in four districts of Uttar Pradesh (Sant Kabir Nagar, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Chanduali and Kushinagar).
- ➔ The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in April, 2022.

❑ 'Dhara: An Ode to Indian Knowledge Systems'

- ➔ The unique and flagship initiative "Dhara: Ode to Indian Knowledge Systems", taken up under the aegis of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** by **Ministry of Culture** has completed one year in **February 2023**.
- ➔ The programme was conceptualized as a series of lectures and discussions dedicated to specific areas of inquiry highlighting India's civilizational achievements.

❑ Kadmat Beach & Thundi Beach Get Blue Flag Tag

- ➔ Recently (in October, 2022), globally recognized and the coveted International eco-label "Blue Flag", has been accorded to two new beaches of India – Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach- **both in Lakshadweep**. This takes the number of beaches certified under the Blue Flag certification to twelve (12).
- ➔ **Accorded by:** Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)

❑ Manipur hosts B20 Conference

- ➔ Recently in (February 17-19, 2023), **Manipur** hosted the first of the four B20 sessions scheduled in the North, which is the official G20 dialogue forum for the global business community.
- ➔ The Business 20 or B20 is a group that represents the private sector within the Group of 20 (G20) Forum.

❑ Hornbill Festival of Nagaland

- ➔ **Held on-** December 1-10, 2022
- ➔ **Held at** – Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima, Nagaland
- ➔ **Organized by-** State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments, Government of Nagaland

❑ 'Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon'

- ➔ In February, 2023, the exotic Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon is officially registered in the Guinness

Book of World Records as the **World's Highest Frozen Lake Half Marathon**, setting a new achievement for UT Ladakh.

- ➔ **Held in** – Ladakh
- ➔ **Organised by** – LAHDC Leh in collaboration with Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh (ASFL)

❑ North India's first Nuclear Plant

- ➔ In a bid to increase India's nuclear capacity, bulk approval of the installation of 10 nuclear reactors has been given a nod by the Central Government.
- ➔ It will be north India's first nuclear plant that will be installed in **Gorakhpur, Haryana**.

❑ Call before u Dig' App

- ➔ On March 22, 2023, the Prime Minister of India has inaugurated the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office & Innovation Centre in New Delhi.
- ➔ He also launched the 'Call before u Dig' App.
 - It will serve India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran, enhancing coordination among nations and fostering mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the region.

❑ Basohli Painting and GI Tag

- ➔ On March 31, 2023, the world-famous Basohli Painting from the Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir has obtained the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
- ➔ This is the first time that the Jammu region got a GI tag for handicrafts.

❑ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS)

- ➔ On November 26, 2022, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) was conferred with the '**Award of Excellence**' at the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation-2022**.

❑ The First Ever India Stack Developer Conference

- ➔ **Held on:** January 25, 2023
- ➔ **Held in:** New Delhi
- ➔ **Organised by:** Ministry of Electronics & IT
- ➔ The event was participated by 100+ digital leaders from Industry Associations, Industry, System Integrators and Start-ups, mainly at CXO/MD/Founder level.

❑ India's first Constitution literate District

➔ In January, 2023 Kollam (Kerala) has become the first constitution literate district in the country. Around **16.3 lakh people** in the district above the age of 10 have been educated on various aspects of the Constitution.

❑ First State to implement blindness control Policy

➔ In **January, 2023, Rajasthan** has become the first State to implement a policy to control blindness, with the objective of ensuring the **“right to sight”**.

❑ India's First Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming

➔ Recently, the **Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology** and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has announced that **Digital India Startup Hub** through the Software Technology Parks of India shall set up **India's first Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming at Shillong (Meghalaya)** by **March 2023**.

❑ Yaoshang festival

➔ The five-day-long Yaoshang festival, **Manipur's version of Holi**, has begun on **March 7, 2023**.

➔ The festival is celebrated every year on the full moon of Lamta (February-March) of the Meitei lunar calendar.

➔ The thabal chongba is a traditional dance of the Meitei, where boys and girls gathered in an open ground and dance in a circle.

❑ Matua Maha Mela 2023

➔ **Organized in:** March, 2023

➔ **Organised by:** All India Matua Mahasangha

➔ **Organized at:** Sridham Thakurnagar, Thakurbari in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal.

➔ **Organised to celebrate:** The 212th birth anniversary of Sri Sri Harichand Thakur ji

➔ Sri Sri Harichand Thakur ji was the founder of the Matua sect.

❑ Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference

➔ Recently, on March 18-19, 2023 the Prime Minister of India has inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference at Subramaniam Hall, NASC Complex, IARI Campus, **PUSA New Delhi**.

➔ The Prime Minister declared the Indian Institute of Millets Research of ICAR as a **Global Centre of Excellence**.

➔ International Year of Millets

➔ Based on India's proposal, the year 2023 was declared the International Year of Millets (IYM) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

➔ IIMR is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana.

❑ Yuva Utsava-India@2047

➔ On March 4, 2023, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Singh Thakur has launched Yuva Utsava-India@2047, from Ropar, Punjab.

❑ World's first 200-meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier “Bahu Balli”

➔ On March 4, 2023, an extraordinary accomplishment towards achieving Aatmanirbhar Bharat has been made with the development of the world's first 200-meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier.

➔ It has been installed on the Vani-Warora Highway, Vidarbha, Maharashtra.

❑ 7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference

➔ On **March 3, 2023**, the President of India, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the 7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference.

➔ It is organised by the **India Foundation** in collaboration with the **Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies**, in **Bhopal**, Madhya Pradesh.

❑ Kerala Becomes First State to Introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming

➔ Kerala government has budgeted 6 crores in the 2022-23 fiscal year to implement carbon-neutral agricultural practices in selected places in the state.

➔ This will make Kerala first state in the country to introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming.

❑ Himalayan yak accepted as food animal by FSSAI

➔ In November 2022, the Himalayan yak has been accepted as a food animal by the scientific panel of **Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)**.

❑ New Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh

➔ Recently, on **September 27, 2022**, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) cabinet approved the notification of the state's fourth tiger reserve in the **Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS)** in Chitrakoot district.

- ➔ Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary will be the **53rd Tiger Reserve in India**.
- ➔ Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS) was Founded in **1977**.
- ➔ The other tiger reserves in Uttar Pradesh includes **Dudhwa, Pilibhit, and Amangarh** (buffer of Corbett Tiger Reserve).
- ☐ **NCPCR launches 'GHAR' Portal**
- ➔ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched the GHAR – **GO Home and Re-Unite Portal** on the occasion of **World Children's Day** (20th November).
- ➔ **Launched on:** November 20, 2022 (on World's Children Day)
- ➔ **Objectives:** it is a portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child.
- ☐ **Ganga Vilas Cruise**
- ➔ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas, **from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh**; and also inaugurated the **Tent City at Varanasi** via video conferencing on **January 13, 2023**.
- ➔ The Ganga Vilas cruise on its longest river journey of 51 days will cover (3,200 km) 27 river systems and visit over 50 tourist sites including **World Heritage Sites**.
- ☐ **Three new sites on UNESCO's tentative list**
- ➔ In December 2022, Gujarat's **Vadnagar town**, the iconic **Sun Temple at Modhera**, and the rock cut sculptures of **Unakoti in Tripura** have been added to the tentative list of UNCESO World Heritage Sites.
- ➔ India now has **52 sites** on UNESCO Tentative List.
- ☐ **Arunachal Pradesh to get India's first Aqua Park & Northeast's first fish museum**
- ➔ In October, 2022, the Central Government has approved the establishment of India's first-ever 'Integrated Aqua Park' at **Tarin (Ziro)** in Lower Subansiri District of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- ☐ **Nagpur Metro creates record for world's longest double-decker viaduct**
- ➔ In December, 2022, Nagpur Metro has successfully created a **Guinness World Record** by constructing the **longest double-decker viaduct (metro)** is 3,140 meters (3.14KM) and was achieved by the Wardha Road in Nagpur.
- ☐ **First Greenfield airport of Arunachal Pradesh 'Donyi Polo Airport'**
- ➔ On November 19, 2022, the Prime Minister inaugurated Donyi Polo Airport at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ➔ The foundation stone for this airport was laid by the Prime Minister in February 2019.
- ☐ **Kerala Won 'Responsible Tourism Global Award' at the World Travel Market, London**
- ➔ The Kerala Tourism has bagged the prestigious **Responsible Tourism Global award** at the **World Travel Mart** held in London.
- ➔ The award was given for the **STREET project**.
- ➔ STREET is acronym for—Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible Experimental, Ethnic Tourism.
- ➔ This was implemented from March 31, 2022.
- ☐ **3 Indian Cities join UNESCO Global Network of Learning cities**
- ➔ In September , 2022, three Indian Cities namely - Telangana's **Warangal**, Kerala's **Thrissur & Nilambur** have been inducted into the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities 2022 List.
- ☐ **University of Forestry, first in India, third in the world**
- ➔ In September, 2022, the **Telangana Legislative Assembly** and Council approved the University of Forestry (UoF) Act, 2022, opening the way for the transformation of FCRI (Forest College and Research Institute) Hyderabad into a full-fledged "University of Forestry (UoF)".
- ☐ **Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University (DDIBU)**
- ➔ Recently, on November 29, 2022, the chief monk of the World Buddhist Pope Association of South Korea laid the foundation stone for the Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University at Manu Bankul in Tripura.
- ➔ It will be the first Buddhist University in India to be headed by Buddhist monastics and run and monitored by Buddhists.
- ☐ **Kartavya Path**
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the road 'Kartavya Path' between Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in September, 2022.
- ➔ The government of India has announced to change the name of Rajpath and central vista lawns into kartavya path to shed remnants of the British colony in India.
- ☐ **Operation Megh Chakra**
- ➔ The CBI started the Operation Megh Chakra on **September 24, 2022** to combat the spread of Child Sexual Abuse Materials online.
- ➔ A similar exercise code named "Operation Carbon" was conducted by CBI in November 2021.



Overview of Global Socio-Political Events and Activities of International Organizations

A. International Relations

Prime Minister Visit to France

- ➔ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited France from 13th to 14th July 2023 at the invitation of Emmanuel Macron, President of France.
- ➔ India and France have agreed for cooperation in sectors such as defence and outlined a road map for the next 25 years of India-France ties.
- ➔ Prime Minister was the **Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade on 14 July 2023.**

India-France Relations in the Present Context

- ➔ The Inter-governmental agreement for purchase of 36 Rafale jets by India in flyaway condition was signed in New Delhi in 2016.
- ➔ The French have promised 100 per cent technology transfer.
- ➔ In October, 2022 India and France signed a **Road Map on Green Hydrogen**, which aims “to bring the French and Indian hydrogen ecosystems together.
- ➔ Earlier in February 2022, they signed a **Road Map on the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance.**

Prime Minister was Awarded Legion of Honour

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the **first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France’s highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron.**

List of gifts presented by PM Narendra Modi to the hosts in France

- ➔ Sandalwood Sitar for French President Emmanuel Macron
- ➔ Pochampally Ikat in Sandalwood Box for Brigitte Macron, President’s Spouse
- ➔ Marble inlay work table for Élisabeth Borne, Prime Minister of France

- ➔ Hand-knitted Silk Kashmiri carpet for Yaël Braun-Pivet, President of French National Assembly
- ➔ Sandalwood Hand-carved Elephant Ambavari for Gerard Larcher, President of French Senate

India France Strategic Dialogue

- ➔ **Emmanuel Bonne**, Diplomatic Advisor and **G7/G20 Sherpa** to the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, paid a visit to India on 5 January 2023 for the 36th session of the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue.

PM Narendra Modi Visit to UAE

- ➔ Prime Minister of India paid an official visit to the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 15th July 2023.**
- ➔ President of the **United Arab Emirates Sheik Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi met in Abu Dhabi on 15 July 2023.
- ➔ Both sides noted that this was the **fifth visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to the UAE in the last eight years.
- ➔ Prime Minister Modi last visited the UAE in June 2022.
- ➔ **In 2015, Prime Minister Modi became the first Prime Minister of India to visit the UAE in 34 years.**

Key highlights of the visit

- ➔ India and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to start **trade settlement in local currencies.**
- ➔ In this regard, an MoU between RBI and UAE Central Bank for the establishment of a framework to **promote the use of local currencies (INR - AED)** for cross-border transactions was signed.
- ➔ The MoU aims to put in place a **Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS)** to promote the use of INR and AED bilaterally.

- ➔ India and the UAE agreed to **link the Indian Unified Payments Interface** with the Gulf country's Instant Payment Platform (IPP).

India – UAE Bilateral Relationship

- ➔ 14th India UAE Joint Commission meeting was held in Abu Dhabi on September 1, 2022, MOU between **Wildlife Institute of India** and **International Fund for Houbara Conservation** for the Conservation of the **Great Indian Bustard** and the **Lesser Florican**.
- ➔ In January 2017, India and UAE signed a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement.
- ➔ In February 2019, UAE invited India as the **“Guest of Honour”** to address the Inaugural Plenary of 46th Session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.
- ➔ PM Modi paid his third visit to the UAE in August 2019. He was awarded the highest civilian award of UAE called **‘Order of Zayed’**.
- ➔ UAE is the **guest country at G-20**, being held under India's presidency.
- ➔ **India-UAE CEPA** was signed on 18 February 2022 in New Delhi during the India-UAE Virtual Summit.
 - ⊖ Since the signing of CEPA, UAE has emerged as the fourth largest investor in India during 2022-23. It was seventh largest investor in 2021-22.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit to the United States

- ➔ PM Narendra Modi paid three days (21-23 June, 2023) official State Visit to USA, this was PM's first **‘state visit’ to USA**.
- ➔ On June 21, 2023 the visit began in New York, where the Indian PM led the celebrations of International Yoga Day 2023 at the United Nations.

MoUs and Agreements signed between India & USA

- ➔ **Defence**
 - ⊖ MoU between GE and HAL for manufacturing GE-F414 jet engines in India (with 80% technology transfer) to be used in Tejas Mk2
 - ⊖ Purchase of 16 armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAVs;
- ➔ **Semiconductor**
 - ⊖ US chip maker Micron will invest \$825 million to build chip assembly and test facility in Gujarat.

- ➔ **Visa**
 - ⊖ A pilot program will be launched to renew visas domestically for some petition-based temporary workers.
- ➔ **Nuclear energy**
 - ⊖ The US Department of Energy and the Department of Atomic Energy of India agreed to facilitate opportunities for Westinghouse Electric Company to develop a techno-commercial proposal for the Kovvada Nuclear Power Project in Andhra Pradesh.
- ➔ **Drones**
 - ⊖ A deal was signed for 31 MQ9B Predator drones.
 - ⊖ India has signed a deal to procure General Atomics MQ-9B HALE UAVs, which will be assembled in India.
- ➔ **Climate change**
 - ⊖ The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Indian Railways announced a MoU to combat climate change and achieve the Indian Railways' goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- ➔ **Telecom**
 - ⊖ Two joint task forces were launched by both countries on advanced telecommunications focused on research and development in Open RAN and 5G/6G technologies.
- ➔ **Space**
 - ⊖ India signing the Artemis Accords for lunar and space exploration;
 - ⊖ Strategic Framework for human spaceflight cooperation by 2023 end
 - ⊖ NASA and ISRO have agreed to launch a joint mission to International Space Station in 2024
- ➔ On June 22, 2023 PM Narendra Modi **addressed a joint session of the US Congress**.

India-US Bilateral Relations Economic Relations

- ➔ In 2022-23, the bilateral trade between India and the USA stood at a record US\$ 191 billion.
- ➔ USA has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23 on account of increasing economic ties between the two countries.
- ➔ In FY 2020-21, India received the highest ever FDI amounting to US\$ 81.72 billion.
- ➔ **Defence agreements signed by India and USA**
 - ⊖ Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (2016);
 - ⊖ Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018);
 - ⊖ Industrial Security Agreement (2019);
 - ⊖ Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (2020).

MoU between India & Suriname

On August 16, 2023 it was announced that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on in June, 2023 between the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Suriname for Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) in Suriname.

About the MoU

- ➔ **MoU:** for Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) in Suriname
- ➔ **Signed between:** Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Suriname
- ➔ **Signed on:** June 4, 2023

What is the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)?

- ➔ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
 - ➔ IPC establishes and updates drug standards in India, focusing on prevalent diseases.
 - ➔ It publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) as the official document for setting quality standards.
- ➔ The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) is officially recognized by five (5) countries: Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Mauritius and the Republic of Suriname.

India and Vietnam Relations

Recently, India gifted the **indigenously built in-service missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam**. The gifting was announced by India's defence minister during the visit of Gen Phan Van Giang, Minister of Defence of Vietnam, to India from 17 – 19 Jun 2023.

About INS Kirpan

- ➔ **What is it:** Khukri class missile corvette
- ➔ **Commissioned:** January 12, 1991 into Indian Navy
- ➔ **Used for:** Coastal and offshore patrol, surface warfare, coastal security, anti-piracy, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Operations

Facts About Vietnam

- ➔ **Location:** Southeast Asia, bordered by China to the north, Laos to the northwest, Cambodia to the southwest, and the South China Sea to the east and south.
- ➔ **Capital:** Hanoi

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- ➔ **Largest Rivers:** The Mekong in the south and the Red in the north, end at the South China Sea.
 - ➔ **Currency:** Vietnamese Dong (VND)
 - ➔ **Independence:** Declared on **September 2, 1945**, from French colonial rule.
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Indian Army celebrates the 75th International Day of UN Peacekeepers

Recently, the Indian Army commemorated the 75th International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers on 29th May, 2023 at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

- ➔ **Theme 2023:** 'Peace begins with me'.

UN Peacekeeping

- ➔ Involves deployment of military, police, and civilian personnel to conflict-affected or politically unstable regions.
- ➔ Collaboration between UN General Assembly, Security Council, Secretariat, troop/police contributors, and host governments.
- ➔ **29th May holds significance as it marks the anniversary of the first UN peacekeeping (UNPK) mission in 1948.**

Principle of Operations

- ➔ The UN's military Peacekeepers operate on a Triad of Principles:
 - ➔ Consent of the parties to the conflict;
 - ➔ Impartiality of the Peacekeepers;
 - ➔ Use of force by the Peacekeepers only in self-defence and in defence of the mandate.
- ➔ They are a recipient of the prestigious Nobel Peace prize in the year of 1988.

Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal was on an official visit to India from 31 May to 3 June 2023.

- ➔ **Special:** first bilateral visit of Nepal's PM to India since assuming office in the current term

Major Highlights of Recent Agreement

- ➔ During their meeting, the Prime Ministers :
 - ➔ Finalized an Agreement for **Long-Term Power Trade**, targeting power export from Nepal to India to 10,000 MW within 10 years.
 - ➔ Conducted the groundbreaking of the **400 kV Gorakhpur-Butwal transmission line**.

- Appreciated the first trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh facilitated by the Government of India.
- Inaugurated Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) in Rupaiddiha(India) and Nepalgunj (Nepal), and conducted the groundbreaking ceremony for ICPs in Sunauli(India) and Bhairahawa (Nepal).
- Launched cross-border freight rail operations between Bathnaha(India) and Nepal Customs Yard, and handed over the Kurtha-Bijalpara rail section.
- Laid the foundation stone for Phase-II (extension to Chitwan in Nepal) of the Motihari (India)-Amlekhgunj (Nepal) petroleum Pipeline and signed an MoU for petroleum supply infrastructure. Also, a second cross-border petroleum pipeline from Siliguri in India to Jhapa in eastern Nepal.

India-Nepal Cooperation

- India and Nepal share a close friendship with an open border and deep people-to-people connections.
- The **1950 India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship** forms the basis of their special relations.
- Nepal shares a 1850 km border with five Indian states.
- India is Nepal's largest trading partner, and Indian companies are significant investors accounting for more than 30% of the total approved foreign direct investments.
- In 2022-23, India exported goods worth **USD 8 billion to Nepal while its imports were at USD 840 million.**

India-Egypt Strategic Partnership

During recently concluded state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Egypt, India and Egypt signed on a strategic partnership agreement.

PM Modi's Visit to Egypt

- **Timeline:** June 24-25, 2023
- **Signing of:** Strategic Partnership Agreement
- **Special:** First Indian PM visit to Egypt since 1997

Background

- The strategic partnership agreement is a follow-up to the decision arrived at after the two leaders met in January this year, when El-Sisi visited India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations this year.
- At that time, they had decided to elevate India-Egypt bilateral relationship to "strategic partnership".

Key highlights of the Visit

➤ Strategic Partnership Agreement signed

- **MoUs signed :** Three MoUs inked in agriculture, archaeology and competition law for enhanced cooperation.
- **Bilateral Boost :** Indian PM met Egypt's India Unit, strengthening relations at a High-level.
- **War Memorial Tribute :** Homage paid to 4,300 fallen Indian soldiers at Heliopolis Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery.
- **G-20 Participation :** Egypt named "guest country" at upcoming G-20 summit, deepening ties.
- **Historic Mosque Visit :** Indian PM visit 11th century Al-Hakim Mosque, restored by Dawoodi Bohra community, highlighting shared history.

Oslo Forum and Afghan Peace Talks

Recently India and Pakistan joined the US and UN in participating in a peace forum on Afghanistan organised by Norway.

Oslo Forum on Afghan Peace Talks

- **What:** peace forum for Afghanistan mediated by Norway
- **Recent talks:** held in June 2023
- **Participants:** Western Countries particularly USA and also UN
- **Special:** India and Pakistan participated for first time in **Oslo Forum on Afghan Peace Talks**

What is OSLO Forum?

- The Oslo Forum is a renowned series of retreats aimed at international conflict mediators, influential decision-makers, and other key figures involved in peace processes.
- Started in 2003 as a small gathering of mediators but has since grown to become the leading retreat in the field of international peacemaking.
- The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) co-host the Forum.

- The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) is a private diplomacy organization that specializes in mediation and dialogue processes to prevent and resolve armed conflicts.
- HD was Established in 1999, based in Geneva, Switzerland, and operates globally

- All discussions held at the Oslo Forum are confidential and adhere to the Chatham House Rule and entry is strictly on invitation basis only.

- ➔ Chatham House (UK) is an independent policy institute and a forum for debate and dialogue
- ➔ When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

Third Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)

Third Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on May 22, 2023. It was co-chaired by Indian and Papua New Guinea’s Prime Minister and attended by **14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs)**.

- ➔ India announced to set up—
 - ⊖ Convention Center in Palau .
 - ⊖ Waste management project in Nauru.
 - ⊖ Seeds for cyclone-affected farmers in Fiji
 - ⊖ And solar light project in Kiribati. All of these are based on the same sentiment.
- ➔ Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research Institute (SCORI) has been established at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.
- ➔ India also unveiled a 12-point development programme according to which India will establish a super-specialty cardiology hospital in Fiji, introduce dialysis units and sea ambulances in all 14 PICs, and establish Jan Aushadhi Centres to provide affordable medicines.

About FIPIC

- ➔ Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) is a multinational grouping developed in 2014 for cooperation between **India and 14 Pacific Islands** nations which include **Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.**
- ➔ The Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was **launched** during Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi’s visit to Fiji in **November 2014**.

India-UK ‘Net Zero Innovation virtual centre

Recently the establishment of NET Zero innovation virtual centre is announced in presence of UK Minister George freeman and Union Minister of India Dr. Jitendra

Singh during science and innovation council meeting on 27 April 2023.

Key Highlights

- ➔ It is a joint initiative of India and the UK to enhance their cooperation on science and technology.
 - ➔ Both countries will work together on the decarbonization of manufacturing process & transport systems and green hydrogen as a renewable source.
 - ➔ To reduce the carbon emissions and achieve the ambitious Net Zero targets.
- India’s NET ZERO pledge :**
- ➔ The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi made the pledge as some commitments from his country.
 - ⊖ To get 50% of its energy from renewable resources by 2030.
 - ⊖ To reduce total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes.
 - ➔ India is the World’s Fourth biggest emitter of carbon dioxide after china, the US and the EU

Total and Per capita emissions of CO₂ per year

	Total (Megatonnes)	Per capita (tonnes)
China	11535	8.1
US	5107	15.5
EU	3304	6.5
India	2597	1.9
Russia	1792	12.5
One Mega tonnes = 1000000 tonnes		

International Museum Expo 2023

The Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** on **May 18, 2023** inaugurated the 3 day International Museum Expo 2023 at **Pragati Maidan in New Delhi**.

- ➔ He also inaugurated a virtual walkthrough of the upcoming National Museum at the North and South Blocks.
- ➔ The PM also unveiled the plan for what is set to be the world’s largest museum, Yuge Yugeen Bharat, which will capture 5,000 years of India’s history.
- ➔ The International Museum Expo is being organized as part of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** to celebrate the **47th International Museum Day** with the theme of the year **‘Museums, Sustainability and Well Being’**.

Key Highlights of the Expo

- ➔ The Prime Minister unveiled the Mascot of the International Museum Expo, the Graphic Novel

– A Day at the Museum, the Directory of Indian Museums, the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards.

- ➔ The Mascot of the International Museum Expo is a contemporized version of the Dancing Girl made of wood in the Chennapatnam art style.

The Language Friendship Bridge

- ➔ The **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** in April 2023, has launched a project called ‘**The Language Friendship Bridge**’.
- ➔ The project is launched to train people & create a pool of experts in **10 languages** (like Kazakh, Uzbek, Burmese, and Sinhalese) **that are spoken** in countries with which India has historical & cultural ties like Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, and Indonesia.
 - ⦿ The project aims to enable India to translate its epics and classics, as well as contemporary literature, into these languages **so that people in both countries can read them.**

ICCR

- ➔ The ICCR is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India under the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ➔ It promotes cultural diplomacy through cultural exchange with other countries.
- ➔ It was founded in 1950 by India’s first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- ➔ ICCR has been assigned the responsibility of facilitating the celebration of the International Day of Yoga by Indian Missions/Posts abroad since 2015.

India and Malaysia to settle trade in INR

The Ministry of External Affairs announced on **April 1, 2023** that India and Malaysia have agreed to settle trade in the Indian Rupee.

- ➔ This development is attributed to the landmark decision taken by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2022** to allow the settlement of international trade in the Indian Rupee.

Key Highlights

- ➔ Malaysia-based **India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM)** has operationalised this mechanism by **opening a Special Rupee Vostro Account** through its correspondent bank in India, i.e. Union Bank of India.
 - ⦿ **Vostro accounts** are used to make payments in domestic currency.
- ➔ The move comes in the wake of India making efforts to shift away from US dollars—as it has been appreciating against the local currency in the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Operation Kaveri and Sudan Crisis

The Indian government recently in **April 2023**, launched ‘**Operation Kaveri**’ to evacuate nearly 3,000 Indian citizens in Sudan. PM Narendra Modi announced the operation at a public event in Kerala.

- ➔ The operation involves the deployment of Indian Navy’s INS Sumedha, a stealth offshore patrol vessel, and two Indian Air Force C-130J special operations aircraft on standby in Jeddah.

What is Happening in Sudan?

- ➔ Sudan has been facing a dispute between the country’s army & a paramilitary group, which took over 427 lives, including at least 273 civilians & more than 3,700 have been wounded.
- ➔ It started when clashes erupted in western Sudan, in the capital city of **Khartoum**, & in the **Darfur** region between two rival groups: **the Sudanese army & a paramilitary group called the RSF**, or Rapid Support Forces.
- ➔ The present conflict in Sudan has its roots in the overthrowing of long-serving **President Omar al-Bashir by military generals** in April 2019, following widespread protests.

Recent Rescue Operations by The Government of India

Operation Maitri (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The joint relief and rescue operation by the Indian government and the Indian Armed forces was launched following the 2015 Nepal earthquake. • This operation, known as the Indian Armed Forces’ Operation Maitri, aimed to aid Nepal’s recovery and rescue Indian nationals stranded in Nepal.
Operation Raahat (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 2015 Yemen civil war between the Yemen government and Houthi rebels, a large number of Indians were stuck in Yemen due to the no-fly zone imposed by Saudi Arabia. • To rescue them, India launched a mission named ‘Operation Raahat’.

Operation Samudra Setu (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the Covid-19 pandemic, India launched a naval operation to repatriate stranded citizens from overseas. • Several Indian Naval ships, including Jalashwa (Landing Platform Dock), Airavat, Shardul, and Magar (Landing Ship Tanks), were involved in this operation. • The mission took over 55 days to complete and covered more than 23,000 km by sea.
Vande Bharat (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian government launched the Vande Bharat Mission to repatriate its citizens stranded abroad.
Operation Devi Shakti (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation to evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul after the swift takeover by the Taliban.
Operation Ganga (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mission has been launched to evacuate Indian nationals stranded in Ukraine due to heightened tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow

On **February 21, 2023** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister of Singapore, **Lee Hsien Loong** witnessed the launch of cross-border connectivity between the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** of India and PayNow of Singapore via video conferencing.

(UPI) and PayNow linkage

- ➔ **Organised on:** February 21, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) managing director Ravi Menon
- ➔ The linkage will allow individuals in India and Singapore to remit money to their bank accounts in real-time and at a competitive rate.
- ➔ **Singapore has become the first country** with which cross-border Person to Person (P2P) payment facilities have been launched.
- ➔ Funds held in bank accounts or e-wallets can be transferred to/from India using just the UPI-id, mobile number, or Virtual Payment Address.

SAARC Currency Swap Framework

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has signed a Currency Swap Agreement with the **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework.

- ➔ The **SAARC Currency Swap Facility** came into operation on **15th November, 2012**.
- ➔ This is to provide swap support as a backstop line of funding for short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements.
- ➔ This agreement will enable the MMA to make withdrawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of **USD 200 million from the RBI**.

Currency Swap Agreement

- ➔ A **currency swap** is an agreement between two cross-border entities where one of them agrees to provide a loan to another in a foreign currency.
- ➔ India signed a **currency swap** agreement of **\$400 million with Sri Lanka** for the year 2019-22.

India Assumes Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)

India assumes Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on **01 January 2023** for a period of one year.

- ➔ At the **26th annual Plenary of the WA** held in **Vienna** on 30 November to 01 December 2022, Ambassador **Eoin O'Leary of Ireland** handed over the Chairmanship to Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN and International Organizations in Vienna.

About the Agreement

- ➔ India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on **08 December 2017** as its **42nd Participating State**.
- ➔ WA is a multilateral export control regime, which, through regular information exchange among members on transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, seeks to promote transparency and greater responsibility in such transfers and prevent destabilising accumulations.

“Group of Friends”

India has launched a ‘Group of Friends’ to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers on **December 15, 2022**.

Key Highlights

- ➔ **India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal** are co-chairs of the ‘Group of Friend’.

- ➔ It was launched on during India's current presidency of the **U.N. Security Council**.
- ➔ Group of Friends represents the "political will" of member states to champion the implementation of the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 2589.

India-Africa Security Fellowship Programme

During the **India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)** which was held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022 in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched the 'India-Africa Security Fellowship Programme'.

Highlight of the Fellowship

- ➔ Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), the knowledge partner for the IADD, will host the Fellowship Programme.
- ➔ The fellowship will give an opportunity to African scholars to pursue research on defence and security issues in India.

India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)

- ➔ **Held on:** October 18, 2022
- ➔ **Held in:** Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ➔ **IADD's theme:** 'Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation'.

India - Bangladesh Bilateral Meet

- ➔ India is Bangladesh's **second biggest trade partner**, and its largest export market in Asia.
- ➔ Despite Covid-19 related disruptions, bilateral trade grew at an unprecedented rate of **almost 44 per cent from \$10.78 billion in 2020-21 to \$18.13 billion in 2021-22**.
- ➔ To strengthen the relation between both countries, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 05, 2022 arrived in India on a four-day **(05-08 September 2022)** state visit.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The two sides signed **seven agreements** covering railways, science and technology, space cooperation, media, and water sharing.
- ➔ The two Leaders agreed to expedite efforts to improve bilateral and sub-regional connectivity through early operationalisation of the **BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement**.

Projects Inaugurated/Announced/Unveiled

- ➔ Unveiling of **Unit I of Maitree power plant** - The 1320 (660x2) MW super critical coal-fired thermal power plant at **Rampal, Khulna**.

- ➔ **Inauguration of Rupsha Bridge** - The 5.13 km Rupsha Rail Bridge is a key part of the 64.7 km Khulna-Mongla Port single track broad gauge rail project.
- ➔ **Khulna Darshana railway line link project** - The project is upgradation of existing (doubling of Broad Gauge) infrastructure linking the current cross border rail link at **Gede-Darshana to Khulna**.

India and Canada to Re-launch the CEPA

In 2010, Canada and India launched negotiations toward a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**. The most recent round of negotiations was held in **August 2017 in New Delhi**. Recently, India and Canada has announced to **re-launch the CEPA**.

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

- ➔ So far, India has signed **13 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** with its trading partners, including—

S. No.	Name of Agreement
1.	India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
2.	Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan)
3.	India-Nepal Treaty of Trade
4.	India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit
5.	India-Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)
6.	India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
7.	India-ASEAN CECA - Trade in Goods, Services and Investment Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)
8.	India-South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
9.	India-Japan CEPA
10.	India-Malaysia CECA
11.	India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)
12.	India-UAE CEPA (*)
13.	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) (*)
(*) Signed, but yet to be implemented.	

B. Summits/Conferences and Organisations

15th BRICS Summit

The 15th BRICS summit was hosted by South Africa in Johannesburg on 22-24 August 2023.

- ➔ Its theme was **BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism**.

Key Points

- ➔ BRICS marked its 15th summit by expanding its membership from five to eleven countries, **Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and Argentina** joined. BRICS inducts 6 new members to become **“BRICS Plus”**.
- ➔ The Indian PM Narendra Modi proposed to establish a **BRICS space exploration consortium** to advance cooperation in the field of space technology and research.
- ➔ India called for BRICS collaboration under the International Big Cat Alliance in protecting the endangered big cats that live in their countries.

BRICS Urbanisation Forum

- ➔ BRICS Urbanisation Forum was organized in South Africa on July 26-27, 2023.

About the Forum

- ➔ **Held at:** Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Durban, South Africa
- ➔ **Held on:** July 26-27, 2023
- ➔ **Theme:** Advancing urban resilience for sustainable cities and towns for future generations

13th East Asia Summit

Recently Indian Foreign Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Jakarta, Indonesia for the Foreign Ministers' Meetings under the ASEAN framework in the format - ASEAN-India, East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum.

East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- ➔ **Held at:** Jakarta, Indonesia
- ➔ **Held on:** 14th July 2023
- ➔ **Also held:** ASEAN-India foreign ministers meet

Background

- ➔ The East Asia Summit (EAS) was established in 2005 as an ASEAN-led initiative.
- ➔ The EAS comprises 18 members: 10 ASEAN countries and 8 dialogue partners (Australia, China,

India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States).

- ➔ The EAS meetings usually take place alongside ASEAN Leaders' meetings in the fourth quarter of each year.
- ➔ India has been a founding member of the EAS since 2005 and actively participates in all its meetings and activities.

23rd SCO Summit, 2023

India has chaired the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) virtual Summit.

About SCO Summit 2023

- ➔ **Held on:** 4 July 2023
- ➔ **Chaired by:** India (PM Narendra Modi)
- ➔ **Theme:** Towards a “SECURE” SCO

Key Outcome

- ➔ **New Delhi Declaration:** Member nations sign a declaration to counter terrorist, separatist, and extremist activities and prevent the spread of religious intolerance, nationalism, discrimination, xenophobia, fascism, and chauvinism.
- ➔ **Joint Statements:** Leaders adopt two thematic joint statements on countering radicalization leading to separatism, extremism, and terrorism, and on cooperation in the field of digital transformation.
- ➔ **New Pillars of Cooperation:**
 - ⊖ Startups and Innovation
 - ⊖ Traditional Medicine
 - ⊖ Youth Empowerment
 - ⊖ Digital Inclusion
 - ⊖ Shared Buddhist Heritage
- ➔ India introduces these five new pillars and focus areas for cooperation within the SCO.
- ➔ During this 23rd Summit, **Iran** officially joined the SCO as the **Ninth Member Country**.

- ➔ India assumed chairmanship of SCO in September 2022 for one year. India became part of the grouping in 2017 during Astana Summit.

SECURE Theme

- ➔ The theme of India's chairpersonship of SCO is **‘SECURE SCO’**, which is derived from the acronym coined by the Indian PM at the 2018 SCO Qingdao Summit.
- ➔ It stands for: **S: Security for Citizens, E: Economic development, C: Connectivity in the region,**

U: Unity, R: Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, E: Environmental protection.

- ➔ The presidency of the SCO for the forthcoming period is handed over to the Republic of Kazakhstan. The next meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State will be held in 2024 in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

BIMSTEC

On July 17, 2023 India's foreign minister Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the first ever foreign minister meet of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 17.

Key outcome of meet

- ➔ The focus lies on reinforcing resilience and coordination among BIMSTEC members, acknowledging the shared challenges faced today.
- ➔ New avenues of cooperation were explored to address common concerns regarding food, health, and energy security.
- ➔ Collaborating on technology solutions and exchanging best practices are key components of their shared objectives to foster growth and prosperity.

What is BIMSTEC?

- ➔ The BIMSTEC is a regional organisation comprising seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.
- ➔ This sub-regional organisation came into being on 6th June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- ➔ The BIMSTEC Secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Global DPI Summit

Global DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure) Summit and Exhibition was organized recently on the sidelines of third meeting of G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).

About the Summit

- ➔ **Organised on:** June 12-13, 2023
- ➔ **Organised at:** Pune, Maharashtra
- ➔ **Organised by:** Government of India

What is G20 DEWG?

- ➔ The DEWG, originally called DETF, was formed in 2017 as part of the German G20 presidency with the aim of promoting the implementation of a secure, interconnected, and inclusive digital economy.

- ➔ It plays a critical role in shaping global policy discourse in the digital space.

What is DPI?

- ➔ Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) encompasses essential blocks or platforms such as digital identification, payment infrastructure, and data exchange solutions.
- ➔ DPI facilitates the delivery of vital services to citizens, promoting digital inclusion and improving lives.
- ➔ India, through its **India Stack initiative**, became the first country to develop all three foundational DPIs: **digital identity (Aadhar)**, **real-time fast payment (UPI)**, and **Account Aggregator built on the Data Empowerment Protection Architecture (DEPA)**.

- ➔ During the summit, India signed the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with four countries namely **Armenia, Sierra Leone, Suriname and Antigua and Barbuda** on sharing INDIA STACK i.e. successful digital solutions implemented at population scale.

6th Indian Ocean Conference

Recently, between May 12-13, 2023, 6th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) was **held in Bangladesh**, which is organised by India Foundation in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

- ➔ The two-day Indian Ocean Conference held with the theme **“Peace Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future”**

Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)

- ➔ IOC is an annual international conference that focuses on the geopolitical, economic, and strategic importance of the Indian Ocean region.
- ➔ The conference brings together policymakers, scholars, business leaders, and civil society representatives to discuss issues related to security, trade, and cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.
- ➔ The **first edition** of the Conference was held in **Singapore in 2016**. The fifth edition of IOC was held in **2021 in Abu Dhabi, UAE**.

SCO Young Authors' Conference

Recently, Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs, **Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated** the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Young Authors' Conference.

About SCO Young Authors' Conference

- ➔ **Held on:** April 12th- 13th, 2023
- ➔ **Held at:** Leela Palace, New Delhi
- ➔ **Organized by:** Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
- ➔ **Implementing Agency:** National Book Trust India

Key Highlights

- ➔ The theme of the Conference is- **Civilizational Dialogue amongst the SCO member nations – Perspectives from Young Scholars.**
- ➔ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organisation founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001.
 - ☉ The SCO currently comprises nine Member States (**China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and Iran**).

3rd ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting

The 3rd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held on a virtual platform in Boracay Island, Aklan, Philippines on 9-10 February 2023.

- ➔ The Minister of State for Communications (MoSC), **Shri Devusinh Chauhan**, and **Mr. Ivan John E. Uy**, Minister of the Department of Information and Communication Technology, Philippines co-chaired the meeting.
- ➔ **Theme:** “Synergy Towards a Sustainable Digital Future”.
- ➔ The Ministers meeting approved the **India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2023**.
 - ☉ The work plan includes the capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence in Cyber Security, Application of IoT & AI in Next Generation Smart City & Society 5.0 etc.

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

On 4th March 2023 global negotiations concluded on the landmark **Treaty of the High Seas** to protect the ocean, tackle environmental degradation, fight climate change, and prevent biodiversity loss.

- ➔ This new instrument is being **developed within the framework of the UNCLOS**, the main international agreement governing human activities at sea.

Key Developments

- ➔ The new treaty will allow to **establish large-scale marine protected areas on the high seas**, which are also necessary to meet the global commitment of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Agreement** concluded last December to protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030.
- ➔ For the first time, the treaty will also require **assessing the impact of economic activities on high seas biodiversity**.
- ➔ The high ambition coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) was launched at the **One Ocean Summit in Brest**, on 11th of February 2022.

Conference of Global Intelligence Chiefs

India held the **second conference** of Intelligence and Security Chiefs and top officials from around the world, called the **Raisina Security Dialogue**, on **March 1, 2023** which saw participation from **over 26 countries**.

Highlights

- ➔ The focus of the discussions was largely on global security which encompassed counter-terrorism, radicalisation, drug trafficking, and illegal arms smuggling, among others.
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval addressed the conference, which is modelled on the lines of the **Munich Security Conference**, the 59th edition of which took place from February 17 to 19, 2023, and **Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue**.
- ➔ The **conference was held for the first time in April 2022**. Also the **eighth edition of Raisina dialogue was held from March 2-4, 2023**.

The Business 20 (B20) Inception Meeting

The Business 20 (B20) inception meeting was held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** as part of the G20.

- ➔ Union ministers **Piyush Goyal** and **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, India's Sherpa for the G20, Amitabh Kant, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, and a host of national and international business leaders attend the inaugural meeting.
- ➔ **Organized In-** Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- ➔ **Organized from –** January 22-24, 2023

- ➔ **B20 Theme** -The theme for the B20 India is **R.A.I.S.E.** This stands for Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses.

Key Highlights of Meeting

- ➔ B20 India will operate through Task Forces and Action Councils in streamlining the B20 strategic vision and translating it into policy deliverables on key topics of the global economic agenda.

About B20

- ➔ The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community. **Established in 2010**, B20 is among the most prominent Engagement Groups in G20, with companies and business organizations as participants.
- ➔ Each year, the G20 Presidency appoints a B20 Chair (an eminent business leader from the G20 host country), who is supported by a B20 Sherpa and the B20 secretariat.

Energy Minister’s Session of the Voice of Global South Summit

India hosted the Energy Minister’s Session of the Voice of Global South Summit, a special **two-day virtual event** organized as part of India’s G20 Presidency on **January 13, 2023**.

- ➔ The summit was **inaugurated by the Prime Minister** on 12th January 2023 as an important group of nations to collaborate on political, economic, social, environmental, cultural, and technical issues.
- ➔ **Theme of Summit:** “Energy Security and development: Road map to Prosperity”
- ➔ **Organized From:** January 12–13, 2023
- ➔ The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri addressed the Energy Minister’s session of “**Voice of Global South Summit–2023**”.

Asian Pacific Postal Union

India took over the leadership of the **Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)** from **January, 2023**. Following the successful elections held during the **13th APPU Congress** held in **Bangkok** during August-September 2022, Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, erstwhile Member (Personnel), Postal Services Board will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years.

- ➔ **Held in:** Bangkok, Thailand (also the head-quarter)
- ➔ **Held from:** August-September, 2022
- ➔ **New Secretary General:** Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh

Key Highlights

- ➔ Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) is an intergovernmental organization of **32-member** countries of the Asian-Pacific region. APPU is the **only Restricted Union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the region, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations.**
- ➔ The goal of APPU is to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations between member countries and to promote cooperation in the field of postal services.
- ➔ **This is the first time an Indian is leading an international organization in the postal sector.**

‘Stay Safe Online’ Campaign and ‘G20 Digital Innovation Alliance’

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw launches ‘Stay Safe Online’ Campaign and ‘G20 Digital Innovation Alliance’ as part of India’s G20 presidency.

Key Highlights

- ➔ As part of India’s G20 presidency, the Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Railways, **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** has launched the “**Stay Safe Online**” campaign and the “**G20 Digital Innovation Alliance**” (G20-DIA).
- ➔ The event was graced by **Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa**, dignitaries from Union Ministries and Departments, representatives of Embassies and Consulates, invited guests from the Government, Industry associations, social media platforms, start-ups, and civil society organisations.
- ➔ **MeitY**, the Nodal Ministry for the **G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG)**, has represented India in numerous working groups and Ministerial sessions during previous presidencies.

1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival, 2022

Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, inaugurated the 1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival (AISF).

About 1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival 2022

- ➔ **Held between:** 27-30 October, 2022
- ➔ **Held in:** Bogor, Indonesia

➔ **Hosted by:** The ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI), in partnership with the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST), through the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia and Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) IIT Kanpur.

Key Highlights

- ➔ ASEAN-India Startup Festival is a flagship initiative that aims to strengthen cooperation and collaboration in science, technology and innovation.
 - It is between the ASEAN Member States and India as highlighted in the Plan of action for the ASEAN-India Partnership for peace, progress, and shared prosperity (2021-2025).

G-20 Summit - 2022

- ➔ On **November 15-16, 2022**, the 17th Summit of the Heads of State/Government of G-20 countries was held. This summit was organized in **Bali, Indonesia**.
- ➔ The central theme of this summit organized under the chairmanship of Indonesia was **'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'**.
- ➔ This summit is built on the following **3 interconnected pillars** : (i) **Global Health Architecture** (ii) **Sustainable Energy Transition** (iii) **Digital Transformation**
- ➔ In the 17th G-20 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India.
- ➔ India's G-20 Sherpa was **Amitabh Kant** in this conference.
- ➔ On the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with other G-20 leaders visited the **'Taman Hutan Raya Ngurah Rai'** mangrove forests in Bali, Indonesia and planted mangrove saplings.
- ➔ India has joined the "Mangroves Alliance for Climate" under G-20 presidency of Indonesia.
- ➔ It is noteworthy that **'Mangrove Alliance for Climate'** is a joint initiative of Indonesia and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ➔ It was launched during the 27th 'United Nations Climate Change Conference, 2022' (CoP-27) held in Egypt in November 2022.
- ➔ On December 1, 2022, India took over the chairmanship of G-20 from Indonesia. India will preside over G20 from 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023.

- ➔ It is noteworthy that India is currently a part of the **'G-20 Troika'**, which includes Indonesia, India and Brazil.
- ➔ G-20 summit is proposed to be held in **Brazil in the year 2024** and in **South Africa in the year 2025**.

18th G-20 Summit

- ➔ On September 9-10, 2023, the 18th G-20 Summit will be held in New Delhi, India.
- ➔ India's G-20 presidency is based on the central theme of **'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'** or **'One Earth, One Family, One Future'**.
- ➔ This theme is taken from the ancient Sanskrit text of the **Maha Upanishad**.
- ➔ The logo of the G-20 chaired by India is inspired by the vibrant colors of **India's national flag 'saffron, white, green and blue'**.
- ➔ The logo depicts the Earth with the Lotus, the national flower of India, representing 'growth' amid 'challenges'.
- ➔ The seven petals of the lotus represent the **seven continents** and the **seven universal musical notes**.
- ➔ G-20 chairmanship also marks the beginning of **'Amrit Kaal'** for India.
- ➔ It is to be known that from August 15, 2022, the 75th anniversary of India's independence to the 100th anniversary of independence, the period of 25 years has been given the name of **'Amrit Kaal'**.
- ➔ "India" is written in **'Devanagari'** script below the G-20 logo.
- ➔ Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE are among the special invitee countries for the G-20 summit to be held under the chairmanship of India.
- ➔ The organization of the G-20 summit and its related meetings in India is not limited to New Delhi only.
- ➔ More than 200 G-20 meetings in more than 50 cities of India will be held.
- ➔ Meetings related to G-20 are also proposed to be organized in **Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, Varanasi, Agra and Greater Noida**.
- ➔ On February 11-12, 2023, the first **G-20 Empower Inception Meeting** was organized in Agra.
- ➔ The First **G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG)** meeting in India was organized in Lucknow between 13th to 15th February 2023.

- ➔ Under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, the G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) under India's Presidency, the **G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting** was held at Varanasi on 26th August 2023.

G-20 Digital Innovation Alliance

- ➔ On December 28, 2022, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched the G-20 Digital Innovation Alliance: G-20 DIA as part of India's G-20 chairmanship.
- ➔ It aims to identify, recognize and enable adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies developed by start-ups from G-20 countries as well as invited non-member nations.
- ➔ The G-20 Digital Innovation Alliance Summit was organized in Bengaluru between August 17-19, 2023.

19th ASEAN-India Summit

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India had the 19th Summit to commemorate the **30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue** relations.

- ➔ The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, led the Indian delegation at the 19th ASEAN-India Summit, held on **November 12, 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia**.
- ➔ India and ASEAN's relationship is now elevated to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** level.
- ➔ The Joint Statement proposed expediting the review of **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)** to make it more user-friendly, simple, and trade-facilitative.
- ➔ ASEAN and India signed the Agreement at the **7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-Meet in Bangkok, Thailand in 2009**. The Agreement, which came into effect in 2010, is sometimes referred to as the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.
- ➔ First ASEAN - India Start-up Festival (AISF) was held on 27th October, 2022 in Bagor, Indonesia.

Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)

France, the outgoing Council Chair, handed over the presidency to India at the **third edition of the annual GPAI summit** which was held in Tokyo (Japan) in November, 2022.

- ➔ **India Assumed Presidency on:** 21st November, 2022

- ➔ **India was represented on 3rd edition by:** Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar

About GPAI

- ➔ GPAI is a congregation of **25 member countries**, including the US, the UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Singapore.
- ➔ **India in 2020, joined the group** as a founding member.

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2022 (IPRD-2022)

IPRD is the apex-level global dialogue on maritime strategy held by Indian Navy annually.

- ➔ **Theme for 2022:** "Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans initiative."
- ➔ **AIM of IPRD :** Deal with Geopolitical situation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Key Highlights of IPRD-2022

- ➔ Conference organised by National Maritime Foundation (NMF).
- ➔ First IPRD was held in **2018**.
- ➔ 4th Edition of Dialogue held in New Delhi from **23 November to 25 November, 2022**.

About Indo-Pacific Region

- ➔ The Indo-Pacific region is one of the most populous and economically active regions of the world which includes four continents Asia, Africa, Australia and America.

7th Eastern Economic Forum, 2022

The Eastern Economic Forum was established by a decree of the **President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015** to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Recently, the forum meet took place.

7th Eastern Economic Forum 2022

- ➔ **Held on:** 5-8 September, 2022
- ➔ **Held at:** Vladivostok on the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) campus, Russia
- ➔ **Theme:** "The Path to a Multipolar World"
- ➔ **Objective:** The Forum aimed to promote the accelerated development of the Far East economy and broaden international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

C. Reports & Indices

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has released the 3rd edition of the report titled 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022' for States/UTs of India.

About Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022

- ➔ Released on- July 17, 2023
- ➔ Released by- NITI AAYOG
- ➔ Report prepared by- NITI Aayog in association with the Institute for Competitiveness

Export Preparedness Index Framework

- ➔ The EPI 2022 Report evaluates the performance of the states across **four pillars – Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance.**

Key Highlights

- ➔ **Tamil Nadu** has been ranked first State in Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for 2022.
 - ⊖ It is followed by **Maharashtra** and **Karnataka.**
- ➔ Among hilly/Himalayan states, **Uttarakhand** has ranked at the top position.
 - ⊖ It is followed by **Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura** and **Sikkim.**
- ➔ **Haryana** ranked first among the landlocked regions.
 - ⊖ It was followed by **Telangana, Uttar Pradesh** and **Punjab.**
- ➔ In the category of Union Territories/small states, **Goa** was ranked first.
 - ⊖ **Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar** and **Ladakh** were ranked second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

India's Export Trends

- ➔ Despite global slowdown, India's exports in 2021-22, crossed an unprecedented US \$675 billion, with trade in goods accounting for **US\$420 billion.**
- ➔ The value of merchandise exports crossed US\$ 400 billion in FY2022, an ambitious goal set by the government, reaching up to US\$ 422 billion by March 2022.
- ➔ In 2021-22, Indian export of services recorded its highest value at US\$ 254.4 billion, registering a 23 percent growth over 2020-21.

World Investment Report, 2023

Recently, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has published the 'World Investment Report, 2023: Investing in Sustainable Energy For All'.

Key Highlights

- ➔ As per report, the global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) declined by 12 per cent in 2022, to \$1.3 trillion.
- ➔ In developing countries, FDI increased by 4 per cent to \$916 billion, or more than 70 per cent of global flows, a record share.
- ➔ In East Asia, inflows to China rose by 5% to \$189 billion, mainly in manufacturing and high-tech industries and mostly from European multinational enterprises (MNEs).
 - ⊖ Flows to Hong Kong (China) fell by 16% to \$118 billion.
- ➔ In South Asia, FDI flows to India rose by 10% to \$49 billion as the country became the third-largest host country for greenfield project announcements and the second-largest for international project finance deals.
- ➔ FDI in Bangladesh grew by 20% to \$3.5 billion.

Gender Social Norms Index, 2023

Gender Social Norms Index 2023 (GSNI) reveals that nearly **90 per cent of both men and women** have “**at least one**” fundamental bias against women. The 2023 index showed “no improvement in biases against women in a decade despite powerful global and local campaigns for women's rights”.

Gender Social Norms Index, 2023

- ➔ **Released by** - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ➔ **Released in** - June, 2023
- ➔ **Report title** - Breaking Down Gender Biases : Shifting Social Norms Towards Gender Equality
- ➔ **First introduced** - in the 2019

What is the Gender Social Norms Index?

- ➔ The Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) captures beliefs on gender equality in capabilities and rights.
- ➔ It covers four key dimensions—**political, educational, economic and physical integrity.**

Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2023

In May 2023, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre has released a report titled- **The Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023 (GRID-2023)**

➔ The report cites that the number of people displaced by disasters rose by 40% in 2022 rather than 2021.

Key Findings

➔ **71.1 million people** were living in internal displacement worldwide at the end of 2022.

⊖ 20 per cent increase in a year and the highest number ever recorded.

➔ **60.9 million internal displacements**, or movements, were recorded during the year.

⊖ 60 per cent more than in 2021 and also the highest figure ever.

➔ The number of displacements associated with conflict and violence nearly doubled to **28.3 million**.

⊖ The war in Ukraine triggered 16.9 million, the highest figure ever recorded for any country.

➔ The **La Niña weather phenomenon** persisted for a third consecutive year, leading to record levels of flood displacement in countries including Pakistan, Nigeria and Brazil.

➔ It also fuelled the worst drought on record in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, triggering 2.1 million movements.

➔ 98% of disaster displacements in 2022 were triggered by weather-related events; floods and storms caused 6 out of 10 disaster displacements

➔ **Pakistan** had the highest number of disaster displacements in 2022, followed by **China** and **Afghanistan**, while **India** ranked fourth (with 2.5 million disaster displacements).

World Press Freedom Index, 2023

Recently, the 21st edition of the **World Press Freedom Index** was released by the non-profit organisation **Reporters Without Borders**. As per report, India has slipped 11 places to the **161st rank** out of 180 countries.

About World Press Freedom Index, 2023

➔ **Published on:** May 3, 2023 (World Press Freedom Day)

➔ **Published annually by:** Reports Without Border (a non-profit organization based in France)

➔ The index is based on five indicators. They are as follows—

- ⊖ Political context;
- ⊖ Legal framework;
- ⊖ Economic context;
- ⊖ Sociocultural context ;
- ⊖ Safety.

➔ **Norway** is ranked first for the seventh year running, which is followed by Ireland (2nd rank) and Denmark(3rd rank).

➔ The last three places are occupied solely by Asian countries: **Vietnam (178th)**, **China (179th)** and **North Korea (180th)**.

➔ As per report, India has slipped 11 places to the 161st rank out of 180 countries – ranking below countries such as Somalia (141), Pakistan (150), and Afghanistan (152).

National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, released the “National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers” on **April 27, 2023**.

➔ **Conducted by:** It is a joint study conducted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

➔ **Components:** NMIS had two specific components: the firm-level survey and the sectoral systems of innovation (SSI) survey.

➔ The responses obtained from the firm-level survey have been converted into an **India Manufacturing Innovation Index (IMII) 2022**.

Important Points

➔ The Indian manufacturing sector has an overall India Manufacturing Innovation Index (IMII) score of 28.17, which is the average of the scores for the three dimensions across all states and UTs.

➔ The enablers (presence) dimension has a national score of 20.52, the barriers (absence) dimension has a national score of 38.31, and performance was at 25.68.

IMII 2022 Ranking:

➔ The state of **Karnataka (33.41) ranked highest** on IMII 2022 and the lowest was North-eastern states (excluding Assam) (19.69).

➔ Karnataka is closely followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (32.88), Telangana (32.86), and Tamil Nadu (32.5)

- ➔ Low scoring states are North-eastern states (excluding Assam) (19.69) followed by **Bihar (21.32), Assam (22.22), Jharkhand (22.78), Odisha (23.05) and Andhra Pradesh (24.25).**
- ➔ Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18%, 39.10% and 31.90%, respectively.
- ➔ Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reported the least share of innovative firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.

Women and Men in India Report-2022

India's sex ratio (females per 1,000 males) is expected to improve to 952 by 2036, up significantly from 943 in 2011, according to the **Women and Men in India 2022** report released on March 15, 2023.

Women and Men in India Report -2022

- ➔ **Released by:** National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- ➔ **Objective:** A Statistical Compilation of Gender related Indicators of India
- ➔ **Issue:** 24th Issue (annual)

Key Points

- ➔ The total population is expected to reach to 152.2 crore during 2036 with a slightly improved percentage of female population (48.8).
- ➔ 735 million people or 60.7% of India's population was in the working age group i.e. 15-59 years in 2011 and this population group is expected to increase over the years and would reach 988.5 million in 2036.
- ➔ Due to increasing longevity, population 60 years and above are projected to increase from 101.5 million in 2011 to 227.4 million in 2036.
- ➔ Sex ratio in case of rural areas is expected to increase from 949 in 2011 to 969 in 2036 whereas in urban areas it is expected to hover around 929 with a decline to 926 in 2036.
- ➔ Primary level, GER was recorded at 103.4 in 2021-22.
- ➔ Female GER at higher secondary level was 58.2 in 2021-22 (39.4 in 2012-13).
- ➔ At this level, during 2020-21, GER of female was recorded at 27.9 which was slightly more than male GER of 26.7
- ➔ LFPR of female population is far behind than that of male population in the age group of 15 years and above (77.2 for males and 32.8 for females in 2021-22) and the disparity has remained almost the same over the years.

Cost of Living Index, 2022

This year **New York (1st)** and **Singapore (2nd)** climbed up to the number one position of the world's most expensive cities to live in. The average cost of living is up 8.1 per cent in 2022, owing to the Russian war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the pandemic.

About the Report

- ➔ **Released in:** December, 2022
- ➔ **Released by:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- ➔ **Published:** Half yearly
- ➔ **Title:** Worldwide Cost of Living 2022: How soaring inflation has affected prices globally
- ➔ **Kyiv:** The capital of Ukraine is not in the 2022 list.
- ➔ **Tel Aviv (3rd)** is third and **Hong Kong, Los Angeles** are fourth expensive cities in world.

Rank of Indian cities		
City	Index	Rank
Bangalore	38	161
Chennai	37	164
Ahmedabad	35	165

Ranks of Bottom 3 cities		
City	Country	Rank
Tehran	Iran	170
Tripoli	Libya	171
Damascus	Syria	172

World Happiness Report -2023

Finland was named the world's happiest country for the sixth year in a row in the World Happiness Report -2023. India was ranked **126 of the 137 countries** on the list.

World Happiness Report -2023

- ➔ **Released on:** March 20, 2023
- ➔ **Released by:** United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN-SDSN)
- ➔ **India Ranked:** 126 out of the 137 countries (India's rank in 2022 was -136th among 146 countries)
- ➔ **Bottom rank:** Afghanistan (137th)

Important Points of World Happiness Report -2023

➔ Top-3 countries

World's Happiest Countries in 2023		
Rank	Country	Average Life Value
1	Finland	7,804
2	Denmark	7,586
3	Iceland	7,530

- ➔ **Bottom 3 countries**
 - 🕒 137th – Afghanistan
 - 🕒 136th – Lebanon
 - 🕒 135th – Sierra Leon
- ➔ India has the lower happiness score behind **China (rank- 64) Nepal (rank- 78), Pakistan (rank -108), Bangladesh (rank -118) and Sri Lanka (rank -112).**
- ➔ While Ukraine's ranking improved from 98 to 92 this year, despite the Russian invasion, its overall score fell from 5.084 to 5.071, on a scale of zero to 10.

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), 2022

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) was released which shows that most of the world continues to fail to fight corruption: 95 per cent of countries have made little to no progress since 2017.

About the Index

- ➔ **Released on:** January 31, 2023
- ➔ **Released by:** Transparency International (TI)
- ➔ **Transparency International Headquarters at:** Berlin, Germany
- ➔ **CPI Ranks:** 180 countries and territories

Key Highlights of the Report

- ➔ The CPI global average remains unchanged at **43** for the eleventh year in a row, and more than two-thirds of countries have a serious problem with corruption, scoring below 50.
- ➔ **Top Performers:** **Denmark (90)** tops the index this year, with **Finland** and **New Zealand** following closely, both at 87.
- ➔ **Bottom Performers:** **Somalia (12), South Sudan (13) and Syria (13).**
- ➔ **The significant decliners are:** Luxembourg (77), Canada (74), the United Kingdom (73)

India's Position

- ➔ Notably, there was no change in India's score (40) and it remained at **85th position**, however, the report raised concern over the country's democratic status.
- ➔ Earlier in 2021, India's rank improved by one place to **85 from 86th in 2020**, according to the index. Except for **Bhutan**, all of India's neighbours are ranked below it.

Global Terrorism Index, 2023

The **tenth edition** of Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2023 was released. This report provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism over the last decade.

About the Index

- ➔ **Released on:** March 14, 2023
- ➔ **Released by:** The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)—A global think tank headquartered in Sydney, Australia
- ➔ **Most affected Country by terrorism:** Afghanistan

Key Findings

- ➔ In 2022, deaths from terrorism fell by nine per cent to 6,701 deaths and is now 38 per cent lower than at its peak in 2015.
- ➔ **Afghanistan** remains the country most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite a decline in death numbers.
- ➔ Outside Afghanistan, terrorism deaths rose 4% in the rest of the world.
- ➔ Islamic State (IS) and its affiliates remained the world's deadliest terrorist group in 2022.
- ➔ The **Sahel** is the most impacted region, representing 43% of global terrorism deaths, 7% more than the year prior.

Status of India

- ➔ India is ranked **13th on the index**, marking a marginal decrease from the previous year.

South Asia GTI Score, Rank and Change in Score, 2021-2022				
Country	Overall Score	Overall Rank	Change 2012-2022	Change 2021-2022
Afghanistan	8,822	1	-0.312	-0.308
Pakistan	8,160	6	-0.992	0.308
India	7,175	13	-0.640	-0.250
Sri Lanka	4,839	29	-0.605	-0.508
Nepal	4,134	36	-1.005	-0.578
Bangladesh	3,827	43	-0.627	-0.579
Bhutan	3,827	43	-0.627	-0.579

Safety Perceptions Index (SPI), 2023

The Safety Perceptions Index, 2023 provides a comprehensive assessment of worries and experiences of risk across 121 countries, offering valuable insights into citizens' perceptions of safety around the world.

About the Index

- ➔ **Released on:** February 22, 2023
- ➔ **Released by:** A collaboration between Lloyd's Register Foundation and the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)
- ➔ **Edition:** Second

Key Highlights of the Report

- ➔ The country most impacted in the SPI was **Mali**, which has experienced two recent coups and has been racked by multiple violent conflicts.
- ➔ In 2021, the SPI improved globally across two domains – **food and water and violent crime** – and deteriorated in two – **severe weather and mental health**.

Least Risk Impacted Countries in the 2023 SPI	Most Risk Impacted Countries in the 2023 SPI
1. Uzbekistan	1. Mali
2. United Arab Emirates	2. Sierra Leone
3. Saudi Arabia	3. Guinea

- ➔ **Uzbekistan** recorded the best overall score, while **Mali** recorded the worst overall score.
- ➔ **Sub-Saharan African countries** are the most risk-impacted in the world.
- ➔ **India** is positioned at **rank 97** with the score of 0.320.
- ➔ The ranks of the neighbor countries of India—
 - ☉ China (Rank 9, Score 0.113)
 - ☉ Pakistan (Rank 29, Score 0.159)

SIPRI : Trends in International Arms Transfers 2022, Report

India was the world's largest arms importer between 2018 and 2022, accounting for **11 per cent** of global imports, according to fresh data released by the Sweden-based **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.

Highlights

- ➔ The volume of international transfers of major arms in 2018-22 was **5.1 per cent lower than in 2013-17** and 4.8 per cent higher than in 2008-12.
- ➔ The five largest arms exporters in 2018–22 were the **United States, Russia, France, China** and **Germany**. Together, they supplied 76 per cent of the world's arms exports in 2018–22.
- ➔ US arms exports accounted for 40 per cent of the global total in 2018–22 and were 14 per cent higher than in 2013–17.
- ➔ The five largest arms importers in 2018–22, **India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia** and **China**, together received 36 per cent of the world's arms imports.

India

- ➔ With an **11 per cent share of total global arms imports**, India was the world's biggest importer of

major arms in 2018–22, a position it has held for the period 1993–2022.

- ➔ **Russia** was the **largest supplier of arms to India** in both 2013–17 and 2018–22.

Human Development Report, 2021/22

The human development approach, developed by the economist **Mahbub UI Haq**, is anchored in the **Nobel laureate Amartya Sen's** work on human capabilities, often framed in terms of whether people are able to “be” and “do” desirable things in life.

The **first HDR was published in 1990** by United Nations Development Programme

About Human Development Report 2021/22

- ➔ **Launched on:** September 8, 2022
- ➔ **Launched by:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ➔ **Theme of the Report:** “Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World”.
- ➔ **India ranks 132 out of 191 countries** in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2021/22.

Human Development Tracking Global Decline

— INDIA'S RANK — — HDI VALUE —

132 | **131** | **0.633** | **0.732**

in 2021 in 2020 India World

Top 5 Countries	Bottom 5	Where Neighboring Countries Stand
1 Switzerland	191 South Sudan	73 Sri Lanka
2 Norway	190 Chad	79 China
3 Iceland	189 Niger	127 Bhutan
4 Hong Kong	188 CAR	129 Bangladesh
5 Australia	187 Burundi	143 Nepal
		161 Pakistan

- ➔ In 2021, **India's life expectancy at birth** was recorded at **67.2 years**; expected years of schooling at 11.9 years; mean years of schooling at 6.7 years; and gross national income per capita (2017 PPP) at \$6,590.

International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, 2023

India ranks 42nd among 55 leading global economies on the 11th International IP Index released by the **US Chambers of Commerce**.

- ➔ International IP Index benchmarks the IP framework in **55 global economies** across 50 unique indicators.

International IP Index

- ➔ **Released in:** February, 2023
- ➔ **Released by:** US Chambers of Commerce

Key Findings

- ➔ **Morocco, Thailand and Vietnam** had the largest improvements in their overall score at 2.5%, 2.5%, and 2.02% respectively.
- ➔ **Asia** had the **greatest improvement** in the regional average score.
- ➔ Russia's score dropped 21.62%.

17th Global Peace Index, 2023

The **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** has published the **Global Peace Index 2023**.

About Global Peace Index 2023

- ➔ **Published in-** June, 2023
- ➔ The GPI covers **163 countries** comprising 99.7 per cent of the world's population.

Key Findings

- ➔ The average level of **global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.42 per cent** in the 2023 Global Peace Index.
- ➔ **The Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region remained the **world's least peaceful**.
- ➔ **Europe remains the most peaceful** region in the world.
- ➔ **Iceland** is the most peaceful country, a position it has held since the inception of the index.
- ➔ **Afghanistan** remains the least peaceful country, a position it has held for the last five years.

Ranking of the Countries

Top 3 Country in GPI 2022

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1	Iceland	4	New Zealand
2	Denmark	5	Austria
3	Ireland		

India and its Neighbours

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
79	Nepal	126	India
80	China	146	Pakistan
107	Sri Lanka		
88	Bangladesh		

Network Readiness Index, 2022

India has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at 61st rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022).

About the NRI-2022 Report

- ➔ **Released on:** 15 November 2022
- ➔ **Released by:** Portulans Institute
- ➔ **Ranks:** 131 Countries

- ➔ **India's rank:** 61st (2021 rank: 67th)
- ➔ **India's score:** 51.19 (49.74 in 2021)

The Network Readiness Index

- ➔ Initially **launched in 2002** with the World Economic Forum.
- ➔ NRI has been redesigned in 2019 by its founders and co-editors, **Soumitra Dutta** and **Bruno Lanvin**
- ➔ NRI is an in-depth analysis of 131 countries performance across four dimensions of digital readiness—**Technology, People, Governance** and **Impact**.
- ➔ It uses 58 different indicators.

Economy	NRI Rank	NRI Score
United States	1	80.30
Singapore	2	79.35
Sweden	3	78.91

India's Performance

- ➔ **India is ranked 3rd out of 36** in the group of **lower-middle-income countries**.
- ➔ India secured -
 - 1st rank in **"AI talent concentration"**,
 - 2nd rank in **"Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country"** and **"International Internet bandwidth"**,
 - 3rd rank in **"Annual investment in telecommunication services"** and **"Domestic market size"**.

The Asia University Rankings, 2023

On June 22, 2023, **The Times Higher Education (THE)** released the latest edition of **Asia University Rankings**.

About the 2023 Rankings

- ➔ **Launched by:** The Times Higher Education
- ➔ **Launched on:** June 22, 2023
- ➔ **Ranking based on:** 13 performance indicators
- ➔ **Key trait:** This year's ranking comprises 616 Universities from 31 countries and territories.

Key Findings

- ➔ **Japan** is the most-represented nation again this year, with 117 institutions.
- ➔ **China** is home to the continent's top two universities for the third consecutive year.
- ➔ **China** is also the second most represented country with 95 mainland Chinese Universities in the ranking.

Top Institutions as per the Rankings in Asia

1. Tsinghua University, China
2. Peking University, China
3. National University of Singapore, Singapore

India's Presence in the Rankings

- ➔ India is the third most-represented country in the rankings.
- ➔ There are **18 Indian universities in the top 200** as compared to 17 in 2022.
- ➔ **The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore**, is the only institute to make the top-50 list with 48th rank.

Henley Passport Index, 2023

- ➔ **Published on** : July 19, 2023
- ➔ **Published by** : Henley & Partners (An immigration consultancy)
- ➔ **Objective** : Index Defines The Strength of Diplomatic Relations of Any One Country With Others.
- ➔ **India's Position** : 80th

Important Facts

- ➔ **Top Country** : Singapore (1st)
- ➔ **Country at last position** : Afghanistan

India's Rank

- ➔ India stands at the **80th position** (according to the index published on July 19, 2023). It is seven places ahead of last year's 87. Indian Passport holder has visa-free access to **57 countries**.
- ➔ As per the fact sheet published by the Henley & Partners on August 09, 2023, the ranking of India is 85th (with across 57 visa-free countries).

