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PAHUJA
Law Academy

Current Affairs – English

Month of JULY' 2023



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Head Office :

211-212, D-1, 2nd Floor, Virat Bhawan, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

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“CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF JULY’ 2023”

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Justice Sheo Kumar Singh appointed as acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal

- Justice Sheo Kumar Singh is appointed as the acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The Union Government notified his appointment on July 06.
- He was appointed as a judicial member of NGT in 2020. He is currently working as Judicial Member in the Central Zone Bench of Bhopal.
- Justice Singh is a judicial member of NGT and will replace Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel as the acting Chairperson of NGT until the new appointment is made.

Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and SV Bhatti appointed to Supreme Court judges

- Two new judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court, as the government has cleared the Collegium's recommendation to elevate Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and SV Bhatti.
- Their appointments have been confirmed by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Justice Bhuyan was currently the Chief Justice of Telangana High Court, whereas, Justice Bhatti was presently the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.
- With the appointment of Justices Bhuyan and Bhatti, the strength of the Supreme Court has increased to 32, as against the sanctioned strength of 34.
- This is, notably, the 11th appointment to the top court made this year. The previous round of appointments was given the nod in May when Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and KV Viswanathan were elevated to the SC.
- This is also the first set of appointments to be cleared after the formation of the new Collegium that includes Justices Surya Kant and BR Gavai.

Tushar Mehta reappointed as Solicitor General of India

- Tushar Mehta has been reappointed as the Indian government's solicitor general, and the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has given its approval.
- After the Attorney General, the Solicitor General is the second-highest law officer in India.
- The Cabinet's Appointments Committee also gave its approval for the reappointment of six more legal professionals to the position of more Solicitor General for the Supreme Court for a period of three years: Vikramjit Banerjee, KM Nataraj, Balbir Singh, SV Raju, N Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati.
- Mehta was first appointed as Solicitor General in October 2018; his tenure was thereafter periodically extended.

Shah Rukh Khan appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023

- Shah Rukh Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023.
- The World Cup will be held in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023.
- India will start their campaign against Australia on October 8 and the Rohit Sharma led side will take on Pakistan at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on October 15.

New Chief Justices Appointed In High Courts

- Recently, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, approved the appointment of new Chief Justices to four High Courts across the country based on the recommendations received from the Supreme Court collegium.

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- ✓ Justice Alok Aradhe was appointed as Telangana high court chief justice.
- ✓ Justice Subhasis Talapatra as Orissa high court chief justice.
- ✓ Justice Sunita Agarwal as Gujarat high court chief justice.
- ✓ Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai as Kerala high court chief justice.
- ✓ Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- ✓ Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Basketball Federation of India (BFI) appoints Aadhav Arjuna as its president

- Aadhav Arjuna was elected as president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) in the election.
- The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) is the governing body of basketball in India.
- It was founded in 1950 and is affiliated to FIBA Asia and the Indian Olympic Association.
- The history of basketball in India can be traced back to the early 1900s, when the game was introduced by Christian missionaries and YMCAs.
- The first national basketball championships were held in 1934, and India became a member of FIBA in 1936.

UK Professor Jim Skea elected Chair of the IPCC

- Jim Skea of the United Kingdom was elected chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Nairobi.
- The IPCC is one of the most important bodies tackling climate change.
- The World Meteorological Organization & the United Nations Environment Programme established the IPCC in 1988.
- IPCC's job is to advance scientific knowledge about climate change caused by human activities.

S. Phangnon Konyak become first woman member to Preside over Rajya Sabha

- Phangnon Konyak, the first woman member to be appointed to the panel of Vice-Chairperson from Nagaland in the Rajya Sabha.
- To promote gender equality, Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, nominated four women members out of total of 8 members to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.
- She is a member of Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture
- She is also the second woman from the State to be elected to either House of the Parliament or the State Assembly.

Ruchira Kamboj assumes chair of 62nd Session of Social Development

- Ruchira Kamboj, India's permanent ambassador to the UN has assumed the chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD).
- This is the first time since 1975 that India has held this esteemed position within the Commission for Social Development.
- The central theme for the 62nd session is "Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies".

