

# GENERAL AWARENESS

Vol. 11, Issue 10

**June 2023** 

### **CONTENTS**

CURRENT AFFAIRS	03-43	
March 2023 to April 2023	03-43	
BULLET NEWS	44-66	
Nov. 2022 to Feb. 2023	44-00	
LATEST 100 GK MCQs	67-71	
LATEST GK BYTES	72-108	

#### FIGURES TO REMEMBER

KEY RATE	RATE	FROM
Repo Rate	6.50%	8-02-23
Standing Deposit Facility	6.25%	8-02-23
Marginal Standing Facility	6.75%	8-02-23
Bank Rate	6.75%	8-02-23
Fixed Reverse Repo	3.35%	8-02-23
CRR	4.5%	8-02-23
SLR	18%	8-02-23

## INDIA's RANK IN

Logistics Performance Index: April 2023	38 <sup>th</sup>
Arton Capital Passport Index: April 2023	144 <sup>th</sup>
The Electoral Democracy Index: March 2023	108 <sup>th</sup>
World Air Quality Report: March 2023	8 <sup>th</sup>
Global Quality Infrastructure Index: (GQII)	5 <sup>th</sup>
Feb 2023	
Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI):	47 <sup>th</sup>
Feb 2023	
Global Labour Resilience Index: Feb 2023	65 <sup>th</sup>
IP (Intellectual Property) Index: Feb 2023	42nd
Hanley Passport Index: Jan 2023	85 <sup>th</sup>
Food Security Index (GFSI) 2022: Dec	68th
Arton Capital Passport Index 2022: Dec	87 <sup>th</sup>
The Network Readiness Index: Nov.	61st
Climate Change Performance Index: Nov.	8 <sup>th</sup>
Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index	123rd
(CRII): Oct 2022	
Mercer CFA Global Pension Index:	41st
Oct 2022	
Global Hunger Index: Oct 2022	107 <sup>th</sup>
Global Innovation Index: Sept 2022	40 <sup>th</sup>
Human Development Index: Sept 2022	132nd
Global Unicorn Index: Sept 2022	03rd
Global Gender Gap Index: Jul 2022	135 <sup>th</sup>
World Press Freedom Index: Jul 2022	150 <sup>th</sup>
World Competitiveness Index: June 2022	$37^{th}$
Environmental Performance Index:	180 <sup>th</sup>
June 2022	
Sustainable Development Report (SDR):	121st
June 2022	
GYANM PUBLICATIONS	

GYANM PUBLICATIONS #4314, Sector 68, Mohali, Punjab



**APRIL** 

#### BHUTAN KING VISITS INDIA



Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk began his three-day visit to India on April 03. During his time in India, the King met with President Murmu, Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Bhutan sought India's cooperation on hydropower electricity generation and assistance for its 13th Five Year Plan (2023-2028).

#### INDIA NOW MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY

The demographic data released by the UN Population Fund's "State of World Population Report, 2023" on April 19 estimates India's population at 1,428.6 million or 1.429 billion against 1.4257 billion for China, as of February 2023. The United States is a distant third, with an estimated population of 340 million, the data showed.

India's annual population growth has averaged 1.2% since 2011, compared with 1.7% in the decade before that, according to government data. Last year, China's population fell for the first time in six decades, a historic turn that is expected to mark the start of a long period of decline in its citizen numbers.

#### OP. KAVERI TO RESCUE INDIANS FROM SUDAN

India launched a rescue mission – Operation Kaveri– on April 24 to evacuate its stranded citizens from civil war-torn Sudan. Two C-130s cargo aircrafts and the navy ship INS Sumedha were engaged for the mission. Around 4,000 Indians are stuck in the violence-hit African nation. First batch of 278 stranded Indians left Sudan on April 25 onboard INS Sumedha.

Sudan has been facing a conflict between

o for the last 10 days which claimed

the country's army and a paramilitary group for the last 10 days, which claimed more than 427 lives including at least 273 civilians and over 3,700 were wounded.

#### INDIA FIRST TO HAVE OWN TB ESTIMATES



India has become the first country in the world to estimate the tuberculosis (TB) burden in-country and launch its own dynamic mathematical system to estimate the disease burden. It has decided to part ways with the global estimates drawn up each year by the World Health Organization (WHO). As per our data, the reduction in TB cases in India is 18% as against 11% at the global level.

This model has been developed based on the natural history of diseases, individual status of infection, disease, health care seeking, missed or correct diagnosis, treatment coverage and outcomes including cure and death.

The model adopted by India helps in getting TB incidence estimates six months earlier than that of WHO which gives estimates in October every year. India's TB incidence rate stands at 196 per 1,00,000 population, instead of the 210 estimated by the WHO, and the estimated deaths from it stand at 3.20 lakh, instead of the 4.94 lakh that was projected in 2021.

#### Y20 PRE-SUMMIT HELD IN LADAKH

The Y (Youth) 20 Pre-Summit under India's G20 Presidency was held on April 26-27-28 in Ladakh. It was attended by over 100 delegates from 30 countries to discuss issues concerning the youth of the world. The meeting focused on five Y20 themes, including climate change, peace-building, and health.



#### DHARAMSHALA HOSTS G-20 RIIG MEET

A two-day conference of the G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) was held on April 19-20 in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh to deliberate on ways to build a sustainable eco-innovative energy transition system.

Representatives of G20 countries, guest nations, international organisations and experts from the scientific community took part in the deliberations.

#### **IAIPUR HOSTS WOMEN-20 MEETING**

A two-day Women 20 meeting was organised under G-20 on April 13-14 in Jaipur. Elaborate discussions were made in the meeting on topics related to gender equality and women empowerment.

Mission Digital Mahila aimed at empowering women through financial and business literacy as well as digital proficiency, was also launched during the meeting.

#### AGARTALA HOSTS SCIENCE-20 CONFERENCE



The two-day Science-20 conference under India's G20 presidency was held on April 3-4 in Agartala, capital city of Tripura. Around 75 delegates attended the science conclave titled 'clean energy for green future' as part of the G20 meetings.

#### **G20 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MEETING**

The first G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held in Gandhinagar in Gujarat from March 30 to April 01. Around 100 delegates from the G20 member countries, invitee countries and from nine international organisations participated in the meet.

#### G20 SHERPA MEETING HELD IN KERALA

The second Sherpa meeting of the G20 Summit under India's Presidency began on March 30 at the idyllic village of Kumarakom in Kerala. Over 120 delegates from G20 member nations participated in the four-day event, chaired by India's Sherpa Amitabh Kant. The delegates held multilateral discussions on G20's economic and developmental priorities, besides addressing contemporary global challenges.

#### G-20 CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISORS MEET HELD



The first meeting of the G20 roundtable conference of Chief Science Advisors was held on March 29 at the G20 summit in Ramnagar in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. Around 54 chief science advisors from 18 countries participated in the conference.

#### G-20 INFRA WORKING GROUP MEETING

A two-day meeting of the G-20 Infrastructure Working Group was held in Visakhapatnam on March 28-29. During the retreat, the delegates were introduced to Yoga, meditation, and sattvic food.

The flagship theme of the meet was "Financing Cities of Tomorrow- Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable". It discussed various facets of making cities economic centres of growth, financing urban infrastructure, and building future-ready urban infrastructure.

#### INDIA HOSTS 1st GLOBAL BUDDHIST SUMMIT

The first Global Buddhist Summit was held in New Delhi on April 20-21. It was hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with its grantee body International Buddhist Confederation. Eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world attended the summit. For the first time, prominent Buddhist monks from various countries visited India to take part in the Summit.

The theme of the Summit was "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis". The prime vision of the Summit is to look into the teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha that have been continuously enriched over the centuries with the practice of Buddha Dhamma.

#### INDIA HOSTS MEETING OF NSAs OF SCO

India hosted a meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on March 29 in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by India's NSA Ajit Kumar Doval. The meeting took up deliberations upon issues such as counter-terrorism, radicalisation and extremism, trans-national crimes such as the smuggling of narcotics, weapons, and global security issues.

#### **INDIAN TIGER POPULATION GROWS BY 6.74%**

India is now home to at least 3,167 tigers, as per the latest national tiger census 2022 estimate report released on April 9. This is a 6.74% increase from the previous census figures of 2967 estimated in 2018. India plays a critical role in the survival of tigers as it is home to an estimated 70% of the world's tiger population.

More than 32,500 cameras were used for the exercise, across 20 states and they generated 97,399 tiger photos, photographing 3,080 unique tiger individuals in the process. The total foot surveys spanned almost 6.5 lakh kilometres.

This report is only a summary report providing only minimum population numbers. Full-fledged estimates, which take into account tiger signs, prey and human presence, are still being conducted at the Wildlife Institute of India. The release of the tiger census marked 50 years of Project Tiger; a tiger conservation programme launched in 1973.

#### INDIA ELECTED TO THREE UN BODIES

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) by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. These are important subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC.

The Statistical Commission is the highest body dealing with international statistical activities and is responsible for standards setting in the field of statistics. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs supervises the application of international drug control treaties, while the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS supports and provides strategic direction for an international response to HIV/AIDS.

The ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UNO. It discusses global economic, social and environmental challenges. It coordinates the related work of UN entities and regional commissions, as well as of its subsidiary bodies, particularly its functional commissions.



INDIA 3rd IN HAVING UNICORNS



In the Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2023 released on April 18, India retained its position as the country with the world's third-largest number of unicorns after the US and China. India bagged the third spot with 68 unicorns (14 more than 2022), which is third only to the US' 666 unicorns (up 179) and China's 316 (up 15). However, none of the Indian startups made it to the top 10 list.

With a valuation of \$22 billion, ed-tech platform BYJU'S was India's top unicorn, followed by fantasy gaming platform Dream11 and food delivery platform Swiggy, both valued at \$8 billion each.

Unicorn is a startup established in the 2000s and valued at USD one billion or more.

#### INDIA GOOD FOR AI STARTUPS

According to Stanford University's annual AI Index report, India saw the fifth highest investments in 2022 in startups offering artificial intelligence (AI) based products and services. The total investments in AI startups in India in 2022 were \$3.24 billion, which puts it ahead of the likes of South Korea, Germany, Canada and Australia.

Countries that are ahead of India in the list include the US, China, UK and Israel. A major case was that of Chennai based conversational AI startup Uniphore which raised \$400 million in a Series-E Round taking its valuation to \$2.5 billion.

#### **INDIA FARES BETTER IN LOGISTICS**

The World Bank released its 2023 Logistics Performance Index report on April 23. It ranked 139 countries on the basis of their ability to move goods across borders with speed and reliability. India has climbed up to the 38th spot, from 44 in 2018.

India's logistics sector has been undergoing significant reforms in recent years, with initiatives such as the GST, the Sagarmala Project, and the Bharatmala Project aimed at improving the country's transport and logistics infrastructure. The country's improved ranking is expected to boost investor confidence and attract more foreign investment in the sector.

The index ranked Singapore at the top, followed by Finland, Denmark and Germany. At the bottom of the index was Libya, preceded by Afghanistan and Somalia.

The LPI ranks countries on six parameters - efficiency of the customs clearance process, quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure, ease of arranging shipments, competence, and quality of logistics services, ability to track and trace consignments, and frequency with which shipments reach their destination within the scheduled time.

According to LPI 2023, end-to-end supply chain digitisation, especially in emerging economies, is allowing countries to shorten port delays by up to 70% compared to those in developed countries.

#### INDIA RANKS LOW IN PASSPORT INDEX

In the Passport Index 2023 released on March 26 by financial advisory services firm Arton Capital, India slipped six places to the 144th position among the 199 countries ranked by the Index. India's mobility score also dipped to 70 in 2023 from 73 in 2022. The UAE topped the individual passport ranking with a mobility score of 181.

The Passport Index is an interactive passport ranking tool compiled by Arton Capital, based in Montreal, Canada, on the basis of access of a country's passport to other nations. Arton's Mobility Score is the total number of countries that can be accessed with a given passport.

# MARCH

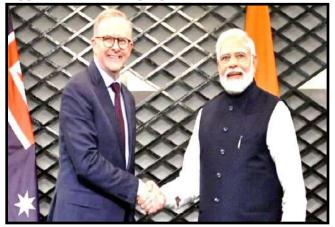
#### JAPANESE PM KISHIDA FUMIO VISITS INDIA

Prime Minister of Japan, Kishida Fumio, arrived in New Delhi on March 20 for a two-day visit to India. He participated in the Japan India Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Modi. He delivered the 41<sup>st</sup> Sapru House Lecture on March 20. The two countries are celebrating 2023 as the Tourism Exchange Year with the theme 'Connecting the Himalayas with Mount Fuji'.

Japan is holding the presidency of the G-7 group for 2023. Mr Kishida invited Mr Modi to the G-7 summit 2023 to be held in Hiroshima in May, 2023. The India-Japan partnership encompasses a wide range of areas, ranging from defence and security, trade and investment, Science and Technology, education and healthcare.



#### AUSTRALIAN PM VISITS INDIA



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese arrived in Ahmedabad on March 8 on a four-day visit to the country. Mr. Antony Albanese visited Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad and paid tribute to father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Albanese watched the first day of the fourth test match of Border Gavaskar trophy on March 9 at Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan on 10th March.

He attended the first India-Australia Annual Summit where both the countries shared their commitment towards further deepening of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Last year, both the countries had signed a free trade agreement called the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. The bilateral trade between the two countries amounts to nearly 27 billion dollars in 2021-22. Both the countries aim for 100 billion dollar trade in the next five years.

#### G-20 RIIG CONFERENCE HELD IN DIBRUGARH

G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering Conference was held on March 24-25 in Dibrugarh, Assam. The delegates deliberated on ways to create a circular bio-economy to ensure resource efficiency, sustainability, and reduction in carbon emissions. Over 103 participants, including 56 foreign delegates from 26 countries, took part in the conference.



#### NAGPUR HOSTS C-20 INCEPTION MEETING

The Civil20 India (C-20) Inception meeting was held on March 20-21 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. C-20, a part of the G-20 group, provides a platform for Civil Society Organisations around the world to voice the people's aspirations to the world leaders in G20. The deliberations at the meeting covered subjects such as Health, Lifestyle for Environment, Art and Crafts.

#### LABOUR 20 (L20) MEET HELD IN AMRITSAR

The first Labour 20 (L20) meeting was held in Amritsar on March 19-20 under the G-20 presidency of India. It comprises leaders and representatives of trade unions from G-20 countries who analyse and discuss policy recommendations aimed at addressing labour-related issues. Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, India's largest labour organisation, is hosting this meeting along with other leading trade unions of the country.

#### **GANGTOK HOSTS B-20 CONFERENCE**



Gangtok, capital of Sikkim hosted the B-20 Conference on March 16 under India's G-20 presidency. It focused on exploring business opportunities in tourism, hospitality, pharmaceuticals, and organic farming. The event brought together delegations from 22 countries and over 100 Indian delegates to showcase Sikkim's potential in these sectors.

#### **G-20 ANTI-CORRUPTION GROUP MEET**

The first Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) meeting of the G-20 was held on March 1-3 in Gurugram. Delegates deliberated on ways to trace and extradite fugitive economic offenders faster besides issues related to recovery of stolen assets. India reaffirmed unified action to ensure zero tolerance against corruption and deepen commitments towards countering graft globally.

The meeting resolved to explore proactive sharing of information, improving existing mutual legal assistance framework and simplifying mechanisms for sharing of information between domestic law enforcement authorities in criminal matters.

#### **G-20 BUSINESS CONFERENCE IN MIZORAM**



Mizoram hosted a G-20 Business Conference from March 1-3 at the Mizoram University, Aizawl. Chief Minister Zoramthanga welcomed the business delegates and diplomats from across the world. 48 business delegates and 17 diplomats, including the US, Germany, China, France and Japan participated in the Conference. The event focused on opportunities for business partnerships in areas like urban planning, infrastructure, startups, skill development, handloom and handicraft. Around 85 local startups also took part in the event.

#### G-20 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN NEW DELHI

The G-20 Foreign Ministers meeting was held on March 1-2 in New Delhi under India's presidency. The participating foreign ministers deliberated on various subjects including strengthening multilateralism and need for reforms, food and energy security, development cooperation and counter-terrorism: new and emerging threats.

#### 8th RAISINA DIALOGUE HELD IN NEW DELHI

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held from March 2 to 4 in New Delhi. Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. The theme of the 2023 Edition of Dialogue is "Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest.

The Dialogue witnessed the participation of representatives from over 100 countries including Ministers, Military Commanders, Captains of the Industry, Technology Leaders, and Scholars on Strategic Affairs.

The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy. It is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Delhi based think tank Observer Research Foundation. During the past eight years, the Raisina Dialogue has consistently grown in stature and profile to establish itself as one of the leading global conferences on international affairs.



#### INDIA-BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP PIPELINE

The first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh, the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline was inaugurated on March 18. The pipeline runs from the Siliguri-based marketing terminal of the Numaligarh Refinery Limited in West Bengal to the Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation in Dinajpur in North bangladesh.

The entire pipeline is 131.5-km long and it will transport high speed diesel (HSD) from India to Bangladesh. The Pipeline has a capacity to transport one million metric tons of HSD per annum. The supply will start on an experimental basis in June this year.

#### ASIA'S LONGEST-EVER CYCLE RACE IN INDIA



The Asia's longest-ever cycle race was flagged off on March 01 from Srinagar in J&K. The race will culminate at Kanyakumari, after covering a distance of 3,655 kilometres. The route for this cycle race will be the longest covering the National Highway-44 passing through twelve major states, three major metropolitan cities and over twenty major cities of the country.

29 cyclists including one woman took part in the race. The race has been accorded the status of Asian Ultra cycling Championship by the World Ultra cycling Association (WUCA).

#### INDIA TOPS IN IMPORT OF ARMS/AMMUNITION

A report released by the Sweden-based think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on March 13 for the five-year period 2018-2022 shows that India is the world's largest importer of weapons and military equipment, accounting for 11 per cent of all such international imports.

The report says that India has been at the top for the past 30 years. In terms of source of imports, Russia supplied 45 percent of Indian imports while France and the USA accounted for 29 and 11 per cent share, respectively. India is followed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia and China as the next four big global importers.

The US, Russia and France are the world's three biggest exporters of arms and ammunition, accounting for 40, 16 and 11 per cent global share, respectively.

INDIA SIGNS STD WITH THE USA



India and the US agreed to launch a Strategic Trade Dialogue (STD). The decision to launch the new framework of dialogue was taken on March 09 at a meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and visiting US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

The two sides concurred on the need for increased bilateral strategic and high technology trade given the shared priorities of both countries in building resilient and trusted global supply chains. The STD will address export controls, explore ways of enhancing high-technology commerce and facilitate technology transfer between the two countries.

#### **DELHI AIRPORT AMONG CLEANEST AIRPORTS**

Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi has been ranked among the cleanest airports in Asia-Pacific as a part of Airport Council International (ACI)'s annual service quality award. ACI is a trade association of global airports.

The airport service quality award is based on passenger surveys carried out to rate customer satisfaction on the day of travel. The surveys cover over 30 performance indicators across key elements of a passenger's airport experience such as ease of finding your way, check-in, shopping, and dining offerings.

#### **CEC/EC TO BE APPOINTED THROUGH PANEL**

In a historic judgement the Supreme Court ruled on March 02 that appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Elections Commissioners will be done by the President on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

This panel will be in force until a law in this regard is made by Parliament. The top court emphasised that the Election Commission has to remain aloof from all forms of subjugation by the executive.

At present, the president appoints CEC and election commissioners on the advice of the government. They have a tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

#### WB LOAN FOR GNH CORRIDORS PROJECT

The World Bank approved a \$500 million (Rs 4130 crore) loan for part funding of the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project in four States - Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The project will cover construction of 781 km of highways at a total cost of Rs. 7,662 crore.

#### \$ 1 BILLION SUPPORT FOR HEALTH SECTOR

The World Bank approved two complementary loans for India, each for \$500 million, to support and enhance the country's healthcare infrastructure. One part will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across the country.

The other part will prioritise health service delivery in seven states including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

#### INDIA SCORES VERY LOW IN HAPPINESS

In the World Happiness Report released on March 20, Finland maintained its position as the country with the happiest population for the sixth year in a row. Finland scored high in all the six factors the report uses to measure happiness: Per capita GDP, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and low corruption. Next two positions were secured by Denmark and Iceland.

India was ranked at 125<sup>th</sup> spot, making it one of the least happy countries in the world, lagging behind its neighbouring nations like Nepal, China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

At the very bottom of the list is Afghanistan at 137<sup>th</sup> rank, preceded by Lebanon. The Report, a publication of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, is based on global survey data from people in more than 150 countries.



9

#### INDIA 8th WORST IN TERMS OF AIR QUALITY



In the "World Air Quality" report, prepared by a Swiss firm, IQAir and released on March 15, India was ranked as the world's eighth most polluted country in 2022.

The annual average PM2.5 level, as per the WHO guidelines, should be 5  $\mu$ g/m3 (micrograms per cubic meter) or less but India's annual average PM2.5 level in 2022 was 53.3  $\mu$ g/m3.

Chad, Iraq, Pakistan were ranked as the three most polluted countries in 2022 with PM2.5 levels of 89.7, 80.1 and  $70.9 \mu g/m3$ , respectively.

Pakistan's Lahore was the most polluted metropolitan area of 2022, with PM2.5 level of 97.4. Bhiwadi, located 100 km south of Delhi, was ranked third and Delhi followed it closely behind, with PM2.5 levels of 92.7 and 92.6, respectively. In second place was Hotan (94.3) in China.

IQAir is a Swiss air quality technology company that prepares annual world air quality reports based on data from monitoring stations operated by governments and other institutions and organisations across the world. The 2022 report is based on PM2.5 data from 7,323 cities and 131 countries.

#### AFGHANISTAN WORST VICTIM OF TERRORISM

Sydney based Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) released the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of its Global Terrorism Index (GTI) on March 14, using data from Terrorism Tracker and other sources. The calculation of the GTI score considers not only deaths but also incidents, hostages and injuries from terrorism, weighted over a five-year period.

The GTI covered 163 countries, forming 99.7% of the world's population. In 2022, deaths from terrorism fell by 9% to 6,701 deaths. Afghanistan remained the country most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite attacks and deaths falling by 75% and 58%, respectively. Next to Afghanistan were Burkina Faso, Somalia and Mali. India was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> while Pakistan was ranked at 6<sup>th</sup> spot.

The deadliest terrorist groups in the world in 2022 were Islamic State (IS) and its affiliates, followed by Al-Shabaab (from Somalia), responsible for 1,833 and 784 deaths, respectively, in 2022.

#### INDIA PLACED LOW ON DEMOCRACY INDEX

The Electoral Democracy Index 2023 released by the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) report on March 2 placed India at 108th rank, way below countries such as Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore and Nigeria. India's ranking dipped from the 100th position in 2022 to 108th this year.

The index is topped by Denmark, followed by Sweden and Norway. The report is based on the global dataset on democracy with over 31 million data points for 202 countries from 1789 to 2022.

# **NEWS FROM STATES**

**APRIL** 

#### BENGALURU TOPS IN DIGITAL PAYMENTS

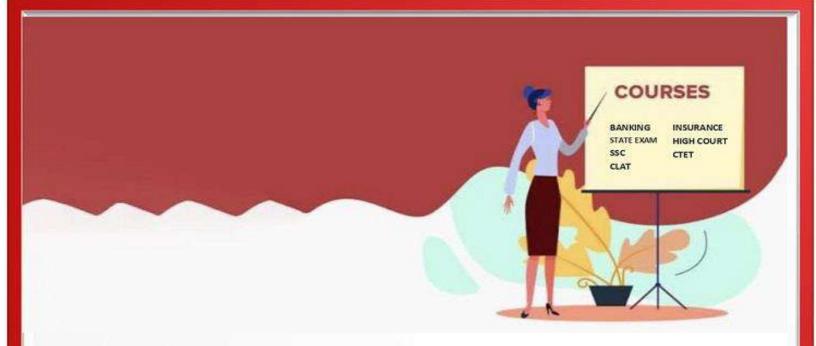
A recent report released by the Mumbai based payment services company, Worldline India, on the status of online payments in Indian cities revealed that Bengaluru recorded the highest number of digital payment transactions in 2022, with 29 million transactions worth \$65 billion. It was followed by New Delhi with 19.6 million transactions worth \$50 billion and Mumbai with 18.7 million transactions worth \$49.5 billion.

#### INDIA'S FIRST UNDERWATER METRO TUNNEL

In a first for the country, Kolkata Metro touched a milestone on April 12 by running through the 520-metre tunnel built under Hooghly River. The metro rake undertook its maiden journey on a 4.8 km underground segment from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade, with only officials and engineers on board.

Trial runs for the regular metro will be conducted for the next five to seven months, following which regular services will begin. The tunnel is 18 metre below the riverbed and 33 metre below water level.





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INDIA'S 1st SEMI-HIGH-SPEED REGIONAL RAIL



The National Capital Regional Transportation Corporation (NCRTC) announced on April 11 that the country's first semi-high-speed regional rapid rail service, between Delhi and Meerut, will be called RapidX. The 82 km long Rapid Rail Transit Services (RRTS) corridor is expected to bring down travel time between Delhi and Meerut. The RapidX will connect the people who choose to live in their hometowns in NCR with the national capital, through a modern, world-class, sustainable, convenient, fast, safe and comfortable means of travel.

#### WORLD'S 1st VULTURE CONSERVATION CENTRE

The world's first vulture conservation and breeding centre built and designed exclusively for the conservation of Asian king vulture, has been built in Uttar Pradesh in Maharajganj district. The Asian king vulture is critically endangered and protected under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Named Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre, it is spread over 1.5 hectares in the Gorakhpur Forest division and is a state-of-the-art centre, built at a cost of Rs 15 crore. It has multiple aviaries (cage for birds) for vultures, like breeding and holding aviaries, nursery aviaries for juveniles, hospital and recovery aviaries for those needing medical help.

### **WEST BENGAL TOPS IN WATER BODIES**

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the "Irrigation Census" to collect data about all the water bodies in the country. The census aimed to create a comprehensive national database of all water bodies by gathering data on all relevant factors, such as their use, size, condition, level of encroachment, and storage capacity.

As per the census data, India has 24.24 lakh water bodies like ponds, tanks and lakes, with West Bengal accounting for the most (7.47 lakh) and Sikkim the least (134). Of the total 24,24,540 water bodies enumerated in the country, 97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9% (69,485) are in urban areas.

The census defines a waterbody as "all natural or manmade water bodies bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work, used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes (example industrial, pisciculture, domestic/drinking, recreation, religious, ground water recharge etc.)"

#### KARNATAKA TOPS IN JUSTICE DELIVERY

When it comes to delivery of justice, Karnataka state fares above all. It has achieved the top rank among the 18 large and mid-sized States with populations over one crore, as per the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, released on April 4.

This report is based on overall data of 4 pillars of justice delivery namely Police, Judiciary, Prisons, and Legal Aid. Karnataka is followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana at second and third rank, respectively.

The India Justice Report is compiled by Tata Trusts along with several other data partners. This report is based on 24-month quantitative research. The rankings are combined in such a way that certain key points like infrastructure, judiciary work, human resources, prisons, legal assistance, etc. are measured appropriately.

#### MUMBAI DECLARED WORLD TREE CITY

India's commercial capital Mumbai has been included in the World Tree City 2022 list, for the second consecutive year. With this accolade, Mumbai is once again part of cities worldwide promoting best practices in urban forestry for the second time - in 2021, it shared the honour with Hyderabad.

The UN Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Arbor Day Foundation conduct the TCW programme and in the past 50 years, the ADF has planted more than 35 crore trees worldwide, with a target of 50 crore more trees by 2027.

#### INDIAN CONSTITUTION NOW IN DOGRI

First Dogri version of the Indian Constitution was released on April 08 at the University of Jammu. It is seen as a big step towards promoting linguistic diversity and preserving the cultural heritage of the country. Dogri is a language spoken in Jammu and Kashmir and is one of the 22 official languages recognized by the Indian Constitution.

The Constitution of India is amongst the world's longest-written constitutions and has guided India's nation-building process for over seven decades.



#### ASSAM-ARUNACHAL END BOUNDARY DISPUTE



The governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh signed a historic agreement April 20 for the settlement of an inter-state boundary dispute between the two States. The Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, signed the agreement in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

The agreement ends the over five decades old dispute relating to 123 villages along the 700 km long Assam - Arunachal border. Both the states agreed that this agreement will be final with regard to these disputed villages and neither of the States will make any new claim related to any area or village in the future.

#### LADAKH WOOD CARVINGS GET GI TAG

The exquisite Ladakh wood carving, also known as 'Ladakh Shingskos', has become the first handicraft from the UT to be granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag on April 4 by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Ladakh wood carving is an aesthetically vibrant art form in the Ladakh region, including the capital Leh and Kargil. Craftsmen etch floral or other patterns on wood through the dexterous use of a mallet and chisel. Importantly, all the motifs and designs with colours used in the wood carving, have very specific meanings and linkages with local culture, society and rituals. These carved items have high demand across the world, especially in Buddhist countries, for religious, cultural, and spiritual purposes.

### HARYANA RAIL NETWORK FULLY ELECTRIFIED

Indian Railways achieved a major milestone by completing the electrification of the entire railway network in Haryana state, making it the first state in the country to achieve 100% electrification of its railway network. The move will provide a more energy-efficient and eco-friendly mode of transportation while saving on costs and reducing dependence on imported crude oil. The existing broad gauge rail network in Haryana spans 1,701 route kilometres. Haryana state's territory falls under the jurisdiction of the Northern, North Central, and North Western Railways.

#### **GANDHAMARDAN GETS BIODIVERSITY TAG**

The picturesque Gandhamardan hills spread over Bolangir and Bargarh districts in Odisha, have been declared the 'biodiversity heritage site' in accordance with the provisions of the Biodiversity Act.

A treasure trove of medicinal plants, the hill system within Gandhamardan reserve forest is considered the 'Ayurvedic paradise' of the state.

This ecologically fragile ecosystem is rich in floral and faunal diversity having diverse socio-economic, ecological and biological significance for the people of Odisha. It has become the 37th biodiversity heritage site in India.

#### ASSAM GETS \$108 MN WB LOAN

The World Bank approved a \$108 million loan on March 24 to help Assam improve disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting. The project will benefit around 6 million people and is part of a larger \$500 million investment program for Assam.

**The World Bank** approved a \$100 million loan to help Odisha strengthen its early forecasting systems for improved response to disasters and enhance its social protection coverage for poor and vulnerable households.

**The World Bank** approved a \$363 million loan to Karnataka for funding provision of clean drinking water to two million rural households. The project aims to benefit around 10 million people across all 31 districts in the state.

# **MARCH**

#### KERALA FIRST TO USE ROBOTIC SCAVENGERS

The Kerala government launched a robot scavenger named Bandicoot on Feb 24 to clean sewage in the temple town Guruvayure, becoming the first state in the country to use robotic technology to clean all its operational manholes in



the entire state, putting an end to the practice of manual scavenging.

The robotic Tron Unit, which is the major component of Bandicoot, enters the manhole and removes sewage using robotic hands, similar to a man's limbs. The machine has waterproof, HD vision cameras and sensors that can detect harmful gases inside the manholes.

Bandicoot was launched in February 2018 by a group of Kerala based engineers after its successful trial run in Thiruvananthapuram for cleaning manholes clogged with plastic, filth, medical waste and sediments. Currently these are deployed in many cities across 17 states and three UTs.

#### **B'LURU HONOURED FOR ANTISMOKING DRIVE**



IT Capital of India, Bengaluru received a prestigious \$150,000 Partnership for Healthy Cities award in London on March 15 from the World Health Organisation for its tobacco control efforts, particularly reduction of smoking in public places.

Bengaluru was one among the five cities that were felicitated for their respective achievements. The other four winning cities were Athens in Greece (for efforts to reduce drug use), Mexico City (improving road safety), Montevideo in Uruguay (access to better nutrition for people) and Vancouver in Canada (making public health data more inclusive and accessible).

The awards were given during the first Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit convened in London by Bloomberg Philanthropies, World Health Organization, Vital Strategies, and Mayor Sadiq Khan of London. Founded in 2017, the Partnership for Healthy Cities is a prestigious global network of 70 cities working together to prevent NCDs and injuries.

#### MAYURBHANJ, LADAKH LISTED IN TIME'S LIST

Odisha's Mayurbhanj district and the UT of Ladakh are the two locations from India which have found place in TIME Magazine's World's Greatest Places - 2023 list of 50 extraordinary destinations to explore. Mayurbhanj has been chosen for its endangered rare black tigers, historic temples and captivating local folk dance - Chhau. Ladakh was selected for its adventures and variety of cuisine. It boasts of astonishing alpine



#### RUDRAPRAYAG TOPS IN LANDSLIDES

According to the 'Landslide Atlas' report prepared by Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO, based on satellite data collected between 1998-2022, the two hill districts of Rudraprayag and Tehri in Uttarakhand have the "maximum exposure to landslide risk in the country". They have been ranked first and second respectively among 147 districts from across the country, which are prone to landslides. They have seen the highest number of landslide incidents in the past 24 years, followed by Thrissur district in Kerala at third spot.

Apart from the two Uttarakhand districts, Rajouri and Pulwama in Jammu Kashmir, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode in Kerala, and South Sikkim, East Sikkim in Sikkim are other high-risk districts.

In terms of number of landslides in states, the highest, 12,385, were recorded in Mizoram during 1998- 2022. Uttarakhand followed it at 11,219 and Tripura, 8070. ISRO collected data for over 80,000 landslides. It may be noted that the landslides are the third most dangerous natural disaster in terms of the deaths caused.

#### HP STARTS FARMING OF MULETHI

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to begin the commercial cultivation of the popular herb Mulethi (liquorice). It started with the distribution of planting material among the farmers by the CSIR's (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) in Palampur, HP.

Mulethi (Yashtimadhu in Ayurveda) has high demand in India, which is not only used in ayurvedic medicines but as a spice also. Presently, it is largely imported from other countries, mainly from Afghanistan.

### **ODISHA WELCOMES OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES**

The eight day duration of mass nesting of endangered Olive Ridley turtles concluded on March 2 at the mouth of Rushikulya river in Odisha's Ganjam district. The area has emerged as a major rookery for the endangered turtles as a record number of over 6.37 lakh turtles laid eggs on the 3-km long beach from Podampeta to Bateshwar area near the river mouth from Feb 23 to March 2. The number of turtles laying eggs is about 86,000 more than the previous year.

Adequate number of personnel, including local people, have been engaged to keep watch on the eggs from predators. As the female turtles go back to the sea after laying eggs, predators like jackals, wild dogs, wild boars and birds hit the area to eat the eggs.

#### THANTHAI PERIYAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Tamil Nadu Government notified the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state. Christened as Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, it will be spread over 80,567 hectares. Located in district Erode, it is home to tigers, leopards, elephants, guars, wild boars and deer.

❖ Asian Development Bank approved Rs 1,311.20 crore loan for the phase-1 of the proposed infrastructure development investment programme for promoting tourism in Himachal Pradesh.

# **GOVT. INITIATIVES**

**APRIL** 

#### NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION APPROVED

The Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission on April 19 to accelerate Quantum Technologyled economic growth and leverage India into a leading nation in this segment. The Quantum Mission has been approved at a total cost of over 6,000 crore rupees for a period of six years from now. The Mission will be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology in partnership with other departments.

The aim of the mission is to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial research and development and create a vibrant and innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology. The Mission would greatly benefit communication, health, financial and energy sectors as well as drug design, and space applications.

For example, cracking the quantum technology encryption key could take almost 300 million years unlike cracking the encryptions in classical computers which are easy to crack.

The new mission targets developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50 to 1000 physical qubits in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology.

What is qubit? Just like a binary bit is the basic unit of information in conventional computing, a qubit (or quantum bit) is the basic unit of information in quantum computing. A qubit uses the quantum mechanical phenomena of superposition to achieve a linear combination of two states.

Superposition allows quantum algorithms to process information in a fraction of the time that would be taken by even the fastest current regular computers to solve certain problems. For example, a regular computer may take millions of years to find the prime factors of a 2,048-bit number while Qubits may do the same in just minutes.



#### SATHI APP FOR BETTER SEEDS



Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App on April 19. It is a Centralised Online System for seed traceability, authentication and inventory, designed to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.

SATHI portal will ensure quality assurance system, identify the source of seed in the seed production chain. The system will consist of integrated 7 verticals of the seed chain – Research Organisation, Seed Certification, Seed Licensing, Seed Catalogue, Dealer to Farmer Sales, Farmer Registration and Seed DBT. It has been developed on the theme of "Uttam Beej - Samriddh Kisan" (Good seeds, prosperous farmer)

### 'CAPTIVE EMPLOYMENT' FOR RURAL YOUTH

The Union Ministry for Rural Development has launched a unique initiative named 'CAPTIVE EMPLOYMENT' under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). The scheme aims to connect job seekers and job providers wherein job providers will train the youth as per their requirements to make them job ready.

The ministry has roped in 19 Captive Employers from fields such as hospitality, apparel & textiles, manufacturing, IT/ITeS, telecom, retail, power etc. They will provide more than 31,000 jobs to poor rural youth.

#### SOMANATHAN C'TEE TO REVIEW NPS

The Ministry of Finance has set up a four-member committee to review the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and suggest any changes in it, keeping in mind the interest of government employees. The committee will be headed by Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan.

This comes amid a number of states ditching the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and moving back to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), for their employees.

The OPS offers fixed pensions to employees after retirement, usually 50 percent of their last drawn salary and is linked with dearness allowance. NPS, meanwhile, is an investment cum pension scheme where contributions are invested in securities like debt and equity instruments. Thus, it does not guarantee fixed pensions but provides high returns in the long term, resulting in a significant lump sum and monthly pensions.

#### **SAGAR SETU APP LAUNCHED**



The government launched the App Version of National Logistics Portal (Marine) 'Sagar-Setu' on March 31. The app will facilitate one point solutions for features like a Login Module, Service Catalogue, Common Application Format, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee, Certification, Track and Trace etc.

It will provide real-time information on activities that are generally not within reach of the importer, exporter, and customs broker including vessel-related information, gate, container freight stations and transactions at fingertips.

It also enables digital transactions for payments required for the clearance process of import and export like container freight station charges, shipping line charges, transportation charges, etc. It will improve convenience with reduced turnaround time for approval and compliance.

#### **NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME**

The Government launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, New India Literacy Programme with financial outlay of over 1,000 crore rupees for implementation during the financial year 2022-23 to 2026-27. The programme has five objectives: foundational literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, vocational skills development, basic education and continuing education. The scheme aims to cover a target of five crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.

#### **GOVT TO SET UP 7,432 EV CHARGING STATIONS**

The Central Government sanctioned Rs 800 crore under FAME Scheme Phase -2 for setting up 7, 432 public fast charging stations across the country. A wide network of electric vehicle charging stations will soon be deployed across the country by Oil Marketing Companies, Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum. The installation is expected to be completed by March next year. At present, there are about six thousand 586 charging stations across the country.

FAME-Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles India Scheme was launched in 2015 to improve the infrastructure required for the large-scale use of electric vehicles.

#### ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT

Government launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project on March 25 from Tikli Village in Gurgaon district of Haryana. It is a major initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi. The Green Wall aims to check the eastward spread of desert by acting as a barrier for the dust from the west.

The Project is part of the Union Environment Ministry's vision to create green corridors across the country to combat land degradation and desertification. It will include planting native species of trees and shrubs on scrubland, wasteland and degraded forest land, along with rejuvenating and restoring surface water bodies such as ponds, lakes and streams.

The Aravallis are one of the oldest fold mountains of the world, stretching for a distance of over 700 kms in southwest-northeast direction from Himmatnagar in Gujarat to Delhi, spanning Haryana and Rajasthan, with average elevation of 300 to 900m. Guru Shikhar in Mount Abu is the highest (1722 mt) peak of the range.

# **MARCH**

#### **VEDIC HERITAGE PORTAL LAUNCHED**

The Union ministry of culture launched the Vedic Heritage portal on March 23 in New Delhi. The portal has audio-visual recordings of the four Vedas, covering over 18,000 mantras with a total duration of over 550 hours. This project has been commissioned by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Delhi.

The portal will help common man to have a general understanding about the Vedas. It will be a one-stop solution for the user, who would like to search any information regarding the Vedic heritage.

The primary aim of the portal is to communicate the messages enshrined in the Vedas and make it more accessible to the common people. The portal is expected to be a valuable resource for researchers, scholars, and anyone interested in Vedic heritage, providing them with access to a wealth of information



16

#### NOW AN APP FOR THE INCOME TAXPAYERS



The Income Tax Department launched a mobile app named AIS for taxpayers. It will facilitate the taxpayers to view their information as available in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) and Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS).

In the app, the taxpayers can view various information related to their TDS, interest, share transactions, tax payments, Income Tax refunds and GST Data, among others.

#### 7 PM MITRA PARKS TO BE SET UP

Government declared on March 17 setting up of seven PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) textile parks in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to give a big push to the sagging textiles sector. The parks are expected to provide state-of-theart infrastructure for the textiles sector, attract massive investments and create lakhs of jobs.

#### ATL SARTHI TO PROMOTE ATLS

The Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog launched a comprehensive self-monitoring framework ATL Sarthi on March 14 to strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs). NITI Aayog said that it will enable the ATLs to be more efficient and effective in enhancing their performance. ATLs have been set up in schools across the country to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds to nurture millions of young innovators in India.

#### NO IEWELLERY WITHOUT HUID FROM APRIL 1

From April 1, each piece of gold jewellery in India will have three marks – a BIS hallmark, a purity of gold mark (for example, 22K916), and a 6-digit alphanumeric HUID (Hallmark Unique Identification) embossed on it. In a press release issued on March 3, the government announced that the sale of gold jewellery without a HUID number will not be allowed from April 1 onwards. Anyone can get existing jewellery hallmarked to know the true value.

The introduction of HUID aims to offer transparency, and ensures consumers' rights and obviates the chances of Inspector Raj. Customers can verify HUID alphanumeric code on the BIS Care mobile app to beware of fake mark, if any.

#### **COES LAUNCHED FOR HORTICULTURE**

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), under the union ministry of agriculture approved establishment of three Centers of Excellence (CoEs) to serve as demonstration and training centres for latest technologies in the field of horticulture.

These CoEs will serve as a source of planting material for fruits and vegetable seedlings for protected cultivation and will promote transfer of technology and knowhow in diverse areas, such as post-harvest management, irrigation and fertigation (injection of fertilisers), plant protection, pollination etc.

The approved CoEs include-

- CoE for Kamlam (Dragon Fruit): At Experimental station, Hirehalli, Bengaluru by Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru.
- CoE for Mango and Vegetables under Indo-Israel Action Plan at Panikoili, Jajpur District, Odisha.
- iii. CoE for Vegetables and Flowers under Indo-Israel Action Plan at Govt. Agricultural Farm, Ponda, South Goa.

#### 'VAIBHAV' FELLOWSHIPS TO ATTRACT TALENT

The government unveiled a fellowship on Feb 28 to attract Indian-origin researchers to higher educational institutions in the country. Named 'Vaibhav', it aims to improve the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations with the best institutions in the world through mobility of researchers from overseas institutions to India. Researchers from institutions featuring in the top 500 QS World University Rankings will be eligible for the fellowship.

The fellowship offers NRI researchers an opportunity to work for a minimum of one month to a maximum of two months a year with a research institution or an academic institution in India. The duration of the fellowship is three years with the government offering the researchers an amount of up to Rs 37 lakh for the entire period.



17

#### **BRAHMA KUMARIS TO PROMOTE NMBA**



Department of Social Justice and Empowerment signed an MoU in New Delhi, with the Prajapati Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu (Rajasthan) on March 4 for spreading the message of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, NMBA, among youth, women and students. It is expected that participation of spiritual leaders will not only increase the outreach of the mission, but also help people keep distance from intoxication through spiritual enlightenment.