24th World Population Prospects, 2022

- ➔ **Released on** : July 11, 2022 (World Population Day)
- ➔ **Released by** : Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division , United Nations

Key Findings

- ➔ The world's population is projected to reach **8 billion** on **15 November 2022**, and India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.
- ➔ On November 15, 2022 United Nations Celebrated "**Day of 8 Billion**", as the 8th billion child came into existence.
- ➔ World population reached to 7 billion in 2011.
- ➔ It will take approximately 15 years until 2037 - for it to reach 9 billion.
- ➔ Global fertility is projected to decline further to **2.1** births per woman by 2050.
- ➔ India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country during 2023.

Kampala Declaration

- ➔ A total of **48 African countries** have now agreed to adopt the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC) to address the nexus of human mobility and climate change in the continent.
- ➔ The continental expansion of the KDMECC was discussed at a three-day Conference of States that began **August 23, 2023**.
- ➔ It was co-hosted by the Governments of **Kenya and Uganda** with support from the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- ➔ It also enabled the African States to develop a common position ahead of the Africa Climate Summit and the Conference of Parties (COP 28).
 - Africa is one of the world's most vulnerable continents to the impacts of climate change.
 - According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, over 7.5 million people faced internal displacement due to disasters in the past year alone.

KDMECC

- ➔ KDMECC was originally signed and agreed upon by 15 African states in Kampala, Uganda in July 2022.
- ➔ The KDMECC-AFRICA is expected to be signed by Member States during the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi on September 4, 2023.

Objectives of KDMECC:

- ➔ The KDMECC aims to address the challenges associated with climate-induced migration through several key objectives:
 1. **Comprehensive Framework:** Providing member states with a comprehensive framework to develop and implement policies and strategies addressing climate-induced migration.
 2. **Leveraging Migration for Development:** Encouraging the integration of migration into sustainable development strategies, ensuring it benefits both migrants and host communities.
 3. **Inclusivity:** Prioritizing the voices of vulnerable groups, including youth, women, and those in disadvantaged situations, to ensure their needs and concerns are central to the response.

D. International Events

8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks

Recently the 8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks (DPT) was held at Canberra in Australia.

About the 8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks (DPT)

- ➔ **Held on:** 24-25 July 2023
- ➔ **Held at:** Canberra ,Australia.
- ➔ **Held between:** Defence ministry representatives of India and Australia

Key Highlights of the Talks

- ➔ India and Australia conducted a joint review of their bilateral defence cooperation, seeking to enhance their engagement in the defense sector.
- ➔ They expressed their dedication to fully implement the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, emphasizing mutual trust, understanding, shared interests, and values.

Kosovo-Serbia Conflict

Recently clashes between Serbian protesters and NATO peacekeepers have occurred in Kosovo, resulting in over 60 injuries. This represents the most significant violence witnessed in the region in over a decade.

About Recent Clash

- ➔ **Occurred between:** NATO peacekeeping soldiers and Serbian Protesters
- ➔ **Occurred on:** 29th May 2023
- ➔ **Occurred at:** Northern Kosovo

Cause for Current Tension:

- ➔ The tension in northern Kosovo stems from the broader ethnic and political divide between ethnic Serbs and Albanians.
- ➔ Ethnic Serbs, who constitute a majority in northern Kosovo, have attempted to block Albanian mayors from assuming control in local councils.
- ➔ The Serbian community boycotted local elections in April 2023, leading to a low voter turnout, and subsequently rejected the election results as illegitimate.

Kosovo-Serbia Conflict

- ➔ Kosovo's historical significance and declaration of independence in 2008 aren't recognized by Serbia.

- ➔ Ethnic tensions between Albanians and Serbs date back, intensified by disintegration of Yugoslavia.
- ➔ NATO intervened in 1989 due to violence, resulting in international administration of Kosovo.
- ➔ Currently, 99 out of 193 United Nations member countries recognize Kosovo's independence.

India's Stand on the Status of Kosovo

- ➔ India does not recognize Kosovo as a separate country.
- ➔ India's stance is based on the belief that Kosovo does not fulfill the three principles required for recognition: a defined territory, a duly constituted government accepted by the people, and effective control over an area of governance.
- ➔ India maintains a position supporting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia due to their longstanding relationship.

The Atlantic Declaration

Recently, the agreement "The Atlantic Declaration" was announced at a joint press conference in the East Room of the White House. It is a series of mini deals looking artificial intelligence, critical minerals, clean energy and security.

About the Atlantic Declaration

- ➔ **Titled as:** The Atlantic Declaration: A Framework for a Twenty-First Century US-UK Economic Partnership
- ➔ **Signed on:** June 08, 2023
- ➔ **Signed Between:** United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and the United States (US) President Joe Biden
- ➔ **Signed at:** White House, Washington
- ➔ **Aim of the Declaration:** To adapt, reinforce, and reimagine the longstanding alliance between the two nations to effectively address the challenges of the current era.

Historical Background

- ➔ The core ideals of the **UK-US relations** can be traced back to the **Atlantic Charter of 1941** which was signed by **Winston Churchill** and **Franklin Roosevelt**.
- ➔ This Charter set out their common goals for the post-war world and laid foundation for their "**special relations**".

- ➔ In June 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Joe Biden signed what was called a “**New Atlantic Charter**” to deal with the emerging recent challenges.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The leaders adopted an “Atlantic Declaration” to enhance industry ties in defense and renewable energy.
- ➔ The pact aims to counter the threats posed by Russia, China, and economic instability.
- ➔ This new economic declaration will work towards reducing strategic dependencies as well as to building resilient, secured, and diversified supply chains.

U.K. Signed CPTPP

Recently, in **April 2023** the United Kingdom has joined the **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**, a trading bloc of **11 countries**.

CPTPP

- ➔ The CPTPP is a free trade agreement between **Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Australia, Singapore, Brunei, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Peru and Chile**. It is one of the biggest trading blocs in the world, worth 15% of global GDP once the UK joins.
- ➔ The UK is the first European country to join the agreement, and the largest economy after Japan.

- ➔ The UK already had bilateral trade agreements with all countries in the CPTPP bar Brunei and Malaysia, some of which had been carried over from its EU membership.
- ➔ The UK government’s own estimate says the reduced red tape and improved market access will boost GDP by **£1.8 billion - 0.8% - over 10 years**.

- ➔ The CPTPP started life as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, with the US negotiating to join under President Obama. This would have made the club the world’s largest free trade deal.
- ➔ But in 2017, Trump withdrew from the deal on his first day in office. The remaining countries continued talks, eventually signing the CPTPP in March 2018.

Finland Joins NATO

Finland became NATO’s newest member on **4 April 2023**, upon depositing its instrument of accession to the **North Atlantic Treaty** with the United States at **NATO Headquarters in Brussels**.

- ➔ NATO Allies signed Finland’s Accession Protocol on **5 July 2022**, after which all 30 national parliaments voted to ratify the country’s membership.

NATO

- ➔ The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**, also called the **North Atlantic Alliance**, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 31 member states – 29 European and two North American.
- ➔ NATO’s main headquarters are located in **Brussels, Belgium**, while NATO’s military headquarters are near Mons, Belgium.

Ghana becomes first country to approve Oxford malaria vaccine for children

- ➔ Ghana has made history by becoming the first country to approve a highly effective malaria vaccine developed by scientists at the University of Oxford in the UK.
- ➔ The vaccine, called R21/Matrix-M, has exceeded the World Health Organization’s target of 75% efficacy, making it a significant milestone in the fight against malaria. The R21/Matrix-M Vaccine Targets the **Plasmodium ‘Sporozoite’**.
- ➔ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 619,000 people died from malaria in 2021, with the vast majority of the deaths being children in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ➔ In Ghana, where malaria is endemic and perennial, an estimated 5.3 million cases and 12,500 deaths were recorded in 2021. The R21/Matrix-M vaccine, which has shown promising results in clinical trials.

Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA)

Recently, the apex edible oil industry associations from five major palm oil importing countries in Asia have come together for the first time to form an alliance — Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA).

- ➔ **Launched on:** September 21, 2022
- ➔ **Launched at:** The Globoil Summit
- ➔ **Globoil Summit was held at:** Agra, India
 - Globoil Summit is one of the World’s Leading Edible Oils and Agri Trade Conference, Exhibitions & Awards.
- ➔ **APOA is an oil industry associations of:** Five major palm oil importing countries of Asia
 - Five countries are – India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal
- ➔ **Next meeting is expected to be held in:** Indonesia (2023)

News in Shorts

❑ Russia launches e-visa facility for Indians

- ➔ Russia has launched an e-visa facility for Indians from August 1.
- ➔ This will allow travelers from India to the country to surpass the hassles of obtaining a regular visa.
- ➔ The e-visa furnished is valid for 60 days from the date of issue and allows tourists to stay on the territory of Russia for 16 days.
- ➔ The e-visa facility, also available for travellers from **54 other countries**, does not require a visit to consulates or embassies.

❑ Russia suspends START, the last Nuclear Treaty

- ➔ Russian **President Vladimir Putin** announced in an address to his nation on **February 21, 2023** that Russia is suspending its participation in the New START, the last remaining major military agreement with the United States.

New START

- ➔ The name **START** comes from the original **“Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty”**, known as **START-I**, which was signed between the US and the erstwhile USSR in 1991, and came into force in 1994.

❑ Typhoon Lan

- ➔ **Typhoon Lan** made landfall in **Japan, August 15, 2023** bringing heavy rain and strong winds.
- ➔ Its arrival comes on the heels of Typhoon Khanun, which ravaged the south of Japan earlier this month before moving toward the Korean Peninsula.

❑ Anwarul Haq Kakar

- ➔ He was sworn in as Pakistan's 8th interim Prime Minister on August 21, 2023 making him the country's youngest individual to assume this role.
- ➔ Pakistan is supposed to hold national elections within three months as the National Assembly has been dissolved.

❑ Srettha Thavisin

- ➔ He has become the **Thailand's** Prime Minister amidst a political deadlock following recent elections.
- ➔ Thavisin's rise marks an alignment between pro-military factions and the conservative establishment.

❑ India- New Zealand Round Table Meeting

- ➔ Recently India and New Zealand undertook their first Round Table Joint Meeting with the industry and industry associations of both the countries in New Delhi.

About first India- New Zealand Round Table Meeting

- ➔ **Organised on:** June 8, 2023
- ➔ **Organised at:** New Delhi
- ➔ **Organised by:** Jointly by India and New Zealand govt

❑ IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania

- ➔ The first Indian Institute of Technology to be set up in Africa will come up in October in Tanzania.
- ➔ IIT Madras will set up its first International campus in **Zanzibar, Tanzania**, with plans to start the classes by **October 2023**.

❑ First China – Central Asia Summit

- ➔ Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted the first China-Central Asia Summit from **May 18-19, 2023** a virtual meeting of trade ministers of the grouping known as **C + C5 – China and the five Central Asian republics**, namely **Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan**.
- ➔ The first C + C5 Summit was held on January 25, 2022.

❑ Gold-backed digital currency

- ➔ On **May 08, 2023** the **Central Bank of Zimbabwe** introduced a **digital token** backed by **gold** as legal tender.
- ➔ The aim is to help stabilize the **Zimbabwean dollar** and protect citizens from currency fluctuations.
- ➔ The latest move to introduce gold-backed coins is part of a wider plan by the central bank to stabilise the country's local unit

❑ Mongolia's first oil refinery

- ➔ Mongolia's first oil refinery, built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by 2025.
- ➔ The first phase of the \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan-funded Mongol Oil Refinery will be finished by the end of the year.

❑ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- ➔ On April 19, 2023, the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** signed a host member agreement to officially open in Abu Dhabi the Bank's first overseas office, an **Interim Operational Hub (the Hub)**.

❑ India and Seychelles sign Agreement on Maritime Cooperation

- ➔ In order to further the existing cooperation in maritime safety and security, **Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** signed an MoU on 21 February 2023 with **Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC)**, Seychelles.

❑ 26th World Mining Congress, 2023

- ➔ India pavilion was represented by **NLC India Ltd (NLCIL)**, **Coal India Limited (CIL)** and **NMDC** at the **World Mining Congress (WMC), 2023**.
- ➔ **World Mining Congress held at** : Brisbane, Australia
- ➔ **Host Organisation** : Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (**CSIRO**).
- ➔ **Indian pavilion was inaugurated by** : Coal secretary **Amrit Lal Meena**
- ➔ The World Mining Congress (WMC) is the leading international forum for the global mining and resource industries.

❑ India and Austria Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement

- ➔ India signed "Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement" (MMPA) with **Austria**. It was during External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Vienna, on the line of similar mobility agreements with **France, United Kingdom, Germany and Finland**.

❑ EU-India Global Gateway Conference

- ➔ Recently **EU-India Global Gateway Conference** was organized in the state of Meghalaya in India.

About the conference

- ➔ **Organized on:** June 1-2, 2023
- ➔ **Organised at:** Shillong, Meghalaya, India
- ➔ **Organised by:** The Ministry of External Affairs, GoI; the EU Delegation to India and the Asian Confluence
- ➔ **Based on:** India – EU Connectivity partnership

❑ NSA Meet with Central Asia

- ➔ The first India-Central Asia meeting of National Security Advisors was held on **December 6, 2022** in New Delhi.
- ➔ The NSAs of **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** participated in the meeting.
- ➔ **Turkmenistan** was represented by its ambassador in New Delhi.

❑ World Development Report, 2023

- ➔ Recently, on **April 25, 2023** the World Bank published the World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees & Societies.
- ➔ There are globally about **184 million migrants** (about 2.3 percent of the world's population)—**37 million** of them refugees:
 - About **43 percent** of them live in **low- and middle-income countries**.
- ➔ **India-US, India-Bangladesh and India-Gulf Cooperation Council** have been considered among the **top migrant corridors**.

❑ Rasht-Astara Railway and INSTC

- ➔ In May 2023, Russia and Iran have signed an agreement to construct the Rasht-Astara railway in Iran as a component of the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**.
- ➔ This railway is considered a crucial connection within the corridor, aiming to link India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, and other nations through railway and sea transportation.
- ➔ The Rasht Astra Railway is a 162-kilometer railway connecting **Rasht (Iran) and Astara (Azerbaijan)** on the border.

❑ Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

- ➔ On **09 September 2022**, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal attended the first in-person Ministerial meeting of the **India-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF) in Los Angeles**.
- ➔ The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on **May 23, 2022 in Tokyo Japan**.
- ➔ The 14 members of the IPEF are—**Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the US**.

❑ World Competitiveness Index, 2023

- ➔ **Released on:** June 20, 2023
- ➔ **Released by:** Institute for Management Development, Switzerland
- ➔ **First published:** in 1989
- ➔ It is based on 4 factors: business efficiency, infrastructure, government efficiency, economic performance.
- ➔ Denmark topped the index (among 64 countries) followed by Ireland and Switzerland.
- ➔ India slipped from 37th position in 2022 to 40th in 2023.

❑ Black Sea Grain Initiative

- ➔ The **Black Sea Grain Initiative** was brokered between Russia and Ukraine by the United Nations and Turkey in July, 2022.
- ➔ The **Joint Coordination Centre (JCC)** facilitates the implementation of the **Black Sea Grain Initiative** to allow ships to safely export grain, other food stuffs and fertilizers, including ammonia, from Ukraine via a maritime humanitarian corridor.

❑ Japan's health ministry approves first abortion pill in its history

- ➔ A panel in Japan's health ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill, in a major step for reproductive rights decades after other countries made abortion medication widely available.
- ➔ The ministry's pharmaceutical board granted approval to the McFeego Pack, an abortion pill manufactured by British pharmaceutical Linepharma.

❑ Belgium firm to launch biodiesel project in Ayodhya

- ➔ Belgium-based company **Vito** is set to launch a two-year pilot project in Ayodhya, India, aimed at producing biodiesel from waste.

❑ Turkish Navy Receives First Aircraft Carrier

- ➔ The Turkish navy officially added the TCG Anadolu light aircraft carrier and amphibious assault ship to its arsenal on April 10, 2023, touting it as the world's first "drone carrier".
- ➔ Anadolu is based on Spain's Juan Carlos I-class amphibious assault ships.

❑ 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Uganda

- ➔ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on April 10, 2023 launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' of Varanasi, during his visit to Uganda's Kampala.

- ➔ Uganda was endorsed to chair the Non-Aligned Movement on behalf of Africa for the period from 2022 to 2025.

❑ India-Mongolia Joint Working Group

- ➔ The 11th meeting of India-Mongolia Joint Working Group was held on 10th February 2023 in New Delhi.

❑ 17th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting

- ➔ Between 6-9th December, 2022 the 17th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was held in Singapore.

❑ Global Food Security Platform

- ➔ According to the **World Bank's Commodity Markets Outlook**, food prices are likely to exceed their **pre- Russia –Ukraine war crisis** levels at least through the end of 2024. In this wake, Global Food Security Platform has been started.

Global Food Security Platform

- ➔ **Launched by:** International Finance Corp. (IFC)
- ➔ **Objective:** To support the private sector for sustainable production and delivery of food stocks to countries affected by food instability.

❑ The Australia-India Centre for Energy (AICE)

- ➔ The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras** partnered with Australian Universities to launch "Australia-India Centre for Energy" to work on **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- ➔ The virtual centre was formally launched during **IIT Madras Energy Summit 2022** held in Chennai in December 2022.

❑ Spain passes Europe's first menstrual paid leave law

- ➔ The Spanish government approved a law granting paid medical leave to women suffering from severe menstrual pain - a first for any European country. Such facilities are presently available in a handful of countries including Japan, Indonesia and Zambia.

❑ EU formally bans gas, diesel car sales from 2035

- ➔ In a move to boost the transition to electric vehicles (EVs), **the European Parliament** has approved the law to ban the sale of new gas and diesel cars in the EU, starting in 2035.

❑ NEOM: Saudi's Future Mega City

➔ **Neom** is a planned smart city in Tabuk Province in northwestern Saudi Arabia. The site is north of the Red Sea, east of Egypt across the Gulf of Aqaba, and south of Jordan. The total area of Neom is 26,500 km² (10,200 sq mi) or 33 times the size of New York City.

❑ Cyclone Gabrielle

➔ **Severe Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle** was a severe tropical cyclone that devastated the North Island of New Zealand and affected parts of Vanuatu and Australia in February 2023.

❑ India Joins Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate

➔ India has joined Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate **launched by the U.S. and the U.A.E.** with an aim to accelerate investment and support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation, the state department said here.

➔ The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate was launched by the two nations in **November 2021**.

❑ World Government Summit 2023

➔ World Government Summit was held in **Dubai, UAE**. The World Government Summit **2023** was held from **13-15th February, 2023** under the theme of **"Shaping Future Governments"**.

➔ The first World Government Summit was held in **2013**.

❑ REAIM 2023

➔ On **15 and 16 February, 2023** the government of the Netherlands hosted the first global **Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence** in the Military Domain, REAIM 2023.

➔ The event was **co-hosted by the Republic of Korea** and took place at the World Forum in the Hague, the international city of peace and justice.

❑ 'Stay Safe Online' campaign and 'G20 Digital Innovation Alliance'

➔ Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the 'Stay Safe Online' campaign and the 'G20 Digital Innovation Alliance' (G20-DIA) on **28th December 2022**.

❑ 7th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting

➔ 7th ASEAN - India ministerial meeting on Agriculture and Forestry was held virtually on

October 26, 2022. In this ministerial meeting, the commitment to ASEAN-India cooperation in agriculture and forestry was reaffirmed.

❑ 77th Session of the UN General Assembly

➔ Leaders from across the world convened in **New York** for the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), which opened on **September 13, 2022**.

➔ It is based on the theme —**"A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges"**.

❑ USA ratifies the Kigali Amendment

➔ On **September 22, 2022** the US lawmakers voted to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the **Montreal Protocol**

➔ US making this, the first time in 30 years to adopt an international climate treaty.

➔ The amendment phases down the use of powerful greenhouse gases called **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)** and aligns with existing bipartisan law.

➔ The **US now joins 136 other nations** and the **European Union** in ratifying the amendment.

❑ World Water Congress and Exhibition, 2022

➔ The International Water Association's World Water Congress and Exhibition was **organized in Denmark** from **September 1 to 15, 2022** in Copenhagen.

➔ The 2022 edition was organized in Copenhagen based on the theme **'Water for Smart Liveable Cities'**.

❑ Operation London Bridge

➔ Operation London Bridge (also known by its code phrase **"London Bridge is down"**) was the **funeral plan for Queen Elizabeth II**.

➔ The part of the plan for her death at her favourite castle in Scotland was codenamed **'Operation Unicorn'**.

❑ Varanasi: First 'Cultural and Tourism capital of SCO'

➔ Varanasi will be the first city in **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** region to be granted the rotating title of **'Cultural & Tourism capital of SCO'** under a new mechanism during India's SCO Presidency from **September 2022 to September 2023**.

Rankings/Indices/Reports (International)

Index/Report	Released by	India's Rank	Top Rankings
Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index, 2022	Oxfam International and Development Finance International (DFI)	123 rd	Norway
Global Hunger Index, 2022	Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe	107 th	—
Human Development Index 2022	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	132 nd	Switzerland
Global Crypto Adoption report 2023	Hedge with Crypto Research	7 th	Australia
Global Innovation Index 2022	The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	40 th	Switzerland
The Global Gender Gap Index 2023	World Economic Forum (WEF)	127 th (out of 146 countries)	Iceland
Henley Passport Index 2023	Henley & Partners	80 th (out of 199 passports)	Singapore
World Competitiveness Index 2023	Institute for Management Development (IMD).	40 th	Denmark
Global Skills Report (GSR) 2023	Coursera	60 th	Switzerland
The Global Liveability Index 2022'	Economic Intelligence United (EIU)	New Delhi (141), Mumbai (141) etc.	Vienna
Global Environmental Performance Index 2022	Yale University and Columbia University	180 th	Denmark
THE Impact Rankings 2022	Times Higher Education (THE)	Amrita Vishwavidya Peetham ranked at 52.	Western Sydney University (Australia)
Forbes' Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide 2022	Forbes'	1. Reliance Industries Ltd (45 th globally) 2. State Bank of India (77 th).	1. JP Morgan Chase 2. Saudi Aramco
World Air Power Index 2023	World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA)	IAF ranked 6 th	1 st : United States Air Force (USAF)
Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2023	Hurun Research Institute	Radha Vembu (20 th), (1 st in India) Falguni Yayar (24 th) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (44 th)	1. China (68 Women) 2. United States (23 Women) 3. United Kingdom (5 Women)
'Democracy Report 2023: Autocratisation Changing Nature'	V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute	97 th	1. Denmark 2. Sweden 3. Norway
2022 World Air Quality Index	IQAir	Bhiwadi was the most polluted city in India, followed by Delhi (NCT), Darbhanga etc.	World's most polluted cities 1. Lahore 2. Hotan 3. Bhiwadi
11 th International Intellectual Property Index, 'Compete for Tomorrow' (IIP Index 2023)	Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of United States Chambers of Commerce (USCC)	42 nd	1. United States of America 2. United Kingdom 3. France



Overview on the events of Economic Importance in the Country and Abroad, and the Activities of Economic Organizations

A. Economic Initiatives, Schemes & Projects

Vivad se Vishwas – II

Recently, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has launched the scheme, “Vivad se Vishwas II – (Contractual Disputes), to effectively settle the pending contractual disputes of government and government undertakings. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 by the Union Finance Minister.

- ➔ **Launched on-** August 2, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by-** the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance
- ➔ **Scheme for-** To settle contractual disputes of government and government undertakings, wherein arbitral award is under challenge in a court

Key Highlights

- ➔ The scheme will apply to all domestic contractual disputes where one of the parties is either the Government of India or an organisation working under its control.
- ➔ The scheme will cover all disputes with Central government agencies, including autonomous bodies, public sector banks and financial institutions, central public sector firms, union territories, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, along with their respective agencies.
- ➔ Under the scheme, for Court Awards passed on or before 30.04.2023 the settlement amount offered to the Contractor will be up to 85% of the net amount awarded/ upheld by the court.
- ➔ For Arbitral Awards passed on or before 31.01.2023, the settlement amount offered is up to 65% of the net amount awarded.
- ➔ Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has developed a dedicated web-page for implementation of this scheme.

Ministry of Finance launched the scheme, “Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief to MSMEs”

- ➔ **The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance,** has launched the scheme, “Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief to MSMEs” for providing relief to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** for COVID-19 period (April 17, 2023). The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

PM SVANidhi SCHEME

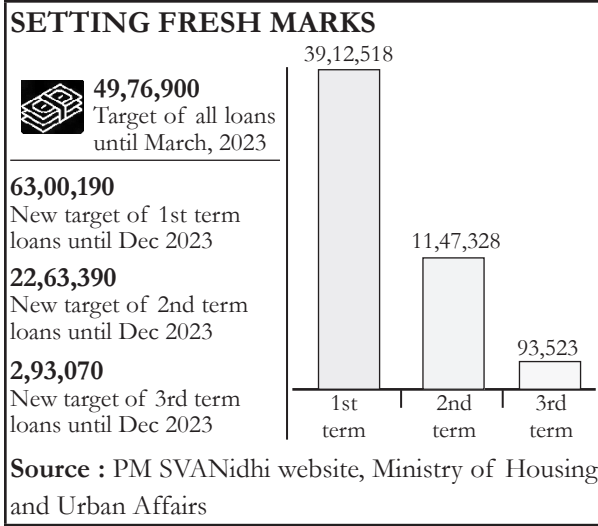
Recently, The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has set a new target for its loan scheme for street vendors — 63 lakh new loans till December 2023.

About Prime Minister Street Vendor’s Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme

- ➔ **Launched on** – June 01, 2020
- ➔ **Launched by** – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- ➔ **Type** – Central Sector Scheme
- ➔ **Scheme for** – Street vendors/ hawkers vending in urban areas, as on or before March 24, 2020.

Objectives

- ➔ The Scheme has the following objectives :
 - ➔ Facilitate collateral free working capital loan up to Rs. 10,000, of 1 year tenure, with enhanced loan of Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 50,000 in the second and third tranches respectively, on repayment of earlier loans.
 - ➔ Incentivize regular repayment, through interest subsidy @ 7% per annum; and
 - ➔ Reward digital transactions, by way of cash back up to Rs. 1,200 per year.
- ➔ While the Cabinet extended the scheme’s lending period until December 2024 , these targets are “till December 2023”.



“Credit Guarantee Scheme” for Livestock Sector

Recently (in July, 2023), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has launched ‘Credit Guarantee Scheme’ for Livestock Sector. It will reboot rural economy by leveraging MSMEs.

Key Points

- ➔ The Scheme is implemented under **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)** to strengthen credit delivery system and facilitate smooth flow of credit to the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) engaged in Livestock sector without hassles of collateral security.
- ➔ Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has established a Credit Guarantee fund Trust of Rs. 750.00 crores, which will provide credit guarantee coverage up to 25% of the credit facilities extended to the MSMEs by the eligible lending institutions.
- ➔ The credit guarantee scheme facilitates access to finance for un-served and under-served livestock sector.
- ➔ DAHD has formed a trust with NABSanrakshan Trustee Company Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD for the establishment of a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for extending the credit guarantee to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises under AHIDF scheme.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved a new Central Sector Scheme “PM Vishwakarma”

About PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- ➔ **Announced on-** August 15, 2023
- ➔ **Approved on-** August 16, 2023
- ➔ **Scheme type-** Central Sector Scheme
- ➔ **Financial outlay -** Rs. 13,000 crore
- ➔ **Duration-** For a period of five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28)

Objectives

- ➔ The scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.

Key Highlights

- ➔ Under PM Vishwakarma scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.
 - ➔ It will provide Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- ➔ The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.
- ➔ The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban areas across India.
- ➔ Eighteen traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma.

Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, 2023

Recently, the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance has permitted all Public Sector Banks and eligible Private Sector Banks to implement and operationalise the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, 2023.

About Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC), 2023

- ➔ **Announced in -** the 2023-24 Budget
- ➔ **Launched on -** March 31, 2023 (Operation since April 1, 2023)
- ➔ **Implemented by-** Department of Post
- ➔ **The scheme is for-** women/girls

Objectives

- ➔ The objective of the scheme is to empower women and promote their financial independence.

Key Features of the Scheme

- ➔ The scheme provides attractive and secured investment option to all girls and women.

- ➔ An account can be opened under this scheme on or before the March 31, 2025 for a tenure of two years.
- ➔ Minimum of Rs. 1000 and any sum in multiple of 100 may be deposited within the maximum limit of Rs. 200,000.
- ➔ Maturity of the investment under this scheme is two years from the date of opening of the account under the scheme.

“Sangathan se Samridhhi”

Recently, the Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched “**Sangathan Se Samridhhi- Leaving no Rural Woman Behind**”, a national campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Samaveshi Vikaas, aimed at mobilizing 10 crore women from eligible rural households.

About the Sangathan se Samridhhi” Campaign

- ➔ **Launched on:** 18 April, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by:** Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
- ➔ **Launched in:** New Delhi
- ➔ **Objective:** Mobilizing 10 crore women to draw benefits provided under DAY-NRLM.
- ➔ **Period -** till June 30th 2023
- ➔ The campaign's primary objective is to mobilize disadvantaged rural communities unaware of the benefits of the DAY-NRLM program.
- ➔ Aimed at mobilizing 10 crore women from eligible rural households.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission

- ➔ Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011 as a restructured version of SwarnaJayanti Gram SwarozgarYojna (SGSY).
 - ➔ NRLM was renamed as DAY-NRLM (DeendayalAntyodayaYojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission) w.e.f. March 29, 2016.

National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

- ➔ To promote natural farming across the country, the Centre has launched the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) by upscaling the **Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) Scheme**.

- ➔ NMNF will cover **7.5 lakh hectare area** by developing **15,000 clusters** in the next four years with a total budget outlay of **Rs. 1,584 crore (Centre's share)**
- ➔ Under NMNF, farmers will receive a financial assistance of **Rs. 15,000 per hectare per year for three years** for the creation of on-farm input production infrastructure.
- ➔ The Centre intends to set up **15,000 Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-inputs Resources Centres (BRCs)** to provide easy access to bio-resources like Jeevamrit, Ghana Jeevamrit and neemstra, wherein cow dung and urine, neem and bioculture play an important role.

Three Centers of Excellence for Horticultural crops approved under MIDH

The **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)**, under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has approved three new center of Excellence (CoEs) for horticultural crops on **March 9, 2023:**

- ➔ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has approved **49 CoEs** till now, out of which following 3 CoEs have been approved on March 09, 2023 :
 - ➔ **CoE for Kamlam (Dragon Fruit) by** Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, Karnataka at Experimental station, **Hirehalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
 - ➔ **CoE for Mango and Vegetables** under Indo-Israel Action Plan at **Panikoili, Jajpur District, Odisha.**
 - ➔ **CoE for Vegetables and Flowers** under Indo-Israel Action Plan at Govt. Agricultural Farm, **Codar, Khandepar, Ponda, South Goa, Goa**

SWAYATT Initiative

In March, 2023 **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** commemorates the success of “**SWAYATT**”, an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage through Government e-Transactions on GeM.

About SWAYATT Initiative

- ➔ The initiative to promote “Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions” (SWAYATT) on GeM was first launched in **February 2019.**
- ➔ The intent of SWAYATT 2019 was to promote inclusiveness of various categories of sellers and service providers on the portal

About Government e Marketplace (GeM)

- ➔ The initiative was launched on **August 9, 2016** by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

PM MITRA Parks

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on **March 17, 2023** that 'PM MITRA mega textile parks' will be set up in **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.**

Important Points

- ➔ These parks are inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **5F vision**, which aims to boost the Indian textile industry from farm to fashion to foreign markets.
- ➔ The PM MITRA scheme was announced in **October 2021**, and the parks are expected to be set up by 2026-27, with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore.

About PM MITRA Parks Scheme

- ➔ A park will be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle which will be owned by the Central and State Government and in a **Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.**

15th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Expo, 2022

On **November 4, 2022**, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri** and Chief Minister of Kerala, **Shri Pinarayi Vijayan** jointly inaugurated 15th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Expo 2022 in **Kochi, Kerala.**

- ➔ **Organized from:** 4-6 November 2022
- ➔ **Organized in:** Kochi, Kerala
- ➔ **Theme of 15th UMI:** 'Azadi@75 – Sustainable Aatmanirbhar Urban Mobility'
- ➔ **Organized by:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with Govt. of Kerala
- ➔ **16th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Expo 2023** will be held in **New Delhi.**

Winner of Awards

- ➔ The city with the most sustainable transport system : '**Ahmedabad bus rapid transport system**'.
- ➔ The city for the best public transport system was won by **Navi Mumbai** for Sustainable city bus initiatives.

- ➔ The city with the best **Non- Motorized Transport (NMT)** : New Town, Kolkata
- ➔ The city with the best **intelligent transport system** : Chennai
- ➔ The City with the most **innovative financial mechanism** : Bhopal City Link Ltd (BCLL).
- ➔ The city with the best **green transport initiative:** Indore for Green mobility initiative.
- ➔ The city for the best **multimodal integration (metro rail)** : UP metro rail corporation, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ➔ The best metro rail for passenger service and satisfaction : **Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation.**

India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has conducted India's first floating Financial Literacy Camp with an initiative called '**Niveshak Didi**' to promote financial literacy by the women' for the women in **Dal Lake of Srinagar, J&K.**

India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp

- ➔ **Conducted in:** November, 2022
- ➔ **Conducted By:** IPPB
- ➔ **Under initiative:** 'Niveshak Didi'

Key Points

- ➔ The Floating Financial Literacy Camp was conducted among the local residents around the world-famous Dal lake of Srinagar.
- ➔ The Niveshak Didi held the Financial Literacy session in the **local Kashmiri language.**

PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit, 2022

With the aim to further strengthen the role of inland waterways, the 'PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit 2022' was held in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**

About PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit, 2022

- ➔ **Held on:** 11- 12 November, 2022
- ➔ **Held in:** Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- ➔ **Organised by:** The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), GoI

Key Highlights

- ➔ Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stones of community jetties on National Waterways-1 (River Ganga) at **Ravidas Ghat.**

B. Reports & Indices

NITI AAYOG : National Multi-dimensional Poverty Index 2023

Recently NITI AAYOG has released the 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023'. As per report, a record 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

About National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

- ➔ Released on- July 17, 2023
- ➔ Released by- NITI AAYOG
- ➔ Edition- 2nd of the national MPI and is a follow-up to the Baseline Report published in November 2021
- ➔ The first edition of MPI was released in 2021
- ➔ Based on- 5th round of the National Family Health Survey [NFHS-5 (2019-21)]

Methodology

- ➔ The reports provides multidimensional poverty estimates for India's 36 States & Union Territories, along with 707 administrative districts across 12 indicators of the national MPI.

Indicators in India's National MPI		
Three Dimensions of Poverty	Health (1/3)	Nutrition (1/6)
		Child-Adolescent Mortality (1/12)
		Maternal Health (1/12)
	Education (1/3)	Years of Schooling (1/6)
		School Attendance (1/6)

Standard of Living (1/3)	Cooking Fuel (1/21)
	Sanitation (1/21)
	Drinking Water (1/21)
	Electricity (1/21)
	Housing (1/21)
	Assets (1/21)
	Bank Account (1/21)

Key Highlights

- ➔ As per report, 135 million (13.5 Crore) people exited multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- ➔ As per the Report, India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in number of India's multi-dimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021.
 - ☉ The rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%.
 - ☉ During the same period, the urban areas saw a reduction in poverty from 8.65% to 5.27%.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in number of poor with **3.43 crore** people escaping multidimensional poverty.
- ➔ The Report states that the fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor was observed in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Multidimensional Poverty in India			
Year	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)	MPI (H x A)
2019-21	14.96%	44.39%	0.066
2015-16	24.85%	47.14%	0.117

Disparities across Rural and Urban Areas

Year	Rural			Urban		
	MPI	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)	MPI	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)
NFHS-5 (2019-21)	0.086	19.28%	44.55%	0.023	5.27%	43.10%
NFHS-4 (2015-16)	0.154	32.59%	47.38%	0.039	8.65%	45.27%

- ➔ The intensity of poverty has reduced from 47.14% to 44.39%, indicating that India is on track to achieve SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Target 1.2 (reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half) ahead of the stipulated timeline of 2030.
- ➔ The estimates indicate that rural areas saw a faster reduction in their MPI value, compared to urban areas.
- ➔ The incidence of poverty fell from 32.59% to 19.28% in rural areas compared to a decline from 8.65% to 5.27% in urban areas between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

About NITI Aayog

- ➔ Formed on – January 1, 2015
- ➔ Ex-officio Chairman - Prime Minister of India
- ➔ Present CEO - B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

UNDP: Global Multi-dimensional Poverty Index 2023

Recently, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has published the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) with estimates for 110 countries. The analysis of trends from 2000 to 2022, focused on 81 countries with comparable data over time, reveals that 25 countries successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years, showing that rapid progress is attainable.

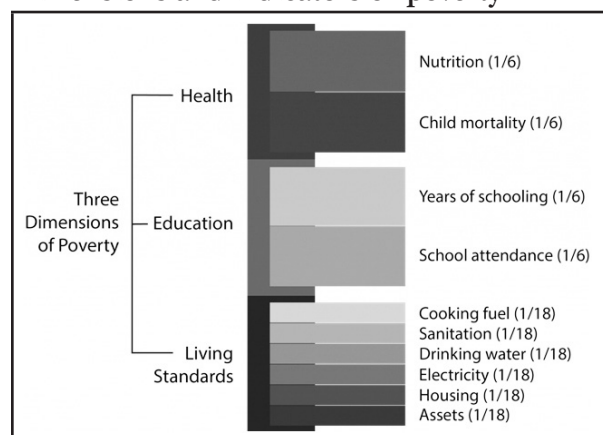
About Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2023

- ➔ **Published on-** July 11, 2023
- ➔ **Published by -** The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford

Methodology

- ➔ The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is an international measure of acute multidimensional poverty covering over 100 developing countries.

Dimensions and indicators of poverty



Key highlights

Global Scenario

- ➔ As per report, **1.1 billion** out of **6.1 billion** people (just over 18%) live in acute multidimensional poverty across 110 countries.
- ➔ Nearly two-thirds of all poor people (730 million people) live in middle-income countries.
 - ⊖ Although low-income countries constitute only 10% of the population included in the MPI, these are where 35% of all poor people reside.
- ➔ Children under 18 years old account for half of MPI-poor people (566 million).
 - ⊖ The poverty rate among children is 27.7%, while among adults it is 13.4%.

India

- ➔ In India, 415 million people moved out of poverty during 2005/2006– 2019/2021.
- ➔ Incidence fell from 55.1 percent to 16.4 percent.
- ➔ India is among 25 countries, including Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam, that successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.

Migration and Development Brief 38

Recently on Jun 13, 2023, the World Bank has published the 'Migration and Development Brief 38' 2023 titled as -**Remittances Remain Resilient but Are Slowing.**

- ➔ As per report, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are estimated to grow by 1.4% to \$656 billion in 2023 as economic activity in remittance source countries is set to soften.

Key Highlights

- ➔ In 2022, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are estimated to have increased by 8 percent, reaching \$647 billion (as per revised official data).
- ➔ The remittance growth rate is expected to moderate to 1.4 percent in 2023, resulting in total inflows of \$656 billion.
- ➔ At global level, remittance flows are expected to reach \$840 billion in 2023.
 - ⊖ On a global scale, the remittances growth rate is projected to increase to 2.0 percent in 2024, increasing inflows by \$18 billion.
- ➔ The top five recipient countries for remittances in 2022 were India, which received a total of \$111 billion in the year, followed by Mexico with inflows of \$61 billion, then China (\$51 billion), the Philippines (\$38 billion), and Pakistan (\$30 billion).
- ➔ Among economies where remittance inflows represent very large shares of gross domestic product (GDP) – Tajikistan (51 percent of GDP), Tonga (44 percent), Lebanon (35 percent), Samoa (34 percent), and the Kyrgyz Republic (31 percent).
- ➔ Flows to **India** grew by 24% to reach **\$111 billion**.
 - ⊖ In India, the 8 percent increase in remittances in 2021 and the historic 24.4 percent rise in 2022 led remittances to peak at \$111 billion, representing 63 percent of South Asia's total remittance flows.
 - ⊖ Almost 36% of India's remittances are from the high-skilled and largely high-tech Indian migrants in three high-income destinations — the US, United Kingdom, and Singapore.

- ➔ Other top global recipients in the region were Pakistan (ranked 5th) and Bangladesh (7th) with remittance inflows in 2022 reaching \$30 billion and \$22 billion, respectively.
- ➔ Among the countries with remittance inflows that form a significant part of GDP, Nepal ranks 9th globally with remittances equal to 23% of GDP in 2022.

Global Gender Gap Report, 2023

India was ranked at **127 out of 146 countries** in terms of gender parity — an improvement of eight places from last year, according to the annual Gender Gap Report, 2023 of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**. The report stated that at the current rate of progress, it will take 131 years to reach full parity.

Global Gender Gap Report, 2023

- ➔ **Published in** - June, 2023
- ➔ **India is ranked** - at 127 out of 146
- ➔ **Improvement** - of eight places (improved by 1.4 percentage points)
- ➔ **In 2022 India ranked at** - 135 out of 146

About the Global Gender Gap Report

- ➔ The Global Gender Gap Index **annually** benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions -
 - ⊖ Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.

Key Findings

- ➔ The global gender gap score in 2023 for all 146 countries included in this edition stands at 68.4%, an improvement of 0.3 percentage points compared to last year's edition.
- ➔ According to the 2023 Global Gender Gap Index no country has yet achieved full gender parity,
- ➔ The top nine countries (Iceland, Norway, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden, Germany, Nicaragua, Namibia and Lithuania) have closed at least 80% of their gap.
- ➔ Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 14th consecutive year and the only one to have closed more than 90 per cent of its gender gap.

Top 3 countries in Gender Gap Index , 2023	
Country	Score(0-1)
1. Iceland	0.912
2. Norway	0.879
3. Finland	0.863

Bottom 3 Countries in Gender Gap Index, 2023		
144	Algeria	0.573
145	Chad	0.570
146	Afghanistan	0.405

India's Performance

- ➔ India has closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap, **ranking 127th on the** global index.
- ➔ It has improved by 1.4 percentage points and eight positions since the last edition, marking a partial recovery towards its 2020 (66.8%) parity level.
- ➔ The index ranked India's neighbours **Pakistan at 142, Bangladesh at 59, China at 107, Nepal at 116, Sri Lanka at 115 and Bhutan at 103.**

World Bank Global Economic Prospects Report

The World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report that global growth is likely to slow to 2.1% in 2023. It lowered India's **growth outlook to 6.3%** in FY2023/24 (April-March), a 0.3 percentage point downward revision from January, 2023.

- ➔ **Released in** – June, 2023
- ➔ **Released by** - World Bank (flagship report)

Key Points

- ➔ Global growth is likely to slow to 2.1% in 2023, with prospects clouded by financial risks but that's up from a 1.7% forecast issued in January, 2023.
- ➔ **In emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) excluding China, growth is projected to fall to 2.9 percent in 2023, from 4.1 percent in 2022.**
- ➔ Inflation remains above target in almost all inflation-targeting economies. Median headline global inflation stood at 7.2 percent year-on-year in April.
- ➔ Global trade growth is forecast to slow from 6 percent in 2022 to 1.7 percent in 2023.

India

- ➔ Growth in India is expected to slow further to 6.3 percent in FY2023/24 (April-March), a 0.3 percentage point downward revision from January.
- ➔ This slowdown is attributed to private consumption being constrained by high inflation and rising borrowing costs, while government consumption is impacted by fiscal consolidation.

Logistics Performance Index, 2023

India has jumped 6 places and **ranked 38 out of 139 countries** in the 7th edition of **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023**. Singapore, Finland and Denmark are the top countries in the ranking.

Logistics Performance Index, 2023

- ➔ Released on : April 21, 2023
- ➔ Title: 'Connecting to Compete 2023 'Trade Logistics in an Uncertain Global Economy
- ➔ India's rank : 38 out of 139 countries
- ➔ Top rank : Singapore

Important Points

- ➔ Singapore, Finland and Denmark are the top countries in the ranking.
- ➔ Libya (1.9) Afghanistan (1.9) and Somalia (2.0) are the bottom countries .
- ➔ India has climbed **six places** on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023, now ranking **38th** in the 139 countries index, as a result of significant investments in both soft and hard infrastructure as well as technology.
- ➔ India was ranked **44th** on the index in 2018. India's performance has drastically improved from 2014, when it was ranked 54th on the LPI.
- ➔ According to the report, India's rank moved up
 - ⊖ Five places in infrastructure score from 52nd in 2018 to 47th in 2023.
 - ⊖ It climbed to the 22nd spot for international shipments in 2023 from 44th in 2018
 - ⊖ moved four places up to 48th in logistics competence and equality.
 - ⊖ In timelines, India witnessed a 17-place jump in rankings,
 - ⊖ whereas it moved up three places in rank in tracking and tracing to 38th.

Top Countries in LPI		
Rank	Country	LPI Score
1	Singapore	4.3
2	Finland	4.2
3	Denmark	4.1

Index of Economic Freedom, 2023

India ranked at **131 position** in the 2023 Index of Economic Freedom released on **February 28, 2023** by Washington-headquartered think tank **The Heritage Foundation**.

About the Index

- ➔ The Index of Economic Freedom is an annual index and ranking created in **1995** by **The Heritage Foundation** and **The Wall Street Journal**.
- ➔ The index measure the degree of economic freedom in the world's nations.
- ➔ The Index comprises of twelve aspects divided into four categories:
 1. **Rule of Law** : Property rights, judicial effectiveness, government integrity

2. **Government size** : Tax burden, Fiscal health, government spending
3. **Regulatory Efficiency** : Business freedom, labor freedom, monetary freedom
4. **Market Openness** : Trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom

- ➔ **Singapore (83.9)** placed at the first rank followed by **Switzerland (83.8)**, **Ireland (82.0)** and **Taiwan (80.7)**.
- ➔ **North Korea (2.9)** placed at the last position (176th).

India's Performance

- ➔ India's economic freedom score is 52.9, making its economy the 131st freest in the 2023 Index. Its score is 1.0 point lower than last year.
- ➔ **India is ranked 27th out of 39 countries** in the Asia-Pacific region, and its overall score is below the world and regional averages.
- ➔ The overall rule of law is weak in India.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report, 2022

- ➔ Published on - June 2, 2022
- ➔ Published by - The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- ➔ Published - The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022.

Top 3 Countries in SDGs Report 2022

Rank	Country	Score
1.	Finland	86.51
2.	Denmark	85.63
3	Sweden	85.19

Bottom 3 countries in SDGs Report

Rank	Country	Score
161	Chad	41.29
162	Central African Republic	39.28
163	South Sudan	39.05

India and Its Neighbours

Rank	Country	Score
56	China	72.38
76	Sri Lanka	70.03
98	Nepal	66.18
104	Bangladesh	64.22
121	India	60.32
125	Pakistan	59.34

India in SDGs Report 2022

- ➔ In the SDGs index 2022, **India is ranked 121 out of the 163 countries**.

- ➔ India had ranked 117 in 2020 and 120 in 2021.
- ➔ India's rank in the global Sustainable Development Report, 2022 has **slipped for the third consecutive year**.

Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2022

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is an annual publication that was **started in 2006**. According to GHI 2022, **India has a score of 29.1** and hence falls under the **“serious” category**.

Global Hunger Index, 2022

- ➔ **Published in:** October, 2022
- ➔ **Published Jointly by:** Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- ➔ **India is ranked:** 107th out of 121 countries.
- ➔ **India was ranked** 101st position in 2021
- ➔ **India's Neighbours:** Sri Lanka (64), Nepal (81), Bangladesh (84) Pakistan (99), and Afghanistan (109)
- ➔ **Top Rank countries:** Collectively ranked between 1 and 17 having a score of less than five.
- ➔ Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Türkiye, Uruguay.
- ➔ **Worst Ranks:** 121st - Yemen, 120th - Central African Republic, 119th - Madagascar
- ➔ **GHI based on:** Four indicators-**Child stunting, Undernourishment, Child wasting and Child mortality**

15th Global Innovation Index, 2022

India, for the first time, made it to the top 40 countries at the Global Innovation Index (GII), 2022.

Global Innovation Index, 2022

- ➔ **Title:** What is the future of innovation driven growth?
- ➔ **Published on:** September 28, 2022
- ➔ **Published by:** World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- ➔ **Switzerland:** For the 12th year in a row – ranks first in the GII 2022.

Top 3 Countries	Bottom 3 Countries
1st Switzerland (64.6)	132nd Guinea (11.6)
2nd United States (61.8)	131st Iraq (11.9)
3rd Sweden (61.6)	130th Burundi (12.3)

- ➔ China ranked at 11th place.

India in index

- ➔ India's six-notch jump to the **40th spot in the 132-nation GII in 2022 from 46th rank in 2021**.

- ➔ It is the top most innovative economies among lower middle-income economy in the world.
- ➔ India continues to lead the world in the ICT services exports indicator with the first rank.

Global Unicorn Index 2023

The Hurun Research Institute released the Global Unicorn Index 2023 on **18 April, 2023**. After the United States and China, India has retained the **third-highest** number of unicorns in the world. **Swiggy, Dream11 and BYJU'S** (ed-tech decacorn) are India's top unicorns.

Important Points

- ➔ Hurun finds 1361 unicorns in world, up 303 or 29% in last year and 867 or 175% since Covid began.
- ➔ **USA led (top rank) with 666 unicorns**, up 179 in one year, 49% of world's total, triple pre-covid days of 203.
- ➔ **China second with 316**, up 15 in one year and 50% since pre-covid days of 206. China has more unicorns than next 15 countries combined.
- ➔ **India retains 3rd place** with 68 unicorns, up 14, and 47 since pre-covid

Indian Scenario

- ➔ According to the Global Unicorn Index 2023, **Swiggy**, a foodtech platform, Dream11, a fantasy gaming company, and BYJU'S, an ed-tech decacorn are India's top unicorns.
- ➔ **BYJU'S is also one of the top 10 unicorn startups worldwide** that experienced a significant increase in valuation since the pre-COVID-19 era, with a valuation of \$22 billion.
- ➔ The list further disclosed that India has a **total of 138 unicorns**, out of which 70 were established by Indian co-founders but have their headquarters located outside India, while **68 are based in India**.
- ➔ Hurun's report also revealed that India ranks third in terms of the number of **gazelles**, which are startups established in the 2000s and valued at over \$500 million, not yet listed, and likely to become unicorns within three years.

Classification of start ups

- ➔ **Unicorn** : Start-ups founded after 2000, with a valuation of US\$1bn and not yet listed on a public exchange.
- ➔ **Gazelles**: Start-ups from the 2000s with a valuation of US\$500mn to US\$1bn, not yet listed on a public exchange and most likely to 'go unicorn' within 3yrs.
- ➔ **Cheetah** : A start-up founded after 2000, that has the potential to become a Unicorn in 4 years. Estimated valuations of Cheetahs range from \$200mn - \$500mn.

State of World Population Report, 2023

India is now the most populous country in the world, having overtaken China in population, the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** said in its State of World Population (SOWP) report, **'8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities', the case for rights and choices** released on **April 19, 2023**.

Highlights of the report

- ➔ The UNFPA has said the population of the world is 8,045 million, of which the largest share (65%) is of people between the ages of 15 and 64 years, followed by those in the 10-24 years group (24%).
- ➔ 10 per cent of the population is above 65 years of age.
- ➔ According to the **UN's 2022** report, the world's two most populous regions are Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, with 2.3 billion people, representing 29 per cent of the global population.

India

- ➔ The UN report states that India now has 1,428.6 million people and is the most populous country in the world, outstripping China's population.
- ➔ As much as 68% of India's population belongs to the 15-64 years category, and 26% in the 10-24 years group, making India one of the youngest countries in the world.
- ➔ However, the fertility rate in India has been steadily dropping.

World Economic Outlook Update, 2023

Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released the 'World Economic Outlook Update , 2023. As per report ,the global growth is projected to fall from an estimated 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3.0 percent in both 2023 and 2024.

About World Economic Outlook Update, 2023

- ➔ **Released on-** July 25, 2023
- ➔ **Released by-** The International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ➔ **World Economic Outlook-** Published twice a year

Key Highlights

- ➔ Global growth is projected to fall from 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3.0 percent in both 2023 and 2024 on an annual average basis.
- ➔ World trade growth is expected to decline from 5.2 percent in 2022 to 2.0 percent in 2023, before

rising to 3.7 percent in 2024, well below the 2000–19 average of 4.9 percent.

- ➔ The decline in 2023 reflects not only the path of global demand, but also shifts in its composition toward domestic services, lagged effects of US dollar appreciation.
- ➔ For emerging market and developing economies, growth is projected to be broadly stable at 4.0 percent in 2023 and 4.1 percent 2024, with modest revisions of 0.1 percentage point for 2023 and –0.1 percentage point for 2024.
- ➔ Growth in India is projected at 6.1 percent in 2023, a 0.2 percentage point upward revision compared with the April, 2023 projection.
 - ➔ It reflects momentum from stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022 as a result of stronger domestic investment.
- ➔ Global headline inflation is set to fall from an annual average of 8.7 percent in 2022 to 6.8 percent in 2023 and 5.2 percent in 2024.

World Economic Outlook Growth Projections			
(Real GDP, annual percent change)	Projections		
	2022	2023	2024
World Output	3.5	3.0	3.0
China	3.0	5.2	4.5
India	7.2	6.1	6.3

About the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- ➔ The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- ➔ It works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 190 member countries.
- ➔ It does so by supporting economic policies that promote financial stability and monetary cooperation, which are essential to increase productivity, job creation, and economic well-being.
- ➔ The IMF has three critical missions: furthering international monetary cooperation, encouraging the expansion of trade and economic growth, and discouraging policies that would harm prosperity.
- ➔ **Headquarter-** Washington, D.C. USA.

NFHS-5 National Report 2019-2021

Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare released the National Report of the fifth round of **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** for the year 2019-2021.

NFHS-5

- ➔ **Released on :** 5 May, 2022
- ➔ **Released by :** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ➔ **Round :** Fifth (Phase 2), Phase 1 was released in December 2020.
- ➔ Report comprises- around **131 indicators** (population; fertility; family planning; infant and child mortality; maternal and child health; nutrition etc.)
- ➔ **New dimensions added in NFHS-5 :** Death registration, pre-school education, menstrual hygiene, disability, access to a toilet facility.
- ➔ **NFHS-1 was conducted in :** 1992-93.

Key findings

- ➔ **The Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**, has further **declined** from **2.2 to 2.0** at the national level between NFHS 4 and 5.
- ➔ There are only **five states** in India which are **above replacement level of fertility of 2.1**. These states

are **Bihar, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Manipur**.

- ➔ **Bihar (3.0)** and **Meghalaya** have the **highest** fertility rates in the country, while **Sikkim (1.1)** and **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** have the **lowest**.
- ➔ Total fertility rate (children per women) is **2.4 (total) in Uttar Pradesh** (for rural areas it is 2.5 and for urban areas it is 1.9)
- ➔ In **rural areas**, TFR has declined from **3.7** children per woman in 1992-93 to **2.1** children in 2019-21.
- ➔ The corresponding decline among women in **urban areas** was from **2.7** children in 1992-93 to **1.6** children in 2019-21.
- ➔ TFR of all communities except Muslims is now less than the current TFR average of 2 in the country. TFR of the Muslim community 2.4.
- ➔ **West Bengal, along with Bihar**, remains one of the states with highest rate of underage marriages.

Indicator	NFHS-5 (2019-21)		NFHS-4 (2015-16)	
	Urban	Rural	Total	Total
Female population age 6 years and above who ever attended school (%)	82.5	66.8	71.8	68.8
Population below age 15 years (%)	23.1	28.1	26.5	28.6
Sex ratio of the total population (females per 1,000 males)	985	1,037	1,020	991
Sex ratio at birth for children born in the last five years (females per 1,000 males)	924	931	929	919
Households using clean fuel for cooking (%)	89.7	43.2	58.6	43.8
Women who are literate (%)	83.0	65.9	71.5	na
Women age 20-24 years married before age 18 years (%)	14.7	27.0	23.3	26.8
Total fertility rate (children per woman)	1.6	2.1	2.0	2.2
Adolescent fertility rate for women age 15-19 years	27	49	43	51
Neonatal mortality rate (NNMR)	18.0	27.5	24.9	29.5
Infant mortality rate (IMR)	26.6	38.4	35.2	40.7
Under-five mortality rate (U5MR)	31.5	45.7	41.9	49.7
Average out-of-pocket expenditure per delivery in a public health facility (Rs.)	3,385	2,770	2,916	3,197
Institutional births (%)	93.8	86.7	88.6	78.9
Institutional births in public facility (%)	52.6	65.3	61.9	52.1
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age) (%)	30.1	37.3	35.5	38.4
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height) (%)	18.5	19.5	19.3	21.0
Children under 5 years who are severely wasted (weight-for-height) (%)	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.5
Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age) (%)	27.3	33.8	32.1	35.8
Children under 5 years who are overweight (weight-for-height) (%)	4.2	3.2	3.4	2.1
Women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use (%)	80.9	77.4	78.6	53.0
Women age 15-24 years who use hygienic methods of protection during their menstrual period (%)	89.4	72.3	77.3	57.6
Ever-married women age 18-49 years who have ever experienced spousal violence (%)	24.2	31.6	29.3	31.2
Young women age 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age (%)	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.5

C. Fiscal & Monetary Affairs

India's External Debt as at the end of March 2023

On June 30, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India has published the quarterly data of external debt of India at the end of March 2023.

- ➔ At end-March 2023, India's external debt was placed at US\$ 624.7 billion, recording an increase of US\$ 5.6 billion over its level at end-March 2022.
- ➔ The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 18.9 per cent at end-March 2023 from 20.0 per cent at end-March 2022.
- ➔ At end-March 2023, long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) was placed at US\$ 496.3 billion, recording a decline of US\$ 1.1 billion over its level at end-March 2022.
- ➔ The share of short-term debt (with original maturity of up to one year) in total external debt increased to 20.6 per cent at end-March 2023 from 19.7 per cent at end-March 2022.
 - Similarly, the ratio of short-term debt (original maturity) to foreign exchange reserves increased to 22.2 per cent at end-March 2023 (20.0 per cent at end-March 2022).
- ➔ US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 54.6 per cent at end-March 2023, followed by debt denominated in the Indian rupee (29.8 per cent), SDR (6.1 per cent), yen (5.7 per cent), and the euro (3.2 per cent).
- ➔ The share of outstanding debt of non-financial corporations in total external debt was the highest at 38.9 per cent, followed by deposit-taking corporations (except the central bank) (25.7 per cent), general government (21.3 per cent) and other financial corporations (9.3 per cent).
- ➔ Loans remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 32.5 per cent, followed by currency and deposits (22.6 per cent), trade credit and advances (19.9 per cent) and debt securities (16.7 per cent).

RBI MPC Meeting, 2023

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left the main policy instrument, repo rate, unchanged at 6.50 per cent for the third consecutive monetary policy.

RBI Monetary Policy

- ➔ **Announced on** - August 10, 2023
- ➔ **Announced by** - RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das
- ➔ **Prepared by** - Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI

Key Points

- ➔ The MPC unanimously decided to keep the policy Repo Rate unchanged at 6.50%
- ➔ Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains unchanged at 6.25% and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate at 6.75%.

Current Policy Rates

Policy Repo Rate	:	6.50%
Standing Deposit Facility Rate	:	6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	:	6.75%
Bank Rate	:	6.75%
Fixed Reverse Repo Rate	:	3.35%

Reserve Ratio

CRR	:	4.50%
SLR	:	18.00%

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) gold reserves

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) acquired about 10 tonnes of gold in the March quarter, placing it among the **top five gold buyers**.

- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) gold reserves touched **794.64 metric tonnes** in fiscal 2023, an **increase of nearly 5 per cent** over fiscal 2022, when it held 760.42 metric tonnes of gold.
- ➔ The RBI bought 34.22 tonnes of gold in fiscal 2023; in fiscal 2022, it had accumulated 65.11 tonnes of gold.
- ➔ As on March 31, 2023, the country's total foreign exchange reserves stood at \$578.449 billion, and gold reserves were **pegged at \$45.2 billion**.

WPI Inflation into Negative Territory, at 34-month low

According to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on May 15 2023, inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) fell to a near three-year low of (-) 0.92 per cent in April, slipping into negative territory for the first time in 33 months.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

- ➔ **Released on** - May, 15th, 2023

- ➔ **Released by** - Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- ➔ **For the Month of** - April, 2023 (Over April, 2022)
- ➔ **Base Year:** 2011-12
- ➔ Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is - **(-) 0.92% in April, 2023**

Important Points

- ➔ The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is (-) 0.92% (Provisional) for the month of April, 2023 (over April, 2022) against 1.34% recorded in March.

Index Numbers & Annual Rate of Inflation (Y-o-Y in %)*							
All Commodities/Major Groups	Weight (%)	Feb-23		Mar-23 (P)		Apr-23 (P)	
		Index*	Inflation	Index	Inflation	Index	Inflation
All Commodities	100	150.9	3.85	150.9	1.34	150.9	-0.92
I. Primary Articles	22.6	173.6	3.64	175.0	2.40	177.3	1.60
II. Fuel & Power	13.2	157.6	13.96	156.8	8.96	152.6	0.93
III. Manufactured Produces	64.2	141.6	1.94	141.2	-0.77	141.2	-2.42
Food Index	24.4	171.3	2.76	172.1	2.32	173.6	0.17

Note : P : Provisional; F : Final, *Annual rate of WPI Inflation calculated over the corresponding month of previous year.

About WPI inflation

- ➔ Wholesale Price Index (WPI) represents the price of goods at a wholesale stage i.e. goods that are sold in bulk and traded between organizations instead of consumers.
- ➔ In April 2017, the government revised the base year for WPI from 2004-05 to 2011-12.
- ➔ WPI is released by the **Office of Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

RBI Board Approves Transfer of Surplus to Government for 2022-23

On **May 19, 2023** the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Board of Directors has approved the transfer of **Rs 87,416 crore as surplus** to the Central government for 2022-23. The board also decided to raise the **Contingency Risk Buffer to 6.00 percent from 5.50 percent.**

Some Important Points

- ➔ In the financial year ending March 2023, government aimed to garner Rs 40,953 crore from RBI and public sector financial institutions.
- ➔ As per the Budget document, dividends from public sector enterprises and other investments have been pegged at Rs 48,000 crore for FY24 as well.
- ➔ RBI has approved a dividend payment of Rs 30,307 crore to the government in 2022.
- ➔ A higher dividend payout is expected to help government to meet its target of lowering the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of gross domestic product in the current financial year from 6.4% a year ago.

- ➔ The board also decided to raise the Contingency Risk Buffer to 6.00 percent from 5.50 percent.

Foreign Trade Policy 2023

- ➔ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal on **March 31, 2023** launched the Foreign Trade Policy 2023.
- ➔ The policy came into effect from **April 1, 2023.**
- ➔ FTP seeks to take India's export to 2 trillion USD by 2030.
- ➔ The FTP 2023 encourages recognition of new towns through **"Towns of Export Excellence Scheme"** and exporters through **"Status Holder Scheme"**.
- ➔ The previous foreign trade policy for 2015-2020 had targeted exports of USD 900 billion by 2020;
 - ➔ This target was extended along with the policy for three years till March 2023.
- ➔ **Towns of Export Excellence (TEE):** Four new towns, namely **Faridabad, Mirzapur, Moradabad and Varanasi**, have been designated as TEE in addition to the existing 39 towns.

Four pillars

- ➔ The Key Approach to the policy is based on these 4 pillars:
 - Incentive to Remission,
 - Export promotion through collaboration - Exporters, States, Districts, Indian Missions,
 - Ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives
 - Emerging Areas – E-Commerce Developing Districts as Export Hubs and streamlining SCOMET policy.

D. Sectors of Economy : Agriculture, Industry, Services

Cabinet approves Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24.

Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24

- ➔ **Announced on** - June 07, 2023
- ➔ **Approved by** - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)
- ➔ **MSP for paddy (common)** - fixed at Rs. 2,183 per quintal (7% higher)
- ➔ **Highest absolute increase-** for Sesamum (sesame seed) (Rs. 805 per quintal)

- ➔ In percentage terms highest hike- for Moong (10.35%)
- ➔ The increase in MSP for Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production,
- ➔ The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of **Bajra (82%) followed by Tur (58%), Soybean (52%) and Urad (51%)**. For rest of the crops, margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at least 50%.
- ➔ As per **Third Advance Estimates for 2022-23**, total Foodgrain production in the country is estimated at record 330.5 million tonnes which is higher by 14.9 million tonnes as compared to the previous year 2021-22. This is the highest increase in the last 5 year.

Minimum Support Prices for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2023-24

(Rs. per quintal)

Crops	MSP 2014-15	MSP 2022-23	MSP 2023- 24	Cost* KMS 2023-24	Increase in MSP over 2022-23	Margin over cost in per cent
Paddy-Common	1360	2040	2183	1455	143	50
Paddy-Grade A^	1400	2060	2203	-	143	-
Jowar-Hybrid	1530	2970	3180	2120	210	50
Jowar- Maldandi^	1550	2990	3225	-	235	-
Bajra	1250	2350	2500	1371	150	82
Ragi	1550	3578	3846	2564	268	50
Maize	1310	1962	2090	1394	128	50
Tur/Arhar	4350	6600	7000	4444	400	58
Moong	4600	7755	8558	5705	803	50
Urad	4350	6600	6950	4592	350	51
Groundnut	4000	5850	6377	4251	527	50
Sunflower Seed	3750	6400	6760	4505	360	50
Soybean (Yellow)	2560	4300	4600	3029	300	52
Sesamum	4600	7830	8635	5755	805	50
Nigerseed	3600	7287	7734	5156	447	50
Cotton (Medium Staple)	3750	6080	6620	4411	540	50
Cotton (Long Staple)	4050	6380	7020	-	640	-

MSP for all Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24

Crops	MSP RMS 2022-23 (Rs. per quintal)	MSP RMS 2023-24 (Rs. per quintal)	Increase in MSP (Absolute) (Rs. per quintal)
Wheat	2015	2125	110
Barley	1635	1735	100
Gram	5230	5335	105
Lentil (Masur)	5500	6000	500
Rapeseed & Mustard	5050	5450	400
Safflower	5441	5650	209

Index of Eight Core Industries

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 3.5 per cent (provisional) in April 2023 as compared to the Index of April 2022. The production of Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Coal increased in April 2023 over the corresponding month of last year.

Index of Eight Core Industries

- ➔ Released on - May 31, 2023
- ➔ Released by - Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- ➔ Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) - Increased by 3.5 per cent (provisional)
- ➔ Month - In April 2023

About the Core Industries

- ➔ The eight-core sectors of the Indian economy are electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilizers.
- ➔ The eight core industries have a combined share of **40.27 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, which gives the growth rates of different industry groups in a specified period.
- ➔ It is released by the **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA)**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- ➔ Base year of index is **2011-12**.

Provisional Estimates of National Income 2022-23

India's **GDP growth accelerated to 6.1%** in the January to March 2023 quarter, lifting the economy's uptick in 2022-23 to 7.2% from the 7% estimated earlier, according to the provisional national income data released

by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** on May 31, 2023. The Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy is reckoned to have risen 7% in 2022-23,

Provisional Estimates of National Income, 2022-23

- ➔ Released on - May 31, 2023
- ➔ Released by - National Statistical Office (NSO)
- ➔ The growth in **real GDP** during 2022-23 - **7.2 per cent**
- ➔ **Gross Value Added (GVA)** growth rate - **7% in 2022-23**

Important points

- ➔ **Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices** in the year 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of **Rs. 160.06 lakh crore**, as against the First Revised Estimates of GDP for the year 2021-22 of Rs. 149.26 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated **at 7.2 per cent** as compared to 9.1 per cent in 2021-22.
- ➔ **Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices** in the year 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of **Rs. 272.41 lakh crore**, as against Rs. 234.71 lakh crore in 2021-22, showing a growth rate of 16.1 per cent.
- ➔ **GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q4 2022-23** is estimated at **Rs. 43.62 lakh crore**, as against Rs. 41.12 lakh crore in Q4 2021-22, showing a growth of **6.1 per cent**.
- ➔ **GDP at Current Prices in Q4 2022-23** is estimated at **Rs. 71.82 lakh crore**, as against Rs. 65.05 lakh crore in Q4 2021-22, showing a **growth of 10.4 per cent**.
- ➔ **GVA at Basic Prices (2011-12)** is estimated to be **Rs. 1,47,64,840 in 2022-23 (PE)** which shows a growth of 7.0 per cent in 2022-23.
- ➔ **Per Capita Net National Income (NNI)** at constant (2011-12) prices is estimated to be at **Rs. 98,374 in 2022-23** showing a growth of 6.3 per cent in 2022-23.

Share in GDP (%) in 2022-23 (PE)(at constant 2011-12 prices)

Item	Share (in per cent) 2023-23 PE
Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)	58.5
Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE)	9.9
Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)	34.0
Changes in Stocks (CIS)	0.8
Valuables	1.4

Exports	23.5
Imports	25.6
Discrepancies	-2.4
GDP	100.0

Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal products from North- Eastern Region (PTP-NER)

On **18 April, 2023**, Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Government of India launched the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' new Central Sector Scheme "Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)

About (PTP-NER) Scheme

- ➔ **Launched on:** 18 April, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by:** Mr. Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs
- ➔ **Launched from :** Manipur
- ➔ **Vision :** To strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans of North East

Important Points

- ➔ **Vision-**The scheme "Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)" has the vision to strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products.
- ➔ **Coverage and duration :** The scheme envisions directly enhancing the livelihood of more than 6000 tribal artisans and suppliers across the Northeast region.
- ➔ The original period of implementation of the scheme was two years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2022-23 which is now extended till 2024-25
- ➔ **Nodal Implementing Agency :** TRIFED has been appointed as the Nodal Implementing Agency of the PTP-NER scheme. Under the PTP-NER Scheme, the TRIFED may implement the scheme through designated Implementation Partners.
- ➔ **Financial layout of the scheme :** The total budget for the scheme is Rs. 143.52 crores, approved by the SFC for the period of implementation of the scheme.
- ➔ Tribal Artisans/ Producers shall be empanelled under this scheme by organising Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs).

National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, released the "National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers" on April 27, 2023.

- ➔ **Study by :** The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- ➔ **Objective:** To evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in the India.

About National Manufacturing Innovation Index (NMII) 2021-22

- ➔ The IMII is computed using three main dimensions, which have been constructed using 9 pillars built from 80 indicators-
 - ⊖ Innovation enablers:
 - ⊖ Absence of innovation barriers
 - ⊖ **Innovation performance** measured through the innovation objectives of firms, as well as the innovation outputs and outcomes achieved during the observation period.

IMII 2022 Ranking:

- ➔ The state of **Karnataka (33.41)** ranked highest on IMII 2022 and the lowest was North-eastern states (excluding Assam) (19.69).
- ➔ **Karnataka** is closely followed by **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (32.88)**, **Telangana (32.86)**, and **Tamil Nadu (32.5)**
- ➔ Low scoring states are North-eastern states (excluding Assam) (19.69) followed by Bihar (21.32), Assam (22.22), Jharkhand (22.78), Odisha (23.05) and Andhra Pradesh (24.25).
- ➔ **Firm-Level Innovation-**25.01% of the 8,074 firms surveyed were considered innovative.
- ➔ Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18%, 39.10% and 31.90%, respectively.
- ➔ Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reported the least share of innovative firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.

