

GENERAL AWARENESS

FEBRUARY 2024

Gyanm

6

Months
G.K.PACK



Upcoming Govt Exams (2024) Details Inside

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GENERAL AWARENESS

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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%	22-05-20
CRR	4.5%	21-05-22
SLR	18%	11-04-20

INDIA'S RANK IN

Climate Change Index December 2023	7 th
World Digital Competitiveness Ranking December 2023	49 th
World Talent Ranking October 2023	56 th
Global Hunger Index (GHI) October 2023	111 th
Global Pension Index October 2023	45 th
Global Innovation Index (GII) October 2023	40 th
Digital Quality of Life Index September 2023	52 nd
Economic Freedom Index September 2023	87 th
Global Firepower Index July 2023	4 th
Energy Transition Index July 2023	67 th
Global Peace Index July 2023	126 th
World Competitiveness Ranking July 2023	40 th
Henley Passport Index July 2023	80 th

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NATIONAL NEWS

DECEMBER

SULTAN OF OMAN ARRIVES IN INDIA



Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tarik arrived in India on Dec 15 on his three-day state visit. The Sultan was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including senior Ministers and officials. India and Oman share a long-standing friendship rooted in historical, cultural, and economic ties. The Sultan is regarded as the Monarch of the country.

PRESIDENT OF KENYA 'S INDIA VISIT

President of Kenya, William Samoei Ruto arrived in New Delhi on Dec 04 on a three-day visit to India. He participated in a business and investment event in New Delhi. The visit aimed to strengthen and invigorate the bilateral relations between the two countries. India approved a \$ 250 million credit line to Kenya for modernisation of its agriculture sector.

MODI VISITS DUBAI TO ATTEND 28th COP/UNFCCC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates on Nov 30 to attend the World Climate Action Summit in Dubai. It is the high-level segment of the 28th Conference of Parties, COP-28 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Summit was held from 28th November to 12th of December, under the Presidency of the UAE. The COP to the UNFCCC provides a unique opportunity to impart momentum for collective action towards combating the shared challenge of climate change.

CHIEF GUEST FOR THE 75th REPUBLIC DAY

The External Affairs Ministry has advised that the President of France, Emmanuel Macron will be the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2024. India and France share a high degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues. This year, both countries are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership.

CISF FOR THE SECURITY OF PARLIAMENT



The Union home ministry has asked the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to conduct a survey of the parliament to establish “regular deployment on a comprehensive pattern”, after a security breach occurred on the premises on Dec 13. The CISF will collaborate with Parliament Security Services to regulate access to both the old and new parliament complex.

Both the security wing and fire wing of CISF will be deployed to ensure foolproof security of the Parliament. Currently, visitor frisking is managed by Delhi Police personnel. CISF has expertise in managing security at the airports in the country.

THREE NEW CRIMINAL LAWS INTRODUCED

The Parliament passed three key Bills on Dec 21 that seek to overhaul the criminal justice system, with focus on delivering speedy justice rather than handing down punishment. These bills were accorded Presidential assent on Dec 25.

The new bills have deleted several outdated provisions and have included a number of new procedures that were the demand of changed times.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita which will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), is the principal criminal law that defines various offences and lists the punishments for the same.

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita which will replace the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), provides for the procedures for implementation of IPC, covering arrest, trial and prosecution, bail and maintenance of law and order.

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam which will replace the Indian Evidence Act, deals with the treatment and admissibility of evidences.



Here are the key points of the three new bills:

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Formerly Indian Penal Code-IPC)

- Definition of child introduced
- Transgender included in definition of ‘gender’
- Electronic, digital records included in definition of document
- New chapter on offence against woman and child introduced
- New chapter on ‘inchoate offences’ (attempt, abetment and conspiracy) introduced
- New offences like organised crime, terrorist act, petty organised crime, hit and run, mob lynching, hiring child to commit offence, sexual exploitation of woman by deceitful means, snatching, abetment outside India, acts endangering the sovereignty, integrity and unity of India, publication of false or fake news etc. introduced
- Attempt to commit suicide is deleted
- Community service is provided as a punishment for theft of less than Rs 5,000

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Formerly Code of Criminal Procedure-CrPC)

- Scope of declaring proclaimed offenders increased. Earlier only 19 offences were included which did not include rape cases. Now all offences with punishment for 10 years or more included
- Arrest of offences with punishment of less than 3 years offence with prior nod of senior police officers
- 15 days police custody is allowed for the first 40/60 days of the detention period and this will not be a ground for refusal of bail
- In-absentia trial introduced
- Electronic FIR introduced
- Preliminary Inquiry introduced in offences punishable from 3 years to less than 7 years
- Meaning of bail has been simplified throughout the BNSS
- First time undertrial is provided early release on bail
- Bail in acquittal cases simplified
- First time offender to be given relaxed punishment (one-fourth and one-sixth of such punishment) in plea bargaining
- Timeline prescribed in many procedures and processes
- Audio video electronic means used for many processes and procedures to enhance transparency, accountability and speedy justice – like recording of evidence of witness, deposition by police officer, evidence of accused, evidence of public servant, scientific expert or medical officer, pronouncement of judgement
- Witness protection scheme introduced
- Definition of ‘victim’ expanded, police officer to inform victim/informant about progress in probe

- Provision for not more than 2 adjournments introduced

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (Formerly Indian Evidence Act)

- Electronic record included in definition of 'document'
- Statements received electronically included in definition of 'evidence'
- Added more standards for considering electronic, digital records as primary evidence laying emphasis on its proper custody, storage, transmission, and broadcast
- Added more kinds of secondary evidence to include oral, written admissions & evidence of a skilled person to examine documents which cannot be conveniently examined by court
- Established the legal admissibility, validity, and enforceability of electronic or digital record as evidence
- Inclusion of husband/wife as competent witness in criminal proceedings against spouse
- Conviction based on corroborated testimony of accomplice made legal
- Comprehensive certificate for submitting electronic evidence added in schedule

PRAYAS LAUNCHED FOR SAFE MIGRATION

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) launched Project PRAYAS on Dec 21 to help Indian workers and students migrate in a secure, orderly, and regular manner.

The project PRAYAS, or Promoting Regular Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals, was launched in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs. PRAYAS is one of the first attempts to consolidate all the state-level initiatives for safe, orderly, and well-managed international migration.

Established in 1951, IOM is a United Nations agency based in Geneva, dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration.



UNESCO HONOURS 6 INDIAN HERITAGE SITES



Six heritage projects from India secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, announced on Dec 21 in Bangkok.

The Rambagh Gate and Rampart in Amritsar received the highest honour, 'Award of Excellence' for maintaining the site's existing uses while promoting inclusivity and broader community access.

The Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple in Kerala was honoured with 'Award of Distinction' for outstanding restoration efforts maintaining its original traditional wooden architecture.

The Church of Epiphany in Gurugram, Haryana; India; David Sassoon Library and Reading Room in Mumbai and Bikaner House in New Delhi were honoured with the 'Award of Merit' for excellent upkeep and maintenance of heritage status of the old structures.

Pipal Haveli, a heritage rural homestay in Nawan Pind Sardaran village of Gurdaspur district in Punjab, was awarded 'Special Recognition for Sustainable Development' for maintaining the traditional heritage status of old residential premises.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation recognize the efforts of individuals and organisations in restoring and conserving structures of heritage value.

UNICEF AND INDIA LAUNCH "GREEN RISING"

UNICEF's Generation Unlimited, in collaboration with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change unveiled on Dec 8 a global initiative named "Green Rising" at COP28 in Dubai.

The initiative along with a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners, aims to mobilise millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities.

SC UPHOLDS ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370



In a significant move, the Supreme Court on Dec 11 upheld the validity of Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution of India, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The verdict from a five-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud came in response to a bunch of petitions challenging the Centre's move to abrogate Article 370. The Parliament scrapped Article 370 on August 5, 2019 and split the state into two Union Territories - Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The apex court said Article 370 was a temporary provision brought for some specific purposes and there is no mala-fide in President's order abrogating it. State of Jammu and Kashmir did not enjoy any sovereignty after it joined the Union of India.

PEACE ACCORD SIGNED WITH UNLF, MANIPUR

In a historic step towards peace in Manipur, the Central and Manipur governments signed a peace agreement on Nov 29 in New Delhi with the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), a banned Meitei extremist organisation and the oldest armed group based in the Manipur valley. About 300 extremists surrendered their arms agreeing to renounce the violence and return to the mainstream.

This is the first time a valley-based insurgent group has agreed to return to the mainstream by abjuring violence. They also agreed to abide by the Constitution of India and laws of the land. It is hoped that the return of the UNLF to the mainstream will also encourage other valley-based armed groups to participate in the peace process in due course.

The UNLF was formed in 1964 and has been operating both within and outside Indian territory since then, striving for the independent Manipur. It is one of the eight Meitei extremist organisations that the government has declared to be unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.



DELHI UNIVERSITY TOPS THE QS RANKINGS

The QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024, released on Dec 05 by UK based global higher education analysts Quacquarelli Symonds, included 56 Indian universities. Amongst them, Delhi University topped the chart, followed by Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) Bombay and Madras.

Overall, the University of Toronto, Canada has bagged the first rank, followed by the University of California, USA and the University of Manchester, UK at the second and third spots.

The QS rankings evaluated 1,397 institutions across 95 countries, based on their social and environmental impact and governance standards. The rankings provide a unique and detailed framework to assess how universities are taking action to tackle the world's most pressing global challenges.

INDIA TOPS AGAIN IN INWARD REMITTANCES



The World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief released on Dec 18 states that India saw the highest amount of remittance inflows in the world in 2023 at \$125 billion. The growth was driven by several factors, including the country's agreement with the UAE, for promoting the use of dirhams and rupees for bilateral trade.

India was followed by Mexico (\$67 billion) and China (\$50 billion). The United States continued to be the largest source of remittances.

In the case of India, the main contributing factors were declining inflation and strong labour markets in high-income source countries, which boosted remittances from highly skilled Indians in the US, the UK and Singapore, accounting for 36 per cent of the total remittance inflows.

INDIA RANKED 7th IN CLIMATE CHANGE INDEX

India moved one step ahead at 7th rank in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released on Dec 8 at the global climate conference (COP-28) in Dubai. India maintained its place among the top 10 for the fifth year in a row. Despite being the world's most populous country, it has relatively low per capita emissions, the index said.



None of the countries could score enough marks to enter the top three rankings. Denmark was placed at fourth spot, followed by Estonia and Philippines at 5th and 6th spot, respectively. China, the largest polluter, was placed at 51st rank while the US, the second biggest emitter came in at 57th rank. Saudi Arabia secured the last rank at 67th spot. The Index evaluates the climate mitigation efforts of 63 countries and the European Union, covering over 90 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

INDIA LAGS IN DIGITAL COMPETITIVENESS

The 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR), released on Dec 01 by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Switzerland, has ranked India 49th among 64 leading economies surveyed by it.

According to IMD's study, India has made significant in terms of cybersecurity knowledge but lacks on fronts like technology and future readiness.

The United States regained the top position with robust results across all three factors: knowledge, technology, and future readiness. It was followed by the Netherlands and Singapore at second and third rank.

IMD's World Digital Competitiveness Ranking offers insights into how various nations are navigating digital transformation in the era of artificial intelligence (AI). It ranks the countries on the basis of how actively they promote the comprehensive integration of digital technologies, encompassing AI, across governmental, corporate, and individual spheres.



\$250 MN LOAN FOR INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$250 million policy-based loan on Dec 15 to the Indian government for supporting the Industrial Corridor Development Programme. The funding will enhance manufacturing competitiveness and fortify the national supply chain.

The Government of India signed a loan agreement on Dec 15 with the Asian Development Bank for 37 billion Japanese Yen (\$250 million) for the ongoing construction of the 82-kilometre Delhi Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor.

NOVEMBER

KING OF BHUTAN VISITS INDIA

The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck arrived in Guwahati on Nov 3 on an eight-day official visit to India. During the visit, He met the Prime Minister of India. Later, he visited Mumbai to interact with Indian business leaders to explore new avenues for expanding economic and commercial ties. India and Bhutan share very strong relations of friendship and cooperation based on mutual understanding and trust.

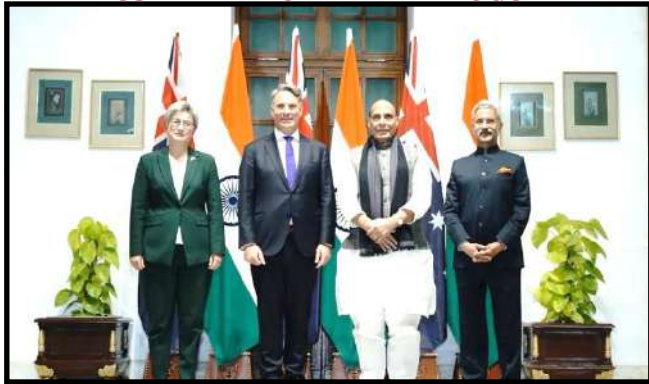


INDO-US INNOVATION HANDSHAKE AGREEMENT

India and the US have signed an Innovation Handshake agreement on Nov 14 in San Francisco to promote innovation through increasing cooperation among startups, address regulatory hurdles and share best practices on fundraising by entrepreneurs. The scope of cooperation would include a series of India-US Innovation Handshake events.

The dialogue is a cooperative undertaking at the ministerial level between India and the US to facilitate regular interaction between business communities to facilitate trade and maximise investment opportunities. *The Innovation Handshake, a concept developed under the US-India Commercial Dialogue, will bring together the venture capital leaders, entrepreneurs and other industry and institutional stakeholders from the two countries to explore opportunities and address challenges in the areas of mutual interest.*

INDIA AUSTRALIA HOLD 2+2 DIALOGUE



The second India-Australia two plus two Dialogue with Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles and Foreign Minister Penny Wong was held on Nov 20 in New Delhi. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar represented the Indian side. The Ministers discussed a wide range of strategic, defence and security issues covering bilateral, regional and global matters of mutual interest.

INDO-US 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

The 5th India-US 2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue was held on Nov 10 in New Delhi. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar co-chaired the Dialogue with US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The meeting conducted a high-level review of progress being made in cost-cutting aspects of defence and security cooperation, technology value chain collaborations and people-to-people ties. The Ministers also discussed plans to take forward the futuristic roadmap for India-US partnership in strategic fields.

INDIA HOSTS LAST G20 SUMMIT

India hosted the last G20 Leaders' Summit on Nov 22 in a virtual format. The summit aimed to amplify the voices of the Global South, with G20 being recognized as the People's-20. A good number of world leaders attended the summit to discuss various global issues, including the Hamas - Israel conflict. India is holding the Chairmanship of G20 till Nov 30 this year, after which Brazil will take over the mantle.



MILLIONS CELEBRATE CHHATH PUJA

The four-day celebrations of the immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on the early morning of Nov 20 with devotees offering prayers to the rising Sun on the river/lake banks in the different parts of the country. After paying oblations to the Sun God in the early morning, devotees broke their 36-hour fast and shared 'Prasad' with all the people around. This ritual is called 'Paran'. People in Bihar and adjoining areas of UP and Jharkhand, celebrate this festival with great fervour and devotion.

Coming towards the end of the harvest season, the sixth day after Diwali, Chhath (meaning sixth) Puja started as a thanksgiving ritual, to express farmers' gratitude for a bumper crop. Devotees offer their prayers to and seek blessings from Sun God and his sister Chhathi Maiyya.



GOA HOSTS 54th INT'NAL FILM FESTIVAL

The 54th International Film Festival of India, IFFI began on Nov 20 at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Bambolim, Goa. The festival opened with the British film *Catching Dust*, directed by Stuart Gatt and the closing film will be *Featherweight*, directed by Robert Kolodny, from the USA.

In the Indian panorama, the opening film in the feature section is a Malayalam film, *Aattam*, and in the non-feature section, it is *Andro Dreams* from Manipur. The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to legendary Hollywood actor and producer Michael Douglas. The festival concluded on Nov 28.

NEWS FROM STATES

DECEMBER

FIVE STATES GET NEW CHIEF MINISTERS

As per the recent assembly elections held in five states and results declared on Dec 3 (Dec 4 for Mizoram), party MLAs of various states elected their new leader as under:

Madhya Pradesh: Dr Mohan Yadav from BJP

Chhattisgarh: Vishnu Deo Sai from BJP

Rajasthan: Bhajan Lal Sharma from BJP

Telangana: Revanth Reddy from Congress

Mizoram: Lalduhoma from Zoram People's Movement

PUNE MC MAKES WORLD RECORD IN READING



A special reading session organised by the Pune Municipal Corporation on Dec 14 entered the Guinness Book of World Records with 3,066 parents simultaneously telling stories to their children for four minutes.

The earlier record of 2,479 parents simultaneously telling stories to their children, was held by China. The event was a part of the Pune Book Festival, organised by the National Book Trust from December 16 to 24, aimed to inculcate reading habits in children.

HYDERABAD RANKED AS BEST CITY TO LIVE IN

The Quality of Living Index 2023 released by Mercer, a global consultant for businesses, has placed Hyderabad at 153rd position, highest among Indian cities. It is followed closely by Pune-154 and Bengaluru-156. Vienna (Austria), Zurich (Switzerland) and Vancouver (Canada) are the top three cities in that order.

This index evaluates the practicalities of daily life for employees working abroad, especially with families, and relies on data from over 500 cities all over the world. The ranking is based on factors like climate, schools and education, disease and sanitation standards, violence and crime, physical remoteness and ease of communications and socio-political environment.



ASIA'S LARGEST OPEN-AIR TRADE FAIR

Asia's largest open-air annual trade fair, the Bali Jatra, commemorating the glorious ancient maritime legacy of Odisha, was inaugurated on Nov 27 on the banks of the Mahanadi River in Cuttack. "Bali Jatra" translates to "A journey to Bali."

The festival has its roots in ancient times, some 2,000 years ago, when traders from Kalinga (now Odisha) used to embark on sea voyages to nearby lands like Bali, Java, Sumatra, etc. in Southeast Asia.

The fair begins on Kartika Purnima every year and continues for a week. About two thousand stalls displaying various traditional handicrafts, household goods, and food items, especially local cuisine, took part in the fair.

SURAT AIRPORT UPGRADED

The Union Cabinet approved on Dec 15 a proposal to declare Surat Airport as an International Airport. This strategic move promises to unlock unprecedented economic potential, making Surat a key player in the international aviation landscape.



Surat Airport will not only become a gateway for international travellers but also facilitate seamless export-import operations for the thriving diamond and textile industries in the region.

GARBA DANCE GETS INTO UNESCO LIST

Garba, a very popular traditional dance of Gujarat has been included in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. This decision was taken on Dec 6 at the Botswana convention of UNESCO at Kasane, Botswana. Garba of Gujarat is the 15th item from India to join this list.

Garba is celebrated for nine days during the festival of Sharad Navaratri. The festival is dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga as a symbol of the feminine energy or 'Shakti'. Besides Navratri, this joyful folk dance is performed on almost every special occasion in Gujarat as a sacred tradition.

HUMP WWII MUSEUM OPENED IN PASIGHAT



A museum dedicated to fallen airmen flying for the Allied forces (led by Britain) during World War II, was inaugurated on Nov 29 at Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh. The Hump WWII Museum has been named after a treacherous air route between north-eastern Assam and Yunnan in China.

The pilots of the Allied forces nicknamed this route as 'The Hump' because their aircrafts had to negotiate deep gorges and high mountain peaks, rising beyond 10,000 feet in this route.

From 1942 to 1945, military aircrafts used this route to transport nearly 6,50,000 tonnes of supplies like fuel, food, and ammunition. Some 650 aircrafts crashed while negotiating the difficult mountain terrain and extreme weather conditions.

HORNBILL FESTIVAL BEGINS IN NAGALAND

The 24th 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. It is the biggest musical and cultural extravaganza of Nagaland, showcasing the food and culture of all the tribes of Nagaland. The USA, Germany and Columbia are the Country Partners and Assam is Partner State for this year's edition.

Hornbill is a popular large bird, with a typical long curved bill, found in the forests of Nagaland. The festival, supported by the state government, showcases the diverse Naga ethnicity through folk dances, traditional music, tribal rituals, indigenous games, local cuisine, handicraft, artwork and textiles.



CYCLONE MICHAUNG BATTERS EAST COAST

Severe cyclonic storm Michaung after battering Chennai and north Tamil Nadu on Dec 4, made a landfall near Nellore in south Andhra Pradesh on Dec 05 mid-day. Life was thrown out of gear in Chennai and its neighbouring districts as relentless rain pounded various parts leading to unprecedented flooding. The havoc claimed at least 17 lives in the city.

Coastal districts of Andhra were devastated by very strong winds and heavy rainfall, causing widespread damage. By Dec 6 the storm weakened into a depression, striking the Odisha's southern areas with heavy rainfall, forcing the closure of schools. The name 'Michaung' was suggested by Myanmar. It means strength or resilience.

\$300 MILLION WB LOAN FOR TAMIL NADU

The World Bank sanctioned a \$300 million loan to support Tamil Nadu in providing around 2 million people with improved access to water and sewerage services in cities.



The Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Program will help 21 Urban Local Bodies in providing better quality and efficient water supply and sewerage services to consumers.

The Asian Development Bank approved a \$100 million loan to improve urban services and tourism facilities in the northeastern state of Tripura. The funds will be used to upgrade the water supply infrastructure and improve urban roads.

The Asian Development Bank approved a \$170 million loan to support the modernization of water supply services in the city of Kochi in Kerala. The loan will help to improve the quality of life for residents of Kochi by providing them with access to clean and reliable water.

The Asian Development Bank granted a \$200 million loan to Uttarakhand to enhance the quality, efficiency, and dependability of electricity supply in the state and help its transition to the use of clean energy sources.

WORLD'S 1st 3D-PRINTED TEMPLE IN TELANGANA



World's first 3D-printed temple, a groundbreaking structure, was unveiled on Nov 21 in Burugupally, in Siddipet district of Telangana. The innovative construction, achieved through a three-month 3D printing process, marks a significant technological milestone. Standing 35.5 feet tall, the temple is spread over 4,000 sq mts.

While the sanctums showcase the ingenuity of 3D printing technology, the remaining elements of the temple, such as pillars, slabs, and flooring, were constructed using traditional building techniques.

GYANODAYA EXPRESS – COLLEGE ON WHEELS

In a unique initiative, a special train named 'Gyanodaya Express – College on Wheels' was flagged off on Nov 20 from the Katra Railway Station in Jammu. This initiative aims to empower around 700 female students from the universities of Jammu & Kashmir. The train is set to traverse through multiple states in India to allow students to discover themselves and explore diverse regions and cultures of the country.

During the 14-day tour, students will visit important places in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Goa. The journey endeavours to dissolve boundaries of classrooms, and streams and evolve education by providing immersive, collaborative, and project-based learning experiences.



'AIRGUN SURRENDER' WINS UNESCO AWARD

The Airgun Surrender Abhiyan initiative of Arunachal Pradesh Government has been selected as India's best success story on wildlife conservation. The award was presented at the UNESCO's International Conference on Biosphere Reserves held Nov 13 at Sabah, Malaysia.

Under the scheme launched in March 2021, people were urged to voluntarily surrender their airguns and licensed guns to stop their use to kill birds and other wild animals.

By now, more than 2,400 airguns and nine licensed guns have been surrendered by the people. This initiative has made a huge impact on protection of wildlife in Arunachal.

J&K FIRST TO USE GPS TRACKER ANKLETS

In a first, Jammu and Kashmir Police have introduced GPS tracker anklets to monitor the movement of terror-accused people on bail. With this, the J&K police department became the first in India to be using GPS tracker anklets to track the movement of accused persons on bail.

GWALIOR, KOZHIKODE NEW CREATIVE CITIES



Gwalior and Kozhikode are among the 55 new cities which joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network on Oct 31. These new cities were acknowledged for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative practices in human-centred urban planning.

Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh bagged the City of Music tag. Legendary musicians Tansen and Baiju Bawra hailed from Gwalior. For centuries, local Scindia Gharana has been pursuing the work of preserving and propagating the musical heritage of the city.

Kozhikode has been given the tag of City of Literature, the first to hold this title in the country. Being a permanent venue for the annual Kerala Literature Festival and several book fests added value to the city's claim.

With the latest additions, there are 350 creative cities in the network, in more than 100 countries, representing seven creative fields; Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.



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NORWAY TO FUND 'HUNGER PROJECT'



Norway has pledged its support to India's Hunger Project being run in Uttarakhand to improve food security and hunger issues in the region. Norway will provide ₹44.7 million for a period of three-years, until September 2026.

The project aims to empower women leaders, enhance food security, and protect the environment, particularly in the ecologically sensitive region of Uttarakhand.

KERALA TOPS IN HALLMARKING CENTRES

With the inauguration of a hallmarking center in Idukki on Oct 26, Kerala became the first state in India to have hallmarking centers in all its 14 districts. The opening of hallmarking centers across all the districts will make Kerala a hub of gold business and further strengthen its claim to being the most reliable market in the country to buy gold ornaments.

The Bureau of Indian Standards made hallmarking compulsory from 23 June 2021, with a view to protect customers, especially those not aware of the market, from being taken for a ride by jewellers.

Hallmarked items are issued a 6-digit alpha-numeric Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) number and this number can be verified by using 'verify HUID' feature in the "BIS Care App". Hallmarking ensures accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in the jewellery, artefacts or bullion, and coins.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$500 million loan to enhance the quality and affordability of tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra. The programme also plans to augment bed capacity in state hospitals and recruit at least 500 doctors for these new institutions.



GOVT. INITIATIVES

DECEMBER

"PAAT-MITRO" APP FOR JUTE FARMERS

The Ministry of Textiles launched the mobile application "Paat-Mitro" on Dec 21 to provide important information about MSP and agronomy to jute farmers. Developed by The Jute Corporation of India (JCI), it is available in 6 languages.

The app provides information on latest agronomic practices, farmer-centric schemes like 'Jute-ICARE', weather forecasts, JCI's Purchase Centers' locations, Procurement Policies, etc. Farmers will also be able to track the status of their payments for the raw jute sold to JCI.

THREE NEW SCHEMES FOR THE MSME SECTOR



The Ministry for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched three sub-schemes on Dec 20 under its existing RAMP ((Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity) programme to encourage the adoption of sustainable technology in business, boost the circular economy and address delayed payments issues.

The MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSE GIFT Scheme) will help enterprises adopt green technology with interest subvention and credit guarantee support

MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme) is the first-ever scheme in the government to support circular economy projects which will be done through credit subsidy and support MSME sector towards zero emissions by 2070.

MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments is a first-of-its-kind scheme to synergise legal support with modern IT tools and artificial intelligence in order to address the issue of delayed payments for micro and small enterprises. Further, the ZED scheme of the ministry, which aims to promote manufacturing without any negative impact on the environment, has now been made completely free for women-led MSMEs.

740 NEW EKLAVYA SCHOOLS TO BE OPENED



Government has decided to establish 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) throughout the country for the development of tribal students. These schools will provide free education and hostel facilities to tribal students from class 6 to 12. At present, 401 EMRS are functional in the country.

EMRS started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors. These are opened in the blocks which have more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students. Each school has a capacity of 480 students.

NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE DATA REPOSITORY

The Ministry for Mines launched India's National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal on Dec 19 as a comprehensive online platform that will host the geospatial data for the entire country. Out of the total 32 lakh sq km area of the country, the NGDR portal makes available detailed geospatial data of each square kilometre of 20 lakh sq km area. Further, offshore exploration data of close to 20 lakh sq km is also available on the portal.

Spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar, the NGDR portal will democratise critical geoscience data by placing it in the public domain for allowing free open access. The portal will facilitate data-based research on the mineral exploration projects to become self-reliant in those minerals which are present within the country.



GRAM MANCHITRA FOR SPATIAL PLANNING

In order to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayats, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj had launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra" (<https://grammanchitra.gov.in>). This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology.

It is a single platform where spatial pictures of various developmental works undertaken by Panchayat can be seen. It will also act as a decision support system for the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

The app will provide a repository of information on all works and assets related to natural resource management, water harvesting, drought proofing, sanitation, agriculture, check dams and irrigation channels etc.

WORLD'S FIRST PORTABLE HOSPITAL



The World's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled on Dec 2 in Gurugram, Haryana. It has been developed as part of 'Project BHISHMA' (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) and consists of a fully equipped operation theatre, mini-ICUs, ventilators, blood-testing equipment, an X-ray machine, and even a cooking station. It also includes a shelter facility and power generator, making it entirely self-sufficient during emergencies.

It is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes, each being a specialised station for emergency response and humanitarian efforts. These cubes are light and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere, from airdrops to ground transportation. The cubes can be dismantled and reassembled in various combinations as per the requirements and availability of space.

This hospital can handle bullet injuries, burns, head, spinal and chest injuries, minor surgeries, fractures and major bleeding cases. It can treat as many as 200 patients at a time.

Under this initiative, India is now equipped to provide critical medical supplies to developing countries grappling with the aftermath of natural disasters like earthquake, landslide or other humanitarian emergencies like armed conflicts.

SAMMAKKA SARAKKA TRIBAL UNIVERSITY



The Lok Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Dec 7. The Bill seeks to establish a Central Tribal University in Telangana. It will provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of India.

The university will be named after the legendary mother-daughter duo of the local tribal Goddesses Sammakka and Sarakka as the "Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University".

Even today, one of the largest tribal fairs is held annually devoted to Sammakka and Sarakka in the Medaram village in Warangal district of Telangana, attracting a crowd of approximately one crore devotees.

DRONES FOR WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS

The Union Cabinet on Nov 29 approved a Central Sector Scheme for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs).

With an outlay of Rs. 1261 crore for two years, the scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 selected Women SHGs during the period 2023-24 to 2025-2026 for providing the same on rent to farmers for agriculture purposes, mainly for Nano fertilisers and pesticide applications. It is expected that SHGs would be able to earn additional income of at least Rs. one lakh per annum.

The scheme will help in infusing advanced technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhance crop yield and reduce cost of operation for the benefit of farmers. The scheme provides Central Financial Assistance at 80% of the cost of drones and related accessories /ancillary charges, up to a maximum of Rs. eight lakhs per SHG.



16th FINANCE COMMISSION TO BE FORMED

The Union Cabinet approved the terms of reference (ToR) for the 16th Finance Commission, which will recommend the formula for sharing revenues between the Centre and the States for the five-year period beginning on April 1, 2026. The Commission will make its report available by 31st of October, 2025.

It will also suggest the principles that should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India and the sums to be paid to the States by way of grants-in-aid of their revenues under Article 275 of the Constitution. The commission is formed every five years according to Article 280 of the Constitution.

PMGKAY EXTENDED TILL DEC 31, 2028

The union cabinet approved on Nov 29 extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) for another five years from 1st of January 2024, till December 31, 2028.



Under the scheme, five kg of free food grains are being provided per month to over 81 crores poor in the country and Antyodaya households get 35 kg of free food grains per month.

PMGKAY is amongst the world's biggest social welfare schemes aimed at ensuring food and nutrition security at an estimated cost of 11.80 lakh crore rupees over a 5-year period.

NOVEMBER

AYUSHMAN AROGYA MANDIR-NEW NAME

The central government decided on Nov 26 to rename Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres as "Ayushman Arogya Mandir" with the tagline "Arogyam Paramam Dhanam" (Wellness is supreme wealth). All the states and union territories have been asked to implement the rebranding exercise with immediate effect.

PVTG DEVELOPMENT MISSION LAUNCHED

In a first-of-its-kind major initiative towards the empowerment of tribals, the central government launched a Rs 24,000 crore scheme named PVTG Development Mission, on Nov 15 from Jharkhand.



The scheme aims at holistic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG). The mission will be implemented through the convergence of 11 schemes of nine ministries under a host of existing welfare programmes covering rural roads, rural housing and drinking water facilities.

According to officials, there are 75 PVTG in 18 states and UTs, living in 22,544 villages spread across 220 districts having a total population of around 28 lakhs. They stay in scattered, remote and inaccessible habitations, often in forest areas.

The mission has been planned to saturate PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities such as road and telecom connectivity, electricity, safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

'VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA' LAUNCHED

A major government initiative named 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', was launched nationwide on Nov 15. The initiative aims at ensuring saturation of the Centre's flagship schemes in 2.7 lakh panchayats by Jan 25, 2024.

The Yatra aims to cover a vast area of the country to ensure that the benefits of the schemes reach all targeted sections of the people in a time bound manner.

Over 2800 IEC (Information, Education and Communication) vans will be launched all over the country to ensure widespread publicity of the government welfare schemes. Besides publicity, enrolment of potential beneficiaries will also be done through details ascertained during the Yatra.



AAINA DASHBOARD FOR CITIES

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched 'Aaina Dashboard for Cities' portal on Nov 13 for comparative evaluation of all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country. The Dashboard will showcase the data across five broad pillars namely, Political & Administrative Structure; Finance; Planning; Citizen Centric Governance and Delivery of Basic Services.

The primary objectives of the AAINA Dashboard are to help cities to (i) see how they are faring vis-à-vis other cities, (ii) inspire them by pointing to possibilities and areas of improvement and (iii) providing opportunity to learn and engage with frontrunners.

With active cooperation of all ULBs, the 'AAINA' aims to create a robust database of the key performance metrics of ULBs which could be accessed by all stakeholders, and subsequently would open for public view once it gets populated.

MINISTRY OF COAL AMENDS SHAKTI POLICY



In a significant move towards coal sector reform, the ministry of coal has announced an amendment to the SHAKTI Policy (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India).

Now the power plants, including private ones, without Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), will be granted coal linkage for a minimum of three months and up to a maximum of one year, on the condition that power generated through such linkages must be sold via power exchanges or through transparent bidding processes on the Discovery of Efficient Energy Price (DEEP) portal.

The policy revision is expected to improve the availability and affordability of coal for power generation and enhance the overall efficiency of the energy sector.

GOVT TO SELL 'BHARAT ATTA' @ 27.50/KG

With a view to keep a lid on food prices during the festive season when demand for commodities rises, the government launched on Nov 6 packaged wheat flour at a subsidised rate of Rs 275 per 10 kg bag.

The subsidised flour will be available in stores run by Kendriya Bhandar, NAFED, NCCF and government cooperative outlets as well as food vans run by NAFED and NCCF. To facilitate the scheme, the government will offload 2.50 lakh tonnes of wheat at Rs 21.50 a kilo under its open market sale scheme.

MERA YUVA BHARAT PORTAL LAUNCHED



The government formally launched on Oct 31 the largest portal to encourage leadership qualities in the youth through the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) portal. It aims to empower youth development and youth-led development by acting as a comprehensive, technology-driven solution to bring together the youth and all the government departments on a single platform.

It aims at providing equitable opportunities to empower the youth in realising their aspirations and contributing to the creation of a "Viksit Bharat" (developed India), across the entire spectrum of the Government. Youth between the ages of 15 to 29 years will benefit from MY Bharat portal.

ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

DECEMBER

INDIAN GDP BOOMS BY 7.6%

The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation announced on Nov 30 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data for the second quarter (Q2), spanning July 01 to September 30 of the FY 2023-24. The second quarter GDP growth stood at 7.6 per cent. The GDP growth in the first quarter (April-June) of the current fiscal was 7.8 per cent.

The main thrust came from the manufacturing sector which grew at 13.9 percent. The construction sector grew at 13.3 percent. With such good growth, India is expected to retain its status as the fastest-growing economy in the world.



ADB RAISES GDP GROWTH RATE TO 6.7%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised India's growth forecast to 6.7% for the current financial year from its earlier projection of 6.3%, on account of higher-than-expected second quarter results.

According to the Asian Development Outlook December 2023 released on Dec 13, the second quarter saw higher-than-expected GDP growth of 7.6%, causing growth in the first half (April-September) to expand by a strong 7.7%.

S&P PROJECTS 6.4% GROWTH FOR INDIA

New York based credit rating agency Standard & Poors (S&P) Global Ratings has projected India's economic growth at 6.4 percent for fiscal year 2024-25. However, the agency cautioned that high food inflation and weak exports can cast a shadow on future growth.

In its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, the agency mentioned that India's growth this year and the next is on track to be the strongest in emerging market economies with higher domestic demand.

INDIGO CROSSES 100 MN PASSENGER MARK



Private airliner IndiGo announced on December 18 that it had made history by 'becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year'. This accomplishment places IndiGo in an elite global club of world's top-10 airlines, operating on such a massive scale.

IndiGo expanded its global presence by incorporating over 20 additional international routes into its network in the past half-year. Earlier in November, IndiGo dominated the domestic market with a 61.8 percent share of passengers carried and that was nearly six times higher than the second-ranking Air India.

NOVEMBER

MOODY'S RETAINS INDIA'S GROWTH @ 6.7%

The Global Macroeconomic Outlook 2024-25 released by Moody's Investors Service on Nov 9, retained India's economic growth forecast for 2023 at 6.7 per cent and said strong domestic demand will likely sustain the growth in the near term. The report further said that with exports remaining weak against an unfavourable global economic backdrop, sustained domestic demand growth is propelling India's economy.

FITCH HIKES INDIA'S GROWTH RATE TO 6.2%



In a report released on Nov 6 by the New York based credit rating agency Fitch Ratings, India's medium-term potential growth estimate has been raised by 70 basis points to 6.2% on the back of an improvement in the employment rate and a modest increase in the working-age population forecast. Fitch attributed the higher growth forecast for India to a swift recovery in labour force participation rates, following significant declines in 2020.

MUNDRA PORT TOPS IN CARGO HANDLING

Adani Group's flagship Mundra Port crossed another milestone by handling 16.1 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo in October this year, the highest-ever volume by any port in India. It is the largest port in the country and has handled 102 MMT of cargo so far this year, with a good 9 per cent year-on-year growth. The port crossed the 100 MMT mark in 210 days, surpassing the record of 231 days last year. It achieved another milestone of handling 4.2 million twenty-foot equivalents (TEUs) of containers in just 203 days. So far in 2023, it docked over 2,480 ships and serviced over 11,500 rakes.

ADANI INDIA'S LARGEST GREEN ENERGY CO.