NMBA is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, currently operational in 372 districts of the country, aimed at creating awareness about ill effects of drug abuse among the youth.

# **ECONOMY & INDUSTRY**

APRIL

#### **UN REPORT SLASHES GROWTH RATE TO 6%**

As per the latest Trade and Development Report Update released by the UN Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD) on April 12, India's economic growth is projected to decelerate to 6 per cent in 2023 from 6.6 per cent in 2022. The report said that though export orders remain on the rise, but current government spending has been weakening, so India's GDP growth is projected to decelerate to 6.0 per cent in 2023. Further, the positive effect of high public and private investment and consumption as well as rising exports was partly offset by higher energy import bills.

### **IMF PIPS INDIA'S GROWTH RATE TO 5.9%**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its annual World Economic Outlook released on April 11, lowered India's economic growth projection for the current fiscal (2023-24) to 5.9% from 6.1% projected earlier. Even at this rate, India will continue to be the fastest-growing economy in the world.

The Outlook mentioned that "On the surface, the global economy appears to be poised for a gradual recovery from the powerful blows of the pandemic and Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine."

#### GDP TO GROW BY 6.3% - WORLD BANK

The World Bank in its India Development Update released on April 4, stated that India's GDP growth is expected to moderate to 6.3%, as against earlier estimate of 6.6%, due to moderation in consumption in FY24, combined with challenging external conditions. With regard to inflation, the World Bank Report expects it to ease to 5.2 per cent, against 6.6 per cent in the current fiscal.

#### **S&P RETAINS INDIA'SS GDP GROWTH AT 6%**

New York based credit rating agency S&P Global Ratings released its quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific on March 27, wherein it kept its forecast for India's economic growth unchanged at 6% in the fiscal year starting April 1, 2023. However, it saw India's GDP likely growing by 7% in the current financial year ending March 31 (2022-23).

The agency observed that "In India, domestic demand has traditionally led the economy. But it has become more sensitive to the global cycle lately, in part due to rising commodity exports."

#### MINIRATNA STATUS TO SOLAR ENERGY CORP.

Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, was given the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) on April 10. Incorporated in the year 2011, SECI is the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes/projects of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy towards fulfilment of India's international commitments.

The CPSEs which have made profit in the last three years continuously, have pre-tax profit of Rs. 30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth, are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.

Grant of Ratna status is governed by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) in the Ministry of Finance. It has three categories, viz. Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna, in the descending order of status.



#### USA-INDIA'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER



Backed by improved economic ties, America emerged as India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23. Provisional data released by the Ministry of Commerce showed that the bilateral trade between India and the US increased by 7.65 per cent to \$128.55 billion in 2022-23.

Experts commented that increasing exports of goods such as pharmaceutical, engineering and gems and jewellery is helping India to push its shipments to America. Meanwhile, India's bilateral trade with China decreased by approximately 1.5%, reaching \$113.83 billion in 2022-23, down from \$115.42 billion in the previous year.

#### **NSE LAUNCHES TWO NEW INDEXES**

NSE Indices Ltd, an arm of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), launched on April 11 the country's first-ever Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts index — Nifty REITs and InvITs Index, respectively. The index aims to track the performance of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded on the NSE.

A real estate investment trust (REIT) or an infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) is an investment vehicle that owns revenue-generating real estate or infrastructure assets. REITs invest in real estate projects, whereas InvITs invest in infrastructure projects with a long gestation period. Through these trusts, investors get exposure to diversified regular income-generating real estate and infrastructure assets.



#### FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2023 ANNOUNCED

The Foreign Trade Policy 2023 was released on March 31 stating that it is dynamic and has been kept open ended to accommodate the emerging needs of the time. The Policy aims at raising the country's outward shipments to \$2 trillion by 2030, making Indian rupee a global currency and incentivising e-commerce exports. India's overall exports, including services and merchandise exports, has already crossed \$ 750 billion and is expected to cross \$ 760 billion March 31, 2023.

Unlike the practice of five-year FTPs, this time the government has come out with a dynamic and responsive trade policy without any end date, and will be updated as per the emerging global scenario.

The Key Approach to the policy is based on 4 pillars: (i) Incentive to Remission, (ii) Export promotion through collaboration among Exporters, States, Districts and Indian Missions abroad, (iii) Ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives and (iv) Emerging Areas – E-Commerce, Developing Districts as Export Hubs and streamlining SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies) policy.

## MARCH

GDP GROWTH SLOWS DOWN TO 4.4%



Official data released on Feb 28 by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed that India's Gross Domestic Production registered a growth of 4.4% in the October-December quarter of the current fiscal. However, it slowed down from 5.4% in the same quarter last year. The main factor behind the slow down was lower manufacturing output which shrank by 1.1 per cent in the third quarter, the second straight contraction reflecting weakness in consumer demand and exports.

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said, "The growth momentum carried on in October-December and it was the base effect which resulted in a GDP growth rate of 4.4 percent". GDP in the third quarter of 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 40.19 lakh crore, as against Rs 38.51 lakh crore in the third quarter of 2021-22, showing a growth of 4.4 percent. Overall, the real GDP is estimated to grow at 7 percent in 2022-23 as compared to 9.1 percent in 2021-22.

### MOODY'S RAISES GDP GROWTH RATE TO 5.5%



In its February update to Global Macro Outlook 2023-24, released on March 01, Moody's Investors Service raised India's economic growth estimate for 2023 to 5.5% from 4.8% pegged earlier, on the back of a sharp increase in capital expenditure in the Budget and a resilient economic momentum. The sharp increase in capital expenditure Budget allocation to Rs 10 trillion, was up from Rs 7.5 trillion for the year ending in March 2023.

#### PCI RISES TO RS. 1.72 LAKH

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on March 05, the annual per capita (net national income) at current prices is estimated at Rs. 1,72,000 in 2022-23, up from Rs. 86,647 in 2014-15, suggesting an increase of about 99 percent in the past eight years. The data shows that the per capita income dipped during the Covid period, both in real and nominal terms, but it picked up in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

However, the uneven income distribution remains a challenge. The per capita income shows only the average income of Indians. The averages mask the rising inequalities. Rising concentration of incomes at the high end means incomes of those at the lower rung of the income ladder may not be changing much.

#### ISPL TO MAKE FIRE-RESISTANT STEEL

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) became the first steel company to receive BIS certification to manufacture India's first fire-resistant steel structures at its rail mill in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. The BIS 15103 grade steel structural steels are designed to withstand temperatures up to 600 degrees celsius for 3 hours. This steel is being imported at present.

The new BIS 15103 grade steel will be used to manufacture steel structures for infrastructure projects such as industrial structures, refineries, bridges, metro projects, hospitals, and commercial and residential buildings, besides steel and power plants.

# **BANKING & FINANCE**

**APRIL** 

#### RBI GUIDELINES FOR 'GREEN DEPOSITS'

With a view to foster and develop a green finance ecosystem in India, the Reserve Bank has put in place on April 11 a framework for acceptance of Green Deposits. As per the framework, entities regulated by RBI can accept green deposits from customers and the proceeds shall be allocated for projects undertaken in sectors like renewable energy, energy efficiency, promoting climate resilience, and improvement of natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

RBI has said that banks can decide on the tenor, size, and interest rate of deposits as per norms. On maturity, customers will have the option of renewing or withdrawing the green deposits. RBI has clarified that the green deposits shall be accepted in Indian Rupees only.

#### CGTMSE G'TEE LIMIT RAISED TO Rs. 5 CRORE

The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro & Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) announced a revamped credit guarantee scheme for the micro and small enterprises. It came into effect from April 1, 2023.

CGTMSE is jointly set up by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

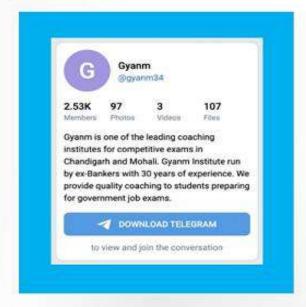
It aims to provide guarantee cover to banks so that they can easily provide credit to Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs) up to Rs. five crore, without asking for any collateral or third party guarantee from the borrower. Consequently, the corpus of CGTMSE has been infused with a sum of Rs 8,000 crore on March 30, 2023 to enable it to provide enhanced guarantee amount.

The CGTMSE also slashed the annual guarantee fee for loans up to Rs 1 crore from the peak 2 per cent to 0.37 percent, reducing the overall cost of credit for small businesses. Further, for settlement of claims in respect of guarantees for loan outstanding up to Rs 10 lakh, initiation of legal proceedings will no longer be required.





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#### RBI TO LAUNCH "PRAVAAH" PORTAL



With a view to simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance within laid down time limits to decide the applications under various regulations, RBI has decided to develop a secured web-based centralised portal named as 'PRAVAAH' (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And Authorisation) which will gradually extend to all types of applications made to RBI across all functions.

The portal will display the timeframes for deciding on applications and approvals, leading to greater effectiveness in regulatory processes and making it easier for regulated entities to do business with RBI.

#### RBI DECIDES NOT TO CHANGE REPORATE

The Reserve Bank of India decided to make no change in repo rate (basic interest rate) on the expectations of lower inflation in the coming months due to past six successive rate hikes since May 2022. The decision made by the Monetary Policy Committee was announced on April 6.

The RBI expects the real GDP growth for 23-24 to be 6.5 per cent. This projection is slightly higher than the World Bank's latest expectations of 6.3% and the ADB's forecast of 6.4%.

## **MARCH**

#### RBI GRANTS IFC STATUS TO IREDA

The Reserve Bank of India granted an "Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)" status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) on March 13. It was earlier classified as 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'. With the IFC status, IREDA will be able to take higher exposure in RE financing and access a wider investor base for fund mobilisation.

The recognition of IREDA as an IFC will increase the investors' confidence, enhance the brand value, and generate a positive outlook in the market. IREDA is a Mini Ratna Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. It has been promoting, developing and financing new and renewable sources of energy since 1987 with the motto: "Energy for Ever".

#### VIRTUAL ASSET DEALS COVERED UNDER PMLA

In a gazette notification issued March 7, the Finance Ministry said that the exchange and transfer of virtual digital assets (VDA) will be covered under provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

According to the Act, financial institutions must keep records of all VDA related transactions and provide this information when sought by the authorities and such records have to be maintained for a minimum period of five years. They will now be required to perform KYC of their clients and users of the platform.

Besides, the safekeeping or administration of VDA and the participation in financial services related to the offer and sale of VDA will also come under the preview of the Act. The step has been taken to tighten misuse of VDA.

According to the Income Tax Act, a VDA refers to any information, code, number, or token generated through cryptographic means. The govt has warned investors against participating in transactions involving VDA.

#### **AXIS BANK ACQUIRES CITI'S RETAIL BUSINESS**

Axis Bank completed the acquisition of Citibank's retail business in India on March 01 for Rs 11,603 crore in cash. The deal covers the American bank's consumer businesses in India— spanning loans, credit cards, wealth management and retail banking but excludes institutional client businesses.

Through this deal the Axis Bank will get a high-quality portfolio of 18 lakh cardholders, with industry-leading transactions and spends per card. It will also get Rs 39,900 crore of aggregate deposits.

# **DEFENCE, SCIENCE**& TECHNOLOGY

APRII

### **BDL LAUNCHES ADVANCED ATGM-AMOGHA III**

Bharat Dynamics Ltd, (BDL, a public sector defence unit in Hyderabad, successfully conducted a field firing test of its latest 3rd generation man-portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Amogha-III on March 26. It has a fire-and-forget capability, meaning the missile does not require external intervention once it is launched.

It operates on dual mode seeker – the first mode captures high-resolution images of the target to locate it and the second mode uses the target's infrared radiation signature to guide the missile right on target.

Amogha-III showcases a tandem warhead, consisting of two separate explosive charges that are detonated in sequence. The first charge, known as the precursor charge, penetrates the target's armour, creating a hole for the second charge, the main charge, to detonate inside, maximising damage inflicted on the target.

Wing Commander Deepika Misra: She became the first woman Air Force officer, a trained helicopter pilot, to receive a gallantry medal, Vayu Seva Medal for showing exemplary courage and dedication in flood relief operations in 2022 in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, rescuing 47 persons. She received the medal from Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on April 20 at an investiture ceremony held in New Delhi.



**Iniochos 23:** Indian Air Force's fighter jets participated in the annual Greek exercise Iniochos 23 held in Greece from April 18 to 28. Five Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets from the Indian side took part in the exercise.

**Exercise Orion:** An Indian Air Force contingent participated in the multi-nation air exercise hosted by France at their Air Force base in Mont-de-Marsan in south-western France. Starting on April 17, the exercise concluded on 5th May. Air Force units from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, UK, Spain and the USA participated in the exercise.

Exercise Cope India 23: The Indian Air Force and the United States Air Force started this 11-day exercise on April 10. It was held at Panagarh and Kalaikunda Air Force Stations in West Bengal and Agra Air Force Station in Uttar Pradesh. The exercise aims to enhance mutual understanding between the two Air Forces and share their best practices.

**Ex-KAVACH:** India's only tri-services joint unit, Andaman & Nicobar Command, conducted a joint military exercise on April 5 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The joint service exercise aimed to finetune joint warfighting capabilities and operational synergy.

**SLINEX-2023:** The 10th Edition of Indian and Sri Lanka Navies annual bilateral maritime exercise was held at Colombo from April 3 to 8. The exercise is being conducted in two phases of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by the Sea Phase. The Harbour Phase included sports fixtures, yoga sessions and cultural events in Colombo while the Sea Phase shared operational expertise of both the navies.

**Exercise Prasthan:** Indian Navy, other defence units, state and civilian agencies conducted this exercise on the Greatdrill Chaaya platform (floating oil drilling rig), about 30 nm South West of Mumbai harbour. The exercise is held every six months to validate measures and procedures to address contingencies that may occur in oil production platforms.

#### ISRO LAUNCHES 2 SINGAPOREAN SATELLITES

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched two satellites of Singapore into space onboard its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) on April 22 afternoon from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota. Both the satellites were placed precisely into their intended 586 km circular orbit.

The two satellites included big TeLEOS-2, a Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite and the Lumelite-4, a technology demonstration nano-satellite. The two satellites combined weight was around 757 kilograms.

#### INDIA TO HAVE HER OWN LIGO OBSERVATORY

The Union Cabinet approved a project on April 6 to build an advanced gravitational-wave detector in Hingoli, Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs 2,600 crore. The project is a collaboration between a consortium of Indian research institutions and the U.S. observatories, plus several international partners. The project will be a big boost in a number of cutting-edge frontiers of great national relevance, in particular in quantum-sensing and metrology.

The observatory will be only the third of its kind in the world, made to the exact specifications of the twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatories (LIGO), in Louisiana and Washington in the USA. The Indian LIGO will work in tandem with them.

The LIGO is a giant L-shaped instrument, each arm of which is 4 km long. Two laser pulses are shot through each arm at the same time to facilitate the study of gravitational waves. Gravitational waves are emitted by very massive objects in the universe in extreme environments, such as when two black holes collide.



#### ISRO ACHIEVES LANDING OF RLV



The Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO successfully carried out the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Autonomous Landing Mission on April 2. A Chinook helicopter carried the RLV to a height of 4.5 kms and released it in mid-air.

The RLV performed the landing manoeuvres at 350 kilometres per hour speed, using the integrated navigation, guidance and control system and completed autonomous landing on the air strip at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka. With that, ISRO successfully achieved the autonomous landing of a space vehicle.

In a first in the world, a winged body has been carried to an altitude of 4.5 km by a helicopter and released for carrying out an autonomous landing on a runway.

#### NASA CHOPPER CREATES RECORDS ON MARS

Ingenuity, the micro helicopter of NASA on Mars for nearly two years now, flew faster and higher than it ever had before, on April 2. The 4-pound (1.8 kilograms) chopper created two new records; reaching the highest top speed of 23.3 kph and a maximum altitude of 16 metres.

## MARCH

#### E-WARFARE SYSTEM 'PROJECT HIMSHAKTI'

The Defence Ministry signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad on March 24 for the procurement of two Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems 'Project Himshakti' at an overall cost of about three thousand crore rupees.

The project will generate employment of approximately three lakh man-days over a period of two years. The project is a significant leap forward in developing indigenous capabilities.

INS Androth: Indian Navy's second anti-submarine warfare (ASW) warship INS 'Androth' was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata on March 21 for its first touch with water. The ship, an Arnala class corvette, is designed to undertake antisubmarine operations, low intensity maritime operations and mine-laying operations, including surveillance.

**Army Chief General Manoj Pande** presented the prestigious President's Standard or 'Nishan' to four armoured regiments of the Army on March 25 at an event in Suratgarh, Rajasthan. The regiments included 49, 51, 53 and 54 Armoured Regiments.

The President's Colour Award is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military unit of India. Also known as 'Nishaan', it is an emblem that is worn by all unit officers on the left-hand sleeve of their uniform.

**The President of India** awarded the prestigious President's Colours to the Indian Navy's gunnery school INS Dronacharya on March 16 at Fort Kochi, Kerala.

#### **DRDO TESTS VSHORADS MISSILES**

The DRDO conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles on March 14 at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha. The flight tests were carried out from a ground-based man portable launcher against high-speed unmanned aerial targets (drones etc.), mimicking approaching and receding aircraft. These missiles aim to neutralise low altitude aerial threats at short ranges.

#### FIRST NAVAL COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE

The first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference of 2023 was held on 06 Mar onboard the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. The conference served as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important security issues at the military-strategic level as well as interact with Senior Government functionaries through an institutionalised forum.

#### IAF TO GET 6 DORNIER-228 AIRCRAFTS

The Ministry of Defence signed a contract for procurement of six Dornier-228 aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru at a cost of 667 crore rupees. The aircraft is used by IAF for transport and communication duties and also for training of transport pilots.



#### IAF TO GET HTT-40 TRAINER AIRCRAFTS



The Union Cabinet approved on March 01 the acquisition of 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircrafts from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) for a whopping ₹6.828.36 crore.

The Indian Air Force will use HTT-40 aircraft for basic flight training, aerobatics, instrument flying and close formation flights, with secondary roles including navigation and night flying. The aircraft will be supplied over a period of six years. The new aircraft will complement the existing basic training fleet of Swissmade PC-12 Mark II aircrafts.

Yard 75 (LSAM 7), a Missile cum Ammunition Barge, was launched on Feb 24 at Visakhapatnam for the Indian Navy. Built by M/s SECON, Visakhapatnam, it will provide impetus to operational commitments of the Navy by facilitating transportation, embarkation and disembarkation of articles / ammunition to naval ships.

**Colonel Geeta Rana:** For the first time a woman officer has taken over the command of an independent unit in the sensitive Ladakh sector where India and China have been locked in a lingering border row for almost three years. Col. Rana joined the India army in 2,000 as a commissioned officer.

**Group Captain Shaliza Dhami,** has become the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to command a front-line combat unit. Dhami, commissioned as helicopter pilot in 2003, will command a missile squadron in the Western sector. A Group Captain in the IAF is equivalent to a Colonel in the Army.

#### **EXERCISES**

**AFINDEX 2023:** The 10-day Africa-India Field Training Exercise was conducted in Pune, from March 21-30 to strengthen the military ties between the countries. 20 African countries took part in the exercise.

**Konkan 2023:** The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain conducted a joint maritime exercise from March 20 to 22, off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.

**Exercise Cobra Warrior:** An Indian Air Force contingent comprising 145 Air Warriors participated in the multilateral air exercise at the Waddington Air Force Base in the United Kingdom. The exercise was held from March 6 to 24. Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, USA, Singapore and Britain participated in the exercise.

Exercise Sea Dragon 23: A P8I aircraft of the Indian Navy participated in the third edition of the coordinated multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise conducted by the US Navy off the coast of Guam Island in the West Pacific Ocean. Units from Japan, Canada and S Korea also took part in the exercise. The exercise scheduled from 15-30 Mar, focused on coordinated ASW amongst the participating countries.

#### COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE

The Indian Coast Guard conducted a three-day exercise on March 14-16 with five nations under the aegis of the Colombo Security Conclave off the Kolkata coast. Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Mauritius, along with observer countries — Bangladesh and Seychelles, participated in the drill.

**Exercise La Perouse:** A multilateral naval exercise between navies of India, Australia, Japan, France and USA was hosted by the French Navy in the Indian Ocean area on March 13 and 14. The exercise, conducted every two years, aims to improve maritime domain awareness and maritime cooperation among the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region.

Maritime Partnership Exercise: Indian Navy participated in joint naval exercise with the French Navy in the Arabian Sea on March 10-11. The exercise witnessed a wide spectrum of evolutions at sea which included cross deck landings, boarding exercises and seamanship evolutions.

**Vayu Prahar:** The Indian Army and the Indian Air force conducted a multi-domain air-land exercise in the eastern theatre to validate plans to execute a synergised operation. The exercise was held in the second week of March.



#### **Exercise Desert Flag VIII:**



An Indian Air Force contingent of 110 Air Warriors participated in the multilateral air exercise at Al Dahfra air base of UAE. This is the first occasion when the LCA Tejas will participate in an international flying exercise outside India. Air Force contingents from several other countries including Australia, UK, and USA also participated in the exercise held from Feb 27 to March 17.

**FRINJEX-23:** The maiden joint military exercise between Indian and French Army was conducted on March 7-8 at Pangode Military Station, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. The exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability, coordination and cooperation between both forces at tactical level.

**Operation Bold Kurukshetra:** The Singapore Army and Indian Army conducted a bilateral armour training exercise from March 6–13, in Jodhpur Military Station in Rajasthan.

**Exercise Shinyuu Maitri:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) conducted the joint air exercise on March 01 and 02 at Komatsu, Japan. The exercise was aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability between the two air forces.

**TROPEX 2023:** Indian Navy's major operational level exercise for the year 2023, conducted across the Indian Ocean from Nov. 2022 - Mar 2023, culminated on March 08 in the Arabian Sea. TROPEX 23 covered an area of over 21 million square nautical miles in the Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. Around 70 Indian Navy ships, six submarines and over 75 aircraft took part in the exercise.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

#### ISRO LAUNCHES 36 ONEWEB SATELLITES

India's LVM-3 (launch vehicle mark III) lifted off successfully with 36 satellites of the One Web India-2 mission from Sriharikota on March 26. The 43-metretall launch vehicle successfully completed the three stages in the prescribed time limit including the involvement of the ignition of the cryogenic engine.

The OneWeb constellation is a network of satellites around the planet that are aimed at providing broadband connectivity across the world. The OneWeb is a UK based tele satellite company.

#### INDIA LAUNCHES ASIA'S BIGGEST LMT

Asia's largest International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) with 4-metre diameter was inaugurated on March 21 at Devasthal Observatory at the Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) near Nainital in Uttarakhand. It is also the first liquid mirror telescope designed exclusively for astronomical observations and is also the first optical survey telescope in India.

The ILMT employs a 4-metre-diameter rotating mirror made up of a thin layer of liquid mercury, to collect and focus light. The metal mercury is in liquid form at room temperature and at the same time highly reflective, making it ideal for forming such a mirror. While scanning the strip of the sky every night, the telescope will generate nearly 10-15 Gigabytes of data.

#### ISRO RECEIVES NISAR FROM NASA

The ISRO received from NASA the NISAR - NASA-ISRO SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite in Bengaluru on March 8. NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO. According to ISRO, NISAR will map the entire Earth in 12 days and provide spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystems. It will scan features such as glaciers, ice sheets, vegetation biomass, sea level rise, groundwater and natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides.

NISAR carries L and S dual-band (SAR), which operates with the Sweep SAR technique to achieve large swaths with high-resolution data. The SAR payloads mounted on Integrated Radar Instrument Structure (IRIS) and the spacecraft bus are together called an observatory.

The final integration of the satellite will be carried out at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, and ISRO is looking to launch the satellite in 2024 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.



#### TII LAUNCHES LATEST GPT - FALCON LLM



The Technology Innovation Institute, a leading global scientific research centre in Abu Dhabi, UAE launched on March 14 the "Falcon LLM," a foundational "large language model" (LLM) with 40 billion parameters. It outperforms GPT3 as it is trained on one trillion tokens. The model uses only 75 percent of GPT-3's training computer, 40 percent of Chinchilla's, and 80 percent of PaLM-62B's capacity.

LLMs can be used in a wide range of applications, such as chatbots, virtual assistants, language translation, content generation, and sentiment analysis.

#### **GPT-4 CAN DO ANYTHING (ALMOST)**

San Francisco based American AI company, OpenAI, in its effort to scale up deep learning, released GPT-4 on March 14, the latest version of its hugely popular artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT. GPT-4, like ChatGPT, is a type of generative artificial intelligence that uses algorithms and predictive text to create new content based on prompts.

It is a large multimodal model that can respond to images (e.g. providing recipe suggestions from photos of ingredients) as well as writing captions and descriptions.

It exhibits near human-level performance on various professional and academic benchmarks. Popular requests for it include writing songs, poems, marketing copy, computer code, and helping with homework - although teachers say students shouldn't use it.

#### AND NOW- A VISUAL CHATBOT

Researchers from Microsoft have unveiled "Kosmos-1", a multimodal large language model (MLLM), having state of the art features like responding to language prompts, image captioning, visual question answering, and more. Kosmos-1 model can analyse images for content, solve visual puzzles, perform visual text recognition, pass visual IQ tests, and understand natural language instructions.



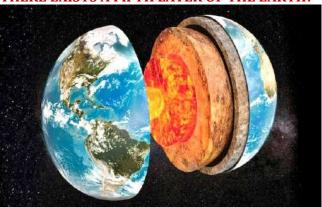
#### META'S LLAMA TO COUNTER CHATGPT

Social media giant Meta released its own version of ChatGPT by the name of LLaMA (Large Language Model Meta AI) on Feb 24. Meta claimed that LLaMA, a 65 billion parameters LLM, is virtually a pocket dynamite. It achieves competitive results with some of the best models currently available, while being much smaller and remarkably more efficient.

Unlike ChatGPT, Bard, or Bing, Meta's new LLaMA is not a conversation chatbot. It is a state-of-the-art foundational large language model that is aimed to help researchers advance their work.

Large language models are natural language processing systems with more than 100 billion parameters that can generate creative text, solve maths problems, can answer reading comprehension questions, and much more.

#### THERE EXISTS A FIFTH LAYER OF THE EARTH?



Scientists have excavated a new secret from the Earth's inner world. The researchers, in a new study, have confirmed the existence of a fifth new layer. The four known layers of the Earth include the crust, mantle, outer liquid and inner solid core. Seismologists from the Australian National University believe they have documented evidence of the fifth layer - a solid metallic ball that sits within the inner core.

The fifth layer is made of iron and nickel, the same materials that comprise the rest of the inner core. The inner core as a whole was liquid in the early years of the Earth's existence, turning into a solid as the Earth cooled.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**APRIL** 

#### STEEP RISE IN MILITARY EXPENDITURE



According to the Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2022, released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on April 24, total global military expenditure rose by 3.7 per cent in real terms in 2022, to reach a record high of \$2.24 trillion. Global spending grew by 19 per cent over the decade 2013–22 and has risen every year since 2015.

Military expenditure in Europe saw its steepest year-onyear increase of 13% in at least 30 years. The three largest spenders in 2022—the United States, China and Russia—accounted for 56 per cent of the world total. India's military spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world. It was 6.0 per cent more than in 2021. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a major driver of the growth in spending in 2022.

#### VIRGINIA ADDS SIKHI TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In the USA, Virginia became the 17th state to include Sikhi, or the Sikh faith, in their school curriculum. The Virginia State Board of Education voted on April 20 in favour of new History and Social Science Standards of Learning, which for the first time ever includes Sikhism. The new standards will give more than a million students in Virginia the opportunity to learn about the Sikh community.

Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world and the community has contributed to American society for over 125 years in the fields of civil rights, politics, agriculture, engineering, and medicine.



#### **GERMANY SAYS 'NO' TO NUCLEAR POWER**

In a long-awaited move, Germany finally switched off its last three nuclear power reactors on April 15, completely exiting atomic power. The shutdown of Emsland, Neckarwestheim II and Isar II reactors marked the end of the nuclear power era in Germany. These three plants provided just six percent of Germany's energy last year.

The German government has acknowledged that, in the short term, the country will have to rely more heavily on polluting coal and natural gas to meet its energy needs, even as it takes steps to massively ramp up electricity production from solar and wind.

Advocates of nuclear power worldwide have slammed the German shutdown, pleading that the move by Europe's biggest economy could deal a blow to a technology they tout as a clean and reliable alternative to fossil fuels.

#### **IMF PREDICTS WORLD GROWTH AT 3%**

In an alarming statement on April 6, the International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva said the world economy is expected to grow less than 3% this year, down from 3.4% last year, increasing the risk of hunger and poverty globally.

The IMF head said persistently high interest rates, a series of bank failures in the US and Europe, and deepening geopolitical divisions are threatening global financial stability.

#### WTO HIKES WORLD TRADE GROWTH TO 1.7%

The World Trade Organisation revised on April 5 its global trade growth outlook for 2023 upwards to 1.7% from last October's estimate of 1% even as the war in Ukraine, stubbornly high inflation, tighter monetary policy and financial uncertainty continue to be a worry.

Higher commodity prices helped the value of world merchandise trade rise 12% in 2022 to \$25.3 trillion, the WTO said. With this, the trade growth is below the 12-year average of 2.6% since the trade collapse that followed the global financial crisis in 2008.

#### FINLAND JOINS NATO AS 31st MEMBER

Finland has become the 31st member of NATO, thanks to Turkey's unanimous vote on March 30. Finland was admitted into NATO on April 4.

Despite Russia's opposition to Finland's membership, Turkey's approval allowed NATO to admit Finland as a regular member. Finland shares a long border of over 1,300 kilometres with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in Feb 2022.

NATO - the North Atlantic Treaty Organization - was formed in 1949 by 12 countries, including the US, UK, Canada and France. Based in Brussels, Belgium, it currently has 31 members. Any Nato expansion needs the support of all its members. The organisation's original goal was to challenge Russian expansion in Europe after World War II. One of NATO's founding principles is the principle of collective defence - meaning an attack on one member nation is treated as an attack on all of them.

AZERBAIJAN & TAJIKISTAN 'MALARIA FREE'



The World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Azerbaijan and Tajikistan as malaria-free for eliminating the Anopheles mosquito-borne disease in their territories. The declaration came on March 29 after an extensive, century-long campaign by the two nations to eradicate the disease

The WHO certifies a country as malaria-free, typically when the latter can provide evidence showing the malaria transmission cycle has been broken for at least the last three years. With the latest announcement, the WHO officially declared 41 countries and one territory, including 21 countries in the European Region, malaria-free.

### **MARCH**

#### SILICON VALLEY BANK FAILS IN USA

California based Silicon Valley Bank, the 16th largest in the USA, which served mostly technology workers and venture capital-backed companies, collapsed on March 10, marking the largest failure of a U.S. financial institution since the 2008 financial crisis.

One of the reasons it suffered the sudden failure was the overall turmoil in the technology and crypto start-up world due to factors such as mass layoffs, and economic slowdown. The bank had 209 billion dollars in assets and 175 billion dollars in deposits at the time of failure. Two days later, New York-based Signature Bank was shut down by regulators, making it the second major bank failure in a matter of days. Signature Bank had deposits totaling approximately \$88.59 billion as of December 31, 2022.



#### CREDIT SUISSE NEXT BIG BANK TO SUCCUMB

Credit Suisse, second biggest bank in Switzerland, next only to UBS Group AG, became another big bank to succumb to the financial crisis. The development is being seen as a fallout of the Silicon Valley Bank failure, as it led to a big fall in share prices of banks across the world. Credit Suisse was no exception and its share price fell 26 per cent in the last week.

With a view to check the falling customer confidence in the global banking system, the Swiss regulators negotiated a deal with the rival UBS Group AG to take over the ailing bank. UBS agreed on March 19 to take over Credit Suisse AG for \$3.25 billion. According to a report by the Wall Street Journal, the deal would create a banking behemoth which will account for over 30 percent of Switzerland's domestic loans and deposits.

#### **BHUTAN IS NO MORE A LDC**

The landlocked Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan was recently removed from the list of LDCs (Least Developed Countries), becoming only the seventh country to do so. The decision was taken at the



United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC) Summit, which concluded on March 9 in Doha, Qatar. Bhutan was included in the first group of LDCs in 1971. Bhutan's removal from the LDC list will be effective after December 2023. It is expected to provide several benefits, including increased access to international financial markets, increased foreign direct investment, and improved trade opportunities for Bhutan.

There are currently 46 economies designated by the United Nations as the least developed countries (LDCs), entitling them to preferential market access, aid, special technical assistance, and capacity-building on technology among other concessions.

#### **UN MEMBERS SIGN HIGH SEAS TREATY**

In a historic step towards protection of the world's oceans, the UN on March 04 finalised the text of a treaty which ensures the sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond the national jurisdiction. The High Seas Treaty signed in New York by the UN Members is being seen as a "breakthrough" that came after nearly two decades of negotiations.

The historic treaty is crucial for enforcing the 30x30 pledge made by countries on Dec 19, 2022 at the UN biodiversity conference in Montreal, to protect a third of the sea (and land) by 2030. It aims to safeguard marine life by designating at least 30% of the world's oceanic expanse as protected areas.

The accord is significant as more than 8% of marine species are now categorised as threatened or endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.

#### WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW INDEX



The World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 report released on March 2 measures the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity in 190 economies. It analysed 53 years of laws affecting women's economic rights, showing why greater gender equality is essential for ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

The project presented eight indicators structured around women's interactions with the law as they move through their lives and careers: Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension. Based on these eight indicators, a score of 100 on the Index means that women are on an equal standing with men on each indicator.

Only 14 scored a perfect 100 which included countries like Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. India scored 74.4; while neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh scored 58.8 and 49.4, respectively.

#### FATF SUSPENDS RUSSIA'S MEMBERSHIP

The Financial Action Task Force, Paris based international anti-money laundering organisation, in a statement issued on Feb 24 suspended Russia's membership, strongly condemning the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

FATF said that the Russian Federation's actions unacceptably run counter to the FATF core principles aiming to promote security, safety, and the integrity of the global financial system. They also represent a gross violation of the commitment to international cooperation and mutual respect upon which FATF Members have agreed.

It also "grey-listed" Africa's two largest economies, Nigeria and South Africa, it announced on February 24. This is the first time that the FATF has suspended any member since it was established in 1989.



#### EGYPT JOINS NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

Egypt joined the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) as an official member. Egypt completed all the necessary procedures to become an eligible member on February 20, 2023. Earlier in September, 2022, the NDB board also approved similar procedures for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay, and Bangladesh. All three countries went on to become members of the bank.

BRICS' New Development bank was established in July 2014, after an intergovernmental agreement was signed by the five partner nations.

#### WORLD'S FIRST DIGITAL ASSETS OASIS

The government of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates, has announced plans to establish RAK Digital Assets Oasis, the world's first free zone dedicated to digital and virtual asset companies.

RAK Digital Assets Oasis will be a purpose-built, true innovation-enabling free zone for non-regulated activities in the virtual assets sector. It is intended to be the only free zone in the world solely dedicated to digital and virtual assets service providers innovating in new and emerging sectors of the future including metaverse, blockchain, utility tokens, virtual asset wallets, NFTs, DAOs, DApp, and other Web3-related businesses.

# PERSONS IN NEWS

**APRIL** 

Smt. Droupadi Murmu: The President of India took a

historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft on April 8 at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam. The President flew for nearly 30 minutes. The aircraft flew at a



height of about two kilometres above sea level and at a speed of about 800 kilometres per hour.

The President's sortie is a part of her efforts to engage with the armed forces, as the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.

# MARCH

Surekha Yadav: Asia's first woman loco pilot, became the first female to operate the newly-introduced semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train on March 13 between Solapur station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai.

# APPOINTMENTS

### **APRII**

**Ajay Singh:** Elected as the President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). He is CEO of SpiceJet.



**Miguel Díaz-Canel:** Cuba's National Assembly reelected him as President for a second five-year term.

## **MARCH**

**Deepak Mohanty:** Appointed as the new Chairperson of the PFRDA – Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority, by the central government.

**Rashmi Shukla:** Senior IPS officer appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along the Nepal and Bhutan border.

**Eric Garcetti:** Appointed as the new US Ambassador to India. Garcetti served as the President of the City Council of Los Angeles for four consecutive terms, between 2006 to 2022.

Mrs. Dilma Rousseff: Elected as the President of the New Development Bank (NDB), by the Board of Governors of the Bank. Ms Rousseff is a two-time former President of Brazil. Promoted by the multi nation group BRICS in 2015, its headquarters are in Shanghai.

**Xi Jinping:** Elected for the third term of five years as China's President after he was endorsed by a unanimous vote from the 2977-member National People's Congress.

**Li Qiang:** A close ally of Chinese leader Xi Jinping, elected as the Premier (prime minister) of China by a unanimous vote in the National People's Congress on March 11.

**Ram Chandra Paudel:** Senior Nepali Congress leader was elected as the new President of Nepal on March 09.

**Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani:** Appointed as the new prime minister of Qatar.

**Vo Van Thuong:** Elected as the President of Vietnam by its National Assembly on March 02.

**Bola Tinubu:** Sworn in as President of Nigeria, Africa's most populous country.

# **AWARDS & HONOURS**

### **APRIL**

#### Nandini Gupta crowned Femina Miss India

The 59th edition of India's most prestigious beauty pageant Femina Miss India 2023 was held on April 15 in Imphal, Manipur. Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta was crowned Femina Miss India World 2023. Along with her, Delhi's Shreya Poonja became the first runner-up, while Manipur's Thounaojam Strela Luwang was crowned the 2nd runner-up.

**2023 International Prize in Statistics:** Regarded as Nobel of Statistics, the award was conferred on C. Radhakrishna Rao, a prominent Indian-American mathematician and statistician, for his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionised statistical thinking. Rao, who is now 102, is an Emeritus Eberly professor in the Statistics Department at Pennsylvania State University, USA. He will receive the \$80,000 award, this July at the biennial International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur: (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest French civilian award has been conferred on philanthropist and art collector Kiran Nadar, (wife of Shiv Nadar, the founder of HCL Technologies).

# MARCH

Forbes India Leadership Awards 2023: Isha Ambani, the chairperson of Reliance Retail, won the 'Gennext Entrepreneur' award at a ceremony held on March 24. Along with her, C K Venkataraman, MD of Titan Company, was felicitated with the 'CEO of the Year' award and Abhay Soi, CEO of Max Healthcare, was awarded the 'Entrepreneur of the Year' award. A M Naik, group chairman of L&T was honoured with the Lifetime achievement Award.



**Saraswati Samman, 2022:** Awarded to noted Tamil writer Sivasankari for her 2019 memoir, Surya Vamsam. This award is one of the most esteemed recognitions in Indian literature, and comes with a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a plaque, and a citation. It is given by the K K Birla Foundation.



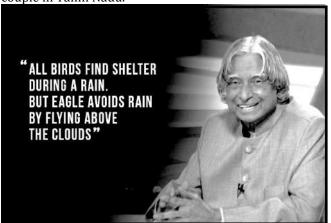
Governor of the Year 2023 Award: The International Journal of Central Banking selected RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das for this prestigious award for steering the financial markets through multiple crises including the pandemic and the inflation due to the war in Ukraine. Mr. Das has been at the helm of the central bank since December 2018.

**Vyas Samman 2022:** Won by renowned Hindi author, Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi for his satirical novel "Pagalkhana" (Mental Asylum). The prestigious award given by the KK Birla Foundation for outstanding work in Hindi literature, carries a cash prize of Rs 4 lakh. .

#### Two Oscars for Indians

In the 95th Academy Awards ceremony, India's 'Naatu Naatu song' from SS Rajamouli's film RRR made history on March 12 by becoming the first Indian entry to win an Oscar for the Best Original Song.

Another Indian won an Oscar for Best Documentary Short Film for the documentary 'The Elephant Whisperers'. Producer Guneet Monga and director Kartiki Gonsalves' short film deals with the subject of abandoned elephants being taken care of by a local couple in Tamil Nadu.



#### **OSCARS AWARDS 2023**



The 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2023) were announced on March 12 at Dolby Theater in Los Angeles, USA to recognise and reward the best in the world of cinema.

**Best Picture:** Everything Everywhere All at Once (EEAO)

**Best Actress:** Michelle Yeoh (EEAO) **Best Actor:** Brendan Fraser (The Whale)

Best Director: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Schienert

(EEAO)

Best Original Song: Naatu Naatu from RRR

Best Documentary Short Film: The Elephant

Whisperers

**2023 Abel Prize:** Regarded as the Nobel of Mathematics, won by Prof. Luis Caffarelli, 74, "for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation". Prof. Caffarelli teaches at the University of Texas, USA.

The prize includes a cash prize of 7.5 million kroner (roughly \$7,20,000) and a glass plaque designed by Norwegian artist Henrik Haugan.

The Pritzker Architecture Prize-2023: Won by the British architect and urban planner, Sir David Alan Chipperfield. His work spans more than 100 projects over four decades and included residences, civic, academic, and urban planning buildings in cities across Asia and Europe as well as in the United States.

The Pritzker Prize is regarded internationally as architecture's highest honour. The prize carries a cash award of \$100,000, a citation certificate, and a bronze medallion. The award is funded by the Pritzker family and sponsored by the Hyatt Foundation of USA.



2023 Marconi Prize: won by computer scientist Hari Balakrishnan "for fundamental contributions to wired and wireless networking, mobile sensing, and distributed

systems". The Marconi Prize is a top honour for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S.-based Marconi Foundation.









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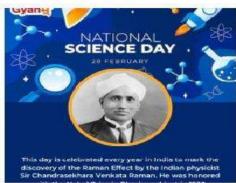
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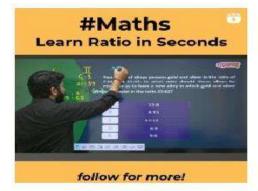














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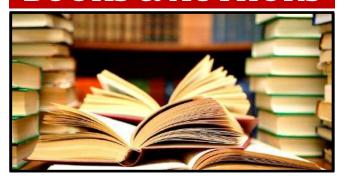
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Porter Prize 2023: Awarded to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in recognition of their outstanding work in the health sector and COVID management. The award was given at an event organised by Institute for Competitiveness (IFC), India and Stanford University, California on Feb 24.

Porter Prize is named after renowned award-winning American economist Michael E. Porter. A Professor at the Harvard Business School, he is one of the most cited scholars today in economics and business.

**PEN** / Nabokov Award - 2023: (For Lifetime Achievement in International Literature). Won by Hindi short story writer, novelist and poet Vinod Kumar Shukla. 87 years old author is known for novels like Naukar Ki Kameez (1979) and poetry collections like Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega (1992). He was felicitated on March 2 in New York.

# **BOOKS & AUTHORS**



# **APRIL**

The Daughters of Madurai by Rajasree Variyar
Azaad - Autobiography of veteran politician Ghulam Nabi Azad
Pyre by Perumal Murugan
War and Women by Dr M A Hasan
The Soulmate by Sally Hepworth
The House is on Fire by Rachel Beanland
Before We Were Innocent by Ella Berman
Happy Place by Emily Henry
Romantic Comedy by Curtis Sittenfeld
King of Wrath by Ana Huang

# **MARCH**

**As Good as My Word: A Memoir** by K M Chandrasekhar, former cabinet secretary

**Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity** by Dr. Karan Singh, veteran scholar and diplomat

**Snakes In the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0** by Rajiv Malhotra and Mrs. Vijaya Viswanathan

**A House with Good Bones** by T. Kingfisher **The Foxglove King** by Hannah F. Whitten

What Have We Done by Alex Finlay

The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi by S.A. Chakraborty

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

The London Séance Society by Sarah Penner

Weyward by Emilia Hart

White Cat, Black Dog by Kelly Link

# **OBITUARY**

**APRIL** 

Sardar Parkash Singh Badal



The 95 year old towering Akali Dal politician from Punjab breathed his last on April 25 in Mohali, Punjab. He started his political journey in 1947 by winning the Sarpanch election in his native village Badal in district Muktsar. He entered the State Assembly from Malout in 1957 as the Congress nominee and in 1969, entered the Assembly from Gidderbaha seat on the Siromani Akali Dal ticket.