Social Stock Exchange

In February, 2023 the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has got the green-light from the capital markets regulator SEBI to launch its Social Stock Exchange.

What is a Social Stock Exchange?

- ➔ A Social Stock Exchange is a platform that will help social enterprises to raise funds from the public.
- ➔ It is similar to a stock exchange which helps companies raise funds from the public.

Background

- ➔ The idea of a social stock exchange was first mooted in the **Union Budget 2019-20**.
- ➔ The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** had given an in-principle approval to National Stock Exchange (NSE) for setting up the exchange in December, 2022.

Indian States' Electricity Transition

About the Report

- ➔ **Published in:** February 26, 2023
- ➔ **Jointly Published by:** Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember
- ➔ **Analysed:** 16 Indian states

Key Findings

- ➔ **Karnataka and Gujarat** made the most progress towards clean electricity transition. **Haryana and Punjab** are best positioned to further this transition.
- ➔ **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal** must ramp up efforts to maximise their renewable energy generation potential and increase clean electricity transition commitments.

Social Progress Index (SPI)

Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the Social Progress Index (SPI) for states and districts of India on **December 20, 2022**. The report has been prepared by **Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative**. The report was released by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC – PM.

About Social Progress Index (SPI)

- ➔ SPI is a comprehensive tool intended to be a holistic measure of the Social Progress made by the country at the national and sub-national levels.
- ➔ The index assesses states and districts based on 12 components across three critical dimensions of social progress—
Himexam.com
 - ⊖ Basic Human Needs,
 - ⊖ Foundations of Well-being, and
 - ⊖ Opportunity.

Important Points of the Report

- ➔ **Puducherry** has the highest SPI score of 65.99 in the country.

- ➔ **Lakshadweep** and **Goa** closely follow it with scores of 65.89 and 65.53, respectively.
- ➔ **Jharkhand and Bihar** scored the lowest, 43.95 and 44.47, respectively.
- ➔ **Aizawl (Mizoram), Solan and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)** were the top three districts.
- ➔ **Uttar Pradesh** is at **31st Place** in Making Social Progress with SPI score of 49.16 points.
- ➔ **For the dimension of Basic Human Needs :** Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Chandigarh are the top four states with the best performance in Water and Sanitation and Shelter.
- ➔ **Opportunity dimension :** Tamil Nadu has achieved the highest component score of 72.00.

Tier-I: Very High Social Progress

State	SPI	Rank
Puducherry	65.99	1
Lakshadweep	65.89	2
Goa	65.53	3

Tier-II : High Social Progress

State	SPI	Rank
Jammu and Kashmir	60.76	10
Punjab	60.23	11
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	59.81	12

Tier-III : Upper-Middle Social Progress

State	SPI	Rank
Uttarakhand	58.26	16
Karnataka	56.77	17
Arunachal Pradesh	56.56	18

Tier-IV : Lower-Middle Social Progress

State	SPI	Rank
Haryana	54.15	21
Gujarat	53.81	22
Andhra Pradesh	53.60	23

Tier-V : Low Social Progress

State	SPI	Rank
Uttar Pradesh	49.16	31
Odisha	48.19	32
Madhya Pradesh	48.11	33

Tier-VI : Very-Low Social Progress

State	SPI	Rank
Assam	44.92	34
Bihar	44.47	35
Jharkhand	43.95	36

E. International Economic Activities

QS World University Rankings 2023 by Subject

In March 2023, QS World University Rankings 2023 by subject were released.

- ➔ The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023 cover a total of **54 disciplines**, grouped into **five broad subject areas**.
- ➔ This year's rankings include three new subjects: **data science, history of art, and marketing**.
- ➔ **Global Performance: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** of US is ranked first followed by University of Cambridge of UK, Stanford University of US respectively.
- ➔ **IIT-Madras** (in Petroleum Engineering, ranked 21st)
- ➔ **IIT-Bombay** (Mathematic, ranked 92nd)
- ➔ **IIT-Delhi** (Electrical engineering, ranked 49th)
- ➔ **Jawaharlal Nehru University** (Sociology, ranked 68th)
- ➔ Apart from these 10 entries from **BITS Pilani** and two from **OP Jindal University** also made it to top 100.

NOBEL Prize in Economics

On October 10, 2022 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences for 2022 was awarded to three American economists: **Ben S Bernanke, Douglas W Diamond** and **Philip H Dybvig** for significantly improving “our understanding of the role of banks in the economy, particularly during financial crises.”

Ben S Bernanke

- ➔ Bernanke demonstrated how failing banks played a decisive role in the global depression of the 1930s, the worst economic crisis in modern history.
- ➔ His research was based on—
 - ⊖ “If banking collapses can cause so much damage, could we manage without banks?”
 - ⊖ Must banks be so unstable and, if so, why?

Douglas W Diamond and Philip H Dybvig

- ➔ Both Diamond and Dybvig worked together to develop theoretical models explaining:
 - ⊖ Why banks exist;
 - ⊖ How their role in society makes them vulnerable to rumours about their impending collapse, and how society can lessen this vulnerability.
- ➔ They are awarded for research on banks and financial crises.

Previous Years' Nobel in Economics

- ➔ **David Card** “for his empirical contributions to labour economics”
- ➔ **Joshua D. Angrist** and **Guido W. Imbens** “for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships”

Global Minimum Tax

In **November, 2022** a global deal to ensure big companies pay a minimum tax rate of **15%** and make it harder for them to avoid taxation has been agreed by **136 countries**.

What is Global Minimum Tax

- ➔ EU members have agreed to implement a minimum tax rate of 15% on big businesses
- ➔ It is accordance with Pillar 2 of the global tax agreement framed by the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** in 2021.
- ➔ This is to ensure that big businesses with global operations do not benefit by domiciling themselves in tax havens in order to save on taxes.
- ➔ On February 2, 2023, the OECD/G20 Framework on BEPS released technical guidelines to assist governments with implementation of the landmark reform to the international tax system, which will insure multinational enterprises (MNEs) will be subject to a 15% effective minimum tax rate.

Forbes : India's 100 Richest People

- ➔ In **November, 2022**, Forbes has launched its annual list of India's 100 richest billionaires.
- ➔ According to the list, the combined wealth of India's 100 richest grew by \$25 billion to touch \$800 billion.
- ➔ The cumulative net worth of the top 10 richest stands at \$385.2 billion, up 15.1 per cent from 2021.
- ➔ While the richest man in the country has a net worth of \$150 billion, the richest Indian woman **Savitri Jindal** has a net worth of \$16.4 billion.
- ➔ There are nine women billionaires on the list this year.
- ➔ Top 5 richest Indians in the Forbes 2022 list:
 1. Gautam Adani (net worth \$150 billion)
 2. Mukesh Ambani (net worth \$88 billion)
 3. Radhakishan Damani (net worth \$27.6 billion)
 4. Cyrus Poonawalla (net worth \$21.5 billion)
 5. Shiv Nadar (net worth \$21.4 billion)

News in Shorts

❑ WorldCoin

- ➔ Recently, a new cryptocurrency project called WorldCoin, from OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, has claimed over 2 million sign-ups across the world around a week. OpenAI is the company behind the AI chatbot ChatGPT.

About WorldCoin

- ➔ **Launched on-** July 24, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by-** Sam Altman

What is WorldCoin?

- ➔ Worldcoin is an initiative to create a digital network in which everyone can claim some kind of stake, and join the digital economy.

❑ World Bank Group Launches Business Ready Project

- ➔ **Launched on:** 1 May, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by:** World Bank Group
- ➔ **Objective:** To assess the business and investment climate
- ➔ **Covers:** Up to 180 economies
- ➔ **Replaces:** Ease of Doing business index

About Business Ready (B-READY) Project

- ➔ **Scope-**assesses the economy's business environment by focusing on the regulatory framework and the provision of related public services for firms and markets, as well as the efficiency with which they are combined in practice.
- ➔ **B-READY's three pillars**—the regulatory framework, public services, and efficiency.
- ➔ A key innovation of the Business Ready project is the collection and use of data obtained directly from firms.

❑ Cabinet approves Revised Domestic Gas Pricing Guidelines

- ➔ The Union Cabinet approved revised domestic gas pricing guidelines and the price of natural gas will be **10 per cent of the monthly average** of the Indian crude basket. The guidelines will ensure a stable pricing regime for domestic gas consumers, provide adequate protection to producers from adverse market fluctuation

Revised Domestic Gas Pricing Guidelines

- ➔ **Approved in :** April, 2023

- ➔ **Approved by:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister
- ➔ **Objective:** Stable pricing regime for consumers and protection to producers from adverse market fluctuation
- ➔ Government has targeted to increase the share of natural gas in **primary energy mix in India from current 6.5% to 15% by 2030.**

Current System

- ➔ Currently, the domestic gas prices are determined as per the **new Domestic Gas Pricing Guidelines, 2014** which were approved by Government in 2014.

❑ Swachhotsav

- ➔ In line with the theme for International Day of Zero Waste 2023 - 'Achieving sustainable and environmentally sound practices of minimizing and managing waste', The Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs is organizing Swachhotsav- International Day of Zero Waste: Rally for Garbage Free Cities in New Delhi.
- ➔ The SwachhMashaal March set the tone for the 'Women-led Swachhotsav', where citizens rallied for Garbage-Free Cities on 29, 30, 31st March, 2023.

❑ RBI's UDGAM portal

- ➔ In August 2023, the Reserve Bank of India launched a centralised web portal called **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access inforMation)** for individuals to search such deposits across multiple banks in one place.

❑ National Digital Nagrik Forum

- ➔ Recently in August, 2023, the **Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** announced the creation of a National Digital Nagrik Forum.
- ➔ It is an online platform that aims to advance the rights of traders and consumers and other sections of the society and shape policy to boost the digital trade economy.
- ➔ The National Digital Nagrik Forum aims to raise awareness about digital regulations and help build capacities of citizens to engage with innovation via expert sessions and instructional materials.

❑ eSARAS Mobile App

- ➔ Recently on July 03, 2023, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched eSARAS mobile App which will add to eCommerce initiatives for products made by the Self-help Groups (SHGs).

Key Highlights

- ➔ eSARAS an e-commerce mobile app will be used as a more effective platform for marketing of the products made by women of self-help groups.
- ➔ It is an initiative conceptualized by the DAY-NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), towards the marketing of the best, authentic handicrafts and hand-looms.

Oil India Ltd. elevated as 13th 'Maharatna' Company

- ➔ In August, 2023, the Ministry of Finance has elevated **Oil India Limited (OIL) and ONGC Videsh Limited**, to **Maharatna and Navratna categories of central public sector enterprises (CPSEs)**, respectively. The new status will help the companies take decisions on large investments on their own, both within India and abroad.

Kirit Parikh Panel for Gas Pricing

- ➔ The Kirit Parikh panel to review natural gas prices in India has recommended a price band of \$4-6.50/unit for gas from old legacy fields, which account for over 70 per cent of the domestic output, and ushering in of fully market-determined rates by January 2027.
- ➔ **Background** : The committee was set up in September, 2022 to **review the gas pricing formula**

T+1 Settlement Plan

- ➔ India will become the second country after China in the world to start the **'trade-plus-one' (T+1) settlement cycle** in top listed securities from January 27, 2023.
- ➔ **Launched on** - On January 27, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by** - National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange BSE
- ➔ **Objective** - Trade-related settlement within 24 hours
- ➔ The T+1 settlement cycle means that trade-related settlements must be done within a day, or 24 hours, of the completion of a transaction.

Subsidiary of EXIM Bank and data embassies at GIFT City in Gujarat

- ➔ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman **2nd February 2023** announced the setting up of a subsidiary of EXIM Bank and data embassies at GIFT City in Gujarat. Move will "enhance business activities" at GIFT IFSC.

Important Points

- ➔ Mrs. Sitharaman also announced to establish a subsidiary of EXIM Bank for trade refinancing is also expected to benefit GIFT City.

"5th Edition of Youth Co: Lab India

- ➔ The 5th edition of Youth Co: Lab India, **Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement** was jointly launched by **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, UNDP India and Citi Foundation on December 15th, 2022.**

SIDBI, Google ink partnership to help MSMEs

- ➔ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of MSMEs has entered into a collaboration with Google for having social impact lending programme.
- ➔ This partnership with GIPL brings a corpus of **\$15 million** (around Rs. 110 crore) to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as a crisis response related to COVID-19.

CCI Imposed a Penalty of 936.44 Crore on Google

- ➔ In October 2022, Competition Commission of India imposed a penalty of Rs. 936.44 crore on Google for **"abusing its dominant position"** with respect to its play store policies, apart from issuing a cease and desist order.
- ➔ In its orders, the CCI has accused the company of **adopting "discriminatory practices"** and indulging in **"anti-competitive" behaviour.**

India becomes 5th largest Economy

- ➔ According to figures from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, India passed the United Kingdom (UK) to become the **fifth-largest economy in the world in the last quarter of 2021.** A decade ago, India ranked 11th among the **largest economies**, while the **UK was 5th.**
- ➔ The **United States, China, Japan, and Germany** are the only nations with economies larger than India.

First green steel brand 'Kalyani FeRRESTA'

- ➔ On December 20, 2022, the Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya has launched the Kalyani Group's first green steel brand 'Kalyani FeRRESTA' in New Delhi.

Surety Bond Insurance

- ➔ On **December 19, 2022**, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari launched one of India's first-ever Surety Bond Insurance product from **Bajaj Allianz.**

❑ IGX Launches India's First-Ever Gas Price Index

- ➔ On December 20, 2022, the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), **India's first national level Gas Exchange** for physical delivery of natural gas, announced the launch GIXI – the first ever nation-wide price index to reflect benchmark natural gas price for India in New Delhi.
- ➔ It is developed with the purpose to derive a single price for the country.

❑ REC accorded with 'Maharatna' Company Status

- ➔ On **September 21, 2022**, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been accorded with the status of a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise, thus giving REC greater operational and financial autonomy.
- ➔ As on 30th November 2022, there are 12 Maharatna companies in India.

❑ Power Sector's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

- ➔ On 30th July, 2022 addressing the Grand Finale marking the culmination of '**Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya – Power @2047**', **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched** the Power Sector's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.
- ➔ **Launched on** : 30 July, 2022
- ➔ **Aimed at** : Improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of the DISCOMs and Power Departments.
- ➔ **Implementing Ministry**: Ministry of Power.

❑ IIDPF (India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme)

- ➔ **Launched On**: 3rd November 2022.
- ➔ **Launched By**: Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance
- ➔ **Type of Scheme** : Central Sector Scheme
- ➔ **Objective**: To aid development of quality PPP projects by providing necessary funding support

❑ Digital Banking Units (DBUs)

- ➔ On 16th October, 2022 the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated **75 Digital Banking Units (DBU)** across **75 districts** to the nation.
- ➔ **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan** will get four DBUs each.

❑ SAARC Currency Swap Framework

- ➔ In December, 2022 **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has signed a currency Swap Agreement with the **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** under the SAARC currency swap framework.

❑ RBI removes Central Bank of India from PCA framework

- ➔ **On September 20, 2022**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed Central Bank of India (CBI) from its Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF).
- ➔ The RBI introduced the PCA framework in 2002.

❑ World's First CNG terminal

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the "world's first CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) terminal" at **Bhavnagar in Gujarat on September 29, 2022**.

❑ Swachh Toycathon Competition

- ➔ **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** launched Swachh Toycathon on **September 26, 2022**.
- ➔ Swachh Toycathon is a competition under Swachh Amrit Mahotsav with the aim of 'Rethinking Indian toy industry'.

❑ KRITAGYA 3.0

- ➔ Indian Council of Agricultural Research with its National Agricultural Higher Education Project and Crop Science Division organized Hackathon "KRITAGYA 3.0" on **September 16, 2022**, on promoting 'speed breeding for crop improvement'.

❑ Google Startup School India Initiative

- ➔ **Launched on** : July 6, 2022
- ➔ **Launched by** : Google India
- ➔ **Aim** : To gather relevant information on startup building into a systematic curriculum to help 10,000 startups in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- ➔ **Duration of the program** : July 6 to September 15, 2022 (nine-week programme)

❑ SCALE App

- ➔ The **SCALE (Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees) app** was unveiled on **September 20, 2022** by Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ➔ It was launched at the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI)** in Chennai.

UNION BUDGET 2023-24

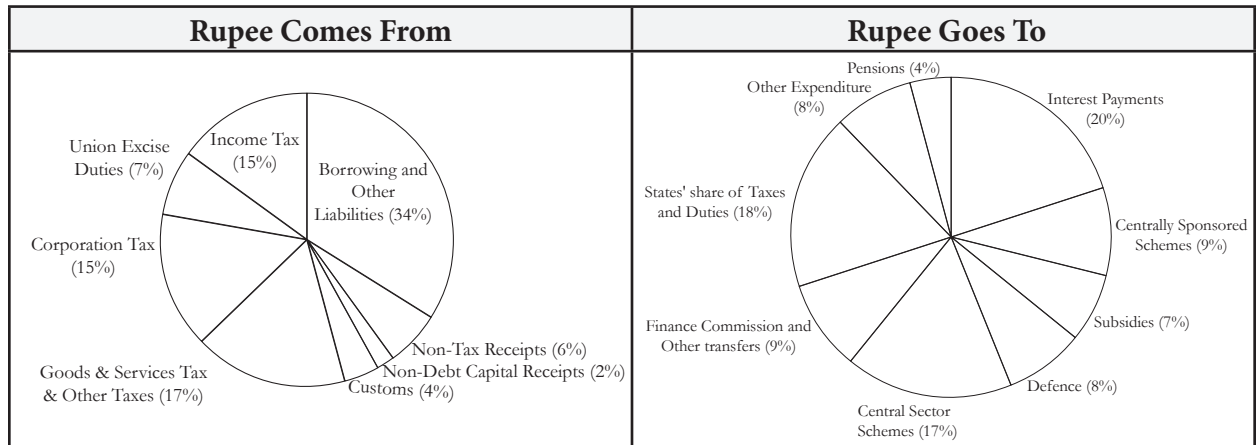
Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman presented the budget 2023-24 on 1st February 2023 in the Parliament.

- ➔ **GDP :** The government has estimated a nominal GDP growth rate (i.e., real growth plus inflation) of **10.5% in 2023-24.**
- ➔ **Fiscal Deficit :** Fiscal deficit target of **6.4% achieved** in the Revised Estimate for FY 2022-23.
 - ⊖ Fiscal Deficit in 2023-24 is targeted at 5.9% of GDP.
- ➔ **Expenditure :** The government proposes to spend **Rs 45,03,097 crore in 2023-24**, which is an increase of 7.5% over the revised estimate of 2022-23.

- ➔ The centre gave a boost to infrastructure development and earmarked **Rs 10 lakh crore** as capital expenditure for financial year 2023-24.
 - ⊖ This is 33% higher than the Rs 7.5 lakh crore allocated in the fiscal 2022-23.

What is Fiscal Deficit?

- ➔ Fiscal deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total receipts excluding borrowing
- Gross Fiscal Deficit = Total Expenditure – (Revenue Receipts + Non-debt Creating Capital Receipts)



- ➔ Person with annual Income up to Rs 7 lakh will not have to pay any tax.
- ➔ Also number of slabs in the tax structure introduced in 2020 has been reduced to five.

Important Highlights of Budget 2023-24

Total Expenditure

- ➔ The government is estimated to spend Rs 45,03,097 crore in 2023-24. This is an increase of 7.5% over the revised estimate of 2022-23.
- ➔ Out of the total expenditure,
 - ⊖ **Revenue expenditure** is estimated to be **Rs 35,02,136 crore (1.2% increase)** and
 - ⊖ **Capital expenditure** is estimated to be Rs 10,00,961 crore (37.4% increase).

Total Receipt

- ➔ Total Receipts: Government receipts (excluding borrowings) are estimated to be **Rs 27,16,281 crore**, an increase of 11.7% over the revised estimates of 2022-23.

Break up of central government receipts in 2023-24

Indirect taxes:

- ➔ The total indirect tax collections are estimated to be Rs 15,29,200 crore in 2023-24. Of this, the government has estimated to raise Rs 9,56,600 crore from GST.

Corporation tax:

- ➔ The collections from taxes on companies are expected to increase by 10.5% in 2023-24. In 2022-23, corporate tax collection is expected to be 16% higher than the budget estimate (Rs 7,20,000 crore).
- ➔ Income tax: The collections from income tax are also expected to increase by 10.5% in 2023-24 to Rs 9,00,575 crore. Income tax collection is expected to be 16.4% higher than the budget estimate in 2022-23.

Non-tax receipts:

- ➔ Non-tax revenue consists mainly of interest receipts on loans given by the centre, dividends, license fees, tolls, and charges for government services.
 - ⊖ In 2023-24, non-tax revenue is expected to increase by 15% over the revised estimates of 2022-23.

Disinvestment target:

- ➔ The disinvestment target for 2023-24 is Rs 51,000 crore (a marginal increase by 2% of estimate of 2022-23).

Break up of Central Government Expenditure in 2023-24

Table : Ministry wise expenditure in 2023-24 (Rs. Crore)

	Actuals 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Revised 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-24	% Change (2022-23 RE to 2023-24 BE)
Defence	5,00,681	5,25,166	5,84,791	5,93,538	1.5%
Road Transport and Highways	1,23,551	1,99,108	2,17,027	2,70,435	24.6%
Railways	1,35,242	1,40,367	1,62,312	2,41,268	48.6%
Food and Public Distribution	3,06,571	2,17,684	2,96,523	2,05,765	-30.6%
Home Affairs	1,68,791	1,85,777	1,93,912	1,96,035	1.1%
Chemicals and Fertilisers	1,54,789	1,07,715	2,27,681	1,78,482	-21.6%
Rural Development	1,61,643	1,38,204	1,82,382	1,59,964	-12.3%
Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	1,22,836	1,32,514	1,18,913	1,25,036	5.1%
Communications	51,545	1,05,407	1,05,478	1,23,393	17.0%
Education	80,352	1,04,278	99,881	1,12,899	13.0%
Jal Shakti	83,467	86,189	74,029	97,278	31.4%
Health and Family Welfare	84,470	86,201	79,145	89,155	12.6%
Housing and Urban Affairs	1,06,840	76,549	74,546	76,432	2.5%
Other Ministries	17,13,022	18,39,751	17,70,613	20,33,419	14.8%
Total Expenditure	37,93,801	3944,909	41,87,232	45,03,097	7.5%

Sources : Expenditure Budget, Union Budget 2023-24.

Expenditure on Subsidies

- ➔ In 2023-24, the total expenditure on subsidies is estimated to be Rs 4,03,084 crore, a decrease of 28.3% from the revised estimate of 2022-23.
- ➔ **Food subsidy:** Allocation to food subsidy is estimated at Rs 1,97,350 crore in 2023-24, a 31.3% decrease over the revised estimate of 2022-23.
- ➔ **Fertiliser subsidy:** Expenditure on fertiliser subsidy is estimated at Rs 1,75,100 crore in 2023-24. This is a decrease of Rs 50,120 crore (22.3%) from the revised estimate of 2022-23.

Deficits:

Fiscal deficit

- ➔ Fiscal deficit in 2023-24 is targeted at 5.9% of GDP, lower than the revised estimate of 6.4% of GDP in 2022-23.

Revenue deficit

- ➔ The excess of expenses over receipts on revenue account is called revenue deficit. Revenue deficit = Revenue Expense – Revenue Receipts .
- ➔ **Revenue deficit** is targeted at 2.9% of GDP in the budget estimate of 2023-24. It is 4.1% of GDP in revised estimate of 2022-23.

Effective Revenue Deficit

- ➔ Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between revenue deficit and grants to states for creation of capital assets.

- ➔ Effective revenue deficit in the budget estimates of 2023-24 is 1.7 % of GDP while it is 2.9 % of GDP in revised estimate of 2022-23.

Primary Deficit

- ➔ Primary deficit is defined as the difference between the fiscal deficit and the previous year interest payments of the government.
- ➔ Primary deficit in the budget estimate 2023-24 is 2.3% of GDP while it is 3.0% of GDP in revised estimate of 2022-23.

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Targets

- ➔ The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 requires the central government to progressively reduce its outstanding debt, revenue deficit and fiscal deficit, and give three year rolling targets.
- ➔ In the Budget speech, the finance minister reiterated the government's aim to reduce fiscal deficit to **below 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26.**

	Actuals 2021-22	Revised 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-24
Fiscal Deficit	6.7%	6.4%	5.9%
Revenue Deficit	4.4%	4.1%	2.9%
Primary Deficit	3.3%	3.0%	2.3%

Sources : Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement, Union Budget 2023-24.

Budget at a Glance				
	(in Rs. Crore)			
	2021-22 Actuals	2022-23 Budget Estimates	2022-23 Revised Estimates	2023-24 Budget Estimates
1. Revenue Receipts	2169905	2204422	2348413	2632281
2. Tax Revenue (Net to Centre) ¹	1804793	1934771	2086662	2330631
3. Non Tax Revenue	365112	269651	261751	301650
4. Capital Receipts	1623896	1740487	1838819	1870816
5. Recovery of Loans	24737	14291	23500	23000
6. Other Receipts	14638	65000	60000	61000
7. Borrowings and Other Liabilities ²	1584521	1661196	1755319	1786816
8. Total Receipts (1 + 4)	3793801	3944909	4187232	4503097
9. Total Expenditure (10 + 13)	3793801	3944909	4187232	4503097
10. On Revenue Account of which	3200926	3194663	3458959	3502136
11. Interest Payments	805499	940651	940651	1079971
12. Grants in Aid for Creation of Capital Assets	242646	317643	325588	369988
13. On Capital Account	592874	750246	728274	1000961
14. Effective Capital Expenditure (12 + 13)	835520	1067889	1053862	1370949
15. Revenue Deficit (10 – 1)	1031021 (4.4)	990241 (3.8)	1110546 (4.1)	869855 (2.9)
16. Effective Revenue Deficit (15 – 12)	788375 (3.3)	672598 (2.6)	784958 (2.9)	499867 (1.7)
17. Fiscal Deficit (9 – (1 + 5 + 6))	1584521 (6.7)	1661196 (6.4)	1755319 (6.4)	1786816 (5.9)
18. Primary Deficit (17 – 11)	779022 (3.3)	720545 (2.8)	814668 (3.0)	706845 (2.3)
<p>1. RE 2022-23 is reduced by Rs. 32,607 crore on account of net amount payable by Centre for prior years. Growth in BE 2023-24 over RE 2022-23 is 10% excluding prior year adjustment.</p> <p>2. Includes drawn-down of Cash Balance.</p> <p>Notes :</p> <p>(i) Nominal GDP for BE 2023-24 has been projected at Rs. 3,01,75,065 crore assuming 10.5% growth over the estimated Nominal GDP of Rs. 2,73,07,751 crore as per the First Advance Estimates of FY 2022-23.</p> <p>(ii) Individual items in this document may not sum up to the totals due to rounding off.</p> <p>(iii) Figures in parenthesis are as a percentage of GDP.</p>				

Important tax proposals in the Finance Bill

Income tax regime:

- ➔ Currently, those with income up to Rs 5 lakh can avail a rebate and not pay any tax this limit has been raised to Rs 7 lakh.
- ➔ The number of tax slabs has been reduced from six to five.
- ➔ The surcharge on the income when it exceeds Rs 5 crore will be reduced from 37% to 25%.

Important Announcement in the budget Speech

- ➔ This Budget hopes to build on the foundation laid in the previous Budget, and the blueprint drawn for India@100.

Vision for Amrit Kaal

1.	Opportunities for Citizens with focus on the Youth
2.	Growth and Job Creation
3.	Strong and Stable Macro-Economic Environment

Achievements

- ➔ Per capita income has more than doubled to Rs. 1.97 lakh in around nine years.
- ➔ Indian economy has increased in size from being 10th to 5th largest in the world.

- ➔ EPFO membership more than doubling to 27 crore, and 7,400 crore digital payments of `126 lakh crore has taken place through UPI in 2022.
 - ⊖ 11.7 crore household toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission.
 - ⊖ 9.6 crore LPG connections under Ujjawala.
 - ⊖ 220 crore Covid vaccination of 102 crore persons,
 - ⊖ 47.8 crore PM Jan Dhan bank accounts,
 - ⊖ Insurance cover for 44.6 crore persons under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and
 - ⊖ Cash transfer of Rs. 2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Priorities of this Budget

1. The Budget adopts the following seven priorities. They complement each other and act as the '*Saptarishi*' guiding us through the *Amrit Kaal*.

Priority 1: Inclusive Development Agriculture and Cooperation

- ➔ Digital public infrastructure for agriculture will be built.
 - ⊖ An Agriculture Accelerator Fund will be set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- ➔ Government will launch an Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops at an outlay of Rs. 2,200 crore.
- ➔ **Global Hub for Millets 'Shree Anna'**: India is the largest producer and second largest exporter of '*Shree Anna*' in the world. The Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence

Health, Education and Skilling

- ➔ One hundred and fifty-seven new nursing colleges will be established.
- ➔ A Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047 will be launched.

Priority 2: Reaching the Last Mile

- ➔ Recently, the government has launched the **Aspirational Blocks Programme** covering 500 blocks for saturation of essential government services.
- ➔ To improve socio-economic conditions of the **particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs)**, Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission will be launched.
- ➔ Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions' (**BharatSHRI**) will be set up in a digital epigraphy museum.

Priority 3: Infrastructure & Investment Capital Investment as driver of growth and jobs

- ➔ Capital investment outlay is being increased steeply for the third year in a row by 33 per cent to Rs. 10 lakh crore, which would be 3.3 per cent of GDP. This will be almost three times the outlay in 2019-20.

- ➔ A capital outlay of Rs. 2.40 lakh crore has been provided for the Railways. This highest ever outlay is about 9 times the outlay made in 2013-14.

Priority 4: Unleashing the Potential

- ➔ Under Mission Karmayogi, Centre, States and Union Territories are making and implementing capacity-building plans for civil servants.
- ➔ Vivad se Vishwas II will be introduced for MSMEs for settling Contractual Disputes .
- ➔ An Entity DigiLocker will be set up for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts.

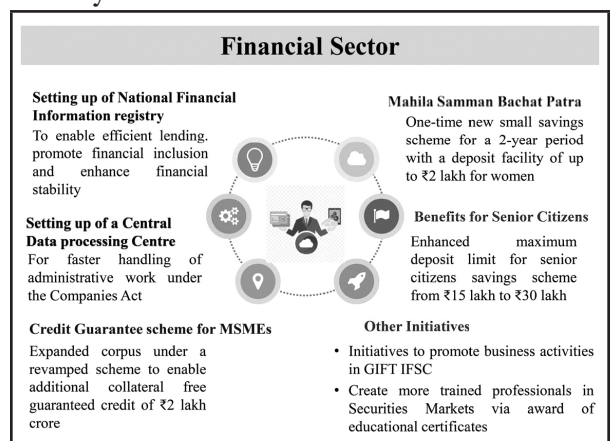
Priority 5: Green Growth

Green Growth	
PM-PRANAM* to be launched	Will incentivize State/UTs to promote usage of alternative fertilizers
500 New 'Waste to Wealth' plants	To be established under GOBARdhan scheme for promoting circular economy
Other Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Setting up 10,000 bio-inputs resource centres-to facilitate farmers to adopt natural farming ● Promotion of Battery energy storage systems ● Promotion of coastal shipping for energy efficient transportation ● Funds to be allocated for replacing old polluting vehicles

Priority 6: Youth Power

- ➔ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 will be launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next three years.
- ➔ **States will be encouraged to set-up Unity Malls:** For promotion and sale of ODOP (One District-One Product), GI and handcraft products.

Priority 7 : Financial Sector



Economic Survey 2022 -23

➔ On January 31, 2023, the Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2022-23 in Parliament. The Economic Survey is prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, under the guidance of Chief Economic Advisor.

☉ The current chief economic advisor is V Anantha Nageswaran.

Key Highlights of Economic Survey 2022-23

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

- ➔ The Survey has estimated real GDP growth in 2023-24 at 6.5%.
- ➔ It observed that the actual growth rate would lie in the range of 6-6.8%, depending on the trajectory of economic and political developments globally.
- ➔ In 2022-23, GDP is estimated to grow at 7% in real terms.
- ➔ India is the 3rd largest economy in the world in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms and the 5th largest in market exchange rates.

Inflation:

- ➔ In 2022-23, retail inflation is estimated at 6.8%, higher than 2021-22 (5.5%).
- ➔ Retail inflation increased to 7.8% in the month of April 2022 before falling to 5.7% in December 2022.
- ➔ The Survey expects inflation in 2023-24 to be lower than 2022-23 on the back of less economic uncertainties.

Current account balance:

- ➔ India recorded a current account deficit of USD 36.4 billion (4.4% of GDP) in the second quarter of 2022-23 as compared to a deficit of USD 9.7 billion (1.3% of GDP) in the second quarter of 2021-22.
- ➔ Between April-September 2022, India's recorded a current account deficit of 3.3% of GDP due to an increase in merchandise trade deficit.
- ➔ Sharp rise in oil prices and foreign portfolio investment outflows due to rise in interest rates abroad put pressure on India's Balance of Payments in 2022.

Fiscal deficit:

- ➔ The central government's fiscal deficit moderated to 6.7% of GDP in 2021-22, after increasing to 9.2% of GDP in 2020-21.
 - ☉ Buoyant revenue collection over the last two years have helped in bringing down the fiscal deficit.

➔ The Survey estimated that the central government is on track to meet its fiscal deficit target for 2022-23 (6.4% of GDP).

➔ In 2022-23, general government deficit is estimated to be 9.4% of GDP, lower than in 2021-22 (10.3% of GDP).

Debt:

- ➔ Total liabilities of the central government are estimated to decline from 59.2% of GDP in 2020-21 to 56.7% of GDP in 2021-22.
- ➔ Outstanding liabilities of the general government are estimated to be 86.5% in 2022-23.
- ➔ Most of it is held by residents and is denominated in rupees (95.1% of the total).
- ➔ External debt is entirely owed to official sources, which insulates it from changes in international capital markets.
- ➔ About 98% of the debt is contracted at fixed interest rates, insulating from changes in interest rates.

Agriculture and allied activities :

- ➔ India's agriculture sector has grown at an average annual rate of 4.6% during the last six years.
 - ☉ In 2021-22, it grew by 3%, lower than 2020-21 (3.3%).
- ➔ India has also emerged as a net exporter of agricultural products with exports reaching an all-time high of USD 50.2 billion in 2021-22.
- ➔ The production of foodgrains and oil seeds has been increasing year-on-year.
 - ☉ However, wheat production was adversely impacted in 2022 due to an early heat wave.
- ➔ The Survey observed that there has been a consistent increase in institutional agricultural credit.
 - ☉ In 2021-22, agricultural credit was 13% higher than the target of Rs 16.5 lakh crore.
 - ☉ The target for agricultural credit for 2022-23 is Rs 18.5 lakh crore.

Industry:

- ➔ Industry accounts for 31% of India's GDP and employs over 12.1 crore people.
 - ☉ In 2022-23, the industrial sector is estimated to grow by 6.7%.
- ➔ India is ranked 3rd worldwide in the production of pharma products by volume and 14th by value.
 - ☉ The sector is the largest provider of generic medicines globally, occupying a 20 per cent share in global supply by volume, and is also the leading vaccine manufacturer globally with a market share of 60 per cent.

Services sector:

- ➔ The services sector recovered swiftly in 2021-22 after bearing the maximum burden of the pandemic.
 - ⊖ In 2021-22, the services sector grew by 8.4% as compared to a contraction of 7.8% in 2020-21.
- ➔ In 2022-23, the services sector is estimated to grow by 9.1%.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Service:

- ➔ The World Investment Report 2022 of UNCTAD places India as the 7th largest recipient of FDI in the top 20 countries in 2021.
- ➔ In FY22 India received the highest-ever FDI inflows of US\$ 84.8 billion including US\$ 7.1 billion FDI equity inflows in the services sector.

External Sector:

- ➔ India achieved an all-time high annual merchandise export of US\$ 422.0 billion in FY22.
- ➔ Merchandise exports were US\$ 332.8 billion over April-December 2022 against US\$ 305.0 billion during the period April-December 2021.
- ➔ Non petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports in April-December 2022 were US\$ 233.5 billion, as compared to US\$ 230.0 billion in April-December 2021.
 - ⊖ Petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL) exports constituted about 21.1 per cent and non-POL exports were 78.9 per cent of total exports during FY23 (until December 2022).

Capital Account Balance:

- ➔ Foreign investment, consisting of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and foreign portfolio investment (FPI), is the largest component of the capital account.
- ➔ During April-September 2022, gross FDI inflows were US\$ 39.3 billion as compared to US\$ 42.5 billion a year ago.
 - ⊖ Computer Software and Hardware attracted the highest share of FDI equity inflow (23.4 per cent) followed by Services (15.4 per cent) and Trading (12.2 per cent).
- ➔ In terms of FDI inflow, Singapore was the top investing country with a 37.0 per cent share, followed by Mauritius (12.1 per cent), UAE (11.0 per cent), and the USA (10.0 per cent).

Foreign Exchange Reserves:

- ➔ As of December 2022, Forex Reserves stood at US\$ 563 bn covering 9.3 months of imports.
- ➔ As of end-November 2022, India is the 6th largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world.
- ➔ Remittances are the second largest major source of external financing after service export.

Infrastructure:

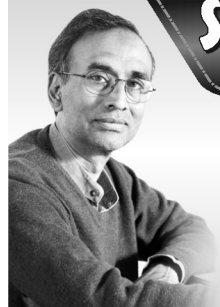
- ➔ Capital expenditure in 2022-23 is targeted at 7.5 lakh crore, 35.4% higher than 2021-22.
- ➔ To sustain the investment drive, the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) has provided a forward-looking roadmap of investible projects of around Rs 111 lakh crore between 2019-20 and 2024-2025.
- ➔ Currently, the NIP has 8,964 projects with a total investment of more than Rs 108 lakh crore under different stages of implementation.
 - ⊖ The transport sector constitutes more than half of these projects.

Employment:

- ➔ Labour markets have recovered beyond pre-COVID levels in both urban and rural areas.
- ➔ The unemployment rate decreased from 5.8% in 2018-19 to 4.2% in 2020-21.
- ➔ There was also an increase in the rural female labour force participation rate from 19.7% in 2018-19 to 27.7% in 2020-21.
- ➔ Unemployment rate in urban areas decreased from 8.3% in July-September 2019 to 7.2% in July-September 2022.
- ➔ The number of persons demanding work under MGNREGS was seen at levels similar to the pre-pandemic period during July-November 2022.
 - ⊖ The number of works done under MGNREGS has steadily increased over the years with 85 lakh completed works in 2021-22 and 70.6 lakh completed works in 2022-23 as on January 9, 2023.

Insurance and pension:

- ➔ Insurance penetration (insurance premiums to GDP ratio) in India increased from 2.7% in 2000 to 4.2% in 2021.
 - ⊖ The Survey noted that life insurance penetration in India was 3.2% in 2021.
- ➔ An increase in FDI limit for insurance companies and digitisation of the insurance market is likely to facilitate growth.
- ➔ India's pension sector has expanded since the introduction of the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and APY.
- ➔ The coverage of population under NPS and APY as a share of total population increased from 1.2% in 2016-17 to 3.7% in 2021-22.
- ➔ The Survey noted that there is significant scope for growth in India's pension sector as per capita income is expected to rise in the future.



Bird's Eye View on the Latest Developments Related to Defense, Space, Medicine etc.



Agnibaan Rocket

Agnikul Cosmos, based in Chennai, is prepared to launch its **3D-printed rocket Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOrTeD)** from its private launchpad located at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota**.

Agnibaan SOrTeD

- ➔ It is a **single-stage** launch vehicle driven by Agnikul's patented Agnilet engine - an entirely **3D-printed, single-piece, 6 kN semi-cryogenic engine**.
- ➔ It was officially unveiled and integrated on **August 15** at **Agnikul's Mission Control Center (AMCC)** at Sriharikota in front of representatives from the **Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC)**, the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Center (IN-SPACE)**, as well as several Agnikul team members.
- ➔ Agnikul inaugurated India's first launchpad and mission control center at Satish Dhawan Space Centre on November 25, 2022.
- ➔ This facility serves as the base from which Agnikul intends to execute its ambitious suborbital and orbital missions in the coming years.

James Webb Telescope Captures Stunning Image Of Ring Nebula

The famous **Ring Nebula**, commonly known as **Messier 57**, has been the subject of stunning new photos taken by NASA's **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**. This can help astronomers to study the chemical evolution of these objects using pictures like this.

Ring Nebula

- ➔ The Ring Nebula (also known as **Messier 57, M57** and **NGC 6720**) is a planetary nebula in the northern constellation of **Lyra**.
- ➔ It was born from a dying star that expelled its outer layers into space, making it a planetary nebula.

- ➔ Planetary nebulae come in a variety of shapes and patterns, some that include delicate glowing rings, wispy clouds and expanding bubbles.

James Webb Telescope

- ➔ The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), a ground-breaking space observatory, is one of the NASA's most ambitious and challenging missions.
- ➔ It is intended to replace the Hubble Space Telescope and has the potential to dramatically improve our understanding of the cosmos.
- ➔ The Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the European Space Agency (ESA), and NASA worked together to develop the JWST.
- ➔ The telescope is designed to operate in the infrared range, enabling it to see through dust clouds and observe distant objects with greater clarity.
- ➔ The telescope will also study objects within our solar system, such as asteroids, comets, and the outer planets
- ➔ The JWST will study exoplanets, planets orbiting stars beyond our solar system, to characterize their atmospheres and potential habitability.
- ➔ The JWST was launched on an **Ariane 5** rocket from the **French Guiana Space Centre** on **December 25, 2021**.
- ➔ It is situated on the second **Lagrange point (L2)**, which is around 1.5 million kilometres (almost 1 million miles) from Earth.

5% of birds in India are endemic, reveals Zoological Survey of India publication

A recent publication by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** points out that about 5% of birds found in the country are endemic and are not reported in other parts of the world.

About the report:

- ➔ **Titled:** "75 Endemic Birds of India,"

- ➔ **Published by:** The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
- ➔ **Released on:** The 108th foundation day of the ZSI

Key Findings

- ➔ India is home to 1,353 bird species, which represents approximately 12.40% of global bird diversity.
- ➔ 78 (or 5%) of these 1,353 bird species are indigenous to the nation.
- ➔ The publication points out that the 75 bird species belong to 11 different orders, 31 families, and 55 genera, and exhibit remarkable distribution patterns across various regions in India.
- ➔ The highest number of endemic species has been recorded in the **Western Ghats**, with 28 bird species.
- ➔ The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** also have significant endemism, hosting 25 bird species unique to the region.

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

- ➔ The ZSI was established on 1st July, 1916.
- ➔ **Headquarters :** Kolkata, West Bengal
- ➔ **Current Director:** Dr. Dhriti Banerjee
- ➔ **Parent organisation:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

NASA's STEREO-'s Earth Flyby

Recently, NASA's STEREO-A spacecraft, part of the **Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO)** mission, achieved a significant milestone, as it performed its first-ever Earth flyby after nearly 17 years in space.

Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) Mission

- ➔ STEREO is the third mission in NASA's **Solar Terrestrial Probes program (STP)**.
- ➔ It was launched in 2006 from **Cape Canaveral (Florida, the US)** with twin spacecraft, **STEREO-A** (A stands for Ahead) and **STEREO-B** (B stands for Behind).
- ➔ The mission objective is to provide the first-ever **stereoscopic** measurements to study the Sun and the nature of its **coronal mass ejections**, or **CMEs**.
- ➔ **STEREO-B** broke contact with mission control in 2014 after a planned reset (B's mission officially ended in 2018).

PM-eBus Sewa

Recently, the Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved a bus scheme "**PM-eBus Sewa**" for augmenting city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses on **PPP** model.

Key highlights of the Scheme:

- ➔ **Objective:** The scheme aims to introduce 10,000 electric buses (e-buses) in city bus services across India and enhance urban infrastructure for green mobility.
- ➔ **Cost and Support of the Scheme:** The Scheme would have an estimated cost of Rs.57,613 crore, out of which support of Rs.20,000 crore will be provided by the Central government.
- ➔ **Duration:** The Scheme will support bus operations for 10 years.
- ➔ **Reaching the Unreached:**
 - ☉ The scheme will cover cities of three lakh and above population as per census 2011.
 - ☉ It will include all the Capital cities of Union Territories, North Eastern Region and Hill States. Under this scheme priority will be given to cities having no organized bus service.
- ➔ **Employment Generation:** The scheme will generate 45,000 to 55,000 direct jobs through deployment of around 10,000 buses in city bus operation.
- ➔ **The Scheme has two segments:**
 - Segment A – Augmenting the City bus services:(169 cities)**
 - ☉ The approved bus scheme will augment city bus operations with 10,000 e-buses on **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** model.
 - Segment B– Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI): (181 cities)**
 - ☉ The scheme envisages green initiatives like bus priority, infrastructure, multimodal interchange facilities, **NCMC** (National Common Mobility Card) -based **Automated Fare Collection Systems**, Charging infrastructure, etc.

Support for Operation:

- ➔ Under the scheme, **States/Cities** shall be responsible for running the bus services and making payments to the bus operators.
- ➔ The **Central Government** will support these bus operations by providing subsidy to the extent specified in the proposed scheme.

Boost to E-Mobility:

- ➔ The scheme will promote e-mobility and provide full support for behind-the-meter power infrastructure.
- ➔ Cities will also be supported for development of charging infrastructure under Green Urban Mobility Initiatives.

Other Schemes of Government for Green Mobility:

- ➔ NTPC's hydrogen-based FCEV project
- ➔ FAME India and FAME II schemes for EV incentives
- ➔ Promotion of green hydrogen and FCEVs like Toyota Mirai
- ➔ Participation in the global EV30@30 campaign
- ➔ Roadmap for 20% ethanol blending by 2025
- ➔ Amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

Radio Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs)

Recently, the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** and the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** began working together to develop **radio thermoelectric generators (RTGs)**, a novel strategy intended to overcome the limitations of conventional chemical engines for interplanetary travel.

How do RTGs work?

- ➔ Chemical engines are effective for satellite thrusters, but due to fuel constraints and a lack of solar power in far-off places, they are unsuitable for long space flight.
- ➔ RTGs are innovative power sources designed to address these challenges in deep space missions.
- ➔ They utilize radioactive materials, such as **Plutonium-238** or **Strontium-90**, which emit heat as they decay over time.
- ➔ The propulsion and power of spacecraft are made possible by the harnessing and conversion of this heat into electricity.
- ➔ Essentially, the engine contains two parts—

The radioisotope heater unit (RHU):

- ⊖ Heat is produced by the RHU as a result of radioactive material decay.
- ⊖ It starts the procedure by releasing thermal energy, which forms the basis for the production of electricity.

The RTG (Heat-to-Electricity Conversion):

- ⊖ The RTG part converts the heat that the RHU produces into useful power.
- ⊖ A thermocouple, a substance that produces electricity when exposed to a temperature gradient, is used for this conversion.
- ⊖ The spacecraft's batteries are charged using the voltage the thermocouple produces.

- ⊖ The propulsion systems that are powered by these batteries, in turn, enable interplanetary flight.

'Urea Gold' Fertiliser

Recently, Indian Prime Minister officially launched '**Urea Gold**' fertiliser, a new variety of Urea, developed by **Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCF)**, during an event in **Rajasthan's Sikar**.

About Urea Gold

- ➔ It is a new variety of **Urea coated with Sulphur**.
- ➔ Urea Gold is created by infusing urea with sulfur, creating a composite fertilizer with **37% nitrogen (N)** and **17% sulfur (S)**.
- ➔ It is being introduced to address the Sulphur deficiency in soil and save input costs for the farmers.
- ➔ Urea Gold surpasses the existing Neem-coated urea in terms of both economic viability and efficiency.

What Makes Urea Gold Superior to Other Products?

- ➔ The availability and uptake of nitrogen by crops are improved by urea that has been coated with sulphur.
- ➔ The sulfur coating on urea enables a gradual release of nitrogen, leading to prolonged nutrient availability.
- ➔ Humic acid is added to Urea Gold to further increase the fertilizer's shelf life.
- ➔ This product minimises the amount of fertiliser used overall while also replacing conventional urea consumption.
- ➔ The paper claims that 15 kg of Urea Gold has benefits equivalent to those of 20 kg of traditional urea, making it a more sensible and useful option for farmers.
- ➔ The gradual release of nutrients minimizes wastage and enhances the nutrient uptake by plants, ultimately translating into enhanced productivity.

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission 2047 (NSCAEM)

"Sickle Cell Disease is a disease that impacts tribal sections of society significantly. The government is committed to eliminate the disease before India celebrates its Amrit Kaal in 2047."

- ➔ Thus was stated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as he launched NSCAEM in Shahdol, **Madhya Pradesh**.

Why launched in Shahdol?

- ➔ Highest tribal population as per census 2011 resides in Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- ➔ MP carries the highest number of sickle cell anaemia patients in India.

Mission of NSCAEM

- ➔ To improve the care of all Sickle Cell disease patients for their better future and to lower the prevalence of the disease through a multi-faced coordinated approach towards screening and awareness strategies.
- ➔ **Vision** – Eliminate Sickle Cell Disease as public health problem in India by 2047.

What is Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)?

- ➔ SCD begins the early childhood (5 to 6 months of age). It is a group of inherited red blood cell disorder that affect hemoglobin, leading to rigid sickle-like shape.

- ➔ The condition affects more than 20 million people worldwide.

- ➔ SCD common in some ethnic groups of central India where prevalence ranged from 9.4 to 22.2% in endemic areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh. Also common among Tharu people of Nepal & India.

Conclusion

- ➔ Over the time declaration of 3 years from fiscal year 2023-24 to 2025-26, the program shall target screening approximately 7.0 crore people under 40 year of age in next 3 years.
- ➔ Promoting early diagnosis and intervention in mission mode as part of National Health Mission (NHM), eliminating Sickle cell genetic transmission by year 2047.

ISRO's PSLV-C56 puts 7 satellites in orbit

Recently, the PSLV-C56, carrying Singapore's DS-SAR satellite and six other satellites, was successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

About the mission

- ➔ **Vehicle used:** PSLV-C56
- ➔ **Launched date:** July 30, 2023

- ➔ **Launched by:** Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- ➔ **Launch base:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota

Payloads onboard PSLV-C56	
Satellite	Agency/Country
DS-SAR	DSTA-ST Engineering, Singapore
Arcade	NTU, Singapore
Velox-AM	
SCOOB-II	
ORB-12 Strider	Aliena Private Limited, Singapore
Galassia-2	NUS, Singapore
NuLiON	NuSpace Private Limited, Singapore

- ➔ **PSLV-C56** is configured in its core-alone mode, launched **DS-SAR**, a 360 kg satellite into a **Near-equatorial Orbit** (NEO) at 5 degrees inclination and 535 km altitude.
- ➔ It was the 58th flight of PSLV and using the 17th vehicle with Core Alone Configuration.
- ➔ The **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle** (PSLV) has acquired the nickname "**Workhorse of ISRO**" for reliably launching numerous satellites into low-Earth orbit.
- ➔ PSLV-C56 / DS-SAR, is the Dedicated Commercial Mission of **New Space India Limited** (NSIL), a commercial arm of the **ISRO**, for ST Engineering, Singapore.

SpaceX: World's largest Private Communications Satellite

Recently, using the Falcon Heavy launch vehicle, Elon Musk-led SpaceX launched Hughes' Jupiter 3, which could be the largest private communications satellite.

About Jupiter 3

- ➔ **Launched by:** Space X
- ➔ **Developed by:** Maxar Technologies in Palo Alto, California
- ➔ **Launched:** July, 2023
- ➔ **Launch Vehicle:** Falcon Heavy rocket
- ➔ **Spaceport:** Launch Complex-39A of Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA.
- ➔ The **Jupiter 3** satellite is designed to deliver internet services to customers in North and South America.
- ➔ The satellite will support services such as in-flight Wi-Fi and augment private Wi-Fi usage with other wireless technologies.

Iran Unveils ‘First Hypersonic Missile’

Iran on June 6, 2023 unveiled its first-ever hypersonic missile, **Fattah (or “opener” in Farsi)**, which it says can penetrate missile defence systems and will give it a military edge.

➔ The unveiling ceremony, attended by **President Ebrahim Raisi** and senior commanders of the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**.

About Fattah Missile

- ➔ It is an intermediate range ballistic missile developed by Iran.
- ➔ Iran claimed that it is a hypersonic missile capable of travelling at **15 times the speed of sound**.
- ➔ The missile can move at a speed of up to Mach 15 (5,145 metres or 16,880 feet per second);
- ➔ It has a range of 1,400km (870 miles) and features a moveable secondary nozzle and employs solid propellants that allow for high maneuverability.

Hypersonic missiles

➔ Hypersonic missiles move at five times the speed of sound or greater and are maneuverable, making them difficult for defence systems and radars to target.

Missiles	Mach No.
Subsonic	< 1
Transonic	= 1
Supersonic	> 1
Hypersonic	> 5

- ➔ The United States, Russia, China, North Korea and India are believed to be the only countries to have successfully tested hypersonic missiles, but exact details of the weaponry remain scant.
- ➔ India has launched the **Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) programme**, under which it is developing an indigenous, dual-capable hypersonic cruise missile.
 - ☉ India successfully tested a **Mach 6 scram-jet** in 2019 and 2020.

Delhi Declaration on Cyber Security

Retired Lieutenant General **Dr. Rajesh Pant**, the **National Cyber Security Coordinator**, proposed the “**Delhi Declaration**” on **June 05, 2023** for G20

nations to promote cyber peace and cooperation in preventing, mitigating, and investigating cyber incidents in cyberspace.

- ➔ The objective of this declaration is to promote cyber peace and cooperation in preventing, mitigating and investigating cyber incitements in cyber space.
- ➔ Delhi declaration is a series of commitments to responsible state behavior in cyberspace, for G20 member countries.
- ➔ It was drafted with the help of ‘**Microsoft Corporation**’.

Centralised Laboratory Network

Recently, in June, 2023 Norway-based **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** has expanded the scale and geographical footprint of its epidemic and pandemic vaccine testing laboratory network.

- ➔ CEPI has announced that an additional five members based in Africa and India have joined its **Centralised Laboratory Network (CLN)**.
- ➔ CLN consists of 15 partner facilities in 13 countries and aims to test vaccines for use during pandemics and epidemic disease outbreaks.
- ➔ The CEPI-funded network aims to identify promising vaccine candidates rapidly and accurately.
- ➔ New members of the CLN from India is the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) from Pune is the new entrant in the list.

Quasi Moon

Astronomers have recently discovered an asteroid that tags along with the earth during its annual journey around the sun.

Named as **2023 FW13**, this asteroid is considered by experts to be a “quasi-moon” or “quasi-satellite.”

- ➔ Quasi-moons are also known as ‘**quasi-satellites**’ because they appear into orbit of earth in the same way of earth’s natural satellite, the Moon.
- ➔ But they are bound by the **gravity of the Sun** instead of the Earth. That’s why they are called Quasi. Whereas the moon is bound by the gravity of the earth.
- ➔ ‘**2023 FW13**’ was first spotted on **March 28, 2023** by the **Pan-STARRS survey telescope**. This telescope is located on the top of **Haleakala**, a dormant volcano on the **Hawaiian Island of Maui**.

Groundwater Extraction Shifted the Earth's Axis

Recently, in June 2023, a new study found that the excessive extraction of groundwater for drinking and irrigation has shifted the Earth's axis of rotation.

About the Study

- ➔ The study, 'Drift of Earth's Pole Confirms Groundwater Depletion as a Significant Contributor to Global Sea Level Rise 1993–2010', was published in the journal **Geophysical Research Letters**, earlier this month.
- ➔ The major highlight of the study is that excessive extraction of groundwater for drinking and irrigation has shifted the Earth's axis of rotation.

Findings

- ➔ The study says that humans pumped out around 2,150 gigatons of groundwater between 1993 and 2010 and this has led the planet's axis to drift at the rate of **4.36 cm per year towards the east**.
- ➔ The Earth's axis is the imaginary line through the earth that extends from the **North Pole** to the **South Pole**.
- ➔ At present, the Earth's axis is tilted **23.5 degrees from the plane of its orbit around the Sun**.
- ➔ During a cycle that averages about 41,000 years, the tilt of the **axis varies between 22.1 and 24.5 degrees**.

Unnat Takniki Pradarshan Kendra (UTPRERAK)

The Ministry of Power, Government of India has set up a dedicated Centre of Excellence to accelerate industry adoption of clean technologies and thus scale up India's contribution to the global energy transition.

- ➔ Named UTPRERAK, short for Unnat Takniki Pradarshan Kendra, the Centre of Excellence to Accelerate Adoption of Energy Efficient Technologies seeks to play a catalytic role in improving energy efficiency of Indian industry.
- ➔ The Centre, named otherwise as **Advanced Industrial Technology Demonstration Centre (AITDC)**, has been set up by the **Bureau of Energy efficiency (BEE)**, Ministry of Power, at the Badarpur, New Delhi campus of the National Power Training Institute (NPTI), Ministry of Power.
- ➔ Union Minister of State for Power, Shri Krishan Pal inaugurated the Centre at NPTI Badarpur, New Delhi, June 26, 2023.

TAPAS 201 UAV Ready For User Trials

On **June 27, 2023** the TAPAS UAV was demonstrated before the Tri-Services team for the first time at **Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga**.

- ➔ The indigenously-developed **Tactical Aerial Platform for Advanced Surveillance (TAPAS) 201 Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)** is now ready for user evaluation trials.
- ➔ TAPAS 201, designed and developed by the Bengaluru-based **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)**
 - ➔ It is a multi-mission UAV to carry out the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance roles for the three armed forces with an endurance of 24 to 30 hours.

General characteristics of TAPAS UAV	Performance of TAPAS UAV
➔ Capacity: 350 kg (772 lb) payload	➔ Maximum speed: 224 km/h
➔ Length: 9.5 m	➔ Ferry range: 1,000 km
➔ Wingspan: 20.6 m	➔ Endurance: (24-30 hours)
➔ Empty weight: 1,800 kg	➔ Service ceiling: 10,668 m (35,000 ft)
➔ Powerplant: 2 × NPO-Saturn 36T engines wing-mounted turboprop, 74.57 kW (100.00 hp) each (Prototype)	

'UNODC World Drug Report 2023'

Recently, on June 26, 2023 'United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime' released 'UNODC World Drug Report 2023' alarms of converging crisis as illicit drug markets continue to expand and the challenges they pose to health services and law enforcement.

Alarming Facts

- ➔ Globally 13.2 million newly people inject drugs in 2021 (18% higher than previously estimated)
- ➔ 296 million people used drugs in 2021 (23% increases over the past decade)
- ➔ With 45% increases over 10 years, 39.5 million suffers from drug use disorders.

- ➔ Youth population is most vulnerable and affected by Drug menace. In Africa 70% percent of people in treatment are under the age 35.

Illegal Drug route related to India

- ➔ India is sandwiched between two largest opium producing regions of the world that is 'Golden triangle' on one side and 'Golden crescent' on other.
- ➔ The golden triangle Area comprises **Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos**.
- ➔ The golden crescent area includes 'Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran'.
- ➔ India is one of the world's single largest opiate markets in terms of users and would likely be vulnerable to increased supply.

'AIRAWAT' ranked 75th in Global Supercomputing list

The AI supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' installed at **C-DAC, Pune**, has achieved a global ranking of 75. This recognition was announced during the 61st edition of the **Top 500 Global Supercomputing List** at the **International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023)** held in **Germany**.

- ➔ **Full form:** AI Research Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform
- ➔ **Funded by:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), GoI
- ➔ **Installed at :** C-DAC, Pune
- ➔ **Announcement on:** May 23, 2023

What is Supercomputer?

- ➔ Supercomputers harness the combined computational power of multiple servers or computing devices to efficiently process vast amounts of data and execute intricate calculations.

AIRAWAT

- ➔ The AIRAWAT PoC of 200 AI Petaflops integrated with PARAM Siddhi – AI of 210 AI Petaflops gives a total peak compute of 410 AI Petaflops Mixed Precision and sustained compute capacity of 8.5 Petaflops (Rmax) Double Precision.
- ➔ The peak compute capacity (Double Precision, Rpeak) is 13 Petaflops.

Indian programmes for AI development

- ➔ The **FutureSkills PRIME program**, initiated by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and NASSCOM, focuses on re-skilling and up-skilling IT professionals, including in Artificial Intelligence.

- ➔ India has become a founding member of the **Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)**, joining other leading economies in guiding the responsible development and use of AI.

AI Discovers Antibiotic for Acinetobacter baumannii

Recently, US and Canadian scientists have utilized AI to discover Abaucin, a potent antibiotic effective against the Acinetobacter baumannii superbug.

AI Discovers Antibiotic

- ➔ **Discovered by:** Researchers from Canada's McMaster University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US.
- ➔ **Antibiotic for:** Superbug Acinetobacter baumannii
- ➔ **Special:** Discovery using Artificial Intelligence

Acinetobacter Baumannii

- ➔ Acinetobacter baumannii is a highly resistant bacterium classified as a "red alert" pathogen by WHO.
- ➔ It causes severe infections like pneumonia, meningitis, and wound infections, often leading to fatalities.

Superbug

- ➔ Superbugs are bacteria that are resistant to multiple types of antibiotics.
- ➔ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has identified superbugs that possess innate abilities to resist treatment and can transfer genetic material, leading to drug resistance in other bacteria.

- ➔ Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, making treatments ineffective.

Arexvy

On **May 3, 2023** the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the world's first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine called Arexvy.

About Arexvy vaccine

- ➔ **Purpose:** World's first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for older adults (age 60 or more).
- ➔ **Approved by:** US FDA
- ➔ **Developed by:** GSK plc, UK

What is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)?

- ➔ Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus, or RSV, is a **common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms**.
- ➔ Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults.

China's Shenzhou-16 Mission

On May 30, 2023 China successfully launched a spacecraft to its Tiangong space station, carrying three astronauts, including its first civilian member.

- ➔ **Launched:** Shenzhou-16 mission
- ➔ **Launched using:** Long March-2F rocket
- ➔ **Launched from:** Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi Desert in northwest China
- ➔ **Special:** Carries China's first civilian astronaut

Key points

- ➔ The Shenzhou-16 mission was the fifth manned mission to the Chinese space outpost since 2021, highlighting China's commitment to advancing its space program.
- ➔ The crew of the Shenzhou-16 spacecraft consisted of three astronauts including Gui Haichao, the first Chinese civilian to travel to space who replaced the previous crew of Shenzhou-15.

NASA's James Webb Finds Water on Comet Read

Recently, NASA has announced that its telescope James Webb has discovered water on comet Read.

About the discovery

- ➔ **Water discovered on:** Comet 238P/Read
- ➔ **Discovered by:** NASA
- ➔ **Discovered using:** Webb's NIRSpec (Near-Infrared Spectrograph) instrument
- ➔ **Discovery announced on:** May 15, 2023

Key Points

- ➔ Astronomers have confirmed gas – specifically water vapor – around a comet in the main asteroid belt for the first time using **Webb's NIRSpec (Near-Infrared Spectrograph) instrument**.
- ➔ This is located between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter and majority of asteroids are found here.

IIT Guwahati's new 'pincer catalyst'

Recently, IIT Guwahati announced that its researcher has developed a new catalyst for Clean Hydrogen Production from Wood Alcohol.

About the development

- ➔ **Developed by:** Researchers at IIT Guwahati
- ➔ **Use:** Catalyst for clean hydrogen production

Key point

- ➔ Researchers at IIT Guwahati led by Akshai Kumar A.S., Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry have developed a new catalyst for clean hydrogen production from wood alcohol with no side production of carbon dioxide.
- ➔ Chemical reaction also produces Formic acid as byproduct which is a major industrial chemical.
- ➔ This new catalyst has a pincer (crab-like) design and hence the name.

What are catalyst

- ➔ Catalysis is the process of increasing the rate of a chemical reaction by adding a substance known as a catalyst.
- ➔ Catalysts are not consumed in the reaction and remain unchanged after it.

Indian Astronomical Observatory to Observes BL Lacertae

The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) has formed partnership with 10 international telescopes to observe and study the phenomenon of BL Lacertae (BL Lac), a blazar located approximately 950 million light-years away from Earth.

About the partnership

- ➔ **Formed between :** IAO, Hanle, Ladakh and 10 other global telescopes
- ➔ **Formed in:** May 2023
- ➔ **Purpose:** To observe BL Lac blazer

What is Blazar?

- ➔ Blazars, a type of galaxy powered by a ginormous black hole are among the brightest, most energetic objects in the sky.
- ➔ They belong to a class of galaxies known as "**active galactic nuclei**" or **AGNs**, a reference to the supermassive black holes that power them.
- ➔ BL Lac was first discovered by Cuno Hoffmeister in 1929.

Indian Astronomical Observatory

- ➔ It is a high-altitude astronomy station located in Hanle, Ladakh and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
- ➔ It is **10th highest observatory in world** currently.
- ➔ In September 2022, it became India's first dark-sky preserve (DSP).
- ➔ A **dark-sky preserve (DSP)** is an area, usually surrounding a park or observatory, that restricts artificial light pollution. It is established to observe astronomical phenomenon more clearly.

Penumbral Lunar Eclipse

On May 5, 2023 skywatchers and astronomy enthusiasts observed the celestial phenomenon of penumbral lunar eclipse.

Recent penumbral lunar eclipse

- ➔ **Observed on:** May 5, 2023
- ➔ **Observed from:** Many parts of world including India where Moon was above horizon at 1515 GMT
- ➔ **Special:** First of two lunar eclipses that are expected to occur that year

What are Penumbral Lunar Eclipse?

- ➔ A lunar eclipses occur as a result of Earth passing between the moon and the sun with the three bodies in a straight line which results in shadow of earth falling on moon.
- ➔ In Penumbral Lunar Eclipse moon moves through the outermost region of the Earth's shadow known as the penumbra. This is an area in which the Earth appears to cover part of the sun's disk but not all of it.

Sara: World's First Robotic Check-in Assistant

Recently, Dubai based Emirates airline has launched world's first robotic check-in assistant named Sara.

- ➔ **Launched by:** Emirates airlines
- ➔ **Launched :** April 27, 2023
- ➔ **Purpose:** Robotic check-in assistant for people boarding the airline

Key Points:

- ➔ Sara, the robot is equipped with facial recognition technology and can print boarding passes, making the check-in process more efficient.
- ➔ It can also match customers' faces with scanned passports, check them in, and guide them to the luggage drop area.

Three Parents Baby: Mitochondrial Donation Treatment

Recently a baby was born in United Kingdom using DNA from three people born by a new IVF procedure called **Mitochondrial Donation Treatment**.

Three parents baby and MDT

- ➔ 3 parents baby involves using the DNA of three people in an effort to prevent children from inheriting incurable diseases.
- ➔ The first such baby was born in USA in 2016.

- ➔ MDT combines the **sperm and eggs from the biological parents** with mitochondria from a donor's eggs.

Two techniques for MDT

- ➔ **Maternal spindle transfer (MST):** the nuclear genetic material is removed from the eggs and transferred into donated eggs that have had their nuclear genetic material removed. The eggs are then fertilized with sperm to create embryos.
- ➔ **Pronuclear transfer (PNT):** the eggs are fertilized with sperm in a lab to create embryos. The nuclear genetic material within each embryo is then transferred into embryos created using donated eggs and sperm from the sperm provider. Again, the nuclear genetic material will have been removed from the donated eggs.

Axiom Space Station

Recently, AX-2 the second private mission to ISS (Axiom Mission 2) successfully launched.

- ➔ **Mission name:** Axiom Mission-2
- ➔ **Launched on:** May 21, 2023
- ➔ With a Astronauts including Peggy whitson mission commander, John Shoffner, Ali Alqarni and Rayyanah Barnawi.
- ➔ To ISS (International Space Station).
- ➔ **Launched by:** SpaceX's Dragon Spacecraft Falcon-9 rocket.

Key Features

- ➔ Axiom Space's AX-2 is the second step towards the construction of world first commercial space station Axiom Space Station.
- ➔ The AX-2 crew safely splashed dawn at 11 : 04 p.m. on May 30, 2023.

About Axiom Space Station

- ➔ It will be world's first commercial space station.
- ➔ It is underway, following the completion of preliminary and critical design reviews in collaboration with NASA.
- ➔ Axiom Space is preparing for a 2025 launch of its first section of next-generation platform that will operate in low-earth orbit.
- ➔ Headquartered in **Hauston Texas**.

Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice) Mission

The European Space Agency (ESA) launched its Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer, or Juice, mission on April 14, 2023 from its spaceport in French Guiana.

- ➔ **Launched:** JUICE mission
- ➔ **Launched from:** Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana
- ➔ **Launched into:** Jupiter system

The mission

- ➔ ESA's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer, Juice, will make detailed observations of the giant gas planet and its three large ocean-bearing moons – Ganymede, Callisto and Europa – with a suite of remote sensing, geophysical and in situ instruments.
- ➔ The mission will characterise these moons as both planetary objects and possible habitats, explore Jupiter's complex environment in depth, and study the wider Jupiter system as an archetype for gas giants across the Universe.
- ➔ After an 8 year cruise to Jupiter, utilizing Earth, Moon, and Venus gravity assists, JUICE will go into orbit around Jupiter in July 2031.

Jupiter and Its moon

- ➔ Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and the largest in the Solar System. It is a gas giant.
- ➔ There are 95 moons of Jupiter. The most massive of the moons are the four Galilean moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

NASA's TEMPO Mission

Recently NASA launched its **Tropospheric Emissions Monitoring of Pollution (TEMPO) instrument** from Florida on board a SpaceX rocket.

About the TEMPO Mission

- ➔ **Launched on:** April 7, 2023
- ➔ **Launched by:** NASA
- ➔ **Launched from:** Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, USA
- ➔ **Launched using:** Falcon9 rocket of SpaceX

TEMPO

- ➔ It is an instrument developed by NASA that can track air pollution over North America from space.
- ➔ It will allow scientists to monitor air pollutants and their emission sources down to the neighbourhood level.

Functioning

- ➔ TEMPO is hosted on an Intelsat communications satellite in geostationary orbit.
- ➔ TEMPO spectroscopic measurements in the ultraviolet and visible range provide a tropospheric measurement suite that includes the key elements of tropospheric air pollution.

- ➔ It will be able to measure the spectra required to retrieve ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), formaldehyde (H₂CO), glyoxal (C₂H₂O₂), aerosols, cloud parameters, and UV-B radiation.

The Taifa 1 Mission

Recently Kenya launched its first earth observatory satellite using SpaceX rocket.

About Taifa 1 Satellite

- ➔ **Developed by:** Kenya Space Agency
- ➔ **Launched from:** Vandenberg Base in California, USA
- ➔ **Launched using:** Falcon 9 rocket of SpaceX
- ➔ **Launched on:** April 15th, 2023
- ➔ **Special:** first earth observatory satellite of Kenya

Key Points

- ➔ It is Kenya's first operational earth observation satellite.
- ➔ The satellite's main objective is to collect agricultural and environmental data, including floods, droughts, and wildfires, to help Kenya deal with disaster management and food insecurity.

Indian Space Policy, 2023

The Union Cabinet on **April 6, 2023** approved the Indian Space Policy, 2023 under which roles and responsibilities of organisations such as ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL) and private sector entities have been laid down.