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has achieved a significant milestone by becoming India's largest green energy company, reaching a total installed capacity of 8.4 gigawatts (GW). The company recently commissioned a 0.15 GW solar power park in Rajasthan, which propelled its solar capacity to over 5 GW, contributing to the 8.4 GW overall capacity. AGEL currently operates the country's largest solar portfolio with 5 GW capacity.



IOC LAUNCHES REFERENCE FUELS

Public sector oil marketing giant, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. launched India's first gasoline and diesel reference fuel on Oct 26. These fuels are used by automobile manufacturers for testing vehicles. Production of these specialised fuels will not only reduce India's dependence on imports but will also place the country's energy industry in the category of the select global players in this field.

Reference fuels are required by automobile manufacturers for developing engines and assessing vehicles' performance to ensure operability in all the global climatic conditions. Currently, these reference fuels are being imported by India from select companies of Europe and the US.

TATA'S TO MANUFACTURE IPHONES IN INDIA

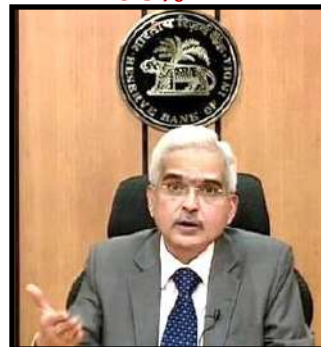
Tata Electronics is set to become the first Indian company to make Apple's iPhones in the country as it finalised a deal to acquire Indian manufacturing facilities of the Taiwan-based Wistron Corp. The plant is located in Kolar, near Bengaluru. Tata Electronics paid \$125 million to acquire this manufacturing facility.

BANKING & FINANCE

DECEMBER

RBI MAINTAINS REPO RATE AT 6.5%

In its latest monetary review meeting on Dec 08, the Reserve Bank kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent. The Monetary Policy Committee unanimously decided to keep the key rates unchanged. This is for the fifth time in a row that the MPC has maintained the status quo. The MPC attributed declining inflation as the reason behind maintaining the status quo in the policy stance.



RBI ALLOWS TOKENISATION AT BANK LEVEL

The RBI introduced a Card-on-File (CoF) tokenisation facility at the level of banks and other institutions. Now the cardholders will get tokens created at the bank level and get it linked to their existing accounts with various e-commerce applications. At present, a CoF token can only be created through the merchant's application or webpage.

For a CoF, a token is a 16-digit number unique for a combination of card, token requestor and merchant. Through tokenisation, the actual card details are replaced with token credentials that can be used only with the intended merchant.

UPI PAYMENT LIMITS RAISED



Announcing the December bi-monthly monetary policy review on Dec 8, the RBI raised the UPI payment limit to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh presently. The enhanced limit will help consumers make payments of higher amounts through UPI for education and healthcare purposes.

RBI also hiked the cap for e-mandates for recurring payments through UPI to Rs 1 lakh per transaction, from Rs 15,000 at present. Popular recurring payments such as mutual fund subscriptions, insurance premium subscriptions and credit card repayments, up to Rs. one lakh, now will not require an OTP generation.

FEDERAL BANK - BANK OF THE YEAR 2023

Kerala based private bank, Federal Bank, was awarded the prestigious title of "Bank of the Year (India), 2023" by The Banker, a renowned London based financial magazine.

The bank was honoured for the initiatives such as the Digital Personal Loan, the 'Bank on the Go' initiative, and the introduction of 'Feddy', an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot.

NOVEMBER

FD PREMATURE WITHDRAWAL LIMITS RAISED

The Reserve Bank guidelines issued on Oct 26 have asked banks to offer a premature withdrawal facility on all term deposits of up to Rs 1 crore, raising the limit from Rs 15 lakh currently.

The RBI has decided that the minimum amount for offering non-callable term deposits (deposits which cannot be withdrawn before maturity) may be increased to Rs 1 crore from Rs 15 lakh at present.



BULK DEPOSIT LIMIT RAISED TO 1 CR FOR RRBs

The RBI announced on Oct 26 that the bulk deposit limit for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) has been increased from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 1 crore. The move is expected to provide a more level playing field for banks. Banks can offer varying interest rates on bulk deposits in line with their fund requirements.

The definition of "Bulk Deposit" varies among banks. The bulk deposit limit for scheduled commercial and small finance banks is Rs 2 crore and above.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DECEMBER

INS IMPHAL JOINS INDIAN NAVY



INS Imphal, the stealth guided missile destroyer built by the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on Dec 26 at the naval dockyard in Mumbai.

With an overall length of 164m, INS Imphal is equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including surface-to-air BrahMos missiles, anti-ship missiles and torpedoes.

It is the first warship to have been named after a city from the North-Eastern region, the approval for which was accorded by the President in April 2019.

DRDO TESTS FLYING WING UAV

DRDO successfully carried out a flight trial of high speed 'Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator' on Dec 15 from the Aeronautical Test Range of Chitradurga in Karnataka. It is an indigenous high-speed flying-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). With this, India has joined the elite club of countries which have mastered the flying wing technology for UAVs.

INS TARMUGLI INDUCTED IN INDIAN NAVY

INS Tarmugli, a Fast Attack Craft was commissioned into the Indian Navy on Dec 14 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. Equipped with several advanced systems and weapons, the ship will be extensively used for coastal surveillance and protection of our Offshore Development Areas in the Krishna Godavari Basin area and along the East Coast of India.

INDIAN ARMY TO GET 70,000 SIG 716 RIFLES



In a high-level meeting of the Ministry of Defence on Dec 12, a proposal was cleared to purchase 70,000 more semi-automatic SIG 716 assault rifles from US-based SIG Sauer for the Indian Army which is already using them from 2019 onwards. The repeat order for acquisition of Sig 716 rifles is valued at ₹800 crore.

These rifles were preferred because of their longer range and better operational ease. The SIG716 uses the more powerful 7.62x51mm cartridge. It weighs just 3.8 kg (without cartridge) and has an effective killing range of 600 mts. The armed forces require 8.1 lakh assault rifles for the three services, out of which the Indian Army alone needs 7.6 lakh rifles

INS SANDHAYAK JOINS INDIAN NAVY

The largest-ever survey vessel built in the country was delivered to the Indian Navy on Dec 04 by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. in Kolkata. Keeping the tradition of Indian Navy to not to kill the ships, INS Sandhayak is reincarnation of the original ship of the same name that was decommissioned in 2021.

The 110-meter-long vessel is the first in a series of four survey ships being constructed by GRSE for the Indian Navy. It is capable of full-scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic survey of port and harbour approaches and determination of navigation channels and routes.



NAVY GETS 3 ASW SHALLOW WATER CRAFTS

The Cochin Shipyard Ltd. achieved a significant feat on Nov 30 by simultaneously launching three Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC) for the Indian Navy. INS Mahe, INS Malvan, and INS Mangrol are the first three of the series of eight ASW-SWCs.

These corvette class vessels are capable of low-intensity maritime operations, mine-laying, subsurface surveillance, coordinated ASW operations with aircraft, and search and rescue missions.

PRESIDENT'S COLOUR FOR AFMC, PUNE

President Droupadi Murmu presented the President's Colour to the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) on Dec 01 in Pune. President's Colour, also known as 'Rashtrapati ka Nishaan' is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military unit.



AFMC is a premier Armed Forces Medical Services establishment and one of the leading medical colleges of the country. It is celebrating its platinum jubilee this year and the award is a testament to the glorious 75 years of AFMC's exemplary service to the nation.

EXERCISE ASTRA SHAKTI 2023

The Indian Air Force hosted Exercise Astra Shakti 2023 on Dec 12 at Suryalanka Air Force station in district Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh. A single Akash missile system engaged four unmanned aerial targets simultaneously during the exercise.

During the exercise, four targets came from the same direction in a close formation and split to attack defence assets from multiple directions simultaneously. All four targets were successfully engaged at maximum range (around 30 km) and neutralised simultaneously.

India has now become the first country to demonstrate the capability of engaging four targets simultaneously at around 30 km range by command guidance using a single firing unit.

The Indian Navy and the Philippines Navy have carried out a maritime partnership exercise on Dec 13 in the West Philippine Sea area of South China Sea. Flying operations by the Indian Navy helicopter and communication drills were undertaken during the exercise.

VINBAX-2023: A small contingent from the Indian Army took part in the joint military exercise with a unit of the Vietnam People's Army from Dec 11 to 21 in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam. It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Vietnam. The exercise focused on the deployment and employment of an engineer company and a medical team.



Prasthan: The Indian Navy conducted a multi-agency exercise 'Prasthan' on Dec 08 along with other defence, State and civil agencies in the Offshore Development Area off Mumbai. The exercise is conducted every six months to validate measures and procedures to address various contingencies that may arise in the oil production platforms.

INDIA'S FIRST SODIUM-ION BATTERY

A Pune based firm, KPIT Technologies has unveiled a sodium-ion battery technology that costs up to 30 percent lower than existing lithium-ion batteries. The new battery will prove to be a boon for the electric vehicle segment, reducing their cost by up to 20-30%.

They are also very useful for UPS, powergrid storage, marine and defence sectors. The KPIT is the first in India and only fourth in the world to offer this advanced technology.

The sodium-ion battery provides a prolonged lifespan with 80% capacity retention over 3000-6000 cycles and quicker charging capabilities in comparison to lithium-ion batteries. Moreover, Sodium is available in abundance as compared to very limited availability of Lithium.

WORLD'S DEEPEST & LARGEST LABORATORY

A 2,400-meter-deep physics laboratory, China Jinping Underground Laboratory, in southwest China's Sichuan Province became operational on Dec 7. Located beneath Jinping Mountain, with a total room capacity of 330,000 cubic metres, it is the deepest and largest underground lab in the world.

One of the primary objectives of the lab is to contribute significantly to the global search for dark matter—a mysterious form of matter that seems to defy interaction with light or the electromagnetic field.

Scientists believe the laboratory provides a "clean" space for them to pursue the invisible substance known as dark matter. They said the extreme depth helps block most cosmic rays that mess with the observation.

FIRST METHANE-LIQUID OXYGEN ROCKET

Beijing-based private aerospace company LandSpace launched Zhuque 2 Y-3, world's first methane-liquid oxygen fuelled rocket on Dec 9 from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The rocket successfully placed three satellites – Honghu, Honghu 2, and TY-33, into a 460 km sun-synchronous orbit.

GEMINI- NEXT LEVEL AI MODEL FROM GOOGLE

Google parent company Alphabet unveiled 'Gemini' on Dec 6, its latest and most advanced AI model to date. Gemini is an AI model trained to behave in human-like ways that might intensify the debate about the technology's potential promise and perils.

Gemini sets itself apart by being "multimodal," demonstrating the ability to comprehend and process concurrently diverse types of information such as text, code, audio, images, and videos

IBM RELEASES SUPER FAST QUANTUM CHIP

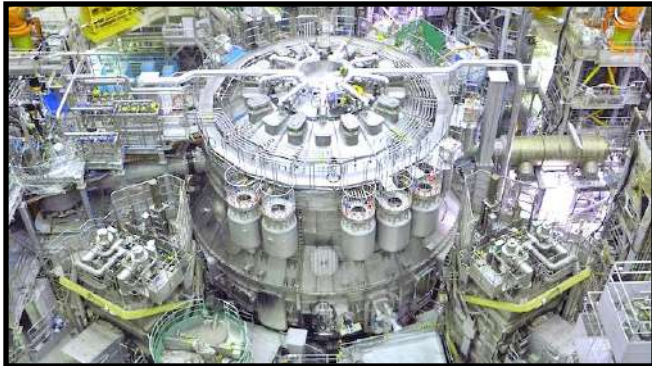
USA based tech giant IBM unveiled on Dec 4 its first quantum computer chip with more than 1,000 qubits. Called Condor, the new quantum computing chip has 1,121 superconducting qubits arranged in a honeycomb pattern.

Quantum chips power quantum computers that are used to perform certain computations that classical computers cannot. These chips can easily handle problems that supercomputers are believed to take hundreds or thousands of years to solve.

A qubit (quantum bit) is any bit made out of a quantum system, like an electron or photon. Qubits are fundamentally different from classic digital bits and much more powerful too. For example, it would take a classical computer millions of years to find the prime factors of a 2,048-bit number, while Qubits could perform the same calculation in just minutes.



WORLD'S LARGEST NUCLEAR FUSION REACTOR



The world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor started its official operations on Dec 01 in Japan'. Named JT-60SA, it is a joint venture of Japan with the European Union. It's the result of a collaboration of more than 500 scientists and engineers and over 70 companies from across Europe and Japan.

It may be noted that fusion differs from fission, the technique currently used in nuclear power plants. Fusion includes fusing two atomic nuclei instead of splitting one as in fission.

The JT-60SA reactor is a six-storey-high machine, which is kept in a hangar in Naka, near Tokyo. It comprises a doughnut-shaped "tokamak" vessel set to contain swirling plasma heated up to 200 million degrees Celsius, much more than the temperature of the core of the Sun, which is around 15 million degrees Celsius.

A tokamak is a huge machine that confines a plasma (extremely superheated material) using very strong magnetic fields in a doughnut shaped structure, for generating massive energy by fusion.

NOVEMBER

PM TAKES FLIGHT IN TEJAS FIGHTER JET

Giving a mega push to the Make in India mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a sortie in the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas on Nov 25 in Bengaluru. Mr. Modi became the first Prime Minister to fly in a fighter aircraft. The 30-minute sortie was carried out from the Aircraft Systems Testing Establishment, Bengaluru.

Tejas has been designed, developed and built by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The Indian Air Force has placed orders with HAL for 83 Tejas aircraft. The IAF is already operating two squadrons of Tejas, No 45 Squadron, the 'Flying Daggers' and No 18 Squadron, the 'Flying Bullets'.



WORLD'S 1st RIFLE-RATED BALLISTIC HELMET

Achieving another milestone in defence manufacturing, Kanpur-based MKU Ltd has unveiled the world's first rifle-rated ballistic helmet, Kavro Doma 360. This is the first time in the world that a ballistic helmet offers uniform protection in all 5 zones of the head against threats like the AK-47 MSC, M80 NATO BALL, and M193 rifle bullets. It's the first anti-rifle helmet that does not have bolts or any metal parts that may hurt the head in case of bullet impact and weighs just 1.45 kg.

INDIA TO GET IGLA-S MISSILES FROM RUSSIA

India signed a contract with Russia for supply of advanced Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles. It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) capable of destroying all types of aircraft and helicopters and can be fired by an individual or a crew. It has a range of up to 5-6 kms. It works on the "fire and forget" principle. The Indian Army had already inducted a small number of Igla-S systems last year. The contract allows for manufacturing of these missile systems in India in near future.

SAAB TO MAKE CARL-GUSTAF M4 IN INDIA

SAAB, a Sweden based defence company, maker of the world-famous Carl-Gustaf M4 portable shoulder-fired weapon system, has become the first foreign company to receive Indian government permission for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in a defence project. Weighing just 7 kg, Carl-Gustaf M4 is a recoilless man-portable, multi-role weapon system which is mainly used for blasting enemy tanks and buildings. The Indian Army has been using this powerful weapon since the late seventies.

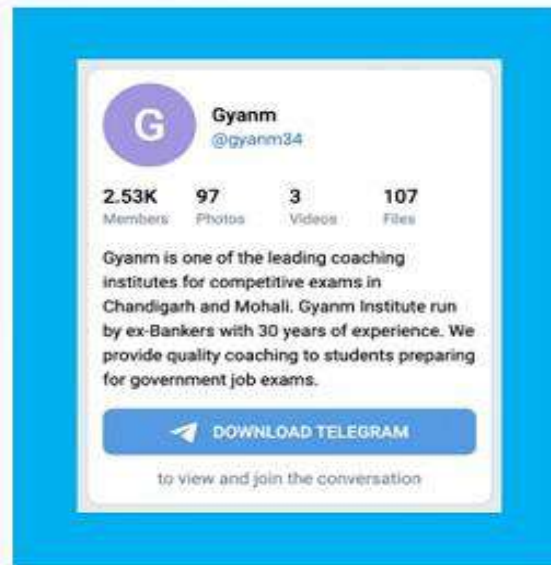
This project will be Saab's first venture outside Sweden to produce the Carl-Gustaf M4 multi role weapon. The manufacturing facility is expected to be established in Haryana.





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IAF BIDS FAREWELL TO MIG-21 FIGHTER JET



Marking a watershed moment in history, the Number 4 Squadron (Oorials) of the Indian Air Force (IAF), based at Air Force Station Uttarlai (Barmer), converted itself from the MiG-21 to the Su-30 MKI squadron. It has been operating the MiG-21 since 1966. The formal induction of the new aircraft was marked by a ceremony at Air Force Station Uttarlai on 30th October.

The conversion of this squadron to Su-30 MKI implies that the IAF now left with only two squadrons of the MiG-21. The IAF remains committed to phasing out the MiG-21 aircraft by the year 2025.

NAVY DECOMMISSIONS IL-38 SEA DRAGON

The Indian Navy bid adieu to its old workhorse, IL-38 Sea Dragon Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft, after 46 yrs of glorious service to the nation. The IL-38 has been keeping a sharp vigil over and beneath the seas, in its relentless pursuit to secure the nation's maritime boundaries. The decommissioning ceremony was held on Oct 31 at INS Hansa, Dabolim in Goa.

Surya Kiran 2023: The 17th edition of joint military exercise between India and Nepal started on Nov 24 in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. The annual exercise, which is conducted alternately in the two countries, concluded on December 7. The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.



AUSTRALIND-23: The Joint Military Exercise of Indian and Australian Armed Forces was held from Nov 22 to Dec 6 at Perth, Australia. Besides the Army, personnel from airforce and navy from both the countries also participated in the exercise which aimed at promoting interoperability while undertaking multi-domain operations.

Vajra Prahar 2023: The 14th edition of Indo-US Joint Special Forces' exercise was held from Nov 21 to Dec 11 in the Umroi cantonment near Shillong, Meghalaya. The exercise aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics, particularly in the mountainous terrain.

Mitra Shakti-2023: The ninth edition of the joint military exercise between the Indian and Sri Lankan military forces was held from Nov 16 to 29 in Aundh (Pune). Both sides practised tactical actions such as raid, search and destroy missions, and heliborne operations.

BONGOSAGAR-23: The bilateral exercise between the Indian and Bangladesh Navy was held on Nov 7-9 near Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal. Ships and aircrafts from both navies undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), and subsequently conducted maritime exercises to enhance interoperability.



Exercise KAZIND-2023: 7th edition of joint military exercise of Indian and Kazakh forces was conducted at Otar in Kazakhstan from Oct 30 to Nov 11. Military personnel from both, Army and Air Force took part in the exercise.

COMING SOON, 3D DIGITAL MAPS OF CITIES

The Survey of India (SoI), national surveying and mapping authority, has collaborated with Genesys, an Indian geospatial solutions company, to create Digital Twins of major cities and towns, combining Genesys' navigable maps with the CORS network of SoI which allows for real-time positioning of data.

The collaboration has introduced the India Map Stack initiative, synergising Genesys' expertise with SoI's technical infrastructure, delivering data layers such as 3D data, Digital Terrain Models (DTM), Digital Surface Models (DSM), and ortho imagery.

IIT KANPUR SIGNS MOU WITH AIRBUS



The European aircraft manufacturer, Airbus signed a formal MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur to facilitate increased collaboration in developing education programmes in the Indian aerospace sector. Under the MoU, both entities will promote research in advanced technologies and develop programmes and activities to enhance technical capabilities for aerospace students in India. It will offer mentorship, exposure, and invaluable hands-on experience to IIT Kanpur students.

WORLD'S FIRST AI-POWERED HUMANOID CEO

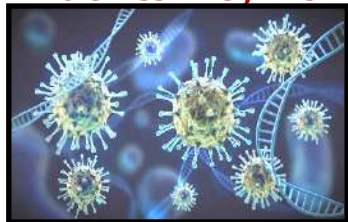
Dictator, a rum making company in Poland, has appointed an AI-powered humanoid robot 'Mika' as the CEO of the company. Mika, described as a more sophisticated version of the well-known AI robot Sophia, operates tirelessly, available all the time 24x7 and needs no break or holidays. Her responsibilities range from identifying potential clients to selecting artists for designing bottles for the rum producer.

Her decision-making process relies on extensive data analysis and aligning with the company's strategic objectives. Further, since it is devoid of personal bias, It makes strategic choices that are best suited for the company's interests.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DECEMBER

WHO CLASSIFIES JN.1 STRAIN AS VOI



The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified a sub-variant of the Omicron strain of coronavirus, JN.1 as a "variant of interest" (VOI) because of its

rapidly increasing spread.

The WHO said that the risk to public health posed by JN.1 is currently low and current vaccines continue to offer protection. JN.1 has been found in many countries around the world, including China, UK, India and the United States.

A variant is designated as VOI by WHO if it shows a growth advantage over other circulating variants — meaning its proportion increases along with any increase in the total number of cases.

2024 IS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS

The United Nations has designated 2024 as the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024). Supported by the FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation, the year will focus on highlighting camelids' crucial role towards different communities.

Whether transporting products and people or simply providing communities with necessities like milk, meat, hides and fibre, camelids thrive where other livestock species cannot survive.

The decision aims to build awareness about the untapped potential of camelids and calls for increased investment in the camelid sector for more research, and the use of innovative practices and technologies. It will also make people aware of how camelids are key to the livelihoods of many households in hostile environments across more than 90 nations.

Camelids, including camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries and guanacos, are crucial, particularly for indigenous people and local communities.

ANGOLA DECIDES TO QUIT OPEC



Africa's second biggest oil producer, Angola announced its decision to leave the oil cartel OPEC - Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The decision comes after the OPEC lowered Angola's oil output target last month as part of a series of cuts led by Saudi Arabia to help prop up oil prices.

Angola joined OPEC in 2007 and has been battling to turn around declining production for nearly a decade.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10-14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Currently, the Organization has a total of 13 Members. It is based in Vienna, Austria. It is headed by a Secretary General, currently Haitham Al Ghais of Kuwait.

COP 28 CONCLUDES IN DUBAI

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28/UNFCCC) concluded on Dec 13 in Dubai. The COP28 President Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber announced that parties to the UN climate summit reached a final consensus on a "historic" climate deal. Jaber is also the CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, UAE's state-owned oil giant.

Diplomats from almost 200 nations finally agreed on a common document that asked nations to “transition away” from fossil fuels in a “just, equitable and orderly manner,” with an accelerated shift over the next few years, to achieve net zero by 2050. It advocates for “reducing both consumption and production of fossil fuels, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, so as to achieve net-zero by, before, or around 2050 in keeping with the science”.

It reiterates last year’s call for a rapid phase-down of power generation by coal and restrictions on any such new project. It also calls for an acceleration and substantial reduction of non-CO2 emissions, particularly methane, globally by 2030.

Under the COP28 Presidency's 'Action Agenda,' bold and decisive steps were taken across four pillars of the Paris Agreement:

Fast-tracking a just energy transition,

Fixing climate finance,

Focusing on people and nature, and

Fostering inclusivity in climate action.

The COP28 summit mobilised an unprecedented \$85 billion in funding for climate action. COP 29 will now be hosted by Azerbaijan in November 2024 while COP30 will be hosted by Brazil in 2025.

UAE DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Making significant strides in the battle against climate challenges, the COP28 Presidency unveiled on Dec 3 the “COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace”. With support from 70 governments and 39 organisations, this declaration is set to redirect climate finance into highly vulnerable and fragile areas, offering comprehensive financial, programming, and partnership solutions.

The new declaration will enrol countries into a voluntary commitment to increase climate adaptation efforts and access to finance for communities threatened or affected directly by climate change but do not have funding to combat it. These funding commitments will help countries and people be better prepared and protected against extreme weather events and natural disasters.



BUSINESS & PHILANTHROPY CLIMATE FORUM



Taking a giant leap towards funding of climate change initiatives, a historic collaboration took shape on Dec 2 at the Dubai COP28. Named ‘Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum’, a first-of-its-kind private-sector engagement initiative within the COP program, brought together over 1,300 global business leaders and philanthropists from across the globe.

The Forum’s partners represented a diverse range of regions and sectors, ensuring an inclusive global outlook. Some major collaborators included International Finance Corporation (IFC), OECD, World Economic Forum, Asian Development Bank, Africa Finance Corporation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and many more.

The Green Climate Fund, Allied Climate Partners, and Allianz Global Investors pledged 5 billion dollars to begin with. This coalition will coordinate strategies on how the private sector can help address the financing gap of over USD 3 trillion required annually to achieve net-zero emissions, support climate adaptation, reverse nature loss and restore biodiversity.

UAE COMMITS \$30 BN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Marking a milestone in the history of climate change funding, the United Arab Emirates, made an unprecedented 30-billion-dollar commitment to ALTERRA, a climate-focused investment vehicle. The announcement was made on Dec 01 at the ongoing COP 28 in Dubai. This initiative aims to revolutionise international climate finance, prioritising equitable access for the Global South.

With the 30-billion-dollar pledge, ALTERRA now stands as the world’s largest private investment vehicle dedicated to climate action, with a targeted mobilisation of 250 billion dollars globally by 2030. COP28 Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, current President of the COP 28 described the launch of ALTERRA as the establishment of a new era in international climate finance.

LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND CREATED AT COP 28



The delegates at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai announced a crucial decision on the opening day, Dec 01, creation of a "Loss and Damage Fund" to provide financial support to countries reeling under the impact of climate change.

The initial funding is estimated to be \$475 million, with the European Union pledging \$255.39 million, the US \$17.5, Japan \$10 million and the host UAE \$100 million. The World Bank will be the interim host to the fund for a period of first four years.

The fund will provide finance for addressing a variety of challenges associated with the adverse effects of climate change, such as climate-related emergencies, rising sea levels, displacement, relocation, migration, insufficient climate information and data, and the need for climate-resilient reconstruction and recovery.

WORLD'S FIRST FLIGHT ON 100% SAF

Leading British airline, Virgin Atlantic on Nov 28 made the first transatlantic flight of a commercial passenger jet, Boeing 787, powered entirely by "sustainable" fuel. The flight took off from London's Heathrow airport and made its way across the Atlantic to New York's JFK airport on a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) mixture of mostly "waste fats," as well as plant sugars, oil, proteins and fibres.

The flight proved that SAF can be used as a safe, drop-in replacement for fossil-derived jet fuel. SAF can produce up to 70 percent less lifecycle carbon dioxide emissions versus traditional jet fuel. The Boeing 787 was powered by the Trent 1000 engines from the Rolls Royce, proving their compatibility with the SAF.



BHUTAN TO DEVELOP GELEPHU CITY

Bhutan plans to build a massive "international city" in an area spanning over 1,000 sq km on its border with Assam. Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck announced on Dec 17 the Gelephu Mindfulness City Special Administrative Region (SAR) Project as an economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India's northeastern States.

The Gelephu SAR is set to become an autonomous economic hub, allowing it to shape essential laws and policies. The SAR aims to attract foreign investment through a favourable business environment and incentives.

'RIZZ' IS OXFORD'S 'WORD OF THE YEAR 2023'

Oxford University Press has unveiled "Rizz" as its Word of the Year 2023. The term refers to "style, charm or attractiveness." It's created by the younger generation as a short for "charisma." The decision was made by language experts at the renowned publisher of the Oxford English Dictionary.

HALLUCINATE - CAMBRIDGE WORD OF 2023



England based Cambridge Dictionary selected "hallucinate" as word of the year for 2023. It refers to a verb that gained an additional meaning this year in the context of artificial intelligence systems such as ChatGPT, which generates text that mimics human writing, "hallucinates" and produces false information.

The original definition of hallucinate refers to "seem to see, hear, feel, or smell" something that does not exist, usually because of "some health condition or under influence of a drug".

M. WEBSTER PICKS 'AUTHENTIC' FOR 2023

With controversies surrounding 'deepfake' videos making headlines, the US based Merriam-Webster Dictionary announced on Nov 27 "authentic" as the word of the year for 2023. Authentic is roughly defined as "not false or imitation".

The term is significant to know what is fake and what is real. It often revolves around identity, whether national or personal, influencing discussions on cuisine, self, voice, and more.

OHIO, USA FEARS WHITE LUNG SYNDROME



The outbreak of a respiratory infection in northern China and a surge in the number of pneumonia cases in children in Ohio in the US, has raised the speculations about the beginning of new COVID-19 like pandemic, named White Lung Syndrome. However, health authorities in Ohio have dismissed any association of this with pneumonia clusters found in China and parts of Europe.

"White Lung Syndrome" is a familiar symptomatic expression associated with either viral or bacterial infections, but the current incidence does not signal anything alarming. The term has gained prominence due to China's mycoplasma pneumoniae outbreak, a bacterial infection showcasing as white patches in lung scans.

NOVEMBER

WORLD'S LARGEST SOLAR PLANT IN UAE

World's largest single-site solar power plant was inaugurated on Nov 17 in the United Arab Emirates. The 2-gigawatt Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic Independent Power Project (IPP) is located 35 kilometres from Abu Dhabi city and will generate enough electricity to power almost 200,000 homes. The plant is expected to displace 2.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

The plant spans more than 20 square kilometres of desert and uses almost 4 million solar panels which deploy innovative bi-facial technology, ensuring sunlight is captured on both sides of the panels to maximise the yield. With over 1,400 robotic cleaning systems, the plant ensures the cleanliness of its modules without using a single drop of water.



MASSIVE ICEBERG BREAKS AWAY FROM ANTARCTICA

Scientists at the British Antarctic Survey have confirmed that the world's biggest iceberg — which is roughly three times the size of New York City — is "on the move" after being stuck to the ocean floor for 37 years. The iceberg, which is around 400 metres thick, spans almost 4,000 square kms in area, split from the Antarctic coastline in 1986, but then became grounded in the Weddell Sea. It's still unclear why the iceberg is suddenly on the move again after 37 years.

Recent satellite images show the iceberg, called A23a, weighing nearly a trillion metric tonnes, is now moving past the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula aided by strong winds and currents. It is now headed toward the Southern Ocean.

IAEA LAUNCHES DATA PLATFORM

The Vienna based International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA recently launched the IAEA Data Platform, a common centralised online platform to its data pool. The platform aims at making scientific data more accessible to decision makers, experts and the public for stronger transparency and enhanced international knowledge sharing.

All its users such as Member States, researchers and scientists can visualise and download data in a variety of formats from this platform. The platform categorises datasets according to three main topics: Nuclear Safety and Security; Nuclear Technology and Applications; and Safeguards and Verification.

The platform facilitates access to a range of different types of data such as the Incident and Trafficking Database, which serves as the IAEA's information system on incidents of illicit trafficking and other unauthorised activities involving nuclear and other radioactive material outside of regulatory control.

CONGO IN GRIP OF VIOLENT CONFLICTS

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), an agency of UNO has reported that conflict and escalating violence have uprooted a record 6.9 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), mostly in the east of the country, in areas adjoining Rwanda. Currently, eastern DRC is the site of ethnic conflict and violent resource competition involving ethnic militias, Congolese security forces, UN troops, and complex external interests.

The DRC is the second largest country in central Africa, next only to Algeria, in terms of area. Years of rebel conflict and recurrent natural disasters have helped fuel one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world. At the root of the conflict is the control over the illegal mining of rich minerals in the area.

The DRC has experienced a spike in violence in the latter months of 2023. Clashes involving militant groups over territory and natural resources, extrajudicial killings by security forces, political violence, and rising tensions with neighbouring countries have contributed to high rates of civilian casualties and displacement.

IMF PROJECTS SLOW DOWN IN ECONOMY



As per the World Economic Outlook report released on Nov 3 by the IMF, the baseline forecast for global growth is that it will slow down from 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3.0 percent in 2023 and 2.9 percent in 2024, well below the historical (2000–19) average of 3.8 percent.

Advanced economies are expected to slow from 2.6 percent in 2022 to 1.5 percent in 2023 and 1.4 percent in 2024 as policy tightening starts showing its effect. Emerging markets and developing economies are projected to have a modest decline in growth from 4.1 percent in 2022 to 4.0 percent in both 2023 and 2024.

28 COUNTRIES, EU SIGN ANTI AI AGREEMENT

28 countries including India, US, UK, China and European Union signed on Nov 01 world's first agreement to contain risks associated with artificial intelligence, AI.

The agreement known as the Bletchley Declaration, was signed during the two-day 'AI Safety Summit 2023' held at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire, England.

The development comes in the wake of calls this April by tech leaders Elon Musk (of X, SpaceX, and Tesla), Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, and more than 15,000 others for a six-month pause in AI development. They warned that the tech labs are in an “out-of-control race” to develop systems that no one can fully control.

The agreement pledges to work together to assess the risks associated with artificial intelligence. It aims to tackle the risks of so-called frontier AI models - the large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT developed by companies such as OpenAI.

The declaration is an acknowledgment of the substantial risks from potential intentional misuse or unintended issues of control of frontier AI — especially cybersecurity, biotechnology, and disinformation risks.



SCO COUNCIL OF HEADS MEETING

The 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States was held on Oct 25–26 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. India was represented by Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of external affairs. The meeting was chaired by President Sadyr Zhaparov of Kyrgyz Republic.

The SCO plays a significant role in addressing regional and global challenges, promoting economic cooperation, and facilitating political and security discussions among its member countries.

'AI' IS COLLINS WORD OF THE YEAR 2023

'AI' - Artificial Intelligence, a term that describes 'the modelling of human mental functions by computer programs' has been named “Collins Word of the Year 2023” by the Glasgow (Scotland) based Collins Dictionary. Considered to be the next great technological revolution, AI has seen rapid development and has been much talked about in 2023. Its usage increased four times in the current year.

PERSONS IN NEWS

DECEMBER

4 INDIAN LADIES IN FORBES TOP 100 LIST

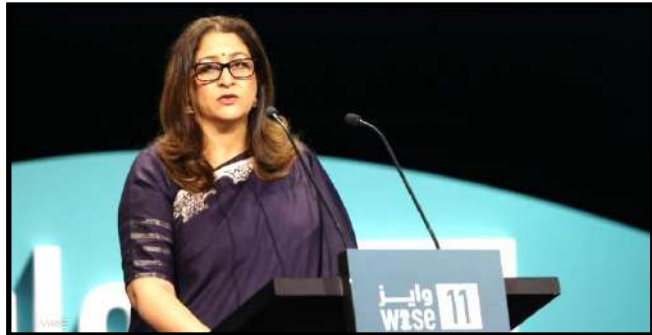


Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Corporation Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Steel Authority of India Chairperson Soma Mondal and Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw are the four Indians in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Powerful Women' for 2023.

Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fifth year in a row, ranking at number 32. While Malhotra was ranked 60th, Mondal took the 70th spot and Mazumdar-Shaw the 76th.

The list is topped by Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen, a German physician and politician serving as the 13th President of the European Commission. She is followed by Christine Lagarde, President, European Central Bank and Kamala Harris, Vice President of USA.

Safeena Hussain: Founder of NGO 'Educate Girls,' has become the first Indian woman to bag the WISE Prize worth \$ 5 lakh for mobilising 14 lakh out of school girls in Indian villages to get back to mainstream education. Working in partnership with the Government, Educate Girls currently operates successfully in over 24,000 villages of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.



Founded in 2009 by Qatar Foundation, WISE (World Innovation Summit for Education) has become a global point of reference for new educational paradigms.

Sqn Ldr Manisha Padhi: A Squadron Leader in the Indian Air Force, was appointed on Nov 29 as India's first woman Aide-De-Camp (ADC) from the Indian Armed Forces. She has been attached to the Governor of Mizoram. An ADC is a personal assistant or secretary to a person of high rank, including head of state.

Jason Dylan Bretfelean: The 19-year-old handsome hunk from Hyderabad created history on Nov 26 by emerging victorious amongst the 36 contestants from across the world at the 9th Mister Global pageant held in Mahasarakham, Thailand.

This momentous achievement makes him the first Indian to clinch this prestigious title. Earlier, he had won the Rubaru Mr. India Global 2023 title to make his way to the Mister Global pageant.

Iga Swiatek: The Polish tennis star, secured the top spot in the 2023 Forbes' list of highest-paid women athletes released on Dec 21. With a total earning of \$23.9 million, she has reached the top for the first time. The only Indian in the list is badminton star PV Sindhu, joint-16th with Simone Biles, American gymnast, with a total earning of \$7.1 million.



Taylor Swift: 34-year-old American pop singer has been named "Time Magazine's Person of the Year" for 2023. Winner of 12 Grammy and several other awards, she is one of the most popular and the richest singers. Beyond the accolades and financial success, Swift's ability to connect with audiences on a global scale showcases the enduring power of her artistry.

Her recent tour 'Eras' has set a new benchmark in the music industry by becoming the first tour to surpass the billion-dollar mark in gross ticket sales and is projected to reach two billion dollar mark.

Lionel Messi: Argentina's football icon was named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023. 36-year-old Messi plays for both, Team Argentina and the Inter Miami CF of USA. Winner of record eight Ballon d'Or awards, he is regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time.

NOVEMBER

Shital Mahajan: Noted Indian skydiver jumped off a helicopter from the height of 21,500 ft in front of the world's highest peak, Mt Everest on Nov 13, becoming the first woman in the world to do so. Mahajan landed at Kala Patthar peak at an altitude 17,444 ft.



Shiv Nadar: Chairman Emeritus of HCL Technologies topped the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023, released by Hurun India and EdelGive in October end. Shiv and Azim Premji of Wipro topped the list by giving away ₹2,042 crore and ₹1,774 crore, respectively, for Arts and Culture and Education.

This year's EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023 features individuals who have donated Rs 5 crore or more during the period under review. The list is a ranking of 1,319 wealthiest individuals in India. 25 new philanthropists debuted in the 2023 list.

APPOINTMENTS

DECEMBER

FIVE STATES GET NEW CHIEF MINISTERS

As per the recent assembly elections held in five states and results declared on Dec 3 (Dec 4 for Mizoram), party MLAs of various states elected their new leader as under:

Madhya Pradesh: Dr Mohan Yadav from BJP

Chhattisgarh: Vishnu Deo Sai from BJP

Rajasthan: Bhajan Lal Sharma from BJP

Telangana: Revanth Reddy from Congress

Mizoram: Lalduhoma from Zoram People's Movement



Abdel Fattah al-Sisi: Re-elected as the President of Egypt for a third six-year term, after winning 89.6 percent of the votes.