He was elected as MLA 11 times. Badal became the Chief Minister for the first time in 1970. He was the youngest Chief Minister at that time and was the eldest Chief Minister in his last term. Later, he became the Chief Minister four times, from 1977 to 1980, 1997 to 2002, 2007 to 2012, and 2012 to 2017. He was honoured with Padma Vibhushan 1n 2015.

**Uttara Baokar:** Noted film and TV actor and theatre artist died at the age of 79 in Pune on April 11 following a prolonged illness. She came in the limelight following her role in Govind Nihlani's movie Tamas. She appeared in popular TV shows like Udaan, Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin and many more.

**Keshub Mahindra:** Mahindra & Mahindra Chairman Emeritus breathed his last on April 12 at the age of 99 in Mumbai. He joined Mahindra & Mahindra in 1947 and took on the role of chairman in 1963, continuing it for next 48 years. From an agency for Willys Jeeps (from USA) in India in the 1940s to helming a \$12-billion conglomerate with automobiles, financial services, logistics, real estate, hospitality and defence equipment under its portfolio, it was all Keshub's magic.

He was uncle to Anand Mahindra, current chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra. With a reported net worth of \$1.2 billion as per Forbes, he was regarded as India's oldest billionaire.

#### MARCH

Satish Kaushik: The veteran actor-writer-director, died in Delhi at the age of 67. Kaushik began his film career in the early 1980s. He was an acclaimed actor, comedian, screenwriter, director and producer. He is best known for his comedic roles as Calendar in Mr. India and as

Pappu Pager in Deewana Mastana.



# **PLACES IN NEWS**

#### **APRII**

Village Mana: The village on the India-China border in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, which was earlier recognised as the last Indian village, will now be known as the 'first Indian village'. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) placed a signage hoarding at the threshold of the border village proclaiming Mana's revamped status.

The village located at an elevation of 3200 m on the banks of Saraswati river, is around 5 km from the famous Hindu pilgrimage centre Badrinath and about 25 km before the Indo-China border.

### **MARCH**

**Hubballi:** The city in Karnataka, some 150 km east of Goa, secured its place in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest railway platform in the world. The 1,507-metre-long platform at Shri Siddharoodha Swami Station in Hubballi was formally inaugurated on March 12.

Hubballi is a major hub of trade and commerce in the North Karnataka region. This station is situated on the junction connecting railway lines in three directions.

Attukal: A town near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, witnessed one of the largest gatherings of women in the world on the occasion of "Attukal Pongala" on March 07. Over 25 to 30 lakh women gathered here to pay obeisance to Goddess Bhadrakali in the famous Attukal Bhagavathy Temple for the prosperity of their family. Lakhs of women devotees cook on the spot a mix of rice, jaggery and scrapped coconut in pots over the makeshift brick chulhas (stoves) by lining up on either side of the roads, around 20 km circumference of the shrine.

California: The south western US state, California was struck by a very low-pressure system that developed a "bomb cyclone," on March 21-22. It caused widespread rains and damaging wind gusts, disrupted traffic and damaged several buildings. Heavy rains led to sudden flooding of vast areas. Los Angeles, San Francisco and Santa Cruz County were the worst affected areas.

**Cyclone Freddy:** More than 300 people were killed in Malawi and Mozambique in Southern Africa after a strong cyclone Freddy, packing powerful winds and torrential rain, struck the mainland on March 12-13. The storm inundated roadways and triggered blackouts in many areas. The deadly cyclone broke records for the longest-lasting storm of its kind.

# **SPORTS WORLD**

#### APRIL

**Jyothi Surekha Vennam** won two gold medals in archery on April 22, one each in the mixed team event and in women's individual Compound, at the Archery World Cup 2023 Stage 1 in Antalya, Turkiye. India finished with two golds, one silver and one bronze at the meet.

**D Gukesh, Indian Grandmaster** stunned former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final on April 9 to win the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event in Berlin, Germany.

**Priyanshu Rajawat,** emerging badminton player, won the Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament on April 9 in Orleans, France.

### Indians won 14 medals in Asian Wrestling

Aman Sehrawat clinched India's first ever gold medal in men's 57 kg freestyle category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Antim Panghal and Nisha Dahiya won silver in the women's 53-kg and 68 kg category, respectively. Rupin Gahlawat won silver in the men's 55 kg category.

Overall, Indians secured  $7^{\rm th}$  position in medal tally with 14 medals which included one gold, three silver and ten bronze.



**Indian batter Suryakumar** was named Wisden Almanack's top T20I cricketer, while Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to be named Cricketer of the Year award.



**Rohit Sharma** has been selected by the BCCI to captain the test squad for the World Test Championship final against Australia. The final match will be played at the Oval grounds in London from 07 to 11 June, 2023.

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

**Max Verstappen** won the Australian Grand Prix F1 race for team Red Bull on April 2 at Melbourne, Australia.

**Kim Cotton,** 48-year-old umpire from New Zealand became the first woman on-field umpire in a full-member men's T20I match that was played on April 5 between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Dunedin in New Zealand.

### MARCH

**IBA Women's World Boxing Championship:** Lovlina Borgohain, Nikhat Zareen, Nitu Ghanghas and Saweety Boora brought four gold medals for the country at the World Championship held in Delhi, which concluded on March 26.

**Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty,** India's top men's doubles badminton pair, won their first title of the 2023 season in the Swiss Open 2023, a Super 300 event, by beating China's Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang on March 26 in the finals held at Basel, Switzerland.

Pankaj Advani, veteran cueist, retained his Asian Billiards title for the 8th time, in the final held at Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation Academy in Doha, Qatar on March 19. Pankaj is a 25-time International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world champion.

**Rohan Bopanna**, 43 year old tennis star became the oldest tennis player on March 18 to win an ATP Masters 1000 title after winning the doubles title in the Indian Wells Masters tournament in California, USA.

**'BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year' 2022:** Tokyo Olympic Games silver-medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu was selected for the award through a public vote. The 28-year-old weightlifter from Manipur became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after bagging the same in 2021 as well.

**D** Gukesh, 16-year-old Indian Grandmaster from Chennai was honoured with "Player-of-the-Year" award by the Asian Chess Federation on March 1 at the Asian chess Summit in Abu Dhabi.

**Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam** won gold in men's doubles on Feb 26 at the Spanish Para-Badminton International tournament in Victoria, Spain. Tarun defeated Kadam to secure singles gold in the finals.

**84<sup>th</sup> Senior National Badminton Championship:** Anupama Upadhyaya and Mithun Manjunath won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, in Pune in the last week of February.

Women's Premier League (WPL): Mumbai Indians led by Harmanpreet Kaur won the inaugural Women's Premier League on March 26 in the Summit Clash with Delhi Capitals at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai. West Indian Hayley Matthews from Mumbai Indians was adjudged Player of the Tournament, taking 16

**Asian Kho Kho Championship:** Indian teams won in both, men and women categories in the finals held on March 23 at Tamulpur in Assam.

#### Khelo India Dus Ka Dum tournament

wickets over 10 matches.

The Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry organised the "Khelo India Dus Ka Dum" tournament from the 10 to 31 March to promote participation of those women in sports who were unable to participate in national or state-level competitions.

"Hai dum to Badhao kadam" was the tagline of the The tournament featured 10 sports. Nearly 15,000 women athletes participated in the contest in more than 50 cities of the country.

**Irani Cup:** Team Rest of India won the cup by thrashing current Ranji trophy champion Madhya Pradesh by 238 runs on March 5 in Gwalior. The Irani Cup is played after every Ranji Trophy season, in the international test match format, between the winner of the Ranji trophy and the combined team of rest of India.

**Santosh Trophy:** The biggest trophy in senior national football was lifted by Karnataka after beating Meghalaya in the finals played on March 4 in King Fahd Stadium, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

**Craig Fulton,** Hockey veteran from South Africa with nearly 25 years of coaching experience, was appointed as new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team, by Hockey India.

ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship was hosted by Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from March 20 to 27. The Championship was organised in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Rifle Federation of India. ISSF - International Shooting Sports Federation

**IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023** was inaugurated at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi on March 15. The tournament will continue till March 26. The tournament witnessed the participation of more than 350 boxers from around 74 countries. IBA, International Boxing Association, based in Lausanne, Switzerland is the international governing body for



#### **INTERNATIONAL**

**Red Bull's Sergio Perez** (Mexico)won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix on March 19.

**Max Verstappen** (of Netherland) led the team Red Bull to victory in the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix at Sakhir on March 05.

Indian Wells Masters, also called BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament: Carlos Alcaraz, 19 year old tennis champion from Spain won the men's singles title by defeating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the finals played on March 19 in the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California, USA. Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan edged Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus to win the women's singles title.

**Novak Djokovic** of Serbia achieved another historic milestone in his career on Feb 27 by overtaking Steffi Graf's record for most weeks (377) by a tennis player, male or female, as World No 1, beginning his 378th week on top of tennis rankings.

**ICC T20 World Cup (women) Trophy:** Australia led by Meg Lanning lifted the prestigious cup for the sixth time by beating South Africa by 19 runs in the final match played on Feb 26 in Cape Town, South Africa.

**THE BEST FIFA FOOTBALL AWARDS 2022** were declared by the FIFA President Gianni Infantino on Feb 27 in Paris.

Best FIFA Men's Player: Lionel Messi of Argentina Best FIFA Women's Player: Alexia Putellas of Spain Best Men's Coach: Argentina's head coach Lionel Scaloni

Best Men's Goalkeeper: Emiliano Martinez of Argentina

**Gianni Infantino:** Re-elected as FIFA president for the third successive term, until 2027 by the congress of 211 member federations on March 16 at the 73rd Congress of FIFA in Kigali, capital of Rwanda. His efforts at the helm led FIFA to increase its revenues to \$7.6 billion in the 2019-22 cycle, making it the main reason for his reelection.

# **DAYS & DATES**

	MAY	
Date	Name of Important Days	
1 May	International Labour Day or May Day;	
	Maharashtra Day; Gujarat Day	
2 May	World Asthma Day (1st Tuesday); World Tuna	
	Day	
3 May	Press Freedom Day	
4 May	Coal Miners Day; International Firefighter's Day	
5 May	Buddh Purnima, Vaisakh Purnima	
6 May	International No Diet Day	
7 May	World Athletics Day; World Laughter Day (1st	
	Sunday); Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti	
8 May	World Red Cross Day; World Thalassaemia	
	Day	
11 May	National Technology Day	
12 May	International Nurses Day	
14 May	Mother's Day (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday)	
15 May	International Day of Families; Vrishabh Sankranti	
17 May	World Telecommunication Day; World Hypertension Day	
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day; International	
	Museum Day	
10 M	National Endangered Species Day (Third	
19 May	Friday); Amavasya	
20 May	Armed Forces Day (3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday)	
21 May	National Anti-Terrorism Day	
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	
29 May	National Memorial Day (last Monday)	
30 May	Ganga Dussehra	
31 May	Anti-Tobacco Day; Nirjala Ekadashi	

# **APRIL**

#### **April 2: World Autism Awareness Day**

Observed globally every year to highlight the need to improve the quality of life of those suffering with autism so that they can also live as a regular member of society. The theme this year is "Transformation: Toward a Neuro-Inclusive World for All".

Autism is a developmental disorder characterised by difficulties faced in social interaction and communication, and display of restricted and repetitive behaviour. Some people with autism may also have intellectual disabilities or other health conditions.



37

April 2: International Children's Book Day



The Day is observed by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), an international non-profit organisation based at Basel, Switzerland, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. IBBY Greece is the sponsor for International Children's Book Day 2023 with the theme 'I am a book, read me'.

#### **April 4: International Day of Mine Awareness**

It is observed to raise awareness about the dangers of explosive mines and to generate support for efforts to eliminate them. The day aims to garner support for explosives elimination by highlighting the threats related to the safety, health, and lives of civilians.

The slogan chosen for this year's campaign is "Mine Action Cannot Wait," which will focus attention on the decades-long pollution in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

#### **April 5: National Maritime Day**

This day commemorates India's first merchant sea voyage in the trading world. On this day in 1919, SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., sailed from Mumbai to London.

Maritime or the sea routes are the most ecological and easiest way to move heavy goods and bulk cargo from one place to another, across the world. They offer the most well-organised, safe and sound, and convenient mode of transporting goods to distant places.

The theme for National Maritime Week 2023 is 'Amrit Kaal in Shipping'. Remember!! World Maritime Day is observed on Sep 28.

#### **April 5: International Day of Conscience**

Conscious of the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the UN General Assembly declared April 5 as the International Day of Conscience. The day aims to promote peace and love throughout the world by highlighting the role of conscience in stopping people from harming others orally, physically, sexually, or mentally.

#### **April 07: World Health Day**

It is an initiative taken by the World Health Organisation to raise awareness about overall health and well-being of people across the world. It also marks the setting up of WHO on this day in 1948.

The Day aims to highlight WHO's constitutional principle that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. The theme for 2023 is 'Health for All'.

#### **April 09: The CRPF Shaurya Diwas (Valour Day)**

Observed every year as a tribute to the brave soldiers of the Central Reserve Police Force. It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army contingent, several times larger, at the Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.

The CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force with over three lakh strong force. It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

#### **April 10: World Homoeopathy Day**

This day is celebrated to honour the birth of the father of the Homoeopathic system of medicines Dr. Samuel Hahnemann. Born on this day in 1755 in Paris, France, he was a German physician and an acclaimed scientist, a great scholar, and linguist.

Homoeopathy is an alternative form of medicine, which functions on the principle of 'like cures like.' This year the theme of the day is "One Health, One Family."

#### **April 11: National Safe Motherhood Day**

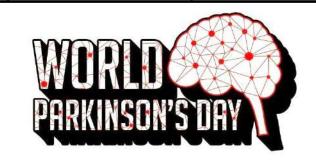
It is an initiative of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI) to ensure that women must have the availability and adequate access to care during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services. According to the statistics by WHO, approximately 830 women die every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

At the request of WRAI, an alliance of 1800 organisations, the Government of India declared in 2003, April 11, the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi as National Safe Motherhood Day. India was the first country in the world to declare a National Safe Motherhood Day.

India aims to reduce the maternal mortality rate below 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030, which is 97 per lakh at present.



**April 11: World Parkinson's Day** 



The day aims to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease (PD), which is a progressive nervous system disorder. It is a condition that affects the brain, resulting in a progressive loss of coordination and movement of muscles, often marked by trembling of hands. The 2023 theme for the Day is "#Take6forPD", which indicates that a person receives a Parkinson's disease (PD) diagnosis every six minutes.

The Day also marks the birthday of British scientist Dr James Parkinson (1755-1824), who was the first person to systematically describe the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson Disease in 1817.

#### April 12: International Day of Human Space Flight

Supported by the UNO, this day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the first human space flight, made by Yuri Gagarin, a russian astronaut, on this day in 1961. The day symbolises the beginning of the space era for mankind and highlights the contribution of space science and technology for the welfare of humankind. The day offers an opportunity for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

#### **April 13: Siachen Day**

Celebrated annually to pay solemn tributes to the soldiers who laid down their lives to capture the icy heights of Siachen in April 1984. The day commemorates the valour and fortitude displayed by Indian Army troops in securing the highest and coldest battlefield in the world.

On 13 April 1984, the Indian Army launched 'Operation Meghdoot' at a height of 18 to 19,000 feet, with temperatures dipping to -40 degree centigrade, to successfully secure Sia La and Bilafond La and other passes on the Saltoro Ridgeline, from Pakistani aggression.

The Siachen Glacier lies between the Saltoro Ridge, a subrange of the Karakorams, to the west and the main Karakoram Range to the east. It is about 75 km long, at an altitude of 20 to 15,000 feet, which makes it the second longest glacier in the world, outside the polar regions.

In local language, the name Siachen refers to a land with an abundance of roses. 'Sia' refers to the rose-like plant and 'Chen' refers to any object found in abundance.

#### April 14: India celebrates Baisakhi

The auspicious day of Baisakhi is celebrated all over India though under different names and with different sets of rituals. It marks the thanksgiving by the farmer community for the bumper Rabi crops.

In north India, it is one of the biggest festivals of the Sikhs as it marks the foundation of the Khalsa Panth on this day in 1699 by the 10th Guru, Sri Gobind Singh. The day also marks the anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre that took place on this day in 1919.

People of Assam celebrate April 14 as Rongali Bihu or Bohag Bihu, while those in West Bengal celebrate it as Naba Barsha. Bihar celebrates Baisakhi as Vaishakha in honour of the Sun God, Surya while Kerala celebrates it as Vishu and Tamil Nadu as Puthandu.

#### **April 14: Ambedkar Jayanti**

Also known as Bhim Jayanti, this day commemorates the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. He is regarded as the Father of Indian Constitution as he was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly.

He was the first Law and Justice Minister of the country after the independence. He was honoured posthumously with the country's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna in 1990.

A special Bharat Gaurav Tourist train for 'Ambedkar Circuit' was flagged off on April 15 from New Delhi which will cover prominent sites associated with the life of Dr Ambedkar. The seven nights and eight days long journey concluded on April 20 at the world heritage site Nalanda in Bihar.

#### **April 14: National Fire Service Day**

Celebrated every year across India to pay homage to the brave firefighters who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty while fighting the fires. The Day commemorates the supreme sacrifice of 71 Fire Service personnel who lost their lives fighting a massive explosion and devastating fire on a British cargo ship parked at Victoria Dock in Bombay dockyard on this day in 1944.

This year's theme for the Day is "Learn Fire Safety, Increase Productivity". Additionally, Fire service week is observed from April 14 to April 20 throughout India to spread awareness among the public regarding fire safety.



**April 15: World Art Day** 



Celebrated globally every year with support from UNESCO to promote the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art. The day aims to highlight the importance of art that nurtures creativity, innovation and cultural diversity for all peoples across the globe. The day also commemorates the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), the famous painter of Mona Lisa.

#### **April 16: Save the Elephant Day**

Celebrated every year to raise awareness about the threats faced by elephants and various difficulties they have to overcome to survive. Elephants are known as the most enormous land animal and a surprisingly gentle giant in the animal kingdom. Sadly, elephant populations have been rapidly decreasing due to various threats, most common being poaching.

The Day was initiated in 2012 by Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, to spread awareness among the general people about the significance and consequences of their actions, or inactions on the future of elephants.

**Remember!** World Elephant Day is observed on August 12.

#### April 17: World Haemophilia Day

Observed globally to raise awareness for Haemophilia and other similar bleeding disorders. The day happens to be the birthday of Frank Schnabelen, founder of the World Federation of Haemophilia, a Montreal, Canada based NGO. The theme for this year is "Access for All: Prevention of bleeds as the global standard of care".

Haemophilia is a mostly an inherited genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to make blood clots, a process needed to stop bleeding. This results in people bleeding for a longer time after an injury, easy bruising, and an increased risk of bleeding inside joints or the brain.

#### **April 18: World Heritage Day**

Also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, it is observed every year with support from UNESCO to preserve human heritage and recognize the efforts of the organisations working for it. It is a collective effort of the communities in the world to do the needful to maintain the legacy and save the rich heritage which has been given to us by our ancestors.

The theme for this year "Heritage Changes" is focused on the crucial issue of climate action and its relation to cultural heritage. Currently, there are 40 World Heritage Sites located in India.

#### April 19: World Liver Day

Observed every year to spread awareness about the liver, the second largest (first being skin) and the most complex organ in the body, next only to the brain (in complexity). From processing all that which we consume, including food, alcohol, drugs, to handling the toxic materials which are produced in the body and harmful substances absorbed by the intestines, the liver has been attributed with over 500 functions till date and scientists say more may be discovered over time.

The theme for World Liver Day 2023 is "Be Vigilant, Do Regular Liver Check-Up, Fatty Liver Can Affect Anyone." The theme focuses to emphasise the practise of regular liver check-ups, as fatty liver can affect anyone.

Liver diseases can be caused by Hepatitis A, B, C, consumption of alcohol and drugs. Viral Hepatitis may occur due to consumption of contaminated food and water.

#### **April 21: Civil Services Day**

This day is an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitment to public service and excellence in work. On this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the first home minister of independent India, addressed the first batch of Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officers at the Metcalf House in New Delhi.

He referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India' in his inspiring speech.

The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration is awarded on this day.

#### April 21: World Creativity and Innovation Day

Observed globally every year to raise awareness about the importance of creativity and innovation in problemsolving with respect to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the "global goals".

The day aims to promote the use of creative thinking in businesses, governments, and other organisations to foster innovation and growth. This year, the theme selected for the day is "Step out and Innovate."



**April 22: The Earth Day** 



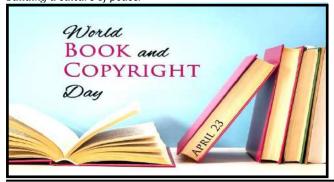
Observed annually to create awareness about hazards of pollution and to celebrate the environment of our planet. Earth Day was renamed officially by the UN in 2009 as International Mother Earth Day. The landmark Paris Agreement, which brings almost 200 countries together in setting a common target to reduce global greenhouse emissions, was opened for signature on this day in 2016.

The theme of the day this year is 'Invest in our Planet', calling for businesses to shift towards sustainable practices. This movement is expected to change the business climate, the political climate, and how to take action on the climate.

#### **April 23: World Book and Copyright Day**

Observed globally every year with support from UNESCO to pay tribute to all those writers and authors who have contributed to the social and cultural progress of humanity. The theme selected for this year's celebrations is 'Indigenous Languages.' It focuses on promoting the diversity in native languages of a country.

Each year, UNESCO and the international organisations representing the three major sectors of the book industry --publishers, booksellers, and libraries -- select the "World Book Capital" for a one-year period. This year, the city of Accra, Ghana, will serve as the year 2023's World Book Capital. A year-long programme will focus on the role of books and reading in triggering social change, combating violence, and building a culture of peace.



#### **April 23: English Language Day**

Observed globally every year to mark the birthday and date of death of legendary writer William Shakespeare. This initiative was established by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010 "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the organisation".

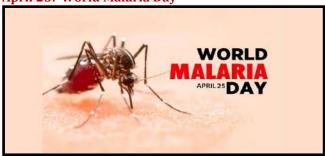
The English language is spoken in 67 nations out of 195 countries in the world.

#### **April 24: National Panchayati Raj Day**

Celebrated to highlight the role of Panchayats as the first rung of local self-administration. Panchayati Raj Institutions are the cornerstone of decentralised governance and planning in India. Strengthening and modernising of the Panchayati Raj system has given a new direction to the social and economic development of the villages.

On this day in 1993, the Panchayati Raj Act (73rd Amendment) came into existence. The Panchayati Raj is the oldest system of local self-government. The word 'Panchayat' is an amalgamation of two words where 'Panch' means 'five' and 'Ayat' means 'assembly' and 'Raj' means 'rule'.

April 25: World Malaria Day



Celebrated internationally to raise awareness about the need for the prevention, control and elimination of Malaria. It is an opportunity to educate people for better understanding of Malaria and how to prevent it. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement."

Malaria is a life-threatening disease which is caused by Plasmodium Parasites. The parasite can spread to humans through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. However, it is a preventable and treatable infectious disease. As per WHO data, malaria killed 6,19,000 people in 2021, of whom approximately 96% lived in Africa.

#### April 25: World Penguin Day

The day aims to raise awareness about these flightless birds to preserve their species so that future generations get to see these elegant and remarkable creatures. This day encourages people to learn more about penguins, the dangers they encounter, their environment, and their contribution to the environment.

Penguins are flightless birds. Instead of usable wings, they have flippers to help them swim in the water. They can drink salty sea water, and hold their breath underwater for upto 20 minutes.

**April 26: World Intellectual Property Day** 



The day is celebrated to make people know how intellectual property (IP) rights encourage innovation and creativity. The celebrations are supported by the UN special agency - World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), Geneva.

This year the theme for the Day is "Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity". It aims to celebrate the "can do" attitude of women inventors, creators, and entrepreneurs around the world and their ground-breaking work.

#### April 28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The day aims at promoting the prevention of occupational accidents and hazards at the workplace. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) started celebrating this day in 2003 to achieve this aim. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Workplace Stress: a collective challenge".

#### **April 29: International Dance Day**

This day was created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute, Paris, the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO. The primary purpose of Dance Day is to attract the attention of the wider public to the art of dance. This event marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), the father of modern ballet.



#### April (29): World Veterinary Day

It is observed on the last Saturday of April every year. The day aims to promote the veterinary profession and work on improving animal and human welfare, the environment, food safety, and animal transport. The day was created by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to celebrate the contributions of veterinarians to the health of animals and society. The theme for this year is "Promoting Diversity, Equity,

and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession".

#### **April 30: Ayushman Bharat Diwas**

The day aims to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of the country based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database. It also aims to promote health and wellness and provide insurance benefits to the poor. This day marks the launch of Ayushman Bharat Yojana in 2018. Its main component is Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) which offers a health insurance cover of 5 lakh rupees per eligible family per year.





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# Bullet News

(November 2022 - February 2023)

For details visit - www.gyanm.in

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **FEBRUARY**

- ➤ German Chancellor (Prime Minister) Olaf Scholz arrived in New Delhi on Feb 25 on a two-day visit to India. He reviewed the progress on the key outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> IGC Inter-Governmental Consultation.
- ➤ Vice President of Guyana Dr Bharrat Jagdeo called on the President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Feb 24. Guyana has been a homeland to Indians for the last 180 years.
- ➤ The inception meeting of the Women 20 (W20), an official G-20 engagement group, was held on 27-28 Feb in Aurangabad. Maharashtra.
- ➤ The first G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) under the G20 Indian Presidency was held on 24-25 February in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Manipur hosted the Business-20 conference on Feb 17-18-19 with the theme Sustainable Growth and Development.
- ➤ The first Tourism Working Group Meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held on Feb 7-8-9 in Dhordo Tent City in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
- ➤ The first meeting of the Youth -20 engagement group under India's G20 presidency was held from Feb 6 to 8 in Guwahati, Assam.
- ➤ The first G-20 Employment Working Group meeting was held on Feb 2-3-4 in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ➤ The first meeting of the G20 Education Working Group was held in Chennai on Jan 31-Feb 01.
- The Supreme Court decided to adopt a "neutral citation system" for all its over 30,000 judgments.

- A case citation is kind of a unique reference number related to a particular SC judgement, an identification tag for a judgement.
- Union Cabinet approved the extension of the term of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission of India up to 31st August, 2024.
- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government from time to time for three years tenure.
- ➤ The Department of Posts organised the National Philatelic Exhibition, AMRITPEX 2023 from 11 to 15 February in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations.
- ➤ India launched Operation Dost as a big relief measure to help Türkiye Syria earthquake victims.
- The Ministry of Culture plans to hand over around 1,000 historical monuments under control of the Archaeological Survey of India to the private sector for their upkeep under the Monument Mitra Scheme.
- ➤ The Ministry of Defence announced on Jan 30 the awards for the best marching contingents and tableaux of the Republic Day Parade.

Best marching contingent -	Punjab Regiment		
Defence			
Best marching contingent -	CRPF		
CAPF			
Best tableau among states	Uttarakhand		
Best tableau, other than	Ministry of		
states	Tribal Affairs		

- President Droupadi Murmu renamed the legendary Mughal Gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan as "Amrit Udvan".
- The change was in line with the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal (the 25 years leading up to the 100th year of India's Independence in 2047) celebrations.

➤ India and South Africa signed an MoU on Jan 27 to introduce 12 African Cheetahs every year over the next eight to ten years. First batch of 12 cheetahs were flown from South Africa to India on Feb 18.

#### **JANUARY**

- President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, arrived in New Delhi on January 24, on a three-day visit to India. He was the Chief Guest at India's 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade.
- A special event 'Bharat Parv' was 45rganized at the Red Fort Grounds in Delhi from Jan 26 to 31 to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence.
- On Parakram Diwas on Jan 23, 21 unnamed islands of Andaman-Nicobar were named after the 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.
- The largest unnamed island has been named as "Somnath Island" after the first Param Vir Chakra awardee, Major Somnath Sharma.
- ➤ The first B20 meet as part of the G20 was held from Jan 22 to 24 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat to deliberate upon adoption of sustainable and green business practices.
- The first Health Working Group meeting under India's G20 presidency was held from Jan 18 to 20 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ➤ India hosted a special virtual summit, the Voice of Global South summit, on January 12 and 13 under the theme 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose'.
- The Summit aimed to bring together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform.
- India launched 'Aarogya Maitri' project on Jan 13 to provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or facing any other humanitarian crisis.
- ➤ A new light and sound show titled 'Jai Hind' was launched on Jan 10 at the Red Fort in Delhi. Arranged by Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India, it showcased the history of India from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.
- ➤ Indore, Madhya Pradesh, hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 8–10. President of Guyana, Dr. Mohd. Irfan Ali was the chief guest at the event
- President of Suriname, Chandrikaprasad Santokhi was the special guest for the inaugural ceremony. The theme of the conference was "Pravasis: Reliable Partners in India's Progress in Amrit Kaal".
- ➤ World's longest river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas' was launched from Varanasi in UP on 13th of January.
- The cruise covered more than 3,200 km in 51 days to reach Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh, sailing across 27 river systems in India and Bangladesh.

- ➤ India deployed a platoon of women peacekeepers to the UN Mission in Sudan. It was India's largest single unit of women Peacekeepers in a UN Mission since it deployed the first-ever all-women contingent in Liberia in 2007.
- Vinay Prakash Singh, a former member of Indian Postal Service Board was elected as the General Secretary of the APPU -Asian Pacific Postal Union at Bangkok, Thailand.
- ➤ The 108<sup>th</sup> session of Indian Science Congress was inaugurated on Jan 3 at Nagpur University, Maharashtra under the theme "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment".
- ➤ India, Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, ECTA, came into force from Dec 29.
- Under this trade agreement, Indian exports will benefit from preferential zero-duty market access in Australia for 100 per cent of its tariff lines.
- ➤ India handed over 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project built on Mangdechhu river to the Druk Green Power Corp. in Bhutan.

#### **DECEMBER**

- ➤ The first ever batch of 'AGNIVEERS' selected under the AGNIPATH scheme joined the Indian Army for training as AGNIVEER General Duty from the Army Recruiting Office, Srinagar (J&K) on Dec 24.
- ➤ The Union Ministry of Power signed a MoU with DRDO on Dec 27 for implementation of Early Warning System (EWS) for vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations located in disaster-prone mountainous regions.
- ➤ Three more heritage sites from India were added to UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites announced on Dec 20.
- The sites include historic town Vadnagar and Modhera Sun Temple, both in Gujarat, and Rock-cut Sculptures of the Unakoti, in Tripura.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Youth Co:Lab, Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement was jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India on December 15 in New Delhi.
- India launched a 'Group of Friends' on Dec 15 during its presidency of the UN Security Council, to promote accountability for crimes against UN peacekeepers.
- India formally assumed the Presidency of G-20 group on Dec 01 for the period of one year (from Indonesia), ending Nov 30, 2023. During the G-20 presidency, India will hold about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors.

- ➤ The first G20 Sherpa Meeting under India's Presidency, was held in the lake city of Udaipur in Rajasthan from 4 to 7 December.
- ➤ The first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) summit took place in Bengaluru from 13 to 15 December.
- ➤ India took over the rotating Presidency of the 15nation UN Security Council on Dec 01 for the month of December, 2022.
- ➤ The External Affairs Ministry has said that India will assume the chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement on the 1st of January, 2023.
- Wassenaar Arrangement is a multilateral export control regime wherein its 42 member states exchange information on transfer of weapons.
- A statue (bust) of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on Dec 14 in the presence of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- Parliament passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Bill seeks to amend the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The new bill aims to promote energy efficiency and conservation.
- The first Silchar-Sylhet Festival celebrating the close cultural ties between India and the neighbouring regions of Bangladesh was held on Dec 2-3 in Silchar in Assam's Cachar district.
- Bharat Biotech International Ltd, Hyderabad became the first company in the world to launch world's first intranasal vaccine iNCOVACC (BBV154) for COVID 19
- As per the Special Bulletin released by the Registrar General of India on Nov 28, for the years 2018 and 2020, MMR in India came down from 130 in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-20.
- > MMR is defined as the number of maternal deaths per one lakh live births, during a given time period.
- As per the rankings released by the International Civil Aviation Organization, India has jumped to the 48<sup>th</sup> position in the global aviation safety.
- ➤ The Science & Engineering Indicators 2022 report by the National Science Foundation-NSF of the USA shows that India's position in scientific publications has improved from 7<sup>th</sup> in 2010 to third in 2020.
- ➤ The 11<sup>th</sup> Global Food Security Index released by British weekly The Economist, was topped by Finland. India is ranked at 68<sup>th</sup> position.
- Passport Index 2022 published by the Arton Capital, was topped by UAE as its passport holders can travel to 180 countries without a visa. India stood at 87<sup>th</sup> rank with only 72 nations allowing it visa free entry.
- ➤ Google announced its 'Year in Search 2022' results for Indian users on Dec 06. The most searched item was IPL Indian Premier League, followed by the Cowin app.

➤ Among the most searched personalities, Nupur Sharma, ex- BJP spokesperson, was at first spot.

#### **NOVEMBER**

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar made his first foreign visit after assuming office by reaching Phnom Penh, Cambodia on Nov 11 to attend 19th ASEAN-India Summit and 17th East Asia Summit.
- ➤ India unveiled the official website of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Nov 18 for the year 2022-23.
  - ✓ India will serve as the group's president from September 2022 until September 2023. The theme selected for the year is "For a SECURE SCO".
- India took over the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, GPAI from France on Nov 21.
- ➤ India joined the newly launched Mangrove Alliance for Climate on Nov 8 at the 27<sup>th</sup> session of Conference of Parties (COP27) in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt.
  - ✓ It is an initiative led by the UAE and Indonesia to spread awareness on the role of mangroves in curbing global warming.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled on Nov 8 logo, theme and website for India's presidency of the G20. The G20 logo, created with the four colours of India's national flag, displays the earth sitting atop a lotus.
  - ✓ The 7 petals in the logo signify the seven seas and the coming together of 7 continents in G20.
  - ✓ Theme of G20 India 2023–'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (One Earth, One Family), is drawn from Maha Upanishad. In the logo, it has been expanded as "One Earth.One Family.One Future".
  - ✓ India will assume the presidency of the grouping of the world's 20 largest economies on Dec. 1.
- Supreme Court upheld the validity of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution which provides 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in admissions (in both, public and private institutions) and government jobs.
  - ✓ The EWS reservation is for that section of the 'General' classes (not covered under OBC, SC or ST) whose annual family income is below Rs. 8 lakhs.
- ➤ The 53<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI) began in Panaji, Goa on Nov 20 with the screening of Austrian director Dieter Berner's film Alma and Oskar.
- France was the 'Country of Focus' for the festival.
  - ✓ Spanish film director Carlos Saura was honoured with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award. Veteran actor Chiranjeevi was selected as Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022.
- ➤ 15<sup>th</sup> Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo was held in Kochi, Kerala from Nov 4 to 6.

- ➤ The Global Employability University Ranking and Survey report released by the Times Higher Education (THE), London placed Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA at the top.
  - ✓ Among Indian institutions, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi was the highest-ranked Indian university, at the 28<sup>th</sup> spot.
- ➤ The inaugural QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2023 released in London ranked University of California at the top.
  - ✓ IIT-Bombay was ranked as the best educational institution in India in the 281-300 rank range.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs completed the Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI) with field videography of the country's 576 languages.
  - ✓ As per analysis of 2011 linguistic census data, more than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongues.
  - ✓ Hindi is the most widely spoken mother tongue, with 52.8 crore people (43.6% of population), declaring it as their mother tongue; next is Bengali, 8%.
- ➤ 18<sup>th</sup> Climate Change Performance Index 2023 released by Germanwatch, New Climate Institute and CAN International, placed India at 8<sup>th</sup> rank, due to its low emissions and the increasing use of renewable energy.
- ➤ The Network Readiness Index 2022 report released recently by the Portland Institute of USA, placed USA at the top spot. India improved its position by six slots to secure 61st rank.

## **NEWS FROM STATES**

#### **FEBRUARY**

- ➤ Indore Municipal Corporation listed its green bonds on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Feb 21, becoming the first MC to be listed on NSE.
- ➤ To mark the International Mother Language Day on Feb 21, the Kerala High Court published two of its recent judgments in Malayalam, becoming the first high court to publish judgments in the regional language.
- ➤ The country's first ever Frozen Lake Marathon was held on Pangong Tso lake in Ladakh. It was registered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's highest Frozen Lake marathon.
- A new nuclear power plant is to be built in village Gorakhpur, in Fatehabad district of Haryana. This will be the first nuclear plant in North India.
- India's first AC double-decker electric bus was inducted by the BEST (Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport)- the civic transport public body in Mumbai.

- World's largest park for disabled people, 'Divyang Anubhuti Inclusive Park' is being built in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The unique park will have adapted facilities for all 21 types of disabilities like touch and smell garden, water therapy, independent room for mentally challenged children, mothers.
- ➤ The 4.1 km long Shinku La tunnel is to be constructed to ensure all-weather connectivity on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha Road between Leh in Ladakh and Manali in Himachal Pradesh.
- ➤ In a first in the country, huge Lithium reserves have been found in the Salal-Haimana area of Reasi District in J&K. The Geological Survey of India established 5.9 million tonnes of inferred lithium resources in J&K.
- Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal will soon get the 'heritage' tag from UNESCO to take the distinction of world's first living heritage university.
- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy announced on January 31 that Visakhapatnam will be the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **JANUARY**

- Aska Police Station in Ganjam district of Odisha was ranked as the "Best Police Station" in the country in 2022 by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- In a unique achievement, district Kollam in Kerala became the first constitution literate district in the country. Around 16.3 lakh people, above 10 years of age, were covered under Constitution literacy campaign.
- Kerala became the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking services. The announcement was made on Jan 7 by the chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The Dharmadam assembly constituency in Kannur district of Kerala has achieved the milestone of the first complete library constituency in India, having a public library in every ward of the constituency.
- ➤ World's first palm leaf manuscript museum set up with modern audio-visual technology by the Kerala Archives Department was inaugurated in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Tamil Nadu approved India's first Nilgiri Tahr project for conserving Nilgiri Tahr, its state animal. It is a wild goat-like wild animal with two backward bending curved horns, found in the jungles of Western Ghats.
- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to pass the Lokayukta Bill 2022 that brings the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the Lokayukta- the anti-corruption ombudsman.

- ➤ J&K became the first UT to completely switch to a digital method of administration, where all governmental and administrative services are offered only digitally.
- Capital of Telangana, Hyderabad was identified as the World Economic Forum's 18th Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR).
- It will promote development and adoption of newer technologies including genomics, personalised medicine, and healthcare manufacturing.
- ADB signed a \$125 million loan to develop climateresilient sewage, drainage, and water supply systems in Coimbatore, Madurai, and Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.
- ➤ ADB signed an agreement with the Tripura government for a loan of Rs 2,275 crore to strengthen and improve power distribution efficiency in the state.

#### **DECEMBER**

- ➤ The Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released on Dec 20 the Social Progress Index (SPI) report for States and Districts of India.
- Puducherry secured first position with a SPI score of 65.99, followed closely by Lakshadweep (65.89) and Goa (65.53).
- ➤ India's longest (12.89 km) escape tunnel, located between Sumber and Khari Stations on the Katra-Banihal section, was completed on Dec 23.
- India's biggest Yoga Centre has been constructed in the village Mantalai in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on the banks of the Tawi River.
- A Hyderabad based jewellery manufacturer Goldsikka, launched "the first real-time Gold ATM of the world" on Dec 05 at its head office in Ashoka Raghupathi Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad.
- ➤ The 3,140 metres long double-decker viaduct (metro) supported on a single column, under Nagpur Metro has successfully established a Guinness World Record for longest double-decker viaduct.
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has granted A grade to the Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar.
- Scoring 3.85 points, it became the only State/ Central/Private University in India to get this score.
- Tamil Nadu has become the first state to start its own climate change mission, headed by the Chief Minister M K Stalin himself.
- Kerala government on Dec 10 declared a seed farm, located at Thuruthu in Aluva, as the first carbon neutral farm in the country.
- Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting Carbon-di-Oxide and absorbing the same from the atmosphere.

- The Adani Group emerged as the highest bidder on Nov 29 for the 640-acre (2.6 sq km) Dharavi Redevelopment Project in Central Mumbai.
- The Adani group decided to shut down its two cement plants at Barmana (ACC) and Darlaghat (Ambuja) in Himachal Pradesh from Dec 14.
- It cited high transportation cost, of both, raw material as well as finished product, that is making operations unviable.
- (However, as per the latest information, the company has come to an agreement with the transporters and has decided to resume operations at the plant after a standoff for 67 days)
- More than 300 people belonging to the ethnic Kuki-Chin minorities from Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh crossed over to the Indian side, taking refuge in south Mizoram's Lawngtlai district.
- The FSSAI approved the Himalayan Yak as a 'food animal'. Food Animals are those which are raised and used for food production or consumption by humans. It is expected to increase commercialization of Yak milk and meat products and promote entrepreneurship. Yak milk is highly nutritious, rich in fat, contains essential minerals and has medicinal value. Yak farmers also produce various traditional meat products.
- A nine-day Losar festival began in Ladakh on 24<sup>th</sup> December to mark the beginning of Ladakhi New Year.
- ➤ The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations and the Goa government organised the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from 3-6 December.
- ➤ The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the 10-day long Hornbill Festival began on Dec 01 at Naga heritage village Kisama, about 12 km from Kohima, capital of Nagaland.

#### **NOVEMBER**

- Kerala became the first state in India to launch a uniform gold price in the state, based on the bank rate, offering consumers an opportunity to purchase gold at a reasonable and transparent price.
- Government approved the establishment of India's first-ever Integrated Aqua Park in Arunachal Pradesh at Tarin (Ziro) in the lower Subansiri District.
- District Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh topped in the country in giving the maximum number of tap connections in a month under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
  - ✓ It was ranked on top in the aspirant category for ensuring 28,419 tap connections in October.
- EPFO placed Delhi at the top in terms of coverage of 61.5% of their working population under the social security ambit of the organisation. The EPFO coverage was the lowest in Tripura.

- World's tallest (369 ft) Lord Shiva statue was unveiled in Nathdwara town of Rajasthan's Rajsamand district on October 29. The statue named 'Viswas Swaroopam' has been constructed by Tat Padam Sansthan.
- ➤ India's (also world's) largest Wind Turbine Generator was commissioned in Mundra, Gujarat by the Adani New Ind. Ltd. Standing 200 mt tall, its blades are 78 mt long. It can generate 5.2 MW power for 4,000 homes.
- ➤ Govt of Kerala announced on Nov 14 their proposal to build first of its kind Kochi Green Hydrogen Hub with a capital expenditure of \$ 575 million, to build a 60-tonnes per day (TPD) green hydrogen plant.
- ➤ Tamil Nadu has declared an area of 686 sq km in the reserve forests of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri as the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ➤ The Union Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change gave its nod on Oct 21 to the establishment of the Terai Elephant Reserve in Uttar Pradesh.
- ➤ Govt approved creation of 4<sup>th</sup> tiger reserve in UP by the name "Ranipur Tiger Reserve". The tiger reserve, 53<sup>rd</sup> in the country, is spread across over 530 sq km.