- ➔ India's share in the global space economy (currently at less than 2%) will be increased to 10% in the future.
- ➔ **Private sector participation:** The policy seeks to institutionalize the private sector participation in the space sector, with ISRO focusing on research and development of advanced space technologies.
- ➔ **Private sector infrastructure:** The policy encourages the private sector to invest in creating new infrastructure for the sector.

Roles and responsibilities

- ➔ **ISRO:** It will focus on developing new technologies, new systems, and research and development. It will not do any operational and production work for the space sector.
- ➔ **PSU New Space India Limited (NSIL):** It will carry out strategic activities related to the space sector and will work in a demand-driven mode. It is the commercial arm of ISRO.

- ➔ **INSPACE (announced in 2020; formally inaugurated in 2022)** : It will be the interface between Indian Space Research Organisation and non-governmental entities.

3D-Printed Dhawan II Engine

- ➔ Private space vehicle company **Skyroot Aerospace** on **April 04, 2023** test-fired its **3D-printed Dhawan II engine** for a duration of 200 seconds.
- ➔ The engine was developed by the company for its heavier vehicle, **Vikram II**.
- ➔ The 'Dhawan-II endurance test was conducted at Solar Industries' propulsion test facility in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, using an indigenously constructed mobile cryogenic engine test pad.
- ➔ Earlier in November 2022, Skyroot launched **India's first privately developed rocket Vikram-S**.

Dhawan II

- ➔ The Dhawan cryogenic engine series of Skyroot is named in honour of Satish Dhawan.
- ➔ Dhawan II builds upon Skyroot's first privately developed **fully-cryogenic rocket engine - Dhawan-I**, which was successfully test fired in **2021**.
- ➔ It is completely indigenous and used a super-alloy for 3D printing the engine, which reduced the manufacturing time by 95%.
- ➔ It will use **Liquid Natural Gas (LNG)** and **Liquid Oxygen (LoX)** as propellants.

Reusable Launch Vehicle Mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on **April 2, 2023** successfully carried out the landing experiment of the **Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD)** programme at the Aeronautical Test Range in **Challakere, Chitradurga, Karnataka**.

- ➔ The space agency also said that in a first in the world, a winged body has been carried to an **altitude of 4.5 km by helicopter** and released for carrying an autonomous landing on a runway.

What is ISRO's RLV TD project?

- ➔ According to ISRO, the series of experiments with the winged RLV-TD are part of efforts at **"developing essential technologies for a fully reusable launch vehicle to enable low-cost access to space"**.
- ➔ In the future, this vehicle will be scaled up to become the first stage of India's reusable **two-stage-to-orbit (TSTO) launch vehicle**.

- ➔ The RLV-TD will be used to develop technologies like **hypersonic flight (HEX), autonomous landing (LEX), return flight experiment (REX)**, powered cruise flight, and **Scramjet Propulsion Experiment (SPEX)**.

LVM3 M3/ OneWeb India-2 Mission

- ➔ According to the ISRO, LVM3 M3/ OneWeb India-2 Mission was accomplished successfully on **March 26, 2023**.
- ➔ The vehicle took off with a **total payload of 5,805 kg from Sriharikota**.
- ➔ The vehicle performed a sophisticated manoeuvre to orient in orthogonal directions and injected the satellites into precise orbits with defined time-gaps to avoid collision of the satellites.
 - As per the contract signed between ISRO's commercial arm NSIL and OneWeb, a total of **72 satellites** are set to be launched in two phases.
 - The first phase, which included **36 satellites**, was successfully launched on **October 23, 2022**, in the LVM3-M2/OneWeb India-1 mission.

OneWeb Constellation

- ➔ OneWeb Constellation operates in a **LEO Polar Orbit**.
- ➔ Satellites are arranged in **12 rings (Orbital planes)** with **49 satellites in each plane**.
- ➔ The orbital planes are inclined to be near polar (**87.9 Deg.**)
- ➔ The orbital planes are **1200 km above the Earth**. Each satellite completes a full trip around the earth every 109 minutes.

ISRO launches SSLV D2

ISRO successfully launched the second developmental flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), SSLV-D2 on February 10, 2023.

- ➔ **Launched from:** launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- ➔ **Payload:** EOS-07, Janus-1 and AzaadiSAT-2

Key Objective of the launch

- ➔ Demonstration of designed Payload capability of SSLV in Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
- ➔ Injection of EOS-07 satellite and two passenger satellites Janus-1 & AzaadiSAT-2 into 450 km circular orbit.

About the payloads

- ➔ **ES-07**
 - ☉ It was developed by ISRO. It weighs 156 kg. It carries a spectrum monitoring payload and humidity sounder. It is an earth observation satellite.
- ➔ **Janus-1**
 - ☉ The satellite was developed by the USA. The weight of the satellite was 10.2 kg. It is a demonstration satellite developed by ANTARIS.

Norovirus

The Kerala Health Department on January 24, 2022 confirmed two cases of the norovirus in class 1 students in Ernakulam district.

About the Virus

- ➔ **Detected in India in:** Ernakulam district, Kerala
- ➔ **Detected on:** January 24, 2022
- ➔ **Type of:** Gastrointestinal infection
- ➔ **Also known as:** “winter vomiting disease”
- ➔ Norovirus is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea.
- ➔ Anyone can get infected and sick with norovirus from :
 - ☉ Having direct contact with an infected person
 - ☉ Consuming contaminated food or water
 - ☉ Touching contaminated surfaces and then putting your unwashed hands in your mouth

Note :

- ➔ The virus is capable of surviving low temperatures, and outbreaks tend to be more common during the winter and in colder countries — that is why it is sometimes referred to as “winter vomiting disease”.

BharOS Software

Recently an indigenous operating system ‘BharOS’ developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras was tested by Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Dharmendra Pradhan.

About the Operating System

- ➔ **Developed for:** Mobile operating system like Android or iOS
- ➔ **Funded by:** Science and Technology department of the Government of India.
- ➔ **Launched under :** NMICPS (National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems)

Features of the OS

- ➔ It is an **indigenous mobile operating system (OS)**, like Android or iOS. It is focused on **privacy and security**.

Indian Navy Launches INS Arnala

The Indian Navy has recently launched ‘Arnala’, the first of the eight indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC).

About INS Arnala

- ➔ **Launched on:** 20 December 2022
- ➔ **Launched by:** Indian Navy
- ➔ **Launched at:** Shipbuilding facility of L&T in Chennai’s Kattupalli
- ➔ **Type of:** ASW-SWC (anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft)
- ➔ **Build by:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)

Key points

- ➔ Arnala class of ships will **replace the Abhay class ASW Ships** of the Indian Navy and are designed to undertake **anti-submarine operations** in coastal waters and **Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)** including subsurface surveillance in littoral waters.
- ➔ The ship has been named Arnala to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to **the island of Arnala by the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.**

ISRO’s PSLV-C54 Launch

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully placed nine satellites, including an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-06) in multiple orbits with the help of the space agency’s **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54)** recently.

About PSLV-C54 Launch

- ➔ **Launched from:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh’s Sriharikota
- ➔ **Launched on:** 26th November 2022
- ➔ **Earth Observation Satellite EOS-06 (Primary Payload):** It is third generation satellite in the OceanSAT series, which provides continued services of **Oceansat-2** with enhanced payload capability.
- ➔ **Astrocast** is a 3U spacecraft with 4 nos. of Satellites from Spaceflight Inc, USA and is technology demonstrator satellite for the Internet of Things (IoT) as the payload.

Project Vaani

Google have launched a collaborative digital project with Indian institutions for mapping the language diversity of India.

About Project Vaani

- ➔ **Launched by:** The Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) and Google
- ➔ **Launched in:** December 2022
- ➔ **Type of:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool
- ➔ **Launched for:** Mapping the language diversity of India.

What it Vaani?

- ➔ It is supposed to be an AI-based language model that can understand diverse Indian languages and dialects.

Artemis-1

Artemis-1 is headed to the Moon on board 'Orion' are 3 dummies that mimic astronauts with the intention of carrying out tests ahead of future manned missions to the Moon and beyond.

- ➔ **Launch dated:** 16 November, 2022.
- ➔ **Launched by:** NASA
- ➔ **Launch Site :** Launch Pad 39B at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- ➔ **Rocket used:** Space-Launch System (SLS) rocket.
- ➔ **AIM of Artemis:** To carry Human into the space in future.
- ➔ **"Orion"** is a capsule where 3-dummies, placed and it act as mimic astronauts.
- ➔ Artemis-1 is carrying several payloads in the form of small satellites called "CubeSATS".

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022: "Click Chemistry"

- ➔ **Awarded on:** 5th October 2022
- ➔ **Awarded to:**
 - ⊖ Carolyn R. Bertozzi (Stanford University, CA, USA)
 - ⊖ Morten Meldal (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
 - ⊖ K. Barry Sharpless (Scripps Research, La Jolla, CA, USA) (two times Nobel Prize)
- ➔ **Awarded by:** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Sweden
- ➔ **Awarded for :** For the development of click chemistry and bio-orthogonal chemistry

What is Click Chemistry?

- ➔ Functional form of chemistry – click chemistry – in which molecular building blocks snap together quickly and efficiently

Nobel Prize in Medicine 2022 : Mapping Neanderthal genome

- ➔ **Awarded on:** 3rd October 2022
- ➔ **Awarded by:** The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Sweden
- ➔ **Awarded to:** Svante Pääbo, Sweden
- ➔ **Awarded for:** His discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution.

Key Highlights of Svante Paabo's Research

- ➔ Svante Pääbo accomplished sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans.

What is paleogenomics meaning?

- ➔ Paleogenomics is a New scientific discipline based on the revealing genetic differences that distinguish all living humans from extinct hominins.

- ➔ Pääbo first decided to **study mitochondrial DNA from Neanderthals.**
- ➔ Dr Pääbo's research has great significance in **understanding the origin of Homo sapiens.**

PARAM Ganga Super Computer

- ➔ National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed PARAM Ganga, a High-Performance Computational (HPC) facility at **IIT Roorkee.**

PARAM Ganga

- ➔ **Supercomputing capacity :** 1.67 Petaflops.
- ➔ **Designed and Commissioned by :** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- ➔ **Commission Under :** Under Phase-II of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)
- ➔ **Previous Supercomputer :** 'Param Pravega' (IISc Bengaluru)
- ➔ In February 2022, the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, has commissioned and installed Param Pravega (3.3 peta flops), which is claimed to be one of the most powerful supercomputers in the country.
- ➔ **PARAM Shivay** was the **first supercomputer** assembled indigenously, was installed in **IIT (BHU).**

Nobel Prize in Physics 2022

- ➔ **Awarded on:** 4th October 2022
- ➔ **Awarded by:** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Sweden
- ➔ **Awarded to:**
 - **Alain Aspect** (Université Paris—Saclay and École Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France)
 - **John F. Clauser** (J.F. Clauser & Assoc., Walnut Creek, CA, USA)
 - **Anton Zeilinger** (University of Vienna, Austria)
- ➔ **Awarded for:** Experiments with **entangled photons**, establishing the violation of **Bell inequalities** and pioneering quantum information science.

What is Quantum entanglement

- ➔ When two or more particles link up in a certain way, they share a common, unified quantum state.
- ➔ Quantum entanglement was **first elucidated by Erwin Schrödinger** in 1935, leading to his well-known **cat paradox**.

What is Bell Inequality?

- ➔ In the 1960s, **John Stewart Bell** developed the mathematical inequality - Bell Inequality which states that if there are hidden variables, the correlation between the results of a large number of measurements will never exceed a certain value.
- ➔ All theories with hidden variables show a correlation between the results that must be lower than, or at most equal to, a specific value. This is called Bell's inequality.

News in Short

❑ Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBCD)

- ➔ Recently, the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** introduced the **Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBCD)** at the **India Habitat Centre** in New Delhi.
- ➔ The **IWBCD** is spearheaded by **MeitY**, the controller of **Certifying Authority (CCA)** and **C-DAC Bangalore**.
- ➔ It is an **Open Challenge Competition** that seeks to inspire and empower technology enthusiasts, innovators, and developers from all corners of the country.
- ➔ It aims to create an **indigenous web browser** with its own trust store with an inbuilt CCA India root certificate, cutting edge functionalities.

❑ Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS)

- ➔ Recently, the **National Health Authority (NHA)** announces extension of its **Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS)** under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** till **31st December 2023**.
- ➔ The **DHIS** was launched with effect from **1st January, 2023** as part of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.

❑ 'Pibot,' the humanoid robot

- ➔ The **'Pibot'** humanoid robot is being created by a team of engineers and scientists at the **Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)** to operate aircraft without altering the cockpit.

- ➔ It is the world's first humanoid pilot.
- ➔ It can fly an aeroplane just like a human pilot by manipulating all the single controls in the cockpit, which is designed for humans.

❑ The Einstein cross

- ➔ The Einstein Cross, also known as **Q2237+0305**, is a unique **gravitational lensing** phenomenon observed in space, specifically involving a distant quasar.
- ➔ The Einstein Cross was discovered in 1985 by a team of astronomers led by **Dennis Walsh**.
- ➔ This remarkable event was first predicted by Albert Einstein in 1915 as a consequence of his theory of general relativity.

❑ Bharat Internet Utsav

- ➔ The Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has launched the **'Bharat Internet Utsav'** to celebrate the power of the Internet in July, 2023.
- ➔ It recognizes the internet as an essential tool for connectivity, knowledge-sharing and socio-economic development.

❑ Nagaland Officially declared as Lumpy Skin Disease Positive State

- ➔ Nagaland has been officially declared as a Lumpy Skin Disease Positive State. The declaration is made following the detection of the Lumpy Skin Disease in four districts of the State.

Lump Skin Diseases (LSD)

- ➔ The disease is caused by the caused by the capripox virus, also known as the "neethling" virus, and has severe economic consequences, including increased

mortality, reduced productivity, higher control costs, business loss and decreased market value, which ultimately affects food security.

❑ NASA to launch OTT platform 'NASA Plus'

- ➔ **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** is redesigning its webpages, launching its first on-demand streaming service, and updating its NASA app. It recently launched the beta version of its flagship and other websites.
- ➔ NASA Plus is NASA's own live streaming service which will provide an array of space-related content to the public. It will live-stream all NASA missions in future.

❑ PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2

- ➔ ISRO's PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 mission was successfully launched recently.

About the Mission

- ➔ **Launched by:** The Indian Space Research Organisation
- ➔ **Launched on:** April 22, 2023
- ➔ **Launched from:** Sriharikota (SDSC-SHAR)
- ➔ **Payload:** TeLEOS-2 (primary satellite), Lumelite-4 and POEM-2
- ➔ **Special:** Dedicated commercial mission through NSIL

Other Key Points

- ➔ It is 57th flight of the PSLV mission.
- ➔ It is dedicated commercial mission of ISRO under the aegis of NSIL.
- ➔ It is also the first mission to use the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM).

❑ Zero Shadow Day

- ➔ On April 25, 2023 Indian city of Bengaluru (130 north Latitude) experienced a astrophysical phenomena called Zero Shadow Day at 12:17 pm.
- ➔ Zero Shadow Day is a unique astronomical phenomenon that occurs when the sun is directly overhead. It is the day when the shadow of vertical objects disappears.
- ➔ For every point on Earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, there are two Zero Shadow Days a year.
- ➔ The Zero Shadow Day is restricted to locations between the tropics only.

❑ National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)

- ➔ The Central Government in April, 2023 launched the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies.

- ➔ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India jointly launched '**National Action Plan For Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) from India by 2030**'.

❑ 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030

- ➔ With an aim to make India a global hub for building green ships, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) on **March 22, 2023** launch '**Green Tug Transition Programme' (GTTP)**.
- ➔ **National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS)** acting as the Nodal entity for the industry, the plan is afoot to make India as the '**Global hub for building Green Ships' by 2030**.

❑ Bharat 6G project

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **March 22, 2023** unveiled India's 6G mission.
- ➔ The mission visualises a focused initiative for the next-generation tech in India, and the official 6G testbed project to allow research on new network technologies.
- ➔ India's 6G project will be implemented in two phases—
 - The first one from **2023 to 2025** and
 - The second one from **2025 to 2030**.

❑ Crew-6 Mission

- ➔ NASA along with private space company Space-X has successfully sent its Crew-6 mission to International Space Station(ISS) aboard the Space-x spacecraft Endeavour.
- ➔ **Launched on:** March 2, 2023
- ➔ **Launched from:** NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida
- ➔ Conducting new scientific research, Crew-6 will help prepare for human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit and benefit life on Earth.

❑ Phage Therapy

- ➔ Recently, the **6th World Congress on Targeting Phage Therapy 2023** was successfully held on **June 1-2, 2023 in Paris, France**.
- ➔ Phage therapy is a treatment for people suffering from chronic or antibiotic-resistant infections.
- ➔ **Phages, formally known as bacteriophages**, are viruses that solely kill and selectively target bacteria.

❑ Global Vaccine Research Collaboration

- ➔ In June 2023, **Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare Dr.**

Mansukh Mandaviya addresses Global Vaccine Research Collaborative Discussion on Vaccine Research and Development, a G20 co-branded event.

- ➔ This co-branded event under India's G20 presidency organized by Department of Pharmaceuticals Government of India. On the sidelines of the **3rd G20 Health Group meeting in Hyderabad**.

❑ Human Organs and tissue Transport through Metro Rail Services

- ➔ Government of India allows metro to transport organs for transplants. The Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs notified a change to the ticket rules for metro systems in the country.
- ➔ The **Metro Railways (Carriage and Ticket) Amendment Rules, 2023** notified on 29 May 2023.

❑ Pet Coke as Raw Material for Li-ion Battery

- ➔ The government 'on June 2, 2023' permitted the import of 'Pet coke' for making 'graphite anode' material for 'Lithium-ion Batteries' as feedstock and not for any other purpose. Import of Needle Pet Coke for 'Fuel purpose' is completely banned. Lithium ion Batteries are used in electric vehicles.

❑ Alligator gar fish found in Dal lake raises concerns

- ➔ Native to North America, the alligator gar is considered an alien fish species in India as it occurs here outside of its native habitat.
- ➔ Recently, the first documented presence of alligator gar in **Jammu and Kashmir** in May, 2023 is a cause for concern.

❑ ICAR develops wheat that can beat the heat

- ➔ In a major development towards climate smart farming in India, **Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)** has announced the development of a new wheat variety, amenable to early sowing and escaping the impact of temperature spikes in March. This new variety is named **HD-3385**.

❑ iNCOVACC gets Approved by DCGI

- ➔ **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has approved **World's first Intranasal vaccine iNCOVACC** for SARS-CoV-2. It is developed by Hyderabad based **Bharat Biotech**.
- ➔ **Funded by:** Partially by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India
- ➔ It is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilized **SARS-CoV-2 spike protein**.

❑ First commercial launch for LMV-3

- ➔ On **23rd October 2022** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its heaviest rocket Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3). It successfully orbited 36 satellites of U.K.-based **OneWeb**.
- ➔ It was first such mission of NSIL and LVM3.
- ➔ This was till date heaviest payload mass of 5,796 kg. of LVM3.

About LMV3

- ➔ It is designed for launching 4,000-kilogram class of satellites into GTO (Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit) and 8,000 kgs of payloads into LEO.
- ➔ It is a three-stage launch vehicle.

❑ Kuafu-1: China's first space-based solar telescope

- ➔ China recently (on October 09, 2022) launched its first space-based solar telescope, the **Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S)** — nicknamed **Kuafu-1**, after a giant in Chinese mythology who chased the sun (using Long March 2D rocket).

Aditya-L1

- ➔ Aditya-L1 is the proposed first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the first Lagrange point, L1, of the Sun-Earth system.

❑ Optimus – Tesla's humanoid robot

- ➔ On **30th September 2022** Tesla CEO **Elon Musk** has revealed his **much-touted humanoid robot** 'Optimus'. It is a prototype of the robot which was launched on the Tesla's "AI Day" event.
- ➔ A humanoid robot is a robot resembling the human body in shape.

❑ ISRO's SSLV-D1EOS-02 Mission

- ➔ ISRO's maiden Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) (launched on August 07, 2022), carrying Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-02) and a student-made satellite- **AzaadiSAT**, lifted off from the **Sriharikota** spaceport.
- ➔ ISRO developed a **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)** to cater the launch of up to 500 kg satellites into Low Earth Orbits on 'launch-on-demand' basis.

❑ India gets world's first liquid-mirror telescope

- ➔ Recently, India's first **liquid-mirror telescope** became operational. With this India became the first country to have such telescope.

➔ **The International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT)** has been set up at the **Devasthal Observatory campus** owned by **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**, Nainital in Uttarakhand.

❑ First indigenous vaccine for cervical cancer

- ➔ **Approved on :** 12 July 2022,
- ➔ **Approved by :** The Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI)
- ➔ **Prepared by :** Serum Institute of India
- ➔ **Name of vaccine :** CERVAVAC
- ➔ **Specialty :** India's first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer.
- ➔ Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina.

❑ Right to Health in Rajasthan

- ➔ The **Right to Health Bill**, passed in the State Assembly of Rajasthan **on March 21, 2023** gives every resident of Rajasthan **the right to emergency treatment care without pre-payment** of requisite fee or charges to any health institution.

❑ IAF develops 'Vayulink' platform

- ➔ Recently, in February, 2023, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has come out with a new data link communication system called 'Vayulink.'

What will Vayulink do?

- ➔ It will provide communication link for IAF that would aid pilots in dealing with bad weather.

❑ Indian Biological Data Center (IBDC)

- ➔ Department of Biotechnology Government of India, recently (on 10 November, 2022) dedicated Indian Biological Data Center (IBDC) to the nation. It is India's first national repository for life science data.

❑ HAKUTO-R Moon Mission: Japan

- ➔ A Japanese space startup Space Inc. launched a spacecraft to the moon on **December 11, 2022**. This is the first for any nation and for a private company.
- ➔ The national space agencies of the **United States, Russia** and **China** have achieved soft landings on Earth's nearest neighbour in the past half century but no companies have.
- ➔ Space Inc's HAKUTO-R mission 1 took off from **Cape Canaveral, Florida**, on **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket.

❑ Vikram-S Launched by ISRO

- ➔ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched **India's first privately built rocket** Vikram-S (VKS), Skyroot launched its maiden rocket under the launch mission, **'PRARAMBH'**.
- ➔ **Launched on:** 18th November, 2022
- ➔ **Launched from:** Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh
- ➔ **Developed by:** Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited

❑ Mpox

- ➔ On November 27, 2022, World Health Organization (WHO); in the wake of reports of racist and stigmatizing language surrounding the name of the disease; announced to rename Monkeypox as mpox.

❑ INS VIKRANT

- ➔ India's newest and most powerful ship, the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant was commissioned in **September, 2022**, by **PM Narendra Modi**.
- ➔ Vikrant is the **largest warship** to have ever been built in India, and the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy.

❑ India's First Observatory to Monitor Space Activity

- ➔ India's first commercial **Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Observatory** will be set up in the **Garhwal region of Uttarakhand**.

❑ First cloned wild Arctic wolf 'Maya'

- ➔ A wild arctic wolf 'Maya' was successfully cloned by a China-based gene firm, Sinogene Biotechnology.

❑ NASA's DART spacecraft hits target asteroid

- ➔ After 10 months flying in space, NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) – the world's first planetary defense technology demonstration – successfully impacted its asteroid target on September 26, 2022.

❑ India's first 'Flow Chemistry Technology Hub'

- ➔ India's first flow chemistry technology hub was **launched in Telangana (Hyderabad)** on 4th May, 2022.

❑ Asia's Largest Bio-CNG plant

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 19, 2022 inaugurated Asia's largest bio-CNG plant in **Indore district of Madhya Pradesh**.

Environmental Affairs

Overview on the Events of Environmental Importance in the Country and Abroad and the Activities of Various Organizations Related to Global Environment



Urban River Management Plans URMPS

The 50th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was held, where **Seven projects** worth around Rs. 692 crore were approved.

- ➔ Meeting Held on – 1 August, 2023
- ➔ Meeting Chaired by- DG, NMCG, Shri G. Asok Kumar

Key Highlights

- ➔ Out of the seven projects, four pertain to sewage management in **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**.
- ➔ These include creation of a 100 Million Litres per Day (MLD) STP in **Lucknow** along with Interception and Diversion (I&D) works under Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).
- ➔ Another project for I&D of balance discharge of **Dariyabad Pipalghat and Dariyabad Kakahraghat drains and construction of a 50 MLD STP in Prayagraj** was approved.
- ➔ Two STPs (5 and 7 MLDs) at an estimated cost of Rs. 74.64 crore for tapping of **Pipra ghat drain and Chhatiya ghat drain** respectively along with I&D works was also approved in the 50th EC meeting for **Raxaul town in Bihar**.
- ➔ This project will abate pollution in **Sirsiya River** that originates in **Nepal** and enters **Bihar** at **Raxaul** in **East Champaran** district.

Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve (DKTR)

The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change has accorded the final approval to **Rajasthan's fifth Tiger Reserve in Dholpur-Karauli**.

Key Points

- ➔ It is the **country's 54th** tiger reserve.
- ➔ It is located in the **Dholpur and Karauli** district of **Rajasthan**.

- ➔ The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change also gave in-principle approval to declare **Kumbhalgarh** as a tiger reserve in **Rajasthan**.
- ➔ The protected natural tiger corridor will increase from **Ramgarh Vishdhari- RTR-Dholpur** to **Mukundra** – the stretch would be around **4,000sq km**.
- ➔ The number of tigers in **Rajasthan** has increased from **32 in 2006** to **88 in 2022**.

Other Four Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan

- ➔ The other four tiger reserves in Rajasthan are –
 - ⊖ **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve** in **Sawai Madhopur**.
 - ⊖ **Sariska Tiger Reserve** in **Alwar**.
 - ⊖ **Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve** in **Kota**.
 - ⊖ **Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve** in **Bundi**, which was added in **May 2022**.

All India Tiger Estimation- 2022 Report

On the occasion of the **Global Tiger Day** celebrated at the **Corbett Tiger Reserve** on **July 29, 2023**, a detailed report was released by Union MoS **Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey**.

Key Point

- ➔ **States with highest tiger population:** The largest tiger population of **785** is in **Madhya Pradesh**, followed by **Karnataka (563) & Uttarakhand (560)**, and **Maharashtra (444)**.
- ➔ **Reserves with highest tiger population:** The tiger abundance within the Tiger Reserve is highest in **Corbett (260)**, followed by **Bandipur (150)**, **Nagarhole (141)**, **Bandhavgarh (135)**, **Dudhwa (135)**, **Mudumalai(114)**, **Kanha (105)**, **Kaziranga (104)**, **Sundarbans (100)**, **Tadoba (97)**, **Sathyamangalam (85)**, and **Pench-MP (77)**.
 - ⊖ **Reserves with no tigers:** **Dampa (Mizoram)**, **Kamlang (Arunachal Pradesh)**, **Kawal (Telangana)**, **Satkosia (Odisha)**, **Sahyadri (Maharashtra)**.

Current Status

- ➔ On April 9, 2022, during the celebration of 50 years of the Project Tiger at Mysuru, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi declared the **minimum tiger population of 3167**, which is the population estimate from the camera-trapped area.

14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI-8) Meeting

Recently India hosted the 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI8) was inaugurated at Goa.

Key Points

- ➔ **Meeting Held at** – Goa India, between 19th to 22nd of July, 2023.
- ➔ **Meeting Hosted by** -The Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- ➔ **Theme**- Advancing Clean Energy Together.
- ➔ **Aim**- To Bring Together the Global Clean Energy Community.

About Mission Innovation

- ➔ Mission Innovation (MI) is a **global initiative of 23 Countries and the European Commission** (on behalf of the European Union) to accelerate Clean Energy revolution and progress towards the Paris Agreement goals and pathways to net zero.
- ➔ The **first phase of Mission Innovation (MI) (2015-2020)** was announced at COP21 on November 30, 2015.
- ➔ The **second phase of Mission Innovation (MI2.0)** was launched on June 2, 2021.

Green Credit Programme

Recently, Government of India has notified the draft 'Green Credit Programme (GCP)' implementation rules for 2023.

Key Points

- ➔ **Notification issued on** -June 26, 2023
- ➔ **Notification issued by**- Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- ➔ **Aim**- To provide **Green Credits** for specified activity that are delivering a positive impact on the environment.

Key Highlights

About Green Credit Programme:

- ➔ This proposed national level programme, Green credit programme has been established in order to

leverage a competitive market-based approach for Green credits and encourage varied stakeholders to take voluntary beneficial environmental actions that might be related to creating or acquiring Green credits.

- ➔ The Green Credit Programme (GCP) launched, was announced under **Mission LiFE**.

International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023)

Recently 3-Day International Conference on Green Hydrogen has concluded in New Delhi.

Key Points :

- ➔ **Conference held at** – Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (5th – 7th July, 2023)
- ➔ **The conference is being organized by**- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ➔ **The conference inaugurated by**- Union Minister for **Power and New and Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh**.
- ➔ **Aim**- To explore how to establish a **Green Hydrogen ecosystem** and foster a systemic approach for meeting the global goals for **decarbonization through Green Hydrogen**.
- ➔ The conference will provide domestic and international participants from the industry and research communities an opportunity to dive deep into these national and global priorities, in line with the objectives embedded in India's **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, a Mission launched by the Government of India to help achieve India's target of Net Zero by the year 2070.

Cyclone Biparjoy

Recently, after churning across the Arabian Sea for more than ten days, Cyclone Biparjoy has made landfall close to Jakhau Port in Gujarat's Kutch area, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in June, 2023.

About Biparjoy : A tropical cyclone

- ➔ **Region** : Arabian Sea
- ➔ **Saffir-Simpson scale** : Category 3- Equivalent tropical cyclone
- ➔ **Affected regions**: India and Pakistan
- ➔ **Name**: Suggested by **Bangladesh** means '**disaster**' or '**calamity**' in Bengali.

- ➔ **Developed into a cyclonic storm** : On June 6 and made its landfall on June 15, 2023.
- ➔ According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Cyclone Biparjoy was the longest-lasting cyclonic storm to affect the northern Indian Ocean since 1977.
- ➔ A cyclone is a large-scale system of air that rotates around the centre of a low-pressure area.
- ➔ As per **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, a cyclone is characterised by inward spiraling winds that rotate **anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere** and **clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere**.

Naming of Cyclones:

- ➔ **WMO (World Meteorological Organization)** divided the world Oceans into Basins and assigned the responsibility of naming the Cyclones to the respective regional bodies.
- ➔ IMD is one of the six RSMCs to provide tropical cyclone and storm surge advisories to 13 member countries under WMO/ESCAP Panel including **Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen**.

Recent Cyclones in Indian Ocean
Mocha : May 11-14, 2023 ➔ Region : Bay of Bengal ➔ Affected regions : The cyclone did not make direct landfall in India. Instead, the first landfall occurred near Sittwe in Myanmar
Cyclone Mandous : December 14, 2022 ➔ Region : Bay of Bengal ➔ Affected regions : Cyclone Mandous hit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and coast of Chennai.
Sitrang : October 23-24, 2022 ➔ Region : Bay of Bengal ➔ Affected regions : Bangladesh, India (states of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya)
Asani : May 7-11, 2022 ➔ Region : Bay of Bengal ➔ Affected regions : India (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha, Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

Energy Transition Index-2023

Recently, the World Economic Forum positioned India at **67th place among 120 countries** in the 'Energy Transition Index' (ETI).

About Energy Transition Index

- ➔ **Released by** : The World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with Accenture
- ➔ **The report titled** : 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023'
- ➔ **Month & Year** : June, 2023
- ➔ **Objective** : Through this effort, the WEF encourages the sharing of best practices and the use of its platform for effective public-private collaboration to facilitate the energy transition process around the world.

Top Position	Bottom Position
1. Sweden	120. Yemen, Rep.
2. Denmark	119. Congo, Dem. Rep.
3. Norway	118. Tanzania
➔ India's Position : 67 th	

ETI in India's Perspective

- ➔ The index states that India is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across all dimensions.
- ➔ In addition to India, Singapore is the only other significant economy addressing justice, sustainability, and energy security in a balanced manner, according to the WEF.
- ➔ In 2021, India was at the **87th position** among 115 countries.

➔ In (COP26) to the UNFCCC held in Glasgow , United Kingdom, India presented the following five nectar elements (Panchamrit) of India's climate action : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reach 500GW Non-fossil energy capacity by 2030. 2. 50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030. 3. Reduction of total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030. 4. Reduction of the carbon intensity of the economy by 45 per cent by 2030, over 2005 levels. 5. Achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2070.

World Environment Day (WED)

Recently, 50th Anniversary of the World Environment Day (WED) was celebrated on 5th June.

Key Highlights

- ➔ **Titled as** - "Solutions to Plastic Pollution"
- ➔ **Hosted by** - Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) in partnership with the Netherlands.

- ➔ **Celebrated on** - June 5, 2023
- ➔ **Purpose of World Environment Day celebration**- The purpose of celebrating this day is to raise awareness among people to protect the environment.

Historical Background

- ➔ World Environment Day is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world.
- ➔ First Environmental Summit, held in **1972** and the UN General Assembly designated 5 June as World Environment Day, marking the first day of the **Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment**. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the **creation of UNEP**.
- ➔ World Environment Day was celebrated for the first time with the slogan **“Only One Earth.”** in **1973** and after that every year World Environment Day is celebrated on 5th June .

Initiatives taken at India level

- ➔ On this occasion, **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** has launched **Amrit Dharohar** and **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Income (MISHTI)** Initiatives.

Sagar Samridhhi

Recently in June, 2023, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched ‘SAGAR SAMRIDDHI’ - the online dredging monitoring system - in order to accelerate ‘Waste to Wealth’ initiative of the Ministry .

- ➔ **System Developed by** - National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) the technological arm of MoPSW
- ➔ **Aim** - To accelerate the ‘Waste to Wealth’ initiative of the Government.

About Sagar Samridhhi

- ➔ The new technology brings in marked improvement against the old system of **Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM)** system.
- ➔ The system will **bring in synergy among multiple input reports** like daily dredging report, the pre and post dredging survey data before processing and producing real time dredging report.

Hunger Hotspot Report: WFP

This report was launched by ‘**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**’ and ‘World Food Programme’ (WFP), to mark early warning on acute food insecurity, certain upon 18 **Hunger Hotspots** spread across 22 countries globally.

Key highlights of the Report :

- ➔ Countries at **Highest Concern Levels** :
 - ⊖ **Afghanistan**, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.
- ➔ Hotspots with **very High concern** :
 - ⊖ **Pakistan**, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Syrian Arab Republic.
- ➔ Hunger **hotspot countries added** are :
 - ⊖ Lebanon, El Salvador and Nicaragua.
- ➔ **New Emerging conflicts, Climate extremes, Economic shocks**, explosive ordnances and siege tactics in several hunger hotspots are pushing more and more population into disastrous level of acute food insecurity.
- ➔ The FAO and the WFP estimate that they will require \$5.5 billion to avert famine and hunger in these hotspots until November 2023.

The Indian Scenario:

- ➔ In Global Hunger Index 2022, India ranking is 107 (Out of 121 Countries).
 - ➔ Level of Under nutrition and hunger in India is at ‘serious’ levels.
 - ➔ With 19.3. %, India has highest rate of child wasting.
 - ➔ About 16.3% of Indians are undernourished, and about one in three children is stunted.

76th World Health Assembly

The **76th World Health Assembly (WHA)** was held in **Geneva Switzerland** on **21-30 May, 2023**. The Theme was **“WHO at 75 : Saving lives, Driving health for all.”**

- ➔ The World Health Organization (WHO) has released report titled **“Health for all; Transforming economics to driver what matters.”**

About Health Assembly

- ➔ The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO.
 - ⊖ It is **held annually in Geneva, Switzerland**.
 - ⊖ Appointment of the Director-General of WHO

India at World Health Assembly

- ➔ The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 76th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- ➔ He Highlighted the gaps in the global health architecture which were exposed during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- ➔ He touched upon the theme of **G20-“One Earth One family, One future”**.

India to Join International Climate Action in Civil Aviation

Starting from 2027, India will join the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA)** and the **Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG)** in the aviation sector.

- ➔ **Announced by:** Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), GoI
- ➔ **Announced in:** April 2023
- ➔ The ICAO has been **tasked to reduce carbon emissions from international civil aviation** as one of its focus areas.
- ➔ The ICAO has clubbed them under CORSA and LTAG.

CORSA

- ➔ CORSA is a global scheme by ICAO to address CO₂ emissions from international aviation.
- ➔ It aims to stabilize net CO₂ emissions at 2020 levels through measures like carbon offsetting and sustainable aviation fuel.

LTAG

- ➔ LTAG aims for net-zero carbon emissions in international aviation by 2050, considering each state's circumstances and capabilities.
- ➔ It was adopted in 41st ICAO Assembly .

India's participation in the program

- ➔ India will be joining only in 2027 so as to give its airlines ample time to become financially sustainable and not feel any pressure due to CORSA.

Petersberg Climate Dialogue

The Petersberg Climate Dialogue (PCD) is an annual high-level international forum held prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP). The latest PCD occurred on **May 2-3, 2023**.

- ➔ Ministers from 40 countries attended the conference to discuss the way forward towards COP28.

Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023

- ➔ **Held at :** Berlin, German
- ➔ **Held on:** May 2-3, 2023
- ➔ **Organised by:** Germany and the United Arab Emirates (chair of COP 28)
- ➔ **First organized in:** 2010
- ➔ **Special:** Annual convention held prior to UN COP

Background

- ➔ The Petersberg Climate Dialogue is an annual high-level political and international forum.
- ➔ It was initiated in 2010 by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

- ➔ The forum aims to prepare for successful negotiations at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP).

River-Cities Alliance Global Seminar

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) organized the **'River-Cities Alliance (RCA) Global Seminar: Partnership for Building International River-Sensitive Cities'**.

River-Cities Alliance Global Seminar

- ➔ **Organised on:** May 4, 2023
- ➔ **Organised at:** New Delhi
- ➔ **Organised by:** NMCG with NIUA

Objective

- ➔ The RCA Global Seminar served as a forum for member city officials and international stakeholders to exchange ideas and knowledge on effective strategies for urban river management.
- ➔ Previously, a meeting of **RCA - DHARA 2023 (Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers)** was held in February 2023, featuring sessions on International best practices and examples for urban River Management.

River City Alliance

- ➔ The River Cities Alliance (RCA) is a collaboration between the **Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation** and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- ➔ Started with 30 member cities in November 2021, the RCA has expanded to include 109 river cities in India and one international member city from Denmark.

Tiger Census, 2022

Recently, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the program **'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger'** at Mysuru University in Mysuru, Karnataka.

- ➔ The Prime Minister also launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA). He released the summary report of All India Tiger Estimation (5th cycle).

About Tiger Census 2022

- ➔ **Released on-** April 9, 2023
- ➔ **Released by-** Wildlife Institution of India
- ➔ **Project Tiger started in-** 1973
- ➔ **Completion of 50 years of Project Tiger in -** 2023

Key Highlights

- ➔ Since Project Tiger inception, the project has expanded from nine tiger reserves covering 18,278 km² to 53 reserves covering 75,796 km², which account for 2.3% of India's land area.
- ➔ The fifth cycle of All India Tiger Estimation (2022) covered forested habitats in 20 states of India.
- ➔ As per 5th cycle of India's Tiger Census, tiger numbers have increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,167 in 2022.
- ➔ The animal's population in the country has increased by 200 or 6.7 per cent in the past four years.

About International Big Cat Alliance

- ➔ **Launched by-** The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma harbouring our planet on April 9, 2023.
- ➔ The alliance aims to reach out to 97 range countries covering the natural habitats of Tiger, Lion, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.

India's First Water Bodies Census

On April 25, 2023, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has released the report of India's first water bodies census, a comprehensive data base of ponds, tanks, lakes, and reservoirs in the country.

Rank	Ponds	Tanks	Lakes	Reservoirs	Water Conservation Scheme/Check Dams
1	West Bengal	Andhra Pradesh	Tamil Nadu	West Bengal	Maharashtra
2	Uttar Pradesh	Odisha	Bihar	Jharkhand	Andhra Pradesh
3	Assam	Himachal Pradesh	Karnataka	Bihar	Gujarat
4	Odisha	Tamil Nadu	West Bengal	Odisha	Telangana
5	Jharkhand	Gujarat	Odisha	Andhra Pradesh	Jharkhand

State of the Global Climate Report, 2022

Recently on April 21, 2023, World Meteorological Organization has released the 'State of the Global Climate Report 2022'.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15 [1.02–1.28] °C above the 1850–1900 average.
- ➔ The years 2015 to 2022 were the eight warmest in the 173-year instrumental record.
- ➔ The year 2022 was the fifth or sixth warmest year on record, despite ongoing La Niña conditions.

The census was conducted in 2018-19, and enumerated more than 2.4 million water bodies across all states and Union Territories.

About India's first water bodies census

- ➔ **Released on :** April 25, 2023
- ➔ **Released by :** Ministry of Jal Shakti

Key Highlights

- ➔ 24,24,540 water bodies have been enumerated in the country, out of which 97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9% (69,485) are in urban areas.
- ➔ 59.5% (14,42,993) of water bodies are ponds, followed by tanks (15.7%, i.e 3,81,805), reservoirs (12.1%, i.e 2,92,280), Water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams (9.3%, i.e 2,26,217), lakes (0.9%, i.e 22,361) and others (2.5%, i.e 58,884).
- ➔ **West Bengal** has highest number of ponds & reservoirs, whereas **Andhra Pradesh** has highest number of tanks, **Tamil Nadu** has highest number of lakes and **Maharashtra** is the leading state for water conservation scheme.
- ➔ Top Five states in number of water bodies are as follows—

State	Percent
1. West Bengal	30.8% (7,47,480)
2. Uttar Pradesh	10.1% (2,45,087)
3. Andhra Pradesh	7.9% (1,90,777)
4. Odisha	7.5% (1,81,837)
5. Assam	7.1% (1,72,492)

- ➔ The year 2022 marked the third consecutive year of La Niña conditions, a duration which has only occurred three times in the past 50 years.
- ➔ Around 90% of the energy trapped in the climate system by greenhouse gases goes into the ocean.
- ➔ Despite continuing La Niña conditions, 58% of the ocean surface experienced at least one marine heatwave during 2022.
- ➔ The rate of global mean sea level rise has doubled between the first decade of the satellite record (1993–2002, 2.27 mm per year) and the last (2013–2022, 4.62 mm per year).

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

The Oscar for Best Documentary Short film was announced for 'The Elephant Whisperers' which revolves around a family who adopts two orphan baby elephants in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and rears them.

- ➔ **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)** is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.
- ➔ It is at the tri-junction of **Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.**
- ➔ The Tiger Reserve comprises of the wildlife sanctuary and the national park of the same name.
- ➔ It forms a part of the **Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.**
- ➔ It has a common boundary with **Wyanad Wildlife Sanctuary** (Kerala) on the West, **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** (Karnataka) on the North.
- ➔ The **Moyar River** flows downstream into the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and is the natural line of division between **Mudumalai and Bandipur Sanctuary.**

5th World Air Quality Report 2022

- ➔ **India stands at 8th** as per World Air Quality Report 2022, Ranking lower than Last Year's (2021) 5th place.
- ➔ **The report released** - By IQ Air.
- ➔ **The report released on** - 15th March, 2023

Key findings

- ➔ For 2022, the country has witnessed a little drop in the ranking as 2022 data goes down to 8th with the PM2.5 level.
 - ⊖ **Delhi ranked 4th** out of 50 of the world's most polluted cities in terms of PM2.5 with levels 92.6 µg/m³ in 2022, a little below the average of 96.4 µg/m³ in 2021.
 - ⊖ The WHO guideline for annual PM2.5 levels is 5 µg/m³.
- ➔ **Lahore was the most polluted city** in the world, followed by Hotan in China, and **Bhiwadi in Rajasthan.**
- ➔ New Delhi is the second most polluted capital city in the world, with N'Djamena in Chad topping the list.
- ➔ Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh are the 5 most polluted countries in 2022.

Revival of Adi Ganga River

Recently, plans to **revive Adi Ganga (the original channel of River Ganga passing through the city of Kolkata)** have been announced.

- ➔ **The National Mission for Clean Ganga has allocated around Rs 650 crore** to revive the

ancient river and it has been included in a **multi-country South Asian River project on combating pollution.**

About the River: Adi Ganga

- ➔ **Adi Ganga** (also known as the **Gobindapur Creek and Tolly's Canal**), is a stream that was part of the Hooghly River in the Kolkata area of India.
 - ⊖ Source of the river- **Sundarbans**
 - ⊖ Around **1750**, a canal was dug to connect the main course of the river. The lower part of **River Saraswati** adjacent to the resultant **Hooghly became the main river stretch**
 - ⊖ **Adi Ganga** turned into a secondary tributary.

About NMCG

- ➔ The National Mission for Clean Ganga is implementing arm of Namami Gange program.
 - ➔ This mission was established on 12th August 2011 under the **Societies Registration Act,1860** as a registered society.
- ➔ **Namami Gange Programme:** It is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a '**Flagship Programme**' by the Union Government in **June 2014** to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes)

Recently, the **Union Budget for 2023-24** announced an initiative for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on saltpan lands, under MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes).

About MISHTI Scheme:

- ➔ MISHTI will be implemented through convergence between the **MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme)**, **CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) Fund**, and other sources.

Mangroves in India

- ➔ The '**State of World Mangroves 2022**' report by the Global Mangrove Alliance puts the total mangrove cover of the world at 1,47,000 sq km (14.7 million hectares).
- ➔ India has about 4,992 sq km (0.15% of the country's total geo-graphical area) of mangroves, according to the **Indian State of Forest Report (IFSR) 2021.**

- ➔ Mangroves in India are distributed across nine States and three Union Territories with West Bengal having the highest mangrove cover of **2,112 sq km**.
- ➔ The **IFSR report** also points out that there has been an increase in the mangrove cover from 4,046 sq km in 1987 to 4,992 sq km in 2021.

‘Gross Domestic Climate Risk’ Report

According to ‘Gross Domestic Climate Risk’ report ‘Majority of the Indian states are at a great risk of damage to the built environment due to climate change hazards, according to a new report ‘Gross Domestic Climate Risk’.

About the Report

- ➔ The report was published by **Australia-based Cross Dependency Initiative or XDI**.
- ➔ **Most vulnerable countries:** China has the highest number of provinces in the top 50 most climate risk-prone territories of the world, followed by the United States.
 - ⊖ Together, China, India and the US make up over half the states and provinces in the top 100.

India’s Climate Risk Profile for 2050

- ➔ The 14 Indian states in the top 100 in the world for damage risk all share flooding as their main hazard – **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**.
 - ⊖ **Bihar** is set to be the most climate-vulnerable region in India by 2050 with a **global rank of 22nd**, according to the report.
 - ⊖ It is followed by **Uttar Pradesh and Assam** with **25th and 28th ranks respectively**.

Lithium inferred resources in Jammu & Kashmir

Geological Survey of India (GSI) has for the first time established Lithium inferred resources of about 6 million tonnes in the Salal-Haimana area of the **Reasi District of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**.

- ➔ 51 Mineral Blocks including Lithium and Gold were handed over to State Governments.
- ➔ The Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India has discovered 1600kg Lithium in Mandla district of Karnataka.
- ➔ Lithium reserves in large quantity has been found for the first time in the country in Jammu and Kashmir.

About Lithium

- ➔ Lithium (Li), sometimes also referred as **‘White gold’** due to its high demand for rechargeable batteries, is a soft and silvery-white metal.

Major Global Lithium Reserves:

- ➔ **Bolivia > Argentina > Chile > Australia & China** are top countries with Li reserves.

Lithium Triangle

- ➔ The Lithium Triangle is a region of the Andes rich in lithium reserves around the borders of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.
- ➔ The lithium in the triangle is concentrated in various salt pans that exist along the Atacama Desert and neighbouring arid areas.
- ➔ The area is thought to hold around **54% of the world’s lithium reserves**.

Aravalli Green Wall Project

- ➔ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change inaugurated the Aravalli Green Wall Project at a function organised to celebrate **International day of Forests at Tikli village, Haryana on March 25, 2023**.
- ➔ On the same occasion, the minister also unveiled the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions.

Aravali Green Wall Project

- ➔ It is an ambitious plan to create a **1,400km long and 5km wide green belt buffer** around the Aravali Mountain range covering states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi.
- ➔ In the initial phase, 75 water bodies will be rejuvenated, starting with five waterbodies each in every district of Aravalli landscape.
- ➔ These water bodies will cover degraded land in Gurgaun, Faridabad, Bhiwani, Mahendergarh and in Rewari districts of Haryana.
- ➔ The plan is inspired by Africa’s ‘Great Green Wall’ project, running from Senegal (West) to Djibouti (East), which came into effect in 2007.

International Year of Millets - 2023

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets – 2023 at its headquartered in Rome, Italy in December 2022.

- ➔ India’s proposal was approved by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2018.
- ➔ The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets at its 75th Session in March, 2021.

Global Distribution

- ➔ India (36%), Niger (11%) and China (9%) are largest producers of millets in World.

Distribution in India

Rajasthan	36%
Uttar Pradesh	12%
Karnataka	11%
Gujarat	9%

COP-15

Recently, at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity “**Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**” (GBF) was adopted.

About COP-15

- ➔ Conference concluded in **Montreal, Canada**.
- ➔ **Chaired by China** and hosted by Canada-first phase took place in Kunming, China and second phase in Montreal Canada.
- ➔ It reinforced the commitment to address the biodiversity crisis and the Kunming Declaration was adopted by over 100 countries.

Key Targets of the GBF

- ➔ GBF includes 4 goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030.
- ➔ **Goals**
 - ⊖ **Goal A** : Halting Human-induced extinction of threatened species and reducing the rate of extinction of all species tenfold by 2050.
 - ⊖ **Goal B** : Sustainable use and management of biodiversity.
 - ⊖ **Goal C** : Fair sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and **digital sequence information** and **genetic resources**.
 - ⊖ **Goal D** : Adequate means of implementing the GBF be accessible to all parties particularly least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing states.
- ➔ **30*30 deal**
 - ⊖ Restore 30% degraded ecosystems globally (on land and sea) by 2030
 - ⊖ Conserve and manage 30% areas (terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine) by 2030.
- ➔ Reduce risk from pesticides by at least 50% by 2030
- ➔ Reduce global footprint of consumption by 2030.
- ➔ Secure the safe, legal and sustainable use and trade of wild species by 2030.

- ➔ **The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity**, also known as the Biodiversity Convention, is multilateral treaty opened for signature at the Earth summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. It comes under UNEP.

CoP-27

The annual Conference of Parties (COP) of UNFCCC concluded its 27th edition at **Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**.

About CoP-27

- ➔ **Held Between:** 6th - 18th November, 2022
- ➔ **First CoP held at:** Berlin
- ➔ **CoP-26 held at:** Glasgow, U.K.
- ➔ **CoP-28 will be held in:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) (30 Nov-12 Dec).

The major initiative from COP-27, 2022 at Egypt Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)

- ➔ MAC initiative is led by the **UAE and Indonesia**, and includes India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain.
- ➔ It seeks to educate and spread awareness worldwide on the role of mangroves in curbing global warming and its potential as a solution for climate change.
- ➔ Under MAC, UAE pledges to **plant 100 million mangroves by 2030**.

AWARE (Action for Water Adaptation or Resilience)

- ➔ AWARE initiative, which was drafted by the CoP-27 presidency with support of world meteorological organisation, was launched on **14 November, 2022**
- ➔ It is an initiative that will champion inclusive cooperation to **address water related challenges** and solutions across climate change adaptation.

'Loss and Damage'

- ➔ 'Loss and Damage' refers to impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided either by mitigation (cutting greenhouse gas emissions) or adaptation (modifying practices to buffer against climate change impacts).

Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)

- ➔ It was launched by the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** at the Indian Pavilion, COP27, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
- ➔ IRAF is a multi-donor trust fund, established with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Global Shield Plan

- ➔ The Global Shield (GS) is a funding mechanism that provides funding to countries suffering climate disasters.

Technology Mechanism

- ➔ The UNFCCC launched the first joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism for 2023-2027.

- ➔ The joint work programme will focus on high-potential sectors and high-potential actions across water, energy, food, industry, and other systems.

Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA)

- ➔ COP27 has seen new countries including Germany, Japan, the UK, the US, Australia, etc., Join the Global Offshore Wind Alliance to ramp up the offshore wind to tackle the climate and energy security crises.

19th COP of CITES

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention) is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals from the threats of international trade. Recently its 19th Conference of Parties was held.

About 19th Conference of Parties (COP19)

- ➔ **Held on:** 14th to 25th November 2022.
- ➔ **Held in:** Panama
- ➔ **Aim:** to reduce the risks of future zoonotic diseases

India and CITES COP19

- ➔ India has voted against a proposal to re-open the international trade in ivory at the ongoing conference of the CITES.
- ➔ The ivory trade was globally banned in 1989 when all African elephant populations were put in CITES Appendix I.
- ➔ In COP -19, two Indian turtle species – the red-crowned roofed turtles (Batagur kachuga) and Leith's soft-shell turtle (Nilssononia leithii) – have made it to Appendix I of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**.

The State of the Climate in Asia 2021, Report

- ➔ **Released on:** November 14, 2022
- ➔ **Released by:** World Meteorological Organization and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- ➔ Asian countries incurred financial losses worth USD 35.6 billion in 2021 because of natural disasters.
 - ⊖ **Flooding** was the event with “by far the greatest impact in Asia in terms of fatalities and economic damage.”
- ➔ **India** suffered a total loss of **USD 3.2 billion** from flooding.
- ➔ Storms also caused significant economic damage, especially in **India (USD 4.4 billion)**, followed by **China (USD 3 billion)** and **Japan (USD 2 billion)**.
 - ⊖ **Five cyclonic storms (Tauktae, Yaas, Gulab, Shaheen, Jawad)** occurred in India during 2021, with maximum sustained wind speeds of ≥ 34 knots.

Climate Change Performance Index, 2023

Climate Change Performance Index, 2023 was released in COP 27, assessing 59 countries and the European Union on Climate change policies and actions.

Important Facts About CCPI

- ➔ **India ranked 10th in CCPI, 2022 and 8th in CCPI, 2023.**
- ➔ CCPI Aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by Individual countries.
- ➔ The CCPI looks at **four categories, with 14 Indicators** : GHG Emissions (40% of the overall score) Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%) and Climate Policy (20%).

CCPI 2023

- ➔ India has been ranked amongst top 5 countries in the world, and the best among the G20 countries, based on its climate change performance.
- ➔ CCPI places India as the only G-20 country in the top 10 Rank.
- ➔ **Denmark, Sweden, Chile and Morocco** as the only four small countries that were ranked above India as 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th respectively.
- ➔ **The First, Second and Third ranks were not awarded to any country.**
- ➔ As per the CCPI report India is on track to meet its 2030 emissions target (compatible with a well-below 2°C Scenario).

"Mission LiFE" (Lifestyle for Environment)

Mission LiFE which was announced by PM Modi at the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) was **launched at the Statue of Unity in Kevadiya Gujarat by PM Narendra Modi.**

"Mission LiFE" (Lifestyle for Environment)

- ➔ **Launched:** 20 October, 2022
- ➔ **Nodal Agency:** NITI Aayog

Key Point

- ➔ Mission life is a global initiative by India to help to lead to a sustainable way of life to achieve the sustainable development goals set by UN.
- ➔ It aims to nudge individuals and communities to adopt a life style that is synchronous with nature and does not harm it.

Climate Transparency Report, 2022

- ➔ **Released on:** October 20, 2022
- ➔ **Edition:** Eighth (8th)
- ➔ **Prepared by:** Report was developed by experts from 16 partner organizations from the majority of the G20 countries
- ➔ **Theme for the 2022 edition:** G20 response to the energy crisis: critical for 1.5°C.

- ➔ **Report highlights the link between:** Climate And Energy Crises. As per the report, the losses were the highest in four sectors :
 - Services, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction.
- ➔ With respect to global emissions, the **USA ranked first**, as America contributes 25 percent of it.
- ➔ **India** suffered an income loss of 5.4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the highest among the G20 nations in 2021.

News in Short

❑ River Devika Rejuvenation Project

- ➔ North India's first river rejuvenation project 'Devika' carried out at a cost of over Rs 190 crore is nearing completion.
- ➔ Devika river originates from the **hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in the Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir** and flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it merges with the **Ravi river**.
- ➔ Devika river rejuvenation project Built at a cost of over Rs 190 crore on the lines of '**Namami Gange**'.

❑ MoEFCC Reverses Decision to Merge Autonomous Bodies

- ➔ Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) reversed its decision to establish integrated regional offices by merging key environmental bodies under its umbrella.
- ➔ During Covid-19 Lockdown Period, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued a notification to establish integrated regional offices by **merging offices of the Forest Survey of India (FSI), the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), and the Central Zoo Authority (CZA)**, and thus bring them under the Ministry.

❑ Sixth Anniversary of the Minamata Convention

- ➔ Minamata Convention on Mercury, which marks its sixth anniversary, is a significant global agreement aimed at safeguarding people and the environment from the harmful impacts of mercury exposure.
- ➔ The Minamata Convention on Mercury is the most recent global agreement on environment and health, adopted in 2013.

❑ "Towards Decarbonising Transport 2023"

- ➔ Recently **Niti Aayog** Released "Towards Decarbonising Transport 2023: A Stocktake on Sectoral Ambition in G20" Report.

- ➔ This report analyses the current state of decarbonisation and climate ambition in the transport sectors of G20 countries.

❑ 'Mangrove Cell'

- ➔ Recently W.B. government announces Mangrove Cell on International Day of Mangrove Ecosystem.
- ➔ Mangrove Cell will generate funds from private and international sectors, as well as publish books and conduct research on the subject.
- ➔ 15.56 crore mangrove saplings were planted by the West Bengal Forest Department in an area of about 10,398 acres from 2020 to 2021,

❑ Himalayan Vulture: Gyps Himalayensis

- ➔ Recently, the Assam State Zoo in Guwahati has done a daunting task by successfully breeding the elusive Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) in captivity for the first time in India.
- ➔ Himalayan vulture (**Gyps himalayensis**) Categorized as 'Near Threatened' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.

❑ The Union Government Launches RECEIC

- ➔ Recently, the Union Environment Ministry has launched the **Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)** in the line with **India's G20 Presidency**.
- ➔ The event took place during the 4th G20's **Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG)** and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting.
- ➔ The RECEIC comprises of **39 companies** headquartered in **11 different countries**, representing a diverse range of businesses.

❑ India Energy Security Scenarios 2047 V3.0

- ➔ Recently on July 20, 2023 NITI Aayog unveiled the latest version of the India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047 V3.0, an open-source tool designed to evaluate the integrated impact of various green energy policies of the Government of India.

- ➔ **Aim**-To ensure easily availability of IESS technology to the people.
- ➔ **IESS Designed by** - with the help of **IIT Bombay**
- ➔ **IESS 2047 will be updated on** -yearly basis
- ➔ An open-source tool, IESS incorporates several policies related to alternative energy resources like **Green Hydrogen, Energy Storage, Renewable Purchase Obligations, PM-KUSUM, offshore wind strategy, Electric Vehicle policy, Energy efficiency**, etc.

❑ Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (GGGW)

- ➔ Recently, World Meteorological Congress held by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has approved Global Greenhouse Gas Watch, a new global green house measurement initiative.

About GGGW

- ➔ **Formed by:** WMO
- ➔ **Approved on:** 24 May 2023
- ➔ **Objective:** New global green house watchdog
- ➔ The framework aims to consolidate space-based and surface-based observing systems, along with modeling and data assimilation capabilities, into a unified structure.

❑ First Global Buddhist Summit

- ➔ Recently, the PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi.
- ➔ **Held from :** April 20th- 21st, 2023
- ➔ **Held in :** New Delhi
- ➔ **Theme of Global Buddhist Summit :** Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis
- ➔ **Organized by :** Ministry of Culture.

❑ Global Conference on Compressed Biogas (CBG)

- ➔ **Held on :** April 17th-18th, 2023
- ➔ **Organized by :** Indian federation of Green Energy (IFGE)- CBG Producer Forum, supported by Ministry for Petroleum & Natural Gas
- ➔ **Theme :** Towards Progressive Policy Frame-work for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth
- ➔ **Objective :** To apprise the industry regarding the initiatives taken by Government of India for development of Compressed Biogas Industry and to identify the areas where policy modifications are required.

❑ 5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)

- ➔ The latest conference, the 5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023, was held on 4th and 5th of April 2023 in New Delhi, India.

- ➔ The Prime Minister of India launched CDRI during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.
- ➔ International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure 2023 **hosted by India.**

❑ Global Status of Black Soils

- ➔ To mark **World Soil Day 2022** on 5th December, the **Food and Agriculture Organization** released its first Global Status on Black soils.
- ➔ It finds Black soils are at greater risk than ever due to climate crisis, biodiversity loss and land use change.

❑ Center Merged Project Tiger and Project Elephant

- ➔ Recently Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has merged the Project Tiger and Project Elephant under a new division called 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division'.
- ➔ Now Additional Director General of Forests (ADGF) Project Tiger will head the staffs of both divisions as ADGF of Project Tiger and Project Elephant.

❑ Global Environment Facility

- ➔ Recently, at the 64th **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** council meeting held in Brazil, the governing body approved the disbursement of USD 1.4 billion to accelerate efforts to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises.

Key Point

- ➔ **GEF held at** – Brazil
- ➔ **Held between** – June 26-29, 2023
- ➔ **Participated by** – 32 members of council (GEF's main governing body)

❑ What is Deep Sea Mining

- ➔ Deep-sea mining is the process of retrieving mineral deposits from the deep seabed – the ocean below 200m.
- ➔ Deep-sea mining aims to retrieve valuable mineral deposits found on the ocean's floor, hundreds or even thousands of meters below its surface.

❑ Mo Jungle Jami Yojana

- ➔ The Odisha Government has formally come up with 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' (My Forestland Scheme) intending to complete recognition of all rights under the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act), 2006, (in short FRA, 2006)** in the next two years (2023-25).

❑ Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- ➔ The **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM)**, under Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has revised GRAP to come into force w.e.f. October 1, 2023 in the entire NCR to combat sudden seasonal decline of air quality in the region.

What is GRAP?

- ➔ GRAP was **notified by MoEFCC in January, 2017**. These are set of emergency measures utilized to contain decline of air quality reaching to danger levels (set previously) in the Delhi NCR region.
- ➔ It was **approved by Supreme Court in 2016 as per M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (2016) judgment**.

❑ Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary

- ➔ Recently, in a significant development for tiger conservation efforts, the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court has issued a directive to the Goa government to notify the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and its surrounding areas **as a tiger reserve under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- ➔ This comparatively new sanctuary area in Goa is located in the Northern Part of the state, near the village of Valpoi.

❑ United Nations Forum on Forests

- ➔ The eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF18) focused on the relationship between sustainable forest management (SFM), energy, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

About UNFF18

- ➔ **Organised by:** United Nations
- ➔ **Organised on:** May 8-12, 2023
- ➔ **Organised at:** New York, USA

❑ 'Waste to Wealth' Ideation Hackathon

- ➔ Recently, **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** organised an online 'Waste to Wealth Ideation Hackathon' for undergraduate and above students.
- ➔ It is a nationwide event to provide platform to college students across the country to solve real-world waste management challenges on (a) plastic waste (b) electronic waste (c) battery waste (d) crop residue.

❑ Cyclone Freddy

- ➔ Recently, Cyclone Freddy dissipated over **Malawi in March 2023** after a record-breaking 34 Days stint over the southern Indian Ocean and Africa.

- ➔ **Traverse Path** - Cyclone Freddy first developed off the North Australian coast and tracked across the entire southern Indian Ocean.
- ➔ **Landfall** - The cyclone made landfall thrice — once in Madagascar and twice in Mozambique.
 - Cyclone Freddy is the longest lived tropical cyclone ever recorded in any of Earth's oceans.

❑ 18th Global Risks Report 2023

- ➔ The Global Risks Report 2023 presents the results of the latest **Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS)**.
- ➔ **Published in:** January 2023
- ➔ **Published by:** **World Economic Forum (WEF)** ahead of the Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland.
- ➔ **Edition** - 18th
- ➔ **Report describes:** Changes occurring in the global risks landscape from year to year.
- ➔ The report says the world is facing two severe risks '**Failure to Mitigate Climate Change**' and '**Failure of Climate Change Adaptation**' in the next decade.

❑ Miyawaki Forest

- ➔ Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 'Mann ki baat' episode spoke about Miyawaki plantation, the Japanese method of creating dense urban forests in a small area.

❑ First Carbon Neutral Farm

- ➔ Recently, Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** declared a seed farm, located in **Aluva, as the first carbon neutral farm in the country**.
- ➔ It involves a wide range of agricultural practices with the primary goal of removing excess carbon from the atmosphere to reduce global warming.

❑ Australia's Safeguard Mechanism

- ➔ Australia's Safeguard Mechanism (Crediting) Amendment Bill 2023, has been passed by Parliament, marking a significant milestone in the country's efforts to address climate change.
- ➔ With the new arrangements taking effect from 1 July 2023, the reformed Safeguard Mechanism aims to ensure that Australia's largest emitters are contributing towards the nation's emissions reductions task.

❑ The Petersberg Dialogue

- ➔ The Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change was held in Berlin from **May 2-3, 2023**, and was hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates, which is hosting the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

❑ Landslide Atlas of India

- ➔ Recently, **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)** under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the Landslide Atlas of India.
- ➔ A landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope.
- ➔ This Atlas provides risk assessment in landslide locations during the period of 1998-2022 and covers vulnerable regions in **17 states and 02 UTs** of India in the Himalayas and Western Ghats.
 - ⊖ Top 5 districts based on their exposure to landslide: **Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal (Uttarakhand), Thrissur (Kerala), Rajouri (J&K), and Palakkad (Kerala).**

❑ 5th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance

- ➔ **Held on:** October 18, 2022
- ➔ **Conference inaugurated by:** Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy
- ➔ **Held in:** New Delhi, India

❑ 13th Emissions Gap Report 2022: UNEP

- ➔ **Title of the report:** 'Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window — Climate Crisis Calls for Rapid Transformation of Societies'.
- ➔ **Released on:** 27 October 2022
- ➔ **Released by:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- ➔ **The report assess:** The gap between anticipated emissions in 2030 and levels consistent with the 1.5°C and 2°C targets of the Paris Agreement.

❑ India's First Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle

- ➔ Toyota launched **India's first all-hydrogen electric vehicle, Mirai, in India.** As part of the company's pilot project with the **International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**, Toyota launched a car that runs on hydrogen generated electricity.

First hydrogen fuel cell car of India

- ➔ **Name :** Mirai ('future' in Japanese)
- ➔ **Launched by :** Toyota INDIA Motors
- ➔ **Range :** Up to 650 km in a single charge, with a refueling time of five minutes.

❑ India's First Biomass-Based Hydrogen Plant

- ➔ India's first commercial-scale biomass-based Hydrogen Plant will come up at the **Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.**

❑ UNESCO to declare Visva-Bharati the World's First Living Heritage University

- ➔ Visva-Bharati University will soon get the 'heritage' tag from UNESCO to take the distinction of world's first living heritage university.
- ➔ Normally heritage tag is given to a dead monument. For the **first time in the world**, a living university, which is functioning, is going to get the heritage tag from UNESCO.
- ➔ The University was **founded in 1921** and named after **Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore** until the Visva-Bharati Society was registered as an organization in May 1922.

❑ India's First Geo Park

- ➔ The first geological park of India will be built in **Lambeta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.** In January 2022, approval for the park was given by the Geological Survey of India, under the Ministry of Mining.

❑ India's First Geo Thermal Energy Project in Ladakh

- ➔ Geological Survey of India (GSI) estimate suggests that there could be 10 GW geo-thermal power potential in our country.
- ➔ In a recent development Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) started drilling for India's first geo thermal energy project Puga Valley in Ladakh.

❑ Living Planet Report - 2022

- ➔ Recently, WWF on October 13, 2022, has released its biennial Living Planet report - 2022 showing trends in global biodiversity and health of planet.
- ➔ 69% decline in wildlife populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish across globe between 1970 and 2018.

❑ New Target under National Clean Air Programme

- ➔ Recently, the central government has set a new target of a **40% reduction in particulate matter (PM)** concentration in cities covered under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) by 2026.** The earlier goal was 20 to 30% reduction by 2024.

❑ India's longest rubber dam

- ➔ Recently, on **September 08, 2022** Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar inaugurated the country's largest rubber dam and a steel bridge over the **Falgu river** near Vishnupad temple (Gaya) in **Bihar.**



Focus on Political, Social, Religious, Educational Events of the State and Various Ministries



❑ NTPC's 660 MW Super Thermal Power Project at Barh in Bihar dedicated to the nation

- ➔ The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy R. K. Singh dedicated to the nation a 660 MW Unit of Barh Super Thermal Power Project at Barh in Bihar on August 18, 2023.
- ➔ The 660 MW unit inaugurated on August 18, 2023 is Unit 2 of Stage I of the project.

❑ Agriculture Department's Tableau got 1st place

- ➔ On August 15, 2023, on the occasion of Independence Day, 13 tableaux were exhibited at the ceremony held at Gandhi Maidan in Patna, in which the Bihar Government Agriculture Department's tableau got 1st Place.

❑ 2 Rail Projects related to Bihar got approval

- ➔ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved **Seven projects of Ministry of Railways with estimated cost of around Rs.32,500 Crore**, with 100% funding from Central Government.
- ➔ Gorakhpur-Cantt-Valmiki Nagar and Son Nagar-Andal Multi tracking Project are 2 Rail project related to Bihar got approval.

❑ Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country virtually, on August 6, 2023.
- ➔ These include **49 railway stations** of Bihar.

❑ Bagmati Beach will be Developed on the Lines of Marine Drive in Patna

- ➔ According to the Water Resource Minister of Bihar Chatariya village situated on the banks of Bagmati river will be developed like the Marine Drive built on the banks of Ganga in Patna.
- ➔ A path-way like Marine Drive will be made on the banks of Bagmati river in Chataria.

❑ Book Written on the Life of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Inaugurated

- ➔ A new biography of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar "**Nitish Kumar: Antrang Doston ki Nazar Se**" will offer a glimpse of the JD(U) leader's personal and political life.
- ➔ Book is written by writer **Uday Kant** and Published by Rajkamal Prakashan.

❑ Approval of Bihar Biofuel Production Promotion Policy- 2023

- ➔ In July, 2023 the Bihar government approved Bihar Biofuels Production Promotion Policy, 2023, which will pave the way for production of compressed biogas (CBG) apart from ethanol in the state.
- ➔ As per Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) Scheme of the Centre, CBG has properties almost similar to CNG.
- ➔ Hence, a vehicle running on CNG can be filled with CBG without any modification.
- ➔ Under this Policy the selected unit can get capital subsidy up to 15%, maximum up to Rs5 crore, and women from SC/ST and EBC can get up to 15.75% and maximum up to Rs5.25 crore.
- ➔ Such benefits will be apart from the incentives given under Bihar Industrial Investment Policy, 2016.

❑ Duration of Organic Corridor Scheme extended in Bihar

- ➔ Duration of Organic Corridor Scheme extended in Bihar and Now this scheme will run **until 2025**.
- ➔ Under this scheme, a complete of 20 thousand acres within the chosen 13 districts will probably be made utterly natural.
- ➔ Under this scheme, Rs 11500 per acre will probably be given as grant to the farmers doing farming within the first 12 months.
- ➔ Earlier this scheme was until **2022-23**.
- ➔ **Patna, Buxar, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Samastipur, Khagaria, Begusarai, Lakhisarai, Bhagalpur, Munger, Katihar and Nalanda** have been made natural corridors situated on the banks of river Ganga.