Donald Tusk: Elected as Poland's Prime Minister by its Parliament.

NOVEMBER

Dr Anish Shah: Elected as the new President of apex Indian industry body FICCI, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, for next year. Dr Shah is the Group CEO of Mahindra Group and the Managing Director of M&M.

Vinay M. Tonse: Appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI) until November 30, 2025, by the Government of India.

Pankaj Tripathi: Acclaimed Bollywood actor was selected as "UPI Safety Ambassador" by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to popularise safety awareness on digital payment platforms.

Heeralal Samariya: The current Information Commissioner was sworn-in as the Chief Information Commissioner on Nov 6. He was administered the oath of office by the President Droupadi Murmu in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Javier Milei: Right-wing populist leader was elected as the new President of Argentina on Nov 19.

Pedro Sánchez: Top socialist leader re-elected for the second time as the Prime Minister of the Government of Spain on Nov 16.

Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar: Elected as the 17th King of Malaysia for a term of 5 years by its royal families. He will take over from the incumbent King Al-Sultan Abdullah on 31st January next year.

AWARDS & HONOURS

DECEMBER



Indira Gandhi Peace Prize: Formally known as Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, awarded jointly to Daniel Barenboim, Argentina-born distinguished classical pianist and conductor; and Ali Abu Awwad, eminent Palestinian peace activist, for their efforts towards a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The prize given by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, carries a cash award of Rs. 2.5 million and a citation.

33rd Vyas Samman, 2023: Awarded to veteran Hindi writer Pushpa Bharati for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein." A recipient of several awards, 88-year-old Bharati ji is celebrated in literary circles for her unique writing style and effective use of language.

The award includes a cash prize of ₹4 lakh, a citation, and a plaque. Instituted by the K K Birla Foundation in 1991, the Vyas Samman acknowledges exceptional Hindi literary works by Indian citizens published in the last 10 years.

Film awards at the IFFI at Goa



The 54th International Film Festival of India concluded on Nov 28 in Goa with the final award ceremony.

Golden Peacock for the Best Film: 'Endless Borders', Persian film by Abbas Amini

Silver Peacock for Best Director: Bulgarian director Stephan Komandarev for Blaga's Lessons

Silver Peacock for Best Actor (male): Pouria Rahimi Sam (Iran), Endless Borders

Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female): Melanie Thierry (France), Party of Fools

Silver Peacock for The Special Jury Award: Rishabh Shetty for Kantara

The Golden Peacock carries a cash prize of Rs. 40 lakh. Best Director and Special Jury Award carry a cash award of Rs 15 lakh while Best Actors get a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh each.

Order of Merit of the Italian Republic: Italy's highest civilian honour was bestowed on veteran actor Kabir Bedi on Dec 10 at a private ceremony held in Mumbai for his extraordinary role in promoting better relations between India and Italy. Kabir enjoys widespread popularity across all generations in Italy.

Legion d'Honneur: Smt VR Lalithambika, a senior scientist from ISRO, was conferred this top French civilian honour for her engagement in space cooperation between France and India.

Created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion d'Honneur is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.

NOVEMBER

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022:

Awarded jointly to the Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India as representatives of the Covid warriors in the country for displaying outstanding sense of duty and devotion in serving the covid patients.

The prize is given annually in the memory of Indira Gandhi by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, since 1986. It carries a cash award of Rs. 25 lakh along with a citation.

Madhuri Dixit: Legendary actress was honoured with the 'Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema' award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa.

2023 Booker Prize: won by 46-year-old Irish writer Paul Lynch for his novel 'Prophet Song'. The storyline of the novel is set in a future Ireland under oppressive rule and explores the impact of civil war on families.

The Booker Prize is awarded to the best novel of fiction written in English and published in the UK or Ireland. It carries a cash prize of 50,000 British Pounds.

2 INDIANS AMONG 5 EARTHSHOT PRIZE WINNERS



A solar-powered tech venture that is combating crop wastage in India and a global regenerative agriculture initiative founded by a Karnataka professional are among the five winners of the Earthshot Prize. Each one of them will get a one million British Pounds funding for their project. The awards ceremony was held on Nov 7 in Singapore.

S4S Technologies, founded in 2013 by six university friends, was named the winner in the "Build a Waste-Free World" category. The Mumbai based organisation provides rural communities with cheaper solar-powered conduction dryers and food processing equipment to prepare their crops on-site, rather than using cold storage or other more expensive methods of conventional industrial food preservation.

In the "Fix Our Planet" category, Aadith Moorthy's Boomitra won the prize. Boomitra, which means "friend of the earth" in Sanskrit, was set up in 2017 and is based

in California. It is a soil carbon marketplace that generates revenue for farmers by selling the carbon credits earned by them by following sustainable land management practices. The company works with more than 150,000 farmers, managing more than 5 million acres of land in some of the poorest parts of Africa, South America and Asia.

The Earthshot Prizes were founded in 2021 by Britain's Prince William and referred to as the 'Eco Oscars'. They are awarded every year to five individuals or organisations who provide impactful and sustainable solutions for the planet's environmental problems. The project is funded by donations from philanthropists and charitable organisations

Miss Universe 2023: Sheynnis Palacios, beauty queen from Nicaragua was crowned Miss Universe on November 19 at San Salvador in El Salvador.

Miss International 2023: Won by Andrea Rubio of Venezuela on Oct 26 in Tokyo, Japan.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

DECEMBER

Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers by Sharmishtha Mukherjee, daughter of late Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India

Naye Bharat Ka Samved (नए भारत का सामवेद), Book in Hindi by Sh. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India; a collection of his speeches on Indian Constitution

The Wildest Sun by Asha Lemmie

The Mystery Guest by Nita Prose

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

Sable Peak by Devney Perry

The Fake Mate by Lana Ferguson

The Fake Out by Stephanie Archer

Same Time Next Year by Tessa Bailey

Heartstopper by Alice Oseman

NOVEMBER

Fire Bird by Perumal Murugan

Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future by Raghuram Rajan, former RBI governor and noted economist Rohit Lamba

Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal: Autobiography of ISRO Chairman S Somanath, in Malayalam.

Godly Heathens by H.E. Edgmon

Iron Flame by Rebecca Yarros

The New Naturals by Gabriel Bump

To Free the Captives by Tracy K. Smith

Check & Mate by Ali Hazelwood

Bookshops & Bonedust by Travis Baldree

The Mystery Guest by Nita Prose

OBITUARY

DECEMBER



Henry Kissinger:

Former United States Secretary of State (Foreign Minister) and 1973 Nobel Peace Prize winner, passed away on Nov 29 at his home in Kent in the state of Connecticut, USA. Kissinger had an

unparalleled strong effect on US foreign policy and external affairs in the early seventies.

He served under two presidents — Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford — between 1969 and 1977. He was regarded as an accomplished diplomat, expert political scientist and a learned geopolitical consultant.

NOVEMBER

Dr BN Goswamy: Eminent art historian and art critic, who ruled the hearts of art lovers like few before him, passed away on Nov 17 in Chandigarh. He was 90. He quit the coveted IAS job to devote a lifetime to research and academics.

Author of over 26 books, recipient of Padma Bhushan, his eloquence of speech matched the profoundness of his written words. A renowned scholar, he spent his entire life studying, teaching, lecturing and popularising art for the common man.

Prithvi Raj Singh aka Biki Oberoi: The inheritor of India's first five-star hotel chain, Oberoi, and the man who transformed the Indian hospitality industry and built some of the world's finest hotels, setting new standards for luxury in hospitality, passed away in New



Delhi on Nov 14 at the age of 94 years.

Son of late Rai Bahadur Mohan Singh Oberoi, the founder of The Oberoi Group, he took over as the Chairman of EIH Limited – the flagship of the Oberoi Group – in

2002, following the death of his father.

Under his able leadership, the Oberoi group's business expanded not only to hotels but also to cruises and resorts in seven countries under three brands — Oberoi Hotels & Resorts, Trident Hotels and Maiden Hotel. He was conferred the Padma Vibhushan in 2008 for his exceptional services to the country.

Subrata Roy: The founder of Sahara India Group, popularly respected as Saharasri, passed away on Nov 14 after battling a prolonged illness in a Mumbai hospital. He was 75 years old.

His death marks the end of an era for the Indian business landscape, where he was known for his vast empire that spanned various sectors including finance, media, entertainment, and real estate.

Starting with just Rs 2,000 and a scooter in 1977, selling deposits to homemakers in Gorakhpur, he built an empire that, at its zenith, was second only to the Indian government in terms of employment, with a workforce of over 12 lakh, with more than nine crore investors.

D N Ghosh: Noted bureaucrat, administrator, financial authority, who played a key role in formulating the government's strategy in nationalisation of banks in India, breathed his last on Nov 07 at a hospital in Calcutta. He was 95.

He served as Chairman of State Bank of India (1985-89). After retiring from SBI, Ghosh served on several private sector boards, including Philips, L&T, Peerless, HDFC and ICRA, among others.

PLACES IN NEWS

DECEMBER

Bengaluru International Airport

The Terminal-2 of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport has been named one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an



Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles. The Prix Versailles awards celebrate outstanding achievements in architecture and design on a global scale.

Designed to accommodate 25 million passengers annually, the airport seamlessly blends functionality with aesthetic appeal, captivating passengers through meticulously curated art and décor elements as part of a recently launched art program.

Gansu province: A 6.2 magnitude earthquake hit mountainous Gansu province of north-west China around midnight on Dec 19, also shaking neighbouring Qinghai province. More than 5,000 buildings in the area collapsed, killing around 150 people in the country's deadliest earthquake in recent years.

More than 700 were reported injured in below freezing icy conditions. Disruption of power and water supplies hindered rescue efforts. This remote region is one of China's poorest and most ethnically diverse areas.

NOVEMBER

Ayodhya: City of Lord Rama entered the Guinness Book of World Records on Nov 11 for lighting up 22.23 lakh 'diyas' simultaneously at one place, to celebrate the Deepotsav. The feat was achieved by 25,000 volunteers at the 51 ghats of Ram ki Pauri along the Saryu River.

The number this year was 6.47 lakh more than last year's record. Diplomats from 54 countries witnessed the seventh Deepotsav in Ayodhya and the live telecast of the celebration was broadcast in over 100 countries.



Jajarkot and West Rukum: These two districts in Nepal were hit by a 6.4 Richter magnitude earthquake late night on Nov 3, killing over 150 people and seriously injuring equal numbers. Hundreds of houses were flattened by the tremor.

Storm Ciaran: A strong cyclone battered north-west Europe on Nov 02 with torrential rains and winds up to 200 kilometres per hour. Parts of northern France, England, Spain and the Netherlands were among the worst affected areas. Thousands of homes were damaged, schools forced shut and airline and train services came to a halt.

Hurricane Otis: A very powerful category 5 cyclonic storm devastated the coastal city of Acapulco on Oct 26 in southwest Mexico on the Pacific coast. Tens of thousands of residents were struck in damaged homes, suffering without electricity. Flash floods caused by torrential rains claimed at least 30 lives.



SPORTS WORLD

DECEMBER

Grandmaster D Gukesh clinched the title In Chennai Grand Masters 2023 tournament on Dec 21 by holding compatriot P Harikrishna for a draw.

Vaishali Rameshbabu: In a historic achievement for Indian chess, she became the third Indian female GrandMaster on Dec 01 by crossing 2,500 International Chess Federation (FIDE) ranking points during the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain. The other two female GMs are Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.

22-year-old Vaishali is elder sister of GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, making them the first brother-sister pair in history of Grandmasters.

Antim Panghal, 19-year-old girl wrestler from Haryana has been named the "Rising Star of the Year" among women by the United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport's global governing body.

Sheetal Devi, an Indian para-archer, winner of two gold and one silver medal in the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, was selected as "Best Youth Athlete" at the fourth edition of the Asian Awards hosted by the Asian Paralympic Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

National Sports Awards 2023 announced

The Government announced the National Sports Awards 2023 on Dec 20 in New Delhi. The top sports honour, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, was given to Badminton players Chirag C Shetty and Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy for their outstanding achievements in the last four years. The award named after the legendary wizard of Hockey, comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of ₹25 lakh.

Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance:

The award comprises a bronze statuette of Arjuna, certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. Winners for 2023 are:

Ojas Pravin Deotale (archery), Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Murali Sreeshankar (athletics), Parul Chaudhary (athletics), Mohameed Hussamuddin (boxing), R Vaishali (chess), Mohammed Shami (cricket), Anush Agarwalla (equestrian), Divyakriti Singh (equestrian dressage), Diksha Dagar (golf), Krishan Bahadur Pathak (hockey), Sushila Chanu (hockey), Pawan Kumar (kabaddi), Ritu Negi (kabaddi), Nasreen (kho-kho), Pinki (lawn bowls), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), Esha Singh (shooting), Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (squash), Ayhika Mukherjee (table tennis), Sunil Kumar (wrestling), Antim (wrestling), Naorem Roshibina Devi (wushu), Sheetal Devi (para archery), Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy (blind cricket), Prachi Yadav (para canoeing).



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पानीपत की लड़ाइयों की सच्चाई

Today we are going to talk about these 4

**ਗੁਰੂ ਅਰਜਨ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਮਾਤਾ ਜੀ
ਕੌਣ ਸਨ ?**

a. ਮਾਤਾ ਭਾਨੀ
b. ਮਾਤਾ ਚੀਫੀ
c. ਮਾਤਾ ਸੁਲੱਖਣੀ
d. ਮਾਤਾ ਗੁਬਰੀ

International Jaguar Day
November 29

The largest wild cat in North America is honoured as an emblem of sustainable development, an umbrella species for the preservation of biodiversity, and a part of the rich cultural heritage of Central and South America.



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Dronacharya Award (regular) for coaches:

The award comprises a bronze statuette of Dronacharya (legendary Guru of Mahabharata times), a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. Lalit Kumar (wrestling), RB Ramesh (chess), Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para-athletics), Shivendra Singh (hockey), Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar (mallakhamb).

Dronacharya Award (life-time): Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf), Bhaskaran E (kabaddi), Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis).

Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement: Given for the lifetime contribution to sports development, the award comprises a Dhyan Chand statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh. Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey), Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023 for top performance in the inter-university tournaments, was secured by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. *The awardees will receive their awards from President Droupadi Murmu in a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the 9th of next month.*

FIH Hockey Star Awards 2023: Hardik Singh, Indian hockey team midfielder, was named the men's FIH Player of the Year 2023 on Dec 19. Dutch player Xan de Waard, was declared FIH Women's Player of the Year. Indian women's hockey team captain Savita Punia won the best goalkeeper of the year award. *FIH, International Hockey Federation is the world governing body for Hockey.*

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Haryana cricket team secured their first title triumph in Vijay Hazare Trophy on Dec 16 by beating Rajasthan in Rajkot, Gujarat.

Haryana tops in Khelo India Para Games

The first-ever Khelo India Para Games which started on Dec 10 in New Delhi, concluded on Dec 17. Haryana became the overall champion by securing 105 medals including 40 gold, 39 silver, and 26 bronze. 1450 athletes from 32 states and UTs including the Services Sports Control Board participated in the 8-day event.



IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023: The 26-member squad secured 17 medals including three gold, nine silver and five bronze medals at the event that concluded on Dec 04 in Yerevan, Armenia. All three golds were secured by girls, Payal, Nisha and Akansha.



13th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship: Punjab won the tournament on Nov 28 by defeating defending Champions Haryana in the final played in Chennai.

Tamil Nadu to host Khelo India Youth Games

The 6th Khelo India Youth Games will be held from January 19 to 31 in 2024. The upcoming edition will take place in Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore. More than 5,500 sports persons and more than 1600 coaches are expected to participate in 27 sports.

The mascot for the Games is 'VeeraMangai'. The mascot represents legendary freedom fighter Rani Velu Nachiyar, who is commonly referred to as 'VeeraMangai' in the state, which stands for 'brave woman', as she was the first Indian queen to go to war against the British-run East India Company.

KIYG are the annual national level multidisciplinary grassroot games held in January or February for two categories, namely under-17 school students and under-21 college students. 5th KIYG were hosted in Feb, 2023 by Bhopal.

INTERNATIONAL

ITF World Champions - 2023

Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) were honoured as the International Tennis Federation's World Champions - 2023 after being the only singles players to reach at least the semifinals at all four Grand Slam tournaments this year.

Davis Cup (Tennis): Italy won the cup for the first time since 1976, defeating Australia on Nov 26 in Malaga, Spain.

NOVEMBER

Ace Indian golfer Aditi Ashok secured her second victory of the Ladies European Tour season on Nov 26 by winning Andalucia Costa del Sol Open de España in Marbella, Spain.



Vidya Pillai from Bengaluru became the first Indian woman on Nov 24 to win an individual world snooker title by securing Gold at the World 6 Red Women Snooker Championships in Doha, Qatar. *Six-red snooker is a short version of snooker, played with only six red balls on the table, as opposed to the usual 15.*

Pankaj Advani, ace Indian cueist lifted his 26th world title by winning the World IBSF Billiards Championship 2023 on Nov 21 in Doha, Qatar. He defeated fellow opponent Sourav Kothari with a 1000-416 margin in the final.

International Master R Vaishali became the first Indian to win the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 on Nov 5 at the Isle of Man in the UK. At the same event, Grand Master Vidit Gujrathi claimed his title in the open category.

Rohit Sharma, Indian captain crossed another milestone on Nov 15 by hitting the greatest number of sixes at World Cups, blasting his 50th sixer, playing against New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.

Mohammed Shami, top Indian pacer, playing against New Zealand on Nov 15, became the first Indian bowler to pick up 50 wickets in the ODI World Cups, that too with the fastest rate, in just 17 innings. He also notched the record for most five-wicket hauls, four, in the history of World Cups, including a record 7 wicket haul in this match.

Virat Kohli, a charismatic batter, scaled the mountain of tons on Nov 15, becoming the first player in the history of cricket to score a half-century of ODI centuries. He crossed the milestone at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, playing against New Zealand. He surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's earlier record of 49 centuries, achieved on the same date at the same venue in 2013.

79th Senior National Squash Championships, Chennai: 15-year-old Anahat Singh won the women's title while Velavan Senthilkumar won the men's title on Nov 23.

ICC Men's Cricket World Cup: Australia lifted the cup defeating India by six wickets in the final played on Nov 19 at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad. Virat Kohli was declared "Player of the Tournament" for scoring 765 runs in 11 innings, the highest-ever in a single edition of the World Cup. Mohammed Shami became the top wicket taker of the tournament, scalping 24 wickets in just 7 matches.

37th National Games 2023: The mega national sports event concluded on Nov 09 in a grand closing ceremony at Shyama Prasad Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa. Maharashtra won the Raja Bhalendra Singh trophy for overall championship, securing 228 medals including 80 gold.

Best woman athlete trophy was given to gymnast Pranati Naik (Odisha) and gymnast Sanyukta Kale (Maharashtra) while the trophy for best athlete, men, was won by Karnataka swimmer Shrihari Natraj. The torch for national games was handed over to Uttarakhand for hosting the 38th National Games.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Punjab won their maiden title in the T20 tournament with a 20-run win over Baroda in finals played on Nov 06 in Mohali, Punjab.

Asian Champions Trophy: Indian women's Hockey team dethroned 2021 winner Japan on Nov 05 to crown themselves winners at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Amol Muzumdar, the former Mumbai batsman, has been named as the head coach of the Indian women's national cricket team.

INTERNATIONAL

Novak Djokovic won the record seventh ATP title on Nov 19 at the ATP Finals defeating Jannik Sinner in Turin, Italy. The 36-year-old Serbian star also entered a record-extending 400th week at the top of the world rankings.



Ballon d'Or Awards 2023: Lionel Messi, Argentinian star footballer and Inter Miami captain won a record-extending eighth Ballon d'Or trophy for the best footballer of the year on Oct 30 in a glittering ceremony in Paris, France. The Women's Ballon d'Or was won by Spain's Aitana Bonmati.



Erling Haaland, Manchester City striker won the Gerd Muller Trophy for scoring the most number of goals (56) in the last season. Emiliano Martinez won the Yashin Trophy for the Best Goalkeeper. These prestigious Football awards are given annually by the popular French news magazine, France Football, since 1956. The Ballon d'Or in French means Golden Ball.

Sultan of Johor Cup 2023: Germany won the under 21 men's hockey championship on Nov 4 by defeating Australia in Johar, Malaysia.

4th Asian Para Games, Hangzhou, (Oct 22-28): India created history by winning a record 111 medals, comprising 29 gold, 31 silver, and 51 bronze. This remarkable feat superseded India's previous best of 72 medals, achieved in the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia.

India secured 5th rank in the medal tally. China secured the top spot with 521 medals that included 214 gold, 167 silver and 140 bronze.

Angelo Matthews: Sri Lankan all-rounder became the first international cricketer to be given 'timed out' on Nov 6 after not being ready to face the ball within two minutes of the fall of a wicket against Bangladesh in a World Cup match in New Delhi.

Matthews entered the ground to bat after the dismissal of Sadeera Samarawickrama but had some issues with his helmet strap and signaled for a replacement, prompting Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan to appeal for a 'time out'.

According to ICC Playing rules, the new batter must reach the crease within two minutes of the last player getting out.

DAYS & DATES

JANUARY

Date	Event/ Day
01	Global Family Day
04	World Braille Day
06	World Day of War Orphans
08	African National Congress Foundation Day
09	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas/ NRI Day
10	World Hindi day
11	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day; Amavasya
12	National Youth Day; Swami Vivekanand Jayanti
14	Armed Forces Veterans Day; Lohri
15	Indian Army Day; Makar Sankranti; Bhogali Bihu; Pongal; Uttarayan
16	National Startup Day
23	Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti, (Parakram Diwas)
24	National Girl Child Day; International Day of Education
25	National Voters Day; National Tourism Day; Purnima
26	Republic Day; International Customs Day
28	Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai; World Leprosy Day (Last Sunday)
30	Martyrs Day or Shaheed Diwas; Anti Leprosy Day

DECEMBER

December 01: World AIDS Day

Observed across the world to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS. The day aims to spread factual information such as the fact that Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a contagious virus that leads to Acquired ImmunoDeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS is the last stage of the HIV virus.

The day also throws emphasis on the fact that HIV can NOT be spread by touching or coughing or handshake or sharing food with the HIV-infected person. It can only spread through unprotected sexual contact with a person or infected needles and infected blood. The theme for the Day this year is "Let communities lead".



December 02: National Pollution Control Day



Observed annually in India in memory of the people who lost their lives in the tragic 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy. The horrific industrial accident took place in the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal where leakage of highly poisonous Methyl Isocyanate - MIC gas on the mid-night of Dec 2-3 killed thousands of people and maimed lakhs of other persons with various ailments.

The day aims to raise awareness among not only people but the authorities as well regarding the hazard of industrial pollutants and the harmful impact they can have on future generations.

December 2: World Computer Literacy Day

The day aims to promote awareness about computers and to encourage people to use them efficiently. The day was introduced by the Indian computer company NIIT in the year 2001 to promote technological skills, especially in children and women, and to inspire them to learn more and make their work easier and faster by the use of computers.

The history of the computer can be traced back to the early 1820s when Charles Babbage designed the 'Difference Engine,' a mechanical computer capable of performing simple calculations.

Dec 02: International Day for Abolition of Slavery

Observed to spread awareness about ending human trafficking and the exploitation of humans. The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

There is no clear definition of modern slavery but it is considered as debt bondage, human trafficking, forced labour and forced marriages. Essentially, it refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power. An estimated 50 million people are still in modern slavery, including 28 million in forced labour and 22 million in forced marriage.

Dec 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Also called World Disability Day, it is observed every year to address the problems faced by persons with disabilities (PwD) around the world. The Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

The theme selected by the UNO for this Day in 2023 is "United in action to rescue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for, with, and by persons with disabilities".

December 4: National/Indian Navy Day

Celebrated every year to mark the decisive Indian victory over Pakistan in 1971 through Indian Navy's Operation Trident on Dec 4-5 in which the Indian Navy inflicted heavy damage on Karachi harbour and destroyed two Pakistani warships and one cargo ship.

The Indian Navy was established by the East India Company in 1612. Later, it was named as Royal Indian Navy and post-Independence, it was reconstituted as the Indian Navy in 1950. Admiral R Hari Kumar is the current chief of the Indian Navy.

December 4: International Day of Banks

Observed globally with the support of UNO to highlight the vital role of banking systems in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living of the people and strengthening of economies.

It also recognises the significant role played by multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing of sustainable development.

"Achieve sustainable development goals and improve the global financial architecture" is the theme of the Day for 2023.

December 05: World Soil Day

The day is observed to focus on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources. There are more living organisms in a tablespoon of soil than people on Earth.

A world in itself, soil holds all the minerals, organic components, and organisms and needs to be protected from degradation to ensure nutrient-rich plant life.

This year's theme for the Day is 'Soil and water, a source of life.' This theme underscores the vital link between soil and water, which collectively contribute to over 95 percent of our food production.



December 5: International Volunteer Day



Also called International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, it was established by the United Nations in 1985 as an opportunity for people around the world to come together and celebrate the power and potential of volunteerism.

This day is an opportunity for everyone to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts at local, national, and international levels. The theme for the Day this year is "The Power of Collective Action: If Everyone Did."

December 7: Armed Forces Flag Day

Observed throughout the country since 1949 to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought and continue to fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour.

Flag Day brings to the forefront our commitment to looking after our war disabled soldiers, valiant women and the families of martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country.

It is an opportunity for collecting funds that can be used for the welfare of ex-servicemen. In India, there are more than 26 lakhs Armed Forces pensioners/family pensioners and approximately 55,000 pensioners are added every year owing to the superannuation.

December 7: International Civil Aviation Day

This day is celebrated worldwide every year to reinforce awareness of the role and importance of the International Civil Aviation Organisation in air travel across the globe.

The ICAO based in Montreal, Canada, is an autonomous UN Body accountable for monitoring the safety standards of international aviation. The ICAO council has decided to follow one theme for five years, till 2023, as "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".

December 09: International Anti-Corruption Day

Celebrated every year with UN support to spread awareness against corruption. The day also highlights the role of the "United Nations Convention against Corruption" (UNCAC of Oct 2003) in combating and preventing corruption. It aims to make people aware of the repercussions of indulging in corruption and motivate them to follow a righteous path.

This year's theme for the Day is "UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption." The theme aims to combine efforts to combat corruption globally and stand against bribery, misuse of public funds, and any such unethical practices.

December 09: National Submarine Day

The Indian Navy celebrates this day to commemorate the induction of its first submarine, the erstwhile INS Kalvari, on this day in 1967. The Soviet Russia made Foxtrot class submarine was decommissioned on the 31st May, 1996, after 29 years of meritorious service. This day is also observed to remember and honour submariners who made supreme sacrifice in their service.

As per the extant practice of Navy to keep the names alive, a new modern indigenously built submarine was commissioned in the Indian Navy in December, 2017 with the same name – INS Kalvari.

December 10: Human Rights Day

The day marks the anniversary of its adoption by the UNO in 1948, the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (UDHR). It is a historic document that proclaims the inseparable rights of every human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or another status.

This year's theme for the Day is "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All".

In India, the Human Rights Act came into effect on September 28, 1993. On October 12, 1993, the National Human Rights Commission was established. Justice Arun Kumar Mishra is its current Chairman.

December 11: International Mountain Day

Observed with support from UNO to encourage sustainable development in mountains all over the world. Mountains cover over 27% of earth's surface and are home to 15% of the world's population and a quarter of the world's land animals and plants.

They provide fresh water (through rivers) to half of humanity. Unfortunately, mountains are under threat from climate change and overexploitation.

The theme for 2023 is "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems." Their conservation is part of Goal 15 of the SDGs.

Remember!! India celebrates a similar "Himalayan Day" on Sep 09.



December 11: UNICEF Day



Celebrated every year to mark the establishment of UNICEF on this day in 1946. UNICEF endeavours to protect the rights of every child, everywhere, across more than 190 countries.

It is the world's largest provider of vaccines and works for supporting child health and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, quality education and skill building.

The UN General Assembly created the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF on December 11, 1946 to provide essential supplies, assistance and to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children after massive destruction by World War II.

However, in 1953, it became a permanent agency of the UNO, and the words 'International' and 'Emergency' were dropped from the official name but the acronym continued as UNICEF. Its headquarter is in New York and the current head is Ms. Catherine M Russell.

December 12: International Universal Health Coverage Day

The day celebrated with support from WHO aims to promote stronger, more equitable health systems to achieve universal health coverage, leaving no one out. It marks the anniversary of the United Nations' historic and unanimous endorsement of universal health coverage in 2012.

This year's theme for the Day is "Health for All: Time for Action". It aims for taking immediate and tangible steps for making Universal Health Coverage a ground reality for all.

Dec. 14: The National Energy Conservation Day

It is celebrated every year by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), an agency under the Ministry of Power. It aims to raise awareness among the general public about the importance of energy conservation and energy efficiency.

Energy conservation is an effort made to reduce the consumption of fuel and use the least energy resources to save the same for the future.

BEE is a constitutional body that helps in the development of policies and strategies in order to reduce energy use. It was set up on 1st March 2002 under the provision of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

It may be noted that World Energy Conservation Day is also observed on this date.

December 15: International Tea Day

Every year India and several tea producing countries celebrate this day to draw the attention of governments towards global tea trade and its impact on workers and growers. World's first tea estate was established in Assam by the Assam Company India Ltd which began the commercial production of tea in 1839.

Today, India is the second largest tea producer (after China) worldwide, with 13,000 tea gardens, employing a workforce of more than 2 million people.

It may be noted that the United Nations General Assembly has designated May 21 as International Tea Day as the season of tea production begins in May in most of the tea producing countries.

December 16: Vijay Diwas

Observed every year to mark the Indian armed forces victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that ended on December 16 with the creation of Bangladesh.

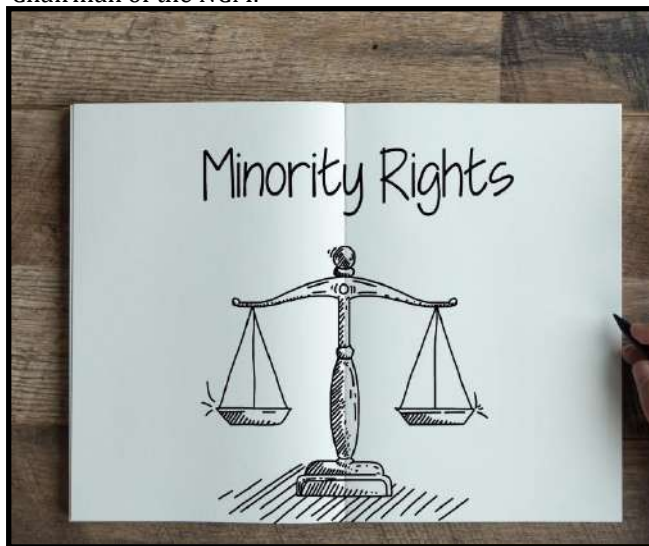
On this day, Pakistan Army's General A A K Niazi, alongwith 93,000 soldiers, surrendered before the Indian Army led by Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, in Dhaka, leading to creation of a new nation "Bangladesh".

On this day, the nation pays tribute to brave soldiers of India and Bangladesh who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

December 18: Minorities Rights Day

It is celebrated by the National Commission for Minorities in India which focuses on religious harmony, respect, and a better understanding of all minorities' communities. In India, six communities have been notified as 'minority' namely Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jain.

The Union Government established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in 1993 under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 to protect and promote the rights and interests of minority communities. Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura is the current Chairman of the NCM.



December 18: International Migrants Day



It is observed every year to protect the rights of migrant workers and of members of their families. The UN Migration Agency - International Organisation for Migrants (IOM), based in Geneva, Switzerland, defines a migrant as “any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence”.

According to the UN, the number of migrants globally reached approximately 281 million in 2020, representing 3.6 per cent of the global population, while over 59 million people were displaced internally by the end of 2021. This year's theme for the day is “Act Today for a Better Tomorrow for All: Improving the Health of Migrants to Unleash the Power of Migration.”

December 20: International Human Solidarity Day

The day seeks to celebrate the world's unity in diversity. The day was declared by the U N General Assembly, on December 22, 2005. Its sole objective is to promote cultural equality and social justice to bring social development into developing countries.

Solidarity is defined as an awareness of shared interests and objectives that create a psychological sense of unity. Solidarity also refers to the ties in a society that bind people together as one.

December 22: National Mathematics Day

Celebrated to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

Born on December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu, his theory of numbers contains revolutionary findings of the properties of the functions of partition. Unfortunately, he passed away at an early age of 32 years due to Tuberculosis in 1920.

December 23: National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)

It is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of veteran farmer leader and former Prime Minister of India (28 July, 79 to 14 January, 80), Chaudhary Charan Singh, with the focus on the upliftment of the status of farmers.

He introduced many farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers. Fondly popular as Chaudhary Saheb, he breathed his last on January 14, 1980. A memorial dedicated to him was built at Raj Ghat and is called 'Kisan Ghat'.

December 24: The National Consumer Day

On this day, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the President. This act was replaced by a new act with the same name in August, 2019.

The Act aims to provide consumers with effective safeguards against different types of exploitation, such as defective goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade practices, etc.

The day provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the need to make every consumer more aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Remember! World Consumer Day is celebrated on 15th March.

December 25: Good Governance Day

The day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to raise awareness about accountability in governance among the people of India.

The day was established in 2014 to honour the Bharat Ratna Shri Vajpayee. He breathed his last at the age of 93 on 16 August, 2018. His samadhi 'Sadaiv Atal' has been built in New Delhi.

December 26: Veer Bal Diwas

On the day of the Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Gobind Singh in 2022, the Prime Minister had announced that 26th December will be observed as “Veer Bal Diwas” to mark the martyrdom of Sri Guru Gobind Singh's sons Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh (9) and Baba Fateh Singh (7).

It is said that after being captured by the then Mughal Nawab of Sirhind in 1704, the two Sahibzadas were asked to convert to Islam. But they sternly refused and affirmed their deep commitment to Sikhism.

This fearless attitude of the Sahibzadas infuriated the Nawab and he ordered them to be bricked alive. The sacred wall has been preserved as Bhora Sahib, located in Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib, Sirhind, in Punjab.

December 27: The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

The day aims to promote international awareness and action on the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics. The day was first observed in 2020 on a call by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate the importance of collective preparedness to fight against epidemics. The day aims to raise awareness, the exchange of information, scientific knowledge and best practices, quality education, and advocacy programmes on epidemics at the local, national, regional and global levels as effective measures to prevent and respond to epidemics.

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NATIONAL NEWS

OCTOBER

- President of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan arrived in New Delhi on Oct 8 on a four-day State visit to India.
 - ✓ *She was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by Jawaharlal Nehru University for fostering stronger India-Tanzania relations.*
- Country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) was launched on Oct 20 at Sahibabad in Uttar Pradesh, next to the eastern border of Delhi.
- India launched "Operation Ajay" on Oct 11 to facilitate the return of Indians struck in Israel.
- The Competition Commission of India hosted the 8th BRICS International Competition Conference (BRICS ICC) on Oct 11-13 in New Delhi.
- The Global Innovation Index released by World Intellectual Property Organisation, placed India at 40th spot. The Index was topped by Switzerland.
- The Global Pension Index of 47 countries, ranked India at 45th place. The Netherlands topped the rankings.
- India was ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index released on October 12.
- The World Talent Ranking released by IMD, Switzerland, placed India at 56th spot out of 64 economies. Switzerland topped the ranking.

SEPTEMBER

- The Parliament passed the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Sep 21 to reserve for women one-third of the total seats in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and Delhi Assembly.

- ✓ The Women's Reservation Bill, also called "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam", suggests 33% quota, the law suggests sub-reservation for SCs and STs.
- The 18th G20 Leaders' Summit was held on Sep 9-10 09 at the Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - ✓ In the One Earth session, India and several other countries launched the 'Global Biofuels Alliance', urging members to make efforts to take ethanol blending with petrol, globally to 20 per cent.
 - ✓ Strengthening the 'One Family' concept, the African Union-AU was inducted as a permanent member of the G20. Chairman of the African Union, Azali Assoumani, represented the AU.
 - ✓ The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment was launched for establishing a direct trade corridor from India to Europe, via Dubai and the Middle East.
 - ✓ "G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration" was adopted unanimously on concluding day, reflecting the growing stature of India at the world stage.
 - ✓ In the closing ceremony, P M Modi handed over the ceremonial gavel to the President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva for the next year presidency of G-20.
- PM Modi visited Indonesia on Sep 6-7 to attend the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit.
- The 43rd annual summit of the ASEAN was held on Sep 5-6-7 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

- One of the world's largest MICE facilities, the India International Convention and Expo Centre 'Yashobhoomi' was inaugurated on Sep 17 in Dwarka, New Delhi.
 - ✓ MICE stand for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions. The complex has been developed by the India Trade Promotion Organisation, ITPO, under Government of India.
 - ✓ The National Medical Commission of India has been awarded the coveted World Federation for Medical Education recognition status for a tenure of 10 years.
 - ✓ As a result of this, Indian medical graduates can now pursue post-graduation and practice in countries like the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was granted deemed university status on Sep 01.
 - ✓ The NCERT will now be able to start its own high standard research-oriented courses in unique and new emerging areas and award its own for graduation, postgraduate and doctoral degrees.
- The third unit of the indigenously developed 700-megawatt electric (Mwe) nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP3) in Gujarat commenced operations at full capacity on Aug 31.
- India became the 13th country in the world that can issue internationally accepted OIML (International Organisation of Legal Metrology) Certificates.
 - ✓ Domestic makers of weighing and measuring instruments can now get their products tested within the country and sell them in the international market.
- The Digital Quality of Life Index by Surfshark for 121 countries, placed France at the top, followed by Finland and Denmark. India was ranked 52nd in the world.
- As per a report by the Canadian think tank Fraser Institute, Singapore pushed Hong Kong to second place to claim the title of the world's freest economy, marking the end of Hong Kong's 53-year reign at the top.