## **GOVT INITIATIVES**

#### **FEBRUARY**

- ➤ The Ministry of Education has directed all states and UTs to fix the minimum age for admission in Class 1 as six years as per the new National Education Policy.
- ➤ ICAR has developed a new wheat variety *HD-3385* that can overcome the challenges arising out of changes in weather patterns and rising heat levels.
- ➤ A Learning-Teaching Material for Foundational Stages, 'Jaadui Pitara', was launched on Feb20. It comprises playbooks, activity books, flash cards, story posters, puzzles, puppets and many more items.
- The government has launched a mobile app 'Khanan Prahari' and a web app Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS) for reporting unauthorised coal mining activities.
- ➤ Govt decided to open Integrative Medicine Centres at all govt medical units, especially at AIIMS, for harmonising the Indian and modern systems of medicine and providing joint multidisciplinary care to patients.
- ➤ The first such centre was inaugurated on Feb 7 at the Department of Integrative Medicine of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi.
- The govt has set up a panel headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Manoj Govil, on digital competition law to examine various regulatory aspects in dealing with challenges emerging from the digital economy.

#### JANUARY

- ➤ The NCERT notified India's first national assessment regulator 'PARAKH' – Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development.
- ➤ It will work on setting common norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognised school boards in the country.
- ➤ India's first 'Centre of Excellence' for online gaming is to be set up in Shillong, Meghalaya by March 2023.
- ➤ The Union Cabinet approved the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development Scheme for augmenting broadcasting infrastructure in India, particularly in remote areas.
- ➤ The Union Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission to make India a Global Hub for production, utilisation and export of Green Hydrogen.
- ➤ The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), launched 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals) program.
- ➤ The Rural Development Ministry launched Prajjwala Challenge on Dec 29 for inviting ideas, solutions and actions to transform the rural economy.
- ➤ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution launched the Right to Repair Portal to protect the interests of Indian consumers.
- Manufacturers will share the manual of product details with customers on the portal so that they can either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers.

#### **DECEMBER**

- The Ministry of Railways has formulated a new "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme" to modernise over 1,000 small stations over the coming years.
- ➤ Government has decided to provide free ration to 81.35 crore poor people under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year from January 1, 2023
- ➤ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has implemented a dedicated Centrally Sponsored "Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)".
- There are 75 groups of most vulnerable sections amongst the tribals who are classified as PVTGs.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), has developed and launched a portal 'GHAR' – Go Home And Re-unite (Portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child).
- The GHAR portal has been developed to digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children according to the protocol.

- The government has named 21 uninhabited islands in the Andaman-Nicobar after recipients of Param Vir Chakra. The first uninhabited island was named as 'Somnath Dweep' after Major Somnath Sharma.
- ➤ The Government announced on Dec 02 that recruitment to Indian Railway Management Service, IRMS will be done by the UPSC from next year onwards through a specially designed examination.
- The government launched DigiYatra app based on facial recognition technology on Dec 01, to provide a seamless entry and embarkation process for air passengers at the airports in New Delhi, Bangalore and Varanasi.

#### **NOVEMBER**

- Rural Development Ministry has formed a panel headed by former Advisor to PM, Amarjeet Sinha. To restructure the flagship employment guarantee scheme MGNREGA.
- India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping was launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping at New Delhi to foster carbon neutrality and circular economy in the shipping sector in India.
- ➤ UGC has asked universities to engage professionals and industry experts as "Professors of Practice" (PoP) to impart holistic and multidisciplinary education.
  - ✓ 'PoP' position provides an opportunity for the participation of experienced practitioners / professionals / industry experts etc. in the teaching-learning process.
- ➤ The government has amended Aadhaar card rules, specifying that supporting documents need to be updated at least once by Aadhaar holders on completion 10 years from the enrolment date.
- India's first national repository for life science data, the Indian Biological Data Center (IBDC) was launched on Nov 10 at Faridabad, Haryana.
  - ✓ It has a data storage capacity of about 4 petabytes and houses the 'Brahm' High-Performance Computing (HPC) facility.
- Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog launched the Women centric challenges on Nov 9 under the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Atal New India Challenge (ANIC).
  - ✓ ANIC aims to nurture technology-based innovations that solve issues of national importance through a grant-based mechanism of up to one crore rupees.
- ➤ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified its latest up linking and downloading rules on Nov 9.
  - ✓ It has mandated private TV channels to run 30minute daily programmes of national importance and social relevance.

- Govt constituted a committee headed by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur for strengthening the assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions.
- The Income Tax Deptt. Launched the 'HARIT Aaykar' initiative on the occasion of National Unity Day, Oct 31, to increase greenery and develop micro forests.
- ➤ HARIT stands for "Hariyali Achievement Resolution

## **ECONOMY**

#### **FEBRUARY**

- According to 2<sup>nd</sup> advance estimates of production of major crops released by the Ministry of Agriculture, record production of foodgrain is estimated to be over 3,235 lakh tonnes in the agricultural year 2022-23.
- NTPC has been ranked as the number one independent power producer and energy trader globally in the S&P Global Commodity Insights Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings-2022.
- ➤ The Tata-owned airlines Air India will purchase as many as 470 aircrafts, 220 planes from Boeing Inc. USA and 250 from European manufacturer Airbus.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was included in the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the FORTUNE magazine's list of the World's Most Admired Companies.
- ➤ The aircraft builder Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) opened a new helicopter-making factory on Feb 06, at Tumkur, Karnataka.
- ONGC's iconic drilling rig Sagar Samrat was formally re-dedicated to the nation on Jan 28 as a Mobile Offshore Production Unit (MOPU).
- A consortium of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) and Israel's Gadot Group took over the Port of Haifa in Israel on 31st January.

#### **JANUARY**

- ➤ In a gazette notification issued on Jan 02 by the central government exempted PSUs from the Minimum Public Shareholding norm of SEBI
- ➤ SEBI norms stipulate that all listed companies are required to maintain a minimum public shareholding of 25% of their shares.
- ➤ Siemens India, signed a Rs 26,000-crore contract with Indian Railways to manufacture 1,200 electric freight locomotives, each with 9000 HP power rating. The locos will be built at their Dahod plant in Gujarat.

#### **DECEMBER**

According to data released by the Central Statistical Office, the GDP growth slowed down a bit to 6.3% in July-Sep quarter, mainly due to poor performance by the manufacturing and mining sectors.

- The Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), has launched an index named GIXI that will reflect inland gas prices and will facilitate trading in gas pipeline capacity.
- Reliance Ind. Has agreed to buy German firm Metro AG's wholesale operations in India for Rs 2,850 crores through its subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd.
- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) commissioned its third hybrid power plant on Dec 5 in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan having generating capacity of 450 MW.
- AGEL is now "world's largest wind-solar hybrid power developer" with capacity of 1,440 MW.
- In a major consolidation in the Indian aviation space, Tata group (owner of Air India) announced the merger of Vistara with Air India.

#### **NOVEMBER**

- As per the 3<sup>rd</sup> advance estimates of the production of horticultural crops for the year 2021-22, total production of fruits and vegetables is estimated to be 342.33 million tonnes (MT) in the year 2021-22.
  - ✓ Production of fruits is estimated to be 107.24 MT while that of vegetables is estimated to be 204.84 MT and 30.25 MT are other green products.
- Russia pushed China to second place to become the top supplier of fertilisers to India for the first time in the first six months of this fiscal year, starting April 1, 2022.
- ➤ Govt approved a framework for issuance of sovereign green bonds to attract investment in environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects.
  - The selected projects may include renewable energy, clean transportation, water/waste management, pollution prevention and control, among others.

## **BANKING & FINANCE**

#### **FEBRUARY**

- ➤ RBI increased the repo rate on Feb 8 by 25 bps to 6.5% cent. Consequently, SDF rate stands revised to 6.25%; MSF and Bank Rate to 6.75%.
- ➤ RBI announced its second global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'Inclusive Digital Services'.
- From Feb 21, UPI from India and PayNow of Singapore, were connected seamlessly to facilitate smooth, faster and cost-efficient transfer of crossborder remittances.
- The RBI governor announced on Feb 8 the proposed launch of a pilot project on QR code-based coin vending machines (QCVM) to improve distribution of coins.

Paytm Payments Bank became the first bank to announce on Feb 15 to launch of its UPI LITE feature to enable multiple small UPI transactions.

#### **JANUARY**

- ➤ The RBI extended on Jan 23 the deadline for renewal of agreements for the existing safe deposit lockers in a phased manner, maximum by 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023.
- ➤ RBI issued guidelines on Jan 16 stating that any person looking to acquire a 'major shareholding' of 5% or more in a bank, will need prior approval from the RBI.
- Reserve Bank of India launched its medium-term strategy framework titled 'Utkarsh 2.0' on Dec 30 to enhance the RBI's statutory and other functions and to guide the central bank during 2023-2025.
- Based on the data collected from banks as on March 31, 2022, RBI has decided to retain SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as D-SIBs – Domestic Systemically Important Banks for 2021.
- The Central government extended the tenure of Dr Michael Debabrata Patra as Deputy Governor of the RBI, for one more year wef 15 January, 2023.

#### **DECEMBER**

- TransUnion CIBIL, in collaboration with Online PSB Loans, under the mentorship of SIDBI, launched on Dec 20 the FIT Rank – a comprehensive ranking model for MSME borrowers.
- FIT combines the power of Financial, Income, and Trade (FIT) data based on Goods and Services Tax (GST), Bank Statement and Income Tax Returns (ITR) to provide a holistic view of MSMEs.
- ➤ RBI added a new functionality "single block and multiple debits" in the UPI system. This feature will aid payments where delivery of goods and services will happen later, like e-commerce purchases.
- ➤ The RBI launched the retail digital rupee on Dec 01 on a pilot basis. It is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender and thus will be issued in the same denominations as paper currency and coins.
- SEBI has set up a high-level panel headed by Shiavax Jal Vazifdar to review the takeover norms in a move to simplify and strengthen the current rules.

#### NOVEMBER

- RBI approved the continuation of Interest Subvention Scheme for short term crop loans and short-term farm loans up to Rs. Three lakh for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- Govt has decided to extend tenure of the MD or ED of a public sector bank to 10 years, from the earlier 5 years, subject to superannuation age of 60 years.
- The RBI launched the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee on Nov 01 in the wholesale segment on pilot basis.

- ✓ Digital Rupee is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. It is an electronic form of money that can be used in contactless transactions.
- ➤ IDFC First Bank launched India's first sticker-based Debit Card- FIRSTAP on Nov 24, in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
  - ✓ The card will facilitate transactions by simply tapping the sticker on a Near Field Communication (NFC) enabled point-of-sale terminal.
- Airtel Payments Bank became the first payment bank to roll out Face Authentication-based savings bank account opening for customers.
- ➤ IRDAI announced the launch of Bima Sugam—an online marketplace that will house all companies selling life and non-life insurance on a single platform.

## DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### **FEBRUARY**

- The five-day Aero India show was held from Feb 13 to 17 at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, Bengaluru with the theme "The runway to a billion opportunities".
- ➤ The Indian Air Force has developed VAYULINK, a solution for its fighter pilots to have uninterrupted communication even during bad weather.
- ➤ The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Bengaluru unveiled its Next Gen Supersonic Trainer aircraft, Hindustan Lead-in Fighter Trainer (HLFT-42) with the tagline "The Storm is Coming".
- Crossing another milestone in self-reliance in defence on Feb 06, a Light Combat Aircraft (Navy), a Tejas and MIG29K Fighter Aircraft performed their maiden landing and takeoff on Feb 6 from India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.
- ➤ Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, Kolkata signed an MoU with the Rolls Royce Solutions of Germany for making high-quality marine diesel engines at the GRSE's diesel engine making plant in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ➤ INS Sumedha participated in Naval Defence Exhibition NAVDEX 23 and International Defence Exhibition IDEX 23 held in Abu Dhabi, UAE from Feb 20 to 24.
- ➤ **Dustlik 2023:** Military exercise between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army, held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from Feb 20 to March 05.
- ➤ **Dharma Guardian 2023:** Military exercise with Japan Army at Camp Imazu in Shiga Province, Japan from February 17 to March 02.

- Exercise Tarkash: A joint counter-terrorism exercise between NSG of India and US Special Operations Forces (SOF) held from Jan 16 to Feb 14 in Chennai.
- Exercise Topchi: Indian Army's imposing firepower display on Jan 29 in Maharashtra's Deolali.
- ➤ **Trishakti Prahar:** A joint training exercise of the Indian Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), held from Jan 21 to 31 in the Siliguri corridor, in North Bengal.
- ➤ India's first hybrid sounding rocket made by the school students from various states, coordinated by Martin Foundation, was launched on Feb 19.
- ➤ It was launched from Pattipulam Village in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu as part of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission 2023.
- ➤ The second developmental flight of SSLV D2 placed 3 satellites successfully in its precise orbit on Feb 10. The three satellites included EOS-07, an Earth Observation Satellite by ISRO; Janus-1 and AzaadiSAT-2.
- ➤ The ISRO along with Indian Navy, carried out initial recovery trials of Crew Module in the Water Survival Test Facility (WSTF) as part of preparations for the Gaganyaan mission.
- The Delhi Metro launched India's first ever indigenously developed Train Control & Supervision System, the i-ATS (Indigenous - Automatic Train Supervision) for operations on its first corridor, Red Line.
- ➤ Italian researchers have discovered a Black Galaxy or Invisible Galaxy using ALMA Atacama Large Millimeter Array telescope complex in South America.
- The galaxy is termed invisible because the light emitted is not able to escape due to extreme inward gravitational pull and intense interstellar dust.
- ➤ Google finally launched its AI technology chatbot named 'Bard' on Feb 07. Bard has been specifically launched with the intention of competing with Open AI's popular language model ChatGPT-3.

#### **JANUARY**

- ➤ The 5<sup>th</sup> Kalvari class submarine INS Vagir was commissioned into the Indian Navy on Jan 23 in Mumbai.
- The Korwa Ordnance Factory in Korwa near Amethi, UP produced the first batch of 7.62 mm Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles.
- The AK-203 weighs mere 3.8 kg and can fire 39mm bullets with a firing speed of 700 rounds per minute. Its effective strike range is up to 800 meters.
- Indian Air Force successfully tested the Extended Range Version of BrahMos Air Launched Missile on Dec 29 against a Ship Target in the Bay of Bengal from a Sukhoi SU-30MKI aircraft.



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- ➤ ICGS 'Kamla Devi', locally built Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard on Jan 12 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- 'Prahari' Mobile app launched for the BSF to enable jawans to access personal information and information related to accommodation, Ayushmann-CAPF, and leaves on their mobile.
- ➤ Captain Shiva Chauhan: Lady Officer from the Bengal Engineer Regiment became the first woman officer to be posted at the world's highest battlefield Siachen glacier. On January 2, at the Kumar post, at an altitude of around 15,600 feet.
- ➤ **TROPEX-23:** The Indian Navy's major maritime exercise started on Jan 24 in the Indian Ocean Region. The exercise will continue till March 31.
- ➤ **Veer Guardian-2023:** India and Japan held their first joint air exercise at Hyakuri Air Base, Japan from Jan 12 to 26.
- ➤ AMPHEX 2023: The largest biennial Tri-Services amphibious exercise involving the Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and the Indian Navy, was conducted in the coastal area near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh from January 17 to 22.
- Exercise Cyclone-I: The joint operation of the Special Forces contingents of India and Egypt was held from Jan 14 to 27 in the deserts of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Exercise Varuna: Bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France was held from Jan 16 to 20 off the western sea coast in the Arabian sea.
- J and K Operations Pvt. Ltd., a tech startup incubated by IIT Madras; launched a new mobile operating system – BharOS for use in govt and public systems.
- It focuses on privacy and security and reduces the dependence on foreign OS in smartphones.
- Adani Enterprises, Ashok Leyland, and Ballard Power, Canada joined hands to develop Asia's first hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Truck (FCET) for mining logistics and transportation.
- ➤ Bengaluru based Space Situational Awareness startup Digantara Research and Technologies launched its space mapping testbed Pushan-alpha.
- ➢ It was launched on Jan 03 under the SpaceX Transporter 6 mission on board the reusable Falcon 9 rocket from Florida, USA.
- ➤ Hyderabad based Marut Drone became the first Indian company to get DGCA Type Certification for its product -'AG 365 Agricopter', India's first Multiutility Agriculture Medium Category Drone.
- ➤ Europe's first orbital launch site in the European mainland was inaugurated on Jan 13 in Esrange Space Centre near Kiruna in northern Sweden.
- China launched Asia's first hydrogen powered train on Dec 28 for the Urban Railways. It gets a range of 600 km on a single tank, with a top speed of 160 kmph.

#### **DECEMBER**

- Indian Army plans to procure the 'Pralay' surface to surface ballistic missile that can hit the target from 150 to 500 km.
- ➤ India's first ASW SWC (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft) INS 'Arnala', built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers for the Indian Navy was launched on Dec 20 at Chennai.
- ➤ INS Mormugao, a P15B stealth-guided missile destroyer, built by the Mazagon Docks Shipbuilders Ltd was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Mumbai.
- ➤ The country's first infantry museum was inaugurated in Mhow cantonment in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh on December 16.
- An Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron, 840 Sqn (CG), was commissioned on Nov 30 in Chennai.
- ➤ Indian Navy's third Survey Vessel 'Ikshak' was launched on 26 Nov in Chennai for testing waters.
- Exercise KAZIND-22: India Kazakhstan joint training exercise at Umroi near Shillong from 15 to 28 December.
- Ex Surya Kiran-XVI: Indo-Nepal joint training exercise held from Dec 16 to 29 at Saljhandi, Nepal.
- Ex Sanchaar Bodh: The Airawat Division of the Indian Army conducted on Dec 10 in Punjab to validate its tactical communication capabilities.
- ➤ **IND-INDO CORPAT:** India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol from 08 19 Dec held in east of Andaman Sea.
- ➤ AUSTRA HIND 22: Indian and Australian Army exercise held at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan) from Nov 28 to Dec 11.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti-2022: Joint military exercise of India and Malaysia held at Pulai Klang in Malaysia from Nov 28 to Dec 12.
- 7th Ex Sangam: held between Indian Navy MARCOs (Marine Commandos) and US Navy SEALs (Sea, Air and Land) commenced in Goa on Dec 01.
- Ex. Agni Warrior: Held between the Singapore and Indian armies, Nov 13 to 30 at Deolali in Maharashtra.
- Ex. Sudarshan Prahar: Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Indian Army conducted this exercise in the deserts of Rajasthan on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- Figure 12 ISRO Trisonic Wind Tunnel: It is a system to aid aerodynamic design of rockets and re-entry spacecrafts. It was tested by ISRO on 8th Dec at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Hyderabad-based battery maker Godi Energy manufactured India's first ever 5.2 Ah 21700 cylindrical lithium-ion cells with an energy density of 275 Wh/kg based on silicon anode technology.

- Researchers at IIT Madras have developed and deployed a system that could generate electricity using energy from seawaves.
- The system, dubbed Sindhuja-I, was deployed by the researchers about six km from the coast of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu.
- Agnikul Cosmos, Chennai launched India's first private launchpad and mission control centre on Nov 28 at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- ➤ US space agency NASA retired its Mars InSight lander on Dec 21, as the spacecraft's solar-powered batteries ran out of energy.
- ➤ In a big leap in energy generation, the USA announced a nuclear fusion breakthrough, achieved for the first time in history.
- Scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California for the first time, produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, something called net energy gain.
- Renowned British aircraft engine maker Rolls-Royce and British low-cost air carrier easyJet, successfully tested a hydrogen-powered jet engine.
- In a world first, Japan's space agency, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully used steam to propel a spacecraft toward the Moon.
- ➤ JAXA's spacecraft, EQUULEUS used waste heat from the communications kit to heat the water into steam that is squirted out to produce thrust.

#### **NOVEMBER**

**Y 12705 Mormugao,** the second ship of Project 15B Kolkata class stealth guided missile destroyers was delivered to the Indian Navy on Nov 24.

**DRDO conducted** a successful maiden flight-test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile on Nov 02 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

An Army Commanders' Conference was held in New Delhi from November 7 to 11 to brainstorm on current and emerging security and administrative challenges and chart the future course for the Indian Army.

Indian Army launched a single window facility – Veerangana Sewa Kendra (VSK) for welfare and grievances redressal of Veer Naris.

✓ The widow of a member of the armed forces, who has laid down his life for the country, whether in a war or in a military operation, is called 'Veer Nari'.

The foundation stone for the manufacturing project for a C-295MW military transport aircraft was laid at Vadodara in Gujarat on the 30 October.

✓ A consortium of European major Airbus and Tata Group will jointly make this aircraft in India. **Lance Naik Manju** of Eastern Command from the Corps of Military Police created history by becoming the first woman soldier skydiver of the Indian Army.

**"Samanvay 2022":** The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted its annual joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise from November 28 to 30 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

**8th Garuda Shakti 22:** The India-Indonesia armies exercise started on Nov 21 at Karawang, Indonesia.

13<sup>th</sup> Naseem Al Bahr-2022: held on Nov 20 between Indian and the Royal Oman navies near the coast of Oman.

**Exercise Yudh Abhyas–22:** Indian and US militaries conducted the battalion-level exercise at Auli in Uttarakhand, from 16<sup>th</sup> Nov to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**3rd Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise Sea Vigil-22** was conducted by the Indian Navy on Nov 15-16 in coordination with the Coast Guard and other ministries along the entire 7,516 kilometre coastline.

**Exercise Malabar 2022:** The four member countries of the "Quad" conducted the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of Malabar exercise off Yokosuka in Japan from Nov 8 to 15.

**Operation Sea Sword 2:** Indian Navy's warship INS Trikand participated in the Combined Maritime Forces led Focused Operation "Sea Sword 2" in the Northwest Arabian Sea from 06 to 14 November.

**Exercise Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE):** Australian naval ships with around 1,500 personnel, arrived in Visakhapatnam on Oct 30 to participate in the IPE.

**SIMBEX-2022:** The Indian Navy hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the Singapore-India maritime bilateral exercise from October 26 to 30 at Visakhapatnam.

**Garuda VII:** The Indian Air Force and the French Air and Space Force conducted a bilateral exercise 'Garuda Vil' in Jodhpur, Rajasthan from Oct 26 to Nov 12.

**IMT TRILAT:** The first edition of the India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise was held in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on 27 -29 October.

ISRO launched its PSLV-C54 on Nov 26 to successfully place the earth observation satellite (Oceansat) into a sun-synchronous orbit.

India's first-ever private launch of a suborbital rocket was made from Sriharikota on Nov 18. Developed by space-tech startup Skyroot Aerospace, the rocket Vikram-S soared to an altitude of over 80 km.

NASA launched the 100-metre tall 'Artemis', its most powerful rocket ever built, on Nov 16 for a journey to the Moon in a spectacular blaze of light and sound.

For the first time ever, researchers in the UK in a clinical experiment, have successfully transfused blood grown in a lab from adult stem cells, into two people.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **FEBRUARY**

- Russian President Vladimir Putin announced on Feb 21 that Moscow was suspending its participation in a major arms control agreement with the United States. The "New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) was otherwise valid till Feb 5, 2026.
- A team of sherpas and scientists made a world record of rebuilding the world's highest weather station, just 39 metres below Mount Everest's peak, at an altitude of 8,810 metres (28,904 feet).
- ➤ The WHO has confirmed the Marburg disease outbreak in Equatorial Guinea. Patients suffering from the disease experience diarrhoea, vomiting, and stomach pain.
- An ebola-related virus is causing the disease. The Spread of the disease is epidemic; meaning the disease is widespread.
- ➤ The World Government Summit 2023 was held from Feb 13 to 15 in Dubai. The Summit was held under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments".
- ➤ A powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.9 struck central Turkey and northwest Syria on early morning of Feb 6, killing thousands of people as buildings collapsed across the vast area, leaving hundreds trapped in rubble.
- ➤ The Government of Australia decided to replace the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II from its A\$ 5 currency notes with a new design to reflect and honour the history of its indigenous culture.
- ➤ In a strategically important move, the USA succeeded in securing expanded access to its military bases in the Philippines on the southeastern edge of the South China Sea close to self-ruled Taiwan.

#### **IANUARY**

- ➤ World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting was held from Jan 16 to 20 in Davos in Switzerland with the theme 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World'.
- ➤ The WEF members launched a global initiative "Giving to Amplify Earth Action" on Jan 17 to fund and grow new and existing public, private and philanthropic partnerships (PPPPs). It aims to unlock the \$3 trillion of financing needed each year to reach net zero, reverse nature loss and restore biodiversity by 2050.
- ➤ The World Bank in its annual report 2022, slashed its forecast for global growth this year by nearly half, to just 1.7%, from its previous projection of 3%.

- ➤ The National Bureau of Statistics in China reported that the country had 850,000 fewer people at the end of 2022 than over the previous year.
- Its population declined for the first time since 1961 due to a plunging birth rate. Chinese stood at 1.41 billion, with 9.56 million births against 10.41 million deaths in the year 2022.
- Five new non-permanent members of the UN Security Council, Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland started their two-year term on Jan 01.
- Croatia crossed two important milestones on midnight of Dec 31 as it switched to the Euro currency and entered Europe's passport-free Schengen zone.
- Croatia bid farewell to its Kuna currency to become 20th member of the Eurozone and removed dozens of border checkpoints to join Schengen zone, world's largest passport-free travel zone, as its 27th member.
- Mexico has brought into force one of the world's strictest anti-tobacco laws by enacting a total ban on smoking in public places that includes parks, beaches, hotels, offices and restaurants.

#### **DECEMBER**

- ➤ In the USA & Canada, nearly 150 million people went without power across several states as a dangerously frigid Arctic air mass gripped a vast expanse of the USA and Canada in the fourth week of Dec.
- ➤ The U.N. Security Council adopted its first ever resolution on Myanmar in 74 years on Dec 23 to demand an end to violence in the country.
- ➤ It urged the military junta to release all political prisoners, including ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and former president Win Myint.
- ➤ The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), also called the Conference of Parties (COP-15) was held in Montreal, Canada from Dec 7 to 19.
- ➤ The UN Economic and Social Council voted to oust Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women for the remainder of its 2022-2026 term, because of its systematic violation of the rights of women and girls.
- New Zealand passed a law on Dec 13 banning cigarettes for future generations in the country.
- The law passed by Parliament means that anyone born after 2008 will never be able to buy cigarettes or tobacco products in the country.
- On Germany's initiative, the G7 countries have decided to establish a Climate Club open to all countries in order to advance climate protection worldwide and join hands in the fight against global warming.
- The FAO organised an opening ceremony on Dec 6 for the International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM2023) in Rome, Italy. The United Nations

- General Assembly has declared the year 2023 'International Year of Millets'.
- ➤ The Boeing Co rolled out its last 747 aircraft, (popular as 'Jumbo Jet' because of its huge size) on Dec 07 out of its massive factory in Everett, Washington. It ended a glorious era of aviation that started in 1969 when first Boeing 747 was rolled out.
- ➤ The World Health Organization announced a longawaited change on Nov 28 to change the name of the disease Monkeypox to Mpox, saying that the name sounds "racist and stigmatises patients."
- 'Goblin mode' was chosen as the Oxford Word of the Year on Dec 05, after a worldwide public vote. It defines the term as a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, untidy, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.
- Merriam-Webster selected "gaslighting" as the 'Word of Year 2022'. Gaslighting is psychological manipulation of a person, usually over an extended period of time. It refers to behaviour that's grossly misleading and downright deceitful.

#### **NOVEMBER**

- Members of the G-20 held their 17<sup>th</sup> annual Heads of Nations summit on Nov 15-16 at the resort Nusa Dua in Bali Island, under the Presidency of Indonesia, led by its President Joko Widodo.
  - ✓ The theme selected for the summit was "Recover Together, Recover Stronger", focusing on collective efforts to push up post pandemic economic recovery across the globe.
- ➤ The Health and Finance Ministers of the G-20 group launched a \$1.4 billion Pandemic Fund on November 13, just before the main summit of G-20 nations.
- ➤ The 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) was hosted by Egypt at Sharm el-Sheikh from Nov 6 to 20.
  - ✓ COP-27 finalised a "Loss and Damage" fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
  - ✓ International Drought Resilience Alliance was launched to accelerate action and help countries to be better prepared for future droughts.
  - ✓ The 28<sup>th</sup> session of the COP 28 will be hosted by the UAE in December 2023.
- ASEAN group agreed in principle to admit East Timor as the group's 11<sup>th</sup> member, more than a decade after the country requested membership of the group.
- ➤ The UN Population Fund informed that the population clock flashed 8 billion on November 15,

- with the world having added one billion people in the last 12 years.
- Homer, an informal American English word for a home run in baseball, has been declared as the "Word of the Year 2022" by the Cambridge Dictionary of UK.
- Scotland's Collins Dictionary has named "Permacrisis" as the "word of the year" after an extended period which has seen people live through crises including war, inflation, climate change and political instability.
- US business conglomerate Amazon.com Inc. secured an unwanted distinction by becoming the world's first public company to lose a trillion dollars in market value.
- Switzerland created a new world record for running the world's longest passenger train. Measuring 1,910 mt. it has 100 coaches, with a total 4,550 seats.
  - ✓ Named 'Alpine Cruise', it is run by the Rhaetian Railway on the 122 km long Albula-Bernina route, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

#### **FEBRUARY**

Narendra Modi: For the second consecutive year, the Indian Prime Minister was rated as the world's most popular leader with an approval rating of 78 percent of India's adult population. This is as per the findings of a US-based global leader approval tracker called 'Morning Consult'.

**Ricky Kej:** The US born Indian music composer won his third Grammy on February 6, becoming the only living Indian to win three Grammy awards.

#### **JANUARY**

**Captain Harpreet Chandi:** The British Sikh Army officer set a new world record on Jan 19 for the longest solo, unsupported, unassisted polar expedition by a woman.

**Elon Musk:** Tesla and Twitter CEO and the CEO of SpaceX has become the first person ever in the world to lose over \$200 billion (Rs 16.5 lakh crore) from his peak net worth.

#### **DECEMBER**

Billionaires Gautam Adani, HCL Technologies's Shiv Nadar, and Happiest Minds Technologies' Ashok Soota are the three Indians who have been named in the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list of 15 notable donors released on Dec 05.

**PV Sindhu,** India's top badminton star is the only Indian player in the top 25 in Forbes' annual list of the highest-paid female athletes in 2022 in the world.

**Sargam Koushal:** Beauty queen from Jammu scripted history on Dec 18 as she won the "Mrs World 2022" title at a glittering event that took place in Las Vegas, USA.

**Ms. Cherisha Chanda,** 17-year-old teenaged beauty from Gurugram, Haryana, created history on Dec 18 by winning the first Miss Eco Teen Pageant held at Marsa Alam, Egypt.

**Neeraj Chopra:** Data released by the World Athletics shows that India's javelin star Neeraj Chopra became the world's most written-about athlete in 2022, attracting 812 articles.

**Sonakshi Sinha:** Popular Bollywood actress was named PETA's Person of the Year recognising her actions to help save animals killed for fashion and her strong advocacy for dogs and cats in need.

**Dr. Deepa Malik:** Union Health Ministry on Nov 26 designated Dr. Deepa Malik, President of the Paralympic Committee of India, as ambassador of 'Ni-Kshay Mitra' campaign launched for providing support to TB patients.

**Volodymyr Zelenskyy**: President of Ukraine was named as "TIME 2022 Person of the Year" by the New York based global news magazine TIME.

#### **NOVEMBER**

**Sh. Narendra Modi:** Indian Prime Minister remains the world's most popular leader with an approval rating of 77%, as revealed by the Global Leader Approval Ratings released by a US based consulting firm Morning Consult.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **FEBRUARY**

**Ajay Banga:** An Indo-American business executive from USA was nominated by the US government for the post of President of the World Bank. His appointment has to be approved by the board of executive directors.

**Girish Chandra Murmu:** Comptroller and Auditor General of India was selected as External Auditor of the International Labour Organization in Geneva for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027.

**Biswabhushan Harichandan:** Took the oath of office as the 9<sup>th</sup> Governor of Chhattisgarh.

**Abdul Nazeer:** Former SC Judge was appointed Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

**BVR Subrahmanyam:** Appointed as the CEO of NITI Aayog by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet.

**K Satyanarayana Raju:** Appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank.

**Ayushmann Khurrana:** Selected by the UNICEF India as its national ambassador for supporting the rights of children.

**Mohammad Shahabuddin**: Elected unopposed as Bangladesh's 22<sup>nd</sup> President.

**Nikos Christodoulides:** Elected as the President of Cyprus

**Manuela Roka Botey:** Appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea.

**Petr Pavel:** Elected as the new President of the Czech Republic.

#### **JANUARY**

**Ajay Kumar Srivastava:** Appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank with effect from January 1, 2023.

**Chris Hipkins:** Senior leader of New Zealand's ruling Labour Party was selected as the new Prime Minister of the country on Jan 22.

#### **DECEMBER**

**Hansraj Gangaram Ahir:** Former Union Minister appointed Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

**Bhupendra Patel:** Gujarat BJP leader was sworn in as the 18<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Gujarat on Dec 12.

**Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu:** Senior congress leader was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.

**Dinesh Kumar Shukla:** Senior nuclear scientist has been appointed as the chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Mumbai for a period of three years.

**Sundararaman Ramamurthy:** Appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Bombay Stock Exchange.

**K V Shaji:** Appointed as the Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

**Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda':** Appointed as the Prime Minister of Nepal by the President Bidhya Devi Bhandari. He is a former Maoist guerilla leader.

**Leo Varadkar:** Indian-origin politician returned to power for a second term as Ireland's Prime Minister.

**Ms.** Mette Frederiksen: Re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark, heading Social Democratic Party.

**Dina Boluarte:** Assumed office as the first female President of Peru, following the impeachment of former President Pedro Castillo.

**Sheikh Hasina:** Prime Minister of Bangladesh was appointed as the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetic Federation (IDF) based in Brussels, Belgium.

#### NOVEMBER

**Dr. C V Ananda Bose:** The 71-year-old former bureaucrat was appointed Governor of West Bengal on Nov 17, by the President of India.

**Justice Rituraj Awasthi:** Central Government on November 7 appointed the Retired Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court as the Chairperson of the Law Commission of India.

**Subhrakant Panda:** Elected as the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Nov 2. He is the Managing Director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd. (IMFA).

**Lt Gen Asim Munir:** A former head of Pakistan's spy agency ISI, was appointed as the next chief of Pakistan Army on Nov 24.

**Anwar Ibrahim:** Long term reformist was sworn in as prime minister of Malaysia on Nov 24.

**Kassym-Jomart Tokayev:** Re-elected as the President of Kazakhstan for a second term.

**Natasa Pirc Musar:** Elected as the first female President of Slovenia on November 13.

**Benjamin Netanyahu:** 73-year-old Chief of right-wing Likud Party won majority seats in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, to become the Prime Minister of Israel for a 6<sup>th</sup> term.

**Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva:** Elected as new president of Brazil by defeating incumbent president Jair Bolsonaro in a very close contest.

## **AWARDS & HONOURS**

#### **FEBRUARY**

**Dadasaheb Phalke Awards:** The 69th Dadasaheb Phalke Award ceremony was held on Feb 20 in Mumbai. The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs ten lakh.

Best Film: The Kashmir Files by Vivek Agnihotri

Film of the Year: RRR by SS Rajamouli

Best Director: R Balki for Chup

Best Actor: Ranbir Kapoor for Brahmastra Best Actress: Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi

**EY Entrepreneur of the Year-2022:** The prestigious title was awarded to Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Group on Feb 23 at New Delhi.

**International Mother Language Prize:** Won by Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra, an Indian educator and social worker for the growth of indigenous languages in Odisha.

**'Pictures of The Year' Award:** The prestigious annual award by the National Geographic magazine was won by the US based Indian origin software engineer, Karthik Subramaniam for his photograph titled "Dance of the Eagles".

**ATD Best Awards 2023:** Won by the NTPC for the sixth consecutive year. This award is given by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.

**The 76<sup>th</sup> BAFTA Film Awards,** popular as "Oscars of Europe" took place on Feb 19 at the Royal Festival Hall in London, England.

Best Film: All Quiet on the Western Front

by Edward Berger

Leading Actress: Cate Blanchett, Tar Leading Actor: Austin Butler, Elvis

Best Director: Edward Berger for All Quiet on

the Western Front

#### Grammy awards 2023 announced

The 65<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards for recognising best in the music in the world, were held on Feb 06 at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, USA.

Beyoncé Knowles, America's most decorated music icon cornered four Grammies, bringing her total to 32 Grammy Awards, the highest in the award's history.

Record of the Year: About Damn Time — Lizzo Album of the Year: Harry's House — Harry Styles Best Pop Solo Performance: Easy on Me — Adele Best Pop Vocal Album: Harry's House — Harry Styles

Best New Artist: Samara Joy

Song of the Year: Just Like That by Bonnie Raitt

#### **JANUARY**

**The President of India** approved the conferment of 106 Padma awards, including 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri.

**East Coast Railway's** Visakhapatnam railway station has received the prestigious 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating.

**Indian film RRR's** super hit song "Naatu Naatu" won the prestigious Golden Globe award for Best Original Song on Jan 11 in the USA.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar: Awarded to Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and to Lunglei Fire Station (LFS), Mizoram for rendering excellent services in disaster management.

**UN- Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023:** Won by Odisha for its Jaga mission, world's largest land titling and slum upgrading programme.

**Atal Samman Award:** Dr. Prabhu Chandra Mishra, a pioneer in stem cell research, was honoured for his excellence in the field of science & research.

**Miss Universe 2022:** Won by R'Bonney Gabriel of USA on Jan 14 at a ceremony held in New Orleans, USA.

#### Golden Globe Awards - 2023 held on Jan 11:

Best Film–Drama: The Fabelmans by Steven Spielberg Best Director: Steven Spielberg - The Fabelmans

Best Actor: Austin Butler - Elvis Best Actress: Cate Blanchett - Tár

#### **DECEMBER**

#### Golden Peacock and other awards at IFFI

The 53<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI) concluded in Goa on Nov 28.

**Golden Peacock for Best Film** (Rs 40 lakh): 'I have Electric Dreams'; Spanish film directed by Valentina Maurel, from Costa Rica

**Silver Peacock for Best Director** (Rs15 lakh): Nader Saeivar of Iran for Turkish film 'No End'.

**Silver Peacock for Best Actor** (Rs 10 lakh): Vahid Mobasheri of Iran for film No End

**Silver Peacock for Best Actress** (Rs 10 lakh): Daniela Marin Navarro for the film 'I Have Electric Dreams'

**Special Jury Award** (Rs15 lakh): Lav Diaz, director of When The Waves Are Gone

#### 'Dear Diary' wins 53-Hour Challenge

The short film 'Dear Diary' made by Team Purple won the "53-Hour Challenge" at the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' competition at IFFI.

**Pride of Central India 2022 Award:** won by Atul Patidar, founder and CEO of Farmkart, Central India's first agritech startup, for transforming the lives of lakhs of rural farmers in the region.

#### 'Kheyti' wins Earthshot Prize

Kheyti, an Indian startup in Telangana that designed the "greenhouse-in-a-box" for small hold farmers, won the one million pound Earthshot Prize in the "Protect and Restore Nature" category.

**Miss Earth 2022:** South Korea's Mina Sue Choi won the title on November 29 at Cove Manila, Philippines.

#### NOVEMBER

**Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal** for the year 2022 were announced for the four Special Operations.

**Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development-2021:** Awarded to Mumbai based NGO Pratham on Nov 19 in New Delhi, in recognition of its work in ensuring quality education for children of the country, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The prize carries a cash award of Rs 25 lakh.

5<sup>th</sup> JCB Prize for Literature: Won by Khalid Jawed of New Delhi for the English translation of his Urdu novel "Ne'mat Khana"; translated as "The Paradise of Food" by Baran Faroogi.

✓ Jawed received the prize money of Rs 25 lakh along with a trophy while Farooqi got Rs. 10 lakh prize.

Champions of the Earth 2022: Assam's leading conservationist Purnima Devi Barman was awarded the United Nation's highest environmental honour, in the Entrepreneurial Vision Category, for leading the 'Hargila Army' to save the Hargila bird (Greater Adjutant Stork) from extinction.

**UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize-2022:** The prestigious \$ 100,000 prize for the promotion of tolerance and nonviolence, has been given to Ms. Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong from Cameroon, for her hard work to change the perception related to mental illness.

**Gandhi Peace Pilgrimage Award:** Indian spiritual Guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of Art of Living, was presented this award in Atlanta, USA in recognition of his efforts to spread peace and non-violence.

Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des: The French government's highest civilian honour awarded to Aruna Sairam, classical Carnatic vocalist, humanitarian and speaker from Chennai for her contribution towards development of the Indo-France relationship.

### **OBITUARY**

#### **FEBRUARY**

**Vani Jairam:** Veteran singer passed away in Chennai on February 4. She was 78. The singer was awarded Padma Bhushan a few days back on Jan 25.

**K Viswanath:** Dadasaheb Phalke awardee and renowned filmmaker passed away on Feb 02 at the age of 92 at Hyderabad.

**Shanti Bhushan:** Noted jurist and former Union Law Minister Shanti Bhushan passed away on Jan 31 at his residence in New Delhi following a brief illness at the age of 97.

#### **IANUARY**

**Balkrishna Doshi:** Leading modern Indian architect, urban planner and educator passed away on Jan 24 at the age of 95. He was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (awarded in 2022) and a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Architects.

Sharad Yadav: Former Union Minister and RJD leader passed away on Jan 12 at the age of 75. The seven-time Lok Sabha MP and a four-term Rajya Sabha MP, was the founder president of Janta Dal (1997-2003).

**Keshari Nath Tripathi:** A veteran BJP leader and former Governor of West Bengal (2014-19) died at his Prayagraj home in Uttar Pradesh on Jan 08 at the age of 88.

**Heeraben Modi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother passed away on Dec 30 at a hospital in Ahmedabad at the age of 99.

**Gina Lollobrigida:** Italian film legend, passed away in Rome, Italy on Jan 16 at the age of 95. She was dubbed as "the most beautiful woman in the world" after the title of one of her movies.

**Pope Benedict XVI:** Supreme Catholic leader Pope Emeritus breathed his last at the age of 95 on Dec 31 at his residence in the Vatican City.

**Pele:** Legendary Brazilian footballer passed away at the age of 82, losing his fight against cancer in a hospital in São Paulo, Brazil. Known as "King of Football", his formal name was Edson Arantes do Nascimento and Pele was his popular name.

#### **DECEMBER**

**Prof Yoginder K Alagh:** Renowned economist, academician and a former Union minister, died at his home in Ahmedabad on Dec 06 at the age of 83.

**Dominique Lapierre:** The bestselling French author well-known in India for his ode to the city of Kolkata titled "The City of Joy (1985)", died on Dec 4 aged 91. His equally popular book "Freedom at Midnight (1975)", co-authored with his longtime associate, Larry Collins, sold millions of copies.

**Vikram Gokhale:** Veteran Marathi actor passed away in Pune on Nov. 26 at the age of 77. In a career spanning more than 50 years, Gokhale mastered all three media of theatre, TV and cinema, both in Marathi and Hindi.

#### **NOVEMBER**

**Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta:** Chairman of the Rasna Group passed away on Nov 19 at the age of 85. Khambatta is known for creating the iconic homegrown beverage brand Rasna.

**Elaben Bhatt:** Renowned women's rights activist and the founder of SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), died in Ahmedabad on Nov 2, due to agerelated issues. She was 89.

**Jamshed J Irani:** The former MD of Tata Steel, who was also famously known as the 'Steel Man of India' passed away on October 31 in Jamshedpur.

## **PLACES IN NEWS**

#### **FEBRUARY**

**Cyclone Gabrielle:** A strong tropical cyclone hit the northern New Zealand on February 12 and tracked down the east coast, inflicting widespread devastation.

**Yaya Tso:** Known as birds' paradise and its beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 meters, has been proposed as Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site.

#### **IANUARY**

**California:** Torrential downpours and damaging winds left hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses without power in California, the western state of the USA in the first week of January.

**Kimberley:** A sparsely populated area in Western Australia, famous for its deep diamond mines, was devastated by severe flash floods in first week of January.