❑ Approval of Bihar Unregulated Deposit Scheme Banning Rules- 2023

- ➔ Under this policy, the state government has got the right to investigate and take action against Chit-fund companies operating in Bihar.
- ➔ Under this policy Government of Bihar has been made the competent authority and government will form a committee under the chairmanship of the Advocate General.
- ➔ This committee will investigate, audit and take action against companies running deposit schemes after irregularities are found.

❑ Arwal & Sheikhpura will become Districts with 100% Digital Transactions

- ➔ Arwal and Sheikhpura are also going to be the districts with 100 percent digital transactions after Jehanabad district in Bihar.

❑ Bihar Girl becomes Weightlifting Referee in Commonwealth Games

- ➔ **Srishti Singh**, a resident of a small village in **Siwan district**, becomes referee in weightlifting championship in Commonwealth Games.
- ➔ The Commonwealth Senior Men and Women, Junior Men and Women Weightlifting Championship Games held on July 11,2023 in Greater Noida, UP.

❑ CAG Report presented in Legislature: Bihar in top 3 in Revival of Economy

- ➔ The CAG report placed in the state assembly added that **Bihar is the third among the top 10 states** in reviving its economy after the Covid pandemic.
- ➔ Bihar has registered the highest gross state domestic product (GSDP) of 15.05% in 2021-22, the state finance audit report (March 2022) of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) stated.
- ➔ CAG report said the GDP of India was recorded at **(-)1.36% in 2020-21**, over the previous year.
- ➔ Compared to this negative trend, the **growth rate of GSDP of Bihar was recorded at 0.80%** in the pandemic year 2020-21.

❑ 5 Districts of Bihar got 'Bhoomi Samman 2023'

- ➔ Bhoomi Samman was given to **nine State Secretaries** and **68 District Collectors** along with their teams who have excelled in achieving saturation of the core components of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme.
- ➔ **Nalanda, Jehanabad, Lakhisarai, Bhojpur and Kishanganj** districts of Bihar got Bhoomi Samman 2023.

❑ Agreement between IWAI & Bihar Tourism Department for Ganga River Cruise Tourism

- ➔ Under this agreement, two vessels named **Ro Pax Vessel** with a capacity of 300-300 tourists will run in **Patna and Bhagalpur**.
- ➔ The first vessel will operate between Janardan Ghat, Digha, Patna to Kangan Ghat, Patna City in Patna and the second between Kahalgaon, Sultanganj, Bateshwar in Bhagalpur and Dolphin Sanctuary of Vikram shila.

❑ Bihar Government Re-Constituted Several Boards and State Commissions

- ➔ The state women's commission was the first organisation to be reconstituted after a gap of about three years.
- ➔ Bihar Sanskrit Shiksha Board, Madarsa Board and the minority commission have also been constituted.
- ➔ Former MP **Ashwamedh Devi has been nominated as the chairperson** of the state women's commission.
- ➔ **Bhola Yadav**, former MLA has been made the **chairman of the Sanskrit Shiksha Board**.
- ➔ **Salim Parwez has been made the chairman of Madarsa Shiksha Board**.
- ➔ **Riyajul Haque alias Raju** has been made the **chairman of the state minority commission**, while **Naushad Alam has been nominated as its vice-chairman**. Seven other persons have been made members.

❑ ADB & GoI sign \$295 million loan agreement to upgrade State Highway in Bihar

- ➔ The Indian government and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed an agreement for a \$295-million loan to upgrade around 265 km of state highways with climate and disaster resilient design and road safety elements in Bihar.
- ➔ Besides upgrading roads, the ADB project builds on earlier efforts to enhance the state road agency's management and implementation capacity.

❑ 'Champan Mutton' included in Oscar race

- ➔ The film 'Champan Mutton' has reached the semi-finals of the **Student Academy Awards 2023** of the Oscars.
- ➔ The film 'Champan Mutton', **starring Falak, the girl from Muzaffarpur** district of Bihar.
- ➔ The film 'Champan Mutton' is **directed by Ranjan Kumar**.

❑ Chhapra's Mohini won the State U-11 Girls Chess Championship Title

- ➔ In May, 2023 Chhapra, Saran's resident girl Mohini has won the State Under-11 Girls Chess Championship.
- ➔ The competition was organized at **Little Fairy School, Siwan** under the aegis of **Bihar Chess Federation**.

❑ Maithili singer Soni Choudhary awarded by 'Bihar Ratna Samman

- ➔ In June, 2023 Soni Chaudhary from Mithila Bihar has been awarded Bihar Ratna in the field of singing for her excellent singing for Maithili songs.
- ➔ This honor was awarded to him by Bihar Ratna by the **president of the organization, Vishwamohan Chaudhary**, at the felicitation ceremony organized by the **National Youth Welfare Council, Patna**.

❑ World's tallest Shivling will be established in Virat Ramayana Temple

- ➔ The world's largest Shivling is now being established in Virat Ramayan Temple, **Kesariya, East Champaran**.
- ➔ The height of this three-storey temple will be **270 feet**.
- ➔ The weight of the Shivalinga will be **200 tons, height will be 33 feet and the sphere will be 33 feet**.

❑ State's Biggest Blood Bank will be built in Muzaffarpur

- ➔ Blood bank would be set up at Company Bagh ,Red Cross in Muzaffarpur district which would be the biggest blood bank in Bihar.
- ➔ A blood separation machine will also be installed here,that will solve problem of not having blood containing red blood cells .

❑ Two Hospitals of Bihar will become Center of Excellence

- ➔ **Patna Medical College Hospital (PMCH) and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital (JLNMCH) in Bhagalpur** will be made centers of excellence under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana Phase IV.
- ➔ Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was announced in 2003 with the objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.

❑ 2000 Year Old Kushan period Idol found in River in Lakhisarai

- ➔ In June, 2023 the fragmentary ancient idol of red speckled stone found during the excavation at Rampur Balu Ghat located on the **Kiul river** in Lakhisarai .
- ➔ It is a statue of two thousand years old Buddhist **folk goddess Shalbhanjika** (Sawl Bhanjika Moksha Devi)

❑ CUSB becomes First University in Bihar to Get A++ Grade in NAAC

- ➔ In June, 2023 the Central University of South Bihar has become the first university in the state to receive an A++ grade from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- ➔ NAAC is an autonomous body within the University Grants Commission (UGC) which assesses and accredits higher education institutions on the basis of the standards of its curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, research, among other parameters through a multi-tiered process.
- ➔ NAAC grades higher education institutions from highest (A++) to lowest (C) using this process.

❑ Ravi Sinha of Bihar became the New Chief of RAW

- ➔ In June, 2023 Ravi Sinha from **Bhojpur** in Bihar has been appointed as the New Chief of India's intelligence agency 'RAW'.
- ➔ Ravi Sinha, popularly known as '**Operation Man**'.

❑ National Florence Nightingale Award to ANM Gayatri Kumari of Bihar

- ➔ In June, 2023 President Draupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2023 to ANM Gayatri Kumari at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan .
- ➔ Gayatri Kumari works on the post of ANM in Sadar Hospital in **Sheikhpura** district of Bihar.
- ➔ **Gayatri Kumari is the only woman from Bihar, who got this award.**

❑ Smita Kumari created a new World Record in Centre Split Holding (Samakonasana, Yoga)

- ➔ Yoga instructor Smita Kumari set a new Guinness World Record of holding the centre split, Samakonasana, Yoga pose for a record 3 hours 10 minutes and 12 seconds in Ahmedabad.
- ➔ Smita works as yoga teacher with the healthcare department at Adani Group.

❑ G20 Labour 20 (L-20) Summit

- ➔ The L-20 summit was held in **Patna, Bihar** from **June 22 to 23, 2023**.
- ➔ The topic for discussion during summit was **'Universal Social Security' and 'Women and Future of Work'** .

❑ Country's second Largest Bone Hospital is Being Built in Bihar

- ➔ Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan Super Specialty Bone Hospital, Rajvanshi Nagar, Patna will be Country's second Largest Bone Hospital.

❑ Bihar ranked 3rd in 'National Water Award 2022'

- ➔ The Award for the Best State will be conferred on Madhya Pradesh, 2nd prize will go to Odisha while 3rd prize will be given jointly to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.
- ➔ The Award for the Best District will be conferred on Ganjam District, Odisha while 2nd prize will go to Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu and 3rd prize will be given to Adilabad District, Telangana.
- ➔ The Award for the Best Village Panchayat will be conferred on Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Telangana.
- ➔ NTPC Barauni Bags Top Prize in Best Industry Category at 4th National Water Awards.

❑ Patna becomes the 1st municipal corporation to use CBDC

- ➔ Patna is the first municipal corporation to use **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** in the whole of India.
- ➔ Digital currency **e-rupee created by the Reserve Bank of India** will be used in the entire Patna Municipal Corporation area.

❑ Sameer Pandey of Bihar became the 1st Indian to hold the post of Mayor in Australia

- ➔ The City of Parramatta Council in Sydney, New South Wales, has elected Councillor Sameer Pandey as its new Lord Mayor.
- ➔ Pandey was born in Jamshedpur, Bihar (Now Jharkhand) .

❑ Gautam Kumar selected for 2023 Hansen Leadership Program in California

- ➔ Gautam Kumar, son of a daily wage labourer from **Masodhi (Bihar)**, has been selected among 20 youths of the world for the 2023 Hansen Leadership Program in California, USA.

❑ International Film Festival organized in Saran, Bihar

- ➔ International Film Festival was organized on 13th-14th May 2023 in Saran, Bihar.
- ➔ It was the Third edition of this film festival.
- ➔ Participants from 21 countries has participated in the third Saran International Film Festival.

❑ Mission Change (Parivartan)

- ➔ Deputy CM Bihar Tejashwi Yadav has started 'Mission Parivartan' to improve the health department.
- ➔ Under all the Medical College & Hospitals have been given a 60-day time period to improve their quality as well as the quantum of services.
- ➔ The main objective of this mission is to make hospitals Patient-Friendly, to enforce discipline in colleges and to arrange treatment based on manpower.

❑ Arvind Panagariya became the Chancellor of Nalanda University

- ➔ Former vice chairman of the Niti Aayog Arvind Panagariya, a professor at Columbia and Padma Bhushan awardee, has been appointed the chancellor of Nalanda University .
- ➔ He succeeds Dr Vijay P Bhatkar, who was appointed NU chancellor in 2017.
- ➔ Nalanda University located on the premises of the ancient Nalanda University located in the Nalanda district of Bihar.

❑ Country's Longest Extra Dose Cable Bridge being Built in Bihar

- ➔ Total length of Bridge is **22.76** km. In this, the length of the bridge is 9.76 km and the length of the approach road on both sides of the bridge is 13 km.
- ➔ This **Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur** six lane greenfield bridge is being built on **river Ganga**.

❑ Fragrant Marcha rice of West Champaran got a GI tag

- ➔ Fragrant Marcha / Mercha paddy of Bihar's West Champaran district has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ➔ Total 16 products of Bihar hve GI tags.

❑ Ethanol Plant in Muzaffarpur

- ➔ Chief minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Bihar's **second ethanol plant at Motipur in Muzaffarpur district**.
- ➔ The plant has the capacity to produce 110 kilolitre of ethanol per day from maize.

➔ Nitish kumar had inaugurated **India's first ethanol plant at Purnia** in May last year (2022).

❑ Bihar's Anjani won Gold in Javelin Throw

➔ Anjani Kumari of Jamui, Bihar won the Gold Medal in the Javelin Throw event at the India Grand Prix-4, 2023 held in Bangalore.

❑ Bihar's 2nd AIIMS to be built in Darbhanga

➔ The second AIIMS in Bihar will be constructed at Shobhan in Darbhanga.

➔ It will have a capacity to take 2,000 OPD per day and 1,000 IPD per month.

❑ Justice K Vinod Chandran

➔ Justice K Vinod Chandran appointed as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court (March 29, 2023).

➔ He has taken place of Justice Sanjay Karol.

❑ Japan will give 5509 Cr. rupees for Patna Metro Project

➔ The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide loan of Rs 5,509 crore for the phase-1 of the Patna Metro Rail project.

❑ South Asian Women's Film Festival held in Patna

➔ South Asian Women Film Festival was organized in Patna from **February 2 to 9** under the joint auspices of **Bihar State Film Development and Finance Corporation and South Asia Trust.**

➔ **Film festival was inaugurated by Bihar's Art and Culture Minister Jitendra Kumar Rai.**

❑ Ganga Water Supply Scheme and Gayaji Dam got National Award

➔ Two projects of the Bihar government – the Ganga Water Supply Scheme and the Gayaji Dam built on the **Falgu River** in Gaya –was given the national-level prestigious 'CBIP Award 2022' at a special function held in New Delhi on Friday, March 3.

➔ The award was given to Bihar by the **Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP).**

➔ Both the schemes have been selected for the award in the '**Best Implementation of Water Resources' category.**

❑ Khelo India Centers will be Opened in 33 Districts of the State

➔ Khelo India centers will be opened in 33 districts of the state and each district has been allotted one sports activity.

➔ In Khelo India, centers have been set up for the training of a total of 13 sports.

➔ Maximum 7 centers of Kabaddi and 6 centers of athletics have been built.

➔ At the same time, three districts have been selected for football.

➔ Sports Class and Training Centre

☉ **Wushu** - Indoor Stadium, Pataliputra Complex, Patna

☉ **Athletics** - Saraswati Niwas, Manjhola, Muzaffarpur, New Stadium, Fazal Ganj, Sasaram Patel Field, Samastipur, Kosi High School Playground, Birpur, Supaul, Nehru Stadium, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga

☉ **Badminton** - Collectorate Campus, Araria, Saharsa

☉ **Kho-Kho** - RHMTB High School Barari, Bhagalpur, Purani Bazar Ward-12 Surajpur, Lakhisarai, Indoor Stadium, Munger

☉ **Rugby** - Kaptia, Nalanda

☉ **Wrestling** - Kuwaridi Bhor, Gopalganj, Indoor Stadium Aurangabad

☉ **Archery** - Veer Kunwar Singh Stadium, Ara, Kharari, Gaya.

☉ **Kabaddi** - Minta Sports Complex, Makdumpur, Sheikhpura, Ward-16 Rampur Parori, Sitamarhi, High School Aman, Parasbigha, Jehanabad, BP Mandal Indoor Stadium, Madhepura, Mahatma Gandhi High School, Bihat Begusarai, Berhampur, Buxar

☉ **Football** - Maharaja Stadium, Bettiah, Jagjivan Stadium, Bhabhua, Laxmipur, Sitopur, Siwan

☉ **Hockey** - Kosi College Khagaria, Sri Krishna Singh Stadium, Jamui, Goraul Hockey Ground, Vaishali Weightlifting Katihar

☉ **Table Tennis** - Watson School, Madhubani, Talwar baazi - Khel Bhawan Shah Vyamshala, Motihari.

❑ Bihar's Second Zoo to be built in Araria

➔ The government has decided to develop the state's second zoo in Raniganj block of Araria district.

❑ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Became The 41st Governor Of Bihar

➔ On February 17, 2023, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar took oath of office as the 41st Governor of Bihar. He replaced Governor Phagu Chauhan.

➔ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was earlier the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

❑ Patna's Marine Drive to be developed

- ➔ The State Government will develop the Marine Drive built on the banks of the Ganges in Patna.
- ➔ The development plan for Marine Drive can be done by the Road Construction Urban Development and Housing and Tourism Department.

❑ Bihar's Arwal Women's Police Station Included in the Top Three Police Stations of the Country

- ➔ In January 2023, the Union Home Ministry has chosen Arwal Ladies's Police Station among the many prime three police stations within the nation for 2022.
- ➔ The top three police stations in the country include Aska police station in Odisha's Ganjam district and Banbasa police station in Champawat district of Uttarakhand.

❑ Jio True 5G Service Launched in Patna and Muzaffarpur

- ➔ On January 14, 2023, Reliance Jio launched its True 5G services in Bihar's capital Patna and Muzaffarpur city.
- ➔ The urban area of Patna from Patna Sahib to Danapur and the urban area of Muzaffarpur will now get coverage of Jio True 5G.
- ➔ The company claims that by December 2023, Jio True 5G will be available in every town and every village of Bihar and Jharkhand.

❑ New chairman of the Central Selection Council

- ➔ On January 14, 2023, Bihar state government has appointed former DGP SK Singhal as the new chairman of the Central Selection Council.
- ➔ The extended term of the Council's current chairman KS Dwivedi will end on January 20, 2023. After this, Singhal will take over as the new chairman.

❑ Commonwealth Power Lifting Competition

- ➔ Bihar's girl Kriti Raj Singh has won six gold medals in the weightlifting event of the Sub Junior Commonwealth Championship 2022.
- ➔ Kriti won the Under-18 **57 kg**.

❑ Textile Park in Gaya

- ➔ On December 7, 2022, Bihar's Gaya district DM Dr. Thiyagarajan told that a textile park will be developed on the lines of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu near Shadipur Balu Ghat in Manpur in Gaya.

❑ Cargo terminal at Akbarnagar

- ➔ On December 7, 2022, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed that a cargo terminal will be built at Akbarnagar in Bhagalpur, Bihar.
- ➔ The cargo terminal will be built under the leadership of Malda Divisional Railway Manager Vikas Choubey, which is expected to be completed by the year 2024.

❑ Bihar Municipal Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Model Bye-law, 2022

- ➔ On December 12, 2022 Bihar Municipal Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Model Bye-law, 2022 was approved in a meeting of the Bihar Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- ➔ Under this, for the first time, the government has made a provision to impose a fine on those who use single-use polythene.

❑ Bihar Industries Department Released the Ranking of Industrial Development for the First Time

- ➔ On December 13, 2022, Principal Secretary of Bihar Industries Department Sandeep Poundrik informed that the state industries department has released the ranking of industrial development for the first time, in which districts have been ranked on the basis of implementation of industrial schemes.
- ➔ In this ranking of industrial development in the state, **Siwan** (73.5 points) is in first place and **Patna** (68 points) is in second place.

❑ Bihar in the Most Polluted Cities of the Country

- ➔ According to data released by the Central Pollution Control Board on December 14, 2022, five of the top five most polluted cities in the country are from Bihar. Purnea is the most polluted city across the country with an AQI of 450.
- ➔ Darbhanga is the second most polluted city in the country after Purnea with an AQI of 446.

❑ Bihar Municipality Bill, 2022

- ➔ On December 15, 2022, the Bihar Municipality Bill, 2022 was passed in the Patna Assembly.
- ➔ The bill, tabled by Deputy Chief minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who also holds the Urban Development Department portfolio, was passed in the House amid uproarious scenes by Opposition members over the Saran hooch tragedy.
- ➔ According to the bill, civic officials can remove temporary encroachment 24 hours after issuing a notice and permanent encroachment only after a 15-day notice period.

- ➔ Under this, before demolishing public land, the local bodies will have to inform the encroachers first.
- ➔ Along with this, the Assembly has also passed the Bihar Technical Service Commission Bill, 2022.

❑ 13th Patna Film Festival

- ➔ 13th Patna Film Festival was celebrated in Patna from December 19 to December 21, 2022.

❑ Bihar's third financial year 2022-23 green budget

- ➔ On December 16, 2022, Bihar's third financial year 2022-23 green budget was presented in the winter session.
- ➔ There has been a decrease of 3.26 percent in the green budget as compared to the previous years.
- ➔ Bihar is the first state in the country, which has been presenting a green budget.

❑ Ram Vriksh Benipuri Memorial on the Banks of Bagmati Dam

- ➔ The Bihar government has approved the proposal to build a memorial of Ram Vriksh Benipuri on the land allotted by the Bihar government on the banks of Bagmati dam.
- ➔ It is noteworthy that the Bagmati River originates from Nepal in the Mahabharata ranges of the Himalayas.
- ➔ This river travels about 195 kilometers in Nepal and enters Sitamarhi district of Bihar in India.

❑ Shalini Kumari received first prize in 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum

- ➔ Ms. Shalini Kumari (a resident of Patna) received first prize in the Grassroots Innovation Competition at the 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation forum, in December 2023, for her innovation 'Modified walker with adjustable legs'.
- ➔ Ms. Shalini Kumari received the prize from H.E Dr. HulSeingheng, Cambodia COSTI Chairman and Director General, General Department of Science, Technology & Innovation under the Ministry of Industry Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI), Kingdom of Cambodia.
- ➔ She has won the cash prize of USD 1,500 by virtue of being the winner of first prize.
- ➔ The 3rd ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum as well as the second Government Meeting in Cambodia was also held in which representatives from ASEAN member countries, India and ASEAN Secretariat were also held.

❑ Kosi-Mechi Link Project

- ➔ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Water Resources Department and

the National Water Development Agency of the Department of Water Resources under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to prepare the DPR of Kosi-Mechi Link Project.

- ➔ The Patna High Court has directed the Centre and Bihar government to set up Kosi Development Authority and interlink Kosi and Mechi rivers to tackle annual floods often caused due to excess water discharged from Nepal.
- ➔ The project will irrigate about 69,000 hectares in Araria district, about 69,000 hectares in Purnea district, 39,000 hectares in Kishanganj district and 35,000 hectares in Katihar district.
- ➔ Kosi-Mechi project is designed to divert part of the Kosi River surplus water through the existing Hanuman Nagar Barrage by way of a 117 km long link canal to the Mechi River in the Mahananda Basin.

❑ Sahitya Akademi Translation Award

- ➔ Sahitya Akademi award for translation in Hindi, Maithili and Konkani languages of the year 2022, was announced on December 29, 2022.
- ➔ Renowned writer–translator Prof. Ratneshwar Mishra (of Bihar's Purnia district) was awarded the Maithili language award for his Maithili translation of ChamanNahal's English novel 'Azadi'.
- ➔ The novel Azadi in English is considered Nahal's best novel and the author had won SahityaAkademi Award for the novel in 1977. The novel published in 1975, tells his experiences of having lived in Sialkot during the period of partition.

Bihar - One District One Product (Central Government)	
District	ODOP
Araria	Makhana (Foxnut)
Arwal	Pulse based products (Besan & Sattu)
Aurangabad	Strawberry based Products
Banka	Katarni Rice based Products
Begusarai	Chilly based Products
Bhagalpur	Jardalu Mango
Bhojpur	Indian traditional Sweets and Confectionary (Khurma/ Belgrami)
Buxar	Indian traditional Sweets (Batisa or Papdi)
Darbhanga	Makhana (Foxnut)
East Champaran	Litchi based Products
Gaya	Sesame based products
Gopalganj	Papaya based Products
Jamui	Minor Forest Produce (Jackfruit etc.)
Jehanabad	Pulse based products (Besan & Sattu)

Kaimur	Rice based products (Poha, Murmura etc.)
Katihar	Makhana (Foxnut)
Khagaria	Banana based Products
Kishanganj	Pineapple based Products
Lakhisarai	Tomato based Products
Madhepura	Mango based Products
Madhubani	Makhana (Foxnut)
Munger	Rice based products (Poha, Murmura etc.)
Muzaffarpur	Litchi based Products
Nalanda	Potato based Products
Nawada	Betel Vine
Patna	Bakery Products
Purnia	Maize based products
Rohtas	Rice Based Products (Poha, Murmura etc.)
Saharsa	Makhana (Foxnut)
Samastipur	Turmeric
Saran	Tomato based Products
Sheikhpura	Onion based Products
Sheohar	Banana based products
Sitamarhi	Litchi based Products
Siwan	Mentha based Products
Supaul	Makhana (Foxnut)
Vaishali	Honey
West Champaran	Sugarcane based Products

Bihar - One District One Product (Bihar Government)	
District	ODOP
Bhagalpur	Hand Block Print, Bhagalpuri Silk, Manjusha Painting
Banka	Banka Silk
Bhojpur	Applique, Bhojpur Painting
Buxar	Hand Embroidery
Darbhanga	Terracotta, Madhubani Painting
Gaya	Stone, Wood
Gopalganj	Handloom
Jamui	Crochet Goods
Kaimur	Carpet
Katihar	Jute
Khagaria	Bamboo
Kishanganj	Kheta Embroidery
Madhepura	Bamboo
Madhubani	Madhubani Painting, Sikki Painting, Khadi
Muzaffarpur	Sujni, Lac Bangle
Nalanda	Bawan Booti
Nawada	Handloom
Patna	Brass, Tikuli
Purnia	Bamboo
Samastipur	Bamboo
Sitamarhi	Applique, Sikki
Supaul	Lac Bangle
Vaishali	Sujni

Bihar Budget 2023-24

The Finance Minister of Bihar Vijay Kumar Chaudhary presented the Budget for financial year 2023-24 for the state on 28th February 2023.

❑ Budget Highlights

➔ **The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)-** The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Bihar for 2023-24 (at current prices) is projected to be Rs 8.59 lakh crore, amounting to **growth of 8.9% over 2022-23** (Rs 7.89 lakh crore).

❑ Budget Expenditure

➔ **Budget expenditure** of Rs. 2,61,885.40 crore has been estimated for the Year 2023-24 which is Rs. 24,194.21 crore more than Rs. 2,37,691.19 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ **The Capital and Revenue expenditure-**Revenue expenditure is Rs. 2,07,848.00 crore(79.37%) and Capital expenditure is Rs. 54,037.40 crore (20.63%) for the year 2023-24 respectively.

➔ **Revenue Expenditure** for the financial year 2023-24 is estimated at Rs. 2,07,848.00 crore which is Rs. 15,891.33 crore more than Rs. 1,91,956.67 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ **Capital Expenditure** for the financial year 2023-24 is estimated at Rs. 54,037.40 crore which is Rs. 8,302.88 crore more than Rs. 45,734.52 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ **Establishment & Commitment Expenditure** for the Financial Year 2023-24 is estimated at Rs. 1,61,855.67 crore, which is Rs. 24,394.72 crore more than Rs. 1,37,460.94 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ **Annual Scheme Outlay** for the financial year 2023-24 is estimated at **Rs. 1,00,000.00 crore**, which is equal to the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ The department wise allocation for Annual Scheme 2023-24 has been made as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)			
Sl. No.	Name of Department	Scheme Outlay (Rs.Crore)	Percentage total outlay
1.	Education Department	22200.35	22.20
2.	Rural Development Department	15193.19	15.19
3.	Social Welfare Department	8191.79	8.19
4.	Rural Works Department	7950.27	7.95
5.	Health Department	7117.56	7.12
6.	Road Construction Department	4420.99	4.42
7.	Urban Development and Housing Department	4055.10	4.06
8.	Water Resource Department	3232.63	3.23
9.	Agriculture Department	2781.99	2.78
10.	Public Health Engineering Department	1947.65	1.95
11.	Others	22908.48	22.91
	Total	100000.00	100.00

➔ **Good Governance Programme, 2020-25:-** Under Seven Nischay-2 of Aatmanirbhar Bihar (2020-25) **Rs. 5,000.00** crore Budget estimated in various department for the financial year 2023-24.

➔ Development and Non-Development expenditure -Development expenditure is Rs. 1,67,375.47 crore(63.91) and Non-Development expenditure Rs. 94,509.93 crore(36.09) respectively.

❑ Budget Receipt

➔ **Total Revenue Receipt** has been estimated at Rs. 2,12,326.97 crore in 2023-24 which is Rs. 15,622.46 crore more than Rs. 1,96,704.51 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ **State's Own Tax Revenue** is estimated at Rs. 49,700.05 crore in 2023-24 which is Rs. 8,313.05 crore more than Rs. 41,387.00 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ **State's Non Tax Revenue** is estimated at Rs. 6,511.74 crore in 2023-24 which is Rs. 376.12 crore

more than Rs 6,135.62 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ **State's Share in Central Taxes** is estimated at Rs. 1,02,737.26 Crore in 2023-24 which is Rs. 11,556.66 crore more than Rs 91,180.60 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

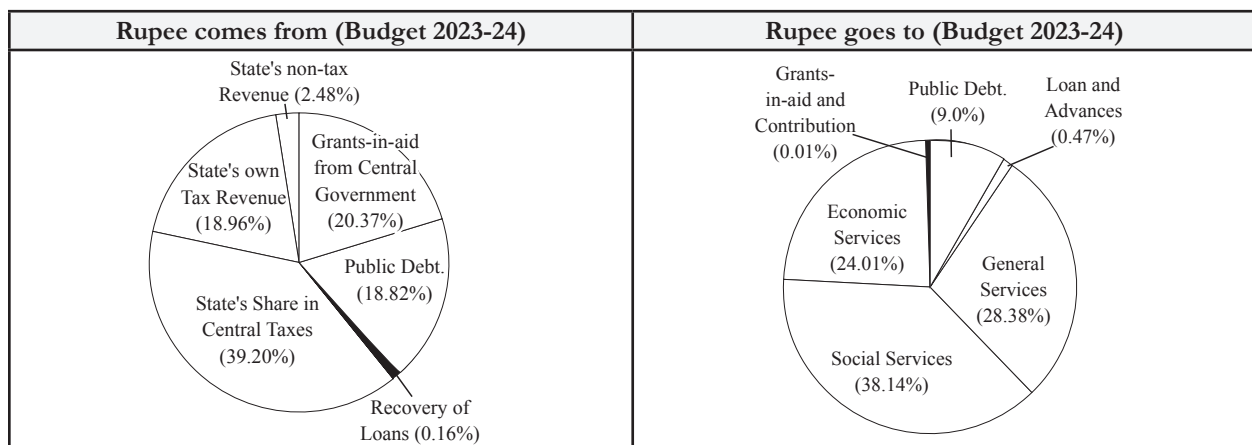
➔ **Grants in Aid from Central Government** to State is estimated at Rs. 53,377.92 crore in 2023-24 which is Rs. 4,623.37 crore less than Rs. 58,001.29 crore for the year 2022-23 budget estimate.

➔ **The State has Revenue Surplus** of Rs. 4,478.97 crore during 2023-24 which is 0.52% of GSDP.

➔ **The Fiscal Deficit** has been estimated at Rs. 25,567.84 crore which is **2.98% of GSDP** estimate at Rs. 8,58,928.00 crore for the year 2023-24.

➔ **The Outstanding Public Debt** is estimated at Rs. 2,76,165.43 crore in 2023-24 which is 32.15% of GSDP of Rs. 8,58,928.00 crore.

➔ **Total debt including liability in public account** estimate is Rs.3,24,762.35 crore in 2023-24 which is 37.81% of GSDP of Rs. 8,58,928.00 crore.



➔ **Fiscal Management:** In the year 2023-24 we are again likely to generate a revenue surplus and the fiscal deficit is likely to be contained at 2.98% of State GDP that is within the FRBM limits of 3.0%

❑ **Fiscal Achievements**

➔ The Fiscal Deficit was **3.78 percent of GSDP** Rs. 6,75,448.00 crore during 2021-22 which is under the prescribed conditional limit of 4.5 percent.

➔ Public Debt Liability Rs. 2,08,913.30 crore was **30.93 percent of GSDP** Rs. 6,75,448.00 crore during 2021-22. By the end of 31st March, 2022 public debt and other liabilities is Rs. 2,57,510.22 crore.

➔ The **Interest Payment** was **8.70 percent of Total Revenue Receipt** during 2021-22.

❑ **Policy Highlights**

➔ **Agriculture:** Multiple missions are proposed to be launched: (i) **Bihar Millet Mission**, (ii) Bihar Pulses and Oilseeds Development Mission, and (iii) Crop Diversification Mission.

➔ Fourth Agriculture Roadmap will be implemented with special focus on pulses and oilseeds. Infrastructure of state agricultural market yards will be modernised.

➔ **Groundwater conservation:** A centre of excellence will be established for groundwater conservation.

➔ **Government recruitment:** Requisition has been given for filling a **total of 63,900 posts** by Bihar Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, and Technical Service Commission.

➔ Approval has been given for **creation of 75,543 posts** in police.

❑ **Sector-wise expenditure under Bihar budget 2023-24 (in Rs. crore)**

➔ **Education, Sports, Arts, and Culture**

⊖ Rs 17,789 crore has been allocated as grants towards assistance to schools for salaries. Rs 6,397 crore has been allocated towards salaries and allowances for the Education Department.

➔ **Rural Development**

⊖ Rs 3,852 crore has been allocated towards MGNREGS. Rs 3,610 crore have been allocated towards PMGSY.

➔ **Health and Family Welfare**

⊖ Rs 3,691 crore has been allocated towards the provision of health services in urban areas. Rs 1,830 crore has been allocated towards capital outlay on health services

➔ **Social Welfare and Nutrition**

⊖ Rs 1,029 crore has been allocated towards Mukhyamantri Vriddhajan Pension Yojana.

➔ **Police**

⊖ Rs 6,345 crore has been allocated towards the district police.

➔ **Energy**

⊖ Rs 9,103 crore has been allocated towards subsidies for affordable power.

➔ **Transport**

⊖ Rs 3,986 crore has been allocated towards capital outlay on roads and bridges.

➔ **Urban Development**

⊖ Rs 940 crore has been allocated towards the Smart City Mission.

➔ **Agriculture and Allied Activities**

⊖ Rs 415 crore has been allocated towards subsidies under various schemes administered by the Agriculture Department. This includes subsidy of Rs 100 crore for agricultural mechanisation.

➔ **Housing**

⊖ Rs 6,789 crore has been allocated towards Indira Awas/Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

➔ **“Saat Nishay 2.0” for Aatmnirbhar Bihar (Financial year 2023-24)**

1. Yuva Shakti-Bihar Ki Pragati
2. Sashakt mahila- Saksham Mahila
3. Har Khet Ko Pani
4. Swachha Goan-Samridh Goan
5. Swachha Shahar- Viksit Shahar
6. Sulabh Samparkata
7. Sabke liye Atirikt Swasthya Suvidha

Provisioned Amount for the Important Schemes in the Budget 2022-23	
Name of the Scheme	Provisioned amount (In Rs. Crore)
Sarv Siksha Abhiyan (S.S.A.) (Samgra Siksha)	16131
Housing for All(Rural)	6789.14
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	4460.29
Scheme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (M.D.M.)	3654
National Health Mission along with N.R.H.M.	3299.55
Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	3111.94
National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	2500.00
Human resource in health and medical education	2237.90
National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)	2100.00
Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme	1410.00

Bihar Economic Survey 2022-23

□ Bihar Economy: An Overview

- ➔ The Bihar economy posted a strong recovery in 2021-22. According to quick estimates, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant prices recorded a robust growth of 10.98 percent, compared to (-)3.2 percent in 2020-21. The national growth rates was 8.68 percent in 2021-22.
- ➔ Bihar is a relatively low-income Indian State. According to quick estimates, the GSDP of Bihar at current prices was Rs 675448 crore and Rs 428065 crore at constant (2011-12) prices in 2021-22.
- ➔ The Per Capita GSDP of Bihar in 2021-22 was Rs 54,383 at current prices and Rs. 34,465 at constant (2011-12) prices.
- ➔ In terms of share of major sectors of GSDP, primary sector experienced a slight decline from 21.4 percent in 2020-21 to 21.2 percent in 2021-22.
- ➔ The secondary sector also recorded a small decline from 19.3 percent in 2020-21 to 18.1 percent in 2021-22.
- ➔ Interestingly, between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the tertiary sector registered an increase in its share from 59.3 percent to 60.7 percent.
- ➔ With regard of ranking of the 38 districts for Per Capita GSDP in 2020-21, the three most prosperous districts are - Patna (Rs. 1,15,239), Begusarai (Rs. 45,497) and Munger (Rs. 42,793).
- ➔ At the other end, the three less developed districts are - Sheohar (Rs. 18,692), Araria (Rs. 19,527) and Sitamarhi (Rs. 20,631).

□ State Finances

- ➔ The **total expenditure** by the State government was Rs. 1.93 lakh crore in 2021-22. Out of this, Rs. 1.59 lakh crore (82.4 percent) was the revenue expenditure, and Rs. 0.34 lakh crore (17.6 percent) was the capital expenditure.
- ➔ The **expenditure** by the State government on **General Services** was Rs. 48,939 crore in 2021-22. Out of this, Rs. 13,822 crore (28.2 percent) was the interest payment.
- ➔ The **Social Services** and **Economic Services** expenditure was Rs. 76,115 crore and Rs. 34,166 crore, respectively.
- ➔ The State government continued to focus on increased **capital expenditure**, which increased by 29.4 percent over the previous year to Rs. 33,903 crore in 2021-22.
- ➔ The **receipt** in the revenue account increased by 23.9 percent to reach Rs. 1,58,797 crore, whereas

the expenditure in this account increased by 14.1 percent to reach Rs. 1,59,220 crore in 2021-22 over the previous year.

- ➔ As a result of this, the State government could bring down its revenue deficit by 96.3 percent, from Rs. 11,325 crore in 2020-21 to just Rs. 422 crore.
- ➔ The State government collected Rs. 38,839 crore in revenue from its own sources in 2021-22. Out of which, the revenue collected from **taxes** was Rs. 34,855 crore (89.7 percent), and the **non-tax revenue** was Rs. 3984 crore (10.3 percent).
- ➔ The **gross transfer of financial resources** from the Central government to the State government was Rs. 1,29,486 crore in 2021-22. Out of this, the amount received as the state's share in the Central taxes was Rs. 91,353 crore. The Grants-in-Aid from the Centre to the State government and the Central government's loan to the State government was Rs. 28,606 crore and Rs. 9527 crore, respectively, in 2021-22.
- ➔ The Primary deficit of the State government declined from Rs. 17,344 crore in 2020-21 to Rs. 11,729 crore in 2021-22.
- ➔ Similarly, the Fiscal deficit of the State government also declined from Rs. 29,828 crore in 2020-21 to Rs. 25,551 crore in 2021-22.
- ➔ The total borrowing of the State government was Rs. 40,445 crore in 2021-22. The outstanding debt of the State government at the end of 2021-22 was Rs. 2,57,510 crore.
- ➔ The interest payment and the capital repayment by the State government during the year were Rs. 13,822 crore and Rs. 8746 crore, respectively.

□ Agriculture and Allied Sectors

- ➔ The agriculture and allied sectors grew at a rate of about 5 percent during the last five years (2017-18 to 2021-22).
- ➔ Overall, the sector accounted for a share of 20 percent in Gross State Value Added (GSVA) during the same period.
- ➔ The contribution of sub-sectors to GSVA were - crop sector (11.1 percent), livestock (6.6 percent) and fisheries and aquaculture (1.8 percent) in 2021-22.
- ➔ In 2020-21, the Net Sown Area in Bihar was 50.5 lakh hectares, while the cropping intensity was 1.44. As of 2021-22, the total cereal production stood at 181.0 lakh tonnes.
- ➔ The State Government is implementing the **Bihar Agri-Investment Promotion Policy** wherein a

capital subsidy of 15 percent is being provided to individual investors and 25 percent to Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) for establishing new agro-based industries or for the expansion, modernisation and diversification of existing units.

- ➔ The identified seven focus products of this initiative are - makhana, fruits and vegetables, maize, medicinal plants, aromatic plants, honey and tea.
- ➔ A new scheme under the state plan has been launched by the Department of Agriculture for genetic identification of hybrid seed of maize and paddy through DNA finger-printing with a total cost of Rs. 142.27 lakh.
- ➔ Organic and sustainable agriculture is a priority for the State Government. Therefore, under the Jaivik Corridor Scheme (2022-25), another 20,000 acres have been taken for organic farming.
- ➔ In 2021-22, the total expenditure for irrigation development was Rs. 2670.49 crore. As of March 2022, about 37.22 lakh hectare of irrigation potential has been created.

❑ **Enterprises Sector**

- ➔ Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of factories in Bihar has increased by only 0.3 percent, but the working capital has increased by 51 percent. Moreover, in Bihar, the net value added has registered an increase of 1.2 percent in 2019-20 over the 2018-19 level, while the same at the all-India level has declined by 4.8 percent.
- ➔ In Bihar, the total sugar production was 45.6 lakh quintals, with a recovery rate of 9.6 percent. In case of electricity generation, eight sugar mills together produced 88.5 MW of electricity in 2021-22.
- ➔ To encourage the establishment of production units, the State government has released a sum of Rs 532.46 crore as grants under the Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy 2016 during the last six years.
- ➔ The highest amount of investment has taken place in food processing (Rs 1395.65 crore), which accounted for 41 percent of the total investment in the state.
- ➔ In 2021-22, 45 micro enterprises were established, which was more than double the number of micro enterprises set up in 2020-21.
- ➔ The number of large enterprises also increased from 3 in 2020-21 to 11 in 2021-22. The amount of investment in those enterprises has increased by 131 percent.
- ➔ Bihar has potential to develop religious, heritage, health, entertainment, waterfront and cultural

tourism. On tourism, the expenditure has increased to Rs 146.90 crore in 2021-22, compared to Rs 70.20 crore in 2020-21.

❑ **Labour, Employment and Skill**

- ➔ The male Work Population Ratio (WPR) in rural Bihar was 68.8 percent, compared to 77.9 percent at the all-India level. In case of urban Bihar, the male WPR was 64.6 percent vis-à-vis 75.7 percent at the all-India level. The gap between Bihar and India with respect to male WPR is lower, as compared to the female WPR.
- ➔ In Bihar, a male and female worker, on an average, earns Rs 338 and Rs 244 per day respectively, translating to a gender wage gap of 28 percent. At the all-India level, the wage gap was even wider, at 36 percent.
- ➔ To increase the representation of women, the State government has provided a horizontal reservation of 35 percent.
- ➔ The JEEVIKA is the nodal agency for providing support to RSETIs, which imparts self-employment training to the rural youth in 61 approved trades. After the completion of training, the rural youth are also provided with credit support from banks to start their own enterprises.
- ➔ Under the DDU-GKY programme, 77 training centres of 68 PIAs have provided skill training and placement facilities to the rural youth.

❑ **Physical Infrastructure**

- ➔ Bihar registered the highest growth of 20.4 percent in the country for Transport and Communication sectors during 2021-22.
- ➔ The Gross State Value Added (GVA) of airways (54.4 percent), services incidental to transport (33.5 percent) and roadways (31.8 percent) recorded the all-time high growth during 2021-22.
- ➔ Bihar had a total road density of 3166.9 kms, per 1000 sq. kms, of geographical area and ranked third in all-India, after Kerala and West Bengal in 2019.
- ➔ The State government has invested Rs. 76,483 crore during 2015-22 for building and maintenance of the all-weather roads and bridges. For 2022-23, a sum of Rs. 16,530 crore has been budgeted for this sector.
- ➔ Bihar has recorded the third highest number of vehicle registrations among Indian states, after Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra during 2020-21.

❑ **E-Governance**

- ➔ For promoting e-governance, Bihar has received many awards like CSI Nihilent Award, CSI SiG e-Governance awards, Digital India Award, National Award for highest DBT transaction, National e-governance Awards and many others.

- ➔ In Bihar, on an average, each household is enabled with 2 or more mobile connections and almost every household has access to internet and 98.7 percent of the Gram Panchayats are covered under Bharat Net.
- ➔ Common Social Registry Portal (CSRP) is a digital platform where different members of a family can get registered under any of the State government schemes.
- ➔ Mukhyamantri Digital Health Yojana has been implemented as a Pilot Project in Muzaffarpur and, after successful execution, it will be rolled out in the remaining 37 districts.
- ➔ With citizens at the core, this project aims to integrate around 13,000 public health facilities, ranging from the district level to lower-level health centres.
- ➔ Aadhaar-enabled PDS has been implemented in all 50,854 PDS shops across the state. Around 1.8 crore (92 percent) transactions are done every month through POS devices using ration card data.
- ➔ At every police station in Bihar, the Bhu-Samadhaan app is used to keep track of cases that involve land disputes.

❑ Energy Sector

- ➔ There was a significant improvement in the projected peak demand for power from 4965 MW in 2017-18 to 6475 MW in 2021-22, implying a growth of more than 30.4 percent in four years.
- ➔ The Per Capita Consumption of energy in the state has risen from 280 kWh in 2017-18 to 329 kWh in 2021-22, implying a growth of 17.5 percent in four years. The peak demand met again had a growth of around 46.1 percent to reach 6627 MW during 2021-22 from 4535 MW in 2017-18.
- ➔ The available power capacity in the state was 6422 MW in 2020-21, which increased to 7785 MW in 2021-22, implying a growth of 21.2 percent.
- ➔ Power demand in the state was 6576 MW in 2021-22, which increased to 7054 MW in 2022-23, implying a growth of 7.3 percent.
- ➔ The DISCOMs made all-out efforts to improve their financial status reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss from 43.5 percent (2015-16) to 29.4 percent in 2021-22.
- ➔ The total generation capacity of power, as on March 2021, was 6422 MW. Increasing by 21 percent, it has reached 7785 MW in March 2022.
- ➔ Between March 2021 and March 2022, the growth rate in coal-based thermal power is 9.1 percent, and 130.6 percent in renewable energy sources.

❑ Rural Development

- ➔ By September 2022, 10.35 lakh SHGs have been formed under JEEVIKA, of which 2.45 lakh SHGs

are linked with banks for credit. At present, the outstanding credit is Rs. 5574 crore.

- ➔ Under MGNREGS, the number of households provided with employment has doubled from 22.5 lakh in 2017-18 to 48.0 lakh in 2021-22, Employment generated has also substantially increased from 817.2 lakh persondays to 1811.8 lakh persondays in 2021-22.
- ➔ Fund utilization under the scheme has also improved over the years—it was 91.2 percent in 2017-18 which increased to 98.1 percent in 2021-22.
- ➔ Under Public Distribution System (PDS), a total of 5474.9 thousand tonnes of foodgrains consisting of 2208.2 thousand tonnes of wheat and 3266.7 thousand tonnes of rice, was allotted in 2021-22.
- ➔ Between 2017-18 and 2021-22, the average lifting of foodgrain was 97.9 percent. The data shows that the lifting of wheat and rice is almost 100 percent in nearly all the districts.
- ➔ A total of 4290 Panchayats have been selected for the implementation of the Mukhyamantri Gramin Peyjal Yojana. Similarly, for the Mukhyamantri Gramin Gali-Nali Pakkiran Yojana, a total of 8386 Panchayats were selected.
- ➔ Under Saat Nishchay 2, Mukhya Mantri Gramin Solar Street Light Yojana has been launched for every Panchayat of the state from 2022-23. Under the scheme, every ward is to get 10 solar street lights installed. Also, every Panchayat has been given 10 additional solar street lights for community institutions, like school, library etc.

❑ Urban Development

- ➔ The total urban population in Bihar is 11.8 million, according to the Census 2011.
- ➔ 111 new Nagar Panchayats have been set up, along with 9 new Nagar Parishads. Because of the above decision and natural growth of population in urban areas, the projected urban population of Bihar in 2022 is 20.2 million.
- ➔ This will raise the urbanisation rate in Bihar from 11.3 to 16.2 percent.
- ➔ The expenditure of Department for Urban Development and Housing was Rs. 8423.8 crore in 2019-20, which increased to Rs. 9942.2 crore in 2020-21, registering a growth of 18.0 percent.
- ➔ A unique scheme called the 'Bihar Ganga Water Supply Scheme' was recently launched, through which 1.12 lakh population of the Rajgir city, about 1.21 lakh population of the Nawada city, and about 6.32 lakh population in Gaya and Bodh Gaya cities will be benefitted.

- ➔ Under this scheme, the excess water of the river Ganga will be supplied through pipe by constructing an intake well-cum-pump house at Hathidah (Mokama).
- ➔ The stated goals of 'Ghar Tak Pakki Gali-Naaliyaan' are being achieved gradually. In 2021-22, 8.26 lakh households were benefitted.
- ➔ The number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) in Bihar has increased from 2876 in 2020-21 to 4826 in 2021-22.
- ➔ The number of credit-linked SHGs has increased from only 208 in 2018-19 to 4176 in 2021-22.
- ➔ Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), the construction of toilets up to 2020-21 was 4.01 lakh and there were 0.10 lakh toilets under construction. Till 2021-22, the total number of toilets constructed increased to 4.12 lakh, which further increased to 4.14 lakh up to September, 2022.
- ➔ For Individual toilets, the State government provides a subsidy of Rs. 8000 to each family, in addition to the Central assistance of Rs. 4000.

❑ Human Development

- ➔ During the last 16 years (2005-06 and 2021-22), the expenditure on social services has increased more than 11.0 times in Bihar.
- ➔ The expenditure on health increased by about 11 times and that on education by eight times.
- ➔ During this period, the share of social services expenditure in total expenditure of the State government increased from 31.9 percent in 2005-06 to 42.4 percent in 2021-22.
- ➔ Similarly, the Per Capita Expenditure on Social Sector also increased from Rs. 801 in 2005-06 to Rs. 6156 in 2021-22.
- ➔ The Life Expectancy at Birth (LEB) for Bihar has increased substantially from 65.8 years in 2006-10 to 69.5 years in 2016-20, registering an increase of 3.7 years over a period of ten years. Currently, the overall LEB of Bihar is only 0.5 year less than that of India (70.0 years).
- ➔ The extent of institutional delivery has significantly increased from 22.0 percent in 2005-06 to 76.2 percent in 2019-21, which indicates an increase of 54.2 percentage points according to the National Family Health Survey.
- ➔ According to the latest Sample Registration System bulletin, MMR has declined from 165 per lakh live births in 2015-17 to 118 in 2018-20, resulting in a decline of 47 points.
- ➔ The annual growth rate of enrolment at primary level in the recent years is 4.1 percent.

- ➔ The total enrolment, taking both primary and upper primary levels, rose to 214.33 lakh in 2021-22 from 197.73 lakh in 2019-20, with an annual growth rate of 4.1 percent.
- ➔ In 2017-18, the coverage of PM-POSHAN for primary schools was 63.1 percent. Five years later, it has increased marginally to 64.4 percent (2021-22).
- ➔ The total outlay for women development has increased by 71.2 percent from 2016-17 to 2020-21.
- ➔ Outlays for women as percentage of GSDP have been around 3.6 percent.
- ➔ Altogether, 75 Didi Ki Rasois are operational, providing employment to over 700 SHG members.

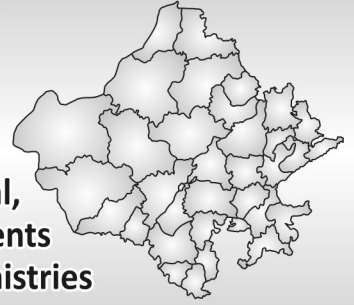
❑ Child Development

- ➔ With a child population of 4.98 crore, 48 percent of the total population in Bihar lies in the age group of 0-18 years. Out of these 4.98 crore children, 4.47 crore (89.9 percent) reside in rural areas and 0.50 crore (10.1 percent) live in urban areas. As per gender particulars, 2.35 crore are girls and 2.62 crore are boys.
- ➔ The adolescent population of Bihar aged between 10 and 19 years increased 1.3 times, from 1.83 crore in 2001 to 2.34 crore in 2011.
- ➔ The State government started preparing Child Budget from 2013-14. The actual expenditure on children has increased by 85.7 percent from Rs. 16,638.5 crore in 2016-17 to Rs. 30,903.05 crore in 2020-21.
- ➔ The share of public expenditure on children in total GSDP rose to 5.3 percent in 2020-21 from 4.0 percent in 2016-17.
- ➔ Presently, ICDS is running through 544 project offices in 38 districts of Bihar.
- ➔ The budget for nutrition under ICDS increased at an annual rate of 9.7 percent, from Rs. 1352.33 crore in 2017-18 to Rs. 1896.45 crore in 2021-22.
- ➔ The coverage of functional drinking water facility and toilets in all types of schools are more than 95 percent in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- ➔ Under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, a total of 1.12 lakh out-of-school children (OOSC) in the age group of 6-13 years were mainstreamed in 2020-21.

❑ Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management

- ➔ The forestry and logging sectors contributed to 1.6 percent of the Gross State Value Addition (GSVA) in Bihar over the last five years.
- ➔ In 2021-22, a total of 388.97 lakh plants were planted under the 'Mission 5.0 Crore Plantation campaign' of the Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan.

Rajasthan Current Affairs



**Focus on Political, Social,
Religious, Educational Events
of the State and Various Ministries**

❑ 33 Centres of Khelo India Inaugurated in Rajasthan

➔ In August 2023, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated 33 centers of Khelo India Centres in the State of Rajasthan at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

❑ Rajasthan Mission-2030

➔ In August 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched the ambitious 'Rajasthan Mission-2030' in the direction of making Rajasthan the leader of India in every field by the year 2030.

❑ 9th CPA India Region Conference begins in Udaipur

➔ In August 2023, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh and other guests inaugurated the 9th India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) by lighting the lamp in the city of lakes, Udaipur.

➔ In the conference, brainstorming started on important points like strengthening of democratic institutions, making people's representatives more accountable and good governance through digital empowerment.

❑ Noor Shekhawat became the 1st Transgender of Rajasthan to have a Jan Aadhaar card

➔ August 20, 2023, Noor Shekhawat, a transgender studying in Rajasthan University, has become the first transgender of Rajasthan to have a Jan Aadhaar card.

➔ For the 1st time in the state, the Jan Adhaar Authority has issued a Jan Adhaar card to a transgender, setting a new precedent.

❑ NLC India Ltd. signs long term power use agreement with Rajasthan for 300 MW solar project

➔ In August 2023, NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking under

the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal, has entered into a long-term power use agreement with Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (RUVNL) for supply of 300 MW solar power under CPSU scheme in Rajasthan.

➔ A capacity of 300 MW solar project is being implemented at Barsingsar in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. The EPC contract for the project has been awarded to M/s Tata Power Solar Systems through competitive bidding.

➔ The project will generate 750 million units of electricity annually and the total green power generated will be supplied to Rajasthan. The project will help Rajasthan to meet its renewable energy purchase obligation targets.

❑ Asia's Best Employer Brand' Award-2023

➔ In August 2023, Asia's Best Employer Brand Award-2023 has been awarded to Rajasthan Housing Board and 'Exemplary Leadership and CSR Initiative Award' to Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora by The World HRD Congress at a glittering event held at Hotel Pan Pacific, Singapore.

❑ Inauguration of 'CM Free Annapurna Food Packet Scheme'

➔ In August 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched the 'Chief Minister Free Annapurna Food Packet Scheme' in the state on the auspicious occasion of Independence Day at a program organized at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur and also released the poster of the scheme.

➔ Under this scheme, free Annapurna food packets will be distributed every month to more than 1.04 crore families in the state.

❑ 'Indira Gandhi Smartphone Yojana'

➔ On August 10, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched the 'Indira Gandhi Smartphone Scheme' by pressing the remote button and providing smartphones to beneficiary women at Birla Auditorium auditorium in Jaipur.

- ➔ Under the scheme, 1.35 crore women of Chiranjeevi families will be given smartphones with 3 years of internet connectivity. In the first phase, smartphones have been given to 40 lakh women and girl students.

Water Resources Department Received ET Government Digi-Tech Award 2023

- ➔ On August 8, 2023, the Water Resources Department of Rajasthan was awarded the ET Government Digi-Tech Award 2023 in the category of Digital Initiatives at the three-day Economic Times Government Digi-Tech Conclave & Awards 2023 being held in Goa.
- ➔ Rajasthan has received this award at the national level for outstanding use of digital technology in the field of water.

Maharaja Hanwant Singh Marwar Sangeet Ratna Award'

- ➔ On August 07, 2023, world-famous bamboo player Pandit Hariprasad Chourasia honoured with the 'Maharaja Hanwant Singh Marwar Sangeet Ratna Award', at Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls Public School, located in Rai Ka Bagh, Jodhpur.
- ➔ He received a shawl, quince and a check of one lakh rupees.

Jan Aadhaar Yojana won the Gold Award in the Category 'Digital Transformation in Social Sector'

- ➔ On August 5, 2023, Rajasthan government's important flagship Jan Aadhaar Yojana to provide good governance through e-governance won the Gold Award in the category 'Digital Transformation in Social Sector' at the three-day Economic Times Government Digi-tech Conclave and Awards 2023 held in Goa.

Rajasthan gets the Best Heritage Tourism Destination of the Year Award

- ➔ On August 6, 2023, Rajasthan has been awarded the Best Heritage Tourism Destination of the Year Award, represented by the Department of Tourism, at the India International Travel Mart held in Chennai.
- ➔ It is known that Rajasthan is known on the world stage for its art-culture, historical heritage, religious places, famous temples, ancient forts, palaces, delicious cuisine, natural beauty and tourist places.

Rajasthan State Guru Gorakhnath Board formed

- ➔ Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal of the Rajasthan State Guru Gorakhnath Board

- ➔ The Board will have 5 non-official members (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and 3 Members).
- ➔ A Deputy Director level officer of Social Justice and Empowerment Department will be the Secretary in the Board.
- ➔ The Managing Director of the Rajasthan State Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Cooperative Corporation Limited or his representative will be a special invitee to the Board.
- ➔ The Administrative Department of the Board will be the Social Justice and Empowerment Department.

Folk Artist Promotion Card

- ➔ On July 28, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved a proposal to give folk artist incentive cards to folk artists.
- ➔ It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced the implementation of the Chief Minister's Folk Artists Promotion Scheme in the budget for the year 2023-24.
- ➔ In this scheme, provision has been made to provide opportunities to folk artists every year for 100 days per year for state festivals, promotion of government schemes and performing arts in educational institutions.

PM inaugurates 6 EMRS in Rajasthan

- ➔ On July 27, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated six Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Rajasthan, two in Udaipur district, two in Banswara, one in Pratapgarh and one in Dungarpur.
- ➔ Each school has a capacity of 480 students, of which 240 will be girls. These schools will have separate hostels for boys and girls, accommodation for staff, dining space and playground.

PM lays foundation stone of Various Development Projects

- ➔ On July 27, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated more than 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras in Sikar, Rajasthan, laying the foundation stone of various development projects and dedicating it to the nation.
- ➔ In a significant move to benefit farmers, the Prime Minister dedicated to the nation over 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSKs). PMKSKs are being developed to provide one-stop solutions for the needs of all farmers.

Vivekananda Youth Hostel

- ➔ On July 26, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a financial proposal of Rs 78.18 crore for the construction of Vivekananda Youth Hostels in 28 districts of the state.

- ➔ These Hostels will provide accommodation facilities to the students of the state in the district headquarters for preparing for competitive examinations.
- ➔ It may be noted that in Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur and Kota, youth homes are already operated by the Government of India and the State Government.

❑ Formation of Rajasthan State Teli Ghani Development Board

- ➔ On July 25, 2023, after the approval of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Rajasthan issued an order for the formation of 'Rajasthan State Teli Ghani Development Board' for the social, educational and economic advancement of the Teli community.
- ➔ The Board will have a total of 5 non-official members including Chairman, Vice Chairman and 3 members.

❑ Rajasthan State Avanti Bai Lodhi Board formed

- ➔ According to the information given by the Rajasthan Information and Public Relations Department on July 24, 2023, the Rajasthan State Avanti Bai Lodhi Board has been constituted to survey the condition of the Lodhi (Lodha) society, provide basic facilities and give suggestions to remove backwardness.

- ➔ The Board will consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and 3 non-official members.

❑ Rajasthan becomes 1st state to pass bill for welfare of online platform-based Gig Workers

- ➔ On July 24, 2023, on the initiative of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the state assembly has passed the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill-2023.
- ➔ Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to pass a bill for the welfare of lakhs of gig workers earning their livelihood through online platforms.
- ➔ Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers Welfare Board will be established under the Act to be made through this bill.
- ➔ Along with this, Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund will be constituted.

❑ Rajasthan Sahitya Academy, Udaipur announced the outstanding awards for the years 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22

- ➔ On July 24, 2023, Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi, Udaipur, an autonomous institution established by the Government of Rajasthan to encourage, honour and promote the literature of the province, announced the outstanding awards for the years 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Awards for the Year 2020-21		
Awards	Recipients	Work
Meera Award	Dr. R.D. Saini (Jaipur)	'Priya Olive' (Prose)
Sudhindra Award	Ghulam Mohiuddin Mah (Bikaner)	'Aatshe-Kalbo-Jigar' (Ghazal Poetry)
Rangeya Raghav Award	Reena Menaria (Udaipur)	'Banaas Paar' (Prose Fiction)
Devraj Upadhyay Award	Madhav Nagda (Laimadadi-Nathdwara)	'Samkalin Hindi Laghukatha aur Aa ka Yathart' (Criticism)
Kanhaiyalal Sahal Award	Uma (Jaipur)	'Kissagoi' (Miscellaneous)
Devlal Samar Award	Prince Bunkar Indresh (Jaipur)	—
Sumnesh Joshi Award	Brijesh Mathur (Ajmer)	—
Shambhudayal Saxena Award	Puran Sarma (Jaipur)	Children's Novel 'Sadbhav Ka Ujala

Awards for the Year 2019-20		
Awards	Recipients	Work
Meera Award	Govind Mathur (Jaipur)	Mud kar Dekhta hai Jeeva (Poetry)
Sudhindra Award	Bhanu Bharvi (Jaipur)	'Rang ab Wo Rang Nahi' (Poetry)
Rangeya Raghav Award	Sandeep Mile (Village Posani-Sikar)	'Kokilashastra' (Prose Fiction)
Devraj Upadhyay Award	Sadashiv Shrotiya (Udaipur)	'Kavita ka Parshva' (Criticism)
Kanhaiyalal Sahal Award	Om Nagar (Anta-Bara)	'Nib Ka Parshva' (Criticism)
Devlal Samar Award	Ashok Rahi (Jaipur)	'Vishnu Gupta Chanakya aur Ravana meet Gaya' (Drama)
Sumnesh Joshi Award	Madhav Rathod (Jaipur)	'Marx me Manu Dhoondhti' (Story)
Shambhudayal Saxena Award	Pankaj Veerwal Kishore (Salambur)	(Children's Literature)

Awards for the Year 2021-22		
Awards	Recipients	Work
Meera Award	Dr. Panja Sharma (Jodhpur)	'Mobile, Pick and Hostel and Other Stories' (Prose)
Sudhindra Award	Jitendra Kumar Soni (Dhannasar-Hanumangarh)	'Regmal' (Poetry)
Rangeya Raghav Award	Dinesh Panchal (Vikasnagar Dungarpur)	'Khet' (Prose)
Devraj Upadhyay Award	Odisha Migrant Dinesh Kuamr Ma (Sirohi)	'Trelanu Ek Samyak Vyasa' (Criticism)
Kanhaiyalal Sahal Award	Vimla Bhandari (Salambur)	'Adhyatma ka Wah Din' (Trivelogue-Memoir)
Devlal Samar Award	Prabodh Kumar Govil (Jaipur)	'Bata Mera Mautnama'
Sumnesh Joshi Award	Ashwini Tripathi (Baran)	'Hansiye Par Aadmi' (Ghazal)
Shambhudayal Saxena Award	Satyanarayan Vyas (Raipur Bhilwara)	'Interesting Child Stories' (Children Literature)

❑ List of total 44 Notified Wetlands in 19 Districts released in the state

- ➔ On July 19, 2023, Additional Chief Secretary of Rajasthan Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department.
- ➔ Baran district of the state will have maximum 12 wetlands.

❑ 50 Birdhouses will be constructed in the state

- ➔ On July 13, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved an additional budget provision of Rs 43.50 crore for the construction of 50 birdhouses for the conservation and promotion of birds in the state.
- ➔ These birdhouses will be built at 33 Lav-Kush Gardens and 17 other places on the lines of Gulab Bagh Bird House in Udaipur.
- ➔ It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister had announced the construction of 50 birdhouses in the budget for the year 2023-24.

❑ High-level Committee for the Rules & Bye-laws related to the Right-to-Health Act

- ➔ On July 11, 2023, as per the instructions of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, a high-level committee has been constituted for the rules and bye-laws being made regarding the Right to Health Act-2022 passed by the Assembly.
- ➔ Professor Dr S K Sarin, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi, will head the committee.

❑ The Foundation stone of Barwas Micro Irrigation Project

- ➔ On July 5, 2023, Rajasthan's Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sports and Information & Public Relations Ashok Chandna laid the foundation stone

of Barwas Micro Irrigation Project in Bundi district to be constructed at a cost of Rs 12 crore in the state.

- ➔ The construction of this project at Barwas village in Bundi district will increase the area's water level.

❑ CM approves the draft of 'Vishwakarma Kamgar Kalyan Yojana'

- ➔ On July 4, 2023, in order to promote employment in the state, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the draft of 'Vishwakarma Kamgar Kalyan Yojana'.
- ➔ Under this scheme, 1 lakh people of different categories will get the assistance of 5-5 thousand rupees to buy necessary equipment, kits, sewing machines etc. for self-employment.

❑ Divya Kala Mela

- ➔ On June 29, 2023, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra inaugurated the Divya Kala Mela organized by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur to promote the skill and craftsmanship of the products of Divyangjan on a large scale. .

❑ National Innovation Dialogue 2022

- ➔ On June 27, 2023, Akashdiya Bansal's start-up from Jaipur, Rajasthan was declared the winner at the 5th edition of Youth Co: Lab National Innovation Dialogue India.
- ➔ Twelve top start-ups from 9 Indian states working in agriculture, ed-tech, women's livelihood, circular economy and biodiversity were declared winners in the 5th edition of Youth Co/Lab National Innovation Dialogue India.
- ➔ Under the theme 'Digital and Financial Literacy for Youth', Rajasthan's Akashdeep Bansal's start-up 'Edubuild - Experiments for Youth' was declared the winner.

❑ Rajasthan got JAM Excellence Award

- ➔ On June 26, 2023, Rajasthan was given the JAM Excellence Award at the Buyer Seller Gaurav Samman ceremony held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ➔ The State was awarded the Silver Award for the better work of getting purchase orders for their products from SC-ST entrepreneurs through JAM portal.

❑ Jungle Safari started in Tiger Reserve Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary

- ➔ On June 23, 2023, Ashok Chandna, Rajasthan's Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sports and Information & Public Relations, flagged off the first Jungle Safari at Tiger Reserve Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Dalepura, Bundi, to take forward Bundi district in the tourism sector in the State.
- ➔ Tiger Reserve Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary has many features. It is about 1500 sq km with a core area of 500 sq km.
- ➔ In May 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the 'Jungle Safari' at Jaisamand Wildlife Sanctuary through video conference in Udaipur district of the state on International Biodiversity Day.

❑ Neeraj Tambolia honoured with 'National Florence Nightingale Award-2022'

- ➔ On June 22, 2023, the President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu, awarded the National Florence Nightingale Award-2022 to Neeraj Tamolia for his dedication & outstanding service in the nursing sector.
- ➔ President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu has given the National Florence Nightingale Award to a total of 30 nurses for the years 2022 and 2023 at the function.
- ➔ Neeraj Tambolia, Senior Nursing Officer, working in J.K. Lone Hospital has done excellent work in health services during his 31 years of service.

❑ Rajasthan Awarded First Prize in the Field of Wind Energy by the Central Government

- ➔ On June 15, 2023, Rajasthan was awarded the first prize by the Central Government's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for its exemplary work in the field of wind energy compared to other states.
- ➔ The award was given at a function organized in New Delhi on the occasion of 'Global Wind Day' (June 15) under the aegis of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

❑ Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Shramik Sambal Yojana

- ➔ On June 14, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the draft of 'Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Shramik Sambal Yojana-2023' to provide relief to active workers and identified street vendors registered under the Construction Workers Welfare Fund of the unorganized sector of Rajasthan during hospitalization.
- ➔ Under the 'Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Shramik Sambal Yojana-2023', registered laborers and identified street vendors and their family members (registered active workers) aged 25 to 60 years will now get financial assistance for a maximum of 7 days during hospitalization.

❑ 66th National School Games

- ➔ In the team & individual sports events of the 66th National School Games that ended on June 13, 2023, the players of Rajasthan made a splash with their performance and won 6 gold, 12 silver & 15 bronze medals Rajasthan.

❑ Irrigation Projects in Jhalawar, Bundi & Banswara

- ➔ On 8 June 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave financial approval of Rs 156.13 crore for 5 development works related to the Water Resources Department to strengthen the irrigation system in the state.
- ➔ With this amount, development work of the sprinkler system in the Rajgarh Medium Irrigation Project, construction work in the Ghughwa Minor Irrigation Project and necessary irrigation facilities in the Gagarin Irrigation Project will be done in the Jhalawar district.

❑ Rajasthan ranks 12th in the Jal Jeevan Mission connection

- ➔ On 4 June 2023, Rajasthan Water Resources Minister Dr. Mahesh Joshi said that the total number of connections in the Jal Jeevan Mission has crossed 42.14 lakh so far and Rajasthan has reached the 12th position in the country.
- ➔ The Minister said that the state has reached the second position in terms of expenditure by spending Rs 16 thousand 36 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission so far.

❑ Status Report of Drinking Water Quality in Urban Towns 2022-23' released

- ➔ On 31 May 2023, Dr. Subodh Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Health Engineering

Department, Rajasthan released the 'State Report on Drinking Water Quality in Urban Towns of Rajasthan 2022-23' at a state-level workshop of chemists of the Engineering Department.

- ➔ In the workshop, Additional Chief Secretary informed that in the year 2025-26, drinking water will be available through taps in 1 crore 7 lakh households of the state.
- ➔ A survey of 235 urban areas of the state has been done to prepare this report.
- ➔ In 89 towns, drinking water supply is based on surface water sources, in 70 towns based on both surface and groundwater and in 76 towns only based on groundwater.

Augustine George Masih became the 41st Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court

- ➔ On May 30, 2023, Governor Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office to Justice Augustine George Masih as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court at the Raj Bhavan. Justice Augustin George Masih was sworn in as the 41st Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.
- ➔ Justice Augustin George Masih, former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, took the oath in the English language.

Rajasthan Housing Board received 'The Golden Globe Tiger Awards' in 2 categories on foreign soil

- ➔ On 23 May 2023, Rajasthan Housing Board Commissioner Pawan Arora was presented with a trophy and citation by officials who received 2 international awards 'The Golden Globe Tiger Awards' from Malaysia.
- ➔ It is worth mentioning that on May 16, the Rajasthan Housing Board in Malaysia was awarded 'The Golden Globe Awards for Excellence & Leadership' for 'Best Environment-Friendly Projects' and 'Best Innovative Project of the Year' by the jury of the World HRD Council.

PM lays Foundation Stone and Dedicates Various Infrastructure Projects at Nathdwara

- ➔ On 10 May 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and released various projects worth more than Rs 5500 crore in Nathdwara, Rajasthan.
- ➔ In addition, the Prime Minister inaugurated three National Highway projects, which include - 114 km long six lane project from Udaipur to Shamlaji under NH-48; widening & strengthening project of

110 km long road to 4 lane with widening of road for two wheelers etc. (paved shoulder) in Bar-Bilara-Jodhpur section of NH-25 and two-laning project of 47 km long road with paved shoulder section in NH 58E.

Raj Matsya Yojana Portal

- ➔ On April 21, 2023, Rajasthan's Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Lalchand Kataria inaugurated the Raj Matsya Yojana portal online at Pant Bhavan.
- ➔ Now the application process for schemes related to fisheries departments in the state will be completely online.

Rajasthan gets honoured for Excellent Work under PM Crop Insurance Scheme

- ➔ Rajasthan has been honoured for doing excellent work under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in a two-day national conference that started in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 14 April 2023, to review the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- ➔ It is worth mentioning that under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Rajasthan, insurance claims worth more than Rs 18 thousand 500 crores have been distributed so far during the tenure of the present government.
- ➔ Under this scheme, Rajasthan State has been awarded the first prize by the Agriculture Secretary, Government of India.