AUGUST

- PM Modi participated in the 15th BRICS Summit on August 22-24 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

- ✓ Later, he travelled to Greece on August 25 where he was conferred "The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour", the country's top civilian honour.
- NTPC started a trial run of India's first ever hydrogen bus on a public road in Leh on August 18 at a height of 11,562 ft., along with a 1.7 MW of dedicated solar power plant.
- The BRO started construction of the world's highest motorable road, 64 km long 'Likaru - Mig La - Fukche' road, at an altitude of 19,400 feet, surpassing the previous record of Umling-La road at 19,300 feet.
- The G20 Film Festival was held in New Delhi from Aug 16 to Sep 03, starting with the screening of Satyajit Ray's iconic film Pather Panchali.
- NITI Aayog hosted a two-day G20 conference on the Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy on July 28-29 in New Delhi.

JULY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Paris on July 13-14 at the official invitation of the President of France, Emmanuel Macron.
 - ✓ He was the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade. He was conferred with France's highest honour "The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour".
 - ✓ He visited Abu Dhabi on the 15th of July to hold bilateral talks with the UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe reached New Delhi on July 20 for a two-day official visit to India.
 - ✓ Sri Lanka agreed to link their LankaPay payment system with India's UPI for operations in Sri Lanka.
- India's largest International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre complex named 'Bharat Mandapam' was dedicated to the nation on July 26 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The Multidimensional Poverty Index covering 110 countries, was released on July 11 by the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative at the University of Oxford in Britain.
 - ✓ India saw a remarkable reduction in poverty, with 415 million people exiting poverty within a span of just 15 years (2005/6-19/21).

- A war memorial named “V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial” was inaugurated at Montone (Perugia, Italy) as a tribute to the Indian troops who fought during Italian Campaign in July 1944 during the Second World War.
- India’s first ECT–elevated cross taxiway (runway) was inaugurated on July 14 at Delhi International Airport, making it the first Indian airport to have four runways. Elevated taxiway enables highways to pass under it.
- Operation “Broader Sword”, a joint multi-agency operation was carried out in June 2023 by the law enforcement agencies of the US and India.
 - ✓ More than 500 shipments of “illicit and unapproved prescription drugs” were stopped from reaching US consumers.
- India has joined the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG), accepting an invitation from the United Nations.
- The 23rd Summit of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Council of Heads of State was chaired by Prime Minister Modi on July 4.
 - ✓ India took over the presidency of the SCO in September 2022 for one year. In Sep 2023, the presidency will be handed over to Kazakhstan.
- The Startup20 Shikhar Summit under India’s G20 presidency was held on July 3-4 in Gurugram, Haryana. The summit was hosted by the Startup20 Engagement Group.
- IIT, Bombay, for the first time, breached into the top 150 rankings, securing 149th rank in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2023, released on June 27.
- The Power Index for 145 countries released by Global Firepower ranked US military as the most powerful military force worldwide.
 - ✓ Russia and China follow closely at second and third spot, while India is ranked at the fourth position.
- The World Bank approved \$1.5 billion funding to help India promote low-carbon energy by developing green hydrogen, and stimulating low-carbon energy investments.

NEWS FROM STATES

OCTOBER

- **The** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai commissioned a specialised

Disabled Aircraft Recovery Kit (DARK) on Oct 09, becoming the first airport in Asia to have such a facility.

- A cloudburst over Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim on the mid-night of Oct 3-4 led to its bursting causing heavy flash floods in the Teesta River, flowing downstream from Sikkim to Bengal.
 - ✓ *Flash flood with heavy slush, washed away everything in its path - homes, bridges, trees, people, and even the 88.6-metre-high Teesta Dam at Chungthang power project.*

SEPTEMBER

- India’s first ever Lighthouse Festival was held at Fort Aguada lighthouse in Siquerim, Goa from Sep 23 to 25. The country has at least 203 lighthouses spread across its 7,517 km coastline.
- A 108-feet tall statue of the 8th century Hindu philosopher and saint - ‘Adi Shankaracharya’ was unveiled on Sep 21 in Omkareshwar near Khandwa city in Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ The multi-metal ‘Ekamata ki Pratima’ (Statue of Oneness) portrays Adi Shankaracharya as a 12-year boy.
- Three ancient sacred Hoysala temples located in Belur, Halebidu, and Somanathapura in Karnataka were selected as the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India.
 - ✓ The Hoysala Temples were built in the 12-13 centuries by the Hoysala kings. They are known for their magnificent architecture.
- Santiniketan, the town in West Bengal, was included as the 41st site from India, in the UNESCO World Heritage list. The town is famous for the central university Visva Bharati as a centre for pursuit of art and culture.
- The Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2023 for the cities with population below 10 lakh, ranked Amravati in Maharashtra at the top in the category of cities with populations ranging from 3 to 10 lakhs.
 - ✓ Among cities with populations below 3 lakhs, Parwanoo and Kala Amb in HP took the first two spots.
- The India Smart Cities Awards 2022 declared Indore, Madhya Pradesh as the best smart city. Chandigarh won the overall best award in the Union Territory category.
- Telangana signed a MoU with Dubai based cooling giant Tabreed, to develop Asia’s largest district cooling system in industrial parks including the Hyderabad Pharma City.

- ✓ Tabreed will develop 125,000 refrigeration tonnes of district cooling plants, investing up to \$200 million.

AUGUST

- Indore has secured first position, followed by Agra and Thane in the category of cities with a population of more than 10 lakhs in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023, conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- India's first 3D printed post office building was inaugurated on August 18 in Bengaluru. The building was built by using 3D printing technology with technical know-how from IIT Madras and L&T.
- District Srinagar in J&K secured the top spot in the "Front Runners" category of the Jal Jeevan Survekshan 2023 conducted by the union ministry of Jal Shakti.

JULY

- The 'Surat Diamond Bourse' in Surat, Gujarat replaced Pentagon (US Defence HQs) as the largest office building in the world. It has a vast floor space of 6.6 million sft, against 6.5 million sft in Pentagon.
- The Export Preparedness Index 2022 released by Niti Aayog has placed Tamil Nadu at number one spot, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- The NITI Aayog approved a grant of ₹10 crore to the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi for establishing India's first Atal Incubation Centre in fisheries.
- The union cabinet approved a bill on July 19 for amending the IIM Act to upgrade the NITIE-National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai as country's 21st IIM.
- The Greater Chennai Police launched a 'Drone Police Unit' on June 29 to assist cops in aerial surveillance. It has been reported as the first of its kind initiative in India.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex (NHMC), a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat.
- The Gujarat govt signed a MoU on June 28 with America's largest chipmaker firm Micron Technology for establishing India's first semiconductor assembly and test facility at Sanand in Ahmedabad district.
- India's largest rail coach plant in the private sector was inaugurated on June 22 in Hyderabad. Medha

Servo Drives Pvt Ltd has established this plant in collaboration with Swiss railway rolling stock maker Stadler Rail.

GOVT INITIATIVES

OCTOBER

- The Education Ministry notified on Oct 11 'One Nation One Student ID' scheme, known as 'Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR)'
 - ✓ *It will issue a lifelong unique ID number for every student, based on their Aadhaar number.*
- The Government notified on Oct 04 the constitution of the National Turmeric (Haldi) Board for the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.

SEPTEMBER

- Govt launched an AI chatbot Kisan e-Mitra on Sep 21 to serve as a complete guide for the farmers, providing them with timely and accurate responses to all their queries.
- The Government has instituted a new set of National Awards titled 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' for recognising outstanding contributions in the field of science, technology and innovation.
 - ✓ The awards will be given in 13 domains in four categories – Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team.
 - ✓ These awards will be announced on May 11, the National Technology Day, and the Award Ceremony will be held on Aug 23, the National Space Day, every year.
- Government has revised the amount of ex-gratia relief paid to the dependents of deceased and injured passengers involved in Train Accidents and Untoward Incidents.
 - ✓ Now, Rs 5 lakh will be given to the kin of the deceased person and Rs 2,50,00 to seriously injured. An amount of Rs 50,000 will be paid in case of simple injury.
 - ✓ In case of any untoward incident, ex-gratia of Rs 1,50,000 will be paid for death cases; Rs 50,000 for seriously injured, and Rs.5,000 for simple injury cases.

- With a view to revolutionise agriculture, enhance financial inclusion, optimise data utilisation, and improve the lives of farmers across the nation, the government launched three initiatives on Sep 19.
 - ✓ The three initiatives are – Kisan Rin Portal (KRP) – a single platform to meet all loan related needs of farmer.
 - ✓ Ghar-Ghar KCC Abhiyaan to extend the reach of credit facilities via Kisan Credit Card, and
 - ✓ WINDS Manual--Weather Information Network Data Systems to create a robust database of local weather data.
- With a view to improve access to justice by using technology, the Union Cabinet approved the e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase -3 as a Central Sector Scheme.
 - ✓ The project aims to establish online and paperless courts in order to make the judicial system more convenient, economical, and transparent for the citizens.
- The "Malaviya Mission: Teacher Training Programme" was launched on Sep 5-Teachers' Day to transform faculty capacity building and teacher preparation programs across the country's higher education institutions.
- The Archaeological Survey of India launched 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme on Sep 04 to invite corporate stakeholders to enhance amenities at select monuments by utilising their CSR funds.
- An 'Invoice Incentive Scheme' by the name 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar' launched to encourage the culture of customers asking for GST bills for all purchases.
 - ✓ Two bumper prizes of Rs 1 cr each will be given away every quarter. There will also be 800 lucky draws having a prize value of Rs. 10,000 each, and 10 draws with a prize of 10 lakh rupees each, every month.

AUGUST

- Tele-Law-2.0 app launched on Aug 25 in New Delhi. The new app integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App to ensure easy access to justice.
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy notified on Aug 25 the emission thresholds of 2 kg CO2 equivalent per kg of Hydrogen produced as a 12-month average emission threshold.
- The union cabinet approved the 'PM-eBus Sewa' scheme on August 16 for augmenting city bus operations across the country. Under the scheme,

10,000 e-buses will be deployed across cities having a population of three lakh and above.

- The union cabinet approved on August 16 Rs 13,000 crore funding for a five-year period for the PM Vishwakarma Yojana.
 - ✓ The scheme aims at strengthening the family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople across the country.
 - ✓ A total of 18 trades such as Carpenter, Blacksmith, Goldsmith, Potter, Cobbler, Weaver, Barber, Washerman, Tailor etc. are covered under the scheme.
- 'Lakhpati Didis' scheme announced on Aug 15 for providing vocational training to two crore women in rural areas across the country.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, women will undergo training in a range of practical skills that align with emerging industry demands.
 - ✓ The Central Water Commission launched a mobile app 'FloodWatch' on August 17 in New Delhi. It will provide real time flood forecast situations, up to seven days on a real-time basis, across the country.
 - ✓ Govt launched 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' (my soil, my country) campaign on August 9 to honour the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country.
 - ✓ Under the campaign, a sample of soil from every village will be collected and brought to Delhi in a kalash. Soil collected from 7,500 kalash will be used to create an 'Amrit Vatika' in Delhi.
 - ✓ A war memorial will be built in every panchayat, town, city in the memory of martyrs, wherein names of martyrs of that area will be inscribed.
- The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles launched an e-portal, "भारतीय वस्त्र एवं शिल्प कोष" (Treasure of Indian Clothing and Crafts), on National Handloom Day, Aug 7.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) introduced a new mobile application 'Rajmarg Yatra' to enhance the highway users experience.
 - ✓ It provides real-time weather updates, details about nearby toll plazas, petrol stations, hospitals, hotels, and other vital services, ensuring a secure and seamless journey on National Highways.
- The Parliament passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 on Aug 02 to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising

offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business.

- Mobile app ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) launched as an initiative to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation.
 - ✓ Besides basic education, it imparts digital and financial literacy and critical life skills to citizens aged 15 and above who lost the opportunity to go to school.

JULY

- The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched on July 20 India's first credit guarantee scheme to facilitate inflow of funds to MSMEs engaged in the livestock sector; without hassles of collateral security.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) named 'SAGAR SAMPARK'.
 - ✓ It will help mariners to navigate safely and will reduce the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents in the port and harbour areas.
- Govt launched Bharat 6G Alliance on July 3 as a groundbreaking initiative aimed at launching the next-generation communication technology in India.
 - ✓ The 6G technology is expected to revolutionise communication by providing speeds up to 100 Gbps, nearly 100 times faster than 1 Gbps provided by 5G.
- The Govt issued a notification on June 30 for the formation of India's first regulated domestic carbon market. The 'Carbon Credit Trading Scheme' aims to set up a carbon credit trading market in the country.
- The Union Cabinet approved the PM-PRANAM (Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother earth) Yojana.
 - ✓ It aims to incentivise states and UTs for promotion of alternative fertilisers and balanced use of chemical fertilisers. It expects to cover 1 crore farmers for adopting natural farming over the next 3 years.
- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying launched on June 26 the Nandi Portal aimed at facilitating the process of granting No Objection Certificates (NOC) for veterinary drugs and vaccines.

ECONOMY

OCTOBER

- As per the final estimates of production of major crops for the year 2022-23, total foodgrain production in the country is estimated at record 3,296.87 lakh tonnes, 140.71 lakh tonnes more than last year.
- The CCEA approved on Oct 18 the increase in the MSP for all six mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2024-25.

Sr. No.	Crop	MSP Rs/Qtl	Increase Rs/Qtl
1.	Wheat	2275	150
2.	Barley	1850	115
3.	Gram	5440	105
4.	Masur	6425	425
5.	Rapeseed/Mustard	5650	200
6.	Safflower	5800	150

- The Department of Public Enterprises in the Ministry of Finance granted coveted 'Navratna' status to two Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on Oct 12.
 - ✓ They are *Ircon International Limited (IRCON)* and *RITES Ltd (RITES)*, under the Ministry of Railways, 15th and 16th Navratna, respectively.

SEPTEMBER

- According to official data shared by the National Statistical Office on Aug 31, India's GDP grew by 7.8% in the April-June quarter of 2023-24, compared to a growth of 6.1% in the previous quarter (Jan-Mar 2022-23).

AUGUST

- The Finance Ministry approved the upgradation of the Oil India Ltd (OIL), Assam, from 'Navratna' category to the 'Maharatna', making it 13th such company.
 - ✓ Oil India Private Limited was incorporated on February 18, 1959, to develop the newly discovered oilfields of Naharkatia and Moran in Assam.

JULY

- IT major Meta joined hands with the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) to digitally train and upskill 10 million local traders through the 'WhatsApp Se Wyapaar' program on the WhatsApp Business App.

- ONGC became the first Central Public Sector Enterprise in India to get certified for its Anti-Bribery Management System by an international accredited certification body, M/s InterCert, USA.
- Maruti Suzuki India, for the first time, made its entry into the premium MPV segment on July 5. The new car, named 'Invicto', has a starting price of Rs 24.8 lakh.
- The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit a lifetime peak of Rs 301.10 lakh crore (trillion) on July 6, driven by a positive trend in domestic equities.
 - ✓ The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 185.37 points or 0.28 percent to 65,631.41 during the day.
- Markets regulator SEBI approved reducing the time period for the listing of shares in a public issue from the existing 6 days to 3 days from the date of closure (T Day) of issue.

BANKING & FINANCE

OCTOBER

- RBI has decided to constitute an external working group on 'expected credit loss' (ECL) based framework for provisioning by Banks.
 - ✓ *The Working Group will be chaired by R Narayanaswamy, former Professor, IIM Bangalore and will consist of eight members.*

SEPTEMBER

- Sh. Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI was ranked as the top central banker globally by US-based financial magazine Global Finance. He was rated 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023, covering 101 countries.
- RBI has asked banks to ensure that after the full repayment and closure of personal loan accounts, concerned movable/immovable property documents should be released within 30 days of closure of loan account.
 - ✓ In case of delay in doing so, banks shall compensate the borrower at the rate of ₹5,000/day of delay. These directions are applicable from December 01, 2023.
- The NPCI, in collaboration with fintech startup LivQuik, launched an 'OTG Ring', a wearable ring-like gadget for facilitating contactless payments. OTG- On The Go

- ✓ It will allow users to make payments to any Near Field Communication based device. It is in the form of a prepaid digital wallet, not linked to one's bank account.
- The NPCI has introduced several new payment options on the popular UPI platform, such as Hello! UPI, Credit Line on UPI, UPI Tap & Pay, Bill Pay Connect, etc.
- The Hitachi Payment Services in collaboration with the NPCI, launched India's first UPI-ATM, a White Label ATM on Sep 05 in Mumbai. It allows "seamless cash withdrawals", eliminating the need to carry physical ATM cards.

AUGUST

- RBI launched a centralised web portal UDGM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access inforMation) to help people search and claim unclaimed deposits, across the banking sector.
 - ✓ It will facilitate and make it easier for the public to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks, at one place.
- Bank of Baroda UAE, the sole licensed Indian bank in the UAE offering comprehensive banking services, celebrated its golden jubilee in UAE on August 22, marking its 50th year of glorious presence in the UAE.
- AU Small Finance Bank launched India's first 24x7 video banking service on Aug 7 to provides a virtual platform where customers can communicate with a video banker in real-time via video calls, like video conferencing.

JULY

- The RBI issued a notification on July 18 to add "NongHyup Bank" from S Korea in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934. The bank has been active in India since 2016.
- The Punjab National Bank launched a virtual branch, PNB Metaverse where customers can explore bank's products and services such as deposit schemes, retail and MSME loans, digital products in virtual mode.
- RBI launched its Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) on June 30 to upgrade its information management framework for better handling of the massive data flow, its aggregation, analysis, public dissemination.
- Govt has permitted all Public Sector Banks and eligible Private Sector Banks (in addition to post offices) to implement and operationalise the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme, 2023.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

OCTOBER

- The Indian Army's first vertical wind tunnel was launched on Oct 25 at Special Forces Training School at Bakloh near Chamba in Himachal Pradesh.
- INS Imphal, the third warship of the Project 15B Visakhapatnam Class of stealth guided missile destroyers, was delivered to the Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) on Oct 20 at Mumbai.
- The Udhampur Military Station in J&K was declared the 'Best Green Military Station' on Oct 18 in recognition of their committed environmental efforts.
- The Flight Safety Trophy was won by '671 Army Aviation Squadron' for maintaining the highest standards of flight safety.
- The 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) of the Indian Army won a gold medal at the Cambrian Patrol Exercise held on Oct 13-15 at Brecon, Wales in the UK,
- The Indian Air Force adopted a new ensign on Oct 8 with symbols like the Ashoka Lion and Himalayan Eagle and motto of the Air Force.
- ✓ *The motto "नमः स्पृशं दीप्तम्" has been taken from verse 24, Chapter 11 of the Bhagavad Gita and it means "Touching the sky with Glory".*
- The Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army, in collaboration with BSNL, installed first ever mobile communication tower at an altitude of 15,500 ft. at the Siachen Glacier, world's highest battlefield.
- The first unit of the LCA Tejas twin seater aircraft was handed over to the Indian Air Force on Oct 04 at Bengaluru by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- The Indian Air Force received the first of the six Dornier Do-228 aircraft on Sep 27. It has been designed and manufactured by HAL, Bengaluru.
- **Exercise Harimau Shakti** held between Indian and the Malaysian Army, from Oct 23 to Nov 05 at the Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya.
- **Ex Chakravat:** The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise held on Oct 09-11 in Goa hosted by the Indian Navy.

- **Sampriti-XI** Joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh at Umroi in Meghalaya from Oct 03 to 16.
- The ISRO successfully tested on Oct 21 its crew escape system 'TV-D1 mission' of its Gaganyaan project to test the vehicle, crew escape and the crew module.
- Google launched a new programme called DigiKavach on Oct 19 to combat online financial frauds in India.
- NASA launched spacecraft Psyche on Oct 13 on a six-year journey to a rare metal-covered asteroid, also named 16Psyche, some 3.6 billion km away from Earth.
- Google launched an earthquake alert system for Android users in India to provide timely warnings about earthquakes, allowing them to take timely safety actions.

SEPTEMBER

- The Indian Air Force and Drone Federation of India co-hosted a mega exhibition "Bharat Drone Shakti - 2023" on Sep 25-26 at the IAF airbase in Hindon, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- India formally received the first C-295 MW transport aircraft on Sep 13 from the Airbus company at Seville in Spain. India has contracted to acquire 56 Airbus C-295 aircraft to replace the Indian Air Force AVRO fleet.
- India's first advanced autonomous anti-drone system, named Indrajaal, powered by AI, has been developed by a Hyderabad based firm, Green Robotics.
- The Indian Army inducted 600 indigenously-manufactured self-neutralising anti-tank mines, named "Vibhav". They will provide mobility kill against all enemy armoured vehicles.
- Indian Navy's third Missile cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 77 (LSAM 9) was launched on Sep 22 at Guttenadeevi in Andhra Pradesh.
- **INS 'Mahendragiri'**, the Nilgiri class stealth frigate warship built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., Mumbai was launched in Mumbai on Sep 01.
- **Exercise Yudh Abhyas:** Joint India US army exercise was held from Sep 25 to Oct 8 at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- **SIMBEX-23:** The Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise was held in two phases - Harbour Phase at Singapore from 21 to 24 September, followed by a Sea Phase.

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- **For the first time**, naval forces of India, Australia and Indonesia got together to participate in a trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise on Sep 20-21 in the Indo-Pacific zone.
- **Exercise Varuna-23:** Indian and French Navy exercise held in the first week of September in the Arabian Sea.
- **Ex-Bright-Star-2023:** The biennial tri-services exercise was held from Aug 27 to Sep 16 in Cairo Air Base in Egypt. Some 8,000 troops from 34 countries took part in the exercise.
- **AUSINDEX-23:** Indian and Australian Navy exercise held on 22-25 August in South Pacific Ocean, near Sydney, Australia.
- India scripted history once again on Sep 02 as the ISRO successfully launched its first solar space observatory 'Aditya L-1' aboard PSLV C57 launch vehicle from Sriharikota.
- The spacecraft, after travelling about 1.5 million kms from the Earth over the next 125 days, is expected to be placed in a Halo orbit around the Lagrangian point L1.
- The Center for Development of Telematics and CSIR-National Physical Laboratory signed a MoU for the development of NavIC based IST traceable Primary Reference Time Clock (PRTC) for the telecom sector.
 - ✓ The PRTC will provide direct Indian Standard Time (IST) traceability to all the Telecom Service Providers and Internet Service Providers within ± 20 nanoseconds.
- A first-of-its-kind Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus was launched on Sep 25 from the India Gate in New Delhi. The specially designed bus has been built by Tata Motors, Pune with the technology provided by the Indian Oil Corporation.
- Crossing another historic milestone in space research, on Sep 24, an US spacecraft OSIRIS-REx released a tiny sample capsule from 100,000 km above the Earth.
 - ✓ The small capsule containing a handful of rubble collected from the asteroid Bennu, landed 4 hours later in the desert of Utah, USA.

AUGUST

- The Ministry of Defence has formed a nine-member committee to undertake a comprehensive revamp of the DRDO. It will be headed by K. Vijay Raghavan, former Principal Scientific Advisor to the government.

- The Indian Army has inducted a lighter and compact version of indigenously developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) called Swathi Mountains.
- India's 1st long range revolver, 'Prabal', made by state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd., Kanpur, UP was launched on Aug 18.
 - ✓ This lightweight 32 bore revolver can meet its target up to 50 metres, more than double the range of the other revolvers being manufactured.
- The Indian Air Force inducted Heron Mark 2 drones at a forward air base in the northern sector. These drones have been procured from Israel.
 - ✓ The Heron Mark-2 is a medium-altitude long-endurance drone, with a maximum range of 3,000 kilometres and an endurance of 24 hours.
- Warship 'Vindhyagiri': The advanced stealth frigate, sixth ship of the Project 17A Frigates was launched on August 17 at Kidderpore in Kolkata.
- The Indian Air Force received the "Spike Non-Line of Sight" anti-tank guided missiles from Israel to destroy enemy targets hidden behind mountains.
- A first of its kind in India, an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) named 'Neerakshi' designed to detect mines, was launched on July 28 in Kolkata.
- SEACAT 2023: Indian Navy participated in the Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) Exercise on August 14 in Singapore.
- Exercise Zayed Talwar: Indian Navy held this bilateral Naval Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Navy of UAE, near Dubai in the Persian Gulf on August 11.
- Malabar 2023: The 11-day multilateral naval exercise started on August 11 off the Sydney coast in Australia. Indian Navy's warships INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata participated in the event.
- On Aug 23, India became first country to successfully land its lander Vikram on the South Pole of the Moon.
 - ✓ The lander rolled down a six wheel, 26-kg lunar rover named Pragyan onto the moon's surface.
 - ✓ Vikram's Landing point on the Moon has been named as 'Shiv Shakti' point.
- The National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai has developed a manned scientific submersible named MATSYA-6000.
 - ✓ It can carry three humans for a period of 12 hours up to a depth of 6,000 meters in the ocean for deep sea mining and exploration.

- ISRO successfully launched Singapore's DS-SAR satellite and six co-passenger payloads onboard its PSLV-C56 rocket on July 30 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

JULY

- Nomadic Elephant: Army exercise between Indian and Mongolian Army at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 17 to 31 July.
- JIMEX 23: The Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23), 5 to 10 July in Bay of Bengal, near Visakhapatnam.
- SALVEX-23: The navies of India and the US carried out a 11-day military exercise from June 26 to July 6 in Arabian Sea near Kochi, Kerala.
- Indo-French MPX: Indian and French Naval warships undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) on June 30 near Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal.
- The ISRO launched the LVM3-M4 rocket carrying Chandrayaan 3 on July 14 from Sriharikota. The Propulsion Module carrying Lander Module named Vikram, dropped it on Moon on August 23.
- China launched the country's first open-source desktop operating system (OS) named OpenKylin 1.0, marking a breakthrough in building an independent OS software.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) launched its spacecraft Euclid on July 1 onboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral in the USA.
 - ✓ World's most advanced space telescope, it was placed at the Lagrange point L-2, 15 lakh km away from Earth.

INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER

- In a first in the world, Japan successfully test-fired an electromagnetic railgun from a ship on 17 October.
 - ✓ *The electromagnetic railgun fires high-velocity projectiles devoid of traditional explosives, causing harm by way of kinetic energy.*
- Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas from Gaza Patti launched a sudden attack on Israel on Oct 07.
 - ✓ *They fired over 5,000 rockets and sent a wave of fighters onboard paragliders who gunned down several civilians randomly.*

- ✓ *The Israeli military responded immediately by launching "Operation Iron Swords" with multiple air strikes into the Gaza area.*

- Sri Lanka hosted the 23rd meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on Oct 11 in Colombo. The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Ali Sabry.
 - ✓ *IORA was established in 1997 as an intergovernmental organisation of States on the rim of the Indian Ocean, for mutual cooperation.*
- The largest Hindu temple in the USA, and the second largest in the world, next only to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, opened its doors on Oct 8 in the small township of Robbinsville in New Jersey.
- The WHO recommended on Oct 02 a new vaccine, R21/Matrix-M, for the prevention of malaria in children.
- The vaccine has been developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India.

SEPTEMBER

- The 78th session of the UN General Assembly commenced on Sep 05 with Dennis Francis, permanent representative of Trinidad and Tobago, taking over as the President of Assembly.
 - ✓ The theme of the session was 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all'.

AUGUST

- The 15th BRICS Annual Summit was held on Aug 22 to 24 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the chairmanship of President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa.
 - ✓ The Group decided to admit six countries as the new members including Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE. The membership will come into effect on the 1st of January 2024.
- A recent report from the World Economic Forum revealed that eight countries including Bhutan have attained an impressive feat of net zero emissions.
 - ✓ Bhutan has not only curbed its carbon footprints, but has become a carbon sink, absorbing more carbon dioxide (CO₂) than what it releases.

- According to NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York, July 2023 was hotter than any other month in the global temperature record since 1880.
 - ✓ Overall, July 2023 was 0.24 C warmer than any other July in NASA's record, and it was 1.18 C warmer than the average July temperature between 1951-80.
- According to the European Union's climate change service, Copernicus, the average daily global sea surface temperature reached 20.96 C, in the first week of August, beating a 2016 record.

JULY

- Social Media platform Twitter launched its new logo on July 24, dropping the blue bird on its website for an X as part of a wider rebranding. Tweets will also be replaced and the same will now be called 'X's'.
- According to the latest Henley Passport Index released on July 18, Singapore's passport now is the world's most powerful passport, enabling visa-free entry to 192 of 227 worldwide travel destinations.
 - ✓ India moved up 5 ranks from the previous year, to 80th spot, with visa-free access to 57 countries.
- The WHO's cancer agency has deemed the artificial sweetener Aspartame, found in diet soda and many other foods, as a "possible" cause of cancer (carcinogenic).
 - ✓ Aspartame is a low-calorie artificial sweetener, about 200 times sweeter than sugar. A white, odourless powder, it is the most widely used artificial sweetener.
- To ward off the competition from Twitter, rival company Meta, known for Facebook and Instagram, launched on June 6 its new microblogging platform Threads.
- New Zealand has become the first country in the world to enforce a complete ban on thin plastic bags, commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases.
- According to data released by the U.S. National Center for Environmental Prediction, July 4th was the hottest day ever recorded globally. The average global temperature on July 4 reached 17.18 degrees Celsius.

PERSONS IN NEWS

OCTOBER

Dr. Gagandeep Kang, noted vaccinologist was formally inducted as a Member of the US National Academy of Medicine in Washington on 9th October.

Kami Rita Sherpa: Nepal's 53-year-old sherpa made a new world record for the 'Most Climbs of 8,000 metres and above peaks, as he scaled the 8,163-metre-high Mt Manaslu in Nepal on Sep 26, achieving his 42nd 8,000 metre plus climb.

SEPTEMBER

Shri Narendra Modi: As per the 'Global Leader Approval Rating Tracker' by US-based consultancy firm 'Morning Consult', Shri Modi was rated most popular leader in the world with 76 percent approvals in the data collected from September 6 to 12 this year.

AUGUST

Rajiv Gauba: Cabinet Secretary, was granted a one-year extension by the central govt, making him the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's history.

JULY

Admiral Lisa Franchetti: She has become first woman in history to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations and member of Joint Chiefs of Staff in the USA.

APPOINTMENTS

OCTOBER

Raghubar Das: A former chief minister of Jharkhand, was appointed as the Governor of Odisha.

Indra Sena Reddy Nallu: Appointed as the Governor of Tripura, by the President of India.

Arindam Bagchi: Appointed India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Christopher Luxon: National party leader elected as New Zealand's next Prime Minister.

Daniel Noboa: Elected as the youngest ever President of Ecuador, a small country in the north western part of South America. He is just 35 years old.

SEPTEMBER

M Rajeshwar Rao: RBI's Deputy Governor has been granted one-year extension with effect from October 9, 2023.

Vivek Bhasin: Took over as the 14th Director of BARC – Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay (Mumbai).

Sashidhar Jagdishan: RBI approved his re-appointment as the MD & CEO of the HDFC Bank, till October 2026.

Gopal Baglay: A 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer was appointed as India's High Commissioner to Australia.

Rajesh Nambiar: Elected as the chairman of the technology industry body NASSCOM on Sep 04. He is the chairman and managing director of Cognizant India.

R. Madhavan: Noted Bollywood actor has been appointed as the President of Film & Television Institute of India, Pune and Chairman of its governing council.

Jaya Verma Sinha: Appointed as the first woman Chairperson and CEO of the Railway Board.

Tharman Shanmugaratnam: Indian-origin Singapore economist won the Presidential election in the country.

Emmerson Mnangagwa: Re-elected as the President of Zimbabwe for a second five-year term.

AUGUST

Sachin Tendulkar: The Election Commission of India appointed the cricketing legend as a "national icon" of the poll panel to encourage greater voter participation in the forthcoming elections

Justice Prakash Shrivastava: Appointed as the Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).

R. Doraiswamy: Appointed as the Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

Sanjay Kumar Agarwal: Appointed as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

Srettha Thavasin: Elected as the Prime Minister of Thailand by the country's parliament.

JULY

Tushar Mehta: Senior advocate has been re-appointed as the Solicitor General of India for three more years.

Sat Pal Bhanoo: Appointed as the new Managing Director of the LIC of India.

Manoj Yadava: Appointed as the new Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

Ms. S Phangnon Konyak: The lone Nagaland MP in the Upper House, was nominated as one of the vice chairpersons of the Rajya Sabha.

Rakesh Pal: Appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard on July 19.

Debadatta Chand: Assumed charge as MD & CEO of the Bank of Baroda.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis: Re-elected second time as the Prime Minister of Greece.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev: Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party was re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan.

AWARDS & HONOURS

OCTOBER

2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize: Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang (from China), an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been selected as the recipient of this prestigious prize. The prize includes a cash award of \$10,000.

NOBEL PRIZES - 2023

Physiology or Medicine	
The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm	
Ms. Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman, USA	For their work and research that enabled the creation of mRNA (messenger Ribonucleic Acid) vaccines against Covid-19.
Physics	
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	
Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier	For experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electro dynamics in matter".

Chemistry The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	
Moungi G Bawendi, Louis E Brus, and Alexei Ekimov	For their discovery and synthesis of quantum dots.

Sakharov Prize: Awarded posthumously to Kurdish Iranian woman Jina Mahsa Amini and her famous slogan, “Woman, Life and Freedom” against the Iranian government.

SEPTEMBER

Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award: Conferred on veteran actor Waheeda Rehman for the year 2021. The 85-year-old legendary actor has worked in films such as CID, Pyasa, Guide, Prem Pujari and Reshma Aur Shera.

2023 Norman E Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application: Awarded to Dr Swati Nayak, an Indian scientist for her innovative approach to engaging smallholder farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems.

Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres: Awarded by the French government to Rahul Mishra, the visionary Indian designer, for his contribution to art and culture.

Miss Earth India 2023: Priyan Sain, 20-year-old beauty queen from Jaipur, Rajasthan, clinched the title of Miss Earth India 2023 on August 26 in New Delhi.

Miss International India 2023: Praveena Anjana, beauty queen from Udaipur, Rajasthan was crowned Miss International India in Delhi.

65th Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023: Surgical oncologist R. Ravi Kannan, Director of the Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC) in Assam, won one of the four Ramon Magsaysay Awards for 2023.

AUGUST

69th National Film Awards Announced

The winners of the 69th National Film Awards for the films released in 2021, were announced on Aug 24:

Best Feature Film:	Rocketry: The Nambi Effect, by R Madhavan
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment:	RRR by S. S. Rajamouli

Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration:	The Kashmir Files by Vivek Agnihotri
Best Hindi Film:	Sardar Udham by Shoojit Sircar
Best Director:	Nikhil Mahajan for Godavari (Marathi)
Best Actor:	Allu Arjun for Pushpa: The Rise
Best Actress:	Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon for Mimi

JULY

Chevalier De L'orde Des Arts Et Des Lettres: Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam and flautist Shashank Subramanyam from Tamil Nadu were conferred with this prestigious French title on July 15 at Chennai.

OBITUARY

OCTOBER

Bishan Singh Bedi: Legendary Indian spinner passed away on Oct 23 in Delhi. He was 77. Between 1967-79, he played 67 Tests for India, taking 266 wickets.

Manohar Singh Gill: A former Chief Election Commissioner and a union minister, breathed his last on Oct 15 at a hospital in New Delhi. He was 87. As CEC, he introduced electronic voting machines. He was conferred Padma Vibhushan in 2000.

Dr M S Swaminathan: Renowned agricultural scientist, known as the Father of India's Green Revolution, passed away on Sep 28 at his residence in Chennai. He was 98. *He was honoured with Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan, besides several top world awards.*

SEPTEMBER

Saroja Vaidyanathan: Legendary Bharatnatyam exponent passed away on Sep 21 in New Delhi. She was 86. She also wrote books on Bharatanatyam and was conferred the Padma Shri in 2002 and Padma Bhushan in 2013.

AUGUST

C Radhakrishnan Rao: One of the world's most eminent statisticians, who spent nearly all of his professional career in India, died on August 23 at the ripe age of 103 years, in the USA.

Bindeshwar Pathak: Founder of 'Sulabh International', a pioneer of public toilets in India, popularly known as the "Toilet Man of India", passed away on August 15 in New Delhi, due to cardiac arrest. He was 80.

JULY

Oommen Chandy: Veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Kerala, breathed his last on July 18 in a Bengaluru clinic. He was 80 years old. He was elected MLA 12 times from Puthuppally, from 1970 to 2021.

PLACES IN NEWS

OCTOBER

Dhordo, Gujarat: A village near Bhuj in Kutch district of Gujarat was declared as one of the Best Tourism Villages by the UN World Tourism Organization.

The village is famous for hosting the annual Rann Utsav, a cultural extravaganza that showcases the region's traditional art, music, crafts and cuisine.

Herat, Afghanistan: A severe earthquake on Oct 7 devastated the parts of western Afghanistan, claiming over 2,400 lives. It was one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

Nagorno-Karabakh: A disputed area in Azerbaijan was in news as more than half of the estimated 150,000 ethnic Armenians in the region fled back to Armenia in the week after the ceasefire, fearing they would now have no future in Nagorno-Karabakh.

SEPTEMBER

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve: This is the 7th Tiger Reserve approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in Madhya Pradesh.

Biswanath Ghat, Assam: This riverfront on the Brahmaputra River in Biswanath Chariali, Assam has been bestowed with the prestigious title of "Best Tourism Village of India 2023" by the union ministry of tourism.

Vijayawada Railway Station: This station in Andhra Pradesh, was certified with Platinum rating, the highest green standard rating by the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) on Sep 05.

Sanchi: A world heritage town located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is on the way to becoming India's first 'solar city'.

Storm Daniel, Libya: In Libya, at least 11,300 people were feared dead and thousands more were missing due to heavy flooding caused by the torrential rains brought by Storm Daniel on Sep 10-11.

Morocco: Coastal country in north west Africa was devastated by a massive earthquake on Sep 08. The death toll from the 6.8 magnitude earthquake swelled to at least 2,862 people, while at least 2500 were reported injured.

Tropical Storm Idalia: A strong cyclone dumped heavy rain, unleashed strong winds of up to 150 kmph and knocked out power in parts of southern Georgia, North Carolinas and Florida's west coast in the USA on August 30-31.