#### **DECEMBER**

**CSM Vastu Sangrahalaya:** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai was conferred the 'Award of Excellence' at the UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation-2022.

✓ The award was for its outstanding restoration efforts for the 100-year-old Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Museum, a World Heritage Property.

**Singapore:** The Economist Intelligence Unit rated Singapore and New York as the most expensive cities to live in among the 172 featured in the Worldwide Cost of Living survey published earlier in December.

**Mount Semeru:** Highest volcano in Indonesia's main island Java erupted violently on Dec 04 sending ash billowing up into the sky over 1500 meters.

**Mauna Loa volcano:** The world's largest active volcano, Hawaii's Mauna Loa, started erupting on the night of Nov 27, for the first time in almost 40 years.

#### **NOVEMBER**

**Donyi Polo Airport:** A 4<sup>th</sup> airport in Arunachal Pradesh was inaugurated on Nov 19 at its capital Itanagar. The name Donyi-Polo comes from local Gods; Donyi meaning the Sun whereas Polo means the Moon.

Mawmluh Cave: The International Union of Geological Sciences from UNESCO, has recognised the Mawmluh Cave, in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, as one of the first 100 IUGS geological heritage sites.

**Vadodara:** City in Gujarat became the second Indian city to issue a municipal bond with assistance from the US Treasury Deptt. Office of Technical Assistance.

**Aibawk:** The cluster of 11 villages, in the Aizawl district of Mizoram, has become the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.

**Mangarh Dham:** A small town located in the district Banswara of Rajasthan, on the Gujarat-Rajasthan border, was declared as a 'National Monument' by the Prime Minister Modi on Nov 01.

**Morbi:** More than 140 people lost their lives and several others were injured after a century-old suspension bridge on the Machhu river in Gujarat's Morbi city collapsed on Oct 30.

**Cianjur:** Densely populated town in West Java, Indonesia was struck by a severe 5.6 magnitude earthquake on Nov 21. The tremors destroyed several buildings, leading to the death of at least 268 people.

## **SPORTS WORLD**

#### FEBRUARY

**Rudrankksh Balasaheb** Patil won the gold in the 10m Air Rifle event on Feb 21 at the ISSF Shooting World Cup at Cairo in Egypt. **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** claimed the gold medal on Feb 22 in the men's individual 50m rifle 3 positions.

**Tejaswin Shankar,** high jump champion, won the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix on Feb 04, in World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meeting, in Boston, USA,

**Vignesh NR** became India's 80<sup>th</sup> Grandmaster on Feb 20 after he won the NordWest Cup in Germany.

**Border Gavaskar Trophy:** India retained the prestigious trophy for the fourth straight time against Australia, playing in India.

**Ranji Trophy:** Saurashtra defeated Bengal at Kolkata on Feb 19 to lift the Ranji Trophy. It is the national level tournament in the one-day format.

**Harmanpreet Kaur,** became the first player in history on Feb 20 to have played 150 T20I matches, while playing against Ireland at the Women's T20 World Cup at Gqeberha, South Africa.

**ICC Under-19 Women's T-20 Trophy:** India won the inaugural edition on Jan 29 by beating England by seven wickets in the final played at the Senwes Park in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

#### Khelo India Winter Games

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Khelo India Winter Games was held from Feb 10 to 14 at the world-famous Ski resorts of Gulmarg in the Baramulla district of Kashmir.

J&K topped the medal tally, bagging 26 Gold, 25 silver and 25 Bronze medals followed by Maharashtra with 13 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals.

#### MP hosts 5th Khelo India Youth Games

Inaugurated on Jan 30 in Bhopal. Mascot for the games was Asha, a cheerful Cheetah.

Maharashtra topped the medal tally with total 161 medals including 56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze medals.

#### Hyderabad first to host Formula E race

FIA's Formula E race, the fastest growing motorsport series and the first global sport to be certified with a net zero carbon footprint from inception, was held in Hyderabad on February 11.

#### INTERNATIONAL

#### Tennis: Australian Open concludes in Melbourne

**Men's singles:** Won by Novak Djokovic (Serbia) by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) on Jan 29.

**Women's singles:** Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) won her first grand slam by beating Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina

**FIH Hockey World Cup:** Germany lifted their 3<sup>rd</sup> World Cup on Jan 29 by beating Belgium in Bhubaneswar. India was placed joint ninth with Argentina.

**Ben Stokes, England's test captain** on 18 February broke Brendon McCullum's record for most sixes in Test cricket as he smashed his 108th test sixer playing against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui (New Zealand).

**Aaron Finch,** Australia's T20 World Cup-winning 36 year old captain announced his retirement on Feb 07 from the T20Is.

**2027 Asian Nations Cup:** The Asian Football Confederation announced that Saudi Arabia has been awarded hosting of the 2027 Asian Nations Cup. Qatar will host the 2023 edition of the tournament.

#### **IANUARY**

**Shubman Gill,** at 23 years and 132 days, became the youngest batsman to hit a double hundred in ODIs.

**Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni,** top seeded Indian tennis champs won the Bangkok Open title on Jan 15 at Nonthaburi, Thailand.

**Umran Malik,** India's pacer achieved record 156 kph bowling speed on Jan 10 in the ODI against Sri Lanka at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati.

**Koneru Humpy,** Indian Grandmaster won India's firstever silver medal in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

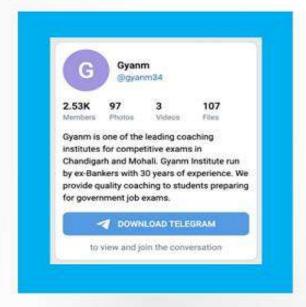
**15-year-old Savitha Shri** won the bronze in FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship, becoming the third Indian to win a medal at the World Rapid Championship.

Ms. Anahat Singh, clinched the girls' Under-15 squash title on Jan 08 at the most prestigious British Junior Open tournament in Birmingham, UK.

**M Pranesh,** 16-year-old Chess prodigy from Tamil Nadu, became India's 79<sup>th</sup> Grandmaster on Jan 06 having crossed the 2500 ELO score by winning the FIDE Rilton Cup in Stockholm, Sweden.



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**Koustav Chatterjee,** 19-year-old from Kolkata became India's 78<sup>th</sup> Grand Master on Dec 31 in the MPL 59<sup>th</sup> National Senior Chess Championship in New Delhi.

**Falak Mumtaz,** an 11-year-old girl from J&K bagged a gold medal in the 23rd National Sqay Championship held in Jammu in the first week of January.

**Vijay Merchant Trophy:** Punjab U-16 won the trophy by defeating Madhya Pradesh U-16 in the finals played on Jan 19 in Coimbator, Tamil Nadu.

**Yonex Sunrise India Open Badminton:** Men's singles won by Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn while S. Korea's An Se-young won the women's title in New Delhi.

**India scripted history** on Jan 15 by defeating Sri Lanka by the largest ever margin (in the world) of 317 runs in the third and final ODI in Thiruvananthapuram.

**FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2022** got off to a colourful start on Jan 11 in Barabati stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.

**Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium,** the largest hockey stadium in India was inaugurated on Jan 05 in Rourkela, Odisha. It has seating capacity of 21,000 spectators.

**Media group Viacom 18** secured the global media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL T20 League for a whopping Rs 951 crore for five years.

#### INTERNATIONAL

#### ICC Annual Awards 2022 announced

The International Cricket Council announced its first individual winners in the ICC Awards 2022, on Jan 25. **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the:** 

- Cricketer of the year (men): Babar Azam, Pakistan
- Test Cricketer of the Year: Ben Stokes, Australia
- ODI Cricketer of the Year: Babar Azam, Pakistan
- T20 Cricketer of the Year: Suryakumar Yadav, India Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for the:
- Cricketer of the year (women): Nat Sciver, England
- ODI Cricketer of the Year: Nat Sciver, England
- T20 Cricketer of the Year: Tahlia McGrath, Australia Malaysia Open Super 1000: Badminton world champions, Akane Yamaguchi and Viktor Axelsen won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the finals held in Kuala Lumpur.

#### **DECEMBER**

**Geto Sora,** 7-year-old badminton prodigy from Arunachal won the Top Arena Junior (Boys) International Badminton Championship title on December 23 in the below 9 years category, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Shooter Rudrankksh Patil** clinched the gold on Dec 02 in the 10 mt Air Rifle event in the ISSF President's Cup at Cairo, Egypt.

**Ishan Kishan,** Indian batter smashed the fastest double hundred in the history of ODI cricket, scoring 210 off 131 balls, playing against Bangladesh on Dec 10 at Chattogram, Bangladesh.

**Aditya Mittal,** 16-year-old Chess star from Maharashtra became the 77<sup>th</sup> Grandmaster on Dec 06.

**Rohit Sharma** became the first Indian, and just the second batter world-wide, in international cricket to hit 500 sixes. He reached the milestone on Dec 7 playing against Bangladesh in Dhaka.

**Indian archers** topped the medals tally at the Asia Cup 2022 stage 3 with 10 medals – five golds, three silvers and two bronze. The meet was held in Sharjah, UAE from December 20 to 25.

**T20 World Cup for the Blind:** The Indian national blind cricket team made history on Dec 17 as they won the T20 World Cup for the Blind for the third consecutive time by beating Bangladesh in the finals played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

**FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022:** The Indian team led by Savita Punia defeated Spain 1-0 in the final to lift the cup in the finals played on Dec 17 at Valencia, Spain.

**8th Junior Wushu World Championship:** India finished with a record eight medals, including three gold, three silver and two bronze in the tournament held in Tangerang, Indonesia from Dec 3 to 11.

**BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year 2022:** Won by para shuttler Manisha Ramadass during a ceremony on Dec 5 in Bangkok.

**Vijay Hazare Trophy:** Saurashtra beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets to lift their second Vijay Hazare Trophy in the final played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Dec 02. Also known as the Ranji One-Day Trophy, it is a national level tournament played in ODI format.

#### Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing

Championships held in La Nucia, Spain, India bagged 11 medals including four gold, three silver and four bronze. **81**<sup>st</sup> **Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta:** The Madras Boating Club (women) won the Adyar trophy on Nov 26 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Men's category was won by Colombo Rowing Club, and they were awarded Deepam Trophy.

**Legendary athlete P T Usha** was elected unopposed as the President of the Indian Olympic Association, IOA.

The BCCI entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest attendance at a T20 match. A record 101,566 people witnessed the epic IPL final between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals at the magnificent Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad on May 29, 2022.

#### IPL becomes a 'Decacorn'

BCCI's money spinner Indian Premier League (IPL) has become India's first sports decacorn as its latest valuation crossed \$ 10 billion.

#### E-sports to be part of regular games

The President of India, in exercise of the powers "conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution" amended the rules governing E-sports and asked the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Sports Ministry to include "e-Sports as part of multisports events".

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

**Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)** and Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) were declared BWF Male/Female Player of the Year, respectively.

**2022 FIFA WORLD CUP:** Led by charismatic 35-year-old Lionel Messi, Argentina beat France (led by Hugo Lloris) 4-2 on penalties to win the 2022 FIFA World Cup 2022 after a 3-3 draw in a thrilling final on Dec 18 at the Lusail Stadium in Doha, Oatar.

#### FIFA FINAL AWARDS

**Golden Ball** (Best Player): Lionel Messi of Argentina, first to win the Golden Ball twice, first in 2014.

**Golden Boot** (for highest goals): France's striker Kylian Mbappe for scoring eight goals in the tournament

**Golden Glove** (Best Goalkeeper): Emiliano Martinez, Argentina for achieving four saves in shootouts and three clean sheets (not allowing a single goal)

**Young Player of the Tournament:** Enzo Fernandez, central midfielder from Argentina

**ITF World Champion 2022:** Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek won the International Tennis Federation's world champion award for men and women, respectively, on Dec 15 in London.

**Iga Swiatek,** the 21 year old Polish tennis star was selected as the WTA Player of the Year-2022 for the first time on Dec 12. She is currently No. 1 in the rankings, since April, 2022.

#### World Athlete of the Year 2022

World Athletics declared the World Athlete of the Year 2022 on Dec 05.

**Women:** Sydney McLaughlin, hurdles world champion from USA; created a new world record of 50.68 seconds in 400m hurdles

**Men:** Armand Duplantis, Swedish pole-vaulter, won his first world title with a new world record, jumping 6.21mt.

**Ms. Stéphanie Frappart:** The 38 year old French referee became the first woman to take charge of a men's World Cup game when she handled Germany vs Costa Rica on Dec 01 in Qatar.

**Davis Cup:** Canada won its first Davis cup title on Nov 27 by defeating Australia in the finals played in Malaga, Spain. The Davis Cup is the premier international team event in men's tennis.

#### **NOVEMBER**

#### NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2022

The Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry announced the National Sports Awards 2022 on Nov 14. The awards were decided by the Selection Committee headed by Justice A. M. Khanwilkar, Retd. Judge, Supreme Court.

- ✓ Table Tennis player Sharath Kamal Achanta won the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, the highest recognition from the government side in sports.
- ✓ Arjuna Awards were given to 25 sportspersons. Seven coaches were chosen for the Dronacharya Award. Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement was given to four senior sportspersons.
- ✓ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2022 was given to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for the most outstanding performance in sports.

#### Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards-2021

Ms. Naina Dhakad – Land Adventure Shubham D. Vanmali – Water Adventure Group Captain Kunwar Bhawani Singh Samyal – Life time Achievement

**Manika Batra** became the first Indian female to win a medal at the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup tournament in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Pramod Bhagat** and Manisha Ramadass, paralympic badminton champions won their respective gold medals on Nov 6 at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships in Tokyo, Japan.

**Saurav Ghoshal and Ramit Tandon** won their first-ever team gold in Squash on Nov 4 at the Asian Squash Team Championships in Cheongju, South Korea.

R Praggnanandha and, compatriot PV Nandhidhaa won the titles in the open and women's sections, respectively, on Nov 03 at the Asian Continental Chess Championship in New Delhi.

**Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and Chirag Shetty bagged the biggest title of their badminton career on Oct 30, claiming the French Open Super 750 crown in Paris. Later, the duo also won the doubles title on Nov 3 at the Hylo Open at Saarbrucken, Germany.

Narayan Jagadeesan, Tamil Nadu batter shattered the world record for the highest individual score in men's List A cricket in ODI format on Nov 21 by hammering 277 runs against Arunachal Pradesh in Bengaluru in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Virat Kohli scripted history on Nov 10 by becoming the first batter in history to reach 4000 runs in T20 Internationals.

**Suryakumar Yadav** became the first Indian player on Nov 6 to score 1,000 T20 International runs in a calendar year.

**Suryakumar Yadav** reached world's No. 1 T20I batter ranking on Nov 2 on the back of his unbeaten 51 off 25 balls against the Netherlands in Sydney.

**Neeraj Chopra:** Switzerland Tourism has appointed the Olympic Gold medalist as the 'Friendship Ambassador' of the country.

**Mary Kom,** boxing queen, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association on Nov 15.

**Achanta Sharath Kamal,** Table Tennis champion, has become the first player from India to get elected in the Athletes' Commission of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), Lausanne, Switzerland.

**15**<sup>th</sup> **Asian Airgun Championship 2022:** India topped the medal tally in the Championships held in Daegu, South Korea, winning 38 of the total 86 medals, including 25 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze.

**In the Asian Boxing Championships** in Amman Jordan, Indian woman pugilists Praveen Hooda, Lovlina Borgohain, Saweety Boora, and Alfiya Pathan claimed gold medals on Nov 11.

**Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy:** Mumbai lifted the trophy by defeating Himachal Pradesh on Nov 05 in the finals played in Kolkata.

**2022 U-17 Women's World (Football) Cup:** Defending champion Spain beat Colombia 1-0 to win the finals played at the D Y Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

**Sultan of Johor Cup 2022:** Indian Under 21 men's hockey team lifted the Cup by defeating Australia in a tough final played at Johor Bahru, Malaysia on Oct 29.

**Khelo India National University Games** - 2023-2024 will be hosted by Uttar Pradesh in four cities, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, and Noida.

#### "Football4Schools" programme launched

The All-India Football Federation, Union Ministry for Education and the FIFA signed a MoU in Navi Mumbai to broad base football across various schools in the country through the "Football for Schools" programme.

#### **BCCI** announces match fee parity

In a historic move, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Oct 27 to pay equal match fee to both men and women cricket players of India.

#### **INTRNATIONAL**

#### FIFA WORLD CUP 2022 OPENS IN OATAR

Football's greatest show on Earth, the 22<sup>nd</sup> FIFA World Cup 2022 was officially declared open on Nov 20 at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar.

- It is the world's largest single sports quadrennial event (every four years)
- It is the first time that an Arab country is hosting the tournament.
- 32 top countries from five regions will compete for the title.
- All 64 matches held across eight stadiums in Qatar.
- The opening match was played between Qatar and Ecuador.
- The final held on December 18 at the 80,000-seater Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar.
- The FIFA World Cup trophy is the most costly sports trophy in the world, costing about Rs 144 crore. It is made of 18 carat gold and weighs 6.1 kilos.
- FIFA has allocated \$440 million in prize money for the 2022 World Cup
- The winner of the World Cup in Qatar will receive \$42 million (INR 344 crores). The runner-up will get \$20 million (INR 245 crores).
- Even the bottom ranked 16 teams, each will get \$9 million as participation fee.
- All 32 teams will also receive \$1.5 million each for meeting their preparation expenses.
- Qatar is expected to generate \$ 6.5 billion, surpassing all previous tournaments. During the 2018 World Cup in Russia, revenue worth \$ 5.2 billion was generated.
- The event is a boon for FIFA too, as it earned record revenues of \$7.5 billion in the four years of commercial deals tied to this year's tournament. It is \$1 billion more than the 2018 Russia Cup.
- The official mascot of the Qatar World Cup is La'eeb. The Arabic word "La'eeb" means "super-skilled player." It is inspired by the keffiyeh, a traditional headdress made of cloth, worn by Arab men.
- The name of the football to be used during the world cup is Al Rihla (meaning 'Journey' in Arabic). It has been made by the German multinational sports company Adidas.
- France is the defending champion, having won their second title in 2018 after defeating Croatia in the final.
- Canada, Mexico and the United States will host the 2026 tournament.
- FIFA stands for Federation Internationale de Football Association, translated in English as International Federation of Football Association.
- Gianni Infantino, a Swiss-Italian football administrator is the current President of FIFA.
- Headquarters of FIFA are based in Zurich, Switzerland. It has 209 members.

**Cristiano Ronaldo,** 37-year-old Portugal striker became the first male player in FIFA history to score in five world Cups by scoring a goal against Ghana on Nov 24 at Doha.

## Model Test For General / Economy / Banking Awareness



#### **APRIL GK TEST - 01**

- 1. India hosted the first Global Buddhist Summit on April 20-21 in which city?
  - a. Gaya b. Guwahati c. New Delhi d. Patna
  - e. Varanasi
- 2. The demographic data released by the UN Population Fund's "State of World Population Report, 2023" on April 19 estimates India's population to be around 1,428.6 million, more than China's 1,425.7 million. Which is the third most populous country in the world?
  - a. Russia
- b. Brazil
- c. Argentina d. USA
- e. Bangladesh
- 3. Which batter has been named Wisden Almanack 2023's top T201 cricketer?
  - a. Aaron Finch b. Rohit Sharma
  - c. Babar Azam d. Shakib Al Hasan
  - e. Surya Kumar
- 4. Indian Navy, other defence units, state and civilian agencies conducted a coordinated exercise code-named "Prasthan" on April 6' at which place?
  - a. Off the Mumbai coast
  - b. Off the Goa coast
  - c. Off the Chennai coast
  - d. Off the Andaman coast
  - e. Off the Kochi coast
- 5. Which Swiss bank became another big bank to succumb to the financial crisis in the third week of March?
  - a. UBS Group b. Credit Suisse
  - c. Raiffeisen Switzerland
  - d. Zurich Cantonal Bank
  - e. Julius Baer Group
- 6. Which Indian city hosted the ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship from March 20 to 27?
  - a. Gwalior b. Ranchi

- c. Bhubaneswar
- d. Bhopal e. Bengaluru
- Ms Sivasankari won the Saraswati Samman, 2022 for her 2019 memoir, Surya Vamsam. She writes in which language?
  - a. Kannada
- b. Telugu
- c. Tamil d. Malayalam
- e. Konkani
- . The Reserve Bank compiles annually a Financial Inclusion Index. It is released in which month?
  - a. January
- b. March
- c. April d. July
- e. December
- 9. The Lost Soul is a novel written by a Nobel laureate and winner of International Booker Prize. Who is he/she?
  - a. Olga Tokarczuk
  - b. Peter Handke
  - c. Kazuo Ishiguro
  - d. Joanna Bator
  - e. Sarrah Penner
- 10. On March 17, the Government declared the setting up of how many PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) textile parks in India?
  - a. Three
- b. Five d. Nine
- c. Seven
- e. Ten
- 11. Which are the two locations from India which have found place in TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places 2023?
  - a. Puri and Varanasi
  - b. Udaipur and Ranchi
  - c. Ladakh and Mayurbhanj
  - d. Amritsar and Prayagraj
  - e. Orchha and Sarnath
- 12. In the World Happiness Report released on March 20, which country maintained its position as the country with the happiest population for the sixth year in a row.

- a. Italyb. Finlandd. Sweden
- e. Denmark
- 13. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Terrorism Index released on March 14, ranked which country as worst affected by terrorism?
  - a. Pakistan b. Iraq
  - c. Yemen d. Afghanistan
  - e. Somalia
- 14. Indian Wells Masters, also called BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, was held in which country?
  - a. Spain b. Italy c. Greece d. USA
  - e. Serbia
- 15. Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) was inaugurated on March 21 at Devasthal Observatory at which place?
  - a. Nainitalb. Devprayagc. Kasumptid. Ranikhet
  - e. Hanle
- 16. Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary has been notified as the 18th sanctuary in which state?
  - a. Tamil Nadu b. Karnataka
  - c. Kerala d. Andhra Pradesh
  - e. Telangana
- 17. As per the Banking Ombudsman scheme, a complainant must wait for the reply from the bank for at least how many days after which he can move complaint to Ombudsman?
  - a. 90 b. 15 c. 30 d. 60
  - e. 45
- 18. In terms of number of spectators it can accommodate, which of the following is the largest stadium in India?
  - a. Eden Gardens, Kolkata
  - b. Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
  - c. Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata

- d. Nehru Stadium, Delhi
- e. Narendra Modi Stadium,
- Ahmedabad
- 19. Who is credited with the discovery of TB bacteria?
  - a. Louis Pasteur
  - b. Rosalind Franklin
  - c. Robert Koch
  - d. Ernest Rutherford
  - e. Alexander Fleming
- 20. With which company the Defence Ministry signed a contract on March 24 for the procurement of two Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems?
  - a. Bharat Dynamics Ltd
  - b. Bharat Electronics Limited
  - c. India Explosives Ltd
  - d. Tata Defence Systems
  - e. BHEL
- 21. \_\_\_\_\_became the first state in India to adopt a Water Budget, a first-of-its type initiative in India:
  - a. Sikkim
- b. Assam
- c. Kerala
- d. Odisha
- e. Rajasthan
- 22. Which city in Assam hosted the Asian Kho Kho Championship that concluded on March 23?
  - a. Dispur
- b. Jorhat
- c. Sivasagar d. Tamulpur
- e. Dibrugarh
- 23. Which country joined the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) in the third week of March as an official member?
  - a. Bahrain
- b. Nigeria
- c. Egypt d. UAE
- e. Bangladesh
- 24. India's LVM-3 (launch vehicle mark III) lifted off successfully with \_\_\_\_ satellites of the One Web India-2 mission from Sriharikota on March 26:
  - a. 13
- b. 17
- c. 22 d. 29
- e 36
- 25. Which team won the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) tournament on March 26?
  - a. Delhi Capitals
  - b. Gujarat Giants
  - c. Mumbai Indians
  - d. UP Warriorz
  - e. Royal Challengers
- 26. Which of the following is a correct statement in context of a current account?
  - a. Interest is paid on current accounts at the same rate as term deposit accounts.
  - b. The rate of interest on current account and saving account are the same

- c. No interest is paid on current accounts
- d. Interest on current account is paid on discretion of the bank
- e. Interest on current account is always less than interest paid on savings bank accounts
- 27. The Silent Valley National Park, famous for its wide variety of bird species, is situated in which state?
  - a. Kerala
- b. Goa
- c. Rajasthan d. Odisha
- e. Arunachal
- 28. Four Indian women boxers won gold medals at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship in New Delhi. Which one of the following is NOT one of them?
  - a. Lovlina Borgohain
  - b. Nikhat Zareen
  - c. Nitu Ghanghas
  - d. Saweety Boora
  - e. Sarita Devi
- 29. Army Chief General Manoj Pande presented the prestigious President's Standard or 'Nishan' to four \_\_\_\_\_\_regiments of the Army on March 25 at an event in Suratgarh, Rajasthan:
  - a. Infantry
- b. Artillery
- c. Armoured d. Medium
- e. Field
- 30. Prestigious Abel Prize is regarded as the Nobel Prize of which subject?
  - a. Education
  - b. Journalism
  - c. Philosophy
  - d. Architecture
  - e. Mathematics
- 31. The union ministry of culture launched an exclusive portal to provide authentic and comprehensive knowledge about Vedas. What is its name?
  - a. Vedic Gvanm b. Vedshala
  - c. Vedic Heritage
  - d. Ved Ganga e. Vedic Kosh
- 32. Mrs. Dilma Rousseff has been elected as the President of the New Development Bank (NDB). She is the two-time former President of which country?
  - a. Argentina c. Uruguay
- b. Brazil d. Poland
- e. Hungary
- 33. Which city hosted a meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on March 29?
  - a. Tashkent
- b. Beijing
- c. Astana
- d. New Delhi

- e. Bishkek
- 34. Government launched the Aravalli \_\_\_\_\_ Wall Project on March 25 from Tikli Village in Gurgaon district of Haryana:
  - a. Dust b. Sand c. Desert d. Green
  - e. Forest
- 35. The Government launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, New India Literacy Programme for population groups of \_\_\_\_ years and above:
  - a. 14 b. 15 c. 16 d. 17
  - e. 18
- 36. Which of the following statements defines Mortgage most closely?
  - a. Security of movable property for a loan given by a bank
  - b. Offering an immovable property as security for a loan given by a bank
  - c. Concession on immovable property for a loan given by a bankd. Discounting an immovable
  - property for a loan given by a bank e. A lien on the deposits held by bank as security for a loan
- 37) Where would you have to go if you want to visit Buddh International Circuit, India's only international standard Formula 1 racing court?
  - a. Sarnath b. Gandhinagar
  - e. Pune
- 38. Who has been elected as the President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)?
  - a. Arun Bajaj b. Sukesh Piramal c. Ajay Singh d. Y K L Murthy e. Krishna M V
- 39. The picturesque Gandhamardan hills have been declared the 'biodiversity heritage site' in accordance with the provisions of the Biodiversity Act. These hills are located in which state?
  - a. Manipurb. West Bengalc. Andhra Pradesh
  - d. Iharkhand e. Odisha
- 40. What is the tenure of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023 which was released on March 31?
  - a. 2 years
    b. 3 years
    c. 4 years
    d. 5 years
  - e. No fix time frame
- 41. In the Passport Index 2023 released on March 26 by financial advisory services firm Arton Capital, which country has been

#### placed at the top for having visa free access to 181 countries?

- a. Sweden
- b. Japan
- c. Singapore
- d. UAE
- e. Germany
- 42. To which Indian state the World Bank approved a \$363 million loan for funding provision of clean drinking water to two million rural households.
  - a. Karnataka
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Gujarat
- d. Madhya Pradesh
- e. Tamil Nadu
- 43. NATO has agreed to admit which country as its 31st member, which joined on April 4?
  - a. Norway
- b. Belarus
- c. Finland
- d. Sweden
- e. Estonia
- 44. The WHO certified which two countries as malaria-free for the **Anopheles** eliminating mosquito-borne disease in their territories?
  - a. Sudan and Kenya
  - b. Nigeria and Botswana
  - c. Azerbaijan and Tajikistan
  - d. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
  - e. Somalia and Uganda
- 45. Which Indian city has been included in the World Tree City 2022 list for promoting best practices in urban forestry?
  - a. Mysore
- b. Bengaluru
- c. Hyderabad d. Puri
- e. Mumbai
- 46. What is the limit of the maximum balance allowed in accounts with **Payment Banks?** 
  - a. 1.5 lakh
- b. 2.0 lakh
- c. 2.5 lakh
- d. 3.0 lakh
- e. 5.0 lakh
- 47. The Indian Union Budget can be introduced only in the \_\_\_\_ of Parliament.
  - a. Lower House
  - b. Upper House
  - c. Either Lower or Upper House
  - d. Jointly before two Houses
  - e. No fixed procedure
- 48. From which place **ISRO** successfully carried out the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) **Autonomous Landing Mission** successfully on April 2?
  - a. Chitradurga
  - b. Hubli c. Sriharikota
  - d. Nellore
    - e. Mangalore
- 49. In which state Indian Railways achieved a major milestone by completing the electrification of the entire railway network in the state, making it the first state in the country to achieve 100%

#### electrification of its railway network?

- a. Andhra Pradesh
- b. Harvana c. Rajasthan
- d. Jharkhand e. West Bengal
- 50. Government launched which app importers/exporters facilitate one-point solutions for features like a Login Module, Service Catalogue, Common Application Format, Letter of Credit. Bank Guarantee. Certification, Track and Trace etc.?
  - a. Shipplog
- b. Sagar Bandhu
- c. Niryat Mitra d. EximTek
- e. Sagar Setu

#### **APRIL GK TEST - 02**

- Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Hyderabad, successfully conducted a field firing test of its latest 3rd generation man-portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) on March 26. What is its name?
  - a. Abhedya
- b. Sateek
- c. Amogha-III d. Vajra -II
- e. Vinashak
- The Union Ministry for Rural Development has launched a unique initiative named 'CAPTIVE EMPLOYMENT' under the Deen Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalva Yoiana (DDU-GKY) with what objective?
  - a. To provide skills to rural women
  - b. To upskill the prisoners for employment
  - c. To train rural women for cottage industry
  - d. To connect rural job seekers with job providers
  - To generate employment opportunities in rural areas
- The book titled "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future" is a collection of memoirs of which great lady?
  - a. Michelle Obama
  - b. Angela Merkel
  - c. Indra Noovi
  - d. Kamala Harris
  - e. Sonia Gandhi
- Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, the highest French civilian award has been conferred on Kiran Nadar. She is a prominent \_\_\_\_\_:
  - i. Educationist
  - ii. Philanthropist
  - iii. Space scientist
  - iv. Art collector
  - Select the correct option:
  - a. i and iii b. i and iv

- c. Only ii d. Only iii
- e. ii and iv
- RBI has made use of AFA 5. mandatory for all recurring payments through cards or UPI. What is the full form of AFA?
  - a. Authority For Approval
  - b. Additional Factor of
  - Authentication
  - c. Authority For Authentication
  - d. Authenticated Factor Approval
  - e. Additional Factor Approval
- No money can be withdrawn from without prior approval of the Parliament:
  - a. Consolidated Fund of India
  - b. Provident Fund of India
  - c. Contingency Fund of India
  - d. Public Account of India
  - e. Emergency Fund of India
- India has become the first country in the world to estimate the prevalence of \_\_\_\_\_ in the country and launch its own mathematical system to estimate the disease burden:
  - a. Influenza b. Black Fungus
  - c. Tuberculosis d. HIV
  - e Corona
- India has been elected as a member of three important UN bodies under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Which of the following are the three such agencies?
  - i. UN Forum on Forests
  - ii. UN Statistical Commission
  - iii. Commission on Narcotic Drugs
  - iv. Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
  - v. Commission on the Status of Women
  - Select the correct option:
  - a. i. iii and v b. iii. iv and v c. i. ii and v d. ii, iii and iv
  - e. i. ii and iii
- 9. Which state has achieved the top rank among the 18 large and midsized states with populations over one crore, as per the India Justice Report 2022, released on April
  - a. Uttar Pradesh b. Tamil Nadu
  - c. Karnataka d. Telangana
  - e. Rajasthan
- 10. From April 1, 2023, the Credit **Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro &** Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) the amount of the hiked guarantee for loans to micro and small enterprises, to what amount?
  - b. Rs. 2.5 crore a. Rs. 2 crore c. Rs. 3 crore d. Rs. 4 crore

- e. Rs. 5 crore
- 11. Kim Cotton, 48 year old umpire became the first woman on-field umpire in a full-member men's T20I match that was played on April 5 between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Dunedin in New Zealand. She hails from which country?
  - a. England
- b. New Zealand d. South Africa
- c. Australia
- e. Sri Lanka
- 12. The micro helicopter of NASA on Mars flew faster and higher than ever before, on April 2, creating two new records for highest speed and for highest rise. What is its name?
  - a. Curiosity
- b. Perseverance
- c. Virtuous
- d. Ingenuity
- e. Velocity
- 13. As per Reserve Bank of India, the amount lying in unclaimed accounts for a period more than 10 years is required to be transferred to an account named:
  - a. Depositor Education and
  - Awareness Fund
  - b. Public Education and Information Fund
  - c. Bankers Awareness Fund
  - d. Depositors Information Reserve
  - e. Bank Customers Welfare Fund
- 14. Modhera Sun Temple, a UNESCO heritage site, is located in which state?
  - a. Meghalaya
  - b. Madhya Pradesh
  - c. Kerala d. Gujarat
  - e. Rajasthan
- 15. The Ministry of Finance has set up a four-member committee to review the National Pension Scheme. Who is to head this committee?
  - a. Nirpendra Mishra
  - b. Rajinder Khanna
  - c. D P Sinha
  - d. Ashish Bahuguna
  - e. T. V. Somanathan
- 16. Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India took a historic sortie in which aircraft on April 8 at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam?
  - a. Sukhoi 30 MKI
  - b. Mirage 2000
  - c. Rafale d. MiG 29
  - e. Tejas
- 17. Image which of historic monument is printed on the back of Rs. 200 currency notes?
  - a. Chaar Minar, Telangana

- b. Red Fort. New Delhi
- c. Sanchi Stupa, Madhya Pradesh
- d. Rani ki Vav, Gujarat
- e. Konark Sun Temple, Odisha
- 18. With a view to simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance within laid down time limits to decide the applications under various regulations, RBI has decided to develop a secured web-based centralised portal named \_\_\_
  - a. Sugam c. Sadhak
    - d. Pravaah

b. Nirantar

- e. Saarthak
- 19. The Union Cabinet approved a project on April 6 to build an advanced gravitational - wave detector called LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitation al - wave Observatory) at an estimated cost of Rs 2,600 crore. It will be set up in which state?
  - a. Uttarakhand b. Karnataka
  - c. Maharashtra d. Tamil Nadu
  - e. Arunachal Pradesh
- 20. The Indian Air Force conducted the joint air Exercise Cope India 23 with the Air Force of which country?
  - b. USA a. France
  - c. Britain d. Japan
  - e. UAE
- 21. The exquisite wood carvings, popularly known as Shingskos were granted the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag on April 4. They are associated with which place?
  - a. Jaisalmer
    - b. Ladakh
  - c. Iharkhand d. Gangtok
  - e. Barmer
- 22. world's The first vulture conservation and breeding centre designed exclusively for the conservation of Asian king vulture, has been built in which Indian state?
  - a. Iharkhand b. Odisha
  - c. Chhattisgarh d. Bihar
  - e. Uttar Pradesh
- 23. Which of the following is/are NOT true about the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana?
  - 1. The scheme provides a free accident cover of Rs. two lakh.
  - 2. The account holders are not required to maintain any minimum balance in their accounts.
  - 3. Every account holder gets a RuPay Debit Card free of charge to facilitate transactions.
  - 4. Government contributes Rs.1000 initially in every account to ensure that it has at least some balance.

- Select the correct option:
- a. 2 and 3 b. 3 Only
- c. 4 only d. 1 and 4
- e. All are correct
- The five-nation group BRICS has established its own developmental bank called
  - a. BRICS Development Bank
  - b. BRICS World Bank
  - c. New BRICS Bank
  - d. New Development Bank
  - e. New World Bank
- 25. The Reserve Bank has put in place on April 11 a framework for acceptance of \_\_\_\_\_ Deposits for investors looking to invest their surplus cash reserves in projects.
  - a. White, White goods
  - manufacturing
  - b. Brown. Infrastructure
  - c. Green, Environment friendly
  - d. Blue, Aquatic
  - e. Golden, Investment in jewelry making
- 26. First version of the Indian Constitution in \_\_\_\_\_ language was released on April 08. It was recognized as a scheduled language in the year \_\_\_\_
  - a. Maithili. 2004
  - b. Dogri, 2004
  - c. Bhojpuri, 2018
  - d. Odia. 1996
  - e. Assamese. 1950
- The National Capital Regional **Transportation** Corporation announced on April 11 that the country's first semi-high-speed regional rail service, rapid rail between Delhi and , will be called RapidX:
  - a. Agra b. Manesar c. Karnal d. Meerut
  - e. Panipat
  - Which Indian state celebrates the
  - festival of Baisakhi as Vishu? a. Tamil Nadu b. Kerala
  - c. Karnataka
  - d. Gujarat e. Andhra Pradesh
- 29. Which city hosted a two-day Women 20 meeting under G-20 on **April 13-14?** 
  - a. Chandigarh b. Pune
  - c. Cuttack d. Ranchi
  - e. Jaipur
- 30. Who created history by winning India's first gold medal in men's 57 kg freestyle category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan?
  - a. Bajrang Punia
  - b. Aman Sehrawat

- c. Yogeshwar Dutt
- d. Deepak Punia
  - e. Ravi Dahiya
- 31. India's first underwater metro tunnel was commissioned on April 12 in which city?
  - a. Kolkata
- b. Mumbai
- c. Chennai
- d. Lucknow
- e. Kochi
- 32. Which of the following public sector undertakings was given the status of 'Miniratna Category-I' on April 10?
  - a. Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd
  - National Film Development Corporation Ltd
  - National Small Industries Corporation Ltd
  - d. Solar Energy Corporation of India
  - e. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd
- 33. As per the provisions of which law bankers have been empowered to take possession of the assets charged to them, without intervention of the court?
  - a. Banking Regulation Act, 1949
  - b. Bankers Recovery of Loans Act, 1971
  - c. SARFAESI Act, 2002
  - d. Debt Recovery Tribunal Act, 1993
  - e. No such provision
- 34. Which of the following sports is associated with Agha Khan Cup?
  - a. Hockey
- b. Cricket
- c. Football d. Badminton
- e. Billiards
- 35. Which article in the Indian **Constitution** deals with the Annual **Financial** Statement (Budget)?
  - a. Article 112
    - b. Article 110
  - c. Article 123 d. Article 108
  - e. Article 138
- 36. Uttara Baokar, a noted film/TV personality died at the age of 79 in Pune on April 11. She was an accomplished \_
  - a. Choreographer
  - b. Singer
  - c. Actress
  - d. Dancer e. Director
- 37. Save the Elephant Day is observed on April 16. In India, which state has the largest number of elephants?
  - a. Kerala
- b. Karnataka
- c. Assam
- d. Tamil Nadu
- e. Arunachal Pradesh
- 38. An Indian Air Force contingent participated in the multi-nation air exercise Orion that started on April 17. It was hosted by which country?

- a. England b. France
- c. Egypt e. Japan
- d. Israel
- The 59th edition of India's most prestigious beauty pageant, Femina Miss India 2023 was held April 15 in Imphal, Manipur. Who was crowned as Miss India?
  - a. Shreva Poonja
  - b. Aditi Sharma
  - c. Chiristeena Biju
  - d. Apurva Chavan
  - e. Nandini Gupta
- 40. Which country finally switched off its last three nuclear power reactors on April 15, completely exiting atomic power?
  - a. France
- b. Sweden
- c. Germany d. Japan
- e. S Korea
- 41. What is meant by "Underwriting", term frequently used in financial sector?
  - a. Undervaluation of the assets
  - b. The act of covering a risk for a fee
  - c. Giving a guarantee that a loan will not become a bad loan
  - d. The act of permission to float on IP0
  - e. None of these
- 42. What is the currency of Russia?
  - a. Rival
- b. Euro
- c. Ruble d. Dollar
- e. Krona
- 43. Which of the following is NOT a government scheme?
  - a. AMRUT
- b. UJALA d. HRIDAY
- c. SAMMAN
- e. PRASAD
- 44. AM Turing Award is given for the outstanding contribution in which field?
  - a. Artificial Intelligence
  - b. Computer Science
  - c. Nanotechnology
  - d. Space Research
  - e. Atomic Science
- 45. As per the provisional data released by the Ministry of which country Commerce, India's emerged as biggest trading partner in 2022-23?
  - a. China b. Saudi Arabia
  - c. UAE d. USA
  - e. Russia
- 46. April 18 is celebrated as World Heritage Day. How many World Heritage sites are there in India? b. 33
  - a. 29 c. 37
    - d. 40
  - e. 44

- 47. Indian Air Force's fighter jets participated with which country in the annual exercise Iniochos 23 held from April 18 to 28?
  - a. Britain
- b. UAE
- c. Saudi Arabia d. Israel
- e. Greece
- 48. PM Ujjwala yojana is associated with which of the following?
  - a. LPG connections
  - b. LED bulbs
  - c. Renewable Energy
  - d. Solar Power Plants
  - e. Street Lighting
- Which of the following taxes are indirect tax?
  - a. Custom Duty and Income Tax
  - b. Gift Tax and Wealth Tax
  - c. Goods and Services Tax
  - d. Corporate Tax and Excise Tax
  - e. Capital Gains Tax
- 50. The use of fraudulent mails designed to steal personal data such as credit card number or pin number, password etc. is known as:
  - a. Fixing
- b. Phishing
- c. Hacking d. Skimming
- e. Hooking

#### ANSWER KEY | APRIL | GK TEST | 1

Q.	A.								
1	C	2	D	3	E	4	A	5	В
6	D	7	C	8	D	9	Α	10	C
11	C	12	В	13	D	14	D	15	Α
16	Α	17	C	18	E	19	C	20	В
21	C	22	D	23	C	24	E	25	С
26	C	27	Α	28	E	29	C	30	E
31	C	32	В	33	D	34	D	35	В
36	В	37	C	38	C	39	E	40	E
41	D	42	A	43	C	44	C	45	E
46	В	47	Α	48	Α	49	В	50	E

#### ANSWER KEY | APRIL | GK TEST | 2

Q.	A.								
1	C	2	D	3	C	4	E	5	В
6	Α	7	C	8	D	9	C	10	E
11	В	12	D	13	A	14	D	15	Е
16	Α	17	C	18	D	19	C	20	В
21	В	22	E	23	C	24	D	25	С
26	В	27	D	28	В	29	E	30	В
31	A	32	D	33	C	34	A	35	Α
36	C	37	В	38	В	39	E	40	С
41	В	42	C	43	C	44	В	45	D
46	D	47	E	48	A	49	C	50	В

## LATEST GK BYTES

#### **APRIL 2023**

- **1.** Ayushman Bharat Diwas on April 30 marks the launch of which health scheme of the government? **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**
- World Veterinary Day is observed on the \_ Saturday of April: Last
- World Intellectual Property Day on April 26 is supported by World Intellectual Property Office – WIPO. Where are the headquarters of WIPO? Geneva, Switzerland
- 4. Which UT hosted the Y20 (youth-20) Pre-Summit under India's G20 Presidency on April 26-27-28?