Rajasthan's 1st Vande Bharat Train

- ➔ On 12 April 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi (via video conferencing), Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Governor Kalraj Mishra inaugurated the state's first Vande Bharat Train at Jaipur Railway Station and flagged off the train.
- ➔ The first train of Vande Bharat Express for Rajasthan will run between Jaipur to Delhi Cantt Railway Station.

Rajasthan ranks 1st in State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22

- ➔ On 10 April 2023, the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh released the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22 report during the RPM (Review, Planning and Monitoring) meeting of States and State Utility Companies in New Delhi, in which Rajasthan topped the category along with four other states (> 60 marks).

- ➔ In the SEEI 2021-22, 5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana are in the front runner category (>60 points), while 4 states - Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra and Punjab are in the achievers' category (50-60 marks).

❑ 4 Celebrities of the State Honored with Padma Shri

- ➔ On 5 April 2023, President Draupadi Murmu honoured 4 personalities from Rajasthan with Padma Shri at the Padma Awards (second edition) held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ➔ The awardees of the state include Ahmed Hussain & Mohammad Hussain for their excellent work in the field of ghazal singing & classical music, social worker Moolchand Lodha of Dungarpur for social work and Laxman Singh Lapodia of Jaipur for excellent work in the social sector itself.

❑ 'Pipalkhunt High Level Canal'

- ➔ On March 28, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a financial proposal of Rs 2000 crore for the construction of 'Pipalkhunt High Level Canal' in Pratapgarh district. With this scheme, irrigation facility will be available in 5000-hectare area of the district.
- ➔ Under the 'Pipalkhunt High Level Canal', irrigation facility will be provided in the Ankamand area of Pratapgarh district with surplus water of Mahi basin.

❑ 19 New Districts, 3 New Divisions will be Formed in Rajasthan

- ➔ On 17 March 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the creation of 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in the state during his course of the discussion on the Finance and Appropriation Bill in the Legislative Assembly.
- ➔ After the announcement of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, there are 50 districts and 10 divisions in the state now.
- ➔ An announcement was made by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to make Anupgarh, Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Dudu, Gangapur City, Jaipur North, Jaipur South, Jodhpur East, Jodhpur West, Kekri, Kotputli-Behror, Khairthal, Neem Ka Thana, Phalodi, Salumbar, Sanchor and Shahpura districts. Along with this, he announced to make Banswara, Pali and Sikar divisions.

❑ Protected Forest Area Increased to 3.92 Percent in the State

- ➔ On 15 March 2023, Rajasthan Forest and Environment Minister Hemaram Chaudhary

informed that in the year 2018 of the geographical area of the state, 2.91 percent was under protected forest area, which has increased to 3.92 percent at present.

- ➔ Forest and Environment Minister Hemaram Chowdhary said that the Vidhan Sabha has passed the demand for a grant of Rs 16 billion 78 crore 24 lakh 36 thousands of Forest and Environment Department by voice vote.
- ➔ He said that 9.7 percent of the total area of Rajasthan is forest area.

❑ India-Singapore Joint Military Exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' Concluded in Jodhpur

- ➔ The 13th edition of the bilateral exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' between the Indian Army and the Singapore Army was held at Jodhpur Military Station from March 06-13, 2023.

❑ Rajasthan Millets Conclave-2023

- ➔ On 13 March 2023 Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the Rajasthan Millets Conclave-2023 at the State Institute of Agricultural Management at Durgapura in Jaipur city of the state.

❑ President honored Gayatri Devi Yadav with Water Warrior Category

- ➔ On March 4, 2023, President Draupadi Murmu honoured volunteer Gayatri Devi Yadav, who is playing the role of water woman in Rajasthan, with the water warrior category.
- ➔ Gayatri Devi has been honoured for her outstanding work done through rural women self-help groups to make farm ponds in Sambhar block area of Jaipur, Rajasthan.

❑ The President Honored Rajasthan's Pantomime Artist Vilas Janve with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award

- ➔ On February 23, 2023, President Draupadi Murmu awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2021 to Rajasthan's senior artist Vilas Janve at a function held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ➔ On this occasion, 128 artists of the country were honored with the Academy Award.

❑ Prime Minister Inaugurated the First Phase of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Dausa, Rajasthan

- ➔ On February 12, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 246 km long Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot first section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Dausa district of Rajasthan.

- ➔ The 246 km long Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot section of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway has been developed at a cost of more than Rs. 12,150 crore.
- ➔ In this, 67 kilometer long four lane minor road from Bandikui to Jaipur to be developed at a cost of more than Rs 2000 crore, six lane minor road from Kotputli to Baraodaneo to be developed at a cost of about Rs 3775 crore and approx.

❑ First Composite Regional Center in the State

- ➔ On January 18, 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Central Government and the State Government of Rajasthan to provide various types of services and facilities to the disabled people, under which the first Composite Regional Center in the state will be established at Jamdoli, Jaipur.

❑ Andaman and Nicobar Island Named after Paramveer Chakra Winner Shaitan Singh of Rajasthan

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 large uncharted islands of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the 21 winners of the Param Vir

Chakra, the highest military decoration in India, on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary (Valour Day) on January 23, 2022.

- ➔ The name of Param Vim Chakra winner Major Shaitan Singh of Rajasthan is also included in this list.
- ➔ Born on December 1, 1924, in Jodhpur, Shaitan Singh's father Hem Singh Bhati was a lieutenant colonel in the Indian Army.

❑ Rajasthan became the First State in the Country to Implement the Policy for Control of Blindness

- ➔ On January 13, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that in an innovative initiative towards realizing the vision of healthy Rajasthan in the state.
- ➔ The Medical and Health Department of the state has implemented the blindness control policy for the first time in the country with the objective of 'Right to Sight Vision'.

❑ State Level Tribal Sports Competition

- ➔ On January 5, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the state-level tribal sports competition at Gandhi Ground in Udaipur district of the state.

Rajasthan Budget 2023-24

Article 202 of the Constitution of India stipulates that State Government shall, in respect of every financial year, present an Annual Financial statement before the state legislature consisting details of receipts and expenditure of the government for that year. This is commonly known as 'budget'. On February 10, 2023 the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr. Ashok Gehlot, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented the Budget for the state for the financial year 2023-24.

❑ Important Budget Highlights

- ➔ The **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** of Rajasthan for 2023-24 (at current prices) is projected to be Rs 15.7 lakh crore, amounting to growth of 11.5% over 2022-23.
- ➔ **Total expenditure** for 2023-24 is Rs. 39085647.95 lakh out of which Rs. 25888367.82 lakh is revenue expenditure and Rs. 13197280.13 lakh is capital expenditure.
- ➔ **Total receipts** for 2023 -24 is estimated to be Rs. 39094298.25 lakh, out of which Rs. 23398800.77 lakh is revenue receipts and Rs. 15695497.48 lakh is capital receipts.

- ➔ **Fiscal deficit** for 2023-24 is targeted at **3.98% of GSDP** (Rs 62,772 crore). In 2022-23, as per the revised estimates, fiscal deficit is expected to be **4.33% of GSDP**, marginally lower than the budget estimate (4.36%).
- ➔ **Revenue deficit** in 2023-24 is estimated to be 1.6% of GSDP (Rs 24,896 crore), lower than the revised estimates for 2022-23 (2.3% of GSDP). In 2022-23, the revenue deficit is expected to be 2.3% which is higher than the budget estimate (1.8% of GSDP).

❑ Receipts in 2023-24

- ➔ **Total revenue receipts** for 2023-24 are estimated to be Rs 2,33,988 crore, an increase of 8% over the revised estimate of 2022-23. Of this, Rs 1,38,454 crore (59%) will be raised by the state through its **own resources**, and Rs 95,534 crore (41%) will come **from the centre**. Resources from the centre will be in the form of state's share in central taxes (26% of revenue receipts) and grants (15% of revenue receipts).
- ➔ **Devolution:** In 2023-24, state's share in central taxes is estimated at Rs 61,552 crore, an increase of 8% from the revised estimate of 2022-23.

- ➔ **Grants from the centre** in 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 33,982 crore, a decrease of 23% from the revised estimates for 2022-23.
- ➔ **State's own tax revenue:** Rajasthan's total own tax revenue is estimated to be Rs 1,14,169 crore in 2023-

24, an increase of 23% over the revised estimate of 2022-23. Own tax revenue as a percentage of GSDP is estimated at 7.2% in 2023-24. For 2022-23, the state had estimated this ratio at 7.4%, however, as per revised estimates, it is expected to be lower (6.6%).

Break-up of the State Government's Receipts (in Rs. Crore)						
Items	2021-22 Actuals	2022-23 Budgeted	2022-23 Revised	% change from BE 2022-23 to RE 2022-23	2023-24 Budgeted	% change from RE 2022-23 to BE 2023-24
State's Own Tax	74,808	98,294	92,719	- 6%	1,14,169	23%
State's Own Non-Tax	18,755	22,155	21,897	- 1%	24,285	11%
Share in Central Taxes	54,031	49,211	57,231	16%	61,552	8%
Grants from Centre	36,326	45,318	43,940	- 3%	33,982	- 23%
Revenue Receipts	1,83,920	2,14,977	2,15,787	0%	2,33,988	8%
Non-debt Capital Receipts	2,405	279	386	38%	331	- 14%
Net Receipts	1,86,325	2,15,256	2,16,173	0%	2,34,319	8%

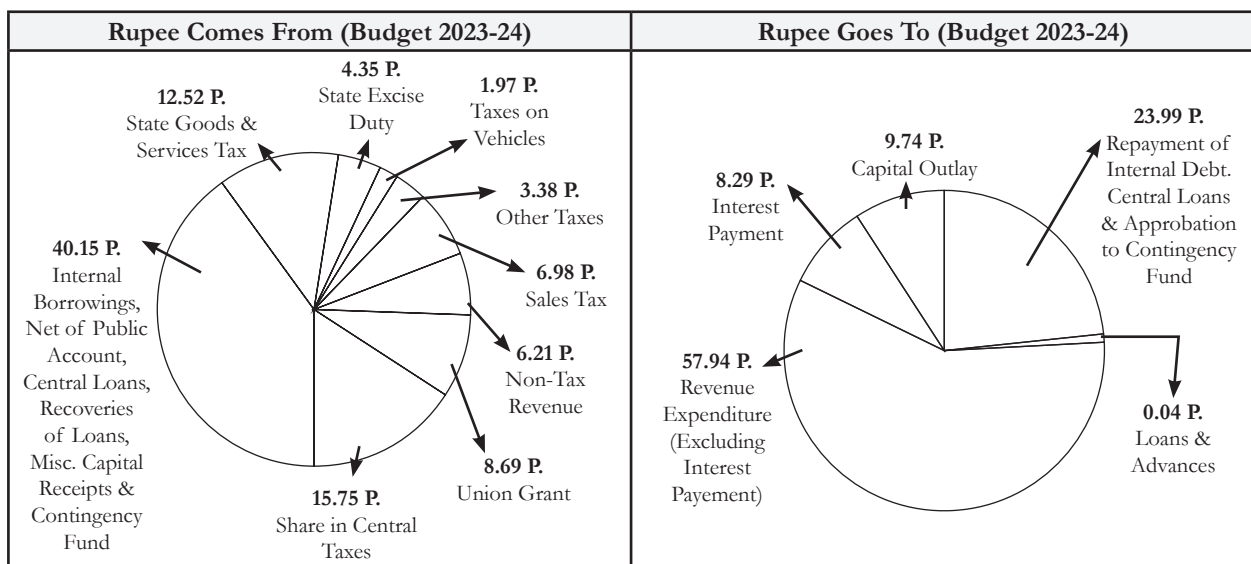
Note : BE is Budget Estimate; RE is Revised Estimates.
Sources : Annual Financial Statement, Rajasthan Budget 2023--24; PRS.

❑ Expenditure in 2023-24

- ➔ **Revenue expenditure** for 2023-24 is proposed to be Rs 2,58,884 crore, an increase of 4% over the revised estimate of 2022-23. This includes the expenditure on salaries, pensions, interest, grants, and subsidies.
- ➔ **Capital outlay** for 2023-24 is proposed to be Rs 38,061 crore, an increase of 31% over the revised estimate of 2022-23. Capital outlay indicates the expenditure towards creation of assets.
- ➔ **Committed expenditure:** Committed expenditure

of a state typically includes expenditure on payment of salaries, pensions, and interest. In 2023-24, Rajasthan is estimated to spend Rs 1,29,963 crore on committed expenditure, which is 56% of its estimated revenue receipts.

- ➔ This comprises spending on salaries (31% of revenue receipts), pension (11%), and interest payments (14%). Committed expenditure is expected to increase by 7% over the revised estimate of 2022-23. In 2022-23, expenditure towards salaries is estimated to be 2% lower than the budget estimate.



❑ Highlights of Schematic Outlay 2023-24

➔ Rs. 1,84,311.57 crore are proposed under Schematic Outlay in Budget Estimates 2023-24. The sector-wise details of the schemes outlay is as under :

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Sector	Proposed Outlay	% of Total
1.	Agriculture & Allied Services	10580.89	5.74
2.	Rural Development	19891.47	10.79
3.	Special Area Programme	660.50	0.36

4.	Irrigation & Flood Control	6682.94	3.63
5.	Power	25191.56	13.67
6.	Industry & Minerals	2069.18	1.12
7.	Transport	11233.12	6.10
8.	Scientific Services	26.33	0.01
9.	Social & Community Services	97030.91	52.65
10.	Economic Services	6531.66	3.54
11.	General Services	4413.01	2.39
	Total	184311.57	100.00

Rajasthan Economic Review 2022-23

❑ Profile of Rajasthan

➔ Rajasthan, "The Land of the Kings", is the largest state in the country in terms of area consisting of 10 divisions and 50 districts spread over the geographical area of about 3.42 lakh sq. km. which is 10.41 per cent of total geographical area of the country.

➔ According to population projections by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, the population of Rajasthan in 2022 is 8.01 crore and is the 7th most populous state of the country.

➔ The state has a total of 4 Smart Cities i.e. Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota and Ajmer

Table : Key Indicators of the State vis-a-vis India

Indicators	Year	Unit	Rajasthan	India
Geographical Area	2011	Lakh sq. km.	3.42	32.87
Population	2011	Crore	6.85	121.09
Decadal Growth Rate	2001-2011	Percentage	21.3	17.7
Population Density	2011	Population per sq. km.	200	382
Urban Population to Total Population	2011	Percentage	24.9	31.2
Scheduled Caste Population	2011	Percentage	17.8	16.6
Scheduled Tribe Population	2011	Percentage	13.5	8.6
Sex Ratio	2011	Females per 1,000 Males	928	943
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Year)	2011	Female Children per 1,000 Male Children	888	919
Literacy Rate	2011	Percentage	66.1	73.0
Literacy Rate (Male)	2011	Percentage	79.2	80.9
Literacy Rate (Female)	2011	Percentage	52.1	64.6
Work Participation Rate	2011	Percentage	43.6	39.8
Crude Birth Rate	2020	Per 1,000 mid year population	23.5	19.5
Crude Death Rate	2020	Per 1,000 mid year population	5.6	6.0
Infant Mortality Rate	2020	Per 1,000 Live births	32	28
Maternal Mortality Ratio	2018-20	Per lakh Live births	113	97
Life Expectancy at Birth	2016-20	Year	69.4	70.0

❑ Gross State Domestic Product

➔ At current prices:14.14 lakh crore(2) At constant (2011-12) prices : Rs. 7.99 lakh crore.

Gross State Domestic Product at Current Prices

➔ As per the advance estimates, the nominal GSDP for Rajasthan at Current Prices for the year 2022-23 is likely to attain a level of Rs. 14.14 lakh crore,

as against Rs. 12.18 lakh crore in the year 2021-22 showing a growth of 16.04 per cent in the year 2022-23 against 19.50 per cent in the year 2021-22

➔ In the same year, Rajasthan's GSDP is estimated to contribute 5.18 per cent to the nation's GDP

➔ The nominal GSDP at Current Basic Prices for the year 2022-23 is likely to attain a level of Rs. 13.11

lakh crore, as against Rs. 11.34 lakh crore in the year 2021-22 showing a growth of 15.57 per cent in the year 2022-23 against 18.57 per cent in the year 2021-22.

- ➔ The corresponding sectoral growths are 13.84 per cent in Agriculture, 15.02 per cent in Industry and 17.11 per cent in Service sector in the year 2022-23 over the year 2021-22.
- ➔ The contribution of Agriculture Sector (viz: Crops, Livestock, Forestry & Logging and Fishing) for the year 2022-23 is likely to be at 28.95 per cent.
 - ⊖ The Industry Sector comprising of Mining & Quarrying, Manufacturing, Electricity, Gas, Water Supply & Other Utility Services and Construction is likely to be 27.31 per cent during 2022-23.
 - ⊖ The contribution of Service Sector is expected to be 43.74 per cent during 2022-23.

❑ **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices**

- ➔ As per the advance estimates, the real GSDP for Rajasthan at Constant (2011-12) Prices for the year 2022-23 is likely to attain a level of Rs. 7.99 lakh crore, as against Rs. 7.39 lakh crore in the year 2021-22 showing a growth of 8.19 per cent in the year 2022-23.
- ➔ In the same year, Rajasthan's GSDP is estimated to contribute 5.07 per cent to the nation's GDP.

❑ **Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at Constant (2011-12) Basic Prices**

- ➔ The real GSVA at constant (2011-12) basic prices for the year 2022-23 is likely to attain a level of Rs. 7.33 lakh crore, as against Rs. 6.80 lakh crore for the year 2021-22 showing an increase of 7.88 per cent in 2022-23.
- ➔ The contribution of agriculture sector, which includes crops, livestock, forestry & logging and fishing sector is estimated to be 28.50 per cent as per the advance estimates of the year 2022-23. The GSVA of this sector is likely to attain a level of Rs. 2,08,989 crore in the year 2022-23 showing a positive growth of 5.22 per cent over previous year.
- ➔ The contribution of industry sector which includes mining & quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas,

water supply & other utility services and construction sector decreased to 27.76 per cent in the year 2022-23 from 32.69 per cent in the year 2011-12. The GSVA of this sector is likely to attain a level of Rs. 2,03,576 crore in the year 2022-23 showing a growth of 6.32 per cent over previous year.

- ➔ The contribution of Service sector which includes Trade, Hotels & Restaurants, Transport, Storage & Communication, Financial Services, Real Estate, Ownership of Dwellings & Professional Services, Public Administration and Other Services increased to 43.74 per cent in the year 2022-23 from 38.75 per cent in the year 2011-12. The GSVA of this sector is likely to attain a level of Rs. 3,20,708 crore in the year 2022-23 showing a growth of 10.74 per cent over previous year.

❑ **Per Capita Income**

- ➔ As per the advance estimates, the per capita income at current prices for the year 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs. 1,56,149 as compared to Rs. 1,35,962 for the year 2021-22 registering a growth of 14.85 per cent in 2022-23 over the previous year 2021-22.
- ➔ As per the advance estimates, the per capita income at constant (2011-12) prices for the year 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs. 86,134 as compared to Rs. 80,545 for the year 2021-22, showing a growth of 6.94 per cent in 2022-23 over the previous year 2021-22.

❑ **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)**

- ➔ The GFCF in the year 2021-22 increased by 26.63 per cent over the previous year 2020-21.

❑ **Agriculture & Allied Activities and Irrigation**

- ➔ Agriculture & Allied Activities in Rajasthan, still continues to be the backbone of state's economy by contributing 28.95 per cent in state's total GSVA in 2022-23 at current prices.
- ➔ There has been a constant increase in the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) of Agriculture and allied sector at constant as well as at current prices; it increased from Rs. 1.19 lakh crore in 2011-12 to Rs. 2.09 lakh crore in 2022-23, showing a compound annual growth rate 5.24 per cent at constant (2011-12) prices while at current prices, the GSVA of Agriculture and allied sector increased from Rs.

1.19 lakh crore in 2011-12 to Rs. 3.79 lakh crore in 2022-23 showing a compound annual growth rate of 11.11 per cent.

- ➔ As per preliminary forecast for the year 2022-23, the total food grain production in the state is expected to be 253.99 lakh tonnes, which is an increase of 9.71 per cent over the production of 231.52 lakh tonnes in the previous year
- ➔ Rajasthan has large scope for development of horticulture. It acts as a catalyst for agricultural and

economic diversification. It improves livelihoods by increasing farmer's profits. For the year 2022-23, a budget estimate of Rs. 1,439.49 crore has been kept under state plan (including central share), against which a sum of Rs. 273.78 crore has been utilized upto November, 2022.

- ➔ Under "Rajeev Gandhi Krishak Sathi Sahayata Yojana", financial assistance of Rs. 21.63 crore have been disbursed.

Table : Comparative Status in major crop production

S. N.	Crops	First Position	Second Position	Third Position	Contribution of Rajasthan in total production of Country (in percentage)
1.	Bajra	Rajasthan	Uttar Pradesh	Haryana	41.71
2.	Rape & Mustard	Rajasthan	Madhya Pradesh	Haryana	44.57
3.	Nutri-Cereals	Rajasthan	Karnataka	Maharashtra	16.30
4.	Total Oilseeds	Rajasthan	Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh	22.00
5.	Total Pulses	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Maharashtra	16.75
6.	Groundnut	Gujarat	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu	18.91
7.	Gram	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Rajasthan	19.37
8.	Jowar	Maharashtra	Karnataka	Rajasthan	12.35
9.	Soyabean	Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	8.49
10.	Guar*	Rajasthan	-	-	84.60

Source : Agriculture Statistics at a Glance 2021 published by Government of India.

* Status of Gwar Crop in the year 2019-20.

❑ Industries, Mines & Minerals and Oil & Natural Gas

- ➔ The industry sector witnessed a growth of 6.32 per cent at constant(2011-12) prices for the year 2022-23. The sectoral contribution of the industry sector in the total GSVA of the state stands at 27.31 per cent at current prices in the financial year 2022-23.
- ➔ "Rajasthan Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Policy-2022 (MSME Policy 2022) has th been launched on September 17, 2022.
- ➔ Rajasthan Handicrafts Policy-2022 has come into th force from September 17, 2022.
- ➔ Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO) is the apex organization engaged in fostering growth of industrialization in the state

❑ Exports

- ➔ According to Export Preparedness Index 2021 released by NITI Aayog, Rajasthan recorded an Export Preparedness Score of 47.13, securing

an overall 11 rank in the country. An Export Performance Pillar Score of 40.23 is recorded of th Rajasthan, securing an overall 6 rank in this category.

- ➔ In Rajasthan, engineering goods, textiles, metal, handicrafts and chemical & allied are top five export items that account for more than 60 per cent of exports from the state. The total exports for the financial year 2021-22 equalled Rs. 71,999.72 crore. The figure 0.3 below shows the contribution of various products in exports from Rajasthan 2021-22.
- ➔ One District One Product has been initiated to identify and promote the products and services with export potential from each of 33 districts.

❑ Labour and Employment

- ➔ e-Shram Portal was launched on 26 August, 2021 to create a database of unorganized workers. A total of 1,27,11,351 unorganized workers have been registered on this portal in Rajasthan up to November, 2022
- ➔ State government vide its notification dated th 28 June, 2022 has revised the rates of minimum wages

for unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled workers to Rs. 259, Rs. 271, Rs. 283 and Rs. 333 per day respectively with effect from 1 July, 2021.

- ➔ Under Mukhya Mantri Yuva Sambal Yojana, an unemployment allowance worth Rs. 4,000 for males and Rs. 4,500 for females, transgenders and specially abled persons was being disbursed.

❑ Infrastructure and Power

- ➔ The total road length in the state which was just 13,553 km in 1949 increased to 2,78,813.23 km upto March, 2022. The road density in the state is 81.47 km per 100 sq. km of total area at the end of March, 2022 whereas national road density stands at 165.23 km per 100 sq. km
- ➔ The iStart Rajasthan is the flagship program by the Government of Rajasthan to promote innovation and facilitate investment in the state
- ➔ Rajiv Gandhi Center of Advance Technology (R-CAT) was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 20 August, 2022
- ➔ The installed th capacity of power in the state as on 30 November, 2022 is 23,487.46 MW.
- ➔ The energy availability in the state from March, 2019 to March, 2022 has increased from 8,116.73 crore units to 9,080.92 crore units. The total energy availability has increased by 11.90 per cent from 2018-19 to 2021-22. Likewise, total net energy consumption has also gone up by 15.53 per cent.
- ➔ As per the assessment of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, Rajasthan has a potential of 142 GW of electricity from solar generation.
- ➔ Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented to provide potable water supply through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to every rural household by the year 2024

❑ Tourism

- ➔ During the year 2022 (upto November, 2022), 986.32 lakh (983.24 lakh domestic tourists and 3.08 lakh foreigners) tourists visited in Rajasthan
- ➔ UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Rajasthan :

Hill Forts

- ☉ Chittorgarh Fort
- ☉ Kumbhalgarh Fort
- ☉ Ranthambore Fort

☉ Jaisalmer Fort

☉ Amber Fort

☉ Gagron Fort

Protected Site

☉ City Wall Rampart, Jaipur

Observatory

☉ Jantar Mantar

❑ Health and Education

- ➔ Total enrollment in Government Schools is 71.79 lakh as per DISE Report 2021-22
- ➔ Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 is st being implemented in the state since 1 April, 2010. In this Act, 25 per cent seats are reserved in private schools for boys/girls of weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.
- ➔ The state is endeavouring to achieve the objective of total literacy and quality education through various programmes/schemes like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Continuing Education Programme and New India Literacy Programme.
- ➔ To reduce the IMR and high mortality rate of women during childbirth, the state government is implementing the “Rajasthan Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana”

Indicator	NFHS 4	NFHS 5
Total Fertility Rate (Children per woman)	2.4	2.0
Infant Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 live births)	41.3	30.3
Institutional Births (% of births occurring in health facilities in an area)	84.0	94.9%

❑ Sustainable Development Goal

- ➔ There are 17 goals with 169 targets which are to be achieved by 2030.
- ➔ In the 3 version of SDGs India Index and Dashboard, released by NITI Aayog, India shows improvement in the overall score, moving from 60 in 2019-20 to 66 in 2020-21. Rajasthan has improved its overall SDGs score from 57 in 2019-20 to 60 in 2020.
- ➔ The third version of Rajasthan SDGs Index was launched in March, 2022, which was computed on 75 indicators across 14 SDGs. In Rajasthan SDGs Index 3.0, district Jaipur is top in the list, while district Baran stands in the bottom position across 33 districts of Rajasthan.

Brief Note on Persons in News, Places in News, Organisations / Institutions, Exercise and Operations, Awards, Important Days / Weeks, Books and Authors etc.



Persons in News

Justice Prakash Shrivastava

- ➔ Former Chief Justice of the Calcutta high court has been appointed as NGT chairperson. (21 August, 2023)

Sachin Tendulkar

- ➔ Legendary Cricketer declared as National Icon of Election Commission of India for 3 years. (August 23, 2023)
- ➔ During the event, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Sachin Tendulkar for three years.
- ➔ Election Commission of India (ECI) has declared actor Pankaj Tripathi as the 'National Icon' of ECI. (October, 2022)

Srettha Thavisin

- ➔ He become prime minister of Thailand. (22 August, 2023)

Khuon Sudary

- ➔ She has become Cambodia's parliament first woman president (August, 2023)

Puneet Chandok

- ➔ Microsoft appointed him as Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia. (1 August, 2023)

Rajiv Gauba

- ➔ The central government has given a one-year extension to Cabinet Secretary according to a Personnel Ministry order.. (August, 2023)

Nisha Biswal

- ➔ Indian-American policy expert is confirmed by the Senate to serve as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a US finance agency. (July 2023)
- ➔ She will serve as the Deputy CEO of the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

Parminder Chopra

- ➔ Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has appointed her as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).
- ➔ She becomes the first woman to lead India's largest NBFC.

Jim Skea

- ➔ Jim Skea of the United Kingdom is the newly elected Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (July 26, 2023).

Ruchira Kamboj

- ➔ India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, has assumed the chairship of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development. (July 28, 2023).

Naveen Patnaik

- ➔ Chief Minister of Odisha achieved a remarkable milestone, equaling the record set by former West Bengal CM Jyoti Basu as the second longest-serving Chief Minister in India. (July 28, 2023)
- ➔ The title of the longest-serving CM, however, belongs to Pawan Kumar Chamling, the former CM of Sikkim, who held the position for an impressive 24 years and 166 days.

Oommen Chandy

- ➔ Veteran Congress leader and former Kerala Chief Minister passed away in Bengaluru. (July 18, 2023)
- ➔ He served as Chief Minister from 2011 to 2016, and from 2004 to 2006.

Moksha Roy

- ➔ Indian-Origin 7 Year Old School girl Wins UK PM's Points Of Light Award (July, 2023).
- ➔ She has the distinction of being the world's youngest sustainability advocate.

K. Rajaraman

- ➔ The government has announced the appointment of senior bureaucrat and telecom secretary as the next Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) (July, 2023).

M.U. Nair

- ➔ The National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC), the cybersecurity and e-surveillance agency under the government of India, has appointed him as the new National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) replacing Lt Gen (retd.) Dr Rajesh Pant (July, 2023).

Tushar Mehta

- ➔ The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet reappointed him as Solicitor General of India. (June 2023)
- ➔ The reappointment is for three years, beginning on July 1, 2023.

Ajay Bhatnagar

- ➔ He has been appointed as Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) (28 June 2023)

Rajindhar Singh Dhatt

- ➔ United Kingdom's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak presents the Points of Light award to veteran soldier. (June, 2023)
- ➔ He is one of the last surviving Sikh soldiers who fought in the Second World War.

Aarti Holla-Maini

- ➔ Aarti Holla-Maini of United Kingdom has been appointed as the Director of the UN's Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna. (June, 2023)

Michael Miebach

- ➔ He has joined the board of directors of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF). (June, 2023)

Ruby Sinha

- ➔ BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) has appointed her as the president of BRICS CCI WE, the women's vertical of the body, for three years. (June, 2023)

Hasmukh Adhia

- ➔ He has been appointed Chairman of GIFT City Ltd, the entity responsible for developing Gujarat International Finance-Tec City in Gandhinagar. (June, 2023)

Aalok Kumar

- ➔ He has been appointed as a member of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) High-level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development. (May, 2023)

Dr. Kamala Sohoni

- ➔ Google doodle: Celebrated 112th Birthday of Dr. Kamala Sohoni (18 June, 2023)
- ➔ Born in year 1911 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- ➔ She became the first woman to be inducted into the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.)
- ➔ Kamala Sohoni was the first Indian woman to get a Ph.D in a scientific discipline.

Amit Agrawal

- ➔ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has named senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers Amit Agrawal as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). (June, 2023)

Janardan Prasad

- ➔ He has been appointed new Director-General of the Geological Survey of India. (June, 2023)

Dr. Abdulla Al Mandous

- ➔ He is a meteorologist of United Arab Emirates (UAE) elected as the new President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for a four-year term from 2023 to 2027. (June, 2023)

Dennis Frances

- ➔ He is a veteran diplomat from Trinidad and Tobago who is elected as President of the Seventy-Eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly (September 2023 to September 2024)

Ajay Banga

- ➔ He is the only honouree from India in this year list of 'Great Immigrants' by the Cornegre Corporation of New York.
- ➔ The Executive Directors of the World Bank selected him as 14th President of the World Bank for a five-year term on May 3, 2023.
- ➔ He was awarded the Padma Shri Award by the President of India in 2016.

Edgars Rinkevics

- ➔ He was elected as president of Latvia. (31 May, 2023)
- ➔ He is first openly gay head of state in the European Union.

Girish Chandra Murmu

- ➔ Comptroller and Auditor General of India has been re-elected as the External Auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027. (29 May 2023)
- ➔ The CAG is already holding this position in the WHO since 2019 for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023.

Mukesh Ambani

- ➔ He has been named to the President's Advisory Committee for the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).(May,2023)
- ➔ He is the only Indian in the 31 members Advisory Committee to the President of COP-28.
- ➔ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be hosting the 28th Conference of Parties (COP 28) to the UNFCCC from November 30 to December 12, 2023.

Sourav Ganguly

- ➔ Former India cricket captain and ex-BCCI chief appointed as the brand ambassador for Tripura Tourism. (May 23, 2023)

Neera Tanden

- ➔ Joe Biden appoints an Indian-American as his Domestic Policy Advisor.(5 May, 2023)

Omar Rashid

- ➔ Badminton Association of India (BAI) announced him as the Chair for the Technical Officials Committee of Badminton Asia for the term 2023-2025.(9 May, 2023)

Ayushmann Khurrana

- ➔ He has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for Special Olympics Bharat. (May, 2023)
- ➔ He was recently voted by TIME Magazine as one of the Most Influential People in the World.
- ➔ He is the National Ambassador of UNICEF.

Praveen Sood

- ➔ Senior IPS officer assumed charge as the new CBI director and he will be in the post for two years. (May 25, 2023)

Geeta Rao Gupta

- ➔ U.S. Senate confirmed President Biden's nominee for Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues at the Department of State.(May 10, 2023)

Pratima Bhullar Maldonado

- ➔ Born in Punjab (India) she made history whom she was chosen as New York Police Department (NYPD) first female South Asian Captain. (May, 2023)

Ravneet Kaur

- ➔ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has named her, a Punjab cadre IAS officer of 1988 batch,

as chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). (May 16, 2023)

- ➔ She became first woman to head the country's chief national competition regulator.

Rayyanah Barnawi

- ➔ She became the first Arab woman astronaut to go into space. (May 21, 2023)
- ➔ She is part of a team which has travelled to the ISS in a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral in the southern state of Florida.

Narendra Modi

- ➔ Papua New Guinea Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae conferred the Companion of the order of Logohu to PM Modi for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global South. (May, 2023)
- ➔ He has been conferred with the highest honour of Fiji, the Companion of the Order of Fiji by by Sitiveni Rabuka, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji.

Shahabuddin Chappu

- ➔ Mohammad Shahabuddin Chappu, a former judge and freedom fighter, takes Oath as Bangladesh's 22nd President. (April, 2023)
- ➔ He replaces President Mohammad Abdul Hamid.

Parkash Singh Badal

- ➔ Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patriarch and five-time former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal passed away at the age of 95. (25th April, 2023).

C.R. Rao

- ➔ Noted Indian-American Statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao has been awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, often referred to as the Nobel prize of statistics. (April, 2023)

Shah Rukh Khan tops 2023 TIME100 reader poll

- ➔ In April, 2023, Shah Rukh Khan has secured the top position in Time Magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list.
- ➔ As per report, over 1.2 million votes were cast in the poll with Shah Rukh receiving 4%.

5 Indian-origin women feature in '100 Most Influential Women

- ➔ In April, 2023, Five Indian-origin women executives have made it to Barron's prestigious annual '100 Most Influential Women in US Finance' list.

- ➔ Indian-origin Anu Aiyengar from J.P. Morgan, Ariel Investment's Rupal J. Bhansali, Sonal Desai of Franklin Templeton, Goldman Sach's Meena Flynn and Savita Subramanian from Bank of America.

Manuela Roka Botey

- ➔ Equatorial Guinea has appointed Manuela Roka Botey as Prime Minister (first woman) on January 31, 2023.

President of India appoints Six new governors, reshuffles Seven others

- ➔ In February, 2023, the Rashtrapati Bhavan announced the appointments of governors to 12 states and the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh (February 12, 2023).

Six new Governors

- ⊙ **Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik** (Arunachal Pradesh)
- ⊙ **Lakshman Prasad Acharya** (Sikkim)
- ⊙ **C.P. Radhakrishnan** (Jharkhand)
- ⊙ **Shiv Pratap Shukla** (Himachal Pradesh)
- ⊙ **Gulab Chand Kataria** (Assam)
- ⊙ **Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer** (Andhra Pradesh)

Reshuffle Governors

- ⊙ **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** (Bihar)
- ⊙ **Brig. (Dr.) Shri B.D. Mishra (Retd.)** (Lt. governor of Ladakh)

Salhoutuonuo Kruse and Hekani Jakhalu

- ➔ Nagaland have elected two women candidates after 60 years since it attained statehood (March 2, 2023).
- ➔ Salhoutuonuo Kruse and Hekani Jakhalu, both from the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party.

Tejal Mehta

- ➔ Tejal Mehta, an Indian-American woman judge, has taken oath as the first justice of a district court in the US state of Massachusetts (March, 2023).

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani

- ➔ Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Qatar (March, 2023).

Group Captain Shaliza Dhami

- ➔ The Indian Air Force has selected Group Captain Shaliza Dhami to take over command of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector (March 7, 2023).
 - ⊙ She is the first woman to command any combat unit of IAF.

Ranveer Singh

- ➔ Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has become the most valued celebrity for endorsements in 2022, with a brand value of \$181.7 million (Rs 1500 crore).

Colonel Geeta Rana

- ➔ Colonel Geeta Rana has become the first woman officer to take over command of an independent field workshop in the Eastern Ladakh sector with China (March 2023).

Aruna Miller

- ➔ Indian-American woman Aruna Miller has become the first immigrant to hold the office of **Lieutenant Governor in Maryland**, Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. (18 January, 2023)

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi

- ➔ Retired Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Rituraj Awasthi has been appointed as the **chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission of India** (November, 2022).

Neeraj Chopra

- ➔ Switzerland Tourism has appointed Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra as the **'Friendship Ambassador'** (November, 2022).

Greg Barclay

- ➔ New Zealand's Greg Barclay unanimously re-elected as the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** chairman for another two-year term (12 November, 2022).
- ➔ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary **Jay Shah** was elected as the head of ICC's all powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs (F&CA) committee at the board meeting.

Natasa Pirc Musar

- ➔ Natasa Pirc Musar becomes the first female President of Slovenia. (23 December, 2022).
- ➔ Natasa Pirc Musar (First Female President), won the second round of **Slovenia's Presidential elections**.

Justice DY Chandrachud

- ➔ He took oath as 50th Chief Justice of India on November 9, 2022.
- ➔ He is the 50th Chief Justice of India.
- ➔ He was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court in 2013.

Aparajita Sarangi

- ➔ Aparajita Sarangi has been elected as a member to the executive committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). (October, 2022)
- ➔ She is a Lok Sabha member from Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Mallikarjun Kharge

- ➔ Veteran Karnataka leader Mallikarjun Kharge become the first non-Gandhi Congress President in 24 years and the first Scheduled Caste chief of the grand old organization in four decades. (October, 2022)

Anna May Wong

- ➔ Anna May Wong set to become first Asian American to feature on US currency. (October, 2022)
- ➔ She was first Asian American Hollywood actress.

Xi Jinping

- ➔ Chinese President Xi Jinping re-elected for an unprecedented third term in power with the prospect of ruling China for life. (October, 2022)
- ➔ He has created history, becoming the first leader of the ruling Communist Party after party founder Mao Zedong to get an unprecedented third term in power.

Shefali Juneja

- ➔ Shefali Juneja has been elected as the chairperson of the United Nations' specialized aviation agency Air Transport Committee (ATC).

Lt Gen Anil Chauhan

- ➔ The government of India has announced the appointment of Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) as the **2nd Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**. (September, 2022)

Mohammed bin Salman

- ➔ Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been appointed as prime minister by a royal decree. (September, 2022)

R Venkataramani

- ➔ Senior advocate R Venkataramani has been appointed as the **new Attorney General of India**. Mr. Venkataramani replaced Attorney General K.K. Venugopal (October, 2022).

Edward Snowden

- ➔ President Vladimir Putin has granted **Russian citizenship** to former U.S. intelligence contractor Edward Snowden. (September, 2022)

Kalyan Chaubey

- ➔ Kalyan Chaubey was elected as president of the **All India Football Federation** (2 September, 2022).
- ➔ He become first ex-player to hold the top office of India's football governing body.

Volker Turk

- ➔ The United Nations (UN) General Assembly approved Volker Türk of Austria to be the global body's Human Rights Chief by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. (September, 2022)

Alkesh Kumar Sharma

- ➔ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has nominated India's Electronics and Information Technology Secretary, Alkesh Kumar Sharma to Internet Governance Leadership Panel. (August, 2022)

Samir V Kamat

- ➔ Distinguished scientist Samir V Kamat was appointed as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). (26 August, 2022)

K Subramanian

- ➔ He took charge of Executive Direction (India) at the IMF (1 November, 2022)
- ➔ He was former Chief Economic Adviser Government of India.

Other Important Personalities (International)

- **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** : He was re-elected as Uzbekistan's President with 87.1% of the vote (July 9, 2023).
- **Michael Rosen** : He is a British children's writer won PEN Pinter Prize 2023.(June, 2023)
- **Salman Rushdie** : The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023 has been awarded to British-American author Salman Rushdie. (June, 2023)
- **Kairan Quazi** : Bangladeshi-American software engineer becomes youngest software developer at SpaceX at the age of just 14. (June 2023)
- **Fathi Bashagha** : Libyan parliament suspended him as prime minister of Sirte-based government. (16 May, 2023)
- **Apsara Iyer** : In February, 2023, a second year Indian-American student at Harvard Law School has been elected president of the prestigious Harvard Law Review.
- **Mohammad Shahabuddin** : Mohammad Shahabuddin became President of Bangladesh (April, 2023).
- **Bola Tinubu** : Bola Tinubu has been elected as the President of Nigeria (March 1, 2023).
- **Vo Van Thuong** : Vietnam has chosen a new president after an anti-corruption drive and power struggle within its leadership (March 1, 2023).
- **Ram Chandra Poudel** : Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress sworn as the third President of Nepal (March 13, 2023).

Other Important Personalities (National)

- **Justice Subhasis Talapatra** : He sworn in as 33rd Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. (7 August, 2023)
- **Sanjay Kumar Agarwal** : IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). (5 August, 2023)
- **Amit Jhingran** : The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as managing director and chief executive officer. (7 August, 2023)
- **R. Doraiswamy** : The government had appointed him as the managing director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). (August, 2023)
- **Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh** : The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as SEBI Whole-Time Members. (August, 2023)
- **Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** : He was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court at Raj Bhavan Mumbai (July 29, 2023).
- **Justice Alok Aradhe** : He was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court at Raj Bhavan (July 23, 2023).
- **Rakesh Pal** : D.G. Rakesh Pal has been appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) (July 19, 2023).
- **Vijay Sampla** : He has resigned as chairperson of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) (July 18, 2023). He was appointed to head the NCSC in 2021.
- **Rajay Kumar Sinha** : He has taken charge of SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAPS) (July 14, 2023).
- **B.R. Sharma** : He sworn in as the State Election Commissioner of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Raj Bhawan, Srinagar (July 20, 2023).
- **Abhijit Chakravorty** : SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBI Card), the country's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has appointed him as MD & CEO (August 12, 2023).
- **Harsh Chouhan** : National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) chairman and a social rights activist has resigned from his post (June 26, 2023)
- **T.S. Singh Deo** : Governor Biswabhusan Hari Chandan has appointed T.S. Singh Deo as deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.
- **Rohit Jawa** : He has appointed Managing Director & CEO of Hindustan Unilever and a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive. (June 2023)
- **Colonel Shuchita Shekhar** : She becomes 1st woman to command Communication Zone Mechanical Transport Battalion. (June, 2023)
- **Rashmika Mandanna** : The popular Indian film actress, has been announced as the brand ambassador for Epson India, a world leader in digital and printing solutions.(June 2023)
- **Pieter Elbers** : IndiGo, India's preferred carrier, has announce that its CEO, Pieter Elbers has been elected as the chair-elect of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors.. (June 2023)
- **Subodh Kumar Singh** : He is appointed as the Director-general of the National Testing Agency (DG NTA). (June, 2023)
- **Rajesh Kumar Anand** : Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar Anand, Vishisht Seva Medal took over as Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA) (June, 2023).
- **Amarendu Prakash** : He has taken charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) (31 May ,2023).
- **R. Dinesh** : The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has elected him as its President for year 2023-24.(25 May, 2023)
- **Hari Budha Magar** : Former soldier in the Gurkha regiment, set out to be the first double above-the-knee amputee to successfully climb Mount Everest.(May,2023)
- **Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad** : He has been recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) to head Coal India (CIL) (May, 2023)
- **Ajay Vij** : Accenture appoints him Country Managing Director in India.(5 May, 2023)
- **Karthik Balagopalan** : Puma appoints him as new MD for India. (August 1, 2023)
- **Alia Bhatt** : She is appointed as first Indian Global Ambassador of Gucci. (May, 2023)
- **Manoj Soni** : He took oath as the chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). (May 16, 2023)
- **Anil Kumar Jain** : The government has appointed former Coal Secretary as the chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). (May, 2023)
- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh** : Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, AVSM, NM assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of Naval Staff. (1st April, 2023)

- **Virat Kohli** : HSBC India announced him as their Brand Influencer. (19th April, 2023)
- **Rohit Sharma** : India captain Rohit Sharma was announced as Jio Cinema's brand ambassador (April, 2023).
- **Siddhartha Mohanty** : The government of India has appointed Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) till June 29, 2024. (April, 2023).
- **Kalikesh Singh Deo** : Senior vice-president Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deois appointed as president of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) (April, 2023).
- **Dr. Nitya Abraham** : In April, 2023, Dr. Nitya Abraham, an Indian-American physician and professor has been honoured with the Young Urologist of the Year Award.
- **Shamika Ravi** : In February, 2023, Economics Professor and Researcher Shamika Ravi has been appointed as a member of the **Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**.
- **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam** : Former IAS officer B.V.R. Subrahmanyam was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Niti Aayog (February 25, 2023).
- **Rajeev Raghuvanshi** : The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Rajeev Raghuvanshi as the new Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) (February 22, 2023).
- **Rashmi Shukla** : Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) (March 2, 2023).
- **S.S. Dubey** : S.S. Dubey took charge as the 28th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) (March 6, 2023).
- **Neiphiu Rio** : NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio took oath as the Chief Minister of Nagaland for the fifth term (March 7, 2023).
- **Arvind Virmani** : Former Chief Economic Advisor, Arvind Virmani has been appointed as a **full time member of NITI Aayog** (16 November, 2022).

Obituary (National)

- **Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor** : Noted litterateur and Padma Shri awardee known as Maharashtra's 'nature poet', passed away at the age of 80. (August 3, 2023)
- **M.R. Satyanarayana Rao** : Padma Shri awardee and former President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) passed away in Bengaluru at the age of 75. (August 13, 2023)
- **Dr. Mangala Narlikar** : Noted mathematician and scientist wife of renowned astrophysicist Dr. Jayant Narlikar, passed away at age of 80. (July 17, 2023)
- **Salim Durani** : Born in Kabul, Afghanistan former India all-rounder Salim Durani has died at the age of 88. (2nd April, 2023)
- **Keshub Mahindra** : Keshub Mahindra, a doyen of Indian industry and Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra, passed away. (April, 2023).
- **Alan Wolf Arkin** : He was an American actor, director, musician and singer died at the age of 89 (June 29, 2023). He won an Oscar for playing a heroin-using grandfather in the 2006 film "Little Miss Sunshine".
- **John Bannister Goodenough** : He was an American the co-inventor of lithium-ion batteries and the co-winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, passed away at the age of 100. Goodenough also played a significant role in the development of Random Access Memory (RAM) for computers.
- **Gufi Paintal** : He who became a household name back in the 1980s with his role of Shakuni Mama in BR Chopra's epic show Mahabharat, died at the age of 79. He was an actor, casting director, assistant director, production manager and director.
- **Jurist Shanti Bhushan** : The Former Union law minister and eminent jurist Shanti Bhushan, passed away at the age of 97 (January 31, 2023).
- **K. Viswanath** : Legendary film director K. Vishwanath passed away in Hyderabad (February 2, 2023).
- **Om Prakash Kohli** : Former Gujarat governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Prakash Kohli passed away (February 20, 2023).
- **Kanak Rele** : Classical dance legend Kanak Rele passed away (February 22, 2023). The Mohiniyattam exponent in 2022 had released the book — Me and My Mohini Attam.
- **A.M. Ahmadi** : Former Chief Justice of India A.M. Ahmadi passed away (March 2, 2023). He was the 26th Chief Justice of India (from 1994 to 1997).
- **Krishnakumar Kunnath (KK)** : Noted Bollywood singer KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath) who mesmerized music lovers for over three decades is dead (31 May, 2022)
- **Rakesh Jhunjhunwala** : Veteran stock market investor, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala passed away at the age of 62 (August, 2022). Often referred to as 'India's Warren Buffett' and the 'Big Bull' of Indian share markets.

Obituary (International)

- **William Friedkin** : He , who won the best director Oscar for “The French Connection,” died in Los Angeles **at the age of 87.(7 August, 2023)**
- **Tarek Fatah** : Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah, a self-described “Midnight’s Child”, born on November 20, 1949 in Karachi, died at the age of 73. (April, 2023)
- **Pervez Musharraf** : Pakistan’s former president General Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in 1999, has died in Dubai (February 5, 2023). He was president of Pakistan between 2001 and 2008.
- **Lucile Randon** : The world’s oldest known person, French nun Lucile Randon died on January 17, 2023. Living to the age of 118 years and 340 days, she had been the world’s oldest verified living person since 19 April 2022.
- **Burt Bacharach** : Legendary American pop composer, songwriter, and pianist, Burt Bacharach, passed away in Los Angeles (February 8, 2023).

Brand Ambassador	
Name	Appointed
Ayushman Khurrana	UNICEF India
Sachin Tendulkar	ITC’s Savlon
Harmanpreet Kaur	Puma
Ranveer Singh	Pepsi Co.
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Navi Technologies Ltd.
Suryakumar Yadav	Urban Gabru & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
Prasoon Joshi	Uttarakhand State’s Brand Ambassador
Saurav Ganguly	Dream Setho & Bandhan Bank
Sachin Tendulkar	Goodwill Ambassador (UNICEF) Continued
A.R. Rahman	Indo-UK Culture Plateform Season of Culture
Vidya Balan	Bharti AXA Life Insurance
Rishabh Pant	Dish TV India for its Direct-to-Home (DTH) Services
Shahrukh Khan	Thums-Up
Akshay Kumar & Rishabh Pant	Brand Ambassador of State Uttarakhand
Amitabh Bachchan	Meddi Buddy
Ram Charan	Hero MotoCrop
Smriti Mandhana	Gulf Oil India

Places in News

NATIONAL

Adichanallur

- ➔ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lays foundation stone for Adichanallur museum.(August 5, 2023)
- ➔ Adichanallur is located on the lower valley of the Tamirabarani river in Srivaikuntam taluk in present-day Thoothukudi district in southern Tamil Nadu.

Byculla Railway station

- ➔ Byculla Railway station of Mumbai received UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage conservation. (July 24 , 2023)
- ➔ Around 169 year old railway station is Asia’s oldest railway station.
- ➔ Apart from Byculla station, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum (Mumbai), Stepwells of Golconda (Hyderabad) and Domakonda Fort (Telangana) were also winners of this award (under different categories) in 2022.

Zanzibar

- ➔ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) will open its first-ever overseas campus in Tanzania’s Zanzibar in October 2023.
- ➔ The new IIT campus will be set up in Zanzibar under the name IIT Madras at Zanzibar.
- ➔ Zanzibar will be one of three campuses outside of India, with the others located in Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur.
- ➔ The new IIT campus in Tanzania will be the first in itself to be led by a woman director Preeti Aghalayam.

Ahilya Nagar

- ➔ Maharashtra government has announced that Ahmednagar would be renamed ‘Ahilya Nagar’ (May, 2023).
- ➔ The announcement came on the 298th birth anniversary of 18th century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.

Srinagar

- ➔ Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of ‘Balidan Stambh’ in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir (June, 2023).
- ➔ It is to show external gratitude to the martyrs of various wars fought in J&K since independence.
- ➔ Balidan stambh is India’s first wart memorial.

Kondakal

- ➔ India's largest private rail coach factory inaugurated at Kondakal village in Rangareddy district, Telangana (June, 2023).

Surat

- ➔ Surat has set a 'new Guinness World Record' for the largest gathering of people for a yoga session at one place (June, 2023).
- ➔ More than one lakh people took part 21 June.

Ratnagiri

- ➔ The Maharashtra government has started soil testing to establish Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (RRPCL) (25 April, 2023).
- ➔ The project is touted as world's largest single location refinery complex.

Visakhapatnam

- ➔ India's first integrated data centre and technology business park is being built by Adani group at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (03 May, 2023)
- ➔ The Park will host a 300 + MW of data centre capacity, powered by renewable energy.

Dawki

- ➔ The 10th Landport between India and Bangladesh has inaugurated at Dawki in Meghalaya (04 May, 2023)
- ➔ It will serve as an important economic and transportation hub between India and Bangladesh.

Mumbai

- ➔ Mumbai is soon to get India's first-ever undersea tunnels (May, 2023)
- ➔ The 2.07 km twin tunnels are a part of the Mumbai Coastal Road Project (MCRP).

Rudraprayag

- ➔ The famous Tungnath temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is located in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand.
- ➔ In a study, the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has found that the Tungnath temple tilted by five to six degrees. (May, 2023)

Bhopal

- ➔ Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) has become first city in India to join global movement on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ➔ M.P. CM Shivraj Chouhan launched 'An Agenda for Action : Sustainable Urban Transformation in Bhopal' India's first city-level Voluntary Local Review (VLR) (12 May, 2023)

Punjab

- ➔ Punjab has become first state to implement 'right to walk'. (10 May, 2023)
- ➔ All road owning agencies will have to provide footpath and cycletrack.

Thiruvananthapuram

- ➔ 5th Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) – 2023 will be hosted in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) between 01-05 December, 2023.

Churachandpur

- ➔ The Manipur violence had begun from Churachandpur district on May 3, 2023.
- ➔ More than one thousand Meitei people had to fled the Kuki-dominated Chaurachandpur district.

Devbhumi Dwarka

- ➔ The Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) at Okha in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat. (May 20, 2023)

Chennai

- ➔ 'India-Israel Centre of Water Technology' is going to be set up at IIT, Madras Campus. (09 May, 2023)
- ➔ It is a joint initiative of IIT Madras and government of Israel.

Hingoli

- ➔ The Union Cabinet has approved an advance gravitational wave detector in Hingoli district, Maharashtra. (April 6, 2023)
- ➔ The observatory will be third of its kind.
- ➔ Other two Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatories (LIGO) are in Louisiana and Washington in the USA.

Bengaluru

- ➔ Bengaluru inaugurated India's first 3D-printed post office. (August, 2023)
- ➔ The post office building is constructed by L&T Construction.
- ➔ The project is design and build using 3D concrete Printing Technology.

Zemithang

- ➔ A major Buddhist conference was organized at Zemithang in Arunachal Pradesh. (16-17 April, 2023)
- ➔ The conference was organized by the 'Indian Himalayan Council of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition' (Held – New Delhi)

Varanasi

- ➔ The 12 days long Pushkaralu festival of Telugu-speaking people has commenced in Varanasi. (April 22, 2023)
- ➔ The festival is being organized in Varanasi after a gap of 12 years due to special combination of planetary transits.

Thrisur

- ➔ The tallest Hanuman statue of Kerala has been unveiled by PM Modi at the Sri Seetharamaswamy temple in Thrissur. (April 25, 2023)
- ➔ The statue is 35 ft tall and has a 20 ft. tall base. Altogether it is 55 ft tall.

Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Government in its state budget announced the notification of Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, making it the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state (March 20, 2023).

Dibang Multipurpose Project

- ➔ The Indian Government has approved its largest ever hydropower project in the mountainous northeastern region- Dibang Multipurpose Project (MPP) (February, 2023).
- ➔ The project will generate 2,880 MW of hydropower.

Yamunotri Dham

- ➔ The state government of Uttarakhand has inked a contract, to construct a 3.38 km ropeway from Janki Chatti in Kharsali to Yamunotri Dham (February 23, 2023).
- ➔ Yamunotri Dham is part of Char Dham – the four famous Hindu pilgrimages.

Byndoor, Udupi district

- ➔ Karnataka is set to get India's 1st Marina which will be constructed at Byndoor in the Udupi district. (February, 2023)

Shivamogga Airport

- ➔ The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly constructed Shivamogga Airport (Karnataka). (February 27, 2023)

Tashigang

- ➔ Tashigang (Lahaul & Spiti), has **world's highest polling station** at 15,256 ft & 52 registered voters.

Kameng Hydro Power Station

- ➔ Prime Minister of India Dedicates 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station (Arunachal Pradesh) to the nation.

Srinagar

- ➔ Kashmir's first Technology Business Incubation Centre named as 'Greenovator Incubation Foundation' (GIF) is coming up in Srinagar. (October, 2022)

Indore

- ➔ An International Seminar on '**Road Safety : Current Scenario & Way Forward**' was organized in view of problem of road safety (October 28-29, 2022)

Sikkim

- ➔ India's first avalanche monitoring radar has been installed in North Sikkim. (September, 2022)

Bhavnagar

- ➔ PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the 'world's first CNG terminal' at Bhavnagar, Gujarat. (September, 2022)

Varanasi

- ➔ Varanasi nominated as the first 'Cultural and Tourism Capital of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2022-23. (September, 2022)

INTERNATIONAL

Nigeria

- ➔ Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu declared a national emergency on food security, as record inflation has made basic foods unaffordable for many. (July 13, 2023)
- ➔ Abuja is the capital of Nigeria.

Ubinas Volcano

- ➔ Peru has imposed a state of emergency in Moquegua region due to explosions in Ubinas volcano. (July, 2023)
- ➔ Ubinas is the most active volcano in the country, forming part of the "Ring of Fire", an area of seismic activity that surrounds the tectonic plate underneath the Pacific Ocean.

Orkney Islands

- ➔ Orkney council to look at proposals to become territory of Norway. (July 2023)
- ➔ The Orkney Islands could change their status in the UK or even become a self-governing territory of Norway under new proposals.
- ➔ Orkney is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Kilauea Volcano

- ➔ Kilauea Volcano of Hawaii island has erupted recently (June, 2023)

Gabon

- ➔ Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has flagged off Gabon's first Agri-SEZ project from New Delhi (June, 2023).

Anak Krakatau

- ➔ Indonesia Anak Krakatau Volcano has erupted (June, 2023).
- ➔ The volcano island located in Indonesia Sunda strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands.
- ➔ Anak Krakatau means 'Child of Krakatau'.

Estonia

- ➔ Estonia has become first central European country to legalise same-sex marriage (June, 2023).

Sittwe Port

- ➔ Inaugural cargoship to Myanmar's Sittwe port has flagged off from Kolkata. (04 May, 2023)
- ➔ The port has built with assistance from India in Rakhine State in Myanmar.

Portugal

- ➔ Portugal has legalised the euthanasia, after a long battle. (12 May, 2023)
- ➔ In 2002, Netherlands became the first country to legalise the euthanasia.

Finland

- ➔ Europe's most powerful nuclear reactor kicks off in Finland. (April, 2023)
- ➔ The Olkiluoto 3 reactor has 1600 MW capacity.

Rooppur

- ➔ Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant is being constructed at Rooppur in Pabna district.

Ghana

- ➔ Ghana becomes first country to approve Oxfords Malaris vaccine. (April, 2022)
- ➔ The R21/Matrix-M vaccine will be administered to children aged 5-36 months.

Sudan

- ➔ Indian Air Force has brought back Indian citizens from war-hit Sudan under operation Kaveri. (April, 2023)

Pennsylvania

- ➔ US State Pennsylvania declares Diwali as an official holiday. (April, 2023)

Dubai

- ➔ A majestic Hindu temple has been inaugurated in **Jabel Ali Village, Dubai.** (October, 2022)

Norway

- ➔ On the shore of Norway's North Sea Coast, on an island, Norway is building a carbon storage site. (September, 2022)
- ➔ It is the **World's First Open access transport** and carbon storage infrastructure.

Awards and Honours

NATIONAL

69th National Film Awards for the Year 2021 (August, 2023)

Award for Best Film Critic

Sr. No.	Name of Critic	Language	Medal and Cash Prize
1.	Purushothama Charyulu	Telugu	Swarna Kamal and Rs. 75,000/-

Non-Feature Films Results

Sr. No.	Category of Award	Title of the Film	Awardee
1.	BEST NON-FEATURE FILM	Ek Tha Gaon	Producer & Director: Srishti Lakhera

Feature Films – Results

2.	Best Feature Film	Rocketry: The Nambi Effect (Hindi)	Producer: Rocketry Entertainment LLP Director: R Madhavan
3.	Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration	The Kashmir Files (Hindi)	Producer : Zee Studios Limited Director : Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri
4.	Best Children's Film	Gandhi & Co. (Gujarati)	Producer : MD Media Corp Director: Manish Saini
5.	Best Direction	Godavari (The Holy Water) (Marathi)	Director: Nikhil Mahajan
6.	Best Actor	Pushpa (The Rise Part I) (Telugu)	Lead Actor : Allu Arjun

7.	Best Actress	1. Gangubai Kathiawadi (Hindi) 2. Mimi (Hindi)	Lead Actress : Alia Bhatt Lead Actress : Kriti Sanon
8.	Best Supporting Actor	Mimi (Hindi)	Supporting Actor: Pankaj Tripathi
9.	Best Supporting Actress	The Kashmir Files (Hindi)	Supporting Actress: Pallavi Joshi
10.	Best Male Playback Singer	RRR (Telugu)	Singer : Kaala Bhairava (Song : Komuram Bheemudo)
11.	Best Female Playback Singer	Iravin Nizhal (Shadow of the Night) (Tamil)	Singer : Shreya Ghoshal (Song : Maayava Chaayavaa)
12.	Best Cinematography	Sardar Udham (Hindi)	Cameraman: Avik Mukhopadhyay
13.	Best Music Direction	Pushpa (The Rise Part I) (Telugu) RRR (Telugu)	Music Director (Songs): Devi Sri Prasad Music Director (Background Score) : M.M. Keeravaani
14.	Special Jury Award	Shershaah	Director : Vishnu Varadhan
15.	Best Hindi Film	Sardar Udham (Hindi)	Producer: Kino works LLP Director: Sujit Sircar
16.	Best Maithili Film	Samanantar (The Parallel)	Producer : Anirati Films Director: Niraj Kumar Mishra

1st ASI Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award-2022

- ➔ **Date** – May 11, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Pune
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar
- ➔ The biennial award has been instituted by Astronomical Society of India (ASI).

Sagar Shreshtha Samman Awards 2022-23

- ➔ **Date** – May 10, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Winner** –
 - ⊖ **Best Port** – Pradip Port
 - ⊖ **Best Absolute Performance for the Year 2022-23** – Deendayal Port, Kandla
 - ⊖ **Performance Shield on Ship Berth Day Output** – Paradip Port
 - ⊖ **Performance Shield in turn-around-time (non-container port)** – Cochin Port
 - ⊖ **Best incremental Performance** – Paradip Port (highest cargo grow rate of 16.56%)

59th Femina Miss India-2023

- ➔ **Date** – April 15, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal (Manipur)
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Nandini Gupta (Rajasthan)
- ➔ First time in history, this prestigious competition has held in a Northeastern state.
- ➔ Nandini Gupta will represent India at Miss World 2024.

Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award - 2023

- ➔ **Date** – May 05, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Mumbai
- ➔ **Recipient** – Yogi Adityanath (U.P. Chief Minister)
- ➔ U.P. Legislative Council Member Dr. Lalji Prasad Nirmal has received the award on behalf of C.M. Yogi.

Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2023

- ➔ **Date** – April 24, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Mumbai
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Asha Bhosle

Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023

- ➔ **Date** – April 17, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Chennai
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Utsa Patnaik

Santokbaa Humanitarian Award 2023

- ➔ **Date** – April 10, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Ladakh
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Sonam Wangchuk

68th Filmfare Awards-2023

- ➔ **Date** – April 28, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai
- ➔ **Winners** –
 - ⊖ **Best Film** – Gangubai Kathiawadi
 - ⊖ **Best Film (Critics)** – Badhaai Do
 - ⊖ **Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)** – Rajkumar Rao (Badhaai Do)
 - ⊖ **Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)** – Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi)

- ⊖ **Best Actor (Critics)** – Sanjay Mishra (Vadh)
- ⊖ **Best Actress (Critics)** – Bhumi Padnekar (Badhaai Do)
- ⊖ **Best Actress (Critics)** – Tabu (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2)
- ⊖ **Best Director** – Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- ⊖ **Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)** – Anil Kapoor (Jugjugg Jeeyo)
- ⊖ **Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)** – Sheeba Chaddha (Badhai Do)
- ⊖ **Best Music Album** – Pritam (Brahmastra Part-I : Shiva)
- ⊖ **Best Lyrics** – Amitabh Bhattacharya (Kesariya, Brahmastra Part One : Siva)
- ⊖ **Best Playback Singer (Male)** – Arijit Singh (Kesariya, Brahmastra Part One : Siva)
- ⊖ **Best Playback Singer (Female)** – Kavita Seth, Rangisari (Jugjugg Jeeyo)
- ⊖ **Best VFX** – Dneg, Redefine (Brahmastra Part One : Siva)
- ➔ **Special Awards –**
 - ⊖ **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Prem Chopra
 - ⊖ **RD Burman Award for Upcoming Music Talent** – Jahnvi Shrimankar (Dholida – Gangubai Kathiawadi)

Raman Magsaysay Award – 1959

- ➔ **Date** – April 26, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Dharmshala, India
- ➔ **Recipient** – Dalai Lama

Maharashtra Bhushan Award – 2022

- ➔ **Date** – April 16, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ➔ **Recipient** – Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari

Padma Award 2023

- ➔ 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri Awards were given

Padma Vibhushan (6)			
S. N.	Name	Field	State/ Country
1.	Shri Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous)	Others- Architecture	Gujarat
2.	Shri Zakir Hussain	Art	Maharashtra
3.	Shri S.M. Krishna	Public Affairs	Karnataka
4.	Shri Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous)	Medicine	West Bengal

5.	Shri Srinivas Varadhan	Science & Engineering	United State of America
6.	Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh
Padma Bhushan (9)			
7.	Shri S.L. Bhyrappa	Literature & Education	Karnataka
8.	Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
9.	Shri Deepak Dhar	Science & Engineering	Maharashtra
10.	Ms. Vani Jairam	Art	Tamil Nadu
11.	Swami Chinna Jeeyar	Others - Spiritualism	Telangana
12.	Ms. Suman Kalayanpur	Art	Maharashtra
13.	Shri Kapil Kapoor	Literature & Education	Delhi
14.	Ms. Sudha Murty	Social Work	Karnataka
15.	Shri Kamlesh D. Patel	Others - Spiritualism	Telangana

Saraswati Samman-2022 (March 15, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Winner** – Sivasankari (Tamil Nadu)
- ➔ She has been selected for the Samman for her book **Survy Vamsam**.
- ➔ Saraswati Samman has been instituted by the **K.K. Birla foundation in 1991**.

32nd Vyas Samman-2022 (March 9, 2023)

- Place** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Winner** – Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi (Jhansi)
- ➔ His 2018 satirical novel – **Pagalkhana** has been selected for the Vyas Samman.
- ➔ The award has been instituted by the **K.K. Birla foundation in 1991**.

Sangita Kalanidhi-2023 (March 19, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Chennai
- ➔ **Winner** – Bombay Jayashri

Hockey India Awards-2022 (March 17, 2023)

- Place** – New Delhi
- Winners –**
 - ➔ **Balbir Singh Dr. Award for Player for the Year (Men)** – Hardik Singh
 - ➔ **Balbir Singh Dr. Award for Player for the Year (Women)** – Savita Punia
 - ➔ **Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award** – Gurbux Singh

- ➔ **Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (U21 Men)** – Uttam Singh
- ➔ **Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (U21 Women)** – Mumtaz Khan
- ➔ **Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year** – Vandana Katariya

BBC India Sportswoman Awards-2022 (March 5, 2023)

- ➔ **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2022** – Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting)
- ➔ **BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year 2022** – Bhavina Patel (Para Table Tennis)
- ➔ **BBC Lifetime Achievement Award** – Pritam Siwach (Former Captain of the India's Women Hockey Team)
- ➔ **BBC Emerging Player of the Year 2022** – Nitu Ghanghas (Boxing)
- ➔ **BBC Changemaker of the Year Award 2022** – Lovely Choubey, Rupa Rani Tirkey, Pinki and Nayanmoni Saikia (Lawn Bowls)
- ➔ **Special Trophy for Achievements in 2022** – Bhagwani Devi and Rambai (Athletics)
- ➔ BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year award was launched in 2019.
- ➔ Mirabai chance has becomes the first sportswoman to win the award twice (2021 & 2022).

National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2022

- ➔ **Dates** – February 28, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – New Delhi

Category	Winner
1. Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award	Dr. Anne Bhavani Koteswara Prasad (Hyderabad)
2. Rural Journalism Award	Rhitashava Kumar Verma (Dainik Jagran, Uttar Pradesh)
3. Reporting from Conflict Area	Rohan Dua (Times of India, New Delhi)
4. The Best Newspaper Art	Shankar Parmar (Telugu Daily, Hyderabad)

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards-2023

- ➔ **Dates** – February 20, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Mumbai
- ➔ **Winners** –
 - ⊖ **Best Film** – The Kashmir Files
 - ⊖ **Film of the Year** – RRR

- ⊖ **Critics Best Film** – Drishyam
- ⊖ **Best Actor** – Ranbir Kapoor (Brahmastra: Part One-Shiva)
- ⊖ **Best Actress** – Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- ⊖ **Best Director** – R. Balakrishnan (Chup : Revenge of the Artist)
- ⊖ **Most Versatile Actor of the Year** – Anupam Kher

ATD Best Award-2023

Date – February 6, 2023

- ➔ NTPC bags 'ATD Best Award 2023' for 6th consecutive year.

Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award-2023

- ➔ **Winner** – Dr. Prabha Atre (22nd January, 2023)
- ➔ The award was presented to her by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Most Distinguished Scientist of the Year 2022

- ➔ **Date** – January 17, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
 - ⊖ **Winner** – R. Vishnu Prasad

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023

- ➔ **Date** – January 23, 2023
- ➔ **Winners**—
 - ⊖ Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA),
 - ⊖ Lunglei Fire Station (LFS), Mizoram

14th International Conference-cum-Awards on Civil Aviation-2023

- ➔ **Date** – January 18, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Hotel Leela Palace, New Delhi
- ➔ **Winners** –
 - ⊖ **Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport** – Goa International Airport
 - ⊖ **Best Aircraft Manufacturer** – Airbus
 - ⊖ **Best Helicopter Flights** – Pawan Hans
 - ⊖ **Best Cargo Carrier** – Spice Jet

Green Railway Station Certification Award 2023

- ➔ **Date** – January 24, 2023
- ⊖ **Winner** – Visakhapatnam Railway Station.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards-2023

- ➔ **Dates** – January 08-10, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Winners—

1. Jagadish Chennupati (Australia),
2. Sanjeev Mehta (Bhutan),
3. Dilip Loundo (Brazil),
4. Alexander Maliakel John (Brunei),
5. Vaikuntam Iyer Lakshmanan (Canada),
6. Joginder Singh Nijjar (Croatia),
7. Ramjee Prasad (Denmark),
8. Kannan Ambalam (Ethiopia),
9. Amal Kumar Mukhopadhyay (Germany),
10. Mohamed Irfaan Ali (Guyana),
11. Reena Vinod Pushkarna (Israel),
12. Maqsooda Sarfi Shiotani (Japan),
13. Rajagopal (Mexico),
14. Amit Kailash Chandra Lath (Poland),
15. Parmanand Sukhumal Daswani (Republic of Congo),
16. Piyush Gupta (Singapore),
17. Mohanlal Hira (South Africa),
18. Sanjaykumar Shivabhai Patel (South Sudan),
19. Sivakumar Nadesan (Sri Lanka),
20. Dewanchandrebhose Sharman (Surinam),
21. Archana Sharma (Switzerland),
22. Frank Arthur Seepersad (Trinidad & Tobago),
23. Siddharth Balachandran (UAE),
24. Chandrakant Babubhai Patel (UK),
25. Darshan Singh Dhaliwal (USA),
26. Rajesh Subramaniam (USA),
27. Ashok Kumar Tiwari (Uzbekistan).