AUGUST

Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve: The National Tiger Conservation Authority granted its approval for the 54th tiger reserve in the country. Located in the Dholpur-Karauli districts of Rajasthan, it is the fifth Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.

Tulip Garden, Srinagar: The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar entered its name in the annals of the World Book of Records as Asia's largest and most spectacular garden of its kind.

Mayem Village, Goa: This village in Goa became the first Indian village to compile its own "Biodiversity Atlas".

Bengaluru: London based World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) has recently made Bengaluru 41st member of its global network of cities, for its commitment to an "inclusive and globalised culture".

Typhoon Doksuri: China's capital, Beijing, experienced a historic deluge, recording extremely heavy rainfall of over 75 cm in just five days, from July 29 to Aug 02.

Byculla Railway Station

The Byculla railway station of the Central Railway in Mumbai received UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award for its outstanding efforts in restoration of bygone heritage architecture.

India's Biggest Natural Arch

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has declared India's biggest "Natural Arch" in Odisha as a Geo Heritage Site. The Natural Arch was found in the dense Chhengapahar reserve forest in Sundargarh district.

Mexico: At least 100 people lost their lives in the second half of June in Mexico due to heat stroke related causes as temperatures climbed close to 50 degrees Celsius.

SPORTS WORLD

Unnati Hooda won the women's singles title at the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023 badminton championship on Oct 22 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani (17) won the FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship on Oct 13 in Sardinia, Italy.

National Open Athletics concluded on Oct 15 in Bengaluru. Railways secured the overall title with 220 points. Services won best team men's title while the women's trophy was claimed by the Railways.

Rohit Sharma created history on Oct 11 by scoring highest (554) sixes in international cricket, breaking Chris Gayle's record of 553 for most sixes. The record was made in New Delhi, playing against Afghanistan.

India wins 107 medals in Asian Games

The closing ceremony of the 19th Asian Games was held on Oct 08 at the Hangzhou Olympics Stadium in China.

- ✓ *The baton for the next Asian Games was passed on to Nagoya, Japan for 2026. Hockey player P. R. Sreejesh was the flag bearer for India.*
- ✓ *India won record 107 medals- 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze, securing fourth rank in the final medal tally that was topped by China, with 383 medals.*

SAFF Under-19 Football Championship: India won the championship on Sep 30 after defeating Pakistan 3-0 in the finals played in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The 37th National Games were inaugurated on Oct 26 in Fatorda, Goa. More than 10 thousand athletes from across the country are competing in over 43 sports disciplines across 28 venues.

ICC announced the names of the two mascots for the 2023 Cricket World Cup in India. The female mascot has been named 'Blaze' and the male mascot has been named 'Tonk'.

INTERNATIONAL

Max Verstappen added his name to the honourable list of Formula One triple champions on October 08 when the Red Bull driver won the Qatar Grand Prix. 26-year-old Verstappen retained his F1 world championship earlier in 2021 and 2022.

The International Olympic Committee decided to include five new sports in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics - baseball/softball, cricket (T20), flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash.

FIFA granted hosting rights for the 2030 Football World Cup jointly to Morocco, Spain and Portugal. The opening matches for the tournament's centenary edition will be hosted by Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay.

Marco Bezzecchi (Italy) from team Mooney VR46 won the MotoGP on Sep 24 at the Indian Grand Prix - Buddh International Circuit, in Greater Noida, UP.

Elavenil Valarivan, won the gold in women's 10 metre air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Kiran George from Kerala, won the men's singles title at the Indonesia Masters badminton championship on Sep 10 in Medan, Indonesia.

Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman in the world to complete 13,000 ODI runs on Sep 11 playing against Pakistan in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Rohan Bopanna: 43-year-old top doubles tennis player bid an emotional adieu to his Davis Cup career on Sep 17 after winning his last match against Morocco in Lucknow.

H S Prannoy won a bronze medal on Aug 26 in the men's singles category of BWF World Championships at Copenhagen, Denmark.

✓ World No. 1 An Se-young of S Korea won the women's singles title while Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn won the men's singles title to emerge as world champions.

Team India achieved a significant milestone in cricket on Sep 24 by becoming the first ever team to hit over 3000 ODI sixes.

ACC Asia Cup: India won the final played on Sep 17 in Colombo, to lift the Cup. **ACC** - Asian Cricket Council.

SAFF U-16 Football Championship: India won the finals played on Sep 10 at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Durand (Football) Cup: Mohun Bagan Super Giant beat arch-rivals East Bengal 1-0 in a fiercely contested final to lift the cup for the first time after 23 years. The finals were played on Sep 03 in Kolkata.

The Indian women's cricket team won the gold medal by beating Australia in the blind cricket tournament in the IBSA World Games held in Birmingham, UK.

The 53rd ISSF World Shooting Championships were held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 14 August to Sep 01. India finished at 3rd spot with 6 gold and 8 bronze medals in total.

Honey Dabas won India's first ever gold in juniors' category on Aug 22 while Parmjeet Kumar scripted history on Aug 23 by capturing the gold medal in the men's -49kg Total event in senior's category at the 2023 World Para Powerlifting Championships held at Dubai, UAE.

INTERNATIONAL

19th Asian Games 2023: The formal opening ceremony was held on September 23 in Hangzhou, China. Indian Hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and Olympic

medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain were the flag-bearers of the country in the opening ceremony.

The emblem of the Games, 'Surging Tides' is designed to resemble a hand fan, a running track and the Qiantang River, and radio waves (symbolising wireless connectivity).

The three mascots have been named Congcong, Lianlian and Chenchen, collectively known as 'Memories of Jiangnan'.

Mondo Duplantis, reigning world and Olympic pole vault champion from Sweden, created yet another new record at the 2023 Diamond League Final in Eugene, USA on September 17 by clearing the bar at 6.23 metres, improving his own previous record of 6.22 metres.

US OPEN 2023 CONCLUDES IN NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) created history on Sep 10 by winning a record 24th Grand Slam title by beating Daniil Medvedev of Russia to win the Men's Singles title.

American teenager Coco Gauff secured her maiden Women's Singles title, defeating Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.

2023 FIBA World Cup: Germany beat Serbia 83-77 to win the top basketball championship on Sep 10 in Manila, Philippines. **FIBA**- International Basketball Federation.

AUGUST

Anahat Singh, 15-year-old girl from Delhi, clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, held in Dalian, China.

Shooters Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal clinched the 10m air pistol mixed team gold on 18th Aug at the ISSF World Championship at Baku, Azerbaijan.

Priya Malik made history in women's wrestling by winning gold in the 76 kg category in the 2023 U20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan.

✓ **Mohit Kumar** too, won the gold in men's 61 Kg freestyle category. **Antim Panghal** won gold in 53 kg and **Savita** won gold in the 62 kg category.

Indian women's team of V. Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur created history by clinching their first ever gold medal in the World Archery Championships on August 4 in Berlin, Germany. Later, **Aditi Swami and Ojas Pravin Deotale** also won gold in their categories.

Aditya Samant, 17-year-old boy from Pune, achieved the title of India's 83rd Grandmaster.

Asmita Dey (48kg), Unnati Sharma (63kg) and Arun Kumar (73kg) won the individual gold medals on July 23 in their respective categories at the Junior Asia Cup Judo Championship in Macau, China.

Hero Asian Hockey Championship (Men): Indian team led by captain Harmanpreet Singh, defeated Malaysia 4-3 in a high-octane final played at Chennai on August 12 to lift the Trophy for the fourth time.

Deodhar Trophy: South Zone lifted the trophy on by defeating East zone at the Siechem Ground, Puducherry.

D. Gukesh, 17-year-old GM dethroned Viswanathan Anand as India's top-ranked chess player in the live world rankings, reaching a live rating of 2755.9.

INTERNATIONAL

FIDE Chess World Cup 2023: Magnus Carlsen of Norway beat India's R. Praggnanandhaa in tie-breaks to become the world champion at Baku in Azerbaijan.

9th FIFA Women's World Cup: Spain made history by defeating England 1-0 to lift the title for the first time, in Sydney on 20th August. The tournament was hosted jointly by Australia and New Zealand.

- ✓ Aitana Bonmati of Spain won the Golden Ball for the "Best Player".
- ✓ Hinata Miyazawa of Japan clinched the Golden Boot for being the highest (5) goal scorer.
- ✓ Mary A Earps of England won the Golden Glove for being the Best Goalkeeper.

BWF Japan Open 2023, Tokyo: World no. one, Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, won the men's singles title on July 30 while An Se Young of the Republic of Korea claimed the women's singles title.

JULY

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Korea Open Badminton men's doubles title on July 23 at Yeosu in S Korea.

R Praggnanandhaa, 17-year-old Indian GM won the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023 on July 19 in Budapest, Hungary.

Sumit Antil scripted a world record in F64 javelin throw with a best attempt of 70.83m on July 13 at the World Para-Athletics Championship in Paris. Ajeet Singh also clinched the gold in F46 javelin throw category.

Rudransh Khandelwal, 19-year-old para-shooter won the gold and created a new world record on July 10 in the P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1 category at the ISSF World Shooting Cup in Osijek (Croatia).

Lakshya Sen clinched the Men's Singles title of the Canada Open 2023 badminton tournament in Calgary, Canada.

Parth Salunkhe, 19-year-old archer from Satara, Maharashtra, became the first Indian male archer to win a gold in the recurve category on July 9 at the Youth World Championships at Limerick, Ireland.

Neeraj Chopra clinched the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 title on June 30 in Switzerland with the best throw of 87.66 meters.

India's Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu won the gold medal on June 30 at the Asian Mixed Doubles Squash Tournament in Hangzhou, China.

Diksha Dagar, 22-year-old hearing impaired pro golfer from Haryana won her second Ladies European Tour at the Czech Ladies Open on June 25 at Beroun in Czech Republic.

Duleep Trophy: South Zone defeated the West Zone by 75 runs to lift the trophy on July 16 in Bengaluru

SAFF Football Championship: India lifted the trophy for the ninth time, beating Kuwait on July 4 in Bengaluru.

Asian Kabaddi Championship: Indian team led by Pawan Sehrawat defeated Iran 42-32 in the final played on June 30 in Busan, S. Korea.

Special Olympics World Games 2023: India ended its campaign in Berlin, Germany on June 25 by winning 202 medals (76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze).

AIFF Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Lallianzuala Chhangte from Mizoram won the men's title while Manisha Kalyan from Punjab won the women's title.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy secured a Guinness world record for the fastest shot by a male player in badminton, achieving a speed of 565 kmph with his smash played on April 14 this year in a controlled environment at the Yonex factory gymnasium at Soka, Saitama in Japan.

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DECEMBER GK TEST - 01

- The Quality of Living Index 2023 released by Mercer, a global consultant for businesses, has placed which Indian city at 153rd position, highest among Indian cities?**
a. Hyderabad b. Bengaluru
c. Ahmedabad D. Pune
e. New Delhi
- A Pune based firm, KPIT Technologies has unveiled a _____-ion battery technology that costs up to 30 percent lower than existing lithium-ion batteries:**
a. Potassium b. Calcium
c. Sodium d. Cadmium
e. Carbon
- In a historic achievement for Indian chess, Vaishali Rameshbabu became the _____ Indian female Grand Master on Dec 01:**
a. Third b. Fifth
c. Eighth d. Eleventh
e. Fifteenth
- The USA based Merriam-Webster Dictionary announced which word on Nov 27 as the word of the year for 2023:**
a. Deepfake b. Hallucinate
c. Authentic d. Digital
e. VR-Virtual Reality
- What is the name of the largest-ever survey vessel built in the country that was delivered to the Indian Navy on Dec 04?**
a. INS Vindhya b. INS Sahyadri
c. INS Saumyak d. INS Sandhayak
e. INS Nilgiri
- Who has been named "Time Magazine's Person of the Year" for 2023?**
a. Lionel Messi b. Taylor Swift
c. V. Zelensky d. Rishi Sunak
e. None of these
- Sheynnis Palacios, beauty queen from Nicaragua was crowned Miss _____ at San Salvador in El Salvador:**
a. World b. Continental

- Which of the following is the purpose of introducing 'Know Your Customer' norms by the banks?**
1) To check the entry of undesirable persons in the banking system
2) Identifying people who do not pay income tax
3) To ensure that the money deposited in banks comes only from genuine sources
4) To ensure whether the money deposited in the bank is of an Indian or a foreign national.
Select the right option
a. 1 and 3 b. 2 and 3
c. 2 and 4 d. 3 and 4
e. 1 and 4
- What is the maximum amount of monthly pension payable under Atal Pension Yojana?**
a. Rs. 2000 b. Rs. 3000
c. Rs. 4000 d. Rs. 5000
e. None of these
- Which state/UT flagged off a special education train named 'Gyanodaya Express - College on Wheels' on Nov 20?**
a. Kerala b. J&K
c. Puducherry d. Odisha
e. Delhi
- Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI) until November 30, 2025, by the Government of India?**
a. Vinay M. Tonse
b. Ashwini Kumar Tewari
c. Alok Kumar Choudhary
d. Mahesh Kumar Sharma
e. Basant Maheshwari
- Which noted film personality was honoured with the 'Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema' award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa?**
a. Hema Malini b. Aamir Khan
c. Kangna Ranaut d. S S Rajamouli

- e. Madhuri Dixit
13. **India hosted the last G20 Leaders' Summit on Nov 22 in which city?**
 - a. Jaipur
 - b. Goa
 - c. Gandhinagar
 - d. Puri
 - e. None of these
 14. **World's largest single-site solar power plant was inaugurated on Nov 17 near which city in the United Arab Emirates?**
 - a. Abu Dhabi
 - b. Sharjah
 - c. Dubai
 - d. Fujairah
 - e. Al Ain
 15. **World's first 3D-printed temple, a groundbreaking structure, was unveiled on Nov 21 in which Indian state?**
 - a. Kerala
 - b. Karnataka
 - c. Uttarakhand
 - d. Himachal Pradesh
 - e. Telangana
 16. **Under the Lok Adalat system for settlement of bank loan compromise cases, the court fee payable is Rs. _____ per lakh of the amount involved?**
 - a. 1000
 - b. 2000
 - c. 3000
 - d. 4000
 - e. No fee is payable
 17. **Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh is associated with which among the following?**
 - a. Satellite launching
 - b. Missile testing
 - c. Rocket launching
 - d. Satellite tracking
 - e. Cyclone forecasting
 18. **Which of the following statements is NOT true in the context of NCC?**
 - a. It acts as the second line of defence
 - b. It provides training in handling small firearms
 - c. Its first unit was raised in 1948
 - d. NCC Day is celebrated on fourth Sunday of November
 - e. Current strength of NCC cadets is over 15 lakh
 19. **Dr Anish Shah has been elected as the new President of which apex Indian industry body?**
 - a. ASSOCHAM
 - b. NASSCOM
 - c. CII
 - d. FICCI
 - e. CAIT
 20. **The central government has decided which new name for the Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres?**
 - a. Ayushman Arogya Kendra
 - b. Bharat Swasthya Kendra
 - c. Ayushman Arogya Mandir
 - d. Bharat Arogya Mandapam
 - e. Ayushman Niramaya Mandir
 21. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a sortie in which fighter jet on Nov 25 in Bengaluru?**
 - a. Sukhoi Su-30MKI
 - b. LCA Tejas
 - c. MiG 29
 - d. Rafale
 - e. Mirage 2000
 22. **Paul Lynch, winner of this year's Booker Prize for his novel 'Prophet Song', hails from which country?**
 - a. Ireland
 - b. Portugal
 - c. Greece
 - d. Scotland
 - e. Belgium
 23. **Recently there was a news item in various newspapers about Kavro Doma 360. What is it?**
 - a. Anti-aircraft missile
 - b. Rifle-rated ballistic helmet
 - c. Hand held rocket launcher
 - d. Man mounted anti-tank gun
 - e. Multiple drone firing system
 24. **In the context of banking sector, DRT is associated with which of the following?**
 - a. Deceased accounts
 - b. Loan recovery
 - c. Deposit insurance
 - d. Demand liabilities
 - e. Deferred Rupee Trading
 25. **What is the amount of cash awarded with the Golden Peacock award at the International Film Festival of India?**
 - a. Rs. 10 lakh
 - b. Rs. 20 lakh
 - c. Rs. 30 lakh
 - d. Rs. 40 lakh
 - e. Rs. 50 lakh
 26. **Asia's largest open-air annual trade fair, the Bali Jatra, was inaugurated on Nov 27 in which city?**
 - a. Puri
 - b. Konark
 - c. Begusarai
 - d. Cuttack
 - e. Tirupati
 27. **The union cabinet approved on Nov 29 extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) for next _____ years:**
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four
 - e. Five
 28. **In a historic step towards peace in the northeast, the Central and _____ governments signed a peace agreement on Nov 29 in New Delhi with the United National Liberation Front:**
 - a. Mizoram
 - b. Nagaland
 - c. Tripura
 - d. Manipur
 - e. Arunachal
 29. **The Union Cabinet approved on Nov 29 the terms of reference (ToR) for the Finance Commission. It is which number in series?**
 - a. 14th
 - b. 15th
 - c. 16th
 - d. 17th
 - e. 18th
 30. **Name the renowned the former diplomat of the USA, 1973 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who passed away on Nov 29:**

- a. J K Galbraith b. Henry Kissinger
c. George F. Kennan d. Richard Holbrooke
e. Kofi Annan
31. **Smt VR Lalithambika, who was conferred top French civilian honour Legion d'Honneur, is a renowned personality from which field?**
a. Space science b. Sports
c. Music d. Education
e. Dance
32. **Film 'Endless Borders' won the Golden Peacock for the Best Film at the 54th International Film Festival of India. This film is from which country?**
a. Iran b. Egypt
c. Portugal d. Italy
e. Greece
33. **Which country won the prestigious Davis Cup (Tennis) on Nov 26 in Malaga, Spain?**
a. Italy b. Serbia
c. Denmark d. Netherland
e. Poland
34. **England based Cambridge Dictionary selected which word as "word of the year for 2023"?**
a. Shadowban b. Grifter
c. GOAT d. Implosion
e. Hallucinate
35. **With a view to facilitate payment of balance in the deposit accounts to the person named by the depositor, in the event of death of the account holder, which facility is available in banks?**
a. Mandate b. Registration
c. Nomination d. Indemnity
e. Probate
36. **In the field of development of missiles, who in India is known as 'Agni Putri' for her outstanding contribution in development of Agni missiles?**
a. J Manjula b. Nandini Harinath
c. Ritu Kridhai d. Minal Rohit
e. Tessy Thomas
37. **Jason Dylan Bretfelean, the 19-year-old handsome hunk from Hyderabad created history on Nov 26 by becoming the first Indian to win which of the following global events?**
a. Mister Global 2023
b. Mister International
c. Supermodel International
d. Mister Universe
e. Mr. Supranational
38. **The Union Cabinet on Nov 29 approved a Central Sector Scheme for providing _____ to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs):**
a. Tractors b. Electric Pick-ups
c. Power looms d. Drones
e. Solar Pumps
39. **Sqn Ldr Manisha Padhi became India's first woman Aide-De-Camp (ADC) from the Indian Armed Forces. She has been attached to the Governor of which state?**
a. Odisha b. Jharkhand
c. Mizoram d. Manipur
e. Meghalaya
40. **What was the name of the joint military exercise of Indian and Vietnam People's Army held from Dec 11 to 21 in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam?**
a. IndVin-23 b. Vinbax-2023
c. Vintex-23 d. Indovet-23
e. Vietex-23
41. **President Droupadi Murmu presented the President's Colour to the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) on Dec 01. It is situated in which place?**
a. Panchgani b. Khadakwasla
c. Pune d. Sindhudurg
e. Thane
42. **Which of the following are allowed to do government agency business?**
a. Private banks
b. Public sector banks
c. Scheduled Payment banks
d. Scheduled Small Finance banks
e. All of them
43. **BSE Sensex issued by Bombay Stock Exchange is a barometer of Indian capital markets representing a basket of ____ large, highly traded companies:**
a. 30 b. 35
c. 40 d. 50
e. 75
44. **Marking a milestone in the history of climate change funding, which country made an unprecedented 30-billion-dollar commitment to ALTERRA, a climate-focused investment vehicle?**
a. Saudi Arabia b. UAE
c. Japan d. USA
e. Switzerland
45. **The world's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya _____ Aid Cube' was unveiled on Dec 2 in Gurugram, Haryana:**
a. Bharat b. Vaidya
c. Maitri d. Bandhu
e. Mitra
46. **In which state/UT the 10-day long Hornbill Festival began on Dec 01 for showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the state?**
a. Kerala b. Meghalaya
c. Jharkhand d. Nagaland
e. Tripura

47. **World's deepest and largest underground lab in the world was made operational on Dec 7 at a depth of 2,400 metres, in which country?**
 a. France b. Switzerland
 c. Italy d. China
 e. Australia
48. **Sultan of _____, Haitham bin Tarik arrived in India on Dec 15 on his three-day state visit:**
 a. Bahrain b. Oman
 c. Yemen d. Kuwait
 e. Qatar
49. **The Union Cabinet approved on Dec 15 a proposal to declare which airport as an International Airport?**
 A. Pune b. Mysuru
 c. Surat d. Jammu
 e. Gwalior
50. **Under the Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account, banks are required to allow minimum _____ withdrawals per month, free of charge?**
 a. 3 b. 4
 c. 5 d. 6
 e. 7

DECEMBER GK TEST - 02

1. **Shri Om Birla holds an important position in the Indian political system. What is his position?**
 a. Chief Election Commissioner
 b. Chairman of Rajya Sabha
 c. Speaker of Lok Sabha
 d. Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha
 e. Chairman of Niti Aayog
2. **Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad have been declared joint winners of the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize. What is the amount of cash reward in this prize?**
 a. Rs. 10 lakh b. Rs. 15 lakh
 c. Rs. 20 lakh d. Rs. 25 lakh
 e. Rs. 50 lakh
3. **Which Municipal Corporation entered the Guinness Book of World Records on Dec 14 with 3,066 parents simultaneously telling stories to their children for four minutes?**
 a. Indore b. Kochi
 c. Pune d. Vadodara
 e. Cuttack
4. **Which initiative at COP 28 brought together over 1,300 global business leaders and philanthropists for funding of measures to counter the impact of climate change?**
 a. Philanthropy to Save Earth
 b. Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum
 c. Business Fund to counter climate change
 d. Corporate Charity Climate Fund
5. **President of _____, William Samoei Ruto arrived in New Delhi on Dec 04 on a three-day visit to India:**
 a. Tanzania b. Nigeria
 c. Spain d. Kenya
 e. Colombia
6. **Severe cyclonic storm Michaung that battered the Indian western coast, made its landfall on Dec 5 near which place?**
 a. Vellore b. Chennai
 c. Nellore d. Tuticorin
 e. Ennore
7. **The QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024, released on Dec 05, placed which university at top among Indian universities?**
 a. Bombay University b. Delhi University
 c. IIT Bombay d. IIT Madras
 e. JNU Delhi
8. **Under WMA facility, RBI lends to the government to help it tide over temporary mismatches in receipts and payments. The letter 'A' in the term 'WMA' denotes _____**
 a. Aggregate b. Authorisation
 c. Account d. Advances
 e. Agreement
9. **Who is the current occupant of the office of the Lokpal in India?**
 a. Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose
 b. Justice Ranjan Gogoi
 c. Justice H. L. Dattu
 d. Justice Pradip K Mohanty
 e. Justice B. S. Chauhan
10. **Hump WWII Museum, dedicated to fallen airmen flying for the Allied forces (led by Britain) during World War II, was inaugurated on Nov 29 at which place in Arunachal Pradesh?**
 a. Bomdila b. Tezu
 c. Pasighat d. Twang
 e. Itanagar
11. **Sheetal Devi was selected as "Best Youth Athlete" at the recent Asian Para Games Awards in Riyadh. She is a noted player of which sports?**
 a. Archery b. Boxing
 c. High jump d. Sprint
 e. Shot put
12. **Oxford University Press has unveiled _____ as its Word of the Year 2023:**
 a. Swiftie b. Prompt
 c. Rizz d. Heat Dome
 e. Parasocial
13. **Which US state was in the news recently due to the outbreak of a respiratory infection named White Lung Syndrome?**

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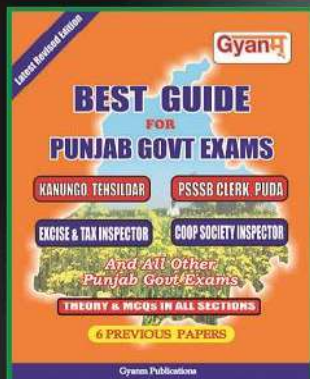
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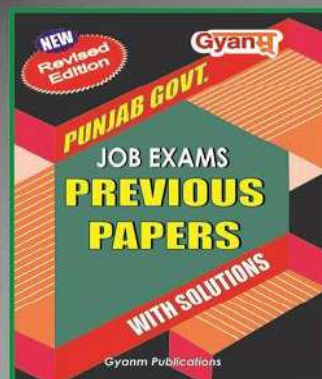


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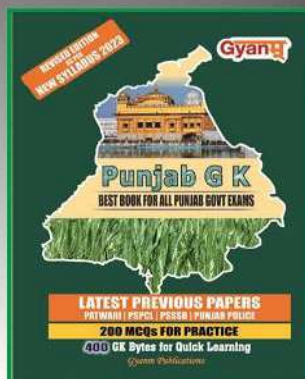
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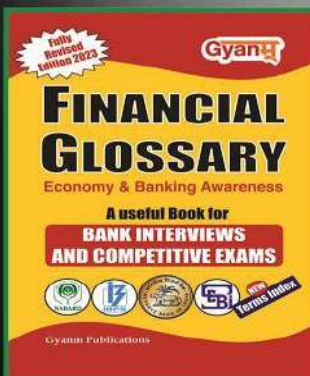
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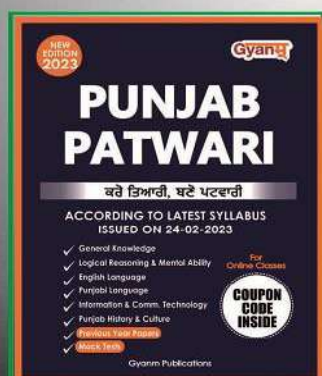
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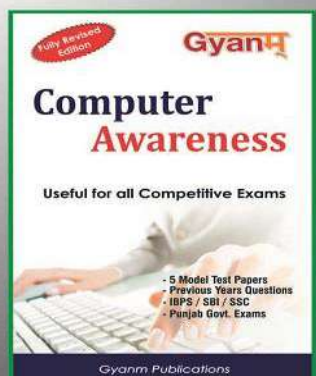
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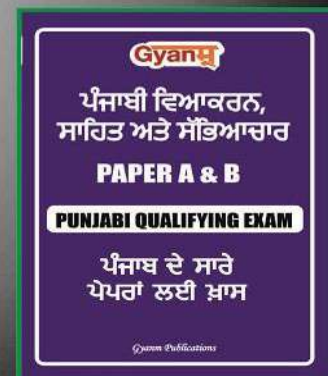
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- a. Florida b. California
c. Ohio d. Georgia
e. Texas
14. **Which country topped the 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR), released on Dec 01?**
a. USA b. Switzerland
c. Singapore d. Denmark
e. Netherlands
15. **Safeena Hussain became the first Indian woman to bag the WISE Prize worth \$ 5 lakh for which achievement?**
a. Motivating villagers for construction of toilets
b. Promoting cleanliness in Mumbai slums
c. Promotion formation of women SHGs in rural area
d. Bringing lakhs of girls back to school
e. Working for women empowerment by skilling them
16. **Which of the following is a public sector bank?**
a. Bank of Maharashtra
b. Federal Bank
c. IDBI Bank
d. Yes Bank
e. Karnataka Bank
17. **Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana every account holder gets a free accidental insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh provided the Rupay Card issued in the account has been used at least once in _____ days?**
a. 30 days b. 90 days
c. 40 days d. 60 days
e. 45 days
18. **The world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor started its official operations on Dec 01 in which country?**
a. China b. Russia
c. Germany d. USA
e. Japan
19. **Which traditional dance form of India has been included in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO on Dec 6?**
a. Bihu b. Jatra
c. Chhau d. Garba
e. Bhangra
20. **What is the name of the largest ever computer chip with 1,121 superconducting qubits, unveiled on Dec 4 by the US based tech giant IBM?**
- a. Condor b. Quixot
c. Aruba d. Nontro
e. None of these
21. **Who has been named as the Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023?**
a. Novak Djokovic b. Max Verstappen
c. Cristiano Ronaldo d. Lionel Messi
e. None of these
22. **What is the name of the latest and most advanced AI model unveiled on Dec 6 by Google parent company Alphabet?**
a. Donut b. Lexio
c. Gemini d. Bard-Z
e. SupreX
23. **The Lok Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Dec 7 aimed at setting up the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in _____ state?**
a. Odisha b. Chhattisgarh
c. Madhya Pradesh d. Jharkhand
e. Telangana
24. **Which of the following is NOT a part of the prudent guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India?**
a. Loan Recovery Rules
b. Income recognition
c. Provisioning Requirements
d. Capital Adequacy Norms
e. None of these
25. **Which of the following sectors accounts for around 54% of the total GDP of India?**
a. Trade and Services
b. Agriculture and Mining
c. Manufacturing and Processing
d. Banking and Insurance
e. Corporate Business
26. **The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched which Geographic Information System (GIS) application to promote Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayats?**
a. Gram Darpan b. Gram Manchitra
c. Gram Aanchal d. Nakshaachitr
e. Bhu Chitran
27. **The Forbes list of 'The World's Most Powerful Women' for 2023 included only four Indian ladies. Which one of the following is NOT one of them?**
a. Nirmala Sitharaman
b. Roshni Nadar Malhotra
c. Nita Ambani d. Soma Mondal

- e. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
28. **India moved one step ahead at _____ rank in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released on Dec 8 at the global climate conference (COP-28) in Dubai:**
 a. 7th b. 11th
 c. 17th d. 21st
 e. 26th
29. **The RBI raised the UPI payment limit to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs _____ lakh, from Rs 1 lakh at present:**
 a. 2 b. 3
 c. 4 d. 5
 e. 6
30. **The period during the loan term when the borrower is not required to make any repayment (a short period before EMIs begins) is termed as:**
 a. Cooling period b. Lay off period
 c. Testimonial d. Moratorium
 e. Moderation
31. **Global credit rating agency Fitch Ratings is based in which city?**
 a. Paris b. London
 c. Geneva d. New York
 e. Chicago
32. **Which private Indian Bank was awarded the prestigious title of "Bank of the Year (India), 2023" by The Banker, a renowned London based financial magazine?**
 a. IndusInd Bank b. Yes Bank
 c. Federal Bank d. RBL Bank
 e. Axis Bank
33. **In a significant move, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of Centre's decision to abrogate which Article of the Constitution of India, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir?**
 a. 270 b. 302
 c. 360 d. 366
 e. 370
34. **As per the recent assembly elections held in five states and results declared on Dec 3 (Dec 4 for Mizoram), all five states got new chief ministers as under.**
 A. Madhya Pradesh 1. Bhajan Lal Sharma
 B. Telangana 2. Lalduhoma
 C. Chhattisgarh 3. Vishnu Deo Sai
 D. Rajasthan 4. Revanth Reddy
 E. Mizoram 5. Dr Mohan Yadav
 Identify the correct pairing from below:

- a. A-4; B-3; C-2; D-1 E-5
 b. A-5; B-4; C-3; D-1; E-2
 c. A-3; B-5; C-1; D-4; E-2
 d. A-1; B-3; C-4; D-2; E-5
 e. A-5; B-2; C-3; D-1; E-4
35. **Which veteran Bollywood actor was honoured with Italy's highest civilian honour – Order of Merit of the Italian Republic on Dec 10?**
 a. Pankaj Tripathi b. Anupam Kher
 c. Kabir Bedi d. Manoj Bajpai
 e. Saurabh Shukla
36. **Some of the activities undertaken by the Central Banks are**
 1) Lending money for infrastructure
 2) Creation of currency chests at various places
 3) Maintaining electronic funds transfer systems
 Select the correct option:
 a. Only 1 and 2 b. Only 1 and 3
 c. Only 2 and 3 d. 1, 2, & 3
 e. None of these
37. **What is the name of the Indian train that covers longest distance of 4189 kms from Dibrugarh, Assam to Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu?**
 a. Vivek Express
 b. Vivekananda Express
 c. Kanyakumari Express
 d. Assam Express
 e. Bharatmata Express
38. **The Ministry of Defence on Dec 12, approved a proposal to purchase 70,000 more semi-automatic SIG 716 assault rifles from SIG Sauer company of which country?**
 a. Sweden b. Israel
 c. Russia d. Netherlands
 e. America
39. **A "Loss and Damage Fund" with initial funding estimated at \$475 million, was formed at COP28 to provide financial support to countries reeling under the impact of climate change. Which organisation has been named interim host to the fund for a period of first four years?**
 a. OIC b. OECD
 c. IMF d. WB
 e. WEF
40. **Under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana all persons in the age group of _____ to _____ having a bank account are eligible for**

personal accidental death insurance cover of Rs. two lakh?

- a. 18-70 b. 18-80
c. 18-60 d. 18-50
e. None of these

41. Which of the following is the national aquatic animal of India?

- a. Gangetic Crocodile b. Bengal Ghariyal
c. Gangetic Dolphin d. Indian Salmon
e. Indus Dolphin

42. Veteran Hindi writer Pushpa Bharati was honoured recently with which literary award for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein"?

- a. Jnanpith Award b. Vyas Samman
c. Rabindra Puraskar d. Kalidas Samman
e. Saraswati Samman

43. World's first methane-liquid oxygen fuelled rocket was launched by a private aerospace company LandSpace on Dec 9 in which country?

- a. USA b. France
c. Japan d. China
e. North Korea

44. Which of the following institutions is a credit information bureau owned by Banks and other lending institutions?

- a. ARCIL b. CARE
c. ARSEC d. CIBIL
e. CRISIL

45. Which of the following is the nodal agency in the Ministry of Finance for gathering and disseminating intelligence information related to suspect financial transactions in India?

- a. Financial Intelligence Unit
b. Enforcement Directorate
c. Intelligence Bureau
d. Central Finance Bureau of India
e. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

46. Damodar Valley Corporation is an important mega hydroelectric project of India. It is operative in which area?

- a. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh
b. West Bengal and Jharkhand
c. Bihar and Jharkhand
d. West Bengal and Bihar
e. Jharkhand and Odisha

47. Rann Utsav is a popular international cultural extravaganza of which state?

- a. Karnataka b. Meghalaya
c. Gujarat d. Rajasthan
e. Himachal Pradesh

48. As per the Right to Information Act, 2005 the information sought by an applicant has to be furnished within maximum _____ days?

- a. 60 b. 50
c. 20 d. 30
e. 40

49. As per RBI guidelines, all collateral free loans given to poor families with annual income up to Rs____lakh are treated as Micro Finance:

- a. One b. Two
c. Three d. Four
e. No such limit

50. The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28/UNFCCC) concluded on Dec 13 in Dubai. Which country will host the COP29 in November, 2024?