  Ladakh
- **5.** Who has been selected by the BCCI to captain the test squad for the World Test Championship final against Australia? **Rohit Sharma**
- **6.** The World Test Championship final match will be played at which venue? **The Oval, London**
- **7.** April 25 is observed as World Malaria Day. Malaria can spread to humans through the bites of which infected female mosquitoes? **Anopheles**
- 8. The 95 year old towering Akali Dal politician from Punjab breathed his last on April 25 in Mohali, Punjab. His native village Badal lies in which district of Punjab? **Muktsar**
- **9.** April 25 is observed as World Penguin Day. Penguins are mammals or birds? **Birds**
- **10.** According to the Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2022, released by SIPRI on April 24, ranked India at which spot on the basis of amount of its military expenditure? **Fourth**
- 11. The village Mana on the India-China border in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, was in news recently for what reason? It has been recognised as the 'first Indian village'
- 12. What is the name of the rescue mission launched by India on April 24 to evacuate its stranded citizens from civil war torn Sudan? **Operation Kaveri**

- **13.** What is the title of the autobiography of veteran politician Ghulam Nabi Azad, released recently? **Azad**
- **14.** Who is the author of the recently published popular novel "The Soulmate"? **Emily Henry**
- **15.** April 24 is observed as the National Panchayati Raj Day. Which amendment of the Constitution is associated with the Panchayati Raj Act? **73**<sup>rd</sup>
- **16.** Panchayati Raj Act came in to force in which year? **1993**
- 17. Which multilateral organisation released its 2023 Logistics Performance Index report on April 23? The World Bank
- **18.** Which country topped the 2023 Logistics Performance Index (LPI)? **Singapore**
- **19.** What was India's rank in the LPI 2023? **38**<sup>th</sup>
- **20.** Which country was placed at the bottom of the LPI 2023? **Libiva**
- **21.** April 23 is observed as World \_\_\_\_ and Copyright Day: **Book**
- **22.** Which city has been selected as the "World Book Capital" for the year 2023? **Accra, Ghana**
- **23.** Which UN agency actively supports the celebration of World Book and Copyright Day on April 23? **UNESCO**
- **24.** Jyothi \_\_\_\_\_Vennam won two gold medals in archery on April 22, at the Archery World Cup 2023 in Antalya: **Surekha**
- **25.** Which country hosted the Archery World Cup 2023? **Türkiye**
- **26.** Which Union Ministry launched the "Irrigation Census" to collect data about all the water bodies in the country? **Jal Shakti Ministry**
- 27. As per the "Irrigation Census" data, which state has the largest number of water bodies? **West Bengal**
- **28.** ISRO launched two satellites of \_\_\_\_\_ into space on April 22: **Singapore**

What is the main objective of celebrating the Earth Day on April 22? To create awareness about hazards of pollution The Civil Services Day on April 21 commemorates 30. which historical event that took place on this day in 1947? Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's address to the first batch of Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officers 31. Sardar Patel referred to civil servants as the of India': **Steel Frame** 32. Wing Commander Deepika Misra was in news recently for which achievement? Becoming the first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry medal, Vayu Seva Medal Which Caribbean country re-elected Miguel Díaz-Canel as President for a second five-year term? Cuba The first Global Buddhist Summit was held in 34. which city on April 20-21? New Delhi 35. Assam state signed a historic agreement on April 20 with which other state for the settlement of an over five-decade old inter-state boundary dispute? Arunachal Pradesh Which city in India recorded the highest number 36. of digital payment transactions in 2022, with 29 million transactions worth \$65 billion? Bengaluru Which city hosted the Conference of the G20 **37.** Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) on April 19-20? Dharamshala, HP In which country Virginia became the 17th state to 38. include Sikhi, or the Sikh faith, in their school curriculum? USA 39. World Liver Day is observed on April 19. Liver is the second largest organ of human body. Which is the first one? Skin **40**. Which is a very common liver ailment caused by different viruses, classified as A, B and C? **Hepatitis** 41. The Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission on April 19 with what main objective? To accelerate Quantum Technologyled economic growth 42. Quantum Technology is based on usage of Qubits. What is a Qubit? **Short for Quantum bit, it is the** 

basic unit of information in quantum

computing

43.	Indian Air Force's fighter jets participated in the
	annual Greek exercise named held in Greece
	from April 18 to 28: Iniochos 23
44.	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister
	Narendra Singh launched the SATHI Portal
	and Mobile App on April 19: <b>Tomar</b>
45.	What is the main objective of the SATHI app?
	Ensuring easy availability of certified quality
	seeds to the farmers
46.	What is the full form of the acronym SATHI? <b>Seed</b>
	Traceability, Authentication and Holistic
	Inventory
47.	State of World Population Report, 2023 released
	on April 19, estimates India's population at 1.43
	billion. Which is the third most populous country?
	USA (340 million)
48.	In the Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2023 released
	on April 18, India retained its position at which
	rank? Third
49.	Which is the top ranked unicorn in India, having a
	reported valuation of \$22billion? Byju's
50.	April 18 is observed as World Heritage Day. How
	many UNESCO recognised World Heritage Sites
	are there in India? 40
51.	Which country emerged as India's biggest trading
	partner in 2022-23 as per the provisional data
	released by the Ministry of Commerce? USA
<b>52</b> .	Indian Navy, other defence units, state and civilian
	agencies conducted exerciseat the
	Greatdrill Chaaya platform: <b>Prasthan</b>
53.	What is the Greatdrill Chaaya platform? <b>A deep-</b>
	sea floating oil drilling rig
54.	Who has been named Wisden Almanack's top T20I
	cricketer: <b>Suryakumar</b>
55.	April 17 is observed as WorldDay to raise
	awareness for Haemophilia and other similar
	bleeding disorders: Haemophilia
56.	An Indian Air Force contingent participated in the
	multi-nation air exercise hosted by from
	April 17 to May 5: <b>France</b>
57.	April 16 is observed as thethe Elephant
	Day to raise awareness about the threats faced by
	elephants: <b>Save</b>
58.	Who was crowned Femina Miss India World 2023
	on April 15? <b>Ms. Nandini Gupta</b>
59.	Ms. Nandini Gupta hails from which state?

Rajasthan

- **60.** World Art Day on April 15 commemorates the birthday of which multi-talented painter? **Leonardo da Vinci**
- **61.** Which major European country finally switched off its last three nuclear power reactors on April 15, completely exiting atomic power? **Germany**
- **62.** A two-day Women 20 meeting was organised under G-20 on April 13-14 in which city? **Jaipur**
- **63.** April 14 is celebrated as Ambedkar Jayanti. He was the first \_\_\_\_\_Minister of the country after the independence: **Law and Justice**
- **64.** India celebrates National Fire Service Day on which day of April? **14**<sup>th</sup>
- **65.** Which Indian state celebrates Baisakhi in the form of Puthandu festival? **Tamil Nadu**
- 66. In which year Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji laid the foundation of the Khalsa Panth on the Baisakhi day? 1699
- **67.** April 13 is observed as the Siachen Day. Siachen glacier is located in which range of Himalayas? **Karakoram**
- **68.** Who was the first man to fly in to space on April 12, 1961? **Yuri Gagarin**
- **69.** World's first vulture conservation and breeding centre has been built in Maharajganj district of which state? **Uttar Pradesh**
- **70.** What is the formal name of this centre? **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre**
- **71.** Which Metro Line created history on April 12 by running through the 520-metre tunnel built under a river? **Kolkata Metro**
- **72.** This 520-metre tunnel has been built under which river? **Hooghly River**
- **73.** Who clinched India's first ever gold medal in men's 57 kg freestyle category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023? **Aman Sehrawat**
- **74.** Which city hosted the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023? **Astana**
- **75.** Astana is the capital city of which country? **Kazakhstan**
- **76.** Name the Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra group who breathed his last on April 12? **Keshub Mahindra**
- 77. Country's first semi-high-speed regional rapid rail service has been started between Delhi and \_\_\_\_\_:

  Meerut, IIP
- **78.** What name has been given to this new rapid rail service? **RapidX**

- **79.** Which multi nation body released its annual World Economic Outlook on April 11? **IMF-International Monetary Fund**
- **80.** RBI has put in place on April 11 a framework for acceptance of \_\_\_\_\_Deposits: **Green**
- **81.** What is the objective of issuing green deposits? To develop a green (eco-friendly) finance ecosystem in India
- **82.** Uttara Baokar, a noted film and TV personality died at the age of 79 in Pune on April 11. She was an acclaimed \_\_\_\_\_? **Actress**
- **83.** Which stock exchange launched on April 11 the country's first-ever Nifty REITs and InvITs Index? **National Stock Exchange**
- 84. What is the full form of REITs and InvITs? Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts
- 85. Which PSU under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, was given the status of Mini Ratna Category-I on April 10? Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd
- **86.** With which country Indian Air Force started the 11-day Exercise Cope India 23 on April 10? **USA**
- **87.** April 11 is observed as World Parkinson's Day. Who is given credit for discovery of Parkinson disease in 1817? **Dr James Parkinson**
- **88.** National Safe Motherhood Day on April 11 coincides with the birthday of which great woman? **Kasturba Gandhi**
- **89.** According to Stanford University's annual AI Index report, India saw the \_\_\_\_highest investments in 2022 in startups offering AI based products and services: **Fifth**
- **90.** World Homoeopathy Day on April 10 marks the birth day of which great physician and scientist? **Dr. Samuel Hahnemann**
- **91.** What is the basic principle on which Homoeopathy functions? **Like cures like**
- **92.** Which Indian GrandMaster won the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event on April 9 in Berlin, Germany? **D Gukesh**
- **93.** First Dogri version of the Indian Constitution, released on April 08, was compiled with the help of which university? **University of Jammu**
- 94. 'Ladakh Shingskos' has become the first handicraft from Ladakh to be granted a GI tag. What is it? Exquisite wood carving

74

- 95. Which Central Armed Police Force celebrates
  April 9 as Shaurya Diwas? Central Reserve
  Police Force
- **96.** Priyanshu Rajawat, emerging badminton player, won the Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament on April 9 in which country? **France**
- **97.** As per the latest national tiger census estimate report released on April 9, India is now home to at least \_\_\_\_\_\_ tigers: **3,167**
- **98.** The President of India took a historic sortie in which fighter aircraft on April 8? **Sukhoi 30 MKI**
- **99.** This historic sortie took place at which Air Force station? **Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam**
- **100.** The Ministry of Finance has set up a four-member committee headed by \_\_\_\_\_\_to review the National Pension Scheme? **T.V. Somanathan**
- **101.** The Union Cabinet approved a project on April 6 to build an advanced gravitational-wave detector in which state? **Maharashtra**
- 102. The formal name for this project is LIGO. What is its full form? Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatories
- **103.** Which apex organisation has decided to develop a secured web-based centralised portal named 'PRAVAAH'? **RBI**
- 104. What is the full form of PRAVAAH? Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And Authorisation
- **105.** What is the theme for this year's World Health Day observed on April 7? **Health for All**
- 106. Who has been declared as the winner of the 2023
  International Prize in Statistics? Prof. C.
  Radhakrishna Rao
- **107.** What was the name of the joint military exercise conducted by Andaman & Nicobar Command on April 5? **Ex KAVACH**
- **108.** Ex KAVACH was conducted at which place? In **Andaman-Nicobar Islands**
- **109.** National Maritime Day is observed on April 5. When is World Maritime Day celebrated? **Sep 28**
- **110.** The CGTMSE announced a revamped credit guarantee scheme for the micro and small enterprises. It came into effect from which date? **April 1, 2023**
- **111.** The CGTMSE enhanced its credit guarantee cover to banks for loans up to Rs \_\_\_\_ crore: **Five**

- 112. What is the full form of CGTMSE? Credit
  Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro & Small
  Enterprises
- **113.** CGTMSE is a joint venture of the MSME Ministry with which apex financial institution? **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**
- **114.** Kim Cotton, 48 year old umpire from became the first woman on-field umpire in a full-member men's T20I match: **New Zealand**
- **115.** Which state achieved the top rank among the 18 large and mid-sized States in the India Justice Report 2022? **Karnataka**
- 116. The World Trade Organisation revised on April 5 its global trade growth outlook for 2023 upwards to \_\_\_\_\_: 1.7%
- 117. 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. These three are subsidiary bodies of which UN organ? Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- **118.** What is the theme of this year's National Maritime Day? **Amrit Kaal in Shipping**
- **119.** International Day of Mine Awareness is observed on which date? **April 4**
- 120. Kiran Nadar was conferred the highest French civil honour Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur.Who is she? Noted art collector and philanthropist from the HCL group
- 121. The Union Ministry for Rural Development launched a unique initiative named 'CAPTIVE EMPLOYMENT' for what purpose? To provide skill training and job to rural youth
- **122.** Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar \_\_\_\_\_Wangchuk began his three-day visit to India on April 03: Namgyal
- **123.** What is the name of the micro helicopter of NASA on Mars that created two new records for a flying object over a planet? **Ingenuity**
- **124.** The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Indian and Sri Lanka Navies annual bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 was held at which place? **Colombo, Sri Lanka**
- **125.** Bharat Dynamics Ltd successfully conducted a field firing test of its latest 3<sup>rd</sup> generation manportable Anti-Tank Guided Missile. What is its name? **Amogha III**
- **126.** The government launched the 'Sagar-Setu' app on March 31 for which section of business class? **All people linked with marine trade**

- **127.** In which state the Indian Railways achieved a major milestone by completing electrification of the entire railway network in the state? **Haryana**
- **128.** The two-day Science-20 conference under India's G20 presidency was held on April 3-4 in which city? **Agartala**
- **129.** ISRO successfully carried out the RLV Autonomous Landing Mission on April 2. What is RLV? **Reusable Launch Vehicle**
- **130.** Which is the sponsoring country for this year's International Children's Book Day? **Greece**
- **131.** Which Indian city has been included in the World Tree City 2022 list? **Mumbai**
- **132.** The World Bank approved a \$100 million loan to which state to help it strengthen its early forecasting systems for improved response to disasters? **Odisha**
- **133.** The WHO has certified which two countries as malaria-free for eliminating the Anopheles mosquito-borne disease in their territories? **Azerbaijan and Tajikistan**
- **134.** Which country recently joined NATO as its 31st member? **Finland**
- **135.** Which is the capital of Finland? **Helsinki**
- **136.** Where are the headquarters of NATO? **Brussels, Belgium**
- **137.** Which global financial body approved a \$363 million loan to Karnataka for funding provision of clean drinking water? **World Bank**
- **138.** Which country topped the Passport Index 2023 released on March 26 by financial advisory services firm Arton Capital? **UAE**
- **139.** India was placed at which spot in the Arton Capital's Passport Index 2023? **144**<sup>th</sup>
- **140.** The Foreign Trade Policy 2023 released on March 31 aims to attain country's outward shipments to \_\_\_\_\_level by 2030: **\$2 trillion**
- **141.** What is the tenure of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023? **Not fixed, it is open ended**
- **142.** The picturesque Gandhamardan hills in \_\_\_\_ have been declared as the 'biodiversity heritage site': **Odisha**
- **143.** Who has been elected as the President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)? **Ajay Singh**
- **144.** The first meeting of the G20 roundtable conference of Chief Science \_\_\_\_\_ was held on March 29 in Ramnagar, near Nainital: **Advisors**

- 145. The Government launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, New India Literacy Programme, for which section of population?

  Non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above
- **146.** The second Sherpa meeting of the G20 Summit was held on March 30 at which place in Kerala? **Kumarakom**
- **147.** Which city hosted the first G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting from March 30 to April 01? **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
- **148.** The World Bank approved a \$108 million loan on March 24 to help \_\_\_\_ improve disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting in the state: **Assam**
- 149. Government launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project on March 25 from Tikli Village in Haryana. Which is the highest peak of Aravali range? Guru Shikhar
- **150.** Guru Shikhar peak is located at which place? **Mount Abu**
- **151.** Visakhapatnam hosted the G-20 \_\_\_\_Working Group meeting on March 28-29: **Infrastructure**
- 152. Government plans to set up 7,432 public fast charging stations across the country under FAME Scheme. Expand the acronym FAME? Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles
- **153.** Meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held on March 29 in which city? **New Delhi**

#### **MARCH 2023**

- March 31 is celebrated as the International Day of
   Checking: Drug
- 2. Theatre lovers all over the world celebrate which day of March as the World Theatre Day? 27<sup>th</sup>
- 3. Mumbai Indians won the Women's Premier League (WPL) on March 26 by beating which team? **Delhi Capitals**
- **4.** India's LVM-3 lifted off successfully on March 26 from Sriharikota with 36 satellites of which UK based company? **One Web**
- **5.** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are the top seeded player of which sports? **Badminton**
- **6.** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the doubles title on March 26 at which Super 300 event? **Swiss Open 2023**

- 7. How many Indian women won the gold medal at the World Boxing Championship held in Delhi, which concluded on March 26? **Four**
- 8. Mrs. Dilma Rousseff, 2-time former President of Brazil, has been elected as the President of which multination financial body? New Development Bank (NDB)
- **9.** Which country formally joined the New Development Bank in last week of March? **Egypt**
- **10.** Headquarters of the New Development Bank are located in which city? **Shanghai**
- **11.** Army Chief presented the prestigious President's Standard or 'Nishan' to four \_\_\_\_\_regiments of the Army on March 25: **Armoured**
- 12. Isha Ambani, the chairperson of Reliance \_\_\_\_\_, won the 'Gennext Entrepreneur' award at the Forbes India Leadership Awards on March 24: Retail
- 13. Who was honoured with the Lifetime achievement Award at the Forbes India Leadership Awards? A M Naik, group chairman of L&T
- **14.** Which city hosted the G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering Conference on March 24-25? **Dibrugarh, Assam**
- 15. The Defence Ministry signed a contract on March 24 with which company for procurement of two Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems? Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad
- **16.** What is the formal name given to these Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems? **Project Himshakti**
- 17. Which country hosted the multi nation Exercise Cobra Warrior that concluded on March 24? Britain
- **18.** What is the theme of this year's World Tuberculosis Day observed on March 24? **Yes! We can end TB!**
- **19.** Who is credited with the discovery of T B Bacteria? **Dr Robert Koch**
- **20.** Which team won both, men's and women's categories on March 23 at the Asian Kho Kho Championship? **India**
- **21.** Which city in assam hosted the Asian Kho Kho Championship? **Tamulpur**
- **22.** Which union ministry launched the Vedic Heritage portal in New Delhi for providing one stop solution to all information related to Vedas? **Ministry of culture**

- **23.** The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of \_\_\_\_\_ conducted a joint maritime exercise from March 20 to 22 in Arabian Sea: **Britain**
- **24.** What was the name of the naval exercise of Indian and British navies held in Arabian Sea? **Konkan 2023**
- **25.** Which prestigious prize is regarded as the Nobel of Mathematics? **Abel Prize**
- **26.** Who is the winner of 2023 Abel Prize? **Prof. Luis Caffarelli. USA**
- **27.** What is the amount of cash given with the Abel Prize? **Kroner 7.5 million**
- **28.** The Indian Army conducted the exercise Vayu Prahar with \_\_\_\_\_ in the eastern theatre in second week of March: **Indian Air force**
- **29.** The 10-day Africa-India Field Training Exercise AFINDEX 2023 that concluded on March 30, was held at which place? **Pune, Maharashtra**
- 30. India celebrates March 23 as Shaheed Diwas. A National Martyrs Memorial has been built at which place in Punjab in the honour of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev? Hussainiwala, near Pakistan border in district Ferozepur
- 31. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were awarded death sentence for which offence? For shooting down Assistant Police Superintendent John P. Saunders, in December 1928 in Lahore
- 32. March 23 is observed as the World Meteorological Day to mark which historical event? Foundation of World Meteorological Organisation on this day in 1950
- 33. Where are the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organisation? Geneva, Switzerland
- **34.** The first day of which month of the Hindu calendar marks the beginning of Hindu calendar Vikram Samvat? **Chaitra**
- **35.** Which year of Vikram Samvat started on March 22, 2023? **2080**
- **36.** Gudi Padwa is a popular festival of which state? **Maharashtra**
- **37.** First day of Chitra is celebrated as Cheti Chand by which community? **Sindhis**
- **38.** Kashmiri Pandits celebrate Hindu New Year Day as \_\_\_\_\_ festival? **Navreh**
- **39.** Which international day is observed on March 22 to achieve the UN's sixth Sustainable Development

Goal -Clean Water and Sanitation for all by 2030? **World Water Day** World Poetry Day is observed on which day of **40**. Which UN agency is associated with promotion of 41. World Poetry Day? **UNESCO 42**. Asia's largest 4-metre International \_Telescope (ILMT) was inaugurated on March 21 at Devasthal Observatory: Liquid Devasthal Observatory is located at which place? 43. Near Nainital, Uttarakhand What is the name of the Indian Navy's second ASW 44. warship launched at Kolkata on March 21? INS Androth What is the full form of ASW? **Anti-Submarine** 45. Warfare 46. Which US state was struck by a very low-pressure "bomb cyclone" on March 21-22, causing widespread devastation and sudden flooding of vast areas? California Which city hosted the ISSF World Cup Shooting 47. Championship from March 20 to 27? Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh What is the full form of ISSF? International 48. **Shooting Sports Federation** 49. The Civil20 India (C-20) Inception meeting was held on March 20-21 in which place? Nagpur, Maharashtra 50. Prime Minister of Japan, \_\_\_\_\_, arrived in New Delhi on March 20 for a two-day visit to India: Kishida Fumio 51. Japan and India are celebrating 2023 as the Tourism Exchange Year with the theme "Connecting the Himalayas with \_\_\_\_\_": Mount Fuji 52. Mr Kishida invited Mr Modi to the G-7 summit 2023 to be held in \_\_\_\_\_in May, 2023: Hiroshima What was the theme of the World Sparrow Day 53. celebrated on March 20? I Love Sparrows Which day of March is celebrated as the 54. International Day of Happiness? 20th Which country was ranked at first position in the 55. World Happiness Report released on March 20? **Finland** What was India's rank in the World Happiness 56.

Report? 125th

- 57. The first Labour 20 (L20) meeting was held in \_\_\_\_ on March 19-20 under the G-20 presidency of India: Amritsar
  58. Which two locations from India found place in TIME Magazine's World's Greatest Places 2023 list of 50 extraordinary destinations to explore?
- **59.** Which is the popular local folk dance of Mayurbhanj? **Chhau**

Ladakh

Odisha's Mayurbhani district and the UT of

- **60.** Which big bank in Switzerland succumbed to financial pressures on March 18? **Credit Suisse**
- **61.** Credit Suisse was taken over by which bank after its reported failure? **UBS Group AG**
- 62. What is the name of the mobile app recently launched by the Income Tax Department? **Annual Information Statement (AIS)**
- 63. On March 19, \_\_\_\_\_ retained his Asian Billiards title for the 8th time, at Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation Academy in Doha, Qatar: Pankaj Advani
- **64.** Indian Wells Masters, also called BNP Paribas Open Tennis Tournament, concluded at which place on March 19? **Indian Wells, California**
- **65.** Which global organisation supports the celebration of the Global Recycling Day on March 18? **Global Recycling Foundation**
- **66.** India celebrates March 18 as the Ordnance Factory Day to mark the foundation of the first Ordnance Factory by the British in 1801 in which place? **Cossipore near Kolkata**
- **67.** From Oct 1, 2021, the 41 ordnance factories were reorganised into how many Defence Public Sector Units? **Seven**
- Deepak Mohanty has been appointed as the new Chairperson of which all India regulatory body?
   PFRDA Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority
- 69. What is the name of the first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh that was inaugurated on March 18? India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline
- **70.** The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline starts from which place in India? **Siliguri, West Bengal**
- 71. Which refinery in India will supply high speed diesel to Bangladesh through pipeline?
  Numaligarh Refinery Limited

- **72.** Exercise Desert Flag VIII which concluded on March 17 was held at which place? **Al Dahfra air base, UAE**
- **73.** Name the 43-year-old Indian tennis star who became the oldest tennis player to win an ATP Masters 1000 title (doubles): **Rohan Bopanna**
- **74.** Name the winner of this year's Saraswati Samman? **Ms. Sivasankari**
- **75.** Ms. Sivasankari is a noted author of which language? **Tamil**
- **76.** What is the amount of cash award given with the Saraswati Samman? **Rs. 15 lakh**
- 77. \_\_\_\_\_ became the first steel company to receive BIS certification to manufacture India's first fire-resistant steel structures: Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.
- **78.** Which state notified its 18th wildlife sanctuary named as Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary? **Tamil Nadu**
- **79.** Government declared on March 17 setting up of hoe many PM MITRA textile parks? **Seven**
- **80.** What is the expansion of the acronym MITRA? **Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel**
- 81. The President of India awarded the prestigious President's Colours to the Indian Navy's gunnery school on March 16. What is its name? INS Dronacharya
- **82.** INS Dronacharya is located at which place? **Fort Kochi, Kerala**
- 83. National Vaccination Day on March 16 marks the first delivery of which vaccine on this day in 1995?Oral Polio drops
- **84.** In which year was India declared free from Polio by WHO: **2014**
- **85.** Gianni Infantino was re-elected as FIFA president on March 16 for the third successive term, until which year? **2027**
- **86.** Who has been appointed as the new US Ambassador to India? **Eric Garcetti**
- **87.** Which city in northeast hosted the B-20 Conference on March 16 under India's G20 presidency? **Gangtok**
- **88.** Which organisation awarded Governor of the Year 2023 Award to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das? **The International Journal of Central Banking**
- **89.** In the "World Air Quality" report, prepared by Swiss firm, IQAir and released on March 15, India was ranked at which spot? **8**<sup>th</sup>

- **90.** World Air Quality report ranked which country as the most polluted in world? **Chad**
- **91.** Which country hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the coordinated multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise near Guam in West Pacific Ocean?
- **92.** IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 was inaugurated on March 15 in which city? **New Delhi**
- **93.** Which was the most polluted metropolitan area of 2022, with PM2.5 level of 97.4? **Lahore**
- **94.** World Consumer Rights Day is observed on March 15. In which year India passed the current Consumer Protection Act? **2019**
- 95. Which Indian city received a prestigious \$150,000 Partnership for Healthy Cities award in London on March 15 for its tobacco control efforts? Bengaluru
- 96. The Atal Innovation Mission launched ATL Sarthi on March 14 for what purpose? To strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)
- **97.** What is the name of the most recent advanced version of the chatbot ChatGPT, released on March 14? **GPT-4**
- **98.** Global Terrorism Index (GTI) released on March 14, ranked which country as the worst affected by terrorism? **Afghanistan**
- **99.** As per the Global Terrorism Index 2022, which was the deadliest terrorist group in the world in 2022? **Islamic State (IS) and its affiliates**
- **100.** The Indian Coast Guard conducted a three-day exercise on March 14-16 with five nations, at which place? **Off the Kolkata coast**
- 101. The World Bank approved a \$500 million (Rs 4130 crore) loan for part funding of the construction of the Green National \_\_\_\_\_Corridors Project in four States: Highway
- 102. In which country its Technology Innovation Institute launched on March 14 the "Falcon LLM," a foundational "large language model" (LLM) with 40 billion parameters? UAE
- 103. Operation Bold Kurukshetra which concluded on March 13, was held at which place? Jodhpur Military Station in Rajasthan
- **104.** Which other country participated in the bilateral armour training exercise Operation Bold Kurukshetra? Singapore
- **105.** RBI granted an "Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)" status to IREDA on March 13. What is full

# form of IREDA? **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency**

- 106. What was the theme of this year's International Day of Action for Rivers observed on March 14?Rights of Rivers
- **107.** International Day of Mathematics on March 14 happens to be the birthday of which eminent mathematician? **Albert Einstein**
- **108.** Who became the first female to operate the newly-introduced semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train on March 13? **Ms. Surekha Yadav**
- **109.** \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first state in India to begin the commercial cultivation of the popular herb Mulethi (liquorice): **Himachal Pradesh**
- **110.** Colonel \_\_\_\_\_Rana became the first woman officer to take over the command of an independent unit, in Ladakh: **Geeta**
- 111. Name the veteran architect who won the Pritzker Architecture Prize-2023: Sir David Alan Chipperfield
- **112.** Sir Chipperfield hails from which country? **Britain**
- **113.** What is the amount of the cash reward in the Pritzker Architecture Prize? **\$100,000/-**
- 114. Which national authority re-elected Xi Jinping as the President for the third term? National People's Congress
- **115.** What was the name of the multilateral naval exercise held between navies of India, Australia, Japan, France and USA on March 13-14 in the Indian Ocean? **Exercise La Perouse**
- **116.** In which African country more than 300 people were killed on March 12-13 by the devastating cyclone Freddy? **Malawi**
- **117.** A report released by the Sweden-based think-tank SIPRI on March 13 for the period 2018-22, ranked which country as the largest importer of arms and equipments? **India**
- **118.** Which country contributed 45 percent of Indian imports of arms and equipments? **Russia**
- **119.** SIPRI report ranked which country as the largest exporter of arms and weapons during 2018-22? **USA**
- **120.** What is the full form of SIPRI? **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**
- **121.** The Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2023) announced on March 12 in Los Angeles, were which edition of the awards? **95**<sup>th</sup>

- **122.** Which film won the Oscar 2023 for the Best Film? **Everything Everywhere All at Once**
- **123.** The song Naatu Naatu from RRR won the prestigioud Oscar award in which category? **Best Original Song**
- **124.** Who is the choreographer of the superhit song Naatu Naatu? **Prem Rakshith**
- **125.** Which Indian short documentary won the Oscar award 2023? **The Elephant Whisperers**
- **126.** Who is the director of the short film The Elephant Whisperers? **Kartiki Gonsalves**
- **127.** Which city in Karnataka secured a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest (1,507m) railway platform in the world? **Hubballi**
- 128. The longest railway platform in the world is located on which railway station? Shri Siddharoodha Swami station in Hubballi
- **129.** World Glaucoma Day is observed on which day of March? **12**<sup>th</sup>
- **130.** Who has been elected as the Premier (prime minister) of China on March 11? **Li Qiang**
- **131.** With the navy of which country India hosted Maritime Partnership Exercise on March 10-11? **France**
- **132.** Indo-French Maritime Partnership Exercise was held in which area? **Arabian Sea**
- 133. What was the tagline of the "Khelo India Dus Ka Dum" tournament that was held across India from March 10 to 31? Hai dum to Badhao kadam
- **134.** Failure of which California based big bank in USA created tremors in financial world? **Silicon Valley Bank**
- **135.** Name the renowned Hindi author who won the Vyas Samman 2022: **Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi**
- **136.** Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi won the Vyas Samman for which of his works? **His satirical novel** "Pagalkhana" (Mental Asylum)
- **137.** What is the amount of the cash prize given with the Vyas Samman? **Rs. 4 lakh**
- **138.** Ram Chandra Paudel, Senior Nepali Congress leader, was elected as the new \_\_\_\_\_ of Nepal on March 09: **President**
- **139.** The UN Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Summit on March 9 declared removal of which country from the LDCs? **Bhutan**

80

**140.** Which is the capital of Bhutan? **Thimphu** 

- **141.** The Ministry of Defence signed a contract for procurement of six Dornier-228 aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) from which company? Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru **142.** What type of aircraft is Dornier-228? Multipurpose small transport aircraft **143.** Australian Prime Minister \_\_\_\_\_ Albanese arrived in India on March 8 on a four-day visit to the country: **Anthony 144.** Mr. Anthony Albanese started his Indian trip from which city? Ahmedabad **145.** The ISRO received from NASA the NASA-ISRO SAR satellite in Bengaluru on March 8. What is its short name? NISAR **146.** What is the full form SAR? **Synthetic Aperture 147.** What type of satellite is NISAR? **Low Earth Orbit Observatory** 148. International Women's Day celebrated on March 8, marks the birthday of which great woman leader? None 149. TROPEX 2023 that culminated on March 08, was a major operational exercise of \_\_\_\_\_: Indian Navy 150. World Kidney Day is observed globally on the second \_\_\_\_\_of March every year: **Thursday 151.** World over, No Smoking Day is observed on \_ Wednesday of March: Second **152.** What was the name of the maiden joint military exercise between Indian and French Army that was conducted on March 7-8? FRINJEX-23 153. India hosted FRINJEX-23 at which place? At Pangode Military Station, Thiruvananthapuram **154.** In a gazette notification issued March 7, the Finance Ministry said that the exchange and transfer of virtual assets will be covered under provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002: Digital **155.** Which town in Kerala witnessed one of the largest gatherings of women in the world on the occasion of "Attukal Pongala" on March 07? Attukal **156.** India celebrates Janaushadhi Diwas on which day of March? 7th **157.** Group Captain \_\_\_\_\_Dhami has become the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to command a front line combat unit: Shaliza **158.** From April 1, each piece of gold jewellery in India will have a 6-digit alphanumeric HUID mark
- embossed on it. What is HUID? **Hallmark Unique Identification**
- **159.** According to the 'Landslide Atlas' report prepared by National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO, for 1998-2022 period, which state suffered largest number of landslides in last 24 years? **Mizoram**
- According to the 'Landslide Atlas', which district of India experienced largest number of landslides during 1998 2022? Rudraprayag in Uttarakhand
- **161.** As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on March 05, the annual per capita income at current prices is estimated at Rs \_\_\_\_\_ lakh in 2022-23: **1.72**
- **162.** Max Verstappen (of Netherland) led the team Red Bull to victory in the season-opening \_\_\_\_\_Grand Prix at Sakhir on March 05: **Bahrain**
- **163.** Members of which global organisation signed the High Seas Treaty on March 4 in New York? **UNO**
- **164.** What is the main objective of the High Seas Treaty? **To protect and conserve marine biological diversity**
- **165.** Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture approved establishment of three CoEs for promoting horticulture. What is CoE? **Centers of Excellence**
- 166. The first edition of the Naval Commanders'
  Conference of 2023 was held on 06 March
  onboard which naval warship? Aircraft carrier
  INS Vikrant
- **167.** Which country secured first rank in the Electoral Democracy Index 2023 released on March 2? **Denmark**
- 168. Anupama Upadhyaya and Mithun Manjunath won the women's and men's singles titles in which national championship? National Badminton Championship
- **169.** World \_\_\_\_\_ Day is observed across the world on March 03: **Wildlife**
- 170. Hindi short story writer, novelist and poet Vinod Kumar Shukla won which international award for lifetime achievement? PEN/Nabokov Award-2023
- **171.** Which company unveiled "Kosmos-1", a multimodal large language model (MLLM) that can analyse images for content? **Microsoft**
- **172.** Which day of March is observed as the World Obesity Day? **Fourth**

- 173. What is the theme of this year's National Safety
  Day celebrated on March 4? Our Aim Zero
  Harm
- **174.** March 4 is observed in India as the National Security Day. Who is our National Security Advisor? **Ajit Doval**
- **175.** Santosh trophy is associated with which sports at the national level? **Football**
- **176.** Karnataka lifted the Santosh Trophy by defeating which team? **Meghalaya**
- **177.** Which day of March is celebrated as the World Hearing Day? **Third**
- **178.** Irani Cup is an all-India level tournament associated with which sports? **Cricket**
- 179. RAK Digital Assets Oasis, the world's first free zone dedicated to digital and virtual asset companies is being established in which country?
  UAE United Arab Emirates
- **180.** The seagrasses are grass-like plants that are found in \_\_\_\_\_waters in many parts of the world: Shallow
- **181.** The government unveiled which fellowship on Feb 28 to attract Indian-origin researchers to higher educational institutions in the country? **Vaibhav**
- **182.** Bola Tinubu has been sworn in as the President of which big African nation? **Nigeria**
- **183.** The World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 report released on March 2, placed which country at the top? **None, as 14 countries scored perfect 100**
- **184.** Social media giant Meta released its own version of ChatGPT on Feb 24 by the name\_\_\_\_: **LLaMA**
- **185.** What is the full form of LLaMA? **Large Language Model Meta AI**
- **186.** The Asia's longest-ever cycle race was flagged off on March 01 from which place? **Srinagar**
- **187.** Who has been selected as the 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year' 2022: **Mirabai Chanu**
- **188.** Mirabai Chanu is the Olympic silver medalist in which sports? **Weightlifting**
- **189.** The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held from March 2 to 4 in which city? **New Delhi**
- **190.** Who was the chief guest at the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Raisina Dialogue? **Giorgia Meloni**
- **191.** Giorgia Meloni is the Prime Minister of which country? **Italy**

- **192.** What was the name of the joint air exercise conducted by the Air Forces of India and Japan on March 01 and 02? **Exercise Shinyuu Maitri**
- **193.** Exercise Shinyuu Maitri was conducted at which place? **At Komatsu, Japan**
- **194.** Which state hosted a G20 Business Conference from March 1-3? **Mizoram**
- **195.** The G20 Foreign Ministers meeting was held on March 1-2 in which city? **New Delhi**
- **196.** Who is the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) of India? **V. Anantha Nageswaran**
- 197. Civil Accounts Day on March 01 commemorates which historical event on this day in 1976?

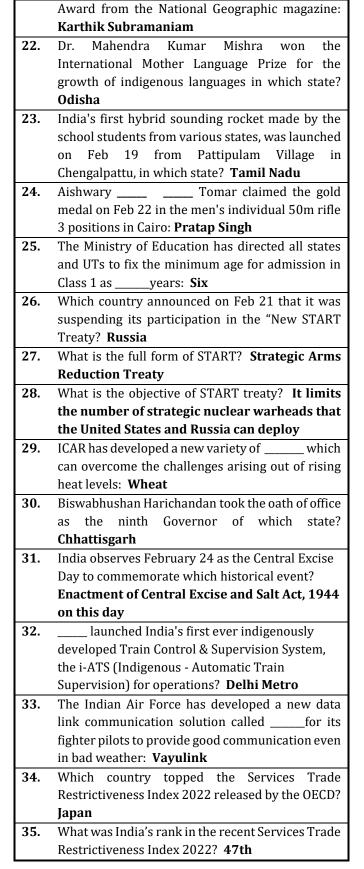
  Creation of the Indian Civil Accounts Service
- **198.** The first meeting of the Anti-Corruption Working Group of the G20 was held on March 1-3 in which city? **Gurugram, Haryana**
- **199.** Vo Van Thuong has been elected as the President of which south Asian country? **Vietnam**
- **200.** Which Bank completed the acquisition of Citibank's retail business in India on March 01? **Axis Bank**
- **201.** Who was honoured with "Player-of-the-Year" award by the Asian Chess Federation on March 1? **D Gukesh**
- 202. Which river's mouth is famous for mass nesting of endangered Olive Ridley turtles? Rushikulya River
- 203. Rushikulya River lies in which state? Odisha
- 204. On March 01, the Union Cabinet approved the acquisition of 70 HTT-40. What is it? Basic Trainer Aircraft
- **205.** Which company will supply the HTT-40 aircrafts? **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Bengaluru**
- **206.** Rashmi Shukla, Senior IPS officer has been appointed as the Director-General of which para military force? **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**
- 207. Government has tied up with Prajapati Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu (Rajasthan) for propagating which mission? Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan
- **208.** Alexia Putellas of \_\_\_\_\_ won the Best FIFA Women's Player 2022 award: **Spain**
- **209.** Who was declared Best FIFA Men's Player for 2022? **Lionel Messi**
- **210.** Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won gold on Feb 26 at the Spanish Para-\_\_\_\_ International tournament in Victoria, Spain: **Badminton**

- **211.** Australia won the ICC T20 World Cup (women) Trophy by defeating which team? **South Africa**
- **212.** Who was the captain of the World Cup winning Australian team? **Meg Lanning**
- **213.** Which country hosted the ICC T20 World Cup (women) Tournament? **South Africa**
- **214.** Who has been appointed as new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team? **Craig Fulton**
- **215.** Craig Fulton, a seasoned hockey coach, hails from which country? **South Africa**
- **216.** The World Bank approved two complementary loans for India, each for \$ 500 million, to support and enhance which sector in India? **Healthcare infrastructure**
- 217. What is Yard 75 (LSAM 7) that was launched on Feb 24 at Visakhapatnam for the Indian Navy? A Missile cum Ammunition Barge
- **218.** Which Indian state became the first state to engage robotic scavengers all over the state for sewage cleaning? **Kerala**
- **219.** Who became the only tennis player to enter 378<sup>th</sup> week on top of world tennis rankings? **Novak Djokovik**
- **220.** The Marconi Prize by the U.S.-based Marconi Foundation is awarded for making outstanding contribution in which field? **Computer science**
- **221.** The Financial Action Task Force, Paris suspended membership of which country on Feb 24? **Russia**
- **222.** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was awarded Porter Prize in recognition of their outstanding work done in which field? **Health sector and COVID management**

# **FEBRUARY 2023**

- Which international day is observed on the last day of February to raise awareness about rare diseases? World Rare Disease Day
- 2. National Science Day on Feb 28 marks the discovery of which scientific phenomenon on this date in 1928? Raman Effect
- 3. Name the scientist who discovered Raman effect: Sir C V Raman
- **4.** National Protein Day is observed on which day of February? **27**<sup>th</sup>
- 5. The inception meeting of the Women 20 (W20), under aegis of G-20 was held on 27-28 Feb in which city? **Aurangabad, Maharashtra.**
- **6.** A powerful winter storm set record low temperatures in the south western and northern

- plains of which country in 4<sup>th</sup> week of February? **USA**
- 7. German Chancellor (Prime Minister) Olaf \_\_\_\_\_ arrived in New Delhi on Feb 25 on a two-day visit to India: **Scholz**
- **8.** Which city hosted the first G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) under the G20 Indian Presidency on 24-25 February? **Bengaluru**
- 9. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, \_\_\_\_\_of Guyana, called on the President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Feb 24: Vice President
- **10.** The UN General Assembly passed a resolution on Feb 23 on the need to reach comprehensive, just and lasting peace in which country? **Ukraine**
- 11. Chief Justice of India, D Y Chandrachud announced on Feb23 that the Supreme Court will adopt a "neutral \_\_\_\_\_ system" for all its over 30,000 judgments: Citation
- **12.** Sajjan Jindal has been selected as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year-2022. He heads which industrial group? **JSW Group**
- 13. Which power sector PSU has been ranked as the number one independent power producer globally in the S&P Global Commodity Insights Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings-2022?
  National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
- **14.** Which country topped the International IP (Intellectual Property) Index released on Feb 23? USA
- **15.** What was India's rank in the recent IP Index? **42**<sup>nd</sup>
- 16. Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India has been selected as External Auditor of which international organisation? ILO-International Labour Organization in Geneva
- **17.** Which Indo-American business executive has been nominated for the post of President of the World Bank? **Ajay Banga**
- 18. Who is the current President of the World Bank?
  David Malpass
- **19.** Which High Court became the first high court in India to publish two of its recent judgments in regional language? **Kerala High Court**
- 20. Which Municipal Corporation listed its green bonds on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Feb 21, becoming the first MC to be listed on NSE? Indore MC
- **21.** Name the US based Indian origin software engineer, who won the 'Pictures of The Year'



Which two countries participated in the Dharma Guardian 2023 joint military exercise? **Japan and** Which group of people celebrate February 22 as the World Thinking Day? Girl guides and girl 38. What is the theme of the RBI's second global hackathon - 'HARBINGER 2023 launched on Feb 22? Inclusive Digital Services Which Indian warship participated in Naval 39. Defence Exhibition - NAVDEX 23 and International Defence Exhibition - IDEX 23 held in Abu Dhabi. UAE from Feb 20 to 24? INS Sumedha The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the term of the 22nd Law Commission of India up to which date? 31st August, 2024 Who is the current chairman of the Law Commission of India? Justice (retd) Rituraj Awasthi 42. The country's first ever Frozen Lake Marathon took place on \_\_\_\_\_ lake in Ladakh on Feb 20: Pangong Tso Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil is an accomplished national player in which sports? Air Rifle shooting India's first air-conditioned double-decker electric bus was launched in which city? Mumbai Which UN agency is associated with the promotion 45. of International Mother Language Day on Feb 21? **UNESCO** 46. In which city the foundation stone of the 'Divyang Anubhuti Inclusive Park', world's largest park for disabled people, was laid on Feb 20? Nagpur, Maharashtra The 69th Dadasaheb Phalke Award ceremony was held on Feb 20? Mumbai Which film won the Dadasaheb Phalke Award on 48. Feb 20 for the Best Film? The Kashmir Files 49. Film RRR by SS Rajamouli won which coveted Dadasaheb Phalke Award on Feb 20? Film of the Year 50. Who has been elected unopposed as Bangladesh's