Jamnala Bajaj Awards 2022 (08 December, 2022)

Winners –

- ➔ Outstanding contribution in constructive work :
 - ☉ **Mr. Nilesh Desai (Madhya Pradesh)**
- ➔ Application of Science & Technology for Rural Development
 - ☉ **Mr. Mansukhbhai Prajapati (Gujarat)**
- ➔ Development and Welfare of Women and Children :
 - ☉ **Mr. Sophia Shaikh (Odisha)**
- ➔ Promoting Gandhian values outside India by Individuals other than Indian citizens :
 - ☉ **Dr. Ogarit Younan & Dr. Walid Slaybi (Lebanon).**

GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022 (22 December, 2022)

- ➔ **Winner** – UIDAI Headquarters in New Delhi
- ➔ It is top national Green Building Award

Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 (19 December, 2022)

- ➔ **Winner** – Joint winners :
 1. Book – A Sky full of Bucket List (Shobhana Kumar)
 2. Book – Anthropocene : Climate change, contagion, consolidation (Sudeep Sen)
- ➔ Tagore Prize for Social Achievement 2021-22
Winner – Sanjoy K. Roy

Atal Anveshi Shikhar Samman 2022 (24 December, 2022)

- ➔ **Winner** – Prabhu Chandra Mishra (Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine)

K.R. Gouri Amma Award 2022 (26 December, 2022)

- ➔ **Winner** – Aleida Guevara (Cuba)
- ➔ This is first award instituted by the K.R. Gouri Amma Foundation.

53rd International Film Festival of India 2022 (20-28 November, 2022)

- ➔ **Founded** - 1952
- Winner** –
 - ➔ Golden Peacock (Best Film) – I have Electric Dreams (Spanish) (Director-Valentina Maurel Costa Rica)
 - ➔ Silver Peacock (Best Director) – Nader Saeivar (Iran), No End
 - ➔ Silver Peacock (Best Actor Male) – Vahid Mobasseri (Act of 'No End')
 - ➔ Silver Peacock - Best Actor (Female) - Daniela Marin Navarro (Act of I have Electric Dreams)
 - ➔ Best Debut Feature Film of a Director – Behind the Haystacks (Asimina Proedrou)
 - ➔ ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal – Nargesi (Director-Payam Eskandari)
 - ➔ Indian Film Personality of the Year Award 2022-Chiranjeevi

National Intellectual Property Award 2021 & 2022

Winner – IIT Madras

JCB Prize for Literature 2022

Winner – 'The Paradise of Food'

- ➔ The book is written by Khalid Jawed (as Ne'mat Khana) in Urdu and translated by Baran Farooqi. (November, 2022)

Gandhi Mandela Award 2019

- ➔ **Winner** – Dalai Lama (14th)

National Sports Awards 2022

- ➔ Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2022. (14 November, 2022).
- ➔ They have received their awards from the President of India Rashtrapati Bhavan on 30 November, 2022.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2022

Winner – Sharath Kamal Achanta (Table Tennis)

Arjun Awards 2022

1. Seema Punia Athelites (Discus throw)
2. Eldhose Paul Athelites (Triple Jump)

3. Avinash Sable Athelitics (3000m Steeplechase)
4. Lakshya Sen (Badminton)
5. Prannoy HS (Badminton)
6. Amit Panghal (Boxing)
7. Nikhat Zareen (Boxing)
8. Bhakti Pradip Kulkarni (Chess)
9. R. Praggnanandhaa (Chess)
10. Deep Grace Ekka (Hockey)
11. Shushila Devi (Judo)
12. Sakshi Kumari (Kabaddi)
13. Nayan Moni Saikia (Lawn Bowl)
14. Sagar Kailas Ovhalkar (Mallakhamb)
15. Elavenil Valarivan (Shooting)
16. Omprakash Mitharval (Shooting)
17. Sreeja Akula (Table Tennis)
18. Vikas Thakur (Weightlifting)
19. Anshu (Wrestling)
20. Sarita (Wrestling)
21. Praveen Kumar (Wushu)
22. Manasi Girishchandra Joshi (Para Badminton)
23. Tarun Dhillon (Para Badminton)
24. Swapnil Sanjay Patil (Para Swimming)
25. Jerlin Anika J. (Deaf Badminton)

Dronacharya Awards 2022

A. Regular Category—

1. Jiwanjot Singh Teja (Archery)
2. Mohammad Ali Qamar (Boxing)
3. Suma Siddharth Shirur (Para Shooting)
4. Sujeet Maan (Wrestling)

B. Lifetime Category—

1. Dinesh Jawahar Lad (Cricket)
2. Bimal Prafulla Ghosh (Football)
3. Raj Singh (Wrestling)

Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement 2022

1. Ashwini Akkunji C. (Sprint Athlete)
2. Dharamvir Singh (Hockey)
3. B.C. Suresh (Kabaddi)
4. Nir Bahadur Gurung (Para-Athletics)

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022

1. Trans Stadia Enterprises Private Limited
2. Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
3. Ladakh Ski & Snowboard Association

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2022

- ➔ **Winner** – Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2022

- ➔ **Winner** – The Country's Medical Fraternity as a whole.
- ➔ Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2021 winner is **Pratham** (NGO).

32nd Bihari Puraskar 2022

- ➔ **Winner** – Dr. Madhav Hada
- ➔ Dr. Madhav Hada was awarded for his 2015 literary criticism book '**Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri**'.
- ➔ The Award was instituted by K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991 to honour Rajasthani authors.

31st Vyas Samman

- ➔ **Winner** - Dr. Asghar Wajahat (Play-Mahabali)
- ➔ The Vyas Samman is given by K.K. Birla Foundation.

52nd Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2020 (September, 2022)

- ➔ **Winner** - Asha Parekh
- ➔ Asha Parekh worked in more than 95 films.
- ➔ She was the Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification from 1998-2001.

Miss Diva 2022 (28 August, 2022, Mumbai)

- ➔ **Miss Diva Universe 2022** : Divita Rai (Karnataka)
- ➔ **Miss Diva Supranational 2022** : Pragnya Ayyagari (Telangana)
- ➔ **Miss Popular Choice 2022** : Ojasvi Sharma

District Skill Development Planning Awards 2022

➔ Top 3 Winners list

1. Rajkot (Gujarat)
2. Cachar (Assam)
3. Satara (Maharashtra)

National MSME Awards 2022

Category	Winner
States/UT for Outstanding contribution in the Promotion & Development of MSME sector.	1. Odisha 2. Bihar 3. Haryana
To Aspirational district for outstanding contribution in the Promotion & Development of MSME sectors.	1. Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu) 2. Karauli (Rajasthan) 3. Kalahandi (Odisha)

INTERNATIONAL

95th Ocsar Awards-2023

Present Scenario –

- ➔ On 12 March, 2023 the ceremony for 95th Academy awards was held at the Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles, California (USA).
- ➔ An American television host and comedian Jimmy Kimmel has hosted the show.
- ➔ For 95th Oscar Awards 'Everything Everywhere All At Once' was the most nominated film, with 11 nods.

- ➔ Directed by 'Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, this film has won awards in 7 categories.
- ➔ 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' an American comedy-drama film has awarded with 'Best Picture' Oscar award.
- ➔ For the film Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert have won 'Best Director' award.
- ➔ For the film the Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh has won Oscar for 'Actress in a Leading Role'.
- ➔ She becomes first Asian to win an Oscar for 'Best Actress'.
- ➔ Brendan Fraser has won Oscar for 'Actor in a Leading Role' (for 'The Whale').
- ➔ German epic anti war film 'All Quiet on the Western Front' has won 'Best International Feature Film' award.
- ➔ **Music (Original Song)** – Naatu Naatu

OSCAR 2023 : INDIAN SCENARIO

The Elephant Whisperers

- ➔ The Elephant Whispers has won Best Documentary short film award.
- ➔ It is directed by Karthiki Gonsalves and produced by Gunelt Monga.

Naatu Naatu (Film – RRR)

- ➔ RRR (Directed by S.S. Rajamouli) has created history by becoming the first Indian feature film to win an Oscar.
- ➔ 'Naatu Naatu' soundtrack by M.M. Keeravani has awarded the Best Original Song award.
- ➔ Composer M.M. Keeravani along with lyricist Chandrabose collected the award.
- ➔ Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava are the singers of the soundtrack.
- Note**—'Naatu Naatu' had also won Best song award in 80th Golden Globe Awards, 2023.

Indian Glory at the Oscars

- ➔ In 1983, Bhanu Athaiya had won Oscar under 'Best Costume Design' category for film 'Gandhi'.
- ➔ In 1992, Bengali filmmaker 'Satyajit Ray' was bestowed with an Honorary Academy Award.
- ➔ In 2009 A.R. Rahman and Gulzar had won Oscar under original song category (Jai Ho) for the film 'Slumdog Millionaire'.
- ➔ A.R. Rahman had also won Oscar award under original score category for this film.
- ➔ Resul Pookutty had won award under 'Sound Mixing' category for Slumdog Millionaire.

ASSOCHAM Awards, 2023

- ➔ **Date-** July 2, 2023
- ➔ **Place-** Kolkata, West Bengal
 - ⊖ **Winner-** National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NDMC LTd.)

15th Edition of Eni Award, 2023

- ➔ **Date-** July 13, 2023
- ➔ **Place-** Rome, Italy
- ⊖ **Winner-** Thalappil Pradeep, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (India)
- ➔ Eni Award established in 2007.

'Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema' Award, 2023

- ➔ **Date -** August , 2023
- ⊖ **Winner-** Kartik Arayan
- ➔ 14th Edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne was held from August 11-20, 2023 in Australia.

Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023

- ➔ **Date -** July, 2023
- ➔ **Place -** Australia
 - ⊖ **Winner-** Shankari Chandran (for her novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Garden').

Udyog Ratna Award, 2023

- ➔ **Announced in-** July, 2023
- ➔ **Announced by-** Maharashtra Government
- ➔ **To be given-** Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata

UN's Dag Hammarskjold Medal, 2023

- Date** – May 25, 2023
- Place** – New York City, USA
- ➔ **Recipients** – Three Indian U.N. peacekeepers have honoured posthumously—
 - ⊖ Sanwala Ram Vishnoi (Monusco, D.R. Congo)
 - ⊖ Shishupal Singh (Monusco, D.R. Congo)
 - ⊖ Shaber Taher Ali (Unami Mission, Iraq)
- ➔ This medal is the highest honour awarded to U.N. Peacekeepers.

Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labour, 2023

- Date** – June 12, 2023
- Place** – Washington D.C., USA
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Lalitha Natarajan (India)

Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserved Management, 2023

- Date** – June 14, 2023
- ➔ **Awarded by** – UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)
- ➔ **MAB Secretariat** – Paris, France
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Jagdish Bakan (India)

Elizabeth Lonford Prize for Historical Biography, 2023

Date – June 12, 2023

Place – United Kingdom

- **Winner** – Rebels Against the Raj : Western Fighters for India's Freedom (Writer – Ramachandra Guha)

➔ The Prize was established in 2003 in the memory of British biographer Elizabeth Longford.

Gandhi Peace Prize, 2021

Date – June 18, 2023

Place – New Delhi

- ➔ **Recipient** – Gita Press, Gorakhpur
- ➔ Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by Government of India in 1995.
- ➔ Gita Press was established in 1923 by Jaya Dayal Goyandka.

Health for All Film Festival, 2023

Date – June 6, 2023

Place – Geneva, Switzerland

➔ **Organised by** – World Health Organisation (WHO)

Category		Winners
1.	Universal Health Coverage Grand Prix	Jonathan's Miracle Feet (Sierra Leone Documentary)
2.	Better Health and Well-being Grand Prix	One in 36 Million : Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh (Bangladesh, Documentary)
3.	Climate Change and Health (Special Prize)	When Climate change turn violent (Documentary) Director — Vandita Sariya (India)

Central Banking Awards, 2023

Date – June 14, 2023

Place – London, U.K.

Category		Winners
1.	Central Bank of the Year	National Bank of Ukraine
2.	Governor of the Year	Shaktikanta Das (Reserve Bank of India)

Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, 2023

Date – June 19, 2023 (Announced)

Place – Frankfurt, Germany

- **Winner** – Salman Rushdie (India born British - American Novelist)

Bal Sahitya Puraskar, 2023

Date – June 23, 2023

Place – Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi

➔ Sahitya Akademi has announced the list of 22 writers for the awards.

Important Winners –

Language	Winner	Book/Work
1. Hindi	Suryanath Singh	Kotuk App (Short Stories)
2. English	Sudha Murty	Grandparents Bag of Stories (Stories)
3. Sanskrit	Radhavallabh Tripathy	Manavi (Novel)
4. Urdu	Mateen Achalpuri (Posthumous)	Mamta ki Dor (Short Stories)
5. Rajasthani	Kiran Badal	Tabran Ri Duniyan (Memoir)
6. Maithili	Akshay Anand 'Sunny'	01 Katra, Shol Katra (Poetry)

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, 2023

Date – June 23, 2023

Place – Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi

➔ Sahitya Akademi has announced the list of 20 writers for the awards.

Important Winners –

Language	Winner	Book
1. Hindi	Atul Kumar Rai	Chandpur ki Chanda (Novel)
2. English	Anirudh Kanisetti	Lords of the Deccan : Southern India from the Chalukyas to the Cholas (Historical)
3. Urdu	Tauseef Bareilvi	Zahan Zaad (Short Stories)
4. Rajasthani	Devilal Mahiya	Antas Ro Olmo (Poetry)
5. Maithili	Ajeet Azad	Pen drive Me Prithvi (Poetry Collection)

45th European Essay Prize for Lifetime Achievement, 2023

Date – June 15, 2023

Place – Lausanne, Switzerland

- ⊖ **Winner** – Arundhati Roy
- ➔ She won the award for her essay book ‘Azadi : Liberte, Fascisme, Fiction’.
- ➔ The award was established in 1975 by the Charles Veillon Foundation.

5th UK-India Awards, 2023

Date – June 29, 2023

Place – Egham (UK)

- ➔ **Special Awards** –
 - ⊖ **Significant Contribution to UK-India Relations** – Nehru Centre, London
 - ⊖ **Lifetime Contribution to UK-India Relations** – Shekhar Kapur (Film-maker)
 - ⊖ **Global Indian Icon** – Mary Kom (Boxer).

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize-2023

- ➔ **Date** – May 02, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – New York, USA
- ➔ **Recipients** – Niloofar Hamedi, Elaheh Mohammadi and Narges Mohammadi
- ➔ Three imprisoned Iranian Women journalists were awarded 2023 prize.
- ➔ The UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize was created in 1997.

International Booker Prize – 2023

- ➔ **Date** – May 23, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – London, United Kingdom
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Time Shelter (Written by Georgi Gospodinov and Translated by Angela Rodel)
- ➔ Georgi Gospodinov has become first Bulgarian writer to win the award.

World Food Prize 2023

- ➔ **Date** – May 11, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Washington, D.C. (USA)
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Heidi Kuhn (USA)
- ➔ She is a humanitarian and founder of California based non-profit organization ‘Roots of Peace’.

Laureus World Sport Awards - 2023

- ➔ **Date** – May 08, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Paris, France
- ➔ **Winner** –
 - ⊖ **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2023** – Lionel Messi (Argentina), Football

- ⊖ **Laureus World Sportswomen of the Year 2023** – Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jamaica), Athletics
- ⊖ **Laureus World Team of the Year 2023** – Argentina Men’s Football Team

World Archery Awards - 2022

Date – May 05, 2023

Place – Lausanne, Switzerland

- ➔ **Overall best Archer of 2022** – Ella Gibson (British Woman Archer)
- ➔ **Best Recurve Men Archer of 2022** – Kim Woojin (South Korea)
- ➔ **Best Recurve Women Archer of 2022** – An San (South Korea)

International Indian Film Academy Award - 2023

- ➔ **Date** – May 27, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Abu Dhabi, UAE
- ➔ **Winner** –
 - ⊖ **Best Film** – Drishyam 2
 - ⊖ **Best Director** – R. Madhavan (Rocketry : The Nambi Effect)
 - ⊖ **Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)** – Hrithik Roshan (Vikram Vedha)
 - ⊖ **Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)** – Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
 - ⊖ **Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)** – Anil Kapoor (Jugg Jugg Jeeyo)
 - ⊖ **Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)** – Mouni Roy (Brahmastra : Part 1)
 - ⊖ **Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema** – Kamal Hasan
 - ⊖ **Best Playback Singer (Male)** – Arijit Singh (Kesariya from Brahmastra : Part One)
 - ⊖ **Best Playback Singer (Female)** – Shreya Ghoshal (Rasiya from Brahmastra : Part One)
 - ⊖ **Best Music Direction** – Pritam (Brahmastra : Part One)

Pulitzer Prizes - 2023

- ➔ **Date** – May 08, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – New York, USA
- ➔ **Winner : Journalism**
 - ⊖ **Public Service** – Associated Press (Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant)
 - ⊖ **Breaking News** – Staff of The Los Angeles Times
 - ⊖ **International Reporting** – Staff of The New York Times

- ⊖ **Editorial Writing** – Miami Herald Editorial Board
- ⊖ **Feature Photography** – Christian House (The Los Angeles Times)

76th Cannes Film Festival - 2023

Date – May 16-27, 2023

Place – Cannes, France

➔ **Winners : Feature Films**

- ⊖ **Palme D'OR** – Anatomy of a fall (Director-Justine Triet)
- ⊖ **Grand Prix** – The Zone of Interest (Director-Jonathan Glazer)
- ⊖ **Best Director** – Tran Anh Hung
- ⊖ **Jury Prize** – Fallen Leaves
- ⊖ **Best Screenplay** – Sakamoto Yuji (For-Monster)
- ⊖ **Best Performance by an Actress** – Merve Dizdar (For-About Dry Grasses)
- ⊖ **Best Performance by an Actor** – Koji Yakusho (For-Perfect Days)

➔ **Winner : Short Films**

- ⊖ **Palme D'OR** – 27 (Director-Flora Anna Buda)

International Prize in Statistics 2023

➔ **Date** – April 1, 2023

➔ **Place** – Alexandria, USA

- ⊖ **Winner** – Calyampudi Radhakrishna (C.R.) Rao (Indo-American Statistician)

➔ The International Prize in statistics is awarded biennially at the ISI World Statistics Congress.

Billboard Latin Woman of the Year – 2023

➔ **Date** – April 22, 2023

➔ **Place** – New York, USA

- ⊖ **Winner** – Shakira (Colombia)

The Order of Australia Award

➔ **Date** – April, 2023

➔ **Recipient** – Ratan Tata

Abel Prize 2023 (March 22, 2023)

Place – Norway

➔ **Winner** – Luis A. Caffarelli (USA)

➔ The Abel Prize recognizes pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics.

The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2023 (March 7, 2023)

Place – USA

➔ **Winner** – Sir David Alan Chipperfield (U.K.)

➔ The Pritzker Architecture Prize is an international architecture award.

Pen/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature-2023 (March 2, 2023)

➔ **Winner** – Vinod Kumar Shukla (India)

➔ 'Naukar ki Kameez' and 'Deewar Mein Ek Khirkee Rahati Thi' are famous novels of Vinod Kumar Shukla.

Porter Prize-2023 (March 2, 2023)

Place – USA

➔ **Winner** – Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry (India)

➔ The prize recognizes the strategy followed by Government of India in managing COVID-19.

GSMA Government Leadership Award-2023 (February 27, 2023)

Place – Barcelona, Spain

➔ **Winner** – India

➔ GSM Association (GSMA) has conferred the award to India for implementation of best practices in telecom sector.

Zelensky awarded Poland's highest honour

➔ In April, 2023, Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky has been awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest distinction, for his services to security, resilience and the defense of human rights.

➔ The Order of the White Eagle is the oldest and highest decoration of the Republic of Poland.

Marconi Prize-2023

➔ **Date** – February 21, 2023

➔ **Winner** – Mr. Hari Balakrishnan (Professor in Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

- ⊖ The Marconi Prize is a top honour within the field of communications technology.

- ⊖ It is awarded by US based Marconi Society.

FIH President Award-2023

➔ **Date** – January 29, 2023

➔ **Place** – Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

➔ **Winner** – Mr. V.K. Pandian (Odisha CM Secretary)

The BEST FIFA Football Awards-2022

➔ **Dates** – February 27, 2023

➔ **Place** – Paris, France

➔ **The Best FIFA Men's Player 2022** – Lionel Messi (Argentina)

➔ **The Best FIFA Women's Player 2022** – Alexia Patellas (Spain)

➔ **FIFA Puskas Award 2022 (Most Beautiful Goal of the Year)** – Marcin Oleksy (Amputee Player of Poland)

- ➔ **The Best FIFA Men's Coach 2022** – Lionel Scaloni (Argentina Coach)
- ➔ **The Best FIFA Women's Coach 2022** – Sarina Wiegman (Manager of English Women Team)
- ➔ **The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper 2022** – Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)

UNESCO Peace Prize-2022

- ➔ **Date** – February 08, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast
- ➔ Felix Houphouet- Boigny – UNESCO Peace Prize 2022 has awarded to **Angela Merkel** in recognition of her efforts to welcome refugees.

International Mother Language Award- 2023

- ➔ **Dates** – February 21, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Dhaka (Bangladesh)
- Winner** –
- ➔ Mahendra Kumar Mishra (Linguist & Folklorist from Odisha)
- ➔ Mother Language Lovers of World Society, Vancouver (Canada)
- ➔ The Award was instituted in 2021 by UNESCO.

65th Grammy Awards - 2023

- ➔ **Date** – February 05, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Los Angeles (USA)
- ➔ **Winners** –
- ⊖ **Record of the Year** – About Damn Time (Lizzo)
- ⊖ **Album of the Year** – Harry's House (Harry Styles)
- ⊖ **Song of the Year** – Just Like That (Bonnie Raitt)
- ⊖ **Best New Artist** – Samara Joy

76th British Academy Film (BAFTA) Awards

- ➔ **Dates** – February 19, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – London (UK)
- ➔ **Winners** –
- ⊖ **Best Film** – All Quiet On the Western Front
- ⊖ **Outstanding British Film** – The Banshees of Inisherin
- ⊖ **Film Not in English Language** – All Quiet On the Western Front (German)
- ⊖ **Best Director** – Edward Berger (All Quiet on the Western Front)
- ⊖ **Leading Actor** – Austin Butler (Elvis)
- ⊖ **Leading Actress** – Cate Blanchett (Tar)
- ⊖ **Special Visual Effects** – Avatar : The Way of Water
- ⊖ **Rising Star** – Emma Mackey

India-UK Achievers Honour 2023

- ➔ **Dates** – January 25, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – London (UK)
- ➔ Former Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh has awarded with Lifetime achievement award.

71st Miss Universe – 2022

- ➔ **Date** – January 14, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – New Orleans, United States
- ⊖ **Winner** – R' Bonney Gabriel (USA)
- ➔ India's Divita Rai made her place in top 16.

28th Critics Choice Awards-2023

- ➔ **Date** – January 15, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Los Angeles, USA
- ➔ **Winners** –
- ⊖ **Best Picture** - Everything Everywhere All at Once
- ⊖ **Best Actor** - Brendan Fraser (The Whale)
- ⊖ **Best Actress** - Cate Blanchett (Tar)
- ⊖ **Best Director** - Daniel Kwan & Daniel Scheinert (Everthing Everywhere All at Once)
- ⊖ **Best Cinematography** - Claudio Miranda- Top Gun, Maverick
- ⊖ **Best Foreign Language Film** - RRR
- ⊖ **Best Song** - Naatu Naatu (RRR)
- ⊖ **Best Drama Series** - Better Call Saul

Award for Global Leadership

- ➔ **Date** – January 11, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Harvard Law School Centre, USA (Online Event)
- ⊖ **Winner** – D.Y. Chandrachud (50th Chief Justice of India)

ICC Awards, 2022

- ➔ **Date** – January 24, 2023
- ➔ **Winners** –
- ⊖ **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year** – Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- ⊖ **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year** – Natalie Sciver (England)
- ⊖ **ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year** – Suryakumar Yadav (India)
- ⊖ **ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year** – Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- ⊖ **ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year** – Ben Stokes (England)
- ⊖ **ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year** – Marco Jansen (South Africa)
- ⊖ **ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year** – Tahlia McGrath (Australia)

- **ICC Women’s ODI Cricketer of the Year** – Natalie Sciver (England)
- **ICC Women’s Emerging Cricketer of the Year** – Renuka Singh (India)
- **ICC Umpire of the Year** – Richard Illingworth (England)
- **ICC Spirit of Cricket award** – Aasif Sheikh (Nepal)
- **ICC Men’s Associate Cricketer of the Year** – Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia)
- **ICC Women’s Associate Cricketer of the Year** – Esha Oza (UAE)

World Habitat Awards-2023

- ➔ **Date** – January 04, 2023
- **Winner** – Jaga Mission – Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission
- ➔ Odisha Jaga mission was launched in 2017.

TIME’s Person of the Year 2022 (07 December, 2022)

- ➔ Time Magazine has named Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky and “the spirit of Ukraine” as its 2022 person of the year.
- ➔ ‘Person of the year’ is an annual issue of the American new magazine and website TIME.
- ➔ TIME’s 2022 Heroes of the year – Women Protesters in Iran
- ➔ TIME’s 2022 : Athlete of the Year : Aaron Judge (American baseballer)
- ➔ TIME’s 2022 : Icon of the Year : Michelle Yeoh (Malaysian Actress)

Mrs. World 2022 (17 December, 2022)

- ➔ **Winner** – Sargam Koushal (India)
- ➔ Aditi Govitrikar had won the title in year 2001.

PETA India’s Person of the Year 2022 (15 December, 2022)

- ➔ **Winner** – Sonakshi Sinha
- ➔ This year Sonakshi appeared in a campaign against leather for PETA India.

Excellence in Leadership for Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards 2022

- ➔ India came out as the only country which bagged this award in the ‘country category’ at the conference.

Responsible Tourism Global Award 2022

- ➔ **Winner** – Kerala Tourism
- ➔ The award was given at World Travel Mart held in London, 7-9 November, 2022.

UNEP Champions of the Earth 2022

Winner	Category
1. Purnima Devi Barman (Assam)	Entrepreneurial Vision
2. Partha Dasgupta (UK)	Science and Innovation
3. Arcenciel (Labanon)	Inspiration and Action
4. Cecile Bibiane Ndjebet (Cameroon)	Inspiration and Action
5. Constantino Auca Chutas (Peru)	Inspiration and Action

The Literature Nobel Prize 2022

- ➔ The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.
- ➔ **Winner** – Annie Ernaux, France
- ➔ In her writing Ernaux consistently examine a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class.
- ➔ Some of her noted books are—Happening (2000), A man’s Place (1983), I Remain in Darkness (1998), A women’s story (1988), etc.

The Peace Prize 2022 –

- ➔ The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by a committee elected by Parliament of Norway (Stortinget).
- ➔ **Winners—**

 1. Ales Bialiatski, Belarus
 2. Memorial, Russian Human Right Organization
 3. Center for Civil Liberties, Ukrainian Human Right Organization.

- ➔ The Peace Prize laureates represent civil society in their home countries.

The Booker Prize 2022

- ➔ **Established** – 1969
- ➔ **Winner** – Shehan Karunatilaka (Sri Lanka)
- ➔ Shehan Karunatilaka won the award for his book ‘The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida’. (17 October, 2022)

Ballon d’Or 2022 (Football)

- ➔ Ballen d’Or is presented annually by French News Magazine France Football.
- ➔ **Winners-**
- ➔ Ballon d’Or – Karim Benzema, France (Real Madrid)
- ➔ Ballon d’Or (Women) – Alexia Patellas, Spain (FC Barcelona)
- ➔ Club of the Year – Manchester City F.C.

Sastra – Ramanujan Award 2022

- ➔ **Winner** – Yunqing Tang (University of California, USA)
- ➔ **Given for** – Contributions in the field of Mathematics

FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2021-22

- ➔ FIH Player of the Year (Men) – Harmanpreet Singh, India
- ➔ FIH player of the Year (Women) – Felice Albers (Netherlands)
- ➔ FIH Goalkeeper of the Year (Men) – PR Sreejesh, India
- ➔ FIH Goalkeeper of the Year (Women) – Savita Punia, India
- ➔ FIH Coach of the Year (Men) – Graham Reid (India Men's team)
- ➔ FIH Coach of the Year (Women) – Janneke Schopman (India women's team)

UN SDG Action Awards 2022

Category	Winner
1. Changemaker	Srishti Bakshi, India
2. Mobilize	Supvivors say no more - Ecuador
3. Inspire	The Masungistory
4. Connect	Cyprusinno

Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2022 (64th) (30 August, 2022)

- ➔ **Winners-**
 - ☉ Sotheara Chhim (Cambodia)
 - ☉ Tadashi Hattori (Japan)
 - ☉ Bernadette J. Madrid (Philippines)
 - ☉ Gary Benchehib (Indonesia)
 - ☉ The annual awards are named after a Philippine President.

Emmy Award (Creative Arts)

- ➔ Former US President Barack Obama won a creative Arts Emmy Award, 2022. (4 September, 2022)

International Travel Award 2023

- ➔ **West Bengal** has bagged the award under category 'best destination for culture'.

Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2022

- ➔ **Winners-** Dursula Von der Leyen (President of European Commission)
 - ☉ Dr. Radhika Batra (India)
 - ☉ Zahra Joya (Afghanistan)
 - ☉ Vanessa Nakate (Uganda)

UNESCO Peace Prize-2022

- ➔ **Winner** - Angela Merkel
- ➔ Former German Chancellor has been awarded for her efforts to welcome refugees.

Organisations/Institutes

INDIA

Dark Patterns

- ➔ The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has issued guidelines for "dark patterns".
- ➔ It is to be implemented from 1st September 2023.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- ➔ Recently, a virtual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was concluded with the signing of the "New Delhi Declaration"
- ➔ **Theme:** "Towards a SECURE SCO" (Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection).

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- ➔ SIDBI has launched the mission '50K – EV4ECO' to boost electric vehicles ecosystem.
- ➔ It is precursor to EVOLVE scheme of SIDBI & World Bank.
- ➔ **Established** – 1990 (under an act of Parliament)
- ➔ **Headquarters** – Lucknow (UP)
- ➔ **Mandate** – To facilitate and strengthen credit flow to MSMEs.

United Nations Statistical Commission

- ➔ India has been elected to the UN Statistical Commission for a four year term beginning from January 1, 2024. (April 6, 2023)
- ➔ **Established** – 1974
- ➔ **Members** – 24 (Elected on equitable geographical distribution by UN Economic & Social Council)
- ➔ **Headquarters** – United Nations, New York
- ➔ **Chairperson of 54th Session, 2023** – Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary)

India elected as member of UN Statistical Commission

- ➔ In April 2023, India has been elected as a member of the UN Statistical Commission, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

- ➔ India was elected by the Economic and Social Council ECOSOC of the United Nations.

Delhi Airport ninth busiest in the world in 2022

- ➔ Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has emerged as the ninth busiest airport in the world in 2022 with passenger traffic of more than 5.95 crore, according to Airports Council International (ACI) list.
- ➔ As per ACI the top 10 busiest airports in the world for 2022 is topped by **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL, 93.7 million passengers)**.
- ➔ The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is the only airport to figure in the top 10 list from South and South East Asia.

Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR)

- ➔ In Union Budget 2023-24 FM Nirmala Sitharaman has announced to support Hyderabad based IIMR as centre of excellence. (1st February, 2023)
- ➔ IIMR, Hyderabad is a premier agricultural research institute (estd. - 1958).
- ➔ **Established** – 1958
- ➔ **Located At** – Hyderabad

Vulture/Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC)

- ➔ Vultures/Jatayu may be released in wild after breeding. (20th February, 2023)
- ➔ VCBC is a joint project of the Haryana Forest Department and the Bombay Natural History Society.

Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

- ➔ CEA releases Disaster Management Plan (DMP) for power sector. (11 January, 2023)
- ➔ It established under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

Coal India Limited (CIL)

- ➔ CIL launched M-Sand Projects in big way. (27 January, 2023)
- ➔ Sand is one of the major geological resources of the country and manufactured sand (M-sand) is a form of artificial sand.
- ➔ **Established** – 1975

WORLD

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

- ➔ Aspartame-Common artificial sweetner set to be declared possible carcinogen by IARC (June 30, 2023).

- ➔ IARC is the specialised cancer agency of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

- ➔ **Established** – 1965
- ➔ **Member** – 27 Countries
- ➔ **Headquarters** – Lyon, France

Bank for International Settlement (BIS)

- ➔ BIS and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have jointly announced the 4th edition of the G20 TechSprint, a global technology competition. (May 04, 2023)
- ➔ **Established** – 1930
- ➔ **Owned by** – 63 Central Banks
- ➔ **Headquarters** – Basel, Switzerland
- ➔ **Representative Offices** – Hong Kong and Mexico City

World Health Organisation (WHO)

- ➔ The head of WHO has declared an end to Covid-19 as a public health emergency on May 5, 2023.
- ➔ On January 30, 2020 WHO has declared a public health emergency of international concern due to Covid-19.
- ➔ **Established** – 1948
- ➔ **Headquarters** – Geneva, Switzerland
- ➔ **Director-General (Head)** – Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

- ➔ ISA has officially designated India as a 'Pioneer Investor'. (1st February, 2013).
- ➔ **Established** – 16th November, 1994
- ➔ **Headquarters** – Kingston, Jamaica

UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD) (Established – 1946)

- ➔ **Ruchira Kamboj**, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, was elected on behalf of India as the chair of the **62nd Session of the CSocD**. (15th February, 2023).
- ➔ **Headquarters** – New York (USA)
- ➔ **Director** – Ms. Daniela Bas

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- ➔ FATF has suspended Russia's membership over the Ukraine War. (24th February, 2023).
- ➔ FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.
- ➔ **Established** – 1989 (by G7)
- ➔ **Headquarters** – Paris (France)

Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)

- ➔ India took over the leadership of the APPU. (03 January, 2023)

- ➔ Vinaya Prakash Singh of India took over the charge of the secretary general of APPU for a tenure of four years.
- ➔ **Established** – 1962 (Manila, Philippines)

International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

- ➔ India has won IEC Vice Presidency and Standardization Management Board (SMB) chair for 2023-25 term.

Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)

- ➔ Prasara Bharti has hosted 59th ABU General Assembly 2022 in New Delhi. (25-30 November, 2022)
- ➔ Theme of assembly 2022 - **Serving the People : Media's Role in Times of Crisis.**

Conference

The Startup20 Shikhar Summit

- ➔ **Date** - July 3-4, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Gurugram
- ➔ **Organized by** - The Startup20 Engagement Group under the India G20 Presidency

G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting

- ➔ **Date** - July 4-5, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ➔ **Theme** - "Research & Innovation for an Equitable Society"

First meeting on the threats of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- ➔ **Date** - July 18, 2023
- ➔ **Hosted by** - The United Nations Security Council
- ➔ **Organized by** - United Kingdom

2nd edition of the Emerging Peacemakers Forum

- ➔ **Date** - July 6-14, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Geneva, Switzerland
- ➔ **Organized by** - The Muslim Council of Elders in partnership with the Rose Castle Foundation and the World Council of Churches

67th Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) Convention

- ➔ **Date** - July 6-9, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Colombo, Sri Lanka
- ➔ **Theme** - Transcending Borders, Transforming Lives

Visitor's Conference 2023

- ➔ **Date** - July 10-11, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- ➔ **Theme** - Education for Sustainable Development : Building a better world

50th meeting of the GST Council

- ➔ **Date** - July 11, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - New Delhi
- ➔ To mark the milestone of 50th meeting of the GST Council, Chairperson released a short video film titled 'GST Council- 50 steps towards a journey'.

The conference of ASEAN countries on traditional medicines

- ➔ **Date** - July 19, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - New Delhi
- ➔ **Organized by** - The Ministry of Ayush with support from the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Mission to ASEAN, and the ASEAN Secretariat
- ➔ A total of 75 delegates from India and ASEAN including two ASEAN countries participating through virtual mode, were a part of this prestigious conference.

Inaugural BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat

- ➔ **Date** - July 17, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Bangkok, Thailand
- ➔ The Retreat was chaired by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and was well-participated by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

12th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Meeting

- ➔ **Date** - July 16, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Bangkok, Thailand

The First Global Food Regulators Summit 2023

- ➔ **Date** - July 20-21, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - New Delhi
- ➔ **Organized by** - The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment

- ➔ **Date** - July 24-26, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Rome, Italy

2nd Edition of 'Semicon India 2023'

- ➔ **Date** - July 28-30, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- ➔ **Organized by** - The India Semiconductor Mission in collaboration with various industry associations

NATO Summit 2023

- ➔ **Date** - July 11-12, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** - Vilnius, Lithuania

BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- Date** – June 1, 2023
- Venue** – Cape Town, South Africa
- ➔ **Objective** – To finalize the agenda for the 15th BRICS summit scheduled to be held in South Africa in August, 2023.

National Conclave on Sportech

- Date** – June 2 2023
- Venue** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Organized by** - The Ministry of Textiles in partnership with the Indian Technical Textiles Association (ITTA) and Wool Research Association (WRA)
- ➔ **Theme** - The Future of Sport Textiles and Accessories Industry in India

International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations

- Date** – June 8-9, 2023
- Venue** – Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ➔ **Organized by** - The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in collaboration with the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and in association with industry partners

Shiksha Mahakumbh: National Conference on Recent Advances in School Education (RASE), 2023

- Date** – June 9-11, 2023
- Venue** – NIT Jalandhar Punjab
- ➔ **Organized by** – Sarvhitkari Shiksha Samiti, Punjab in collaboration with NIT Jalandhar and other premier educational institutions.

SAI20 Summit(Second Meet of SAI 20 India 2023)

- Date** – June 12 - 14,2023
- Venue** – Goa
- ➔ **Theme**: The Theme of the SAI20 Summit in India is aligned with the main theme of the Indian Presidency of G20 which is `VasudhaivaKutumbakam` - the World as ONE Earth, ONE Family, and ONE Future.

First National Training Conclave

- Date** – June 11, 2023
- Venue** – New Delhi

- ➔ **Objective** : The aim of the conference is to strengthen the training infrastructure for civil servants across the country

BIMSTEC Expo and Conclave

- Date** – June 13 -15, 2023
- Venue** – Kolkata
- ➔ **Aim** : The expo aims at bringing together government officials, policymakers and business leaders from the member countries

National Yoga Olympiad 2023

- Date** – June 18-20, 2023
- Venue** – Bhopal Madhya Pradesh
- ➔ **Organized by** - The Ministry of Education, Government of India, and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

The Labour 20 Summit

- Date** – June 21–23, 2023
- Venue** – Patna, Bihar
- ➔ **Objective** : The conference resolves to develop a multilateral mechanism among the G20 member states and other invited countries on the portability of social security benefits.

8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit

- Date** – June 22-23,2023
- Venue** – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ➔ **Theme** – ‘Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality’.
- ➔ **Organized by** – The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA).

64th meeting of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Council

- Date** – June 26-29 2023
- Venue** – Brasilia, Brazil
- ➔ **Organized by** - The Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

‘Machine Can See 2023’ summit

- ➔ **Date** – May 2, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – Dubai, UAE
- ➔ **Launched by** – UAE government MCS is an International Summit organized by the company Polynoms with the aim to exchange and advance knowledge through interaction among AI communities.

1st South Asia Clean Energy Forum (SACEF)

- ➔ **Date** – 2-4 May 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – New Delhi

- ➔ **Theme** – Catalyzing Partnership for Clean Energy Transition,”
- ➔ **Organized by** – USAID through its flagship South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) and the South Asia Regional Energy Hub (SAREH).

Youth-20 Consultation Programme

- ➔ **Date** – May 4-5, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – AIIMS, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- ➔ **Organized by** – The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- ➔ **Theme** - Health Wellness and Sports

42nd ASEAN summit

- ➔ **Date** – May 10-11, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – Labuan Bajo, Indonesia
- ➔ **Chairmanship** – Indonesia
- ➔ **Theme** – ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth

Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference 2023 (APIC 2023)

- ➔ **Date** – May 18-19, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Theme** – “Ushering in a Sustainable Future”
- ➔ **Organized by** – The Chemical and Petro-chemicals Manufacturers Association (CPMA)

G7 summit

- ➔ **Date** – May 19-21, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – Hiroshima, Japan

International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023)

- ➔ **Date** – May 21-25, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – Hamburg, Germany
- ➔ This event was organized for High-Performance Computing, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, and Quantum Computing.

8th International Conference on ‘Indian Pharma and Indian Medical Devices 2023

- ➔ **Date** – May 26-27, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Organized by** – The Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

1st Mining Startup Summit

- ➔ **Date** – May 29, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ➔ **Organized by** – the Ministry of Mines in collaboration with IIT Bombay

1st Vision Zero Summit

- ➔ **Date** – May 29-31, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- ➔ **About** : 1st Vision Zero Summit, a national conference on road safety.

Global Indian Young Scientists Research & Innovation Conference

- ➔ **Date** – May 31 – June 2, 2023
- ➔ **Venue** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Organized by** – All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Vijnana Bharati jointly

India-Central Asia Maiden Meeting on Chabahar Port

- ➔ **Date** – April 12-13, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Mumbai
- ➔ It is first joint working group meeting an Chabahar Port, Iran.

First Global Buddhist Summit – 2023

- ➔ **Date** – April 20-21, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Organised by** – International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)
- ➔ **Theme** – Response to contemporary challenges from Philosophy to Praxis.
- ➔ **Special Session on** – “Contribution of the Buddha Dharma and the Sangha Towards World Peace”.

Global Conference on Compressed Biogas (CBG)

- ➔ **Date** – April 17-18, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Theme** – Towards Progressive Policy Frame-work for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth.

First Global Human-Wildlife Conflict Summit

- ➔ **Date** – March 30 – April 1, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Oxford, UK
- ➔ **Organised by** – IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist group

5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023 (April 4-5, 2023)

- ➔ **Organised in** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Theme** – Delivering Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure : Pathways for Risk Informed Systems, Practices and Investments
- ➔ **Organiser** – Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), New Delhi

ASEAN – India Business Summit-2023 (March 6, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ➔ **Theme** – Strengthening and Moving Forward ASEAN – “India Economic Relations for a Strategic Business Partnership.”
- ➔ It has been held as part of the ASEAN – India Year of Freindship.

7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference

- ➔ **Date** – March 3-5, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- ➔ **Organisers** – Sanchi University of Buddhisht – India Studies and by India Foundation.
- ➔ **Participating Countries** – 15

8th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law, 2023

- ➔ **Date** – March 3, 2023
- ➔ **Place** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Organiser** – Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- ➔ **Topic** – Antitrust and Regulation : Interfaces and Synergies

5th United Nations Conference on theLeast Developed Countries (LDC5) (March 5-9, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Doha, Qatar
- ➔ **Theme** – From Potential to Prosperity

One World TB Summit 2023 (March 24, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Varanasi
- ➔ **TB Free India by – 2025** (Five year a head of the global goal)
- ➔ **Launched** – TB-Mukh Panchayat Initiative

India Energy Weak (IEW)-2023 (February 6-8, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Bengaluru
- ➔ **Tagline** – Growth, Collaboration; **Transition Sessions** – 19 Strategic Conference Sessions
- ➔ The Global Biofuel Alliance, one of the priorities under India’s G20 presidency, was announced during the IEW 2023.

7th Asia Economic Dialogue 2023 (February 23-25, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Pune, Maharashtra
- ➔ **Theme** – Asia and the Emerging World Order
- ➔ It is the External Affairs Ministry’s annual flagship event on Geo-economics.
- ➔ It has co-hosted by Pune International Centre.

2nd Indian Rice Congress-2023 (February 11-14, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack
- ➔ **Theme** – Transforming Rice Research : Recent Scientific Developments and Global Food Crisis.

World Government Summit-2023 (February 13-15, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Dubai, UAE
- ➔ **Theme** – Shaping Future Governments
- ➔ The World Government Summit is a global forum held annually in Dubai.

14th edition of World Spice Congress

- ➔ 14th edition of World Spice Congress held organized in Maharashtra (Mumbai) from February 16 to 18, 2023.
- ➔ **Theme** : VISION 2030 : S-P-I-C-E (Sustainability, Productivity, Innovation, Collabotration, Excellence and Safety).

World Sustainable Development Summit-2023 (February 22-24, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – New Delhi
- ➔ **Organised by** – The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI)
- ➔ **Theme** – Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience for Collective Action

The 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC)

- ➔ The 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) and Arogya Expo, was held in Panjim, Goa from 8th to 11th December 2022.
- ➔ The theme for the 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) this year is ‘Ayurveda For One Health’.

Exercises and Operations

Name of Exercise	Participating Countries	Location
Tarang Shakti (October-November, 2023)	—	The air forces of the US, the UK, France and Australia
Nomadic Elephant, 2023 (July 17-31, 2023)	India-Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Exercise Talisman Sabre, 2023 (July 22 - August 4, 2023)	Australia	Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand Papua New Guinea, Tonga, the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany
JIMEX 2023 (July 05-10, 2023)	Japan-India	Visakhapatnam
SALVEX, 2023 (June 26 - July 6, 2023)	Indian Navy – US Navy	Kochi, Kerala.
EKUVERIN (June 11-24, 2023)	Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force	Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
SAMUDRA SHAKTI-2023 (May 14-19, 2023)	India & Indonesia	Indonesia
ASEAN Indian Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) (May 2-8, 2023)	India, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam	South China Sea
AL MOHED AL HINDI-2023 (May 23-25, 2023)	INS Tarkash, INS Subhadra and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA)	Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia
AJEYA WARRIOR-2023 (May 11, 2023) (April 27 - May 11, 2023)	India and United Kingdom	Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom
Ex-KAUACH-2023 (February 23 - April 7, 2023)	Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Airforce	Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)
Exercise Orion (April 17 - May 5, 2023)	Indian Air Force and The French Air and Space Force	France
SLINEX-23 (April 3-8, 2023)	Indian & Sri Lanka Navy	Colombo
INIOCHOS-23 (April 24 - May 4, 2023)	Indian Airforce and Hellenic Air Force	Greece
Al-Mohed Al-Hindi Exercise (March 14-15, 2023)	Indian Navy Forces and Royal Saudi Naval Forces	Mumbai, India
Exercise Sea-Dragon, 2023 (March 14, 2023)	India and USA Navy	Guam, USA
Exercise Bold-Kurukshetra (March 06-13, 2023)	India & Singapore Army	Jodhpur, Military Station, Rajasthan
Exercise FRINJEX-2023 (March 7-8, 2023)	India & French Army	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Exercise Desert Flag VIII (February 27 - March 17, 2023)	Airforces of UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, Republic of Korea, USA and India	UAE
Exercise KOBRA WARRIOR (March 6-24, 2023)	Multilateral Air Exercise of Finland, Sweden, South Africa, United States of America, Singapore and India	Waddington Airforce Base, UK
Dharma Guardian (February 17 - March 2, 2023)	India & Japan	Camp Imaza, Shiga, Japan
21st Edition of VARUNA – 2023 (January 16, 2023)	India and France	Western Seaboard.
Veer Guardian-2023 (13-26 January, 2023)	India & Japan Air Force	Japan
Cyclone-I (January, 2023)	India & Egyptian Army	Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
Veer Guardian 23 (January 16 to 26, 2023)	Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)	Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base (Japan)

12 th Edition of 'Agni Warrior' (November 13-30, 2022)	Singapore & Indian Army	Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra)
Sudarshan Prahar (November 29, 2022)	Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps	Deserts of Rajasthan
7 th Edition of Exercise Sangam (commenced from 01 Dec 22)	Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs	Goa
6 th Edition of KAZIND – 2022 (15 to 28 December 2022)	Indo - Kazakhstan joint training exercise	Umroi (Meghalaya)
IND-INDO CORPAT (39 th coordinated patrol exercise) (09 – 19 December 2022)	India and Indonesia	The Andaman Sea and Malacca Strait
SURYA KIRAN-XVI (16 – 29 December 2022)	Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise	Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal)
ShatruNash (on November 21, 2022)	The South Western Command of the Indian Army	Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan
Exercise Naseem Al Bahr – 2022 (November 19 to 24, 2022)	13 th Edition of the Indian Navy (IN) - Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) bilateral exercise	Off the coast of Oman
8 th edition of Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI (commenced on 21 November 2022)	Indian Army Special Forces and Indonesian Special Forces	SanggaBuana Training Area, Karawang, Indonesia
Samanvay 2022 (November 28-30, 2022)	Indian Air Force (IAF), Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, ASEAN Member countries	Air Force Station, Agra
IBSAMAR VII (7 th Edition) (October 10 to 12, 2022)	Joint multinational maritime exercise, among the Indian, Brazilian and South Africa navies	Port Gqeberha (also known as Port Elizabeth), South Africa
Tiger Triumph 2022 (18 to 20 October 2022)	Indo-US Tri-Services Amphibious HADR Exercise	Visakhapatnam
1 st edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT) (October 27, 2022)	A joint maritime exercise between Indian, Mozambique and Tanzanian navies	Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Exercise Garuda-VII (7 th Edition)	Indian Air Force (IAF) and the French Air and Space Force (FASE)	Air Force Station, Jodhpur
Simbex - 2022 (26 to 30 October, 2022)	29 th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise	Visakhapatnam
Yudh Abhyas 2022 (Nov 16 – Dec 2, 2022)	18 th Edition of Indo – USA joint training exercise	Auli, Uttarakhand

Important Days/Week (National)

IMPORTANT DAYS/WEEK	DATE (Year 2022-23)	THEME
National Handloom Day	7 August	—
Quit India Movement Day	8 August	—
National Doctor's Day	1 July	“Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands”
Chartered Accountants Day	1 July	“Empowering Financial Excellence”
National Mango Day	22 July	—

National Broadcasting Day	23 July	—
Kargil Vijay Diwas	26 July	—
National Statistics Day	29 June	“Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals.”
National Technology Day	11 May	“School to Startups - Igniting Young Minds to Innovate”
National Anti-Terrorism Day	21 May	—
National Journalism Day	30 May	—
National Panchayati Raj Day	24 May	“Sustainable Panchayat : Building Healthy, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green Villages”
National Civil Service Day	21 April	“Viksit Bharat aimed at ‘Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile’”
Ambedkar Jayanti	14 April	—
National Safe Motherhood Day	11 April	—
National Vaccination Day	16 March	—
National Safety Day	4 March	“Our Aim – Zero Harm”.
Indian Coast Guard Day	1 February	—
Safer Internet Day	7 February	‘Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.’
National Deworming Day	10 February	—
National Science Day	28 February	‘Global Science for Global Wellbeing’.
National Road Safety Week 2023	11-17 January	“Swachhata Pakhwada”
National Youth Day	12 January	“Viksit Yuva-Viksit Bharat.”
Indian Army Day	15 January	—
National Girl Child Day	24 January	“Digital generation, Our Generation, Our Time is Now-Our Rights, Our Future”.
National Voters’ Day	25 January	‘Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure’
National Tourism Day 2023	25 January	“Rural and Community-Centric Tourism.”
World Hindi Day, 2023 (Fiji)	10 January	‘Hindi—Traditional knowledge to Artificial Intelligence’
Constitution Day	26 November	—
Martyrdom Day	24 November	—
National Newborn Week	15-21st November	“Ensuring quality health care for every Newborn”
National Press Day	16 November	“The Media’s Role in Nation Building”
National Education Day	11 November	—
National Legal Services Day	9 November.	—
National Cancer Awareness Day	7 November	—
National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas	31 October	—
* To commemorate the birth anniversary of India’s first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.		
Swachh Bharat Diwas	2 October	—

Important Days/Week (International)

IMPORTANT DAYS/WEEK	DATE (Year 2023/2022)	THEME
World Lung Cancer Day	1 August	—
World Wide Web Day	1 August	—
World Lion Day	10 August	—

World Biofuel Day	10 August	—
International Youth Day	12 August	“Green Skills for Youth : Towards a Sustainable World”
World Elephant Day	12 August	“Ending the Illegal Wildlife Trade”
World Organ Donation Day	13 August	“Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae”
World Sports Journalist Day	2 July	—
International Plastic Bag Free Day	3 July	—
World Population Day	11 July	“Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world’s infinite possibilities”
Malala Day	12 July	—
Bastille Day or French National Day	14 July	—
World Youth Skills Day	15 July	“Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future”
World Day for International Justice	17 July	—
Nelson Mandela International Day	18 July	“The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food, and Solidarity.”
International Moon Day	20 July	“Lunar Exploration Coordination & Sustainability”
International Chess Day	20 July	—
World Nature Conservation Day	28 July	“Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”
International Tiger Day	29 July	—
World Milk Day	1 June	—
International Sex Worker's Day	2 June	“Access to Justice”
World Bicycle Day	3 June	“Riding Together for a Sustainable Future”
World Environment Day	5 June	“Solutions to Plastic Pollution”
World Food Safety Day	7 June	“Food Standards Save lives”
World Day Against Child Labour	12 June	“Social Justice for all . End Child Labour!”
World Blood Donor Day	14 June	“Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share Often”
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	17 June	“Her land, Her Rights”
World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	18 June	“Building and Strengthening global sickle cell communities, formalizing newborn screening and knowing your sickle cell disease status”
World Refugee Day	20 June	“Hope Away from Home”
World Music Day	21 June	“Music or the Intersections”
World Hydrography Day	21 June	“Hydrography - Underpinning the Digital Twin of the Ocean”
International Yoga Day	21 June	“Yoga for Vasudhaivakutumbakam”
World Rainforest Day	22 June	“Conserve Restore, Regenerate”
International Olympic Day	23 June	“Let's Move”
International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	26 June	“People First : Stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention”
International Day of the Tropics	29 June	—
International Asteroid Day	30 June	—
World Asthma Day	First Tuesday of May (May 2, 2023)	“Asthma Care for All”
World Press Freedom Day	3 May	“Shaping a Future of Rights : Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights”

World AIDS Day	1 December, 2022	“Equalize”
World Health Day 2023	7 April 2023	Health For All
International Anti-Corruption Day	9 December, 2022	“Uniting the world against corruption”
World Tuberculosis Day	24 March 24	“Yes! We can end TB!”
World Meteorological Day	23 March	“The future of weather, climate, and water across generations.”
World Water Day	22 March	“Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis.”
* In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to observe World Water Day on March 22 every year.		
International Day of Forests	21 March	“Forests and Health.”
Human Rights Day	10 December, 2022	“Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All”
International Women’s Day	8 March	Embrace Equity or #EmbraceEquity.
World Wetlands Day	2 February	‘Wetland Restoration’ which highlights the urgent need to prioritize wetland restoration.
World Cancer Day	4 February	“close the care gap”
World Day of Social Justice	20 February	“Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice”
International Mother Language Day	21 February	“Multilingual education – a necessity to transform education”.
* On 17 November 1999, it was first announced by UNESCO.		
National Consumer Rights Day	24 December, 2022	—
World Hindi Day	10 January	“Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence”.
World Religion Day	21 January	“Many Faiths – One Community”.
International Day of Education	24 January	“To invest in people, priority education.”
World Leprosy Day (WLD)	30 January	“Act Now. End Leprosy.”
World Fisheries Day	21 November	“Sustain and Conserve the lite in blue”
World Children’s Day	20 November	“Inclusion, for every child”
World Science Day for Peace and Development	10 November	“Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development”.
United Nations Day	24 October.	—
World Statistics Day	20 October	“Data for Sustainable Development”.
World Food Day	16 October	“Leave NO ONE behind.”
International Day of the Girl Child	11 October	“Our time is now—our rights, our future”.
World Migratory Bird Day	8 October	“Dim the lights for birds at night”.
World Teachers’ Day	5 October	“The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers”.
World Space Week	4-10 October	“Space and Sustainability”.
World Tourism Day	27 September	“Rethinking Tourism”.
World River Day	25 September	“The importance of Rivers to Biodiversity”.
World Bamboo Day	18 September	
* International Equal Pay Day		
Women’s Equality Day	26 August	“Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”.
World Senior Citizens’ Day	21 August	—
World Humanitarian Day	19 August	—
World Chess Day	20 July	—
World Youth Skills Day	15 July	“Transforming youth skills for the future”..
World No-Tobacco Day	31 May	“Tobacco: Threat to our environment”.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers	29 May	“People. Peace. Progress. The Power of Partnerships.”
World Thyroid Day	25 May	“It’s not you. It’s your thyroid.”
International Day for Biological Diversity	22 May	“Building a shared future for all life”.
World Metrology Day	20 May	Metrology in the Digital Era.
World Migratory Bird Day	14 May	“light pollution”
World Thalassaemia Day	8 May	“Be Aware. Share. Care: Working with the global community as one to improve thalassaemia knowledge.”

Books & Authors

- Droupadi Murmu : From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hill - **Kasturi Ray**
- From Manjunath to Manjamma : The Inspiring Life of a Transgender Folk Artist - **B. Manjamma Jogathi with Harsha Bhat**
- The Miracle Makers : Indian Crickets Greatest Epic - **Bharat Sundaresan with Gaurav Joshi**
- My Poems are not for your and campaign - **Anuradha Sarma Pujari (Translated by – Aruni Kashyap)**
- Text and Performance : The Interpretative and Narrative Traditions of Indian Theatre - **K.G. Paulose**
- Meru - **S.B. Divya**
- Who killed Moosewala? : The Spiraling story of violence in Punjab - **Jupinderjit Singh**
- Foreshadowing the Great Rebellion : The Vellore Revolt 1806 - **K.A. Manikumar**
- NTR : A Political Biography - **Ramachandra Murthy Kondubhatla**
- Termite Fry - **Zai Whitaker**
- I Have Autism and I like to Play Good Bad Tennis - **Debashish Paul**
- A Terribly Serious Adventure : Philosophy at Oxford 1900-60 - **Nikhil Krishnan**
- The Crooked Timber of New India - **Parakala Prabhakar**
- Song of the Golden Sparrow - **Nilanjan P. Choudhury**
- Never Tell Them We Are the Same People : Notes on Pakistan - **Kesava Menon**
- Risk and Resilience in the Era of Climate Change - **Vinod Thomas**
- Vajpayee : The Acent of the Hindu Right 1924-1977 - **Abhishek Choudhary**
- Dream Weaver - **S. Eshwar**
- Naam, Namak, Nishan - **Anurakshat Gupta and his team**
- The Golden Years : The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life - **Ruskin Bond**
- Business Gita - **Ajayya Kumar**
- A New History of India : From its origins to the twenty-first century - **Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Shobita Punja and Toby Sinclair**
- My Life as a Comrade - **K.K. Shailaja with Manju Sara Rajan**
- India's Tipping Point : The View from 7 Race Course Road - **S. Narendra**
- Sachin @ 50 : Celebrating A Maestro - **Boria Majumdar**
- The New Big 5 : A Global Photography Project for Endangered Wildlife - **Graeme Green**
- Politics of Hate : Religious Majoritarianism in the South Asia - **Farahnaz Ispahani**
- Maulana Azad : A Life - **S. Irfan Habib**
- Khaki on Broken Wings : Police Diaries Book 2 - **Amod K. Kanth**
- A part Apart : The Life and Thought of B.R. Ambedkar - **Ashok Gopal**
- Sound & Fury - **Karan Thapar**
- Mother Muse Quintet - **Naveen Kishore**
- Coaching Beyond : My Days with the Indian Cricket Team - **R. Sridhar with R. Kaushik**
- Gandhi : Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta - **Piyush Babele**
- Water in a Broken Pot : A Memoir - **Yogesh Maitreya**
- In Pursuit of Peace : India-Pakistan Relations under Six Prime Ministers - **Satinder Kumar Lambah**
- In Pursuit of Peace : India-Pakistan Relations under Six Prime Ministers - **Satinder Kumar Lambah**
- Greenhouse Planet : How Rising CO₂ changes Plants and Life as We Know it - **Lewis H. Ziska**
- Insatiable – My Hunger for Life - **Shobhaa De**
- Temple Lamp : Verses on Banaras - **Mirza Ghalib (Translated by Maaz Bin Bilal)**

- The Indian Metropolis : Deconstruction India's Urban Spaces –**Feroze Varun Gandhi**
- Mysteries of Mind : A Scientific Enquiry – **by Sunil Mishra**
- Rhythm of the Ruins – **by Mukul Kumar**
- The Struggle for Narmada – **by Nandini Oza**
- Kala Paani – **by M. Rajendran**
- Our India : Reflections on a Nation Betwixt and Between – **by Captan G.R. Gopinath**
- Forks in the Road : My Day at RBI and Beyond – **by C. Rangarajan**
- We the People of the States of Bharat – The Making and Remaking of India's Internal Boundaries – **by Sanjeev Chopra**
- Among Tigers : Fighting to Bring Back Asia's Big Cats – **by K. Ullas Karanth**
- The World : A Family History – **by Simon Sebag**
- The Song of the Cell : An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human –**by Siddhartha Mukherjee**
- The Last Heroes : Foot soldiers of Indian Freedom –**by P. Sainath**
- The Chipko Movement : A People's History –**by Shekhar Pathak**
- Genetically Modified Democracy : Transgenic Crops in Contemporary India – **by Aniket Aga**
- In the Shadow of the Mountain – **by Silvia Vasquez-Lavado**
- Shivaji : India's Great Warrior King – **by Vaibhav Purandare**
- Between Heaven & Earth : Writings on the Indian Hills – **Edited by Ruskin Bond and Bulbul Sharma**
- Ambedkar : A Life – **by Shashi Tharoor**
- India's Pakistan Conundrum : Managing a Complex Relationship – **by Sharat Sabharwal**
- Do Different : The Untold Dhoni –**by Joy Bhattacharjya and Amit Sinha**
- The Hero of Tiger Hill – **by Capt. Yogendra Singh Yadav**
- Kashmir : Lands of Regrets – **by Moosa Raza**
- Lockdown Lyrics – **by Sanjukta Dash**
- From Space to Sea : My ISRO Journey and Beyond – **by Abraham E. Muthunayagam**
- Mind Master : Winning Lessons form a Champion's Life – **by Viswanathan Anand**
- The McMahon Line : A Century of Discord – **by General J.J. Singh**
- Dilip Kumar : In the Shadow of a Legend – **by Faisal Farooqui**
- Bhartiya Samvidhan : Ankahi Kahani – **by Ram Bahadur Rai**
- Loktantra Ke Swar : The Republican Ethic – **Selected Speeches of the President Ram Nath Kovind, featuring 4th year of Presidency.**
- Listen to your Heart : The London Adventure – **by Ruskin Bond**
- The Struggle for Police Reforms in India – **by Prakash Singh**
- Birsa Munda : Janjatiya Nayak – **by Prof. Alok Chakrawal**
- Queen of Fire – **by Devika Rangachari**
- Crunch Time : Narendra Modi's National Security Crisis – **by Sreeram Chaulia**
- Not just a Night watchman : My innings in the BCCI – **by Vinod Rai**
- Kashmir : The Vajpayee Years – **by A.S. Dulat & Aditya Sinha**
- Unfilled Barrels : India's oil story – **by Richa Mishra**
- Tomb of Sand – **Author- Geetanjali Shree**
Translator - Daisy Rockwell
- A Nation To Protect : Leading India through the Covid Crisis – **by Priyam Gandhi Mody**
- A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence – **by Ruskin Bond**
- Fearless Governance – **by Dr Kiran Bedi**
- Operation Khatma – **by R C Ganjoo & Ashwini Bhatnagar**
- India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution – **by J Sai Deepak**
- Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra – **by Navdeep Singh Gill**
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee – **by Sagarika Ghose**
- How to Prevent the Next Pandemic - **by Bill Gates**
- Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War – **by Samuel Moyn**
- The Legend of Birsa Munda – **by Tuhin A Sinha & Ankita Verma**
- Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist – **by Chandrachur Ghose**
- Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership – **by Arundhati Bhattacharya**
- Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India – **by Dharendra K. Jha**
- The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0 – **by Sanju Verma**
- The Kashmir Conundrum: The Quest for Peace in a Troubled Land – **by Nirmal Chander Vij**
- The Turnover Wizard – Saviour of Thousands – **by Dr. Arup Roy Choudhury**



Description on Cricket, Hockey, Football, Tennis, Athletics, Chess, etc.

Important Events

Tennis Grand Slam Tournaments, 2022-23

Category	Australian Open, 2023	French Open, 2023	Wimbledon, 2023	U.S. Open, 2022
Men's singles Winner Runner-up	Novak Djokovic (Serbia) Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greek)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia) Casper Ruud (Norway)	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) Casper Ruud (Norway)
Women's singles Winner Runner-up	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)	Iga Świątek (Poland) Karolina Muchova (Czech Republic)	Marketa Vondrousova (Czech Republic) Ons Jabeur (Tunisia)	Iga Świątek (Poland) Ons Jabeur (Tunisia)
Men's doubles Winner Runner-up	Rinky Hijikata & Jason Kubler (Both Australia) Hugo Nys (Monaco) & Jan Zielinski (Poland)	Ivan Dodig (Croatia) & Austin Krajicek (USA) Sander Gille & Joran Vliegen (Both Belgium)	Wasley Koolhof (Netherlands) & Neal Skupski (U.K.) Marcel Granollers (Spain) & Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)	Rajeev Ram (USA) & Joe Salisbury (Great Britain) Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) & Neal Skupski (Great Britain)
Women's doubles Winner Runner-up	Katerina Siniaková & Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) Shuko Aoyama & Ena Shibahara (Both Japan)	Su-wei Hsieh (Taiwan) & Xinyu Wang (China) Leylah Fernandez (Canada) & Taylor Townsend (USA)	Su-wei Hsieh (Taiwan) & Barbora Strycova (Czech Republic) Storm Hunter (Australia) & Elise Mertens (Belgium)	Katerina Siniaková & Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) Caty McNally & Taylor Townsend (USA)
Mixed Doubles Winner Runner-up	Lusia Stefoni & Rafael Matos (Both Brazil) Sania Mirza & Rohan Bopanna (Both India)	Miyu Kato (Japan) & Tim Puetz (Germany) Bianca Andreescu (Canada) & Michael Venus (New Zealand)	Mate Pavic (Croatia) & Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine) Joran Vliegen (Belgium) & Yifan Xu (China)	Storm Sanders & John Peers (Australia) Kirsten Flipkens (Belgium) & Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)

Wimbledon-2023 (July 03-16, 2023)

- ➔ It is oldest tennis tournament in world (since 1877).
- ➔ It is only Grand Slam tournament which played on grass.
- ➔ Carlos Alcaraz has won his first Wimbledon title and second Grand Slam trophy overall.

- ➔ Carlos is third youngest men's champion at Wimbledon in Open Era after Bjorn Borg (Sweden) and Boris Becker (Germany).
- ➔ Marketa Vondrousova has won her first Grand Slam tournament.
- ➔ She has become first unseeded women player in Open Era to lift the coveted Venus Rosewater Dish.

French Open, 2023 (May 28 - June 11, 2023)

- ➔ Novak Djokovic has won 23rd Grand Slam title and third French Open title.
- ➔ Now, he has becomes most Grand Slam title winner male player in Open Era.
- ➔ Djokovic has 10 Australian Open titles, 7 Wimbledon, 3 US Open and now 3 French Open titles.
- ➔ At 36 years 20 days, he has become oldest French Open Men's Champion.
- ➔ Iga Swiatek has won her 3rd French Open (2020, 2022 & 2023) and 4th Grand Slam title.

World Athletics Championships, 2023 (August 19-27, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Budapest, Hungary

Medal Table (Top 5 & India)					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	United States	12	8	9	29
2.	Canada	4	2	0	6
3.	Spain	4	1	0	5
4.	Jamaica	3	5	4	12
5.	Kenya	3	3	4	10
18.	India	1	0	0	1

- ➔ **Important Result** : Men's Javelin throw -
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Neeraj Chopra (India), 88.17 m
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – Arshad Nadeem (Pakistan), 87.82 m
- ➔ Neeraj Chopra is first Indian athlete to become a world champion.
- ➔ Indian men's 4×400 m relay team (Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amob Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh) had shattered the Asian record in qualifying round (2:59.05 minutes).
 - ⊖ The team finished 5th in the finals.
- ➔ Noah Lyles (USA), six time world champion, completed hat-trick of gold medals at the championship.
 - ⊖ He has won gold medals in men's 100 m, men's 200 m and men's 4×100 m relay team in world championship 2023.
- ➔ Armand Duplantis (Sweden) has been crowned world champion in men's pole vault for second year in a row.
- ➔ Parul Chaudhary (India) finished 11th in the women's 3000 m steeplechase final.
 - ⊖ She set a new National Record with 9 minute 15.31 seconds.

16th Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 (March 31 – May 29, 2023)

- ➔ **IPL Chairman** – Arun Singh Dhumal
- ➔ **Opening Ceremony** – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on March 31, 2023 (First Ceremony since 2018)
- ➔ **Final Match and closing ceremony** – At Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on May 29, 2023.
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Chennai Super Kings (5th title)
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – Gujarat Titans
- ➔ With 5th title, CSK now equals the record of Mumbai Indians.
- ➔ CSK has won IPL titles in years 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021 and 2023.

Individual Awards –

- ⊖ **Most Valuable Player** – Shubman Gill (GT)
- ⊖ **Orange Cap (Most Runs)** – Shubman Gill (GT), 890 Runs
- ⊖ **Purple Cap (Most Wickets)** – Mohammad Shami (GT), 28 wickets
- ⊖ **Fairplay Award** – Delhi Capitals
- ⊖ **Emerging Player of the Season** – Yashasvi Jaiswal (RR)

16th IPL : Important Facts

- ⊖ **Only Hat-trick of the Season** – Rashid Khan (GT) Vs. KKR
- ⊖ **Total number of centuries** – 12 (All time record); Shubman Gill (3), Virat Kohli (2), H. Klaseen (1), Hary Brook (1), Yashasvi Jaiswal (1), Venkatesh Iyer (1), Simran Singh (1), Suryakumar Yadav (1), Cameron Green (1)
- ⊖ **Fastest fifty of the Season** – Yashasvi Jaiswal (RR), 13 balls

- ➔ Virat Kohli (RCB) has become first batsman to cross 7000 runs marks in IPL. He has scored 7263 run in 237 matches. (30 May, 2023)
- ➔ Yuzvendra Chahal has become most wicket taker in IPL history. He has taken 187 wickets in his IPL career.
- ➔ Yashasvi Jaiswal (RR) has created history by becoming an uncapped player with the most runs in a single season of the IPL history.
- ➔ Ambati Rayudu (MI & CSK) has announced his retirement from the IPL, after 2023 final.
- ➔ He has scored 4348 runs in 204 IPL matches with help of 1 century and 22 fifties.