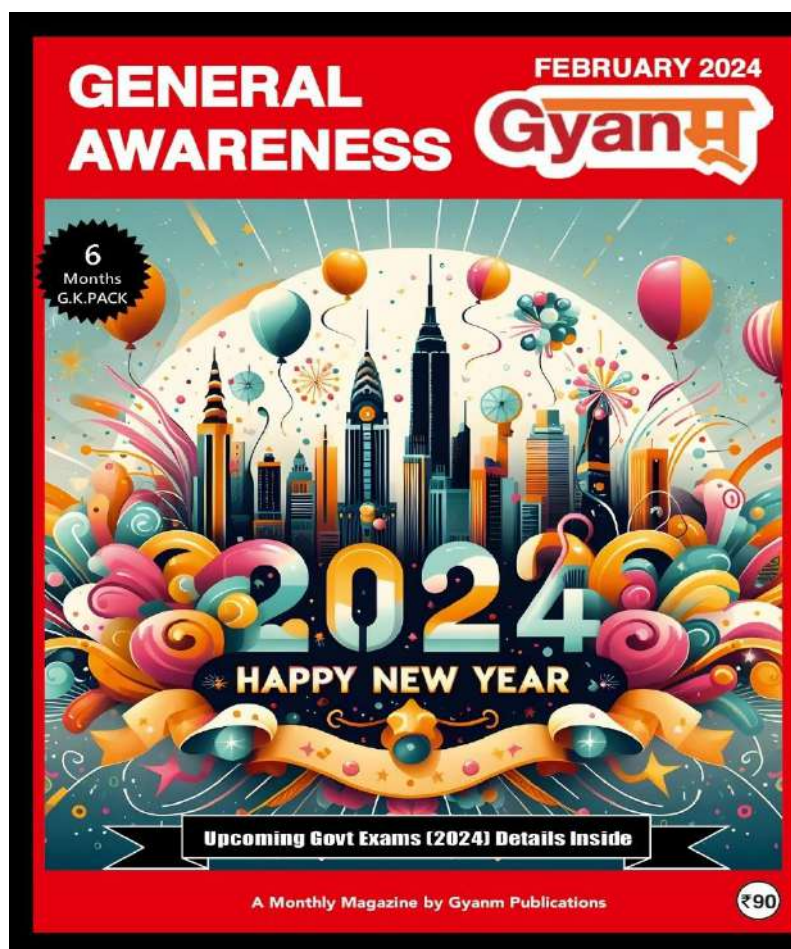
- a. France b. Poland
c. Canada d. Chile
e. Azerbaijan

ANSWER KEY | DECEMBER | GK TEST | 1

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	A	2	C	3	A	4	C	5	D
6	B	7	D	8	A	9	D	10	B
11	A	12	E	13	E	14	A	15	E
16	E	17	A	18	A	19	D	20	C
21	B	22	A	23	B	24	B	25	D
26	D	27	E	28	D	29	C	30	B
31	A	32	A	33	A	34	E	35	C
36	E	37	A	38	D	39	C	40	B
41	C	42	E	43	A	44	B	45	C
46	D	47	D	48	B	49	C	50	B

ANSWER KEY | DECEMBER | GK TEST | 2

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	C	2	D	3	C	4	B	5	D
6	C	7	B	8	D	9	D	10	C
11	A	12	C	13	C	14	A	15	D
16	A	17	B	18	E	19	D	20	A
21	D	22	C	23	E	24	A	25	A
26	B	27	C	28	A	29	D	30	D
31	D	32	C	33	E	34	B	35	C
36	C	37	A	38	E	39	D	40	A
41	C	42	B	43	D	44	D	45	A
46	B	47	C	48	D	49	C	50	E



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LATEST GK BYTES

DECEMBER 2023

- Which state will host 6th Khelo India Youth Games from January 19 to 31 in 2024? **Tamil Nadu**
- December 27 is celebrated as The International Day of ____ Preparedness: **Epidemic**
- We celebrate Dec 26 as "Veer Bal Diwas" to mark the martyrdom of which two sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh? **Baba Zorawar Singh (9) and Baba Fateh Singh (7)**
- Indian Navy commissioned the stealth guided missile destroyer – INS Imphal on Dec 26 at which place? **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai**

- The birthday of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Dec 25 is observed as which national day in India? **Good Governance Day**
- The World Bank sanctioned a \$300 million loan to support Tamil Nadu for what purpose? **For improved access to water and sewerage services in cities**
- India celeb rates National Consumer Day on Dec 24. The current Consumer Protection Act was passed in which year? **2019**
- On which date we celebrate the World Consumer Day? **15th March**

9.	The United Nations has designated 2024 as the International Year of ____: Camelids
10.	National Farmers' Day on Dec 23 commemorates the birthday of which veteran farmers' leader? Chaudhary Charan Singh
11.	The Terminal-2 of which International Airport in India has been named one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports'? Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
12.	National Mathematics Day on Dec 22 marks the birthday of legendary mathematician ____ Ramanujan: Srinivasa
13.	The Ministry of Textiles launched the mobile application "Paat-Mitro" on Dec 21 for which target group? Jute farmers
14.	Who secured the top spot in the 2023 Forbes' list of highest-paid women athletes released on Dec 21? Tennis star Iga Swiatek
15.	The International Organisation for Migration launched Project PRAYAS on Dec 21 for what purpose? To help Indian workers and students migrate in a secure and regular manner
16.	Which Grandmaster won the Chennai Grand Masters 2023 tournament on Dec 21? D Gukesh
17.	The Parliament passed three key Bills on Dec 21 that seek to overhaul the ____ system: Criminal justice
18.	What is the new name for revised Indian Penal Code (IPC)? Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita
19.	Which new law will replace the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)? Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita
20.	How many heritage projects from India secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, announced on Dec 21 in Bangkok? Six
21.	Which heritage project received the highest honour, 'Award of Excellence'? Rambagh Gate and Rampart
22.	Rambagh Gate and Rampart are situated in which city? Amritsar
23.	Which temple in Kerala was honoured with 'Award of Distinction' by UNESCO for outstanding restoration efforts in maintaining its original traditional wooden architecture? Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple
24.	Pipal Haveli, a heritage rural homestay which was awarded UNESCO's 'Special Recognition for

	Sustainable Development' for Cultural Heritage Conservation, lies in which state? Punjab
25.	The MSME Ministry launched how many new sub-schemes on Dec 20 under its existing RAMP ((Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity) programme? Three
26.	Government has decided to establish 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools throughout the country for which group of students? Tribal students
27.	Eklavya Model Residential Schools provide free education and hostel facilities to tribal students of which class? From class 6 to 12
28.	The Government announced the National Sports Awards 2023 on Dec 20. Which is the highest national sports award? Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
29.	Name the badminton players duo who have been honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award: Chirag C Shetty and Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy
30.	Which trophy is awarded for the top performance in the inter-university tournaments? Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy
31.	Which neighbouring country of India plans to build a massive "international city" in an area spanning over 1,000 sq km on its border with India? Bhutan
32.	The union home ministry has asked which armed police force to take over the overall security of the Parliament? Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
33.	The WHO has classified a sub-variant of the Omicron strain of coronavirus, JN.1 as what? A "variant of interest" (VOI)
34.	Which oil producing country announced its decision to leave the oil cartel OPEC? Angola
35.	What is the full form of OPEC? Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
36.	Which union ministry launched India's National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal on Dec 19? Ministry for Mines
37.	What is the main objective of the National Geoscience Data Repository? To facilitate data-based research on the mineral exploration projects
38.	Which country's Gansu province was hit hard by a 6.2 magnitude earthquake, claiming over 150 lives? China

39.	Who has been re-elected as the President of Egypt for a third six-year term? Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
40.	Which Indian hockey player was named the men's FIH Player of the Year 2023 on Dec 19? Hardik Singh
41.	Which Indian airliner announced on Dec 18 that it is the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year? IndiGo
42.	As per the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief, which country received the highest amount of remittance inflows in 2023? India
43.	The RBI has introduced a Card-on-File (CoF) token facility at the level of banks and other institutions. A CoF token is of how many digits? Sixteen
44.	Vijay Hazare Trophy is associated with which sports? Cricket
45.	Haryana secured their first title triumph in Vijay Hazare Trophy on Dec 16 by beating which team? Rajasthan
46.	India's fastest solar electric boat, Barracuda, was launched on Dec 13 in which city? Alappuzha, Kerala
47.	Which Indian defence force conducted Exercise Astra Shakti 2023 on Dec 12? Indian Air Force
48.	India celebrates Minorities Rights Day on December 18. Who is the current chairman of the National Commission for Minorities? Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura
49.	Which UN office is associated with the celebration of International Migrants Day on December 18? International Organisation for Migrants, Geneva
50.	Which state topped the medal tally in the first-ever Khelo India Para Games which concluded on Dec 17 in New Delhi? Haryana
51.	Vijay Diwas is observed every year on Dec 16 to mark the Indian armed forces victory over Pakistan in which war? 1971 war
52.	December 15 is celebrated as International Tea Day. World's first tea estate was established in 1839 in which place? Assam
53.	DRDO successfully carried out a flight trial of high speed 'Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator' on Dec 15 from the Aeronautical Test Range of Chitradurga. It is in which state? Karnataka
54.	Sultan of____, Haitham bin Tarik arrived in India on Dec 15 on his three-day state visit: Oman

55.	The Union Cabinet approved on Dec 15 a proposal to declare which airport as an International Airport? Surat, Gujarat
56.	Surat is an international trade hub for which two main items? Diamonds and textiles, especially silk sarees
57.	Who has been declared as the International Tennis Federation's World Champions – 2023 among women? Aryna Sabalenka
58.	Aryna Sabalenka hails from which country? Belarus
59.	Which city entered the Guinness Book of World Records on Dec 14 for arranging 3,066 parents telling stories to their children at a time for four minutes? Pune, Maharashtra
60.	Indian Army has ordered for 70,000 more semi-automatic SIG 716 assault rifles from which country? USA
61.	Who are the winners of this year's Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad
62.	Daniel and Ali have been honoured for which feat of theirs? For their efforts towards a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict
63.	Which type of warship is INS Tarmugli, which was commissioned into the Indian Navy on Dec 14? Fast Attack Craft
64.	Which apex organisation supports the celebration of the National Energy Conservation Day on Dec 14? Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
65.	The 28th session of the COP28/UNFCCC concluded on Dec 13 in which city? Dubai
66.	At the COP28, the 200 participating nations agreed to achieve net zero by which year? 2050
67.	Who was the President for the COP28? Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber
68.	The Indian Navy and the Philippines Navy have carried out a maritime partnership exercise on Dec 13 in which area? West Philippine Sea area of South China Sea
69.	A Pune based firm, KPIT Technologies has unveiled a ____-ion battery that costs up to 30% less than existing lithium-ion batteries: Sodium
70.	The Quality of Living Index 2023 released by Mercer, placed which city at 153 rd rank, highest amongst Indian cities? Hyderabad

71.	Who has been named the “Rising Star of the Year” among women by the United World Wrestling (UWW)? Antim Panghal
72.	Supreme Court on Dec 11 upheld the validity of Centre’s decision to abrogate Article ____ of the Constitution of India: 370
73.	Article 370 of the Constitution of India is associated with which issue? Grant of special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu-Kashmir
74.	Article 370 was abrogated by the Indian Parliament in which year? 2019
75.	December 11 is observed as the UNICEF Day. UNICEF is based in which city? New York
76.	What is the full form of the acronym UNICEF? United Nations Children’s Fund
77.	The Indian Army conducted joint exercise VINIBAX-2023 with which country? Vietnam
78.	Exercise VINIBAX-2023 was held at which place from Dec 11 to 21? Hanoi, Vietnam
79.	Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, Italy’s highest civilian honour was bestowed on which veteran Bollywood personality? Kabir Bedi
80.	State of Chhattisgarh recently got its first tribal chief minister. Who is he? Vishnu Deo Sai
81.	In Mizoram, Mr Lalduhoma was sworn in as the new chief minister. He is from which party? Zoram People’s Movement
82.	Parliament of which European country elected Donald Tusk as its Prime Minister? Poland
83.	December 10 is celebrated as the Human Rights Day. In India, who is the current chief of the National Human Rights Commission? Justice Arun Kumar Mishra
84.	National Submarine Day on Dec 9 commemorate the induction of first submarine in Indian Navy on this day in 1967. What was its name? INS Kalvari
85.	In which country a private aerospace company LandSpace launched world’s first methane-liquid oxygen fuelled rocket on Dec 9? China
86.	Which veteran Hindi writer was honoured with 33 rd Vyas Samman, 2023? Pushpa Bharati
87.	Which work of Pushpa Bharti was selected for the Vyas Samman? Her 2016 memoir, “Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein”
88.	The Indian Navy conducted a multi-agency exercise ‘Prasthan’ on Dec 08 along with other defence, State and civil agencies in which area? Offshore Development Area off Mumbai

89.	Which Kerala based private bank was honoured as the “Bank of the Year (India), 2023” by The Banker, a renowned London based financial magazine? Federal Bank
90.	RBI raised the UPI payment limit to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs ____lakh from Rs 1 lakh at present: Five
91.	RBI hiked the cap for e-mandates for recurring payments through UPI to Rs. ____ from Rs 15,000 per transaction at present: One lakh
92.	India was placed at which rank in Climate Change Performance Index released on Dec 8? 7th
93.	Which country scored highest marks in the Climate Change Performance Index? Denmark
94.	Of the four Indian ladies in the Forbes list of ‘The World’s Most Powerful Women’, who secured the highest rank, 32 nd ? Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister
95.	Who topped the Forbes list of ‘The World’s Most Powerful Women’ for 2023? Ursula von der Leyen, President of EU
96.	Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched which GIS based application to encourage spatial planning by the Gram Panchayats? Gram Manchitra
97.	Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change joined hands with which international organisation to launch a global initiative named "Green Rising" on Dec 8 at COP28 in Dubai? UNICEF's Generation Unlimited
98.	The Lok Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Dec 7 aimed at establishing a Central Tribal University in Telangana. What’s its name? Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University
99.	The name Sammakka Sarakka is associated with what in Telangana? Local tribal Goddesses
100.	World’s deepest and largest science laboratory, built at depth of 2,400 meters became operational on Dec 7 in which country? China
101.	Armed Forces Flag Day on Dec 7 commemorates the supreme sacrifice of our soldiers in which operation? None, it is general tribute to them
102.	Name the 34-year-old American pop singer who has been named “Time Magazine’s Person of the Year” for 2023: Taylor Swift
103.	Which concert tour of Taylor Swift has set a new benchmark in the music industry by becoming the first tour to surpass the billion-dollar mark in gross ticket sales? Eras Tour

104.	What is the name of the most advanced AI model recently launched by Alphabet, which is trained to behave in human-like ways? Gemini
105.	Who has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023? Lionel Messi
106.	IBM unveiled on Dec 4 world's first quantum computer chip which has 1,121 superconducting qubits, the largest ever. What is its name? Condor
107.	Which immensely popular traditional dance of India has been included in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO? Garba from Gujarat
108.	Which festival is associated with Garba? Sharad Navratri
109.	The world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor has been started in which country? Japan
110.	Safeena Hussain became the first Indian woman to bag the WISE Prize worth \$ 5 lakh for which of her achievement? For mobilising 14 lakh girls back to school in rural India
111.	Which global agency granted a \$200 million loan to Uttarakhand to improve electricity supply in the state? Asian Development Bank
112.	Which country topped the 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR), released on Dec 01? USA
113.	What was India's rank in this WDC ranking? 49th
114.	Which organisation released this WDC ranking? Institute for Management Development, Switzerland
115.	Which US state was in news recently on account of sudden outbreak of large number of White Lung Syndrome cases? Ohio
116.	Oxford University Press unveiled which word as its Word of the Year 2023? Rizz
117.	What does the word Rizz stand for? Style, charm, or attractiveness
118.	Sheetal Devi, winner of "Best Youth Athlete" at the Asian Awards for para-athletes, is a noted ____ of India? Archer
119.	What is the name of the largest-ever survey vessel built in the country that was delivered to the Indian Navy on Dec 04? INS Sandhayak
120.	INS Sandhayak has been built by which Indian ship building firm? Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., Kolkata

121.	A museum dedicated to fallen airmen of WWII was opened up in which place in Arunachal Pradesh? Pasighat
122.	What is the name of this museum? Hump WWII Museum
123.	The QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024, released on Dec 05, placed which university at top amongst Indian universities? Delhi University
124.	Overall, which university topped the QS World University Rankings 2024? University of Toronto, Canada
125.	Which organisation releases the QS World University Rankings? Quacquarelli Symonds, London
126.	Cyclone Michaung which battered Eastern Coast of India on Dec 4-5-6, made a landfall near which place? Nellore
127.	Which was the worst affected city by the Cyclone Michaung? Chennai
128.	Which country hosted the IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023 which concluded on Dec 4? Armenia
129.	Kenya, William Samoei Ruto who arrived in New Delhi on Dec 04 on a three-day visit to India, is the President of which country? Kenya
130.	What is the capital of Kenya? Nairobi
131.	India approved a \$ 250 million credit line to Kenya for what purpose? Modernisation of its agriculture sector
132.	Vaishali Rameshbabu became the ____ Indian female Grandmaster on Dec 01: Third
133.	Hornbill festival is the biggest musical and cultural extravaganza of which state? Nagaland
134.	The COP28 Presidency unveiled on Dec 3 the "COP28 UAE Declaration on ____, Relief, Recovery, and Peace": Climate
135.	The World's first portable hospital was unveiled on Dec 2 in which Indian city? Gurugram, Haryana
136.	What is the name of this portable hospital? Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube
137.	What is the name of a first-of-its-kind private-sector engagement initiative within the COP framework which brought together over 1,300 global business leaders and philanthropists? Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum

138. December 4 is observed as the International Day of _____, all over the world: Banks
139. National/Indian Navy Day on Dec 4 marks the success of which naval operation in 1971 Indo-Pak war? Operation Trident
140. Who is the current chief of the Indian Navy? Admiral R Hari Kumar
141. Indian Navy inducted INS Mahe, INS Malvan, and INS Mangrol on Nov 30. What type of ships are these? Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts
142. COP-28 announced creation of a “_____Fund” to provide financial support to countries reeling under the impact of climate change: Loss and Damage
143. Which country made an unprecedented 30 billion dollar commitment to ALTÉRRRA, a climate-focused investment vehicle, on Dec 01 at COP-28 in Dubai? UAE - United Arab Emirates
144. President Droupadi Murmu presented the President's Colour to which army outfit on Dec 01? Armed Forces Medical College, AFMC
145. AFMC is situated in which city? Pune
146. December 2 is observed as World Computer Literacy Day. Which Indian IT company initiated this day in 2001? NIIT – National Institute of Information Technology
147. National Pollution Control Day on Dec 2 is associated with which industrial tragedy? Bhopal Gas Tragedy
148. Leakage of which gas claimed thousands of lives in Bhopal Gas Tragedy? MIC - Methyl Isocyanate
149. What was the theme for the Day for this year's World AIDS Day on Dec 01? Let communities lead
150. ADB approved a \$170 million loan to which city to support the modernization of water supply services there? Kochi, Kerala
151. Sqn Ldr Manisha Padhi was appointed on Nov 29 as India's first woman Aide-de-Camp. She was attached to the Governor of which state? Mizoram
152. The Union Cabinet on Nov 29 approved a Central Sector Scheme for providing _____to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs): Drones
153. Jason Dylan Bretfelean, a 19 year old young man from Hyderabad created history on Nov 26 by becoming first Indian winner of which International title? Mister Global

154. England based Cambridge Dictionary selected _____as word of the year for 2023: Hallucinate
155. Which popular dictionary has selected “authentic” as the word of the year for 2023? Merriam-Webster, USA
156. Which country won the Davis Cup (Tennis) on Nov 26 in Malaga, Spain? Italy
157. Which film won the Golden Peacock for the Best Film at the 54 th IFFI, Goa? Endless Borders
158. What is the amount of the cash award given with the Golden Peacock award? Rs. 40 lakh
159. Who won the Silver Peacock for the Special Jury Award at the IFFI? Rishabh Shetty for Kantara
160. What was the second quarter GDP growth rate as announced by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Nov 30? 7.6 per cent
161. The NSO functions under which union ministry? Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
162. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited which country on Nov 30 to attend the World Climate Action Summit? United Arab Emirates, UAE
163. Smt VR Lalithambika who was recently honoured with Legion d'honneur by France, is a prominent _____: Space scientist
164. Which team won the 13 th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship on Nov 28? Punjab
165. Name the former U S Secretary of State (Foreign Minister) and 1973 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who passed away on Nov 29: Henry Kissinger
166. The Union Cabinet approved the terms of reference (ToR) for the _____Finance Commission: 16th
167. The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under which Article of the Indian Constitution? 280
168. The 16 th Finance Commission will recommend the formula for sharing revenues between the Centre and the States for the five-year period beginning on____: April 1, 2026
169. Article 275 of the Indian Constitution is associated with what? Provisions related to grants from the union government to states
170. Who was sworn in as the new prime minister of New Zealand on Nov 29? Christopher Luxon
171. The Central and Manipur governments signed a peace agreement on Nov 29 in New Delhi with

	which banned militant outfit? The United National Liberation Front (UNLF)
172.	The union cabinet approved on Nov 29 extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) for another ____years from 1st of January 2024: Five
173.	Asia's largest open-air annual trade fair, the Bali Jatra, was inaugurated on Nov 27 in which state? Odisha
174.	Trade fair Bali Jatra is organised annually on the banks of which river? Mahanadi River
175.	Which city is the proud host of the trade fair Bali Jatra? Cuttack
NOVEMBER 2023	
1.	Indian Organ Donation Day is observed on which day of November? 27th
2.	The central government decided on Nov 26 to give which new name to Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres? Ayushman Arogya Mandir
3.	UNO has selected which day of November as the World Sustainable Transport Day? 26th
4.	Who was declared the winner of 2023 Booker Prize? Irish writer Paul Lynch
5.	Paul Lynch won the Booker Prize for which of his novel? Prophet Song
6.	What is the amount of the cash prize given with the Booker Prize? British Pound 50,000/=
7.	Which Sunday of November is celebrated as the NCC Day? 4th
8.	National Milk Day on Nov 26 marks the birthday of which great personality? Dr. Verghese Kurien
9.	Which Indian golfer secured her second victory of the Ladies European Tour season on Nov 26 by winning Andalucia Costa del Sol Open de España in Marbella, Spain? Aditi Ashok
10.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi became first PM to take a sortie in which fighter jet on Nov 25 in Bengaluru? LCA Tejas
11.	With which country India started a two week joint military exercise Surya Kiran 2023 on Nov 24? Nepal
12.	Surya Kiran 2023 was held at which place? Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
13.	What is the name of the world's first India made rifle-rated ballistic helmet? Kavro Doma 360
14.	What was the name of the joint military exercise of Indian and Australian Armed Forces that started on Nov 22? AUSTRAHIND-23

15.	AUSTRAHIND-23 was held at which place? Perth, Australia
16.	Which city hosted the last G20 Leaders' Summit on Nov 22? None, it was held in virtual format
17.	Who became the first Indian woman to win an individual world snooker title by winning World 6 Red Women Snooker Championships in Doha, Qatar? Vidya Pillai
18.	The ADB approved a \$500 million loan to which Indian state to enhance the quality and affordability of tertiary health care and medical education? Maharashtra
19.	79 th Senior National Squash Championships were hosted by which city? Chennai
20.	Dr Anish Shah has been elected as the new President of which apex Indian industry body? FICCI - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
21.	In which part of the world, a massive iceberg, spanning over 4000 sq km, broke away from the mainland? Northern Antarctica
22.	World's first 3D-printed temple was unveiled on Nov 21 in Burugupally in which state? Telangana
23.	In which country world's largest single-site solar power plant, spread over 20 sq km, was inaugurated on Nov 17? UAE
24.	World Fisheries Day is observed on Nov 21. Who is the current union minister for fisheries, animal husbandry & dairying in India? Shri Parshottam Rupala
25.	November 21 is observed as World Television Day. Who is credited with invention of Television in 1924? John Logie Baird
26.	India started regular national TV telecast in which year? 1982
27.	When was color television introduced in the Indian market? 1982
28.	Which veteran film personality was honoured with the 'Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema' award at the 54 th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa? Madhuri Dixit
29.	Name the ace Indian cueist who won the World IBSF Billiards Championship 2023 on Nov 21 in Doha, Qatar? Pankaj Advani
30.	Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India until November 30, 2025, by the Government of India? Vinay M Tonse

31.	With which country India conducted exercise Vajra Prahar 2023, starting from Nov 21? USA
32.	Exercise Vajra Prahar 2023 was held at which place? Umroi cantonment, Meghalaya
33.	Which state/UT flagged off a special educational train named 'Gyanodaya Express – College on Wheels' on Nov 20? Jammu & Kashmir
34.	India conducted the Mitra Shakti-2023, a joint military exercise, from Nov 16 to 29 with which country? Sri Lanka
35.	Ex Mitra Shakti-2023 was held at which place? Aundh, Pune
36.	The second India-Australia two plus two Dialogue of the Indian and Australian defence and foreign ministers was held on Nov 20 at which place? New Delhi
37.	November 20 is celebrated as the Awaas Diwas to mark the launching of which national housing scheme? Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)
38.	The size of the plot given under PMAY-G should not be less than ___ sq mt: 25
39.	The immensely popular Chhath Puja that concluded on the early morning of Nov 20, is associated with worship of which deity? Lord Sun and Chhathi Maiyaa, sister of Lord Sun
40.	The 54 th International Film Festival of India, IFFI began on Nov 20 at which place in Goa? Bambolim
41.	Which tennis legend entered a record-extending 400th week at the top of the world rankings, on Nov 19? Novak Djokovic
42.	Sheynnis Palacios, winner of Miss Universe 2023 title, hails from which country? Nicaragua
43.	Who was declared "Player of the Tournament" in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023? Virat Kohli
44.	Who became the batter to hit the most sixes, 54, in the ODI World Cups? Rohit Sharma
45.	Right-wing populist leader Javier Milei has been elected the new President of which South American country? Argentina
46.	World Toilet Day on Nov 19 aims to achieve the targets of which UN SDG? 6th, sanitation and water for all by 2030
47.	Who is the winner of 2022 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development? Indian

Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India	
48.	IMA and Trained Nurses Association of India won this prize for which achievement? For their outstanding work as the Corona warriors
49.	What is the cash award of this prize? Rs. 25 lakh
50.	Which union ministry promotes the celebration of Naturopathy Day on November 18? Ministry of AYUSH
51.	What is the full form of AYUSH? Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy
52.	Name the eminent art historian and art critic, who passed away on Nov 17 in Chandigarh: Dr B N Goswami
53.	International Students Day on Nov 17 commemorate the birthday of which great personality? None
54.	World Philosophy Day is observed annually on the third ____ of November: Thursday
55.	On which date World Students Day is celebrated? Oct 15
56.	India celebrates National Epilepsy Day on which date? Nov 17
57.	National Press Day November 16 marks the establishment of which national level press body? Press Council of India
58.	The World Press Freedom Day is observed on which date? May 03
59.	November 16 is observed as the Audit Diwas in India. Who is the current CAG of India? Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu
60.	The third Wednesday of November is celebrated as World COPD Day. What does COPD stand for? Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
61.	COPD is associated with which organ of body? Lungs
62.	India celebrates which national day on Nov 15 to highlight the rich cultural heritage and glorious history of tribal communities? Janjatiya Gaurav Divas
63.	Janjatiya Gaurav Divas also marks the birth anniversary of which great tribal hero? Shri Birsa Munda
64.	The central government launched a Rs 24,000 crore scheme named PVTG Development Mission, on Nov 15 from Jharkhand. What is PVTG? Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

65.	Which major government initiative launched on Nov 15 aims at ensuring saturation of the Centre's flagship welfare schemes in 2.7 lakh panchayats by January 25, 2024? Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra
66.	Who became the first player in the history of cricket to score a half-century of ODI centuries? Virat Kohli
67.	The ministry of coal recently amended the SHAKTI Policy for distribution of coal to power generation companies. What is full form of SHAKTI? Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India
68.	India and the US signed an Innovation Handshake agreement on Nov 14 with a view to promote cooperation in which field? Development of startups
69.	Which day of November is celebrated as World Diabetes Day? 14th
70.	Name the founder of Sahara India Group, popularly respected as Sahara Sri, who passed away on Nov 14: Subrata Roy
71.	India celebrates November 14 as Children's Day. When do we celebrate World Children's Day? Nov 20
72.	Name the great hotelier credited for some of the world's finest hotels in India, who passed away on Nov 14? PRS Biki Oberoi
73.	Which union ministry launched 'AAINA Dashboard for Cities' portal on Nov 13 for comparative evaluation of all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country? Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
74.	With which country India signed a contract for supply of advanced Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles? Russia
75.	International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA recently launched the IAEA Data Platform. It is based in which city? Vienna, Austria
76.	Which Polish company has appointed an AI-powered humanoid robot 'Mika' as the CEO of the company? Dictator
77.	November 12 is observed as World Pneumonia Day. Which section of population is most affected by Pneumonia? Children under the age of 5
78.	Public Service Broadcasting Day on Nov 12 commemorates the first and last visit of which great personality to All India Radio on this day in 1947? Mahatma Gandhi

79.	The Airgun Surrender Abhiyan of which state has been selected by the UNESCO as India's best success story on wildlife conservation? Arunachal Pradesh
80.	Ayodhya entered the Guinness Book of World Records on Nov 11 for which achievement? For lighting up 22.23 lakh 'diyas' simultaneously at one place
81.	National Education Day on Nov 11 marks the birthday of which noted statesman? Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
82.	The 5 th India-US 2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue was held on Nov 10 in which city? New Delhi
83.	Who is the current US Secretary of Defence? Lloyd Austin
84.	What is the official designation of Mr. Antony Blinken, foreign minister of the USA? Secretary of State
85.	India celebrates National Ayurveda Day on which Hindu festival day? Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras)
86.	Which two countries participated in the exercise BONGOSAGAR-23 held on Nov 7-9? India and Bangladesh
87.	Exercise BONGOSAGAR-23 was held at which place? Near Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal
88.	National Legal Services Day on Nov 9 marks the establishment of which authority on this day in 1995? National Legal Services Authority
89.	37 th National Games 2023 closing ceremony was held at which place in Goa? Panaji
90.	Which state won the Raja Bhalendra Singh trophy for overall championship in the 37 th National Games? Maharashtra
91.	November 08 is observed as the International Day of Radiology. Who discovered the X-ray? Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen
92.	D N Ghosh, noted bureaucrat, administrator and financial authority, breathed his last on Nov 07. He was a former chairman of which big bank? State Bank of India
93.	The King of Bhutan arrived in which city on Nov 3 on an eight-day official visit to India? Guwahati
94.	Which acclaimed Bollywood actor has been selected as "UPI Safety Ambassador" by the NPCI to popularise safety awareness on digital payment platforms? Pankaj Tripathi

95.	The Earthshot Prizes founded by Britain's Prince William, are given for which achievement? For inventing solutions to planet's environmental problems
96.	What is the amount of the cash award given with an Earthshot Prize? One million British Pounds
97.	The International Organization for Migration reported that a record 6.9 million people have been uprooted/displaced in the Democratic Republic of Congo. What is the reason behind? Armed conflict and escalating violence in the eastern part of the country
98.	Police in which state/UT became first to use GPS tracker anklets to monitor the movement of terror-accused people on bail? Jammu and Kashmir
99.	India celebrates National Cancer Awareness Day on which day of November? 7th
100.	Which private company became India's largest green energy company, reaching a total installed capacity of 8.4 gigawatts (GW)? Adani Green Energy Ltd
101.	Which Indian port crossed handled 16.1 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo in October this year, the highest-ever volume by any port in India? Mundra Port, Gujarat
102.	Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is associated with which sports? Cricket, T-20
103.	Which team lifted this year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy? Punjab
104.	Angelo Matthews became the first international cricketer to be given 'timed out' on Nov 6 for failing to face the ball within two minutes of the fall of a wicket. He plays for which country? Sri Lanka
105.	Government launched on Nov 6 packaged wheat flour at a subsidised rate of Rs 275 per 10 kg bag. What is its brand name? Bharat Atta
106.	Who was sworn-in as the new Chief Information Commissioner on Nov 6? Heeralal Samariya
107.	November 5 is celebrated as World Tsunami ____ Day: Awareness
108.	The term 'Tsunami' is a Japanese term which means ____ in simple English: Harbour wave
109.	Grand Master ____ Gujrathi claimed his title in the open category on Nov 5 at the FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 tournament: Vidit

110.	Indian women's Hockey team won the Asian Champions Trophy on Nov 5 by defeating which team? Japan
111.	Which city hosted the Asian Champions Trophy? Ranchi, Jharkhand
112.	Which neighbouring country of India was hit by a 6.4 Richter magnitude earthquake late night on Nov 3, killing over 150 people? Nepal
113.	Which global organisation released the World Economic Outlook report on Nov 3? IMF
114.	IMF has projected that global growth is likely to slow down to ____ percent in 2023: 3.0%
115.	UNESCO has proposed to celebrate November 03 as International Day for ____ Reserves: Biosphere
116.	Which Indian bowler became the highest wicket taker in world cup matches, claiming his 45 th wicket on Nov 2? Mohammed Shami
117.	Which strong cyclone battered north-west Europe on Nov 02 with torrential rains and winds up to 200 kmph? Storm Ciaran
118.	Which word has been named "Collins Word of the Year 2023" by Collins Dictionary? AI - Artificial Intelligence
119.	Collins Dictionary is based in which country? Scotland
120.	What is the formal name of the anti AI agreement signed by 28 countries and EU on Nov 01 in England? Bletchley Declaration
121.	The EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023 released in October end, placed which Indian at the top? Shiv Nadar
122.	Shiv Nadar is associated with which corporate group? HCL Technologies
123.	The Indian Navy bid adieu to which of its Long-Range Maritime Patrol aircraft on October 31? IL-38 Sea Dragon
124.	Indian Navy's biggest naval airbase INS Hansa is located at which place? Dabolim, Goa
125.	Which foreign defence company has become the first one to receive govt nod for 100% FDI permission in defence sector? SAAB group
126.	SAAB is based in which country? Sweden
127.	SAAB plans to manufacture which defence equipment in India? Carl-Gustaf M4
128.	What type of weapon is Carl-Gustaf M4? Multi role portable shoulder-fired anti-tank gun

129. SAAB is expected to establish its gun plant in which state? Haryana
130. Which European country pledged to provide ₹44.7 million for supporting India's Hunger Project being run in Uttarakhand? Norway
131. What is the name of one of the largest portals launched on Oct 31 to encourage leadership qualities in the youth? Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)
132. MY Bharat aims to benefit youth in which age group? 15 to 29
133. Which two Indian cities are among the 55 new cities which joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network on Oct 31? Gwalior and Kozhikode
134. Gwalior has been listed in which category? City of Music
135. UNESCO selects "Creative Cities" in how many categories? Seven
136. Kozhikode has been selected as an UNESCO creative city in which category? Literature
137. Kozhikode lies in which state? Kerala
138. Who won a record-extending eighth Ballon d'Or trophy for the best footballer of the year on Oct 30? Lionel Messi
139. Messi captains which team at the club level? Inter Miami, USA
140. The Women's Ballon d'Or trophy for 2023 was won by which footballer? Spain's Aitana Bonmati
141. Prestigious Ballon d'Or awards are given by which organisation? French news magazine, France Football
142. Marking a watershed moment in history, the Indian Air Force retired which fighter jet on Oct 30 after 57 years of its glorious services? MiG-21
143. Which country supplied Mig-21 aircrafts to India? Russia
144. Mig-21 aircrafts are to be replaced with which fighter jet? Su-30 MKI
145. Su-30 MKI fighter jets were procured from which country in 2002? Russia
146. Su-30 MKI fighter jets are now built in India by Hindustan Aeronautic Ltd at which place? Nasik, Maharashtra
147. What was the name of joint military exercise of Indian and Kazakh forces held from Oct 30 to Nov 11? Exercise KAZIND-2023

148. Exercise KAZIND-2023 was conducted at which place? At Otar in Kazakhstan
149. Which Indian oil marketing giant launched India's first gasoline and diesel reference fuel on Oct 26? Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
150. Reference fuels are used for what purposes? For testing operational efficiency of automobile engines
151. The RBI announced on Oct 26 that the 'Bulk Deposit' limit for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) has been raised to Rs.____: One crore
152. _____became the first state in India on Oct 26 to have hallmarking centres in all its 14 districts: Kerala
153. Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) is a ____ digit alpha-numeric number: Six
154. The European aircraft manufacturer, Airbus signed a formal MoU with which IIT to promote education programmes in the Indian aerospace sector? IIT Kanpur
155. Andrea Rubio of _____ was crowned Miss International 2023 on Oct 26 in Tokyo, Japan: Venezuela
156. Who has been named as the head coach of the Indian women's national cricket team? Amol Mazumdar
157. Which strong cyclonic storm devastated the coastal city of Acapulco on Oct 26 in southwest Mexico? Hurricane Otis
158. The 22 nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held on Oct 25-26 in which city? Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
159. The RBI raised the limit to allow premature withdrawal facility on fixed deposits of up to Rs____: One crore
160. Which Indian company finalised a deal with the Taiwan-based Wistron Corp. to manufacture Apple's iPhones in India? Tata Electronics
161. Which city hosted the 4 th Asian Para Games? Hangzhou, China
162. India created history by winning a record ____ medals in the 4th Asian Para Games: 111
163. India secured which rank in the final medal tally in the 4 th Asian Para Games? Fifth
164. Which country topped the final medal tally in the 4th Asian Para Games? China, 521 medals

165.	Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar has been elected as the 17 th King of which South Asian country? Malaysia
OCTOBER 2023	
1.	Which national day is observed on Oct 31 to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? Rashtriya Ekta Diwas
2.	October 31 is observed all over the world as World ____ Day: Cities
3.	October 29 is observed as World Psoriasis Day. Psoriasis affects which part of body? Skin
4.	What is the theme of this year's World Occupational Therapy Day observed on Oct 27? Unity through Community
5.	Which day of October is observed as World Day for Audio-visual Heritage? 27th
6.	Infantry Day on October 27 salutes the valour shown by our soldiers in which battle? 1947 battle with Pakistan
7.	World Sustainability Day is observed on which Wednesday of October? Fourth
8.	The 37 th National Games were inaugurated on Oct 26 at which place in Goa? Fatorda
9.	The Indian Army's first vertical wind tunnel (VWT) was inaugurated on Oct 25 at which place? Bakloh near Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
10.	Which international organisation is associated with the celebration of World Polio Day on Oct 24? Rotary International
11.	World Development Information Day is observed on which day of October? 24th
12.	Which international day on Oct 24 marks the anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations on this day in 1945? The United Nations Day
13.	The Asian Development Bank approved a \$175 million loan to which Indian state to improve road connectivity and enhance climate resilience of roads in the state? Madhya Pradesh
14.	October 23 is observed as International Snow Leopard Day. It is the state animal of which Indian state? Himachal Pradesh
15.	Which joint bilateral military training exercise was held between the Indian and the Malaysian Army, from Oct 23 to Nov 05? Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023
16.	Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 was held at which place? Umroi Cantonment, Meghalaya

17.	Name the legendary Indian spinner who passed away on Oct 23 in Delhi: Bishan Singh Bedi
18.	Celebration of Mole Day on Oct 23 is associated with which stream of science? Chemistry
19.	Unnati Hooda won the women's singles title at the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023 on Oct 22 in which sports? Badminton
20.	October 22 is observed as International ____ Awareness Day: Stuttering
21.	Sakharov Prize is awarded for outstanding achievement in which field? For defending freedom of thought and human rights
22.	Sakharov Prize is awarded by which organisation? Parliament of European Union
23.	Who is the winner of this year's Sakharov Prize? Jina Mahsa Amini, posthumously
24.	The ISRO successfully tested on Oct 21 its crucial crew escape system 'TV-D1 mission' as part of which project? Mission Gaganyaan
25.	Observation of Police Commemoration Day on October 21 is associated with which armed police force? CRPF
26.	Who is the current Director General of CRPF? Dr. Sujoy Lal Thakur
27.	Which stealth guided missile destroyer joined the Indian Navy on Oct 20 at Mumbai? INS Imphal
28.	Country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) was launched on Oct 20 at which place in Uttar Pradesh? Sahibabad, near Delhi's eastern border
29.	World Statistics Day on Oct 20 marks the birthday of which great statistician? None
30.	October 20 is observed as World Osteoporosis Day. Osteoporosis is associated with which part of body? Bones
31.	Which international day is observed on Oct 20 to celebrate and honour the noble profession of cooking? International Chefs Day
32.	Which national day is observed on Oct 20 to salute our Bravehearts who fought the 1962 war with China? National Solidarity Day
33.	Tech giant Google launched a new programme called Digi ____ on Oct 19 to combat online financial frauds in India: Kavach
34.	Which village in Gujarat has been selected as one of the Best Tourism Villages by the UN World Tourism Organization? Dhordo