22nd President? Mohammad Shahabuddin

Vignesh NR became India's \_\_\_\_\_ Grandmaster on Feb 20 after he defeated Germany's IM Ilja

Schneider: 80th

- **52.** Who became the first player in history on Feb 20 having played 150 T20I matches? **Harmanpreet Kaur**
- **53.** World's highest weather station was recently rebuilt near which mountain peak? **Mount Everest**
- 54. Which UN agency supports the celebration of World Social Justice Day on Feb 20? International Labour Organisation, Geneva
- **55.** North India's first Nuclear Power Plant is being set up in village Gorakhpur in which state? **Haryana**
- 56. Who created a world record for most sixes in Test cricket as he smashed his 108th six recently? Ben Stokes
- **57.** The UNICEF India selected which Bollywood celebrity as its national ambassador for supporting the rights of children? **Ayushmann Khurrana**
- **58.** The Union Cabinet Committee approved the construction of the 4.1 km long Shinku La tunnel to ensure all-weather connectivity between which two major cities? **Leh and Manali**
- 59. India established seamless connectivity of its UPI system with PayNow system of which country?
  Singapore
- **60.** Which film won the BAFTA Award for the Best Film? **All Quiet on the Western Front**
- **61.** India received first batch of 12 Cheetahs on Feb 18 from which country? **South Africa**
- 62. The Indian mixed team of HS Prannoy and PV Sindhu won the \_\_\_\_\_ medal on Feb 18 at the Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championships in Dubai: Bronze
- **63.** Saurashtra defeated which team at Eden Gardens, Kolkata on Feb 19 to lift the Ranji Trophy? **Bengal**
- **64.** Which country won the Border Gavaskar Trophy? **India**
- **65.** Government launched on Feb 20 a Learning-Teaching Material called 'Jaadui Pitara' for which stage of school learning? **Foundational stage**
- **66.** World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the \_\_\_\_Saturday of February to raise awareness about these unique mammals: **Third**
- **67.** Who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog? **BVR Subrahmanyam**
- **68.** What is the name of the joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army

- that was held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand in last week of February? **Dustlik 2023**
- **69.** Which national day is observed on Feb 19 to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card Scheme from Rajasthan on this day in 2015? **Soil Health Card Day**
- **70.** The Tata-owned airlines Air India will purchase as many as 220 planes for \$ 34 billion, from which company? **Boeing Inc., USA**
- **71.** Tata Sons also announced purchase of 250 aircraft from \_\_\_\_\_: **European manufacturer Airbus**
- **72.** A joint counter-terrorism exercise was held between National Security Guard (NSG) and Special Operations Forces (SOF) of which country from Jan 16 to Feb 14 in Chennai? **USA**
- 73. What was the name of the joint counter-terrorism exercise held between NSG and SOF? Exercise Tarkash
- **74.** The World Health Organization recently confirmed the Marburg disease outbreak in which country? **Equatorial Guinea**.
- **75.** The government launched a mobile app 'Khanan \_\_\_\_\_' for reporting unauthorised coal mining activities: **Prahari**
- **76.** Researchers from which country recently discovered a Black Galaxy or Invisible Galaxy using ALMA Atacama Large Millimetre Array telescope complex in South America? **Italy**
- 77. International Epilepsy Day is observed on second
  \_\_\_\_\_ of February: Monday
- **78.** National Women's Day on Feb 13 commemorates the birthday of which great Indian woman? **Sarojini Naidu**
- **79.** Abdul Nazeer, former SC Judge has been appointed Governor of which state? **Andhra Pradesh**
- **80.** Supported by UNESCO, which day of February is celebrated as the World Radio Day? **13**<sup>th</sup>
- **81.** Cyclone Gabrielle, a strong tropical cyclone hit the northern part of which country on February 12? **New Zealand**
- **82.** The five-day Aero India show was held from Feb 13 to 17 at the Air Force Station in which place? **Yelahanka, Bengaluru**
- 83. The Department of Posts organised the National Philatelic Exhibition, AMRITPEX 2023 from 11 to 15 February in which city? **New Delhi**

the birthday of Charles Darwin. Who was he? measure to help Türkiye - Syria earthquake British naturalist (12 Feb 1809–19 April, 1882). victims: **Dost** Charles Darwin is best known for his Theory of **101.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Khelo India Winter Games was 85. Evolution which established the principle of held from Feb 10 to 14 at the world-famous Ski \_\_: Survival of Fittest resorts of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Baramulla district of Which Indian city hosted the first ever FIA's Kashmir: **Gulmarg** 86. Formula E race in India? Hyderabad **102.** Which state/UT topped the medal tally at the Khelo India Winter Games? I&K 87. Which city hosted the World Government Summit **103.** Which Indian university is going to become 2023 from Feb 13 to 15? **Dubai** world's first living heritage university certified by Which national day is observed on Feb 12 to mark 88. UNESCO? Visva-Bharati University the establishment of the National Productivity Council-NPC on this day in 1958? National **104.** Visva-Bharati University is situated at which **Productivity Day** place? Santiniketan, West Bengal UNESCO supports the celebration of International 89. **105.** K Satyanarayana Raju has been appointed as Day of \_\_\_\_\_ and Girls in Science on Feb 11: Managing Director and CEO of which public sector Women bank? Canara Bank 90. Which union ministry is associated with the **106.** The government has set up a panel headed by promotion and celebration of the Unani Day on \_\_\_\_\_to examine various regulatory aspects in Feb 11? **Ministry** of **Ayush** dealing with challenges emerging from the digital The second developmental flight of SSLV D2 91. economy: Manoj Govil **107.** Google finally launched its AI technology chatbot placed how many satellites successfully in its precise orbit on Feb 10? Three named 'Bard' on Feb 07 to ward off competition What is the full form of SSLV? Small satellite from which rival? ChatGPT 92. 108. What is the full form of GPT? Generative Prelaunch vehicle 93. What is the payload capacity of SSLV? Up to 500 trained Transformer **109.** Yaya Tso, known as birds' paradise and its 94. The Union Ministry of Mines announced on beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 metres, is situated in which place? Ladakh February 10, that huge Lithium reserves had been found in the Salal-Haimana area of \_\_\_\_\_: J & K **110.** Announcing the last bi-monthly monetary policy Which country produces 75% of the world's review of 2022-23, RBI increased the reporate by 95. Lithium, mainly by doing the refining business? 25 basis points to\_\_\_\_: **6.5% 111.** Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the China February 10 is observed as World Pulses Day. day of the second week of February: 96. Pulses are rich source of which major nutrient? Second 112. Name the Australia's T20 World Cup-winning **Protein** 97. February 10 is observed as the National captain who announced his retirement on Feb 07 Deworming Day. Which medicine is administered from the T20Is: Aaron Finch **113.** Which two Fighter Aircrafts successfully free on this day to children to ward off stomach worms? Albendazoles performed their maiden landing and takeoff on 98. India's national accreditation system under the Feb 6 from India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Quality Council of India (QCI) has been ranked INS Vikrant? **Tejas and MiG29K** in the world in the recent Global Quality **114.** The first Tourism Working Group Meeting under Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021: Fifth India's G20 Presidency was held on Feb 7-8-9 in 99. India's first Integrative Medicine Centre was Dhordo Tent City in which place? Rann of Kutch, inaugurated on Feb 7 in which hospital? All India Gujarat Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Safdarjung **115.** Name the American singer who secured her 32<sup>nd</sup> Hospital in New Delhi Grammy award, the most in the award's history:

**100.** India launched Operation \_\_\_\_\_ as a big relief

February 12 is observed as "Darwin Day" to mark

**Beyoncé Knowles** 

- **116.** Which record won the Grammy for the Record of the Year? **About Damn Time by Lizzo**
- **117.** The Asian Football Confederation awarded hosting rights of the 2027 Asian Nations Cup to which country? **Saudi Arabia**
- **118.** A powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.9 struck central Turkey and which other country on early morning of Feb 6, killing thousands of people? **Northwest Syria**
- **119.** The first meeting of the Youth-20 engagement group under India's G20 presidency was held from Feb 6 to 8 in which city? **Guwahati**
- **120.** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) opened a new helicopter-making factory on Feb 06 at which place? **Tumkur, Karnataka**
- **121.** Vani Jairam, veteran singer passed away in \_\_\_\_\_on February 4: **Chennai**
- **122.** Who was rated as the world's most popular leader by Morning Consult, with an approval rating of 78 percent? **Narendra Modi**
- 123. Touted as Asia's first floating festival, Gandhi Sagar Floating Festival, was inaugurated on February 1 near which reservoir? Gandhi Sagar reservoir built on Chambal River
- **124.** Gandhi Sagar reservoir is located in which state? **Madhya Pradesh**
- **125.** Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy announced on January 31 that \_\_\_\_\_will be the new capital of Andhra Pradesh: Visakhapatnam
- **126.** Which country decided to replace the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II from its currency note with a new design to reflect and honour the history of its indigenous culture? **Australia**
- **127.** K Viswanath, Dadasaheb Phalke awardee and renowned \_\_\_\_\_ passed away on Feb 02 at the age of 92 at Hyderabad: **Filmmaker**
- **128.** ONGC's iconic drilling rig Sagar Samrat was formally re-dedicated to the nation on Jan 28 as a MOPU. Expand the term MOPU: **Mobile Offshore Production Unit**
- **129.** In a strategically important move, the USA succeeded in securing expanded access to its military bases in which country in first week of February? **Philippines**
- **130.** The Indian Army put up an imposing firepower display on Jan 29 in Maharashtra's Devlali. What was its name? **Exercise Topchi-2023**

- **131.** The first G-20 Employment Working Group meeting was held on Feb 2-3-4 in \_\_\_\_\_, Rajasthan: **Jodhpur**
- 132. February 2 is observed as World Wetlands Day.How many Ramsar wetlands are there in India?75
- **133.** A consortium of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) and Gadot Group took over the Port of Haifa in which country on 31st January? **Israel**
- **134.** Trishakti Prahar, a joint training exercise of the Indian Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) was held from Jan 21 to 31 in which place? **Siliguri, West Bengal**
- **135.** Name the noted jurist and former Union Law Minister who passed away on Jan 31 at his residence in New Delhi: **Shanti Bhushan**
- **136.** The first meeting of the G20 \_\_\_\_\_Working Group was held in Chennai on Jan 31-Feb 01: **Education**
- **137.** The Ministry of Culture announced on January 25 its plans to hand over around 1,000 historical monuments to the private sector for their upkeep under which scheme? **Monument Mitra Scheme**
- **138.** Which Ministry announced on Jan 30 the awards for the best marching contingents and tableaux of the Republic Day Parade? **Ministry of Defence**
- 139. Which marching contingent among defence forces was declared the Best Marching Contingent?
  Punjab Regiment
- **140.** Tableau of which state was declared best among state tableaus? **Uttarakhand**
- **141.** The President Droupadi Murmu renamed the legendary Mughal Gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan as \_\_\_\_\_on Jan 28: **Amrit Udyan**
- **142.** Germany lifted their 3<sup>rd</sup> FIH Hockey World Cup on Jan 29 by defeating which team? **Belgium**
- **143.** Year's first Grand Slam, Australian Open was held in which city? **Melnbourne**
- **144.** Who won the men's singles title at Australian Open for the 10<sup>th</sup> time? **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)**
- **145.** Aryna Sabalenka won her first grand slam by winning women's singles at the Australian Open. She hails from which country? **Belarus**
- **146.** India won the inaugural edition of ICC Under-19 Women's T-20 Trophy on Jan 29 by beating which team? **England**

- **147.** The fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) was inaugurated on Jan 30 in which city? **Bhopal**
- **148.** Which state won the overall championship at KIYG securing a total of 161 medals? **Maharashtra**

# **JANUARY 2023**

- The martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30
  is observed as which national day in India?
  Martyrs Day
- **2.** World Leprosy Day is observed on the \_\_\_\_ Sunday of January: **Last, Jan 29 this year**
- 3. Who was the Chief Guest at this year's Republic Day Parade? **Gen. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**
- **4.** With which country Indian Air Force participated in the Veer Guardian-2023 exercise? **Japan**
- 5. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar are given by which union ministry? Ministry of home affairs
- 6. Odisha State Disaster Management Authority won the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for which achievement? For providing effective response during various cyclones, saving thousands of lives
- 7. The International Customs Day on Jan 26 marks the inauguration of the World Customs Organisation on this day in 1953. It is based in which place? **Brussels, Belgium**
- 8. Custom duty in India is defined under which Act? Customs Act, 1962
- 9. Name the renowned architect and educator who was honoured posthumously with the Padma Vibhushan 2023: **Balkrishna Doshi**
- 10. Who is the Abel prize winner pioneer mathematician from USA, who has been honoured with the Padma Vibhushan this year? S R Srinivasa Varadhan
- **11.** Naat Naatu fame music composer M M Keeravaani has been honoured with which Padma award this year? **Padma Shri**
- 12. National Voters Day on Jan 25 marks which event in history? Establishment of the Election Commission of India
- **13.** Who is the current Chief Election Commissioner of India? **Sh. Rajiv Kumar**
- 14. India observes National Tourism Day on Jan 25. When is World Tourism Day observed? September 27

- **15.** Who won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Cricketer of the year (men): **Babar Azam, Pakistan**
- **16.** Name the veteran modern Indian architect, urban planner and educator who passed away on Jan 24 at the age of 95: **Balkrishna Doshi**
- **17.** Nat Sciver, winner of Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for the ICC Cricketer of the year (women), plays for which country? **England**
- **18.** What was the name of the Indian Navy's major maritime exercise that started on Jan 24 in the Indian Ocean? **Tropex-23**
- **19.** Aska Police Station in Ganjam district of \_\_\_\_\_was ranked as the "Best Police Station" in the country in 2022: **Odisha**
- **20.** The RBI extended the deadline for renewal of agreements for the existing safe deposit lockers in a phased manner, maximum by \_\_\_\_\_2023: **December 31**
- **21.** The first B20 meet as part of the G20 was held from Jan 22 to 24 in \_\_\_\_\_\_, Gujarat: **Gandhinagar**
- **22.** President of which country arrived in New Delhi on January 24, on a three-day visit to India? **Egypt**
- **23.** UNESCO has dedicated this year's International Day of Education (Jan 24) to all the girls and women in which country? **Afghanistan**
- **24.** Which union ministry supports the celebration of National Girl Child Day on Jan 24? **Ministry of Women and Child Development**
- **25.** What is the name of the fifth Kalvari class submarine that was commissioned into the Indian Navy on Jan 23? **INS Vagir**
- **26.** Which railway station of East Coast Railway received the prestigious 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating? **Visakhapatnam**
- **27.** The great freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary on Jan 23 is observed as which national day? **Parakram Diwas**
- 28. What was the name of the largest biennial Tri-Services amphibious exercise of Indian Army that was conducted from January 17 to 22? AMPHEX 2023
- **29.** AMPHEX 2023 was held in which area? **In the** coastal area near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh
- **30.** Who has been named as the new Prime Minister of New Zealand? **Chris Hipkins**

On the occasion of Parakram Diwas on Jan 23, how Which Indian corporate has announced to plant 10 31. many unnamed islands of Andaman-Nicobar were crore trees by 2030 as part of its commitment to named after the Param Vir Chakra awardees? 21 Paris COP 21? Adani group 32. Who was the first Param Vir Chakra awardee of Which ordnance factory started the production of India? Major Somnath Sharma AK-203 in India? **Korwa Ordnance Factory** 33. Who won the Men's singles title at the Yonex 50. Which country has provided technical support for Sunrise India Open Badminton on Jan 22 in New producing AK-203 in India? Russia Delhi? Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn 51. What is the effective strike range of AK-203 assault An Se-young of \_\_\_\_\_won the women's singles 34. rifle? Up to 800 metres Korwa Ordnance Factory is located in which place? title at the India Open Badminton? South Korea 52. 35. A tech startup incubated by IIT Madras, JandK Korwa near Amethi Operations Pvt. Ltd. developed India's own mobile India celebrates National Startup Day on which operating system. What is its name? **BharOS** day of January? 16th Captain Harpreet Chandi from \_\_\_\_ set a new 36. 54. What is the name of the India's first national world record on Jan 19 for the longest solo, assessment regulator notified by the NCERT? unsupported, and unassisted polar expedition by a woman: England **55**. What is the expansion of the acronym PARAKH? 37. The first Health Working Group meeting under Performance Assessment, Review. India's G20 presidency was held from Jan 18 to 20 Analysis **Knowledge** for in which city? Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala development 38. Who became the youngest batsman at 23 years Indian subsidiary of which German engineering and 132 days to hit a double hundred in ODIs? giant signed a Rs 26,000-crore contract with **Shubman Gill** Indian Railways? Siemens AG 39. Which U-16 team won the Vijay Merchant Trophy 57. Siemens India signed this contract for what in cricket on Jan 19? Punjab U-16 purpose? To manufacture 1,200 electric freight 40. The 53rd edition of the World Economic Forum's locomotives in India (WEF) annual meeting was held from Jan 16 to 20 58. The Global Firepower Report 2023 has ranked in Switzerland: **Davos** India as the \_\_\_\_ most powerful army among the 41. What was the name of joint operation of the 145 countries: Fourth Special Forces contingents of India and Egypt that Which corporate joined hands with Ashok Leyland, was held from Jan 14 to 27? Exercise Cyclone-I and Ballard Power, Canada to develop Asia's first 42. Exercise Cyclone-I was held at which place in hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Truck (FCET) for mining operations? Adani enterprises Rajasthan? Jaisalmer 43. became the first UT in India to completely Which Indian city has been identified as the World switch to a digital method of administration: Economic Forum's 18th Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution? Hvderabad Jammu & Kashmir As per the Global 500-report released on Jan 18 Army Day on Jan 15 marks which historical event 44. 2023, \_\_\_\_ was ranked as the "most valuable in the history of Indian Army? Taking over of brand" in the world: Amazon command of the Indian Army by the first Indian, Lt Gen K M Cariappa India hosted Bilateral Naval Exercise Varuna from 45. Jan 16 to 20 with which country? France Yuki Bhambri and \_\_\_\_\_ Myneni, top seeded Exercise Varuna was held in which area? Arabian Indian tennis champs won the Bangkok Open title 46. on Jan 15? Saketh 47. Gina Lollobrigida, legendary film actress, dubbed India scripted history on Jan 15 by defeating as "the most beautiful woman in the world" in \_\_\_\_by the largest ever margin (in the world) of 317 runs: **Sri Lanka** 1950s and '60s, passed away on Jan 16. She was from which country? Italy Festival of Makar Sankranti is celebrated in Gujarat by which popular name? Uttarayan

Holistic

89

- In which part of India festival of Makar Sankranti is celebrated as Pedda Panduga? Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
   India celebrates the Armed Forces Veterans Day
- 66. India celebrates the Armed Forces Veterans Day on January 14 to mark the retirement of one of its great generals on this day in 1953. Who was he? Field Marshal KM Cariappa
- 67. Which media group secured the global media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL T20 League for a whopping Rs 951 crore for five years? Viacom 18
- 68. Europe's first orbital launch site in the European mainland was inaugurated on Jan 13 in Esrange Space Centre near Kiruna in which country? Sweden
- **69.** Beauty Queen of which country won the Miss Universe 2022? **USA**
- 70. Who has been crowned Miss Universe 2022?
  R'Bonney Gabriel
- **71.** India hosted a special virtual summit, the Voice of Global \_\_\_\_\_summit, on January 12 and 13: **South**
- **72.** What was the theme of the Voice of Global South summit? **Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose**
- **73.** World's longest river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas' was launched from which place on Jan 13? **Varanasi**
- **74.** The 51-day journey of river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas' will end at which place? **Dibrugarh, Assam**
- **75.** Name the seven-time Lok Sabha MP and a four-term Rajya Sabha MP, founder president of Janta Dal, who passed away on Jan 12: **Sharad Yadav**
- **76.** Which country imposed a total ban on smoking in public places that includes parks, beaches, hotels, offices and restaurants? **Mexico**
- 77. India announced which project on Jan 13 to provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis? **Aarogya Maitri**
- 78. Falak Mumtaz, an 11-year-old girl from bagged a gold medal in the 23rd National Sqay Championship: Jammu and Kashmir
- 79. Who won the men's singles title in the Malaysia Open Super 1000 at Kuala Lumpur? Viktor Axelsen
- **80.** What type of vessel is ICGS Kamla Devi that was commissioned in the Indian Coast Guard on Jan 12? **Fast Patrol Vessel**
- **81.** National Youth Day on Jan 12 marks the birthday of which great person? **Swami Vivekananda**

- **82.** What was the theme of this year's National Youth Day? **Viksit Yuva Viksit Bharat**
- **83.** FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2022 got off to a colourful start on Jan 11 in which stadium in Cuttack? **Barabati Stadium**
- **84.** India's first and largest 3x platform wind turbine generators (WTGs) has been in installed at Gadag in which state? **Karnataka**
- **85.** Which film won the Golden Globe for the Best Film-Drama? **The Fabelmans**
- **86.** Steven Spielberg won the Golden Globe for Best Director for which film? **The Fabelmans**
- **87.** According to the latest Henley Passport Index, released on Jan 10, what was India's rank? **85**<sup>th</sup>
- **88.** What is the name of the new light and sound show launched on Jan 10 at the Red Fort in Delhi? **Jai Hind**
- **89.** World Hindi Day is observed on Jan 10 to mark the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was held on this day in\_\_\_\_\_, Maharashtra in 1975: **Nagpur**
- 90. Tenure of which Deputy Governor of the RBI has been extended for one more year? Dr M.Debabrata Patra
- **91.** Indian film RRR's super hit song "Naatu Naatu" won the prestigious Golden Globe award in which category? **Best Original Song**
- **92.** According to a Nikkei Asia report published on Jan 6, India ranked as \_\_\_\_\_ largest automobile seller: **Third**
- **93.** India's first 'Centre of Excellence' for online gaming is to be set up in \_\_\_\_\_, Meghalaya by March 2023: **Shillong**
- **94.** What is the name of the India's first 5G-enabled drone developed by IG Drones from Odisha? **Skyhawk**
- **95.** Which district in Kerala became India's first constitution literate district? **Kollam**
- **96.** India celebrates the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on which day of January? **9**<sup>th</sup>
- **97.** \_\_\_\_\_ hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas from January 8–10: **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**
- **98.** Ms. \_\_\_\_Singh, won the girls' Under-15 squash title on Jan 08 at the most prestigious British Junior Open tournament in UK: **Anahat**
- **99.** Keshari Nath Tripathi, a former Governor of \_\_\_\_\_(2014-19) died at his Prayagraj home in Uttar Pradesh on Jan 08: **West Bengal**

**100.** \_\_\_\_\_became the first state in the country to go **116.** The 108th annual session of ISC- Indian Science fully digital in its banking service: Kerala Congress, was inaugurated on Jan 3 in which city? **101.** According to an analysis of Central Pollution **Nagpur** Control Board data, \_\_\_\_\_ was the most polluted **117.** The focal theme of this year's ISC is Science and city in India in 2022: Delhi Technology for Sustainable Development with Empowerment: **Women** 102. Torrential downpours and damaging winds left hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses **118.** Which Indian space startup launched its space without power in which state of USA in the first mapping testbed Pushan-alpha successfully on Jan week of January? California 03? Digantara Research and Technologies **119.** Pushan-alpha was launched onboard which **103.** Which part of Australia was devastated by one of the worst floods in the history, in first week of rocket? Falcon 9 120. Which country launched Asia's first hydrogen January? **Kimberley 104.** The largest hockey stadium in India was powered train on Dec 28 for the Urban Railways? inaugurated on Jan 05 in which city? Rourkela China **105.** What is the name of the India's largest hockey **121.** ADB approved a loan of Rs 2,275 crore to Tripura stadium? Birsa Munda International Hockey government to strengthen and improve \_\_\_\_\_: Stadium Power distribution **106.** M Pranesh, 16 year old Chess prodigy from \_ **122.** Captain \_\_\_\_Chauhan became the first lady officer , became India's 79th Grandmaster on Jan 06: to be deployed at the world's highest battlefield, **Tamil Nadu** Siachen: Shiva 107. According to National Statistical Office (NSO) data **123.** Siachen Glacier lies in which range of Himalayas? released on Jan 06, the real GDP during FY 2022-Karakoram 23 is estimated to grow at what rate? 7% **124.** Which central public sector enterprise (CPSE) was 108. World's first palm-leaf manuscript museum with ranked number one in the services sector in the Public Enterprises Survey 2021-22? Powergrid modern audio-visual technology has been set up at which place? Thiruvananthapuram **Corporation of India Ltd 109.** Which state won the UN- Habitat's World Habitat **125.** Five new non-permanent members of the UN Awards 2023 for its Jaga mission, world's largest Security Council started their \_\_\_\_\_ year term on Jan land titling and slum upgrading programme? 01,2023: **Two Odisha 126.** As per SEBI guidelines, every listed company has to allocate at least \_\_\_\_ % of its shares to general **110.** India deployed a platoon of women peacekeepers to the UN Mission in which country? Sudan public: 25 111. World Day of War Orphans is observed on which **127.** As per the gazette notification dt Jan 02 by the central government, have been exempted day of January? 6th 112. The Union Cabinet approved the National Green from the Minimum Public Shareholding norm of 25%: Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) \_\_\_Mission on 04 Jan with an initial outlay of **128.** Which country has been selected to head the 19,744 crore rupees: **Hydrogen** 113. The Union Cabinet approved the Broadcasting Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU)? India **129.** Headquarters of APPU are located in which city? and Network Development Scheme on Jan 04 with an outlay of Rs. 2539 crore: Bangkok, Thailand Infrastructure **130.** RBI has decided to retain SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC **114.** World Braille Day on Jan 04 marks the birthday of Bank as D-SIBs for 2021. What is D-SIB? **Domestic** Louis Braille. He hailed from which country? **Systemically Important Banks** France **131.** Ajay Kumar Srivastava was appointed as the MD **115.** Braille language is based on \_\_\_\_convex embossed and CEO of which Bank wef January 1, 2023? dots that form all the letters and symbols: Six **Indian Overseas Bank** 

- **132.** Which union ministry launched 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals) programme? **Ministry of Ayush**
- **133.** RBI launched its medium-term strategy framework titled '\_\_\_\_\_' on Dec 30 to enhance its effectiveness: **Utkarsh 2.0**
- **134.** What is the time frame for the Utkarsh 2.0? **2023- 25**
- **135.** Who became the fastest Indian bowler on Jan 03 surpassing Jasprit Bumrah's record for 153.6 kph? **Umran Malik**
- **136.** Koustav \_\_\_\_\_ became India's 78<sup>th</sup> Grand Master on Dec 31: **Chatterjee**
- **137.** Which country became the 20<sup>th</sup> member of the Eurozone by adopting Euro as its currency? **Croatia**
- **138.** \_\_\_\_\_became the first state in the country to bring the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the Lokayukta: **Maharashtra**
- **139.** Who became the first person ever in the world to lose over \$200 billion (Rs 16.5 lakh crore) from his peak net worth, within a year? **Elon Musk**
- **140.** Name the Supreme Catholic leader, Pope Emeritus, who breathed his last on Dec 31 at the age of 95: **Pope Benedict XVI**
- **141.** The Islamist terror outfit declared on Dec 31 the formation of its new parallel government in Pakistan? **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan**
- **142.** The government launched the 'Prahari' Mobile app on Dec 29 in New Delhi for which armed police force? **Border Security Force (BSF)**
- **143.** The Rural Development Ministry launched Prajjwala Challenge on Dec 29 for inviting ideas, solutions and actions on which topic? **To transform the rural economy**
- 144. Who became the first-ever Indian Grand Master to win a silver medal in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan? Koneru Humpy
- **145.** India, \_\_\_\_\_Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, ECTA, came into force from Dec 29: **Australia**
- **146.** Which state approved India's first Nilgiri Tahr project with a layout of Rs. 25.14 crore? **Tamil Nadu**
- **147.** What type of animal is Nilgiri Tahr? **A wild animal** resembling a wild goat

- **148.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother passed away at the age of 99 years on Dec 30. What is her name? **Heeraben Modi**
- 149. Pele, legendary Brazilian footballer passed away at the age of 82, losing his fight against cancer. What was his formal name? Edson Arantes do Nascimento
- **150.** Indian Air Force successfully tested the Extended Range Version of BrahMos Air Launched Missile on Dec 29 from which aircraft? **Sukhoi SU-30MKI**
- 151. \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Indian company to get DGCA Type Certification from the Director General of Civil Aviation on Dec 28: Marut Drone, Hvderabad
- **152.** Which state launched a project to tackle the ghost net and marine debris problem in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park? **Tamil Nadu**
- **153.** Which ministry launched the Right to Repair Portal on Dec 24 to protect the interests of Indian consumers? **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution**
- **154.** The Indian government handed over the 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project to which country? **Bhutan**
- **155.** The Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project has been constructed on which river? **Mangdechhu**
- **156.** The Dharmadam assembly constituency in \_\_\_\_has achieved the milestone of the first complete library constituency in India: **Kerala**

# DECEMBER 2022

- Government has decided to provide free ration to 81.35 crore poor people under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) till what time? December 31, 2023
- The revised guidelines for locker operations that were first released by RBI on 08 August 2021, are being implemented now from which date? Jan 01, 2023
- Government has extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) till what date?
   Not extended beyond Dec 31, 2022
- **4.** What was the name of the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Indo-Nepal joint training exercise held from Dec 16 to 29? **Exercise Surya Kiran-XVI**
- Exercise Surya Kiran-XVI was held at which place?Saljhandi, Nepal
- 6. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of India Kazakhstan joint training exercise was conducted at Umroi in which state?

  Meghalaya

- What was the name of the 6th edition of India -Kazakhstan joint training exercise? **Kazind-22** 8. The Union Ministry of Power signed a MoU with on Dec 27 for implementation of Early Warning System (EWS) for vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations located in disaster-prone mountainous regions: DRDO Which agency of DRDO will develop and 9. implement this Early Warning System? Defence **Geo-informatics Research Establishment** 10. The government issued a gazette notification on Dec 26 to officially recognise which stream of sports to be part of regular sports competitions in the country? e-sports (video games) Government has decided to celebrate December as Veer Bal Diwas to commemorate the martyrdom of two Sahibzadas of Sri Guru Gobind Singh: **26** What were the names of the two Sahibzadas of Sri **12**. Guru Gobind Singh? Baba Zorawar Singh (9) and
- Baba Fateh Singh (7)What is the name of the holy Gurudwara built at the place where the wall in which two Sahibzadas were bricked alive, is located? Bhora Sahib,

Sirhind, Punjab

- **14.** The first ever batch of 'AGNIVEERS' selected under the AGNIPATH scheme joined the Indian Army for training in last week of December from which area? **Srinagar, J&K**
- **15.** The Ministry of Railways has formulated a new "\_\_\_\_Station Scheme" to modernise over 1,000 small stations: **Amrit Bharat**
- 16. Who has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Nepal by the President Bidhya Devi Bhandari? Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'
- **17.** Which country suffered massive disruptions due to attack of Arctic Bomb Cyclone in fourth week of December? **USA**
- **18.** Good Governance Day on December 25 commemorates the birthday of which great leader? **Bharat Ratna Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee**
- **19.** Who has been selected as the "BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022": **Ms. Beth Mead**
- 20. Ms. Beth Mead is associated with which sports?
  Football
- 21. Ms. Beth Mead is from which country? **England**
- **22.** India celebrates the National Consumer Day on which day of December? **24**<sup>th</sup>

- 23. Buddhist people from which place celebrate their new year on Dec 24 as Losar Festival? **Ladakh**
- **24.** India's longest (12.89 km) escape tunnel was completed on Dec 23 on which section of railway? **Katra Banihal section in J&K**
- 25. \_\_\_\_\_, 7 year old boy won the Top Arena Junior (Boys) International Badminton Championship title on December 23 in the below 9 years category, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: **Geto Sora**
- **26.** Geto Sora hails from which state? **Arunachal Pradesh**
- **27.** National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) on Dec 23 commemorates the birthday of which great kisan leader? **Chaudhary Charan Singh**
- **28.** The ISRO successfully operated its CE-20 \_\_\_\_rocket engine on December 23: **Cryogenic**
- **29.** The Cryogenic Main Engine & Stage Test Facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex is located in which place? **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**
- 30. Birthday of which great Mathematician on Dec 22 is observed as National Mathematics Day? Srinivasa Ramanujan
- 31. Which university in South India awards a special \$10,000 prize annually in honour of Srinivasa Ramanujan? SASTRA university, Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
- **32.** NASA retired its Mars \_\_\_\_\_lander on Dec 21, as its batteries ran out of energy: **InSight**
- 33. The UN Security Council adopted its first ever resolution on \_\_\_\_\_in 74 years on Dec 21 to demand an end to violence in that country: Myanmar
- **34.** The Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) launched an index named \_\_\_\_\_ that will reflect prevailing gas prices: **GIXI**
- **35.** Which corporate agreed to buy German firm Metro AG's wholesale operations in India for Rs 2,850 crore? **Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd.**
- **36.** How many heritage sites from India were added to UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites announced on Dec 20? **Three**
- **37.** One of these three sites, Rock-cut Sculptures and Reliefs of the Unakoti, is in which state? **Tripura**
- 38. What is the name of India's first ASW SWC (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft) which joined Indian Navy on Dec 20? INS Arnala

- **39.** Which tournament has become India's first sports decacorn as its latest valuation crossed \$ 10 billion? **IPL Indian Premier League**
- 40. Which apex agency released the Social Progress Index report for States and Districts of India on Dec
   20? The Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
- **41.** Which state topped the Social Progress Index report for States and Districts of India, released on Dec 20? **Puducherry**
- **42.** Which company in collaboration with Online PSB Loans, launched on Dec 20 the FIT Rank? **TransUnion CIBIL**
- **43.** What is the purpose of FIT rank? **Credit rating of MSMEs**
- **44.** FIT Rank has been launched under mentorship of which financial institution? **SIDBI**
- **45.** What is the expansion of FIT? **Financial, Income, and Trade data**
- **46.** Indian Army plans to procure the surface-to-surface ballistic missile \_\_\_\_\_that can hit the target from 150 to 500 km: **Pralay**
- 47. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has granted A grade to only one university. What is its name? Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar
- **48.** Name the senior nuclear scientist who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board: **Dinesh Kumar Shukla**
- **49.** The country's first infantry museum was inaugurated in Mhow cantonment in which state? **Madhya Pradesh**
- **50.** Which international day on Dec 20 aims to promote cultural equality and social justice to bring social development? **International Human Solidarity Day**
- **51.** What is the name of the fifth scorpene-class submarine that was delivered to the Indian Navy on Dec 20 in Mumbai? **Vagir**
- 52. Submarine Vagir has been built indigenously by which firm? Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., Mumbai
- **53.** The 39<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol of navies was conducted at which place from 08 19 December? **East of Andaman Sea**
- **54.** Who became the world's most written-about athlete in 2022, attracting 812 articles? **Neeraj Chopra**

- **55.** Which Canadian city hosted the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), also called the Conference of Parties (COP-15), from Dec 7 to 19? **Montreal**
- **56.** France lost the FIFA World Cup in penalty shootout. Who was the captain of French team? **Hugo Lloris**
- **57.** Which footballer won the FIFA Golden Glove for saving highest, 8 goals in the World Cup? **Emiliano Martinez, Argentina**
- **58.** Who was declared the "Young Player of the Tournament" in the FIFA World Cup 2022? **Enzo Fernandez, Argentina**
- **59.** Which day of December is celebrated as International Migrants Day? **18**<sup>th</sup>
- **60.** India celebrates Minorities Rights Day on Dec 18. Who is the chairman of the National Commission for Minorities? **Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura**
- **61.** INS Mormugao was commissioned on Dec 18 into the Indian Navy in Mumbai. What type of ship is it? **Stealth-guided missile destroyer warship**
- **62.** Indian-origin politician Leo Varadkar has been elected second time as the Prime Minister of which European country? **Ireland**
- **63.** Achieving substantial growth in publication of scientific papers, India secured \_\_\_\_\_ rank in the world in this regard: **Third**
- **64.** Which country leads the world in the publication of the scientific papers, followed by the USA? **China**
- **65.** Which teenaged beauty from Gurugram, Haryana, won the first Miss Eco Teen Pageant held at Marsa Alam, Egypt? **Cherisha Chanda**
- **66.** Name the beauty queen from Jammu who scripted history on Dec 18 as she won the "Mrs. World 2022" title: **Sargam Koushal**
- **67.** Indian team won the T20 World Cup for the Blind by defeating which country? **Bangladesh**
- **68.** Finals of the T20 World Cup for the Blind was held in which city? **Bengaluru**
- 69. The Indian team led by Savita Punia defeated
  \_\_\_\_\_ 1-0 in the finals to lift the FIH Women's
  Nations Cup 2022: **Spain**
- 70. India celebrates Vijay Diwas on Dec 16 to mark Indian forces victory in which war? 1971 Indo
  Pak war

- **71.** Which country launched a 'Group of Friends' on Dec 15 to promote accountability for crimes against UN peacekeepers? **India**
- 72. The DRDO successfully tested ballistic missile Agni V on 15 December. What is its strike range? 5,000 km
- **73.** Which city hosted the first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) summit from 13 to 15 December? **Bengaluru**
- **74.** Which city will host the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting on Feb 23-25, 2023? **Bengaluru**
- **75.** India received its \_\_\_\_\_ and final Rafale fighter jet from France on Dec 15, completing the delivery of all the aircrafts it had signed for: **36**<sup>th</sup>
- **76.** The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Youth Co:Lab, Asia Pacific's largest youth \_\_\_\_\_movement was launched on December 15 in New Delhi: **Innovation**
- 77. Who won the International Tennis Federation's world champion award for men and women, respectively, on Dec 15 in London? Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek
- 78. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has implemented a dedicated "Scheme of Development of PVTGs. What is expansion of PVTGs? Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
- **79.** There are how many PVTGs recognised by the central government? **75**
- **80.** Ms. Mette Frederiksen has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which Scandinavian country? **Denmark**
- **81.** A statue (bust) of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar on Dec 14 at which global organisation? **UNO, New York**
- **82.** The UN Economic and Social Council ousted which country on Dec 14 from the Commission on the Status of Women? **Iran**
- **83.** Why Iran was ousted from the Commission on the Status of Women? **For its continued violation of the rights of women and girls**
- 84. Large number of Iranians are protesting for past three months on which issue? Against compulsion of wearing hijab by women
- **85.** Which apex agency in India supports the celebration of the National Energy Conservation Day on Dec. 14? **Bureau of Energy Efficiency**
- **86.** Who slipped to second position on Dec 14 after holding the numero uno position as the richest person in world since September 2021: **Elon Musk**

- **87.** The EIU has rated which city as the most expensive city to live in among the 172 featured in the Worldwide Cost of Living survey? **Singapore**
- **88.** Which apex global organisation released the Global Trade Update on 13 December? **UNCTAD**
- 89. What is the full form of UNCTAD? **United Nations**Conference on Trade and Development
- 90. Who is the current Secretary General of UNCTAD?Ms. Rebeca Grynspan of Costa Rica
- **91.** Which big corporate group has announced to shut down its cement plants at Barmana (ACC) and Darlaghat (Ambuja)? **Adani group**
- **92.** These two cement plants are in which state? **Himachal Pradesh**
- **93.** Which popular Bollywood actress has been named PETA's Person of the Year? **Sonakshi Sinha**
- **94.** What is the full form of the acronym PETA? **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals**
- **95.** PETA is a multinational NGO based in \_\_\_\_: Norfolk, Virginia (USA)
- 96. Which corporate signed a MoU with Hockey India on Dec 13 to become the 'official partner' of the 15th FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023? Tata Steel Limited
- **97.** Which Indian state is facing the problem of influx of Kuki-Chin tribals? **Mizoram**
- **98.** Kuki-Chin tribals are crossing over to India from which country? **Bangladesh**
- **99.** World's first tea estate was established in 1839 at which place in India? **Assam**
- 100. Which country passed a law on Dec 13 banning cigarettes for future generations in the country? New Zealand
- **101.** Name the Polish tennis star who was selected as the WTA Player of the Year-2022 for the first time on Dec 12: **Iga Swiatek**
- **102.** The Parliament passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 on Dec 12. What is its main aim? **To promote energy efficiency and conservation**
- 103. Which Gujarat BJP leader was sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat on Dec 12? Bhupendra Patel
- **104.** International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed on which day of December? **12**<sup>th</sup>
- **105.** National Commission for Protection of Child Rights developed and launched a portal 'GHAR' for what

	purpose? To improve restoration and		
	repatriation of children		
106.	What is the full form of the acronym GHAR?		
	Home And Re-unite		
107.	Which group of countries has decided to establish		
	a Climate Club open to all countries for fight		
	against global warming? <b>G-7</b>		
108.	Which country hosted the 8th Junior Wushu World		
	Championship from Dec 3 to 11? Indonesia		
109.	Which international day is observed on Dec 11		
	with support from UNO to encourage sustainable		
	development in mountains all over the world?		
	International Mountain Day		
110.	December 11 is observed as the UNICEF Day. It		
	was established in which year? 1946		
111.	UNICEF is based in which city? <b>New York</b>		
<del>112.</del>	NASA successfully bought home its spacecraft		
	on Dec 11 after a near-26-day mission to		
	orbit the Moon: <b>Orion</b>		
113.	Who smashed the fastest double hundred in the		
	history of ODI cricket, scoring 210 off 131 balls on		
	Dec 10? Ishan Kishan, India		
114.	Which country announced a nuclear fusion		
	breakthrough, achieved for the first time in		
	history? <b>USA</b>		
115.	What is the major benefit of achieving the nuclear		
	fusion? It will produce 'near-limitless' clean		
	energy		
116.	The Airawat Division of the Indian Army		
	conducted Exercise Sanchaar Bodh on Dec 10 for		
	what purpose? To validate its tactical		
	communication capabilities		
117.	Exercise Sanchaar Bodh was held at which place?		
	In Punjab		
118.	Which day of December is observed world over as		
	the Human Rights Day? <b>10</b> <sup>th</sup>		
119.	Who is the current chairman of the National		
	Human Rights Commission? Justice (retd) Arun		
	Kumar Mishra		
120.	Which tropical cyclonic storm made a landfall near		

Mamallapuram in North Tamil Nadu on Dec 10?