1st Women's Premier League-2023 (March 4-26, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Mumbai and Navi Mumbai
- ➔ Mascot – Shakti (A Tigress)
- ➔ Title Sponsor – TATA Group
- ➔ Number of Teams – 5; Total Matches – 22
 - ⊖ Winner – Mumbai Indians (Women)
 - ⊖ Runner-up – Delhi Capitals (Women)
- ➔ Individual Awards –
 - ⊖ Most Valuable Player – Hayley Mathews (Mumbai Indians)
 - ⊖ Orange Cap (Most runs) – Meg Lanning (Delhi Capitals), 345 runs
 - ⊖ Purple Cap (Most wickets) – Hayley Mathews (Mumbai Indians), 16 wickets

ICC World Test Championship 2021-23 (June 07-11, 2023)

- ➔ Place – The Oval London (UK)
- ➔ Edition – Second
 - ⊖ Winner – Australia (1st Title)
 - ⊖ Runner-up – India
 - ⊖ Player of the Match – Travis Head (Australia), 163 and 18 runs

1st ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup, 2023 (January 14-29, 2023)

- ➔ Place – South Africa (Final at Potchefstroom)
- ➔ Edition – First; Teams – 16
 - ⊖ Winner – India U19 (First Title)
 - ⊖ Runner-up – England U19
 - ⊖ Player of the Series – Grace Scrivens (England)
 - ⊖ Most Runs – Shweta Sehrawat (India), 297 runs.
 - ⊖ Captain of India U19 Women's team – Shafali Verma

Khelo India University Games, 2022

- ➔ Dates – May 25 – June 3, 2023 (Kabaddi began on 23rd May at Noida)
- ➔ Place – Four cities of Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Noida) and Delhi (Shooting)
- ➔ Mascot – Jeetu (A Barasingha/Swamp Deer, State Animal of U.P.)
- ➔ Torch – 'Shakti'
- ➔ Anthem – 'Khelo India – Har Dil Mein Desh' (Composed and Sung by Palash Sen)

- ➔ Athletes – Around 4000 from 203 Universities
- ➔ Sports – 21
- ➔ Debut Sport – Rowing/Water Sport (At water sports complex, Gorakhpur)
- ➔ Opening Ceremony – Lucknow on May 25, 2023 (Virtually by P.M. Modi)
- ➔ Closing Ceremony – Varanasi on June 3, 2023 (Simple ceremony due to Balasore Train Accident)

Medal Table (Top 5)					
Rank	University	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Punjab University, Chandigarh	26	17	26	69
2.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	24	27	17	68

FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 (January 13-29, 2023)

- Places** – Bhubaneswar and Rourkela (Odisha)
- ➔ India has hosted Hockey Men's World Cup for record fourth time (1982, 2010, 2018 and 2023).
 - ➔ Odisha hosted consecutive two world cups 2018 & 2023.
 - ➔ Debuts teams – Chile and Wales (total teams – 16)
 - ➔ Official Song (Anthem) – Hockey Hai Dil Mera
 - ➔ Composed by Pritam and sung by a group of 11 singers.
 - ➔ Mascot – Olly (An Olive Ridley Turtle)
 - ⊖ Odisha has adopted **Olly** as permanent mascot for sporting event held in Odisha since 2017.
 - ➔ First Edition – 1971
 - ➔ Winning Teams – 6
 - ➔ Most Winning Team
 - ⊖ Pakistan – 1971, 1978, 1982 & 1994
 - ⊖ India – 1975

15th Men's Hockey World Cup

- ➔ India finishes the 2023 World Cup at number 9 jointly with Argentina.
- ➔ Germany the Champion –
 - ⊖ The final match of 2023 world cup has been played between Germany and Belgium.
 - ⊖ Germany won third hockey world cup title after 2002 and 2006.
- ➔ Awards –
 - ⊖ Best player – Niklas Wellen (Germany)
 - ⊖ Top Scorer – Jeremy Hayward (Australia), 09 Goals

- ➔ **Top scorer Indian Player** – Harmanpreet Singh (04 Goals)
- ➔ **Captain of Indian Team** – Harmanpreet Singh
- ➔ **Next Edition** –
 - ⊖ Belgium and Netherlands will co-host the men's and women's Hockey World Cups in 2026.

8th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 (February 10-26, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – South Africa (1st Time)
- ➔ **Teams** – 10
- ➔ **Total Matches** – 23
- ➔ **Title Winner teams** – Australia (6 title), England (2009) and West Indies (2016)
- ➔ **First Edition** – 2009
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Australia-W (6th title)
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – South Africa-W
- ➔ India-W team had to face defeat in semi-final match against Australia-W by 5 runs.
- ➔ **Awards and Stats**
 - ⊖ **Player of the Series** – Ashleigh Gardner (Australia)
 - ⊖ **Most run scorer Indian** – Smriti Mandhana, 151 runs
 - ⊖ **Most wickets by Indian Player** – Renuka Thakur, 7 wickets
 - ⊖ **Captain of Indian-W team** – Harmanpreet Kaur
 - ⊖ **Next Edition (9th)** – 2024, Bangladesh
 - ⊖ **10th Edition** – 2026, England

FIFA World Cup 2022

- ➔ Only 8 teams have won the title at least once.

Brazil (5 titles)	-	1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 & 2002
Germany (4 titles)	-	1954, 1974, 1990 & 2014 (*1954, 1974, 1990 titles was won by West Germany)
Italy (4 titles)	-	1934, 1938, 1982 & 2006
Argentina (3 titles)	-	1978, 1986 & 2022
France (2 titles)	-	1998 & 2018
Uruguay (2 titles)	-	1930 & 1950
England (1 title)	-	1966
Spain (1 title)	-	2010

- ➔ Brazil is the only team which participated in all twenty-two editions.

❑ 22nd FIFA Men's World Cup, 2022

- ➔ It was organized in **Qatar** during **20 November to 18 December, 2022**.
- ➔ **Qatar** is first Arabic country to host the Football World Cup.

Official Soundtrack

- ➔ It was the first time that **Qur'an** had been recited as part of the opening ceremony.
- ➔ The FIFA World Cup 2022 official soundtrack contains following 6 songs—
 - ⊖ **Hayya Hayya (Better Together)**: Performed by Trinidad Cardona, Davido and AISHA.
 - ⊖ **Arhbo**: Performed by Ozuna and Gims
 - ⊖ **The world is yours to Take** : Performed by Lil Baby
 - ⊖ **Tukoh Taka** : Performed by Nicki Minaj; Maluma and Myriam Fares
 - ⊖ **Light the Sky**: Performed by Rahma, Balqees, Nora Fatehi and Manal
 - ⊖ **Dreamers**: Performed by Fahad Al Kubaisi and JungKook (BTS Member)

Official Mascot : La'eeb

- ➔ La'eeb is an Arabic word meaning '**Super-skilled player**'.

Official Emblem

- ➔ The FIFA World Cup 2022 emblem incorporates the burgundy and white colour that are synonymous with Qatar national flag.
- ➔ It also depicts infinity symbol (∞) reflecting the FIFA word cup nature – fusing tradition with modernity.

Official balls : Al Rihla & Al Hilm

- ➔ 'Al Rihla' was the official FIFA World Cup 2022 ball. It means 'the journey' in Arabic.
- ➔ For the final match between Argentina and France, an variation of Al Rihla named 'Al Hilm'.
- ➔ 'Al Hilm' is Arabic word means – the dream.

Argentina the Champion

- ➔ The final match, between Argentina and France, has been held at **Lusail Stadium, Lusail on 18 December, 2022**.
- ➔ Argentina was playing her sixth final (1930, 1978, 1986, 1990, 2014 and 2022) whereas France's fourth (1998, 2006, 2018 and 2022).
- ➔ **Leonel Messi** captained the Argentina while France was laid by goalkeeper **Hugo Lloris**.
- ➔ Argentina's goal scorer were Lionel Messi (2) and Angel Di Maria (1), whereas Kylian Mbappe of France recorded his hat-trick.

➔ This is Argentina's third world cup title after 1978 and 1986.

Awards

- ➔ **Golden ball (player of the tournament)** – Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- Silver ball** – Kylian Mbappe (France)
- ➔ **Golden Boot (Most goal scorer)** – Kylian Mbappe, 08 goals
- Silver Boot** – Lionel Messi, 07 goals
- ➔ **Golden Glove (Goalkeeper of the tournament)** – Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)

World Cup 2022 : Important Facts

- ➔ Youngest player to score in 2022 world cup – Gavi (Spain) (18 year 110 days)
- ➔ First woman referee in the history of FIFA men's world cup – Stephanie Frappart (France)
- ➔ Debut team/teams – Qatar

Lionel Messi : World Cup 2022

- ➔ Lionel Messi became first player to **win two Golden ball awards (2014 and 2022)**.
- ➔ Messi won most **'man of the match'** award (5 times) in a single world cup (2022).
- ➔ Messi also has record of most 'man of the match' awards (11 times) during world cups.
- ➔ Messi has scored most goals (13) in world cups for Argentina (2006, 2014, 2018 & 2022)

36th National Games 2022

- ➔ **Date** – 29 September – 12 October, 2022
- ➔ **Place** – Gujarat (First time)
- ➔ **Mascot** – Savaj (representation of The Asiatic Lion)
- ➔ **Anthem** – Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (Judega Indian Jitega India)
- ➔ **Motto** – Celebrating Unity through Sports
- ➔ **New Sports** - Mallakhamb, Yogasana, Softball, Soft Tennis and Golf.
- ➔ **37th National Games** – Goa, 2023

Medal Table

Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Services Sports Control Board (SSCB)*	61	35	32	128
2.	Maharashtra	39	38	63	140
3.	Haryana	38	38	40	116
8.	Uttar Pradesh	20	18	18	56

- ➔ Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) won Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy at the National Games 2022
- ➔ **Maharashtra** won the Indian Olympic Association's 'Best State' trophy for finishing first amongst the States and Union Territories.

- ➔ **Hashika Ramchandra:** 14 years old Karnataka's Swimmer Hashika Ramchandra won the 'best female athlete' award at the National Games, 2022.
- ➔ **Sajan Prakash:** The 29 year old Kerala's Swimmer Sajan Prakash won 8 medals (5 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze).
 - ➔ He has been named the 'best male athlete at the National Games 2022'.
 - ➔ Sajan Prakash has bagged the honour second consecutive time after Kerala, 2015.

New National Records—

1. **Ram Baboo :** Uttar Pradesh athlete Ram Baboo set a New National Record in 35 km walk (2 hrs 36 minutes and 34 seconds).
2. **Rosy Meena Paulraj :** Tamil Nadu's Rosy Meena Paulraj set a New National Record in the women's pole vault with 4.20m jump at 36th National Games.
3. **Shauryajit Khaire :** 10 year old Shauryajit Khaire from Gujarat created history by becoming the youngest medalist of the 36th National Games with a bronze in the Individual Apparatus-Pole event of Mallakhamb.

8th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 (16 October-13 November, 2022)

- ➔ **Host** – Australia
- ➔ **Winner** – England (2nd Title)
- ➔ **Runner-up** – Pakistan
- ➔ England became first men's cricket team to win consecutive ODI World Cup (2019) and T20 World Cup (2022).
- ➔ **Player of the tournament** – Sam Curran (England), 13 wickets
- ➔ **First Edition Men's T20 World Cup** – 2007
- ➔ **Winners** – India (2007), Pakistan (2009), Sri Lanka (2014), Australia (2021), West Indies (2012 and 2016), England (2010 and 2022)
- ➔ **Captain of England Cricket team** – Jos Buttler
- ➔ **Most Fifties** – Virat Kohli (India), 4 fifties
- ➔ **Fastest half century** – Marcus Stoinis (Australia), 17 balls, against Sri Lanka
- ➔ **9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup** – 2024, West Indies and USA
- ➔ **10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup** – 2026, India and Sri Lanka

Virat Kohli

- ➔ Virat Kohli became most run scorer player in the history of ICC Men's T20 World Cups.
- ➔ He scored total 1141 runs with help of 14 half centuries in 5 T20 World Cups between 2012-2022 (27 Matches, 25 innings).

Upcoming Sports Events

Cricket-

13 th ICC Men's ODI World Cup-2023	-	India
14 th ICC Men's ODI World Cup-2027	-	South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia
15 th ICC Men's ODI World Cup-2031	-	India & Bangladesh
ICC Women's ODI World Cup-2025	-	India
9 th ICC Men's T20I World Cup-2024	-	West Indies and USA
10 th ICC Men's T20I World Cup-2026	-	India & Sri Lanka
11 th ICC Men's T20I World Cup-2028	-	Australia & New Zealand
12 th ICC Men's T20I World Cup-2030	-	England, Wales, Ireland & Scotland
ICC Men's Champions Trophy-2025	-	Pakistan
ICC Men's Champions Trophy-2029	-	India
ACC Asia Cup-2023	-	Pakistan & Sri Lanka

Football –

23 rd FIFA Men's World Cup-2026	-	Canada, Mexico & USA
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Hockey –

FIH Men's Hockey World Cup-2026	-	Belgium & Netherlands
FIH Women's Hockey World Cup-2026	-	Belgium & Netherlands

Miscellaneous –

19 th Asian Games-2022 (Postponed)	-	Hangzhou, China
20 th Asian Games-2026	-	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
21 st Asian Games-2030	-	Doha, Qatar
22 nd Asian Games-2034	-	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
23 rd Commonwealth Games-2026	-	Victoria, Australia
33 rd Olympic Games-2024	-	Paris, France
34 th Olympic Games-2028	-	Los Angeles, USA
35 th Olympic Games-2032	-	Brisbane, Australia
45 th FIDE Chess Olympiad-2024	-	Budapest, Hungary
46 th FIDE Chess Olympiad-2026	-	Uzbekistan
Kabaddi World Cup-2025	-	West Midlands, England

Marathon

Marathon 2022-23	Men's Winner	Women's Winner
Rotterdam Marathon-2023	Bashir Abdi (Belgium)	Eunice Chumba (Bahrain)
127 th Boston Marathon-2023	Evans Chebet (Kenya)	Hellen Obiri (Kenya)
London Marathon-2023	Kelvin Kiptum (Kenya)	Sifan Hassan (Netherlands)
Dubai Marathon, 2023	Abdisa Tola Adera (Ethiopia)	—
Tokyo Marathon 2023	DesoGelmisa (Ethiopia)	Rosemary Wanjiru (Kenya)
Dhaka Marathon 2023	Stanley Kiprotich Bett (Kenya)	BashankelmosheBiloEthiopia
Berlin Marathon, 2022	Eliud Kipchoge (Kenya)	TigistAssefa(Ethiopia)
Nagoya Women's Marathon, 2023	—	Ruth Chepngetich (Kenya)
Seoul International Marathon, 2023	Amedework Walegn (Ethiopia)	—
London Marathon, 2022	Amos Kipruto (Kenya)	Yalemzerf Yehualaw (Ethiopia)
Boston Marathon, 2022	Evans Chebet of Kenya	—

Cricket

❑ India Tour of Ireland, 2023 (August 18-23, 2023)

- ➔ A bilateral T20 I series (3 matches) organized during the tour.
 - ⊖ Winner – India (2-0)
- ➔ **Individual Awards –**
 - ⊖ **Player of the Series** – Jasprit Bumrah (India)
 - ⊖ **Most runs** – Ruturaj Gaikwad (India), 77 runs
 - ⊖ **Most wickets** – Jasprit Bumrah, 4 wickets
 - ⊖ **Captain of Indian team** – Jasprit Bumrah

❑ India Tour of West Indies & USA, 2023 (July 12 – August 13, 2023)

- ➔ During the tour a Test series (2 matches) - India win (1-0), an ODI series (3 matches) - India win (2-1) and T20 I series (5 matches) - West Indies win (3-2) have been organized between India & West Indies.
- ➔ **Most Runs in Test** – Yashasvi Jaiswal (India), 266 runs
- ➔ **Captain of India Team (Test)** – Rohit Sharma

Highest Wicket takers for India in International Cricket (Test + ODI + T20I)

1. Anil Kumble	–	956 (403 matches)
2. R. Ashwin	–	712 (272 matches)
3. Harbhajan Singh	–	711 (367 matches)

Virat Kohli

- ➔ Virat Kohli equaled Sir Don Bradman's 29 test centuries. (July 21, 2023)
- ➔ It is Virat's 76th hundred in 500th International match.
- ➔ **Player of the series (ODI)** – Ishan Kishan (India)
- ➔ **Player of the Series (T-20)** – Nicholas Pooran (West Indies)
- ➔ **Captain of Indian team (ODI & T-20)** – Hardik Pandya
- ➔ Kuldeep Yadav has become the fastest Indian to pick 50 wickets in T20 international (30 T-20I).
- ❑ Men's Ashes Series, 2023 (June 16 – July 31, 2023)
 - ➔ **Place** – England
 - ➔ **Matches** – 05; Draw (2-2)
 - ➔ **Compton-Miller Medal (Player of the Series)** – Chris Woakes (England)
 - ➔ **Most Runs** – Usman Khawaja (Australia), 496 Runs
 - ➔ **Most Wickets** – Mitchell Starc (Australia), 23 wickets
 - ➔ Stuart Broad (England) has become only second fast bowler (overall fifth) to breach the 600 wicket mark in test, after James Anderson (England).

❑ ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup, 2023 (July 12-23, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Sri Lanka
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Pakistan-A
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – India-A

❑ Duleep Trophy, 2023 (June 28, - July 16, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - ⊖ **Winner** – South Zone
 - ⊖ **Captain of South Zone** – Hanuma Vihari

❑ Women's Ashes Series, 2023 (June 22 – July 18, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – England
- ➔ **Result of Only Test**
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Australia-W
 - ⊖ **Player of the Match** – Asleigh Gardner (Aus-W)

❑ 1st Women's T-20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup, 2023 (June 12-21, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Hong Kong (China)
- ➔ **Teams** – 8 (National Women A teams from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Hong Kong, UAE and Malaysia)
- ➔ **Administrator** – Asian Cricket Council (ACC)
 - ⊖ **Winner** – India A Women
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – Bangladesh A Women
 - ⊖ **Player of the Series** – Shreyanka Patil (India A)
 - ⊖ **Captain of India A Women** – Shweta Schrawat

❑ Australia Tour of India (9 February – 22 March, 2023)

- ➔ **Result of Border – Gavaskar Trophy (Test Series)**
- ➔ **Winner** – India (2-1)
- ➔ **Individual Awards –**
 - ⊖ **Player of the Series** – Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja jointly.
 - ⊖ **Most Runs** – Usman Khawaja (Australia), 333 Runs
 - ⊖ **Most Wickets** – Ravichandran Ashwin (India), 25 wickets
 - ⊖ **Highest Individual score (In single inning)** – Virat Kohli (India), 186 runs
- ➔ **Result of ODI Series –**
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Australia (2-1)

➔ Individual Awards –

- ➔ **Player of the Series** – Mitchell Marsh (Australia)
- ➔ **Most wickets** – Mitchell Starc (Australia), 8 wickets
- ➔ Suryakumar Yadav became the first Indian to register three consecutive golden ducks in ODI.
- ➔ Ravichandran Ashwin become fastest Indian bowler to reach milestone of 450 Test wickets.

❑ Irani Cup 2023 (01-05 March, 2023)

- ➔ **Place** – Captain Roop Singh Stadium, Gwalior
 - ➔ **Winner** – Rest of India
 - ➔ **Runner-up** – Madhya Pradesh
 - ➔ **Player of the Match** – Yashasvi Jaiswal (ROI) (213 & 144 Runs)
- ➔ Yashasvi Jaiswal becomes first batsman to score double hundred and hundred in same Irani Cup Match.
- ➔ He also became the highest run scorer in a single Irani Cup edition.

❑ Ranji Trophy 2022-23 (December 13, 2022 – February 20, 2023)

- ➔ **Winner** – Saurashtra (Second title)
- ➔ **Runner-up** – Bengal
- ➔ **Player of the Series** – Arpit Vasavada (Saurashtra)
- ➔ **Most Runs** – Mayank Agarwal (Karnataka), 990 runs

Jaydev Unadkat

- ➔ Saurashtra Skipper Jaydev Unadkat became first bowler in the History of Ranji trophy to pick up a hat-trick in the first over of a match.
- ➔ He pick hat-trick against Delhi on January 3, 2023.

❑ Vijay Hazare Trophy, 2022-23 (12 November – 02 December, 2022)

- ➔ **Winner** – Saurashtra (2nd Title)
- ➔ **Runner-up** – Maharashtra
- ➔ **Player of the Series** – Ruturaj Gaikwad (Maharashtra)
- ➔ **Most runs** – N. Jagadeesan (Tamil Nadu)
- ➔ **Ruturaj Gaikwad:** Maharashtra captain Ruturaj Gaikwad sashed 7 sixes in an over against Uttar Pradesh to set a List A world record.

❑ India Tour of Bangladesh

- ➔ During the tour an ODI series of **3 matches** (won by Bangladesh 2-1) and a test series of **2 test** (won by India 2-0) matches have been organized between 04-26 December, 2022.

❑ Ishan Kishan

- ➔ During the 3rd match of the series at **Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram** (10 December, 2022) Ishan Kishan has completed **fastest double century (126 balls)** of the ODI cricket. He broke the previous record of **Chris Gayle (138 balls)**.
- ➔ Ishan Kishan is 9th International and 4th Indian after **Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Rohit Sharma (3 double century)** batsman to score a double century in an ODI match.

❑ CABI (Blind) T20 World Cup, 2022 (6-17 December, 2022)

- ➔ **Hosted by** – India
- ➔ **Organiser** – Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)
- ➔ **Teams** – 06 (India, Australia, South Africa, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal)
- ➔ **Winner** – India (3rd title)
- ➔ Former Indian cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** was appointed as the Brand Ambassador for this world cup.

❑ Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2022 (11 October-5 November, 2022)

- ➔ **First Edition:** 2007
- ➔ **Winner** – Mumbai (First Title)
- ➔ **Player of the Final Match** – Tanush Kotian (Mumbai)
- ➔ **Most Runs** – Yash Dhull (Delhi), 363 runs

❑ 8th Women's T20 Asia Cup 2022 (October, 2022)

- ➔ **Host** – Bangladesh
- ➔ **Teams** – 7 (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia and UAE)
- ➔ **Winner** – India (7th title) **Runner-up** – Sri Lanka
- ➔ **Player of the Series** – Deepti Sharma (India),
- ➔ **Most Runs** – Jemimah Rodrigues (India), 217 Runs
- ➔ **Most Wickets** – Deepti Sharma (India) & Inoka Ranaweera (Sri Lanka) – 13 wickets each.

Tennis

❑ Washington Open, 2023 (July 31 - August 06, 2023)

Place – Washington DC, USA

Results –

- ➔ **Men's Single (Winner)** – Daniel Evans (Great Britain)
- ➔ **Women's Single (Winner)** – Coco Gauff (USA)

❑ Hamburg European Open, 2023 (July 23-30, 2023)

Place – Hamburg, Germany

➔ **Men's Single (Winner)** – Alexander Zverev (Germany)

➔ **Women's Single (Winner)** – Arantxa Rus (Netherlands)

❑ WTA German Open, 2023 (June 19-25, 2023)

➔ Place – Berlin, Germany

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)

➔ **Women's Doubles (Winner)** : Caroline Garcia (France) and Luisa Stefani (Brazil)

❑ ATP Queen's Club Championship, 2023 (June 19-25, 2023)

➔ Place – London, UK

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)

➔ **Men's Doubles (Winner)** : Ivan Dodig (Croatia) and Austin Krajicek (USA)

❑ ATP Halle Open, 2023 (June 19-25, 2023)

➔ Place – Halle, Germany

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Alexander Bublik (Kazakhstan)

➔ **Men's Doubles (Winner)** : Marcelo Melo (Brazil) and John Peers (Australia)

❑ Italian Open 2023 (May 09-21, 2023)

➔ Place – Rome, Italy

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Daniil Medvedev (Russia)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)

❑ Madrid Open 2023 (April 25 – May 07, 2023)

➔ Place – Madrid, Spain

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)

❑ ATP Barcelona Open, 2023 (April 17-23, 2023)

➔ Place – Barcelona, Spain

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)

❑ Monte-Carlo Masters-2023 (April 09-16, 2023)

➔ Place – Monte-Carlo, Monaco

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Andrey Rublev (Russia)

❑ Miami Open 2023 (March 21 – April 2, 2023)

➔ Place – Miami, United States

➔ **Men's Singles : Winner** – Danil Medvedev (Russia)

➔ **Women's Singles : Winner** – Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)

❑ Dubai Tennis Championships 2023 (February 19 – March 4, 2023)

Place – Dubai, UAE

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Daniil Medvedev (Russia)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)

➔ It was last international tennis tournament of Sania Mirza.

➔ Women's double pair of **Sania Mirza (India)** and **Madison Keys (USA)** defeated in first round by Russian duo Veronika Kudermetova and Liudmila Samsonova.

❑ Qatar Open 2023 (February 13-25, 2023)

Place – Doha, Qatar

Results –

➔ **Men Singles (Winner)** : Daniil Medvedev (Russia)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Iga Swiatek (Poland)

❑ ATP Chennai Open 2023 (February 13-19, 2023)

Place – Chennai, India

Results –

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Max Purcell (Australia)

❑ Tennis Premier League 2022 (Season 4) (07-11 December, 2022)

➔ Place – Pune, Maharashtra

➔ **Winner** – Finecab Hyderabad Strikers

➔ **Runner-up** – Mumbai Leon Army

❑ ATP Paris Masters-2022

Men's Singles –

➔ **Winner** – Holger Rune (Denmark)

➔ **Runner-up** – Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

Tournament	Men's Singles		Women's Singles	
	Winner	Runner-up	Winner	Runner-up
❑ Cincinnati Open 2023; Cincinnati, Ohio (USA)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Coco Gauff (USA)	Karolien Muchova (Czech Republic)
❑ Canada Masters (National Bank Open) 2022; For Men's - Montreal (Canada)	Pablo Carreno Busta (Spain)	Hubert Hurkacz (Poland)	Simona Halep (Romania)	Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil)

❑ Hamburg European Open 2022; Germany	Lorenzo Musetti (Italy)	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Bernarda Pera (USA)	Anett Kontaveit (Estonia)
❑ Madrid Open (Tennis) 2022; Madrid, Spain	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)	Ons Jabeur (Tunisia)	Jessica Pegula (USA)
❑ Italian Open 2022; Rome (Italy)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Ons Jabeur (Tunisia)
❑ Miami Open 2022; Miami (USA)	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Casper Ruud (Norway)	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Naomi Osaka (Japan)

Hockey

❑ **Men's Asian Champions Trophy, 2023 (August 03-12, 2023)**

Place – Chennai (India)

- ⊖ **Winner** – India (Record fourth title)
- ⊖ **Runner-up** – Malaysia
- ➔ Japan has won bronze medal match against South Korea.
 - ⊖ **Hero of the tournament** – Mandeep Singh (India)
 - ⊖ **Top Scorer** – Harmanpreet Singh (India), 09 goals
 - ⊖ **Emerging Player Award** – Abdul Shahid (Pakistan)

❑ **FIH Hockey Pro League (Men) 2022-23 (October 28, 2022 – July 5, 2023)**

- ➔ **Results** –
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Netherlands
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – Great Britain
- ➔ Indian team finished the league at fourth place.
 - ⊖ **Top Scorer** – Harmanpreet Singh (India), 18 goals
 - ⊖ **Most goal scoring team** – India, 51 goals

❑ **FIH Hockey Pro League (Women), 2022-23 (November 4, 2022 – July 5, 2023)**

- ➔ **Winner** – Netherlands
- ➔ **Runner-up** – Argentina

❑ **10th Men's Junior Asia Cup (Hockey), 2023 (May 23 – June 1, 2023)**

- ➔ **Place** – Salalah, Oman
- ➔ **Administrator** – Asian Hockey Federation (AHF)
 - ⊖ **Winner** – India (Record 4th title)
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – Pakistan
 - ⊖ **Player of the Tournament** – Abdul Sahid (Pakistan)
 - ⊖ **Player of the Final Match** – Uttam Singh (Indian Captain)
 - ⊖ **Goalkeeper of the Tournament** – Mohith Honnenahalli Shashi Kumar (India)

❑ **8th Women's Junior Asia Cup (Hockey), 2023 (June 02-11, 2023)**

- ➔ **Place** – Kakamigahara (Japan)
 - ⊖ **Winner** – India (First title)
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – South Korea
 - ⊖ **Rising Star Player of the Tournament** – Anjali Barwa (India)
 - ⊖ **Most Goals** – Annu (India), 9 goals

❑ **2nd Khelo India Women's Hockey League (U-21)-2022 (05-11 April, 2023) (Final Phase)**

- Place – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Pritam Siwach Sports Foundation
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – HAR Hockey Academy

❑ **Men's FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup 2023 (February 05-11, 2023)**

- Place – South Africa
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Austria
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – Netherlands

❑ **Women's FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup 2023 (February 05-12, 2023)**

- Place – South Africa
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Netherlands-W
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – Austria-W

❑ **Khelo India U21 Women's Hockey League 2023 (February 19-24, 2023)**

- Place – New Delhi and Lucknow
 - ➔ **Winner** – Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy (Sonapat)

❑ **13th Senior Women National Championship 2023 (February 15-26, 2023)**

- Place – Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
 - ➔ **Winner** – Madhya Pradesh (Women Hockey)
 - ➔ **Runner-up** – Maharashtra (Women Hockey)
 - ➔ **Best Goalkeeper** – Sonal Minj (Jharkhand)

❑ **FIH Hockey Nations Cup (Women's) 2022**

- ➔ **Dates** – December 11-17, 2022
- ➔ **Place** – Valencia, Spain

➔ **Edition** – First

➔ **Winner** – India

❑ 124th All India Beighton Cup Hockey Tournament 2022 (11-18 December, 2022)

➔ **Place** – Kolkata, West Bengal

➔ **Organiser** – Hockey Bengal

➔ **Winner** – Indian Navy (First Title)

➔ **Runner-up** – Punjab National Bank

❑ Sultan of Johor Cup 2022 (22-29 October, 2022)

➔ **Place** – Johar, Malaysia

➔ **Winner** – India (3rd title)

Football

❑ 9th FIFA Women's World Cup, 2023 (July 20 – August 20, 2023)

➔ **Host** – Australia and New Zealand

⊖ **Winner** – Spain Women (First Title)

⊖ **Runner-up** – England Women

⊖ **Golden Ball (Best Player)** – Aitana Bonmati (Spain)

⊖ **Golden Boot (Most goals)** – Hinata Miyazawa (Japan), 5 Goals

⊖ **Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper)** – Mary Earps (England)

❑ 14th SAFF Championship, 2023 (June 21 – July 04, 2023)

➔ **Place** – Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru (Karnataka)

➔ **Debut teams in Tournament** – Kuwait and Lebanon

⊖ **Winner** – India (Record 9th title)

⊖ **Runner-up** – Kuwait

⊖ **Most Valuable player of the competition** – Sunil Chhetri (India)

⊖ **Highest Goalscorer award (Golden Boot)** – Sunil Chhetri (India), 05 Goals

❑ 23rd FIFA U-20 World Cup, 2023 (May 20 – June 12, 2023)

➔ **Host** – Argentina (Replaced Indonesia)

➔ **Next Edition** – 2025

➔ **First Edition** – 1977

➔ **Most Successful Team** – Argentina (6 titles)

⊖ **Winner** – Uruguay (First title)

⊖ **Runner-up** – Italy

❑ 3rd Intercontinental Cup, 2023 (June 09-18, 2023)

➔ **Place** – Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

⊖ **Winner** – India (2nd title)

⊖ **Runner-up** – Lebanon

⊖ **Hero of the Tournament** – Sandesh Jhingan (India)

➔ The Intercontinental Cup was introduced by AIFF in 2018 to replace the Nehru Cup.

❑ Indian Women's League (IWL), 2023 (April 26 – May 21, 2023)

➔ **Place** – Ahmedabad, Gujarat

⊖ **Winner** – Gokulam Kerala-W (Third consecutive title)

⊖ **Runner-up** – Kickstart FC Karnataka-W

❑ 9th Indian Super League-2022-23 (7 October, 2022 – 18 March, 2023)

➔ **Total Matches** – 117; **Teams** – 11

➔ **Organiser** – All Indian Football Federation (AIFF)

⊖ **Winner** – ATK Mohun Bagan (1st Title)

⊖ **Runner-up** – Bengaluru FC

⊖ **Hero of the League** – Lallianzuala Chhangte (Mumbai City FC)

⊖ **Golden Boot** – Diego Mauricio (Odisha FC), 12 Goals

⊖ **Emerging Player of the League** – Sivasakthi Narayanan (Bengaluru FC)

❑ AIFF Santosh Trophy 2022-23 (23 December, 2022 – 04 March, 2023)

➔ **Places** – Group Stage & Final Round – India

➔ **Knockouts (01-04 March, 2023)** – Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)

➔ **Teams** – 36; **Edition** – 76th

➔ **First Edition** – 1941

➔ **Most Successful team** – West Bengal (32 titles)

⊖ **Winner** – Karnataka

⊖ **Runner-up** – Meghalaya

➔ **Individual Awards** –

⊖ **Best Player of the Championship** – Robin Yadav (Karnataka)

⊖ **Best Goalkeeper of the Championship** – Rajat Paul Lyngdoh (Meghalaya)

❑ 19th FIFA Club World Cup 2022 (February 1-11, 2023)

Place – Morocco, Teams – 7

➔ **Winner** – Real Madrid (Record 5th title) (Spain)

➔ **Runner-up** – Al-Hilal (Saudi Arab)

Badminton

❑ BWF Australia Open, 2023 (August 01-06, 2023)

Place – Sydney, Australia

Results –

➔ **Men's Single –**

☉ Winner – Weng Hong Yang (China)

➔ **Women's Single –**

☉ Winner – Beiwen Zhang (USA)

❑ Japan Open, 2023 (July 25-30, 2023)

Place – Tokyo, Japan

➔ **Men's Single (Winner)** – Viktor Axelson (Denmark)

➔ **Women's Single (Winner)** – An Se Young (South Korea)

❑ BWF Canada Open, 2023 (July 04-09, 2023)

Place – Calgary, Canada

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Lakshya Sen (India)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)

❑ US Open, 2023 (July 11-16, 2023)

Place – Council Bluffs, USA

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Li Shi Feng (China)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Supanida Katethong (Thailand)

❑ BWF Korea Open, 2023 (July 18-23, 2023)

Place – Yeosu, South Korea

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Anders Antonsen (Denmark)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : An Se Young (South Korea)

➔ **Men's Doubles (Winner)** : Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (Both India)

➔ Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have rose to second spot in BWF ranking on 25 July, 2023; their career best.

❑ BWF Thailand Open, 2023 (May 30 – June 4, 2023)

➔ Place – Bangkok, Thailand

Results –

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : An Se Young (South Korea)

❑ BWF Indonesia Open, 2023 (June 13-18, 2023)

Place – Jakarta, Indonesia

Results –

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Chen Yu Fei (China)

➔ **Men's Doubles (Winner)** : Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (Both India)

➔ Indian top duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have won their first BWF World Tour Super 1000 title.

➔ They have become first doubles pair from India to win a Super 1000 title.

❑ Badminton Asia Championship-2023 (April 25-30, 2023)

➔ Place – Dubai, UAE

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan)

➔ **Men's Doubles (Winner)** : Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (Both India)

➔ Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj became the first Indian badminton players to win the Asian Championship since Dinesh Khanna won men's singles title in 1965.

❑ German Open-2023 (07-12 March, 2023)

➔ Place – Mulheim, Germany

➔ **Men's Single (Winner)** – Ng Ka Long Angus (Hong Kong)

➔ **Women's Single (Winner)** – Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)

❑ BWF Swiss Open-2023 (21-26 March, 2023)

➔ Place – Basel, Switzerland

☉ **Men's Single (Winner)** – Koki Watanabe (Japan)

☉ **Women's Single (Winner)** – Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand)

➔ Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have won their first title of the year and the fifth World Tour title of their career.

❑ 84th Senior National Badminton Championship 2023 (February 22-28, 2023)

Place – Pune, Maharashtra

➔ **Men's Singles (Winner)** : Mithun Manjunath

➔ **Women's Singles (Winner)** : Anupama Upadhyay

❑ Peru Para Badminton International 2022 (29 November – 04 December, 2022)

➔ Place – Lima, Peru

➔ Indian para-shuttlers shone at the Peru para-badminton International by clinching total **14 medals** (6 Gold, 1 Silver and 7 Bronze).

➔ **Mandeep Kaur** defeated world champion Oksana Kozyna (Ukraine) in the final. Indian male para-shuttler Nehal Gupta claimed two gold medals.

❑ **BWF Player of the Year Awards 2022 (04-05 December, 2022)**

- ➔ **Place** – Bangkok, Thailand
- ➔ **Male Badminton player of the year** – Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- ➔ **Female Badminton player of the year** – Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- ➔ **Male Para badminton player of the year** – Daiki Kajiwarra (Japan)
- ➔ **Female Para badminton player of the year** – Manisha Ramadass (India)

❑ **BWF Para-Badminton World Championships 2022 (01-06 November, 2022)**

- ➔ **Place** – Tokyo, Japan
- ➔ India ended its campaign with 2 gold, 2 silver and 12 bronze medals, total 16 medals.

➔ Indonesian para shuttlers bagged highest – 6 gold medals in the World Championship.

Gold Medals –

1. Pramod Bhagat (Men’s Singles-SL3)
2. Manisha Ramdass (Women’s Singles-SU5)

Pramod Bhagat

- ➔ Pramod Bhagat has appeared in his 7th para-badminton World Championship in 2022.
- ➔ He has won 6 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals in singles and doubles events during his career.

❑ **Thailand Para-Badminton International, 2023 (May 09-14, 2023)**

- ➔ **Place** – Pattaya, Thailand
- ➔ Indian para-shuttlers have won total 16 medals (4 Gold, 4 silver and 8 Bronze) at Pattaya.

Important Results –

- ➔ **Men’s Singles (SL3) (Winner)** : Pramod Bhagat (India)
- ➔ **Men’s Singles (SL4) (Winner)** : Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj (India)

Tournament	Men's Singles		Women's Singles	
	Winner	Runner-up	Winner	Runner-up
Indonesia Masters-2023	Jonatan Christie (Indonesia)	Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo (Indonesia)	An Se Young (South Korea)	—
Hylo Open 2022; Germany	Anthony Sin Ginting (Indonesia)	Chou Tien Chen (Taiwan)	Han Yue (China)	Zhang Yi Man (China)
Australian Open (Badminton) 2022; Australia	Shi Yu Qi (China)	Lu Guang Zu (China)	An Se Young (South Korea)	Gregoria Ma Tunjung (Indonesia)
BWF World Junior Championship 2022; Spain	Kuo Kuan Lin (Taiwan)	S. Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian (India)	Tomoka Miyazaki (Japan)	Yuan An Qi (China)
BWF World Championships 2022; Japan	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)	Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand)	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)	Chen Yu Fei (China)
Singapore Open 2022; Singapore	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)	Kodai Naraoka (Japan)	P.V. Sindhu (India)	Wang Zhi Yi (China)
Syed Modi India International 2022; India	Note - Match was declared 'No match' as finalist was covid positive	—	P. V. Sindhu (India)	Malvika Bansod (India)

Chess

❑ **FIDE Chess World Cup, 2023 (July 29 - August 25, 2023)**

Place – Baku, Azerbaijan

- ➔ **Open Category (Men’s –**
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Magnus Carlsen (Norway) (First title)

- ⊖ **Runner-up** – R. Praggnanandhaa (India)
- ➔ Fabiano Carvana (USA) has won bronze medal.
- ➔ **Women’s Category**
 - ⊖ **Winner** – Alleksandra Goryachkina (Russia)
 - ⊖ **Runner-up** – Nurgyul Salimova (Bulgaria)
- ➔ Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine) has won bronze medal.

❑ V. Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament, 2023 (July 11-19, 2023)

Place – Budapest, Hungary

Results –

➔ Men's Single –

⊖ Winner – R. Praggnanandhaa (India)

❑ Global Chess League, 2023 (June 21 – July 2, 2023)

➔ Place – Dubai, UAE

➔ Results –

⊖ Winner – Triveni Continental Kings

⊖ Runner-up – UpGrad Mumbai Masters

➔ Players of the Tournament –

⊖ King of the tournament – Praggnanandhaa R. (SG Alpine Warriors)

❑ 23rd Dubai Open, 2023 (May 27 – June 04, 2023)

➔ Place – Dubai, UAE

⊖ Winner – Aravindh Chithambaram (India)

⊖ Runner-up – Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan)

❑ 6th Sharjah Masters International, 2023 (May 17-25, 2023)

➔ Place – Sharjah, UAE

➔ Winner – Arjun Erigaisi (India)

❑ FIDE Women's Grand Prix (3rd Tournament) (March 24 – April 6, 2023)

➔ Place – New Delhi

⊖ Winner – Aleksandra Goryachkina (Russia)

⊖ Runner-up – Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kazakhstan)

➔ FIDE Women's Grand Prix 2022-23 is a series of four tournaments exclusively for women.

❑ 59th Senior National Chess Championship 2022 (22 December, 2022 – 03 January, 2023)

➔ Place – New Delhi

⊖ Winner – Karthik Venkataraman

⊖ Runner-up – Abhijeet Gupta

❑ FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2022 (December 25-30, 2022)

➔ Place – Almaty, Kazakhstan

➔ Result : Open Blitz

⊖ Winner – Magnus Carlsen (Norway)

➔ Result : Women's Blitz –

⊖ Winner – Assaubayeva Bibisara (Kazakhstan)

➔ Result : Open Rapid –

⊖ Winner – Magnus Carlsen (Norway)

➔ Result : Women Rapid –

⊖ Winner – Tan Zhongyi (China)

Swimming/Miscellaneous

❑ World Aquatics Championships, 2023 (July 14-30, 2023)

➔ Place – Fukuoka, Japan

Medal Table (Top-3)					
Rank	Nations	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	20	08	12	40
2.	Australia	15	09	06	30
3.	United States	7	22	15	44

❑ 76th Senior National Aquatic Championships, 2023 (July 02-05, 2023)

➔ Place – Hyderabad, Telangana

Medal Table (Men + Women) Top-3					
Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Karnataka	16	10	12	38
2.	Maharashtra	08	10	07	25
3.	Gujarat	05	02	02	09

➔ Best Swimmers –

⊖ Men – Aryan Nehra (Gujarat) (4 Gold)

⊖ Women – Lineysha A.K. (Karnataka) (2 Gold and 1 Silver)

Basketball

❑ 72nd National Basketball Championship 2022 (27 November – 4 December, 2022)

➔ Place – Udaipur, Rajasthan

➔ Men Result (Winner) : Punjab

➔ Women Result (Winner) : Indian Railways Women

Weightlifting

❑ Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship (Senior, Junior and Youth), 2023

Dates – July 12-16, 2023

Place – Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Senior Medal Table					
Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	India	9	9	2	20
2.	Samoa	4	1	0	05
3.	Australia	2	0	3	05

Wrestling

❑ Asian Wrestling Championship-2023 (April 09-14, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Astana, Kazakhstan
- ➔ Indian wrestlers have won total 14 medals (1 Gold, 3 Silvers and 10 Bronze)
- ➔ Kazakhstan, Japan and Iran have secured first three ranks respectively.
- ➔ Aman Sehrawat (Men's 57 kg Freestyle) – Gold
- ➔ Rupin (Men's 55 kg Greco-Roman) – Silver
- ➔ Nisha Dahiya (Women's 68 kg Freestyle) – Silver

❑ Asian Wrestling Championship 2023 (09 - 14 April, 2023)

- ➔ Asian Wrestling Championship 2023 has been organised in Astana (Kazakhstan) between 09-14 April, 2023.
- ➔ Aman Sehrawat (India) (defeated Almaz Smanbekov, Kyrgyzstan) has won gold medal in men's 57 kg freestyle event.
- ➔ India finished at number 7 in the medal tally (14 medals with 1 Gold) while Kazakhstan has topped the list.

Marathon

❑ Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2022 (16 October, 2022)

- ➔ Place – New Delhi
- ➔ Elite Categories Men : Winner - Chala Regasa (Ethiopia)
- ➔ Indian Finishers Men's : Winner - Avinash Sable (1 : 04 : 00 hours)
- ➔ Elite Categories Women : Winner - Irine Cheptai (Kenya)
- ➔ Indian Women's Finishers : Winner – Sanjivani Jadhav (1 : 17 : 53 hours)

❑ 37th Indira Marathon 2022 (19 November, 2022)

- ➔ Place – Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
- ➔ Winner (Men's) – Sher Singh (Rajasthan)
- ➔ Winner (Women's) – Sudha Singh (Raebareli, U.P.)

Golf

❑ US Women Open (Golf), 2023 (July 6-9, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Pebble Beach, California (USA)
- ➔ Results –
 - ☉ Winner – Allisen Corpuz (USA)

❑ Women's World Championship (Golf)-2023 (02-05 March, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Singapore
- ➔ Winner – Jin Young Ko (South Korea)

❑ World Golf Championship 2023 (22-26 March, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Texas, USA
- ➔ Winner – Sam Burns (USA)

❑ Queen Sirikit Cup 2023 (February 20-24, 2023)

- Place – Manila, Philippines
- ➔ Winner (Individual) – Avani Prashant (India)
- ➔ Winner (Team) – South Korea
- ➔ Avani Prashant is first Indian golfer who win the Queen Sirikit Cup (Asia-Pacific Amateur Ladies Golf Team Championship).

❑ PGTI Jeev Milkha Singh Invitational 2022 (13-16 October, 2022)

- ➔ Place – Chandigarh
- ➔ Winner – Gaganjeet Bhullar (Punjab)

Squash

❑ 4th Squash World Cup, 2023 (June 13-17, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Chennai, Tamil Nadu (Second time after 2011)
 - ☉ Winner – Egypt (2nd consecutive title)
 - ☉ Runner-up – Malaysia
- ➔ Indian team has finished the world cup at third spot.

❑ 1st Asian Squash Mixed Double Championship, 2023 (June 26-30, 2023)

- Place – Huangzhou (China)
- ➔ Winners – Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Harinderpal Singh Sandhu (Both India)

❑ Squash World Championship, 2023 (May 03-11, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Chicago (USA)
- ➔ Men's Championship –
 - ☉ Winner – Ali Farag (Egypt)
 - ☉ Runner-up – Karim Abdel Gawad (Egypt)
- ➔ Women's Championship –
 - ☉ Winner – Nour El Sherbini (Egypt)

❑ 78th Senior National Squash Championship, 2022; Chennai (04-10 December, 2022)

- ➔ Winner (Men's) – Abhay Singh (Tamil Nadu)
- ➔ Winner (Women's) – Joshna Chinappa (Tamil Nadu)

Archery

❑ World Archery Para Championship Pilsen, 2023 (July 17-23, 2023)

Place – Pilsen, Czech Republic

Medal Standing					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	7	1	3	11
2.	Italy	2	6	0	08
3.	Turkiye	2	2	1	05
4.	Grait Britain	2	1	1	04
5.	India	1	1	1	03

➔ Indian Medal Winner

1. Rakesh Kumar and Sarita (Compound Open Mixed Team) – **Gold**
2. Sheetal Devi (Compound Women Open) – **Silver**

❑ 18th World Archery Youth Championships, 2023 (July 03-09, 2023)

➔ Place – Limerick, Ireland

Medal Table (Top-2)					
Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	South Korea	6	4	0	10
2.	India	6	1	4	11

Indian Gold Medal Winners –

1. Parth Sushant Salunkhe (U21 : Recurve Men)
2. Priyansh (U21 : Compound Men)
3. Aditi Gopichand Swami (U18 : Compound Women)

❑ Archery World Cup (Stage 3), 2023

Dates – June 13-18, 2023

Place – Medellin, Colombia

Medal Standing (Top Teams)					
Rank	Team/ Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	South Korea	3	2	1	6
2.	USA	3	1	2	6
3.	Colombia	1	2	0	3
4.	India	1	0	3	4

Indian Medal Winners –

1. Abhishek Verma (Compound Men) - **Gold**
2. Ojas Pravin Deotale, Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar and Abhishek Verma (Compound Men Team) – **Bronze**

Aditi Gopichand Swami

➔ Indian archer Aditi has set under 18 compound world record. She has scored 711/720 during 72 arrow compound qualification round.

❑ Archery World Cup (Stage-2), 2023

Dates – May 16-21, 2023

Place – Shanghai, China

➔ Indian archers have bagged 3 medals (2 gold & 1 Bronze) at the second stage of world cup.

Medal Table (Top-3)					
Rank	Country/ Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	South Korea	5	4	2	11
2	India	2	0	1	03
3	Netherlands	1	1	1	03

Indian Medal Winners -

1. Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar (Compound Men) – **Gold**
2. Jyothi Surekha Vennam & Ojas Pravin Deotals (Compound Mixed Team) – **Gold**

Shooting

❑ ISSF World Championship (Juniors), 2023 (July 14-25, 2023)

Place – Changwon, South Korea

Medal Table					
Rank	Nations	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	12	9	7	28
2.	India	6	6	5	17
3.	Ukraine	5	3	2	10

❑ WSPS World Cup-Osijek, 2023 (July 04-13, 2023)

➔ Place – Osijek (Croatia)

➔ Indian para-shooters have topped the medal standing at Osijek with 18 medals.

Medal Table (Top-3)					
Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	India	7	7	4	18
2.	Spain	3	3	1	7
3.	Slovakia	3	1	4	8

India's gold medal winners –

1. Rudransh Khandelwal (P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1)

- Rahul Jakhar (P3 Mixed 25m Pistol SH1)
- Rudransh Khandelwal (P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1)
*Rudransh Kahndelwal has set a New World Record in this event with score of 231.1.
- Swaroop Mahavir Unhalkar (R1 Men's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1)
- Avani Lekhara (R2 Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1)
- Manish Narwal, Santosh Vithoba Gadhe and Rudransh Khandelwal (P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1)
- Nihal Singh, Rudransh Khandelwal and Rahul Jakhar (P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1)

❑ ISSF World Cup Junior (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun), Suhl, 2023 (June 01-09, 2023)

Place – Suhl, Germany

- ➔ Indian junior shooters have won 15 medals, including six golds, at Suhl.

Medal Table (Top-5)					
Rank	Country/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	India	6	6	3	15
2.	South Korea	6	5	1	12
3.	USA	5	5	1	11

❑ ISSF World Cup Shotgun, Cairo, 2023 (April 25 – May 05, 2023)

Place – Cairo, Egypt

- ➔ Indian team has won one medal (gold) and ranked third in the medal table.

Medal Table (Top-3)					
Rank	Country/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Italy	1	3	1	5
2	China	1	0	1	2
3	India	1	0	0	1

- ➔ Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon (Skeet Mixed Team) - Gold

❑ ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol Baku, 2023 (May 08-15, 2023)

Place – Baku, Azerbaijan

- ➔ Indian shooters have won 4 medals in the world cup.

Medal Table (Top-3)					
Rank	Country/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	4	1	2	7
2	India	1	2	1	4
3	Iran	1	1	0	2

- ➔ Sarabjot Singh and Divya TS (10m Air Pistol Mixed Team) – Gold Medal

❑ ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol) Bhopal 2023 (20-27 March, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- ➔ Indian shooters have won 7 medals, including 1 gold, and finishes 2nd at the medal tally.

Medal Standing (Top 4)

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	8	2	2	12
2.	India	1	1	5	7
3.	Germany	1	1	1	3
4.	Hungary	0	2	0	2

- ➔ India's Gold Medal Winner –

☉ Sarabjot Singh (10 m Air Pistol Men)

Boxing

❑ IBA Mens World Boxing Championships, 2023 (April 30 – May 14, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- ➔ Indian boxers have won three bronze medals in the championship.
- ➔ India has ranked 12th, jointly with Spain, on the medal table.

❑ IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 (15-26 March, 2023)

Place – K.D. Jadhav Indoor Hall, New Delhi

- ➔ Indian boxers have awarded the Best Team of the tournament.
- ➔ India is also the most successful team with 4 gold medals.

Medal Standing (Top 3)

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	4	0	0	4
2	China	3	1	3	7
3	Russia	1	1	1	3

Important Results -

- ➔ Elite Women 48-50 kg (Light Fly Weight) –
 - ☉ Winner – Nikhat Zareen (India)
 - ☉ Runner-up – Nguyen Thi Tam (Vietnam)
- ➔ Nikhat Zareen has becomes second Indian women boxer to win two gold medals (2022 & 2023) at the women world Boxing Championship.
- ➔ Mary Kom had won 6 gold medals (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018) in this Championship.

Kabaddi

☐ 9th Asian Kabaddi Championship, 2023 (June 27-30, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Busan, South Korea
- ➔ First Edition - 1980
 - ☉ Winner – India (Record 8th title)
 - ☉ Runner-up – Iran
 - ☉ Captain of Indian team – Pawan Sehrawat

☐ Pro Kabaddi (Season 9) 2022 (07 October – 17 December, 2022)

- ➔ Places – Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad and Mumbai
- ➔ Winner – Jaipur Pink Panthers (2nd title)
- ➔ Runner-up – Puneri Paltan
- ➔ Most valuable player – Arjun Deshwal (Jaipur Pink Panther)

Athletics

☐ 10th Para Athletics World Championships, 2023 (July 08-17, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Paris, France

Medal Table (Top-3 & India)					
Rank	Country/ Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	16	16	13	45
2.	Brazil	14	13	20	47
3.	United States	10	14	15	39
19.	India	3	4	3	10

- ➔ This is India's best ever performance in the Championship.
- ➔ India's Medal Winners (Gold)
 - ☉ Summit Antil (Men's Javelin Throw F64).
 - ☉ Sachin Sarjerao Khilari (Men's Shot Put F46)
 - ☉ Ajeet Singh (Men's Javelin Throw F46)

☐ National Open 400m Championships 2023 (05-06 March, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Trivandrum, Kerala
- ➔ Men's Championship (Winner) – V. Muhammed Ajmal
- ➔ Women's Championship (Winner) – Jyothika Sri Dandi

☐ 10th National Open Race Walking Championships 2023 (February 14-15, 2023)

Place – Ranchi, Jharkhand

Results –

- ➔ Men's 35 km (Winner) – Ram Baboo (Uttar Pradesh)

- ➔ Women's 35 km (Winner) – Manju Rani (Punjab)
- ➔ Ram Baboo (2:31.36 hours) and Manju Rani (2:57.54 hours) have set New National Records in Men's 35 km and Women's 35 km races, respectively.

Table Tennis

☐ ITTF World Table Tennis Championship, 2023 (May 20-28, 2023)

Place – Durban, South Africa

- ➔ Men's Singles (Winner) : Fan Zhendong (China)
- ➔ Women's Singles (Winner) : Sun Yingsha (China)

☐ TP Mexican Open, 2023 (27 February – 04 March, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Acapulco, Mexico
- ➔ Men's Single (Winner) – Alex de Minaur (Australia)
- ➔ Men's Doubles (Winner) – Alexander Erler & Lucas Miedler (Both Austria)

☐ Indian Wells Masters-2023 (8-19 March, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Indian Wells (USA)
- ➔ Men's Single (Winner) – Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
- ➔ Women's Single (Winner) – Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
- ➔ Rohan Bopanna became the oldest player to win the Masters 1000 title.
- ➔ The 43 year old Bopanna broke the record of Daniel Nestor of Canada.

Snooker & Billiards

☐ Asian Team Snooker Championship, 2023 (June 17-21, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Tehran, Iran
 - ☉ Winner – India 2
- ➔ The gold medal winning India '2' team was represented by Kamal Chawla, Brijesh Damani and Sparsh Pherwani.

☐ World Snooker Championship, 2023 (April 15 - May 01, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England (U.K.)
- ➔ Winner – Luca Brecel (Belgium)

☐ Asian Snooker & English Billiards Championships-2023 (11-19 March, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Doha, Qatar
- ➔ Result : Asian Men's Billiards (Winner) – Pankaj Advani (India)

➔ **Result : Asian Men's Snooker (Winner)** – Amir Sarkhosh (Iran)

❑ World Women's Snooker Championship-2023 (February 28 – March 04, 2023)

Place – Bangkok, Thailand

➔ **Winner** – Siripaporn Nuanthakhamjan (Thailand)

❑ Baulk Line 2.0 All India Snooker Open 2023

➔ **Dates** – 2-15 January, 2023

➔ **Place** – Mumbai

☉ **Winner** – Laxman Rawat

☉ **Runner-up** – Aditya Mehta

Formula-1

❑ Winners of Formula One (F1) Grand Prix 2022-23

S. No.	Grand Prix	Winner
1.	Hungarian Grand Prix, 2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
2.	Belgian Grand Prix, 2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
3.	Bahrain Grand Prix-2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
4.	Saudi Arabia Grand Prix-2023	Sergio Perez (Red Bull)
5.	Austrian Grand Prix, 2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
6.	British Grand Prix, 2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
7.	Spanish Grand Prix, 2023	Max Verstappen, Red Bull
8.	Canadian Grand Prix, 2023	Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull
9.	Miami Grand Prix, 2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
10.	Monaco Grand Prix, 2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
11.	Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023	Sergio Perez (Red Bull)
12.	Bahrain Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
13.	Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2023	Sergio Perez (Red Bull)
14.	Australian Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
15.	Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)

16.	Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
17.	Miami Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
18.	Spanish Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
19.	Monaco Grand Prix 2022	Sergio Pérez (Red Bull – Mexico)
20.	Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
21.	Canadian Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
22.	British Grand Prix 2022	Carlos Sainz Jr. (Scuderia Ferrari – Spain)
23.	Austrian Grand Prix 2022	Charles Leclerc (Scuderia Ferrari- Monaco)
24.	French Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
25.	Hungarian Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
26.	Belgian Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
27.	Dutch Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
28.	Italian Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
29.	Singapore Grand Prix 2022	Sergio Pérez (Red Bull – Mexico)
30.	Japanese Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
31.	United States Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
32.	Mexico City Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)

Ice-Hockey

❑ IIHF Ice-Hockey Women's Asia & Oceania Championship, 2023 (April 30 - May 07, 2023)

➔ **Place** – Bangkok, Thailand

➔ **Winner** – Thailand

➔ **Runner-up** – Iran

❑ 32nd Southeast Asian Games, 2023 (May 05-17, 2023)

➔ **Place** – Phnom Penh, Cambodia (First Time)

Medal Table (Top-3)					
Rank	Country/ Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Vietnam	136	105	114	355
2	Thailand	108	96	109	313
3	Indonesia	87	80	109	276

Miscellaneous

31st FISU World University Games, 2023

- ➔ Dates – July 28 - August 08, 2023
- ➔ Place – Chengdu, China
- ➔ Governing body – International University Sports Federation (FISU)
- ➔ First Edition – 1959

Medal Table					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	103	40	35	178
2.	Japan	21	29	43	93
3.	South Korea	17	18	23	58
7.	India	11	5	10	26

- ➔ This is India's best performance in the history of this tournament.
- ➔ Indian athletes have won total 26 medals including 11 gold and place at number 7 in the medal table.

69th Nehru Trophy Boat Race, 2023

- ➔ Dates – August 12, 2023 (Each year on second Saturday of August)
- ➔ Place – Punnamda Lake, Alappuzha (Kerala)
- ➔ Mascot – A baby elephant rowing a snake boat
- ➔ Winner – Veeyapuram boat (Captain – Allen Moonnutaikkal)

Tour de France, 2023 (Cycling) (July 1-23, 2023)

- ➔ Place – France
- ➔ Starting Point – Bilbao (Spain)
- ➔ Last Point – Paris (France)
- ➔ Total Distance – 3404 km
 - ⊖ Winner – Jonas Vingegaard (Team Jumbo Visma)
 - ⊖ Runner-up – Tadej Pogacar (UAE Team Emirates)

3rd FIFAE Nations Cup, 2023 (July 11-14, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- ➔ It is an e-sports series organised by FIFA and EA sports.

⊖ Winner – Brazil

Dream 11 becomes the Team India Lead Sponsor

- ➔ BCCI has announced Dream 11 as Team India's lead sponsor for the period of three years. (July 1, 2023)
- ➔ Dream 11 has replaced the education portal Byju as the lead sponsor for Team India.

1st Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav, 2023

- ➔ Dates – June 09-12, 2023
- ➔ Place – Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
- ➔ Mascot – Bheema
- ➔ Athlete – About 5000 tribal athlete from across India
- ➔ Odisha has emerged as champion in men's and women's division, placed at top in the overall standings.

Special Olympics World Games, 2023

Dates – June 17-25, 2023

Place – Berlin, Germany

- ➔ Athletes – 7000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from approximately 190 countries for 26 sports.
- ➔ Mascot – Unity
- ➔ Motto – Unbeatable together

Wisden Cricket Awards-2023

- ➔ Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year 2023 – Tom Blundell (New Zealand), Ben Foakes (England), Harmanpreet Kaur (India Women), Daryl Mitchell (New Zealand) and Matthew Potts (England)

Note : Harmanpreet Kaur is the first Indian Woman Cricketer to be named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year.

Sharjah Stadium and SCG have honoured Sachin Tendulkar

- ➔ West stand at Sharjah cricket stadium has been renamed after Sachin Tendulkar in a special ceremony in the UAE (April 24, 2023)
- ➔ The Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) has named Gates after Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.

Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium

- ➔ Situated at Rourkela, Odisha
- ➔ It is officially recognised by the Guinness World Record as the largest fully seated hockey arena in the world.
- ➔ It has a seating capacity of 20011 spectators.

❑ 4th Asian Kho-Kho Championship-2023 (20-23 March, 2023)

- ➔ Place – Tamulpur, Assam
- ➔ Men's Championship (Winner) – India
- ➔ Women's Championship (Winner) – India Women

❑ FIFA World Cup 2026 : A New Format (14 March, 2023)

- ➔ The FIFA Council unanimously approved the proposed amendment to the FIFA World Cup 2026 competition format.
- ➔ The 2026 World Cup will be first edition in which 48 teams taking part (previously 32 teams).
- ➔ The group stage will be comprising of 12 groups of 4 teams (previously 8 groups of 4 teams).
- ➔ The 2026 world cup will have 104 matches (previously 64 matches).
- ➔ The 2026 edition will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

❑ 4th Khelo India Youth Games-2022

Dates – January 30 – February 11, 2023

Place – Madhya Pradesh (8 Cities) and New Delhi

Edition – 5th (Khelo India School Games, 2018 and Khelo India Youth Games 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022)

Mascot – Asha (A Cheetah) and Mowgli

Torch – Amarkantak (First Smart Torch)

Anthem – Hindustan Ka Dil Dhadka Do (by Shaan)

Sports – 27

Debut Sports – Fencing and 2 water sports – Canoeing & Kayaking, Rowing.

Medal Table (Top 3 and Uttar Pradesh)					
Rank	States	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Maharashtra	56	55	50	161
4.	Rajasthan	19	10	19	48
24	Bihar	1	1	5	7

Players in News

❑ Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus

- ➔ Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ➔ 'Olympic Order' has been awarded to him by International Olympic Committee (IOC). (June 20, 2023).

❑ Ajit Agarkar

- ➔ Former Indian pacer.
- ➔ He has been appointed the Chairman of the senior men's selection committee by BCCI.

❑ Leon Marchand

- ➔ 22-year-old Leon Marchand (French) has broken Michael Phelps' world record in the men's 400-meter individual medley in a time of four minutes, 2.50 seconds.
- ➔ Phelps set the old record of 4:03.84 at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

❑ Harmanpreet Kaur

- ➔ India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been suspended for her team's next two international matches following two separate breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct during the third match of their ICC Women's Championship series against Bangladesh in Dhaka.
- ➔ Harmanpreet Kaur becomes 1st women cricketer to breach ICC Code of Conduct.

❑ Shalini Singh

- ➔ Lucknow, UP based female NCC cadet.
- ➔ She has become first female NCC cadet in the country to successfully complete the advance mountaineering course in the Himalayan region (May 30, 2023)

❑ Faith Kipyegon

- ➔ Female athlete from Kenya.
- ➔ She has broken two world records in a week.
- ➔ She set a new 1500m world in Florence, Italy (June 2, 2023)

❑ Tajinderpal Singh Toor (India)

- ➔ He has set new Asian shot put record with his throw of 21.77m (June 19, 2023).

❑ Cristiano Ronaldo

- ➔ He became the first men's footballer to play 200 international matches.
- ➔ He achieved the milestone in Reykjavik against Iceland (June 20, 2023).

❑ Neeraj Chopra

- ➔ Indian javelin throw athlete.
- ➔ He has won the Lausanne Stage of Diamond League, 2023 (June 30, 2023).
- ➔ He threw 87.66 m and obtained the top spot.
- ➔ He became the first Indian to win a Diamond League meeting in Lausanne in 2022.

❑ Neeraj Chopra

- ➔ He has won first stage of Diamond League, 2023, convened at Doha (May 5, 2023).
- ➔ He won gold medal with his effort of 88.67 m.

❑ Mark Nicholas

- ➔ Former England cricketer and veteran commentator.
- ➔ He has been elected as next President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) (May 03, 2023)
- ➔ His 12 month term will begin on October 1, 2023.

❑ Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary

- ➔ Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary have set new 5000m national records in men's and women's category respectively in Los Angeles, USA (May 06, 2023).

❑ Praveen Chithravel

- ➔ He has won the men's triple jump event with a national record breaking mark of 17.37m in Havana, Cuba. (May 06, 2023)

❑ Pasang Dawa Sherpa

- ➔ A Nepali Sherpa (born in 1998 in Pangboche).
- ➔ He has scaled Mt. Everest for 27th time. (May 22, 2023)
- ➔ He has equalised a world record for highest number of ascents set earlier by Kami Rita Sherpa.

❑ K. Govindraj

- ➔ K. Govindraj of Karnataka has elected as the President of FIBA Asia (May 22, 2023).

❑ Sunil Kumar

- ➔ India's Sunil Kumar has won gold medal in men's decathlon at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships in (Hecheon, South Korea) (June, 6, 2023)

❑ R.P. Singh (Ram Prakash Singh)

- ➔ Former Uttar Pradesh Sport director.
- ➔ He has been appointed as Chairman of Hockey India's selection committee (April 11, 2023)

❑ Pankaj Singh

- ➔ He has been elected as the President of Cycling Federation of India (CFI) (April 23, 2023)

❑ Mahavir Singh Phogat

- ➔ An Indian amateur wrestler and coach.
- ➔ He has been appointed as the Chairman of MMA-1 Federation (April 21, 2023)

❑ Abhilash Tomy

- ➔ A former commander in the Indian Navy.
- ➔ He has finished second in Golden Globe Race 2023 (April 29, 2023)

❑ MCC Lifetime Membership

- ➔ In April, 2023, the iconic Marylebone Cricket Club, owner of the famous Lord's cricket stadium in England, has revealed the names of its latest members on whom the club has bestowed honorary life membership.
- ➔ The members' list has five names from India. They are as follows-Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami.

❑ Sanjita Chanu

- ➔ In April, 2023, the two-time Commonwealth Games champion and Indian weightlifter Sanjita Chanu was handed a four-year ban by India's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

❑ R.P. Singh

- ➔ Uttar Pradesh Sports director.
- ➔ He has been appointed as Chairman of Hockey India's Selection Committee. (11 April, 2023)

❑ Kim Cotton

- ➔ In April, 2023, New Zealand's Kim Cotton became the first woman on-field umpire in a full-member men's T20I during New Zealand's second match against Sri Lanka in Dunedin, New Zealand.

❑ Armand Duplantis

- ➔ Armand Duplantis of Sweden has set a New World Record of 6.22 meters in pole vault. (25 February, 2023)
- ➔ He also won the All Star Perche 2023 in France.

❑ Akshdeep Singh

- ➔ Indian athlete Akshdeep Singh has won gold medal in the Men's 20 km event at Race Walking Championships held in Nomi, Japan. (19 March, 2023)

❑ Rani Rampal (Hockey)

- ➔ She has become the first woman hockey player of India to have a stadium named after her. (21 March, 2023)
- ➔ The MCF Raebareli has renamed the hockey stadium as 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf'.

❑ Dipa Karmakar

- ➔ Tripura based Indian women gymnast has been serving a 21 month ban after positive dope test. (February 4, 2023).
- ➔ She is first Indian woman gymnast to win a bronze medal at Commonwealth Games (2014).

❑ MC Mary Kom

➔ MC Mary Kom has led a six member oversight committee to probe allegations against Wrestling Federation of India. (23rd January, 2023)

❑ Craig Fulton (South Africa)

➔ He is appointed as new Chief Coach of Indian men's hockey team. (03rd March, 2023)

❑ Preeti Muske (Women Cyclist)

➔ She has created a new record by travelling Srinagar to Kanyakumari (3676 km) in 11 days. (23rd February, 2023).

❑ Vidhi Chaudhary

➔ Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh based Vidhi Chaudhary has been appointed as Coach of Indian Shuttler P.V. Sindhu. (February, 2023)

❑ Pele

➔ **Edson Arantes do Nascimento**, the greatest football player of Brazil, better known as 'Pele' and '**Black Pearl**'.

➔ He was the only player in history to had won three FIFA World Cup Titles (1958, 1962 and 1970).

➔ He was youngest player in the history of FIFA World Cup to—score a goal (1958), score hat-trick, play final and score in final.

➔ 'Pele' and Diego Maradona (Argentina) were joint winners of the FIFA Player of the 20th century.

➔ Guinness world records recognized him as the most goals scorer (1279 goals) in a specific period (1956-1977).

❑ Dutee Chand

➔ A 26 year old woman Olympian of India, national 100m record holder.

➔ She has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) due to positive dope test. (18 January, 2023)

❑ PT Usha

➔ Former athlete PT Usha has been elected unopposed as the President of the **Indian Olympic Association** (IOA). (10 December, 2022)

➔ Usha is the first woman to occupy the top job of IOA.

➔ She is also the first international medalist to take over the top post.

❑ Pankaj Advani

➔ Pankaj Advani has claimed his 25th gold medal at world level. (08 October, 2022)

➔ He won the IBSF World Billiards Championship 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

❑ Roger Binny

➔ Former cricketer Roger Binny has been elected as the 36th President of the **Board of Control for cricket** in India (BCCI). (18 October, 2022)

➔ He replaces Sourav Ganguly, who held the post since 2019.

❑ Roger Federer

➔ The Swiss tennis giant Roger Federer announced his retirement on 15 September, 2022.

➔ Federer made his ATP debut in 1998 during Swis Open.

➔ French Open 1999 was his first Grand Slam tournament.

➔ During his two decades long career he won 20 Grand Slam Singles title; **8 Wimbledon, 6 Australian, 5 U.S. Open and 1 French Open.**

➔ During Beijing Olympics 2008, Roger Federer along with his Swiss fellow Stanislas Wawrinka won gold medal in men's doubles event.

❑ Mithali Raj

➔ The Captain of Indian Women Cricket Team, Mithali Raj (39 year) announced her retirement from all formats of cricket on 8 June, 2022 (debut in 1999).

Format	Matches	Runs	Highest score	Century	Half Century
Women Test	12	699	214	1	4
Women ODI	232	7805	125*	7	64
Women T20I	89	2364	97*	0	17

➔ She is highest run scorer in world in women cricket ODI. (7805 runs)

➔ Leading run-scorer in women's international Cricket (10868 runs in 333 matches)

➔ Only Indian women cricketer to score a double century in a test.

➔ Only woman cricketer to played in six world cups. Third after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miadad (Pakistan).

➔ **Awards :** 2003 - Arjun Award; 2015 - Padma Shri; 2017 - Wisden Leading Woman Cricketer in the world; 2021 - Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. (First Woman Cricketer).

❑ Sunil Chhetri

➔ Indian Football Captain Sunil Chhetri (now be came 5th highest goal scorer) equals the 84 goals record of Hungarian great Ferenc Puskas.

➔ Now he became 5th highest goal scorer in the world, Jointly with Ferenc Puskas.