35.	Dhordo is world famous for hosting which annual cultural festival in November? Rann Utsav
36.	Which Military Station was declared the 'Best Green Military Station' on Oct 18 in recognition of their committed environmental efforts? Udhampur Military Station in J&K
37.	Which apex national body approved on Oct 18 the increase in the MSP for Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2024-25? Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
38.	MSP of which lentil was fixed at record high of Rs 6425/qlt? Masur
39.	Total production of which single crop exceeds the total foodgrain production, by weight? Sugarcane
40.	In a first in the world, which country successfully test-fired an electromagnetic railgun from a ship on 17 October? Japan
41.	The 15 th Global Pension Index, released on Oct 17, placed which country at the top for best pension infrastructure? The Netherlands
42.	National Open Athletics Championships concluded on Oct 15 in which city? Bengaluru
43.	Which team won the overall best team trophy at the National Open Athletics Championships? Railways
44.	Shri Indra Sena Reddy Nallu has been appointed Governor of which state? Tripura
45.	Shri Raghubar Das, former chief minister of _____, has been appointed as the Governor of Odisha: Jharkhand
46.	Which platoon of the Indian Army won a gold medal at the Cambrian Patrol Exercise held on Oct 13-15 in England? 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force)
47.	World Trauma Day is observed on Oct 17. Trauma is related to which part of body? Any part
48.	October 17 is observed as the International _____Eradication Day: Poverty
49.	Christopher Luxon, a leader of the National party has been elected as the new prime minister of which Pacific country? New Zealand
50.	The International Olympic Committee (IOC) held its 141st Session on Oct 16 in which Indian city? Mumbai
51.	IOC decided to include hoe many new sports in the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028? Five

52.	World Food Day on Oct 16 marks the foundation of FAO on this day in 1945. FAO is located in which city? Rome
53.	What is the full form of FAO? Food and Agriculture Organisation
54.	World Students' Day on October 15 marks the birthday of which great personality? Shri APJ Abdul Kalam
55.	The Department of Public Enterprises granted coveted 'Navratna' status to which two Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on Oct 12? IRCON and RITES Ltd.
56.	There are how many 'Navratna' CPSEs in India? 16
57.	The Department of Public Enterprises functions under which central ministry? Ministry of Finance
58.	Name the former Chief Election Commissioner and a union minister, who breathed his last on Oct 15: Manohar Singh Gill
59.	Which global organisation promotes the celebration of International E-Waste Day on Oct 14? WEEE
60.	What does WEEE stand for? Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
61.	October 14 is observed as World Standards Day. Which is the national standards body of India? Bureau of Indian Standards, BIS
62.	BIS headquarters are situated in which city? Delhi
63.	The ADB approved a \$181 million loan to enhance the quality of life in the peri-urban areas of which city? Ahmedabad
64.	Which Grandmaster won the FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship on Oct 13 in Sardinia, Italy? Raunak Sadhwani
65.	Which UN agency supports the celebration of International Day for Disaster Reduction on Oct 13? UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva
66.	World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year, on the second _____of May and in October: Saturday
67.	Who has been appointed India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations in Geneva? Arindam Bagchi

68.	US space agency NASA launched which spacecraft on Oct 13 on a six-year journey to a rare metal-covered asteroid? Psyche
69.	Spacecraft Psyche is targeted to explore which asteroid? 16Psyche
70.	Most of the asteroids are found in the main asteroid belt between ____ and Jupiter: Mars
71.	World Egg Day is celebrated on the ____ Friday of October every year: Second
72.	The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 released on October 12, placed how many countries in the top bracket? Twenty
73.	World Sight Day is observed on which Thursday of October, every year? Second
74.	The theme for this year's World Arthritis Day is "Living with an RMD at all stages of life". What is RMD? Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases
75.	Who created history on Oct 11 by scoring highest (554) sixes in international cricket, breaking Chris Gayle's record of 553 for most sixes? Rohit Sharma
76.	India launched which rescue operation on Oct 11 to facilitate the return of Indians from Israel? Operation Ajay
77.	The Union Ministry of Education notified which plan on Oct 11 to create unique ID numbers for school students across India? APAAR
78.	What is the full form of APAAR? Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry
79.	Which country hosted the 23 rd meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on Oct 11? Sri Lanka
80.	Council of Ministers of IORA meeting was held in which city? Colombo
81.	How many countries are members to the IORA? 23
82.	The 8 th BRICS International Competition Conference was held in which city on Oct 11-13? New Delhi
83.	The theme for this year's International Day of the Girl Child was "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our_____, Our Well-being": Leadership
84.	India celebrates National Girl Child Day on which date? January 24
85.	What was the name of the Annual Joint HADR Exercise (AJHE-23) held on Oct 09-11 in Goa? Chakravat

86.	What is the full form of the term HADR? Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
87.	The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its annual publication, World ____ Outlook on Oct 10: Economic
88.	What is the theme of this year's World Mental Health Day, observed on Oct 10? Mental Health is a Universal Human Right
89.	This year's Nobel prize in Economics has been awarded to Ms. ____ Goldin, for her work on women's employment and pay: Claudia
90.	Claudia Goldin, an economic historian, hails from which country? USA
91.	World Post Day is observed on October 9. Postal service in India started in 1727 in which city? Calcutta (Kolkata)
92.	Which apex organisation celebrates National Postal Week from 9 to 15 October every year? India Post
93.	Indian Foreign Service Day on Oct 09 marks which historical event? Establishment of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1946
94.	Who is India's current Foreign Secretary? Vinay Kwatra
95.	Which international airport in India launched a specialised Disabled Aircraft Recovery Kit (DARK) on Oct 09, becoming the first airport in Asia to have such a facility? Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai
96.	Dr. Gagandeep Kang, a leading vaccinologist, was admitted as member to which global medicine body on Oct 9? US National Academy of Medicine, Washington
97.	Dr Kang is a renowned researcher from which field? Diarrhoeal diseases
98.	The Election Commission announced on Oct 09 the poll schedule for the assembly elections for how many states? Five
99.	Of the five states - Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana, which one has the largest, 230 number of legislature seats? Madhya Pradesh
100.	The second largest Hindu temple in the world, next only to the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, opened its doors on Oct 8 in which country? USA
101.	The closing ceremony of the 19 th Asian Games was held on Oct 08 in which stadium in China? Hangzhou Olympics Stadium

102. India created history at the 19 th Asian Games by winning highest ever, ____ medals in the event: 107
103. RBI constituted an external working group on expected ____ loss (ECL) based framework for provisioning by Banks: Credit
104. Who has been nominated to head the working group on ECL? R Narayanaswamy
105. President of ____ Samia Suluhu Hassan arrived in New Delhi on Oct 8 on a four-day State visit to India: Tanzania
106. India celebrates the Air Force Day on Oct 08. This day marks which milestone in the history of Indian Air Force? Raising of the Indian Air Force on this day in 1932
107. The Indian Air Force celebrated its 91 st anniversary on Oct 08 at which place in Uttar Pradesh? Prayagraj
108. Who is the current chief of the Indian Air force? Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
109. Who added his name to the honourable list of Formula One triple world champions on October 08? Max Verstappen
110. Which Palestinian Islamist militant group launched a sudden massive attack on Israel on Oct 07? Hamas
111. Hamas group controls the Gaza Strip area. It is located on which side of Israel? Western
112. October 07 is observed as World Cotton Day. Which is the largest cotton producing state of India? Gujarat
113. A severe earthquake on Oct 7 devastated the parts of western Afghanistan, claiming over 2,400 lives. Which was the worst affected city? Herat
114. Which corps of the Indian Army, in collaboration with BSNL, installed a first ever mobile communication tower at the Siachen Glacier? Fire and Fury
115. Narges Mohammadi won the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for which achievement? For her fight against the oppression of women in Iran
116. October 05 is observed as the Ganga River Dolphin Day. What is the name of India's only River Dolphin sanctuary? Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary
117. This sanctuary is located in which state? Bihar

118. FIFA granted hosting rights for the 2030 Football World Cup jointly to Morocco, ____ and Portugal on Oct 04: Spain
119. What is special about the 2030 edition of the FIFA World Cup? It is the centenary edition of the World Cup
120. A cloudburst over which glacial lake in North Sikkim on the mid-night of Oct 3-4 led to its bursting, causing heavy flash floods? Lhonak
121. Bursting of Lhonak lake caused heavy flash floods in which river? Teesta
122. Who was selected for the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable? Jon Fosse
123. Jon Fosse hails from which country? Norway
124. Which organisation announced the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Oct 04? The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm
125. Three US-based scientists won the 2023 Nobel in Chemistry for their discovery and synthesis of quantum dots. Their discovery has promoted the development of which products? QLED televisions and LED lamps
126. For the promotion of which spice, the government notified on Oct 04 the constitution of the National ____ Board: Turmeric
127. The Indian Air Force received first unit of the LCA Tejas twin seater aircraft on Oct 04 at Bengaluru. What is LCA? Light Combat Aircraft
128. The joint military exercise Sampriti-XI was held between India and Bangladesh from Oct 03 to 16 at which place? Umroi, Meghalaya
129. Which global financial body released its latest India Development Update (IDU) on Oct 03? The World Bank
130. World Habitat Day is an UN initiative observed on the first ____ of every October: Monday
131. Which international day is observed on Oct 02 to honour Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence? International Day of Non-violence
132. October 01 is observed as International ____ Day to highlight the plight of the farmers associated with this aromatic beverage: Coffee
133. October 1 is celebrated as the National Voluntary ____ Donation Day: Blood
134. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, PFRDA, celebrates Oct 01 as National ____ Diwas: Pension System

135. Who is the winner of the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in Mathematics? Ruixiang Zhang, Maths professor at the University of California, USA
136. This prize is given by the SASTRA University. It is situated in which state? Tamil Nadu
137. SASTRA Prize is given annually to a young mathematician below the age of ___ years: 32
138. How many scientists have been selected for the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics? Three
139. Which two countries are involved in the armed conflict over control of Nagorno-Karabakh? Armenia and Azerbaijan
140. Dispute territory of Nagorno-Karabakh is located in which country? Azerbaijan
141. Which Swedish academy announced the 2023 Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology on Oct 02? Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm
142. The 2023 Nobel in medicine has been awarded for which contribution to medical science? For research that enabled the creation of mRNA vaccines against Covid-19
143. What is the full form of mRNA? Messenger RiboNucleic Acid
144. The WHO recommended on Oct 02 a new vaccine, R21/Matrix-M, for prevention of which disease? Malaria in children
145. What are the names of the two mascots for the 2023 Cricket World Cup in India? Blaze and Tonk
146. Which country won the SAFF Under-19 Football Championship on Sep 30? India
147. Which tech giant introduced an earthquake alert system for Android users in India to provide timely warnings about earthquakes? Google
148. Which country topped the 2023 World Talent Ranking? Switzerland
149. Kami Rita Sherpa, Nepal's 53-year-old veteran summiteer made which new record on Sep 26? Most Climbs (42) of 8,000 meters and above peaks
150. The Indian Air Force received the first Dornier Do-228 aircraft on Sep 27. What type of aircraft is this? Multi-purpose transport aircraft
151. Name the renowned agricultural scientist, known as the Father of India's Green Revolution, who passed away on Sep 28: Dr M S Swaminathan
152. The Global Innovation Index 2023, released on Sep 27, placed which country at the top? Switzerland

153. What was India's rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023? 40th
SEPTEMBER 2023
1. Which day of September is observed as International Translation Day? 30th
2. September 29 is observed as World ____ Day: Heart
3. Name the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first Rabies vaccine? Louis Pasteur
4. The main celebrations for this year's World Tourism Day were held in which city? Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
5. Veteran actor Waheeda Rehman has been named for Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for which year? 2021
6. A first-of-its-kind Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus was launched on Sep 25 in which Indian city? New Delhi
7. Which Deputy Governor of RBI has been granted one-year extension with effect from October 9, 2023? M Rajeshwar Rao
8. India's first ever Lighthouse Festival was held at Fort Aguada lighthouse on Sep 23—25 in which state? Goa
9. A trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise of naval forces of India, _____ and Indonesia was held on Sep 20—21: Australia
10. Indian Navy's third MCA Barge, Yard 77 (LSAM 9) was launched on Sep 22 at Guttenadeevi in Andhra Pradesh. What is MCA? Missile cum Ammunition
11. The Indian Air Force and Drone Federation of India co-hosted a mega exhibition "Bharat Drone Shakti - 2023" on Sep 25-26 at which place? Hindon Air Force station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
12. 19 th edition of the joint India US army exercise Yudh Abhyas was conducted from Sep 25 to Oct 8 at which place? Alaska, USA
13. World Rivers Day is celebrated on which Sunday of September? Last
14. Happy Daughters' Day is observed on fourth ____ of September: Sunday
15. Dr Swati Nayak has won the Norman E Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application. Who was Norman E Borlaug? Nobel laureate and father of Green Revolution

16.	Antyodaya Diwas on September 25 marks the birthday of which great personality? Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay
17.	Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was associated with which political party? Jan Sangh (original party of BJP)
18.	What does the term Antyodya stands for? Upliftment of the poorest of the poor
19.	The Government has instituted a new set of National Awards titled 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar'(RVP) in how many categories? Four
20.	RVP is to be given in how many fields? 13
21.	RVPs are be announced annually on which day? 11th May, National Technology Day
22.	Award Ceremony for the RVPs is proposed to be held on which day? National Space Day, 23rd August
23.	Team India achieved a significant milestone in cricket on Sep 24 by becoming the first ever team to hit over ___ODI sixes: 3,000
24.	Marco Bezzecchi from team Mooney VR46 won the MotoGP on Sep 24 at the Indian Grand Prix - Buddh International Circuit. He is from which country? Italy
25.	Where is the Buddh International Circuit in India? Greater Noida, UP
26.	Which US spacecraft collected a handful of rubble from the asteroid Bennu and dropped it on Earth on Sep 24? OSIRIS-Rex
27.	The formal opening ceremony for the 19 th Asian Games 2023 was held on Sep 23 in which city? Hangzhou, China
28.	Who were the flag bearers of the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the 19 th Asian Games? Harmanpreet Singh and Lovlina Borgohain
29.	What is the name of the emblem of the 19 th Asian Games? Surging Tides
30.	World Rhino Day is slated on Sep 22. Which Indian state accounts for almost 90% of Indian Rhino population? Assam
31.	Assam is home to which particular type of Rhinos? Greater one- horned Rhino
32.	World Rose Day on September 22 is associated with which cause? Cancer awareness
33.	Saroja Vaidyanathan, legendary _____ exponent passed away on Sep 21 in New Delhi: Bharatnatyam

34.	September 21 is observed as World Alzheimer's Day. Alzheimer is associated with which function oh human body? Memory
35.	A 108-feet tall statue of the eighth-century Hindu philosopher and saint - 'Adi Shankaracharya' was unveiled on Sep 21 in which place? Omkareshwar, near Khandwa city
36.	Khandwa city is in which state? Madhya Pradesh
37.	What is the formal name of the statue of Adi Shankaracharya? Ekatmata ki Pratima' (Statue of Oneness)
38.	What is the name of the AI chatbot launched on Sep 21 for the benefit of farmers? Kisan e-Mitra
39.	The Parliament passed the Constitution (____ Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Sep 21 to provide 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha: 128th
40.	When was the Women's Reservation Bill first introduced in the Parliament? September, 1996
41.	What was the name of the bilateral exercise held between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy from 21 to 24 September? SIMBEX-23
42.	SIMBEX-23 was held at which place? Singapore
43.	What is the name of the indigenously-manufactured self-neutralising anti-tank mines recently inducted in the Indian Army? Vibhav
44.	Which global body granted recognition to the National Medical Commission of India for ten years? World Federation for Medical Education
45.	As per the revision by the Ministry of Railways, what amount will be given to the kin of the person killed in a rail accident? Rs 5 lakh
46.	The Economic Freedom of the World: Annual Report ranked which country as the world's freest economy? Singapore
47.	What was India's rank in the recently released Economic Freedom of the World Report? 87th
48.	Government launched WINDS project on Sep 19 to establish a network of Automatic Weather Stations & Rain Gauges at the taluk/block and gram panchayat levels. Expand WINDS: Weather Information Network Data Systems
49.	Vivek Bhasin, distinguished scientist took over as the 14 th Director of which apex scientific institution? BARC - Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
50.	BARC is located in which city? Trombay (Mumbai)

51.	The Center for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), and CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) signed an agreement for the development of which most advanced clock? Primary Reference Time Clock
52.	Which riverfront in Assam has been declared "Best Tourism Village of India 2023" by the union ministry of tourism? Biswanath Ghat
53.	Biswanath Ghat is located on which river? Brahmaputra
54.	Biswanath Ghat is located in which town of Assam? Biswanath Chariali
55.	Three ancient sacred Hoysala temples have become the 42 nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India. They are in which state? Karnataka
56.	What is the theme selected for this year's International Coastal Clean-up Day celebrated on Sep 17? #SeaTheChange
57.	Which team defeated Sri Lanka on Sep 17 to win the ACC Asia Cup (cricket)? India
58.	Which tennis player bid an emotional adieu to his Davis Cup career on Sep 17 in Lucknow? Rohan Bopanna
59.	One of the world's largest MICE facilities, the India International Convention and Expo Centre was inaugurated on Sep 17 in which city? New Delhi
60.	What is the official name of this Centre? Yashobhoomi
61.	What is the full form of MICE? Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions
62.	Which town in West Bengal, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list on Sep 17? Santiniketan
63.	Santiniketan is located in which district of West Bengal? Birbhum
64.	Who is credited with the establishment of Santiniketan? Maharshi Debendranath Tagore
65.	What is the name of the world class university setup at Santiniketan by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921? Visva Bharati
66.	As per the Indian Forest Act, Bamboo is classified as a grass or tree? Grass
67.	Which state is the largest producer of bamboo in India? Assam
68.	Who was India's sole gold medal winner at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil? Elavenil Valarivan

69.	RBI approved re-appointment of Sashidhar _____ as the MD & CEO of the HDFC Bank: Jagdishan
70.	Mondo Duplantis is the reigning world and Olympic champion in which athletic event? Pole Vault
71.	According to a survey by US-based consultancy firm 'Morning Consult', who was ranked as the most popular leader in the world? Shri Narendra Modi, 76% approval rating
72.	Surfshark's 5 th annual Digital Quality of Life Index for 121 countries, placed which country at the top? France
73.	India secured which rank in the 5 th annual Digital Quality of Life Index? 52nd
74.	India has become the 13 th country in the world that can issue internationally accepted OIML Certificates. These are associated with which field? Weights and measures (Metrology)
75.	What is the full form of OIML? International Organisation of Legal Metrology
76.	The French government conferred Rahul Mishra with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, one of the top civil honours of France. He is a noted ____: Dress designer
77.	September 16 is celebrated as World Ozone Day. Ozone layer is found at approximately ____ to 35 km above Earth: 15
78.	Under which Protocol nations agreed to cut out 99 percent of ozone-depleting substances? Montreal Protocol, 1987
79.	India celebrates Engineers' Day on Sep 15 to mark the birth anniversary of which acclaimed civil engineer? M Visvesvaraya
80.	Shri M Visvesvaraya specialized in which field of engineering? Hydro projects
81.	The NPCI launched an 'OTG Ring', a wearable ring-like gadget for facilitating contactless payments. What does OTG stand for? On The Go
82.	Raj Bhasha Divas on Sep 14 commemorates the adoption of Hindi as the official language of India under Article ____ of Indian Constitution? 343
83.	On which day we celebrate World Hindi Day? January 10
84.	RBI has asked banks to ensure that after the full repayment and closure of personal loan accounts, concerned movable/immovable property documents should be released within ____ days of closure of loan account: 30

85.	In case of non-compliance of above, banks will have to compensate the borrower @ ₹____for each day of delay: 5,000
86.	With a view to improve access to justice using technology, the Union Cabinet approved the e-Courts _____Project Phase -3 on Sep 13: Mission Mode
87.	India received its first C-295 MW aircraft on Sep 13 at which place? Seville, Spain
88.	What type of aircraft is C-295 MW? Mid-size military cargo aircraft
89.	Gopal Baglay, a 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to which country? Australia
90.	Who became the fastest batsman in the world to complete 13,000 ODI runs in just 277 innings on Sep 11? Virat Kohli
91.	India celebrates National Forest Martyrs Day on which day of September? 11th
92.	World First Aid Day is observed every year on the second _____ of September: Saturday
93.	The G20 Leaders' Summit held on Sep 09-10 at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi was which one in series? 18th
94.	Which country/Group was admitted as new permanent member of the G-20 on Sep 9? African Union
95.	How many African countries are the members of the African Union? 55
96.	India and several other countries launched the 'Global _____Alliance', urging members to make efforts to take ethanol blending with petrol globally to 20%: Biofuels
97.	What was the name of the joint declaration issued at the end of the G-20 summit? G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration
98.	What is the name of the direct trade corridor from India to Europe, via Dubai and the Middle East, that was proposed in G-20 summit? India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor
99.	India transferred presidency of the G-20 for 2023-24 to which country? Brazil
100.	Who is the current President of Brazil? Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva
101.	Germany won the 2023 FIBA World Cup on Sep 10 by beating which country? Serbia
102.	Which country hosted the 2023 FIBA World Cup? Philippines

103.	Which US city hosted the US Open 2023 Tennis Tournament? New York
104.	Novak Djokovic (Serbia) created history on Sep 10 by winning a record _____ Grand Slam title: 24th
105.	Djokovic defeated which player to secure men's singles title at the US Open on Sep 10? Daniil Medvedev of Russia
106.	Who won women's singles title at the US Open 2023? Coco Gauff
107.	Coco Gauff hails from which country? USA
108.	Who won the men's singles title at the Indonesia Masters badminton championship on Sep 10? Kiran George
109.	In which African country sudden heavy rains from Storm Daniel caused widespread flooding, claiming thousands of lives? Libya
110.	India defeated which country on Sep 10 to win the SAFF U-16 Football Championship? Bangladesh
111.	India celebrates Himalaya Day every year on Sep 09. Which state celebrated this day for the first time in 2010? Uttarakhand
112.	In the category of cities with populations ranging from 3 to 10 lakhs, which city topped in the Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2023? Amravati, Maharashtra
113.	Which day of September is observed as the International Literacy Day? 8th
114.	Which African country was hit by a massive earthquake on Sep 8, killing around 3,000 people? Morocco
115.	UNO has declared Sep 7 as the International Day of Clean Air for _____ Skies: Blue
116.	PM Modi made a two-day visit to which country on Sep 6-7 to attend 20 th ASEAN-India Summit and 18 th East Asia Summit? Indonesia
117.	The 20 th ASEAN-India Summit was held in which city? Jakarta
118.	ASEAN is a multi-nation group of how many countries? Ten
119.	What was the name of bilateral naval exercise held between the Indian and French Navy in the first week of September? Exercise Varuna-23
120.	Exercise Varuna-23 was held in which region? Arabian Sea
121.	Which Indian firm has developed world's first anti-drone system, powered by artificial intelligence? Green Robotics, Hyderabad

122. Which state has signed a MoU with Dubai based cooling giant Tabreed, to develop Asia's largest district cooling infrastructure? Telangana
123. Vijayawada Railway Station was certified with Platinum rating, the highest green standard rating by the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) on Sep 05. It is in which state? Andhra Pradesh
124. Teachers' Day on Sep 5 marks the birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. What does 'Sarvepalli' denote in his name? Name of his native village in Andhra Pradesh
125. September 5 is celebrated as the International Day of Charity. It happens to be the birthday of which great saint? Mother Teresa
126. Which fintech company launched India's first UPI-ATM on Sep 05 in collaboration with NPCI? Hitachi Payment Services
127. India's first UPI-ATM has been launched in which city? Mumbai
128. The ____ session of the United Nations General Assembly commenced on Sep 05: 78th
129. Who presided over the 78 th session of UN General Assembly? Dennis Francis
130. Who is Dennis Francis? Permanent representative of Trinidad and Tobago to UNO
131. Union ministry of Education signed a 3-year partnership "Education to Entrepreneurship" on Sep 04 with which social media giant? Meta
132. The Union Education Ministry launched Malaviya Mission: Teacher Training Programme on Sep 5 in collaboration with which apex organisation? UGC - University Grants Commission
133. Rajesh Nambiar has been elected as the chairman of which national level technology industry body? NASSCOM - National Association of Software and Service Companies
134. Which major card company launched its super premium card 'AURUM', targeted at top executives and high net-worth individuals? SBI Card
135. Which town of Madhya Pradesh, is on the way to becoming India's first 'solar city'? Sanchi
136. Users can now make voice-enabled UPI payments by using which latest feature of UPI? Hello! UPI
137. Praveena Anjana, beauty queen from Udaipur, Rajasthan, won which national beauty queen title? Miss International India, 2023
138. Durand Cup is associated with which sports? Football

139. Mohun Bagan won the Durand Cup 2023 on Sep 03 by defeating which team? East Bengal
140. Which country's President ordered on Sep 02 to recall all its ambassadors to ensure better efficiency and quality in service delivery? Nigeria
141. Who is the current President of Nigeria? Bola Tinubu
142. Which apex Indian organisation launched the 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme on Sep 04? Archaeological Survey of India
143. What is the aim of launching 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme? To invite corporates for improving the facilities at heritage monuments
144. September 2 is celebrated as World Coconut Day. Which country is the largest producer of coconuts in the world? India
145. India scripted history on Sep 02 as the ISRO successfully launched Aditya L-1. What is it? Solar space observatory
146. The Government of India launched an 'Invoice Incentive Scheme' by the name 'Mera ____Mera Adhikaar' on Sep 01: Bill
147. Under the Mera Bill Mera Adikaar scheme, two bumper prizes of ____ rupees each will be given away every quarter: One crore
148. What is the name of the Nilgiri class stealth frigate warship that was launched in Mumbai on Sep 01? INS Mahendragiri
149. Mahendragiri mountain peak is located at which place? In Eastern Ghats in Odisha
150. Who has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune? R Madhvan
151. Which apex educational institution was granted deemed university status on Sep 01? NCERT
152. International Vulture Awareness Day is celebrated annually on the first ____ of September: Saturday
153. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, an Indian-origin Singapore economist won the Presidential election in which country? Singapore
154. Which US-based financial magazine ranked Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI, as the top central banker globally? Global Finance
155. Amanpreet Singh is an emerging sports person in which field? Shooting
156. How many persons were awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023? Four

157.	Which Indian person was awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023? R. Ravi Kannan
158.	R. Ravi Kannan is an eminent personality from which field? Oncology, Cancer treatment
159.	Jaya Verma Sinha has been appointed as the first woman Chairperson and CEO of which apex national organisation? The Railway Board
160.	Tropical storm Idalia devastated south eastern portion of which country on August 30-31? USA
161.	India's largest electric nuclear power reactor at the ____ Atomic Power Project commenced operations at full capacity on Aug 31: Kakrapar
162.	Kakrapar Atomic Power Project is located in which state? Gujarat
163.	Which country hosted the biennial tri-services exercise Bright-Star-2023 from Aug 27 to Sep 16? Egypt
164.	Thailand's Kunlavut ____ won the men's singles title at the BWF World Championships at Copenhagen, Denmark to emerge as world champions: Vitidsarn
165.	Which city was declared the best smart city, in the India Smart Cities Awards 2022 declared on August 25? Indore, Madhya Pradesh
166.	Honey Dabas and Parmjeet Kumar won individual gold medals on August 22-23 at the international level in which sports? Para Powerlifting
167.	Exercise 'AUSINDEX' between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy was conducted on 22-25 August in which area? South Pacific Ocean, near Sydney, Australia
168.	Emmerson Mnangagwa was re-elected as the President of which African country for a second five-year term? Zimbabwe
169.	The Indian women's cricket team won the gold medal by beating which team in the blind cricket tournament in the IBSA World Games held in Birmingham, UK? Australia
AUGUST 2023	
1.	Purnima of Shravan month is celebrated as World Sanskrit Day. It fell on which day in 2023? August 31
2.	August 30 is celebrated as the International Whale Shark Day. Which is the largest fish alive on the Earth? Whale Shark
3.	India celebrates National Small Industry Day on which day of August? 30th

4.	National Sports Day on August 29 commemorates the birthday of which great sportsperson? Major Dhyan Chand
5.	Which new app has been launched on Aug 25 that integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App? Tele-Law - 2.0
6.	The President of Greece on August 25, conferred PM Modi with "The Grand Cross of the ____ of Honour", the country's top civilian honour? Order
7.	The 15 th BRICS Annual Summit admitted how many new members on its concluding day, Aug 24? Six
8.	Out of the six countries--Argentina, Egypt, Kenya, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE, which one has not been admitted to BRICS group? Kenya
9.	Indian prime minister attended the 15 th BRICS Summit on August 22, till August 24, in which city in South Africa? Johannesburg
10.	President of South Africa hosted the 15 th BRICS Annual Summit in Johannesburg. Who is he? Cyril Ramaphosa
11.	What is the title of the recent book written by Meghna Gulzar about her father, Gulzar? Because He Is
12.	In the 69 th National Film Awards declared on Aug 24, which film was declared the overall Best Feature Film? Rocketry: The Nambi Effect
13.	Which film won the national award for the Best Feature Film in Hindi? Sardar Udham
14.	Magnus Carlsen of Norway beat which Indian GrandMaster in tie-breaks to become the World Champion on August 24? R. Praggnanandhaa
15.	FIDE Chess World Cup 2023 was held in which city? Baku, Azerbaijan
16.	C Radhakrishnan ____, one of the world's most eminent statisticians, died on August 23 at the ripe age of 103 years: Rao
17.	The National Tiger Conservation Authority accorded its approval for the Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve as 54 th Tiger reserve in the country. It is in which state? Rajasthan
18.	The Ministry of Defence has formed a nine-member committee headed by K. Vijay Raghavan, for what purpose? To propose a revamped futuristic structure for the DRDO
19.	In the category of cities with a population of more than 10 lakhs, which city topped the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023 conducted by the Central

	Pollution Control Board? Indore, Madhya Pradesh
20.	The Election Commission of India appointed which cricket legend as a "national icon" of the poll panel on August 23? Sachin Tendulkar
21.	On August 23, India became the first country to land its space vehicle Vikram in the _____ area of moon: South Pole
22.	What is the name of the rover that came out of the lander Vikram? Pragyan
23.	Which Indian bank celebrated golden jubilee of its operations on August 22 in UAE? Bank of Baroda
24.	NTPC started a trial run of India's first ever hydrogen bus on a public road in which place? Leh
25.	Which union ministry has, for the first time, notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India? Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
26.	Which is the common process for generating green hydrogen? Water electrolysis
27.	The Border Roads Organisation has started construction of the world's highest motorable road in which area of Ladakh? Demchok sector
28.	Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT)? Justice Prakash Shrivastava
29.	Anahat Singh, 15 year old girl from Delhi, clinched the gold medal on August 20 in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior _____ Individual Championships: Squash
30.	Which country won the 9 th FIFA Women's World Cup on August 20? Spain
31.	Which city hosted the final match of 9 th FIFA Women's World Cup? Sydney
32.	Sadbhavna Diwas on August 20 marks the birthday of which noted leader of India? Sh. Rajiv Gandhi
33.	During which period Sh. Rajiv Gandhi served as the Prime Minister of India? 1984-89
34.	August 20 is celebrated as World Mosquito Day. Out of male and female mosquitos, which one transmit malaria between humans? Female
35.	India observes Akshay Urja Diwas on August 20. Who is the current head of the union ministry of New & Renewable Energy? Sh. Raj Kumar Singh
36.	Which UN Office actively supports celebration of World Humanitarian Day on August 19? UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - OCHA

37.	In which country state of British Columbia declared a state of emergency on August 18 to handle devastating wildfires? Canada
38.	Which village in Goa became the first Indian village to compile its own "Biodiversity Atlas"? Mayem
39.	India's first 3D printed post office building was inaugurated in which city on August 18? Bengaluru
40.	What is common between Priya Malik, Antim Panghal, Savita and Mohit Kumar in context of 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships? All four won the individual gold medal
41.	What is the name of India's first long range revolver launched on August 18? Prabal
42.	What is the effective firing range of the Prabal revolver? 50 meters
43.	What type of ship is 'Vindhyagiri' which was launched on August 17 in Kolkata? Advanced stealth frigate
44.	Which apex national organisation launched a mobile app 'FloodWatch' on August 17 for providing real time flood forecasts? Central Water Commission
45.	For what reason Northwest Territories Province of Canada was in news in mid-August? It was devastated by widespread wildfires
46.	R. Doraiswamy has been appointed as the Managing Director of which national insurance company? Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
47.	The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden entered the World Book of Records as Asia's largest Tulip Garden. It is at which place? Srinagar, J&K
48.	The Indian Air Force recently inducted Heron Mark 2 at a forward air base in the northern sector. What is it? Advanced long range drone
49.	The RBI launched a centralised web portal UDGM on August 17 for what purpose? To facilitate search and claim of unclaimed deposits, across the banking sector
50.	What is the expansion of the acronym UDGM? Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access inforMation
51.	A recent report from the World Economic Forum revealed that Bhutan has transformed itself into a carbon____; absorbing more CO2 than what it releases: Sink

52.	The G20 Film Festival was inaugurated on August 16 in which city? New Delhi
53.	The union cabinet approved which scheme on August 16 for strengthening the traditional skills of artisans and craftsmen across the country? PM Vishwakarma Yojana
54.	Beneficiaries under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana are eligible to get credit support up to Rs. ____ lakh at just 5% interest: Two
55.	The union cabinet approved which scheme on August 16 for augmenting city bus operations across the country? PM-eBus Sewa
56.	PM-eBus Sewa will be started initially in the cities having a population of ____ lakh and above: Three
57.	The Prime Minister announced which scheme on Independence Day for providing vocational training to two crore women in rural areas? Lakhpati Didis Scheme
58.	Founder of 'Sulabh International', popularly known as the "Toilet Man of India", passed away on August 15 in New Delhi. Who was he? Bindeshwar Pathak
59.	Which country hosted the Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) Exercise in mid-August? Singapore
60.	The Asian Development Bank sanctioned a \$ 40.5 million loan to which state for improving early childhood development and maternal mental health in the state? Meghalaya
61.	Which national day is observed on August 14 to mark the partition of India in 1947? Partition Horrors Remembrance Day
62.	World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13. When does India celebrate National Organ Donation Day? November 27
63.	Indian team defeated which country on August 12 to win the Hero Asian Hockey Championship (Men)? Malaysia
64.	August 12 is observed as World Elephant Day. Which country claims to have largest elephant population? Botswana, over 1,30,000
65.	Which Indian state is home to largest number of elephants? Karnataka, 6,395
66.	With which country Indian Navy participated in Exercise Zayed Talwar on August 11? UAE
67.	Exercise Zayed Talwar was held in which area? Persian Gulf

68.	Which island in the Hawaii state of USA was in the news as the catastrophic wildfires there claimed at least 110 lives in the second week of August? Maui Island
69.	Which country hosted the 11-day multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2023 that started on August 11? Australia
70.	The National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, has developed a manned scientific submersible named MATSYA-6000, for what purpose? To enable scientists to explore deep-sea areas through direct intervention
71.	The RBI Monetary Policy Committee in its review meeting ended on August 10, did not change which policy rate? None
72.	Which day of August is observed as World Lion Day? 10th
73.	In which state other than Gujarat, can we see Asian Lions? None
74.	Which anti worm tablets are given free of cost to children in the age group of 1 to 19 years, on National Deworming Day on August 10? Albendazole
75.	Sanjay Kumar Agarwal took over as the Chairman of the Central Board of ____ Taxes and ____: Indirect; Customs
76.	What was the main objective of the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign launched on August 9? To honour the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country
77.	Which national movement was launched on August 8, August Kranti Diwas in 1942? Quit India Movement
78.	Javelin Throw Day August 7 commemorates the achievement of which sportsperson? Neeraj Chopra
79.	Which apex institute launched an e-portal, "भारतीय वस्त्र एवं शिल्प कोष" (Treasure of Indian Clothing and Crafts), on August 7? National Institute of Fashion Technology
80.	Which bank, for the first time in India, launched 24x7 video banking service on August 7? AU Small Finance Bank
81.	What is the name of the indigenously developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) recently inducted in the Indian Army? Swathi Mountains
82.	India celebrates National ____ Day on August 7: Handloom

83.	Which national movement was launched from Kolkata on August 7 in 1905? Swadeshi Movement
84.	On the National Handloom Day artisans and weavers are honoured with which award for their excellence in handicrafts and handloom products? Sant Kabir Awards
85.	On which date in 1945, world's first Atom Bomb was dropped by the USA on Japanese city Hiroshima? August 6
86.	What was the name of the Atom Bomb dropped on Hiroshima? Little Boy
87.	India celebrates National Bone & Joint Day on which date? August 4
88.	Which Indian Grandmaster recently dethroned Viswanathan Anand as India's top-rated chess player in the live world rankings? D Gukesh
89.	Which apex national agency recently launched the 'Rajmarg Yatra' app for highway users? National Highways Authority of India
90.	From which country the Indian Air Force recently received the Spike Non-Line of Sight (NLOS) anti-tank guided missiles? Israel
91.	The Finance Ministry approved the upgradation of which Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from 'Navratna' to 'Maharatna' category? Oil India Ltd.
92.	Oil India Ltd. is based in which state? Assam
93.	Aditi Swami became the first Indian to become the senior world champion on August 5 in which event? Compound archery at World Archery Championship in Berlin, Germany
94.	Deodhar Trophy is associated with which sports? Cricket
95.	Who was the winner of 2023 season of Deodhar Trophy? South Zone
96.	Typhoon Doksuri recently devastated which big metropolitan city of China? Beijing
97.	The Parliament passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 on August 02, mainly for what objective? For decriminalising and rationalising number of minor offences in several acts
98.	The Asian Development Bank granted a \$200 million loan to which Indian state for expanding water supply and sanitation systems in selected towns? Rajasthan