121. Prime Minister of \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetic Federation: Bangladesh
122. Which Indian player won the BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year 2022 title? Manisha

**Cyclone Mandous** 

Ramadass

123.	Who was declared BWF Male Player of the Year			
	2022? Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)			
124.	Akane of Japan was declared BWF Female			
	Player of the Year 2022: <b>Yamaguchi</b>			
125.	India celebrates December 09 as National			
	Submarine Day to mark the induction of first			
	submarine in Indian Navy. What was its name?			
	INS Kalvari			
126.	A seed farm in Aluva was declared as the first			
	carbon neutral farm in the country. It is in which			
	state? <b>Kerala</b>			
127.	The Union government has infused about ₹5,000			
	crore in SWAMIH Investment Fund I. What is the			
	purpose of this fund? <b>To support RERA</b>			
	approved stressed residential projects			
128.	has become the first state to start its own			
	climate change mission, headed by the Chief			
	Minister himself: <b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
129.	Who is the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu? M K			
	Stalin			
130.	Which international day is observed every year on			
	Dec 09 with UN support to spread awareness			
	against corruption? International Anti-			
	Corruption Day			
131.	The ADB has approved a \$780 million loan to build			
	new lines and improve the connectivity of			
	metro rail system: <b>Chennai</b>			
132.	N Chandrasekaran has been chosen to lead B20			
	India, the group that represents the G20 business			
	community. He is chairman of which corporate			
	house? Tata Sons			
133.	The first blow down test of the newly released			
	TrisonicTunnel was conducted by ISRO on			
	8th December at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre:			
	Wind			
134.	The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre is in which			
	place? Thiruvananthapuram			
135.	Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister			
	of Himachal Pradesh? <b>Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu</b>			
136.	Vikram Doraiswami, Indian High Commissioner to			
	the UK was in news recently, for what reason? $\boldsymbol{He}$			
	became the first Indian diplomat to present his			
	credentials to King Charles III on Dec 8			
137.	The FAO organised opening ceremony for the			
	International Year of Millets - 2023 at which			
	place? Rome, Italy			
138.	In India, millets are primarily a crop of			
4				

GYANM GENERAL AWARENESS – JUNE 2023

season: Kharif

**139.** Which was the most searched item as per the Google's 'Year in Search 2022' results for Indian users released on Dec 06? IPL - Indian Premier League **140.** The RBI announced on Dec 7 to add a new functionality — "single block and multiple debits" in which system? UPI - Unified Payments Interface **141.** Which organisation has developed and manages UPI? NPCI - National Payments Corporation of India **142.** The aerospace giant of the USA, The Boeing Co rolled out its last \_\_\_\_aircraft on Dec 07: 747 **143.** Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the NABARD? **K V Shaji 144.** RBI hiked which key policy rate to 6.25% on Dec 07? **Repo Rate 145.** What will be the impact of hike in repo rate on the loan EMIs? They will go up or down? Up **146.** ICAO supports the celebration of International Civil Aviation Day on Dec 7. What is ICAO? **International Civil Aviation Organisation** 147. Where are the headquarters of ICAO? Montreal, Canada 148. Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on Dec 7 to raise funds for the welfare of which community? Ex-servcemen **149.** Researchers at IIT have developed and deployed a system that could generate electricity using energy from sea waves: Madras **150.** System Sindhuja-I is associated with which field? Generating electricity using energy from sea waves **151.** Who became the first Indian, and just the second batter world-wide, in international cricket to hit 500 sixes? Rohit Sharma **152.** Who is the only batsman to smash the highest ever, 533 sixes? Chris Gayle, West Indies 153. Mittal, 16 year old Chess star from Maharashtra became the 77th Grandmaster on Dec 06: Aditva **154.** Passport Index 2022 published by the Arton Capital, placed which country at the top? **UAE** 

**155.** India was placed at which rank in the Passport

**156.** Who has been named as "TIME 2022 Person of the

Year" by the New York based global news

Index 2022? 87th

	magazine TIME? Volodymyr Zelenskyy,
	President of Ukraine
<b>15</b> 7.	Dina Boluarte assumed office as the first female
	President of which country in South America?
	Peru
158.	BBC's list of 100 most influential women in the
	world, includes 4 Indian women. One among them,
	Sneha Jawale is associated with which field? <b>Social</b>
450	work The 19th annual Forbes list of the "World's 100
159.	Most Powerful Women" released on Dec 06 placed
	Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at which
	spot? <b>36</b> <sup>th</sup>
160.	Which country was placed at top in the 11th Global
	Food Security Index, 2022? <b>Finland</b>
161.	What was India's rank in this index? <b>68</b> th
162.	Name the renowned economist, academician, a
	former Union minister and member of the
	erstwhile Planning commission, who died at his
	home in Ahmedabad on Dec 06: <b>Prof Yoginder K</b>
	Alagh
163.	
	on Dec 05 rankedas the top donor in Asia:
164	Gautam Adani World Athletics declared as the World
164.	World Athletics declared as the World Athlete (women) of the Very 2022 on Dec 05:
	Athlete (women) of the Year 2022 on Dec 05: <b>Sydney McLaughlin</b>
165.	Sydney McLaughlin (USA) is the new world
105.	champion in which event? <b>400 mt hurdles</b>
166.	-
	Year 2022? <b>Armand Duplantis</b>
167.	Armand Duplantis is the current world record
	holder in which event? <b>Pole vault</b>
168.	Duplantis represents which country in athletics?
	Sweden
169.	What is the theme of this year's International
	Volunteer Day observed on Dec 5? Solidarity
	through Volunteering
<b>170.</b>	The first real-time Gold ATM of the world was
	inaugurated on Dec 05 in which place? <b>Hyderabad</b>
171.	has been chosen as the Oxford Word of the
	Year on Dec 05, after securing 93% votes: <b>Goblin</b>
	mode

**172.** Which day of December is observed as World Soil

173. Which Indian corporate became the "world's

largest wind-solar hybrid power developer" with

97

Day? 5th

	an operational capacity of 1,440 MW? Adani			
	Green Energy Ltd.			
174.	The first G20 Sherpa Meeting under India's			
	Presidency, was held infrom 4 to 7			
	December: <b>Udaipur, Rajasthan</b>			
175.	Who is India's Sherpa for the current G-20			
	Summit? Amitabh Kant			
176.	Name the highest volcano in Indonesia's main			
	island Java which erupted violently on Dec 04:			
	Mount Semeru			
177.	Name the bestselling French author, well-known			
	for his book "The City of Joy (1985)", who died on			
	Dec 4: <b>Dominique Lapierre</b>			
178.	Novel "The City of Joy" is based on which Indian			
	city? Kolkata			
179.	Which Indian state hosts the famous International			
	Lusophone Festival? <b>Goa</b>			
180.	Lusophone Festival is associated with which			
	international community? Portuguese			
181.	What is the general meaning of word Lusophone in			
	English? A person speaking Portuguese			
182.	December 4 is observed as International Day of			
	Banks. The Bank for International Settlements is			
	based at which place? Basel, Switzerland			
183.	The Indian Navy Day on December 4			
	commemorates victory of which operation in 1971			
	Indo-Pak war? Operation Trident			
184.	Operation Trident was conducted in which area?			
	In Arabian Sea, south of Pakistan			
185.	Which space agency successfully used for the first			
	time, steam to propel a spacecraft toward the			
	Moon? JAXA - Japan Aerospace Exploration			
	Agency			
186.	Renowned British aircraft engine maker			
	and British low-cost air carrier easyJet,			
	successfully tested a hydrogen-powered jet			
	engine: Rolls-Royce			

**187.** The International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**188.** The US Air Force unveiled on Dec 2 its newest most advanced military aircraft ever built. What is its

**189.** Which US company builds the B-21 Raider

**190.** Observance of the National Pollution Control Day

on Dec 2 is associated with which horrific industrial disaster? **1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy** 

is observed on  $\_\_\_$  of December:  $3^{rd}$ 

name? B-21 Raider

aircraft? Northrop Grumman

191.	Leakage of which highly poisonous gas caused the
	1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy? Methyl Isocyanate
	MIC
192.	Which international day is observed on Dec 2
	spread awareness about ending human trafficking
	and the exploitation of humans: Internation
	Day for Abolition of Slavery
193.	World Computer Literacy Day is observed on D
	2. Which Indian IT company started this event
	2001? NIIT - National Institute of Information
	Technology, Gurugram, Haryana
194.	Spocto Innovation Lab (SIL), launched recently
	a debt support and risk mitigation platform, w
	$help\ the\ banks\ in\ which\ manner?\ \textbf{Best\ handling}$
	NPAs with tech support
195.	The first Silchar-Sylhet Festival was held on Dec
	3 in which place? <b>Silchar, Assam</b>
196.	What is the main theme of the Silchar-Sylh
	Festival? Celebrating close cultural ties wi
	Bangladesh
197.	This December, Bangladesh is celebrating yea
	its liberation from Pakistan: <b>51</b>
198.	The aviation safety rankings released by the
	International Civil Aviation Organization, place
	which country at the top? Singapore
199.	What was India's ranking in in terms of Aviation
	safety rankings released by ICAO? <b>48</b> <sup>th</sup>
200.	Who has been appointed Chairperson of the
	National Commission for Backward Classe
	Hansraj Gangaram Ahir
201.	
201.	Hansraj Gangaram Ahir Which Metro established a Guinness World Reco by building the longest, 3,140 meters long doubl
201.	Which Metro established a Guinness World Reco by building the longest, 3,140 meters long doubl
201.	Which Metro established a Guinness World Reco by building the longest, 3,140 meters long double
201.	Which Metro established a Guinness World Reco by building the longest, 3,140 meters long doubl decker viaduct, supported on a single colum Nagpur Metro
	Which Metro established a Guinness World Reco by building the longest, 3,140 meters long doubled decker viaduct, supported on a single colum Nagpur Metro Who has been named captain of India's 1
	Which Metro established a Guinness World Recoby building the longest, 3,140 meters long doubt decker viaduct, supported on a single colum <b>Nagpur Metro</b> Who has been named captain of India's 1 member squad for the ICC U-19 Women's Table 1.
202.	Which Metro established a Guinness World Recoby building the longest, 3,140 meters long doubt decker viaduct, supported on a single colum Nagpur Metro  Who has been named captain of India's 1 member squad for the ICC U-19 Women's TWORLD Cup? Shafali Verma
202.	Which Metro established a Guinness World Recoby building the longest, 3,140 meters long doubt decker viaduct, supported on a single colum Nagpur Metro  Who has been named captain of India's 1 member squad for the ICC U-19 Women's TWORLD Cup? Shafali Verma  Which country shall be hosting ICC U-19 Women
202.	Which Metro established a Guinness World Recoby building the longest, 3,140 meters long doubt decker viaduct, supported on a single colum Nagpur Metro  Who has been named captain of India's 1 member squad for the ICC U-19 Women's TWORLD Cup? Shafali Verma

**206.** Vijay Hazare Trophy is played in which format of cricket? **ODI** 

98

**205.** Which team lifted the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2022?

sports? Cricket

Saurashtra

**207.** What was the name of the joint exercise between **223.** Wassenaar is a suburb of the main city The Hague. Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs which It is in which country? **Netherlands** commenced in Goa on Dec 01? Exercise Sangam **224.** The Asia Junior Badminton Championship was 208. Government has announced formation of which held from Nov 29 to Dec 4 at Nonthaburi in which administrative service for railways on pattern of country? Thailand Indian Railway Management Service, IAS? **225.** The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the bilateral exercise Agni **IRMS** Warrior held between the \_\_\_\_\_ and Indian 209. Ms. Stéphanie Frappart, the 38 year old French armies, concluded on Nov 30: Singapore football referee was in news recently for what **226.** Exercise Warrior was held at which place? **Deolali** reason? She became the first woman to take in Maharashtra charge of a men's World Cup game on Dec 01 227. Axis Bank's `2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India **210.** The government launched DigiYatra app based on 500,' which lists the country's 500 most valuable facial recognition technology on Dec 01 for which firms, placed which corporate at second place, first segment of travellers? Air travellers being Reliance? TCS 211. In which area the government has named 21 **228.** Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Indian Army uninhabited islands after recipients of Param Vir conducted exercise in the deserts of Chakra? Andaman & Nicobar Rajasthan on 30th November: Sudarshan Prahar **212.** Which bank won the top award on Dec 01 for the **229.** India's biggest Yoga Centre has been constructed India segment at the Global Banking Summit held in the village \_\_\_\_\_in Udhampur district of in London? Canara Bank Jammu and Kashmir: Mantalai **213.** The RBI launched the retail digital \_\_\_\_\_on Dec 01 **230.** An Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter on a pilot basis: Rupee Mk-III squadron, 840 Sqn (CG), was commissioned **214.** India took over the rotating Presidency of the 15at \_\_\_\_on Nov 30: Chennai nation UN Security Council recently, for which 231. South Korea's Mina Sue Choi won the \_\_\_\_ month? December on November 29 at Cove, Manila, Philippines: Miss **215.** Which Indian startup won the one million pound Earth 2022 Earthshot Prize in the "Protect and Restore **232.** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Nature" category, in London? Khevti from was conferred with the 'Award of Telangana Excellence' at the UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Awards **216.** Shooter \_\_\_\_\_Patil clinched the gold on Dec 02 Heritage Conservation-2022: for Cultural in the 10 mt Air Rifle event in the ISSF President's Mumbai Cup at Cairo, Egypt: Rudrankksh 233. SEBI has set up a high-level panel headed by 217. India formally assumed the Presidency of G-20 \_\_\_\_\_to review the takeover norms: **Shiavax Jal** grouping for the period of one year, from which Vazifdar date? Dec 01, 2022 **234.** In a major consolidation in the Indian aviation 218. The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the 10-day long Hornbill space, the Vistara has been merged with which Festival began on Dec 01 in which state? Nagaland airline? **Air India 219.** December 01 is observed as World Day to **235.** Which major foreigh airline holds a 25.1% stake in spread awareness about the HIV: AIDS Air India? Singapore Airlines **220.** What is Hornbill – a bird, animal, flower or Fruit? **236.** WHO announced to change the name of the disease Monkeypox to \_\_\_\_: **Mpox** Bird **221.** India assumed the chairmanship of the Wassenaar **237.** Which virus leads to causing of Monkeypox? Arrangement on the \_\_\_\_\_, 2023: **1st January** Monkeypox virus 222. Wassenaar Arrangement is a multilateral export 238. The world's largest active volcano, Hawaii's control regime wherein its 42 member states \_\_\_\_\_, started erupting on the night of Nov 27, exchange information on \_\_\_\_\_: Transfer of for the first time in almost 40 years: Mauna Loa conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies

- **239.** As per official data released on Nov 30 by the Central Statistical Office, what was the growth rate of GDP in Qr ended 30<sup>th</sup> Sep? **6.3%**
- **240.** Sundararaman Ramamurthy has been appointed the MD & CEO of which apex stock exchange? **BSE Bombay stock Exchange**
- **241.** Which corporate bagged the contract for the 640-acre (2.6 sq km) Dharavi Redevelopment Project in Central Mumbai? **Adani group**
- 242. As per recent data for the years 2018 and 2020, the MMR in India declined from 130 in 2014-16 to \_\_\_\_\_ per lakh live births in 2018-20: 97
- **243.** What is full form of MMR? **Maternal Mortality** Ratio
- 244. What does MMR represent? Number of maternal deaths per one lakh live births, during a given time period
- **245.** Chennai-based space tech startup \_\_\_\_\_launched India's first private launchpad and mission control centre on Nov 28: **Agnikul Cosmos**
- **246.** Agnikul Cosmos launched India's first private launchpad at which place? **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**
- **247.** Merriam-Webster dictionary selected "\_\_\_\_\_" as the 'Word of Year 2022': **Gaslighting**
- **248.** Merriam-Webster is one of the oldest dictionaries of which country? **USA**
- 249. The BCCI entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest attendance at a T20 match on 29 May in which stadium? Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad
- 250. Which is the first company in the world to receive approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation for its COVID-19 intranasal vaccine iNCOVACC? Bharat Biotech International Ltd, Hyderabad
- **251.** Who scripted history by smashing seven sixes in an over (including a no ball), in a list A match, creating a new world record? **Ruturaj Gaikwad**
- **252.** Who has been elected unopposed as the first woman President of the Indian Olympic Association, IOA? **P T Usha**
- **253.** P T Usha is fondly called "\_\_\_\_ Express" to compliment her super speed: **Payyoli**
- **254.** Which film won the Golden Peacock for Best Film at the 53<sup>rd</sup> IFFI at Goa? 'I have Electric Dreams' from Costa Rica

- **255.** What is the amount of cash award given with the Golden Peacock? **Rs. 40 lakh**
- **256.** Who has been appointed as the ambassador of the 'Ni-Kshay Mitra' campaign? **Dr. Deepa Malik**
- 257. Who is Dr Deepa Malik? President of the Paralympic Committee of India and first Indian para-athlete to win Paralympic medal and several other medals, including Khel Ratna
- **258.** Indian Navy's third Survey Vessel '\_\_\_\_' was launched on 26 Nov in Chennai for testing waters: **Ikshak**
- **259.** 81st Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta was held on Nov 26 at which place? **Colombo, Sri Lanka**
- **260.** Davis Cup is associated with \_\_\_\_ sports? **Men's Tennis**
- **261.** Which team won the Davis Cup 2022? Canada
- **262.** FSSAI has approved the Himalayan \_\_\_\_\_as a 'food animal': **Yak**
- **263.** Malaysia hosted the joint military exercise Exercise Harimau Shakti-2022 with which other country? **India**
- **264.** What was the name of the first edition of bilateral training exercise between contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army? **Austra Hind 22**
- **265.** Austra Hind 22 exercise was held from Nov 28 to Dec 11 at which place? **Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan**

# **NOVEMBER 2022**

- 1. Which armed force of India conducted exercise "Samanvay 2022" from Nov 28 to 30? Indian Air Force
- Exercise Samanvay was held at which place?Agra, UP
- India celebrates NCC day annually on the 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_
   of November: Sunday
- **4.** ISRO launched its PSLV-C54 on Nov 26 to successfully place which satellite in space? **Earth Observation Satellite Oceansat**
- **5.** Oceansat was placed in which kind of orbit? **Sunsynchronous orbit**
- **6.** The Constitution Day on Nov 26 marks the birthday of which great leader? **None**
- 7. Who was the first Law Minister of the independent India? **Dr. B R Ambedkar**
- **8.** The Rural Development Ministry of India has formed Amarjeet Sinha panel to examine the

# restructuring of which central mega scheme? Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

- **9.** India has invited Egyptian \_\_\_\_\_Gen. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Parade in 2023: **President**
- **10.** National Milk Day on Nov 26 commemorates birth anniversary of "Milkman of India". What was his name? **Dr. Verghese Kurien**
- **11.** World over, which day is observed as World Milk Day? **June 01**
- 12. The Global Employability University Ranking and Survey report released by the Times Higher Education (THE), London on Nov 24 placed which institution at the top? Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- **13.** Which Indian institution secured highest ranking in the above ranking? **IIT Delhi, 28**<sup>th</sup>
- **14.** The RBI approved the continuation of the Interest Subvention Scheme for how many more years? **Two, 2022-23 and 24**
- **15.** Farmers will get interest subsidy of \_\_\_\_ % on short term loans up to Rs. \_\_\_\_ lakh: **1.5**; **Three**
- 16. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai, handed over Y 12705 Mormugao to Indian Navy on Nov 24. What type of warship is it? Kolkata class stealth guided missile destroyer
- **17.** Who has been appointed as the next chief of Pakistan Army on Nov 24 by the prime minister Shahbaz Sharif? **Lt Gen Asim Munir**
- **18.** Which bank has rolled out Face Authentication-based savings bank account opening for customers? **Airtel Payments Bank**
- 19. Who was voted as the world's most popular leader with an approval rating of 77 percent, as revealed by the Global Leader Approval Ratings? Sh. Narendra Modi
- **20.** Which bank launched India's first sticker-based Debit Card- FIRSTAP on Nov 24, in association with the NPCI? **IDFC First Bank**
- **21.** Anwar Ibrahim was sworn in as prime minister of which southeastern country on Nov 24? **Malaysia**
- **22.** Which ministry announced on Nov 23 the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards for the year 2021? **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
- **23.** Who is the current minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry? **Anurag Thakur**

- 24. What is the amount of cash award given in the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award? Rs. 15 lakh
- **25.** Which company delivered Ferry Craft 'Manjula' to the Indian Navy on Nov 23 in Kolkata? **Shalimar Works Ltd, Kolkata**
- **26.** The fourth edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) was held in \_\_\_\_\_ on Nov 23-25: **New Delhi**
- 27. \_\_\_\_\_pushed China to second place to become the top supplier of fertilisers to India for the first time in the first six months of this fiscal year:

  Russia
- **28.** What was the name of the 8th edition of the India-Indonesia bilateral joint training exercise that kicked off on Nov 21? **Garuda Shakti 2022**
- **29.** Which country hosted the exercise Garuda Shakti 2022? **Indonesia**
- 30. Which organisation under the Ministry of Culture celebrated World Heritage week all over India from Nov 19 to 25? Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- **31.** Which Indian state has the highest number, 745, of protected monuments? **Uttar Pradesh**
- **32.** Which veteran FI driver announced his retirement from F1 racing, on Nov 20? **Sebastian Vettel, Germany**
- **33.** Noted conservationist Purnima Devi Barman was awarded Champions of the Earth 2022 award. She hails from which state? **Assam**
- **34.** Ms Barman has been awarded for her devoted efforts to save which bird from extinction? Hargila (Greater Adjutant Stork)
- **35.** With which country India participated in Naseem Al Bahr-2022 naval exercise? **Oman**
- **36.** The union government unveiled on Nov 21 a framework of standards to curb \_\_\_\_\_on ecommerce websites: **Fake reviews**
- 37. South Western Command of the Indian Army, conducted Integrated Fire Power Exercise, "Shatrunash" on Nov 21 in which area? Thar Desert of Rajasthan
- **38.** Cianjur, a densely populated town in West Java, Indonesia was in news on Nov 21 due to what reason? **It was struck by a massive earthquake**
- **39.** Which is the central government's flagship programme for promoting fisheries? **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**

- **40.** From which country India took over the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, GPAI on Nov 21? **France**
- **41.** Name the Tamil Nadu batter who create new world record for the highest individual score in men's List A cricket in ODI format on Nov 21 by hammering 277 runs: **Narayan Jagadeesan**
- **42.** Universal Children's Day is observed on which day of November? **20**<sup>th</sup>
- **43.** Awaas Diwas on Nov 20 marks the launch of which central rural housing scheme for poor on this day in 2016? **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin PMAY-G**
- **44.** Under PMAY-G, the beneficiaries are allotted a piece of land not less than \_\_\_\_\_ sq mt: **25**
- **45.** Opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup 2022 was held in which stadium? **Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar**
- **46.** Opening match of FIFA World Cup 2022 was played between Qatar and which other country? **Ecuador**
- **47.** Who is the current President of FIFA? **Gianni Infantino**
- **48.** Which was the opening film at the 53<sup>rd</sup> IFFI on Nov 20? **Alma and Oskar, from Australia**
- **49.** Which veteran actor was honoured as the Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022 on the opening day of IFFI? **Chiranjeevi**
- **50.** Egypt hosted the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the UNFCCC in which city? **Sharm el-Sheikh**
- **51.** Who represented India at the COP-27? **Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister, Bhupender Yadav**
- **52.** The 28th session of the COP will be hosted by the \_\_\_\_\_in December 2023: **UAE**
- 53. COP-27 members agreed to provide a "\_\_\_\_\_" fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change: Loss and Damage
- **54.** Which organisation was given the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development-2021 on Nov 19? **Mumbai based NGO Pratham**
- **55.** The Network Readiness Index 2022 report placed India at which spot? **61**<sup>st</sup>
- **56.** India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping was launched on Nov 19 by

- which union ministry? **Ministry of Ports, Shipping**
- **57.** Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta, chairman of the \_\_\_\_Group passed away on Nov 19 at the age of 85: **Rasna**
- **58.** Who became the first Indian female paddler to win a medal at the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup tournament on Nov 19 in Bangkok? **Manika Batra**
- 59. Which international day is observed on Nov 19 to celebrate, recognise and appreciate all women entrepreneurs around the world? Women's Entrepreneurship Day
- **60.** What is the theme selected for this year's World Toilet Day (Nov 19)? **Making the Invisible Visible**
- 61. What is the name of the new greenfield airport that was inaugurated on Nov 19 in Arunachal Pradesh in its capital Itanagar? Donyi-Polo Airport
- **62.** Which country topped the medal tally in the 15th Asian Airgun Championship 2022? **India**
- **63.** Which country hosted the 15th Asian Airgun Championship 2022? **South Korea**
- **64.** What is the amount of cash award in the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize? **US \$ 100,000/-**
- **65.** The 2022 UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize was won by Ms. Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong. She is from which country? **Cameroon**
- 66. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence is awarded every two years on which occasion? International Day of Tolerance on November 16
- **67.** Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has been re-elected as the President of which Central Asian country for a second term? **Kazakhstan**
- **68.** What was the name of the India's first-ever private suborbital rocket launched on Nov 18? **Vikram-S**
- **69.** Which space startup developed the Vikram-S rocket? **Skyroot Aerospace, Telangana**
- 70. India celebrates Naturopathy Day on Nov 18. Who is the current head of the Ministry of Ayush? Sarbananda Sonowal
- **71.** India unveiled the official website of the SCO on Nov 18 for the year 2022-23. What is expansion of SCO? **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**
- **72.** What is the theme selected by India for its tenure of SCO for 2022-23? **For a SECURE SCO**

The Asian Development Bank gave in-principle The Group of 20 members held their 17th annual approval for a \$400-million loan to the Heads of Nations summit on Nov 15-16 at which government to bring in 5,000 electric place? Bali, Indonesia buses: Maharashtra 92. What was the theme of this year's G-20 summit? Who won this year's 5th JCB Prize for Literature? Recover Together, Recover Stronger Khalid Jawed for his novel The Paradise of 93. Which country was handed over the presidency of G-20 for the year 2022-23? India 75. The Paradise of Food was written originally in International Students Day is observed on \_\_\_\_ of which language? **Urdu** November: 17th What is the cash reward given with the JCB Prize 76. 95. Which mega MNC secured an unwanted for Literature? Rs 25 lakh distinction by becoming the world's first public 77. Which district in Uttar Pradesh became number company to lose a trillion dollars in market value? one in the country in giving the maximum number Amazon.com.Inc of tap connections in a month (in October)? The government gathered about Rs 3,839 crore by Shahjahanpur selling its 1.5% stake in which private bank? **Axis** has been declared as the "Word of the 78. Year 2022" by the Cambridge Dictionary of UK: Who became the first player from India to get 97. elected in the Athletes' Commission of the What does the word 'Homer' represent? It's an 79. International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)? informal American English word for a home Achanta Sharath Kamal run in Baseball India observes which special day on Nov 16 to 98. Which is the 'Country of Focus' for the 53rd mark the historic origins of the institution of CAG 80. International Film Festival of India? France (Comptroller & Auditor General)? Audit Diwas As per a government notification dated November Who is the current CAG of India? Sh. Girish 81. 17, the tenure for the appointment of the MD or ED Chandra Murmu of a public sector bank has been extended to **100.** World COPD Day is celebrated on the third \_\_\_years: **Ten** Wednesday of November (16). What is full form of COPD? Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary 82. Name the 71-year-old former bureaucrat who was appointed Governor of West Bengal on Nov 17: Dr. Disease C.V. Ananda Bose **101.** Who has been elected as the Chairperson of the National Press Day on Nov 16 is associated with 83. Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic which apex institution in the field of journalism? Association on Nov 15? Mary Kom Press Council of India **102.** On Nov 15, the UN population clock flashed which Press is often referred to as pillar of landmark figure? 8 billion 84. democracy? Fourth **103.** The four member countries of the "Quad" World Press Freedom Day is observed on which 85. conducted the 26th edition of exercise off Yokosuka in Japan from Nov 8 to 15: Malabar date? May 03 86. NASA launched its most powerful rocket ever built **104.** Lance Naik Manju created history by becoming the first woman soldier \_\_\_\_\_of the Indian Army: on Nov 16. What was its name? Artemis Skydiver 87. Artemis will place which space module in Moon's orbit? Orion **105.** Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on Nov 15 marks the birthday of which legendary tribal hero? Birsa 88. Which UN agency supports the celebration of International Day for Tolerance on Nov 16? **UNESCO** 106. Birsa Munda hailed from which tribe? Munda, India conducted Exercise Yudh Abhyas-22 from from Jharkhand 89. **107.** What was the name of the 3rd Pan-India Coastal Nov 16 with which other country: **USA** Military exercise Yudh Abhyas-22 was held at Defence Exercise conducted by the Indian Navy on which place? Auli, Uttarakhand Nov 15-16? Sea Vigil-22

- **108.** Sea Vigil-22 was conducted in which area? **Along** entire Indian coast
- **109.** The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023 released on Nov 14, placed India at which spot? **8**<sup>th</sup>
- **110.** Operation "Sea Sword 2" of the Combined Maritime Forces was held in which area from Nov 06 to 14? **Northwest Arabian Sea**
- **111.** Who is the sole winner of Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2022? **Sharath Kamal Achanta**
- **112.** Sharath Kamal Achanta is a top-rated player of which sport? **Table Tennis**
- **113.** Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar won which national trophy for its overall best performance in sports? **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2022**
- **114.** Which country secured top position in the CCPI 2023? **Denmark**
- **115.** What is the full form of CCPI: **Climate Change Performance Index**
- **116.** Which state government plans to set up first of its kind Green Hydrogen (KGH2) Hub? **Kerala**
- **117.** World Diabetes Day on Nov 14 marks the birthday of which great scientist associated with discovery of Insulin? **Sir Frederick Banting**
- **118.** Organisers of the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics unveiled the mascots for the games on Nov 14 at Paris. What is its name? **Phryges**
- **119.** Phryges has been designed after which item? **Ancient red conical cap**
- **120.** India celebrates Children's Day on Nov 14. When does the world celebrate 'Children's Day'? **Nov 20**
- **121.** Which city hosted the finals of the ICC T-20 World Cup on Nov 13? **Melbourne, Australia**
- **122.** England defeated which country to lift ICC T-20 World Cup? **Pakistan**
- **123.** Which player won both, Player of the Match as well as Player of the Series title in the ICC T-20 World Cup? **Sam Curran, of England**
- **124.** Natasa Pirc Musar was elected as the first female President of which country? **Slovenia**
- **125.** The Health and Finance Ministers of the G-20 group launched a \$1.4 billion Fund on November 13 for what purpose? **To tackle the next global pandemic**
- **126.** Who has been re-elected as Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Nov 12 for a second two-year term? **Greg Barclay**

- **127.** Where in world are the headquarters of the ICC? **Dubai, UAE**
- **128.** What was the name of the bilateral exercise conducted by the Indian and the French Air Forces in Jodhpur, Rajasthan? **Garuda VII**
- **129.** India celebrates November 12 as the Public Service Broadcasting Day. Which is the apex holding organisation for All India Radio and Door Darshan? **Prasar Bharati**
- **130.** What is the theme of this year's World Pneumonia Day observed on Nov 12? **Pneumonia Affects Everyone**
- **131.** Switzerland Tourism has appointed which Indian Olympian as the 'Friendship Ambassador' of the country? **Neeraj Chopra**
- **132.** ASEAN agreed in principle to admit which country as the group's 11th member, on Nov 11? **East Timor**
- **133.** East Timor attained freedom from which country in 2002? **Indonesia**
- **134.** National Education Day on Nov 11 marks the birthday of which great freedom fighter? **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**
- **135.** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar made his first foreign visit on Nov 11, after assuming office, to which country? **Cambodia**
- 136. Sh Dhankhar visited Cambodia for what purpose?

  To attend 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit and 17<sup>th</sup>

  East Asia Summit
- **137.** Permanent secretariate of ASEAN is located in which city? **Jakarta, Indonesia**
- 138. India's first national repository for life science data, the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) was launched on Nov 10 in which city? Faridabad, Harvana
- **139.** \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first state in India to launch a uniform gold price in the state, based on the bank rate: **Kerala**
- **140.** As per the amended Aadhaar rules, supporting documents need to be updated at least once on completion \_\_\_\_years from the enrolment date: **Ten**
- **141.** UGC asked higher education institutions to engage professionals and industry experts as "Professors of \_\_\_\_\_\_": **Practice**
- **142.** In which state Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary has been established recently? **Tamil Nadu**

**143.** Which batter scripted history on Nov 10 by **158.** India will assume the presidency of the G-20 from becoming the first batter in history to reach 4000 which date? **December 1, 2022** runs in T20 Internationals? Virat Kohli **159.** India will host the G-20 leaders' summit in **144.** World Usability Day, also known as 'Make Things \_\_\_\_on \_\_\_\_9-10 in 2023: New Delhi; Easier' Day, is observed on the second \_\_\_\_\_of September November: Thursday **160.** Which international day on Nov 8 aims at **145.** National Legal Services Day on Nov 9 marks the promoting the role of planning in creating liveable enactment of which law? Legal Services urban communities? World Town Planning Day **Authorities Act, 1987 161.** Who is credited with the discovery of X-rays? **146.** Government has mandated private TV channels in Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, German Scientist India, for the first time ever, to run 30-minute **162.** An Army Commanders' Conference was held in daily programmes on which issue? National \_\_\_\_\_ in November 2022 to brainstorm on importance and social relevance current and emerging security and administrative **147.** Which outfit of NITI Aayog launched the Women challenges for the Indian Army: New Delhi centric challenges on Nov 9 under the 2nd edition **163.** Which state has been given the hosting rights for of Atal New India Challenge? Atal Innovation the Khelo India National University Games - 2023-Mission 2024? Uttar Pradesh **148.** The government approved a framework for **164.** Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the issuance of the sovereign green bonds on Nov 9 to Law Commission of India? Justice Rituraj attract investment in which type of projects? Awasthi (retd.) Environmentally sustainable and climate-**165.** India celebrates National Cancer Awareness Day suitable projects on Nov 7. This happens to be the birthday of which **149.** Indian Army has launched a single window facility great scientist associated with cancer treatment? - Veerangana Sewa Kendra for welfare and Ms. Marie Curie grievances redressal of \_\_\_\_\_: War widows **166.** Marie Curie was awarded second Nobel Prize in **150.** For the first time ever, researchers in which Chemistry in 1911 for discovery of which two country have successfully transfused blood grown elements? Polonium and Radium in a lab from adult stem cells, into two people? **167.** Leaders from over 25 countries and 20 **Britain** organisations launched the International **151.** As per the Mother Tongue Survey of India, which Resilience Alliance on Nov 7 at COP 27: **Drought** is the second most spoken mother tongue **168.** A majority of a five-judge bench (3:2) of the language in India, after Hindi? Bengali Supreme Court on Nov 7 upheld the validity of the **152.** Praveen Hooda, Lovlina Borgohain, Saweety \_\_\_\_Amendment of the Constitution which Boora, and Alfiya Pathan are noted sportswomen provides 10% reservation for EWS: 103rd from which field? **Boxing 169.** Mohammad Tayyab Ikram from Macau has been **153.** India joined the newly launched \_\_\_\_\_ Alliance elected as the new President of which apex world for Climate on Nov 8 at the 27th Session of COP27? sports body? International Hockey Federation, **Mangrove** FIH **154.** Mangrove forests can capture vast amounts of **170.** FIH is based in which place? Lausanne, which gas from the atmosphere? Carbon-di-**Switzerland** Oxide **171.** Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramadass, **155.** India's logo, theme and website for its presidency paralympic \_\_\_\_\_champions won their of the G20 was unveiled on Nov 8. It depicts \_\_\_ respective gold medals on Nov 6 at an sitting over a \_\_\_\_\_ flower: Earth; Lotus international event: Badminton **156.** The logo depicts which Vedic phrase to convey the **172.** The 15th edition of the Urban Mobility India theme of the G20 India 2023? 'Vasudhaiva Conference & Expo was held in \_\_\_\_\_from Nov 4 Kutumbakam' to 6: Kochi, Kerala **157.** The phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' has been

taken from which Upanishad? Maha Upanishad

- **173.** Who became the first Indian player on Nov 6 to score 1,000 T20 International runs in a calendar year? Suryakumar Yadav **174.** Which specialised UN agency supports the celebration of the World Tsunami Awareness Day on Nov 5? UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) **175.** Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is associated with which sports? Cricket **176.** This trophy is played in which format? **T20** 177. Which team lifted the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy on Nov 5? Mumbai 178. Sauray Ghoshal and Ramit Tandon won their firstever team gold in Asian \_\_\_\_\_ Championships on Nov 4: **Squash** 179. Aibawk, a cluster of 11 villages, in the Aizawl district of \_\_\_\_\_, became the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission: Mizoram **180.** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are the noted player of which sports? Badminton 181. India's (also world's) largest Wind Turbine Generator was commissioned in \_\_\_\_\_, Gujarat, on Nov 3: Mundra **182.** Which city in Gujarat became the second Indian city to issue a municipal bond on Nov 3? Vadodara **183.** Which was the first Indian city to issue such a bond in 2017? Pune **184.** Which Indian spiritual Guru has been honoured with the Gandhi Peace Pilgrimage Award: Sri Sri 185. Sri Sri Ravishankar is the founder of which spiritual movement/ setup? Art of Living **186.** What is the name of the unique index for evidencebased comprehensive analysis of school education systems across States and UTs, released on Nov 3? Performance Grading Index, PGI **187.** The PGI placed how many states in the top bracket L1, for scoring above 950 marks? None **188.** Which country created a new world record for running the world's longest passenger train, measuring 1,910 metres? Switzerland **189.** Subhrakant Panda has been elected as the President of which national level industry organisation on Nov 2? FICCI **190.** What is the full form of the acronym FICCI? **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce** and Industry
- **191.** DRDO conducted a successful maiden flight-test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence, \_\_\_\_\_ AD-1 missile on Nov 02: Interceptor **192.** Name the renowned women's rights activist and the founder of SEWA, who died in Ahmedabad on Nov 2: Ela Bhatt **193.** What is the expansion of the acronym SEWA? **Self Employed Women's Association 194.** Naval ships of which country participated in the Exercise Indo-Pacific Endeavour, from Oct 30 to Nov 2? Australia 195. Exercise Indo-Pacific Endeavour was held in which place? In Bay of Bengal, near Visakhapatnam **196.** Which Indian cricketer became the world's no. one T20I batter on Nov 2? Suryakumar Yadav 197. Scotland's Collins Dictionary has named "\_ as the "word of the year": Permacrisis **198.** The EPFO on November 1, placed which state/UT at top for highest coverage under EPFO of their working population? **Delhi 199.** EPFO is a statutory body under which union ministry? Ministry of Labour and Employment 200. Name the small town located in the district Banswara of Rajasthan, on the Gujarat-Rajasthan border, that was declared as a 'National Monument' on Nov 01: Mangarh Dham **201.** World Vegan Day is observed on which day of November? First **202.** The RBI launched the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee on Nov 01 in the \_\_\_\_\_ segment on pilot basis: Wholesale **203.** RBI has identified how many banks for participation in the Digital Rupee's wholesale pilot project? Nine 204. Benjamin Netanyahu, 73 year old Chief of rightwing Likud Party, became the Prime Minister of which country for a record 6th term? Israel **205.** The Income Tax Department launched the HARIT Aaykar initiative for what purpose? **To increase** greenery and develop micro forests **206.** What is the full form of the acronym HARIT? Hariyali Achievement Resolution by Income Tax **207.** Government has constituted \_\_\_\_\_committee

strengthening the assessment

accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions in

the country: Dr. K. Radhakrishnan

- **208.** The "Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal" for the year 2022 were announced on Oct 31 for how many Special Operations? Four **209.** The immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on the early morning of Oct 31 with devotees offering prayers to which deity? The rising Sun **210.** As per the Hindu Puranas, who is 'Chhathi Maiyaa', the main deity for Chhath Puja? Sister of Sun God **211.** Which F1 driver set a new Formula One record on Oct 30, of 15 victories from a single season? **Max** Verstappen **212.** What is the name of the MoU signed by the AIFF, Ministry for Education and the FIFA on October 30, to broad base football across various schools in the country? Football4Schools **213.** The French government's highest civilian honour, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des was awarded to Aruna Sairam, a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ : Carnatic vocalist **214.** The International Union of Geological Sciences of UNESCO has recognised the Mawmluh Cave as one of the first 100 IUGS geological heritage sites. It is in which state? Meghalaya 215. Which team won the 2022 U-17 Women's World (Football) Cup on Oct 30? **Spain 216.** Which Indian city hosted the finals of 2022 U-17 Women's World (Football) Cup? Navi Mumbai **217.** Government has invited Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali to be the chief guest at which major event in India? 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 218. What is the theme of 2023 Pravasi Bharativa Divas? Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's **Progress in Amrit Kaal 219.** Government approved the creation of a fourth tiger reserve by the name "Ranipur Tiger Reserve" in which state? Uttar Pradesh 220. I Irani, the former MD of Tata Steel, who was also famously known as the 'Steel Man of India' passed away on October 31: Jamshed **221.** The Indian Navy hosted the 29th edition of the Singapore-India maritime bilateral exercise from October 26 to 30 in Bay of Bengal, near which place? Visakhapatnam **222.** The foundation stone of a C-295MW military aircraft manufacturing project for the Indian Air Force (IAF) was laid at \_\_\_\_\_in Gujarat on the 30th October: Vadodara 223. What type of aircraft is C-295MW? Transport,
- **224.** A consortium of European major Airbus and Indian conglomerate \_\_\_\_\_will jointly make this aircraft in India: Tata **225.** More than 140 people lost their lives and several others were injured after a century-old suspension bridge on the Machhu river in Gujarat's \_\_\_\_\_ collapsed on Oct 30: **Morbi** 226. Indian junior men's hockey team defeated which country to lift the Sultan of Johor Cup on Oct 29? Australia **227.** Which country is the permanent host of the Sultan of Johor Cup? Malaysia **228.** In which city at least 151 people were killed and 82 others were injured, mostly young, in a deadly stampede on Oct 29 during Halloween celebrations? Seoul, South Korea **229.** Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has been elected as the new President of which South American country? **230.** The union government approved on Oct 28 the establishment of India's first-ever Integrated Aqua Park at Tarin in which state? Arunachal Pradesh **231.** The agua park is to be set up under which fisheries promotion scheme of central government? Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana 232. The first edition of the India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise, was held in the Indian Ocean, near Dar Es Salaam on Oct 27 -29. It is in which country? Tanzania 233. World's tallest (369-foot) statue of Lord Shiva, was unveiled in Nathdwara town, in which state? Rajasthan **234.** In a historic move, the BCCI announced on Oct 27 to pay equal match fee to both men and women cricket players of India. Who is the current President of BCCI? Roger Binny **235.** The inaugural QS World University Rankings: Sustainability gave highest ranking to which Indian university among Indians? IIT Bombay **236.** In the above rankings released on Oct 26, which university was placed at the top? University of California 237. Government gave its nod on Oct 21 to the establishment of the Terai Elephant Reserve in

which state? **Uttar Pradesh** 

**238.** IRDAI recently announced the launch of \_\_\_\_\_, a

common online marketplace for all companies

selling life and non-life insurance: **Bima Sugam** 

**239.** Among four promoters of Bima Sugam, will hold largest share of 35%: Public Sector **240.** Which international day on Oct 31 aims to work for planned and sustainable urban life in the wake of rapid growth of urbanization? World Cities Day 241. Which national day is observed on Oct 31 to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? Rashtriya Ekta Diwas **242.** A 3,65,000 tonnes per annum green hydrogen and green ammonia plant is being set up which district of Rajasthan? Kota **243.** \_\_\_\_ of China won the men's singles title at the 2022 Denmark Open: Shi Yuqi **244.** The coveted International eco-label "Blue Flag", has been accorded to India's two new beaches on Oct 26. They are from which area? **Lakshadweep 245.** Who is the author of the book titled "The Philosophy of Modern Song"? Bob Dylan, Literature Nobel laureate **246.** Which Indian has been elected as the first woman Chairperson of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Aviation Security Committee? Shefali Juneja **247.** "It Starts With Us" is popular novel on the New York Best Sellers list. Who is its author? Colleen Hoover 248. India celebrates Infantry Day on Oct 27 to mark which event? First operation by Indian Infantry in 1947 against Pakistani invaders **249.** Rishi Sunak scripted history on Oct 25 by becoming first British Prime Minister of Indian origin. He had resigned from which important office in July 2022? Chancellor of Exchequer **250.** Which strong cyclone devastated southern Bangladesh on Oct 24-25? **Sitrang 251.** Which day of October is observed as the World Polio Day? 24th **252.** In which year India was declared "Polio Free" by the WHO? 2014 **253.** Which international day is observed on Oct 24 to

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**254.** The UNO was established in which year? **1945** 

mark the establishment of UNO? The United

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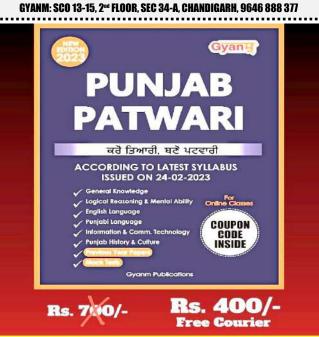
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