99.	Government launched the mobile app ULLAS on July 30 for what purpose? To facilitate technology-based access to basic functional literacy
100.	What is the full form of the acronym ULLAS? Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society
101.	Muslim Women's Rights Day on August 01 marks which important event? Enactment of the law against Triple Talaq on this day in 2019
102.	August 01 is observed as World Lung Cancer Day. Which are the two most common factors causing lung cancer? Smoking and air pollution
103.	Name the English computer scientist who is credited with the creation of World Wide Web: Tim Berners-Lee
104.	Latest data released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on the Global Tiger Day, July 29 puts the Tiger population estimates at 3,925. Which Indian state is home to largest number of tigers? Madhya Pradesh, 785
105.	Amongst Tiger Reserves, the largest number of Tigers, 260, are in which reserve? Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand
106.	ISRO successfully launched Singapore's DS-SAR satellite on July 30. What is SAR? Synthetic Aperture Radar
107.	The Asian Development Bank approved a \$295-million loan for improving the road infrastructure in which Indian state? Bihar
108.	London based World Cities Culture Forum has recently made which Indian city 41st member of its global network of cities? Bengaluru
109.	Aditya Samant, 17-year-old boy achieved the title of India's 83rd Grandmaster on July 26. He hails from which state? Maharashtra
110.	NITI Aayog hosted a two-day G20 conference on the Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy on July 28-29 in which city? New Delhi
111.	What is the name of India's first of its kind autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) designed to detect mines, launched on July 28? Neerakshi
JULY 2023	
1.	Which day of July is celebrated as World Rangers Day? 31st
2.	July 29 is designated as the Global Tiger Day. Which country has the largest population of Tigers? India

3.	World Hepatitis Day falls on July 28. Hepatitis primarily affects which organ of body? Liver
4.	India's most modern and the largest International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex was inaugurated on July 26 in which city? New Delhi
5.	What is the formal name of the IECC inaugurated on July 26? Bharat Mandapam
6.	Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26 marks the success of which operation conducted on this day in 1999? Operation Vijay
7.	India finished 2 nd on the medals tally at the ISSF Junior Shooting World Championships that concluded on July 25. It was held in which place? Changwon, South Korea
8.	The Byculla railway station received UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award on July 24 for its outstanding efforts in restoration of bygone heritage architecture. It is in which city? Mumbai
9.	What is the new logo of the social media platform Twitter, launched on July 24? 'X'
10.	July 24 is celebrated as the Income Tax Day in India. Which is the regulatory apex body for regulation of income tax in India? Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
11.	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and _____ won the Korea Open Badminton men's doubles title on July 23: Chirag Shetty
12.	Jonas Vingegaard, winner of Tour de France 2023, hails from which country? Denmark
13.	Which social media giant joined hands with the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) to digitally train and upskill 10 million Indian traders? Meta
14.	India's first Atal Incubation Centre in fisheries is being set up in which city? Kochi, Kerala
15.	National Broadcasting Day on July 23 marks the day on which first radio broadcast was made public in 1927. It was made from which radio station? Bombay Station
16.	In which country a war memorial was dedicated to the Indian Soldiers on July 22 in honour of their supreme sacrifices? Italy
17.	Italy dedicated a war memorial commending the supreme sacrifice of Indian soldiers in _____ war: World War II
18.	July 22 is observed as the National Flag Day. Who designed the National Flag? Pingali Venkayya

19.	India celebrates National Mango Day on which day of July? 22nd
20.	Sri Lankan President _____ Wickremesinghe reached New Delhi on July 20 for a two-day official visit: Ranil
21.	India and Sri Lanka are celebrating the ____ anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations: 75th
22.	Sri Lanka has agreed to link their _____ payment system with India's UPI: LankaPay
23.	Sri Lanka is an important factor in the Vision SAGAR followed by India. Expand the acronym SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region
24.	July 20 is observed as World Chess Day. Which country is regarded as the birth place of chess? India
25.	National Moon Day on July 20 marks the very first landing of human being on the Moon's surface on this day in the year____: 1969
26.	_____ was the first human being to step down on the Moon's surface? Neil Armstrong
27.	India's first credit guarantee scheme to facilitate inflow of funds to MSMEs engaged in the _____sector was launched July 20: Livestock
28.	In which country R Praggnanandhaa won the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023 on July 19? Hungary
29.	The union cabinet approved a bill on July 19 for designating the NITIE- National Institute of Industrial Engineering as the 21 st IIM in the country. It is in which city? Mumbai
30.	Sat Pal Bhanoo has been appointed as the new Managing Director of which apex financial institution? LIC of India
31.	Who has been appointed as the 25 th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard on July 19? Rakesh Pal
32.	In the history of which country Admiral Lisa Franchetti became the first woman to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations? USA
33.	The "NongHyup Bank" was included in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 on July 18. It is based in which country? South Korea
34.	Manoj Yadava, senior IPS officer has been appointed the Director General of which Central Armed Police Force? Railway Protection Force (RPF)

35.	What is the name of the world's largest office building that has been built in Surat? Surat Diamond Bourse
36.	Name the veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Kerala, who breathed his last on July 18: Oommen Chandy
37.	July 18 is celebrated as International Nelson Mandela Day. Indian government honoured him with which civil award in 1990? Bharat Ratna
38.	According to the latest Henley Passport Index released on July 18, which country's passport was placed at number one rank? Singapore
39.	What was Indian passport's rank in the latest Henley Passport Index? 80th
40.	Which apex organisation released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for 2022 on July 17 in New Delhi? Nitin Aayog
41.	Which state secured number one position in the Export Preparedness Index? Tamil Nadu
42.	July 17 is observed as World Day for International Justice. Where is the International Criminal Court? The Hague
43.	What was the name of the bilateral joint military exercise in which India participated with Mongolia at Ulaanbaatar from 17 to 31 July? Nomadic Elephant
44.	Who secured a Guinness world record for the fastest shot by a male player in badminton, achieving a speed of 565 kmph with his smash hit? Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
45.	Which team lifted the Duleep Trophy on July 16 at Bengaluru? South Zone
46.	Which Indian university hosted the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships that concluded on July 16? Gautam Buddh University, Greater Noida
47.	Asian Athletics Championships which concluded on July 16, were held in which city? Bangkok
48.	Wimbledon Tennis Tournament is held in which city? London
49.	Who won this year's men's singles title at the Wimbledon? Carlos Alcaraz
50.	Carlos Alcaraz hails from which country? Spain
51.	Name the unseeded tennis player who clinched this year's Wimbledon's women's singles title? Marketa Vondrousova
52.	Vondrousova plays tennis for which country? Czech Republic

53.	Which day of June is celebrated as World Youth Skills Day? 15th
54.	Which UN agency provides active support for celebration of World Youth Skills Day? UNESCO
55.	The WHO's cancer agency has deemed which artificial sweetener as a "possible" cause of cancer (carcinogenic)? Aspartame
56.	Headquarters of WHO are located in which city? Geneva
57.	Who is the current chief of the WHO? Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
58.	Prime Minister Modi visited which city in UAE on July 15 during his official visit? Abu Dhabi
59.	The Power Index for 145 countries released in the second week of July, ranked India at which spot in terms of its military power? Fourth
60.	Which Indian IIT plans to open a local campus in Abu Dhabi? IIT Delhi
61.	The RBI signed an MoU with the Central Bank of UAE for execution of the LCS system. What is LCS? Local Currency Settlement
62.	India finalised a deal to buy which 26 fighter jets from France for its navy? Rafale-M jets
63.	ISRO successfully launched the LVM3 M4 rocket carrying Chandrayaan 3 on July 14. What is expansion of LVM3? Launch Vehicle Mark 3
64.	What is the name of the Lander Module carried by the propulsion module? Vikram
65.	Lander Vikram carried the rover named _____ on to the Moon's surface: Pragyan
66.	India's first ECT-elevated cross taxiway (runway) was inaugurated on July 14 at which international airport? Delhi International Airport
67.	July 14 is observed as the Shark Awareness Day. Sharks do not have bones. Their skeletons are made up of ____: Cartilages
68.	At which national military parade of France, Prime Minister Modi was the guest of honour? Bastille Day Parade
69.	Who scripted a new world record on July 13 in F64 javelin throw in World Para-Athletics Championship in Paris: Sumit Antil
70.	What is the name of the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System launched recently by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways? Sagar Sampark
71.	What is the main objective of Sagar Sampark system? To enhance safe navigation of ships by

	providing more accurate positioning information
72.	Who is the current union minister of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways? Sh. Sarbananda Sonowal
73.	Prime Minister Modi was honoured with France's highest civil/military order on July 13. What is its name? The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour
74.	_____became the first Indian CPSE to get certified for its Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) by InterCert, USA: ONGC
75.	July 12 is observed as World Malala Day. What is her full name? Malala Yousafzai
76.	Which UN agency supports the celebration of World Population Day on July 11? U N Fund for Population Activities
77.	India celebrates National Fish Farmers' Day on which day of July? 10th
78.	Who is the current union minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying? Sh. Parshottam Rupala
79.	What was the name of the joint multi-agency operation carried out in June 2023 by the law enforcement agencies of the US and India prevent drugs supply in USA? Broader Swords
80.	Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected as the President of which Central Asian country? Uzbekistan
81.	Which UN agency released the latest Multi - dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for 110 countries, jointly with Oxford University? UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
82.	Rudransh Khandelwal, 19-year-old boy won the gold and created a new world record on July 10 in which event? P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1 category in World Shooting Para Sports
83.	On July 9, Parth _____ became the first Indian male archer to win a gold in the recurve category at the Youth World Championships: Salunkhe
84.	Which country recently launched its first open-source desktop operating system (OS) named OpenKylin 1.0? China
85.	India recently joined the Champions Group of the Global _____Response Group: Crisis
86.	Which global organisation has set up the Global Crisis Response Group? UNO

87.	Which Indian shuttler clinched the Men's Singles title of the Canada Open 2023 badminton tournament on July 09? Lakshya Sen
88.	Which Bank launched on July 6 a virtual branch, Metaverse? PNB
89.	Which country won the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022-23? Netherlands
90.	India hosted the Salvex-23 naval exercise with which country? USA
91.	What was the name of the bilateral Maritime Exercise 2023 that was hosted by the Indian Navy from 5 to 10 July with Japanese Naval Force? JIMEX 23
92.	JIMEX 23 was held in Bay of Bengal, near which place? Visakhapatnam
93.	RBI launched its information management framework on June 30 for handling its massive data flow. What is its name? Centralised Information Management System
94.	Maruti Suzuki India, for the first time made its entry into the premium MPV segment on July 5. What is its name? Invicto
95.	Meta, known for Facebook and Instagram, launched its new microblogging platform on June 6 with what name? Threads
96.	Police force of which city launched a 'Drone Police Unit' on June 29 to assist cops in aerial surveillance? Greater Chennai Police
97.	Government launched _____ 6G Alliance on July 3 for the next-generation communication technology in India: Bharat
98.	The market capitalisation of listed firms which stock exchange hit a lifetime peak of Rs 301.10 lakh crore (trillion) on July 6? BSE - Bombay Stock Exchange
99.	World Zoonoses Day is observed on July 6 for raising awareness on which issue? Infectious diseases that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa
100.	Debadatta Chand assumed charge as MD & CEO of which bank? Bank of Baroda
101.	Who has been selected as the AIFF Footballer of the Year 2022-23 in men's category? Lallianzuala Chhangte
102.	Manisha Kalyan, winner of AIFF Footballer of the Year 2022-23 in women's category, hails from which state? Punjab

103. Which country has enforced a complete ban on thin plastic bags, commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases? New Zealand
104. Who has been appointed as chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee by the BCCI? Ajit Agarkar
105. Which country won the SAFF Football Championship on July 4? India
106. Which Indian city hosted the finals of SAFF Football Championship? Bengaluru
107. According to data released by the U.S. National Centers for Environmental Prediction, which was the hottest day ever recorded globally, recently? July 4
108. Which city hosted the 23 rd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State on July 4? None, it was held in virtual mode
109. Which country was added as the 9 th full member of the SCO during the summit? Iran
110. India will handover the presidency of SCO for 2023-24 to which country? Kazakhstan
111. What is the name of the world's most advanced space telescope launched on July 01? Euclid
112. Which space agency launched the space telescope Euclid? European Space Agency
113. Euclid will be stationed some 1.5 million kilometers away from the Earth at L-2_____ Point: Lagrange
114. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex at which place in Gujarat? Lothal
115. Indian and French Naval warships undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) on June 30 at which place? In the Bay of Bengal
116. Which senior advocate has been re-appointed as the Solicitor General of India for three more years? Tushar Mehta
117. Which global bank approved \$1.5 billion funding to help India promote low-carbon energy by scaling up renewable energy and green hydrogen? World Bank
118. According to the 17 th edition of the Global Peace Index 2023 released on June 28, India was placed at which rank? 126th
119. Which country was declared as the most peaceful country of the world by the Global Peace Index 2023? Iceland

120. India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor started its commercial operations on June 30 at which nuclear power project? Kakrapar Atomic Power Project
121. Kakrapar Atomic Power Project is located in which state? Gujarat, at Kakrapar
122. The 'Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023' has been launched by which union ministry? Ministry of Power
123. Any project or entity which saves on emissions can issue carbon _____ against their savings: Credit
124. One carbon credit is equivalent to avoiding or reducing emission of _____ ton of carbon dioxide or the equivalent in other greenhouse gases: One
125. International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed on which day of the year? July 03
126. In which state the Geological Survey of India has declared India's biggest "Natural Arch" as a Geo Heritage Site? Odisha
127. July 2 is celebrated as World _____Journalists Day: Sports
128. First _____of July is celebrated as the International Day of Cooperatives: Saturday
129. Neeraj Chopra clinched the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 title in which country? Switzerland
130. Which country won the Asian Kabaddi Championship on June 30 in Busan, S. Korea? India
131. Who was the captain of the Indian Kabaddi team? Pawan Sehrawat
132. India's _____Pallikal and _____Pal Sandhu won the gold medal on June 30 at the Asian Mixed Doubles Squash Tournament: Dipika; Harinder
133. In which country at least 100 people lost their lives in the second half of June due to heat stroke related causes? Mexico
134. Government has permitted Banks to implement and operationalise the Mahila _____Savings Certificate Scheme, 2023: Samman
135. What is the maximum amount that can be deposited in the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme? Rs. two lakh
136. India celebrates Chartered Accountants Day on July 01. Which is the licensing and regulatory body of chartered accountants in India? Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

137. National Doctor's Day on July 01 marks the birth anniversary of which legendary doctor? Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy
138. For what purpose the Union Cabinet approved the PM-PRANAM Yojana for the farmers on June 28? To promote use of alternative fertilisers
139. What is the full form of the acronym PRANAM? Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother earth
140. SEBI approved reducing the time period for the listing of shares in a public issue from the existing 6 days to how many days? Three
141. Which state signed a MoU on June 28 with America's largest chipmaker firm Micron Technology for establishing India's first semiconductor assembly and test facility? Gujarat
142. India ended its campaign in Special Olympics World Games 2023 by winning 202 medals. Which city hosted these games? Berlin, Germany
143. Which category of sportspersons participate in the Special Olympics World Games? People with intellectual disabilities
144. Govt launched Nandi portal for what purpose? To expedite issuance of NOC for veterinary drugs and vaccines
145. As per the 'Energy Transition Index' released on June 28, India was placed at which spot? 67th
146. Which country secured the first rank in the Energy Transition Index? Sweden
147. Which Indian institute for the first time, has breached into the top 150 rankings, securing 149th rank in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2023? IIT Bombay
148. The Central Air Command of the Indian Air Force conducted Exercise _____ in the UB Hills area from June 16-23: Ranvijay
149. India's largest rail coach plant in the private sector was inaugurated on June 22 in which city? Hyderabad
150. India secured which rank in the 2023 IMD World Competitiveness Ranking? 40th
151. Which country was ranked at the top of the 2023 IMD World Competitiveness Ranking? Denmark
152. Kyriakos Mitsotakis was re-elected second time as the Prime Minister of which European country? Greece

153. Diksha Dagar, 22-year-old hearing impaired girl from Haryana won her second Ladies European Tour in which sports? Golf
JUNE 2023
1. June 30 is observed as the International Asteroid Day. The Asteroid belt is located at which place in the space? Between planet Mars and Jupiter
2. World social media Day is observed on which day of June? 30th
3. National Statistics Day on June 30 marks the birth anniversary of which legendary statistician? Prof. P C Mahalanobis
4. What is the name of the popular statistical measure devised by Prof. P C Mahalanobis? Mahalanobis Distance
5. Doubles pair of Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee won the doubles title in the World _____ Contender tournament on June 25: Table Tennis
6. On June 25 the Egyptian President honoured Sh. Modi with Egypt's highest state honour. What is its title? The Order of the Nile
7. On June 24 Prime Minister Modi reached Cairo on a two-day state visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Abdel _____ El-Sisi: Fattah
8. What is the name of India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine booster dose launched on June 24? GEMCOVAC-OM
9. Which Indian company developed and manufactured the GEMCOVAC-OM? Gennova Biopharmaceuticals, Pune
10. Prime Minister Modi addressed the Joint Session of the Parliament of USA on June 22. What is its name? The Congress
11. The yoga session led by Mr Modi at the UN Headquarters which was attended by thousands of participants, created a Guinness World Record for which aspect? Participation by the largest number (135) of nationalities in a single yoga session
12. With a view to improve the quality of technical education in government-run institutions in India, the _____ approved a \$255.5 million loan for India: World Bank
13. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) released its new standard "IS 18267:2023" for 'Food Serving Utensils Made from which material? Agri By-Products

14.	The Asian Development Bank approved a \$295 million loan to which state for widening and upgrading 265 km of state highways? Bihar
15.	June 25 is observed as World Vitiligo Day. Vitiligo affects which part of body? Skin
16.	The International Day of Women in Diplomacy was observed for the first time on which day of June in 2023? 24th
17.	Indian Olympic Association (IOA) launched the "Bharat in ____" campaign on June 23 with a short marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi: Paris
18.	June 23 is World Olympic Day. Which one amongst Summer Olympics, Winter Olympics, Youth Olympics and Paralympics, is NOT organised by the International Olympic Committee? Paralympics
19.	June 22 is celebrated as World Rainforest Day. Which are the largest rainforests of the world? Amazon Rainforest
20.	Which country hosted a two-day Summit for a New Global Financing Pact on June 22-23? France
21.	Which US aerospace major signed a MoU on June 22 with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force? GE Aerospace
22.	Which is the most liveable city in the world as per the Global Liveability Index 2023 released on June 21? Vienna, Austria
23.	Name the charismatic football star who was awarded a Guinness World Record on June 21 for making the highest number, 200, international appearances: Cristiano Ronaldo
24.	The Global Gender Gap Index 2023 released on June 20 placed which country at the top for the least gender bias? Iceland
25.	India was placed at which spot in the Global Gender Gap Index? 127th
26.	Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus was honoured by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on June 20 with the 'Olympic Order'. He heads which global UN agency? WHO
27.	The Indian Army's Northern Command concluded a massive military exercise — Agneyastra-1 on June 19 in which area? Eastern Ladakh
28.	Which Indian city achieved a Guinness World Record on June 21 for the largest gathering of 1.53 lakh people for a yoga session at one place? Surat, Gujarat

29.	With what central theme India celebrated this year's International Yoga Day? Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam
30.	June 21 is observed as the World Hydrography Day. Where are the headquarters of the International Hydrographic Organisation? Monte Carlo, Monaco
31.	World Music Day is celebrated on which day of June? 21st
32.	June 20 is observed as the World ____ Day to respect and honour the courage and resilience of the displaced persons across the world: Refugee
33.	The Central Government introduced a new collection of professional learning courses called ____ on the iGOT Karmayogi platform of the Ministry of Personnel: Dakshta
34.	The acronym DAKSHTA stands for what? Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skills for Holistic Change in Administration
35.	What is the name of the India's first Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle (ALSV) supplied recently to the Indian armed forces? Armado
36.	ASLV Armado has been built indigenously by which company? Mahindra Defence Systems
37.	The United Nations adopted a first-ever treaty on June 19 to protect marine life in which area? The high seas
38.	C A Bhavani Devi created history on June 19 by securing India's first-ever medal at the ____ Fencing Championship: Asian
39.	C A Bhavani Devi hails from which state? Tamil Nadu
40.	Which country hosted the multi-lateral military exercise Ex Khaan Quest 2023 which started on June 19? Mongolia
41.	Which national day is celebrated on June 19 in honour of P N Panicker, revered as the father of the library movement in Kerala? National Reading Day
42.	June 18 is observed as the Autistic Pride Day. Autism refers to which kind of disorder? Impairment of behavioural/ communication skills
43.	Celebration of Sustainable Gastronomy Day on June 18 highlights which aspect of gastronomy? Growing food in nature friendly manner and avoiding wastages at every stage

44.	To which country the Indian government made a gift of an indigenously-built in-service Missile Corvette? Vietnam
45.	What was the name of the warship that the Indian government gifted to Vietnam? INS Kirpan
46.	What is the name of the mascot for the 37 th National Games that was unveiled on June 18? Moga
47.	Mascot Moga represents which animal? Bison
48.	Pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty scripted history on June 18 by defeating reigning world champions in which tournament? Indonesia Open (Badminton)
49.	Which city hosted the Indonesia Open (Badminton) tournament? Jakarta
50.	Indian football team defeated which country on June 18 to lift the Intercontinental Football Cup? Lebanon
51.	Which Indian city hosted the Intercontinental Football Cup? Bhubaneswar
52.	June 18 is observed as the International Day for Countering _____.: Hate Speech
53.	Abhishek Verma clinched a gold medal in the men's compound individual final on June 17 in which international event? Archery World Cup Stage 3
54.	Which day of June is observed as the World Crocodile Day? 17th
55.	Which country won the World Squash Championship on June 17 in Chennai? Egypt
56.	Name the winner of the Gandhi Peace Prize-2021: Gita Press, Gorakhpur
57.	Gita Press was honoured with the prestigious Gandhi Peace Prize for which achievement? For their commendable work over the last 100 years towards furthering social and cultural interests by publishing low priced socially useful books
58.	Which state won the National Water Award on June 17 for being the Best State for adopting best water practices? Madhya Pradesh
59.	What is the theme for this year's World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (June 17)? Her Land. Her Rights
60.	Which Sunday of June is celebrated as the Fathers' Day in many countries? Third

61.	Who has been appointed as the new Secretary (Head) of the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)? Ravi Sinha
62.	What is the main function of the RAW? Gathering foreign intelligence for India
63.	A news item on June 15 read, "India tops in LEED Zero certifications". Term LEED Zero is associated with which aspect of life? Energy conservation and environment protection
64.	In the term LEED, what is denoted by the letters 'EE'? Energy and Environmental
65.	The official GDP data released on June 15 by which prominent island country showed that the country has slipped into recession? New Zealand
66.	Which international day is observed on June 15 to promote a better understanding of incidence of abuse and neglect of elderly persons? World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
67.	Cyclone Biparjoy made landfall on June 15 on which coastal district of Gujarat? Kutch
68.	Global/World Wind Day falls on which date? June 15
69.	June 14 is observed as the World Blood Donor Day. Which is the largest component of blood? Plasma (55%)
70.	The Asian Development Bank sanctioned a \$130 million loan in June to which state for promoting horticulture? Himachal Pradesh
71.	What type of ship is Sanshodhak that was launched on June 13 for the Indian Navy? Survey Vessel
72.	Name the ASW Shallow Water Craft that was launched on June 13 at Kattupalli, near Chennai: Anjadip
73.	June 12 is observed as the World Day Against _____.: Child Labour
74.	Which military exercise took place between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force? Ex Ekuverin
75.	Ex Ekuverin was held at which place from June 11 to 24? Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
76.	India defeated which country to lift the Women's Junior Hockey Asia Cup on June 11? South Korea
77.	Which country hosted the Women's Junior Hockey Asia Cup? Japan
78.	Who won the women's singles title at the French Open 2023? Iga Swiatek

79.	Who created history by becoming the first man to reach the coveted 23 grand slam titles mark? Novak Djokovic
80.	Iga Swiatek hails from which country? Poland
81.	Which country won the FIH Pro League Hockey Tournament on June 11? India
82.	FIH Pro League Hockey Tournament was hosted by which country? The Netherlands
83.	First Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav was held from June 9 to 12 in which city? Bhubaneswar
84.	Which country won the first edition of the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2023 on June 11: Uruguay
85.	Which country hosted the first edition of the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2023? Argentina
86.	Final match of the ICC World Test Championship, 2023 was played at which cricket ground in England? The Oval, London
87.	The ____ Bank granted \$148 million loan on June 9 to support West Bengal in water management in rural areas: World
88.	Who has been appointed as the CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India? Amit Agrawal
89.	Subodh Kumar Singh, an IAS officer of 1997 batch has been appointed as the CEO of which apex national body? National Testing Agency
90.	SIDBI launched mission EVOLVE on June 05 for what purpose? To finance MSMEs for electric vehicles
91.	What is the expansion of the acronym EVOLVE? Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem
92.	Multilateral naval exercise Komodo was hosted by which country from June 5 to 8? Indonesia
93.	SIDBI aims to support India's target of EV30@30. What does it stand for? 30% electric vehicles by 2030
94.	Nitin Agarwal has been appointed as the new Director General of which paramilitary force? Border Security Force (BSF)
95.	Parts of Western Canada were ravaged by which natural calamity in the first half of June? Devastating wildfires
96.	The government launched a nationwide programme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in August in which year? 2019
97.	A new WHO report presented to NITI Aayog on June 9 has estimated that India's ongoing 'Har

	Ghar Jal' campaign can save nearly ____ lakh lives: Four
98.	The Indian Navy's Marine Commandos and divers participated in the Ekatha Exercise with the ____ National Defence Force, from June 4 to July 3: Maldives
99.	Government launched Amrit Dharohar scheme on June 5 for what purpose? To develop Ramsar sites (wetlands) as centers of eco-tourism
100.	What is the objective of the recently launched MISHTI initiative? Reviving and conserving India's wetlands and mangroves through public participation
101.	What is the full form of the acronym MISHTI? Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Income
102.	UN General Assembly held elections on June 8 to elect the five non-permanent members of the UN Security Council: Which country was elected from the Asian segment? Japan
103.	How many countries are the members in the UN General Assembly? 193
104.	India topped the medals tally in the ISSF Junior World Cup 2023. It was held at which place? Suhl, Germany
105.	President Droupadi Murmu made a six-day state tour from June 4 to 9 of which two countries? Suriname and Serbia
106.	Which is the capital city of Suriname? Paramaribo
107.	____ is the capital and the also the largest city of Serbia? Belgrade
108.	Which country conferred her highest civilian award "Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star" on our President on June 5? Suriname
109.	Rezoana Mallick Heena, Bharatpreet Singh, Siddharth Choudhary and Sunil Kumar are the promising sportspersons from which sport? Athletics
110.	The DRDO successfully flight-tested its New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni Prime on June 7. What is its maximum range? 2,000 km
111.	The first edition of India, France, and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise was held on June 7-8 in which area? Gulf of Oman
112.	RBI changed which policy rate in its second bi-monthly policy review announced on June 8? No rate was changed

113. World Brain Tumour Day is observed on which day of June? 8th
114. Which major European economy was in news recently as it slipped into recession? Germany
115. Among the pulses, _____ enjoyed the highest MSP of Rs. 8558 per quintal? Moong
116. Which government committee approves the hike in the MSP of crops? The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)
117. Who heads the CCEA? Prime Minister
118. Kharif crops are sown in which season? Rainy season
119. Government plans to launch a Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR), to quickly identify emerging technologies in which sector? Power generation
120. What is the name of the heavyweight Torpedo that was recently tested successfully by the Indian Navy? Varunastra
121. Who supports the celebration of the World _____ Safety Day on June 7: Food
122. June ____ is observed as the World Pest Day: 6
123. Grandmaster _____ Chithambaram won the 23 rd Dubai Open Chess Tournament on June 4: Aravindh
124. A two-day "Lavender Festival" was held on June 4-5 in Bhaderwah Valley in which area? Jammu and Kashmir
125. Recent surge in the Lavender farming in J&K is also popularly known as _____ revolution: Purple
126. The National Dam Safety Authority has designated Malaviya National Institute of Technology as the National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams. It is in which place? Jaipur
127. Which institute secured the "Best Overall Ranking" in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2023? IIT Madras
128. Which university secured the highest ranking in the NIRF 2023? IISc-Bangalore
129. Which medical institute was declared the best in the NIRF 2023? AIIMS-Delhi
130. Under which mission the Indian Navy collected over 78,000 Kilograms of plastic waste in the last year from the Indian coastline? Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan
131. Which state hosted the 3 rd Khelo India University Games? Uttar Pradesh

132. Which university topped the 3 rd Khelo India University Games? Panjab University, Chandigarh
133. Amlan Borgohain, Indian _____ bagged two gold medals on June 4, in the men's 100 and 200-meter races at the Flanders Cup 2023: Sprinter
134. June 5 is celebrated as the World Environment Day. Which is this year's host country for the Day? Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
135. On June 01, Dennis Francis was elected as the President of the 78 th session of the UN General Assembly. He hails from which country? Trinidad and Tobago
136. RBI launched the '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign on June 01 to trace and settle the top 100 _____ deposits of every bank in every district within 100 days: Unclaimed
137. An unclaimed deposit is one in which there are no operation for ____ years or more? Ten
138. Banks are required to transfer the unclaimed deposits to the "Depositor _____ and Awareness" Fund maintained by the RBI: Education
139. Recep _____ Erdogan has been re-elected as the President of Türkiye for the third successive five-year term: Tayyip
140. One of the worst rail accidents that the country has witnessed in the last 15 years, in which around 300 people lost their lives, occurred near which place? Bahanaga, near Balasore
141. World Bicycle Day is observed on the ____ day of June: Third
142. K Krithivasan has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of which major IOT company? Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
143. Which All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) became the first of all AIIMSs to receive the prestigious NABH accreditation? AIIMS, Nagpur
144. Which international day on June 01 celebrates the importance of parenthood and its role in providing protection to children? The Global Day of Parents
145. June 1 is marked as the World Milk Day. On which date we observe the National Milk Day? November 26
146. Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as the CEO cum MD of which bank? UCO Bank

147. Bola Tinubu has been sworn in as the new President of which major African country? Nigeria
148. India's junior men's hockey team, led by _____, won the Asia Cup on June 01 in Salalah, Oman: Uttam Singh
149. India's GDP is pegged to grow at ___ per cent during 2022-23 as per the Statistics Ministry's provisional estimates released on June 1: 7.2
150. Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal _____ Prachanda arrived in New Delhi on May 31 on a four-day official visit to India: Dahal
151. The 23 rd season of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards was held on May 27 in which place? Abu Dhabi, UAE
152. Which film won the IIFA award for the "Best Picture"? Drishyam 2
153. What is the name of the coveted award for the Best Film at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival? Palme d'Or
154. Which film won the prestigious Palme d'Or award at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival? Anatomy of a Fall
155. The Indian Army recently conducted this exercise along the western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab from May 22 to 25: Sudarshan Shakti 2023
156. Chennai Super Kings won the 5 th IPL Tournament by defeating which team? Gujarat Titans
157. Girish Chandra Murmu, the CAG of India has been re-elected as External Auditor of which global organisation? World Health Organisation
158. Norodom Sihamoni, the King of _____, arrived in New Delhi on May 29 on a three-day official visit: Cambodia
159. Which Indian business tycoon has been appointed as the member of Advisory Committee to the President of the 28 th Session of the COP-28 to the UNFCCC? Mukesh Ambani
160. Noted writer Damodar Mauzo received the country's highest literary honour "Jnanpith Award" on May 28. He writes in which language? Konkani
161. Name the India's ace shuttler who clinched the Malaysia Masters singles badminton title on May 28 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: H S Prannoy
162. ISRO successfully launched which navigational satellite on May 29 from Sriharikota? NVS-01

163. For the first time, the NVS-01 will use an indigenously developed _____atomic clock: Rubidium
164. Who was sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner by the President of India on May 29? Praveen Kumar Srivastava
MAY 2023
1. Which international day is observed on May 31 to educate people about the harmful effect of tobacco consumption? No Tobacco Day
2. May 29 is celebrated as International Everest Day to mark the first conquering of this highest peak on this day in 1953 by whom? Edmund Hillary
3. Edmund Hillary hailed from which country? New Zealand
4. In Nepal, Mt Everest is locally known as _____: Sagarmatha
5. On the Chinese side, Mt Everest is known by which name? Qololangma
6. The New building of Parliament has how many seats in Lok Sabha and in Rajya Sabha, respectively? 888 and 384
7. What is the name of the grand Exhibition Hall built in the center of the new parliament for showcasing India's democratic heritage? Constitution Hall
8. A historical sceptre called "Sengol" has been installed at which place in the new parliament? Next to Lok Sabha Speaker's seat
9. May 28 is observed as the Amnesty International Day. NGO Amnesty International is based in which city? London, UK
10. Which global organisation awards the Dag Hammarskjold Medal for supreme acts of valour and sacrifice? UN Peacekeeping Force
11. The Asian Development Bank approved a \$141.12 million loan for the development of infrastructure in three industrial clusters in which state? Andhra Pradesh
12. The book titled "The Golden Years" is the memoirs of which veteran author? Ruskin Bond
13. Smoke and Ashes is a recent novel authored by whom? Amitav Ghosh
14. May 25 is observed as World Thyroid Day. Thyroid gland is found in which part of body? Around neck
15. On May 25, which state declared herself to be India's first "total e-governed state"? Kerala

16. The 3 rd Khelo India University Games were inaugurated on May 25 in which city of Uttar Pradesh? Lucknow
17. Who is the chief minister of Kerala? Pinarayi Vijayan
18. The finance ministry on May 24 hiked the tax exemption limit for leave encashment on retirement, to Rs ____lakh, from Rs. 3 lakh at present: 25
19. R Dinesh has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian _____on May 24 for 2023-24: Industry
20. Murali Sreeshankar and Jeswin Aldrin, won gold and silver, respectively, on May 24 at an International Meet in which event? Long jump
21. Georgi Gospodinov and Angela Rodel (translator) bagged the prestigious 2023 International Booker Prize on May 23. Mr Gospodinov hails from which country? Bulgaria
22. Mr Gospodinov won the Booker Prize for which of his novels? Time Shelter
23. What is the prize money given with the International Booker Prize? 50,000 British Pounds
24. After Rice and Wheat, which is the third single major crop of India? Maize
25. The BCCI signed a new partnership deal with which global sportswear brand for being the sole supplier of all "match, training and travel wear" for its players? Adidas
26. INSV Tarini, with a six-member crew, was received ceremoniously at INS Mandovi in Goa on May 23 for which achievement? It returned after completing a 17,000 nautical miles (31,500 km) long trans-ocean inter-continental voyage
27. For the first time, a G20 Working Group Meeting was held in Srinagar, J&K on May 22-24. Name the working group: G20 Tourism Working Group
28. With which country India participated in a bilateral naval exercise 'Al-Mohed-Al Hindi-23' from May 21 to 25? Saudi Arabia
29. Exercise 'Al-Mohed-Al Hindi-23' was conducted in which area? Persian Gulf
30. PM Narendra Modi landed in which Japanese city on May 19 on way to his three-nation tour? Hiroshima
31. Sh Modi participated in which two multi-nation summits in Hiroshima? G-7 and Quad
32. Which two countries honoured Sh Modi on May 22 with their highest civilian honours? Papua New Guinea and Fiji

33. Kami Rita Sherpa, the 53-year-old record-holding Nepalese mountain guide scaled Mt Everest for a record ____time on May 23: 28th
34. Neeraj Chopra reached the top of the latest men's javelin throw world rankings, issued by ____? World Athletics
35. What is the theme of this year's World Turtle Day (May 23)? I love Turtles
36. Which day of May is observed as the International Day for Biodiversity? 22nd
37. May 21 is observed as the International Tea Day. Which Indian city is popularly known as the Tea Capital of India? Jorhat, Assam
38. Anti-Terrorism Day on May 21 marks the martyrdom of which national leader? Sh. Rajiv Gandhi
39. Sh. Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India during which period? 1984-89
40. What is the name of the memorial built in honour of Rajiv Gandhi? Veer Bhumi, New Delhi
41. Who won the men's singles title of the Italian Open Tennis Tournament on May 21? Daniil Medvedev
42. Daniil Medvedev hails from which country? Russia
43. Name the veteran Congress leader who formally took charge as Karnataka's new Chief Minister on May 20: Siddaramaiah
44. World Metrology Day is observed globally every year on May 20 to create awareness about ____ : Importance of weights and measurements
45. When do we celebrate the World Meteorological Day? March 23
46. The University Grants Commission (UGC) announced a new initiative titled 'NEP SAARTHI' on May 19 with what objective? To involve students in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
47. What is the full form of SAARTHI? Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India
48. Who is the current Chairman of UGC? Prof M Jagadesh Kumar
49. _____ became the first state in the country to launch a free air travel facility to senior citizens for pilgrimage: Madhya Pradesh
50. Whom is the current Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh? Shivraj Singh Chouhan

51.	Country's first commercial passenger flight using an indigenously produced SAF blend was successfully flown on May 19. What is SAF? Sustainable Aviation Fuel
52.	RBI announced the withdrawal of the 2,000 rupees denomination banknotes from circulation on May 19 under which policy? Clean Note Policy
53.	RBI board approved on May 19 a transfer of Rs 87,416 crore as the _____ to the government for the FY ending 31 March, 2023: Dividend
54.	Two new judges joined the Supreme Court on May 19. What is the total sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court? 34 (including the CJI)
55.	India celebrates the third Friday of May every year as the National _____ Species Day: Endangered
56.	According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique on May 18, who was assigned the independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice, in addition to his existing portfolios? Arjun Ram Meghwal
57.	Former Law Minister, Kiren Rijiju has been shifted to the Ministry of _____ as Minister of state: Earth Sciences
58.	International Museum Day is celebrated on May 18. Study of museums is known as _____: Museology
59.	May 18 is observed as the World _____ Vaccine Day: AIDS
60.	What is full form of AIDS? Acquired ImmunoDeficiency Syndrome
61.	AIDS is the advanced stage of infection caused by which virus? HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus
62.	India launched 'Operation Karuna' on May 18 to provide emergency assistance to which country? Myanmar
63.	The Indian Navy's sixth and final Kalvari class submarine named _____, began its sea trial on May 18: Vaghsheer
64.	May 17 is observed as the World _____ Day to promote public awareness of ill-effects of high blood pressure (BP): Hypertension
65.	Who has been appointed as the new chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)? Manoj Soni

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