Prabhat Kumar appointed India's next High Commissioner to South Africa

- Prabhat Kumar appointed as the next High Commissioner to South Africa.
- India and South Africa will formally mark their decades-old ties this November 2023.
- It was announced by the Union Minister S. Jaishankar's during an event in which he addressed on three subjects: "Thirty years of India - South Africa ties", "15 years of BRICS" and "9 years of Modi Sarkar".

Admiral Lisa Franchetti becomes first woman to lead US Navy

- Admiral Lisa Franchetti has become first woman in history to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations and member of Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Franchetti, who is currently serving as the vice chief of naval operations, was commissioned in 1985 and has served as the commander of US Naval Forces Korea.
- She is the second woman ever to achieve the rank of four-star admiral in the United States Navy.

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ED chief SK Mishra's tenure extended by SC until Sept 15 in 'larger public interest.'

- Supreme Court allowed Sanjay Kumar Mishra to continue as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) director until September 15.
- The permission has been given keeping in mind the "larger public interest" in view of the ongoing review of India by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- Earlier on 11 July, Supreme Court quashed the Union government's decision to extend the tenure of Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra for the third time.
- The Supreme Court termed the order as "illegal" but allowed Sanjay Mishra to continue in office till July 31.
- The court said that "no further extension will be granted to Mishra" and directed that he would "cease to be Director of ED with effect from the midnight of 15-16 September 2023".
- The Center had requested the court to extend his term till October 15, 2023, citing the FATF review.

Edgars Rinkevics becomes the first openly gay head of state of the European Union

- Latvia's former foreign minister Edgars Rinkevics achieved a historic feat as the first openly gay head of state in the European Union.
- Latvia's long-serving foreign minister, known for his tough line on neighbouring Russia and strong support for Ukraine, was sworn in as the Baltic nation's president for a four-year term.
- Edgars Rinkevics, who had served as Latvia's top diplomat since 2011, took the oath of office in ceremonies at an extraordinary session of the Parliament, or Saeima, in the capital, Riga.
- He succeeds Egils Levits, who didn't seek reelection.
- He is the seventh president of Latvia, a nation of 1.8 million that is a member of the European Union and NATO since it regained its independence in 1991.

Sat Pal Bhanoo appointed Managing Director of LIC

- The government has appointed Sat Pal Bhanoo as one of the managing directors of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- He has been appointed in place of Siddhartha Mohanty who has been appointed as chairman of LIC in April.
- Life Insurance Corporation, popularly known as LIC is Indian state-owned insurance group and Investment Company.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Doctor's Day celebrated on 1 July

- National Doctors Day is celebrated on July 1 every year to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- The theme for the 2023 year is "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands."
- He was one of India's most renowned physicians and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- Roy was a recipient of the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

International Plastic Bag Free Day celebrated every year on 3 July

- International Plastic Bag Free Day is celebrated on July 3 every year.
- The day aims to create a collective consciousness to take steps toward reducing reliance on plastic bags.
- In 2008, Zero Waste Europe launched a campaign against single-use plastic bags on which was on 3 July.
- In 2015, the European Union also passed certain directives to reduce the usage of single-use plastic bags.

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World Population Day observed on 11 July

- World Population Day is an annual event, observed on July 11 every year, which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues.
- The theme for the 2023 day is "Unleashing the Power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women & girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities."
- The event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989.

World Youth Skills Day celebrated on July 15

- On July 15th World Youth Skills Day 2023 is celebrated to mention the significance of developing skills among young people worldwide.
- The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2023 is Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future.
- World Youth Skills Day was created by the United Nations General Assembly on November 11, 2014, through a resolution initiated by Sri Lanka, and supported by some other countries.
- The first World Youth Skills Day was celebrated on July 15, 2015.

World Day for International Justice 2023 celebrated on July 17

- World Day for International Justice 2023 is celebrated and observed all over the world on July 17th of this current year.
- 2023 Theme: "Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice"
- Every year on July 17, the day of many names, also known as International Justice Day, World Day for International Justice, or Day of International Criminal Justice, is celebrated to acknowledge the system of international justice.

International Nelson Mandela Day observed on 18 July

- International Nelson Mandela Day is observed on 18 July every year.
- The theme for the year 2023 is "The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food, and Solidarity."
- The day celebrates Mandela's life and legacy in a sustainable way that will bring about the needful changes.
- The day was officially declared by the United Nations in Nov 2009, with the first UN Mandela Day held on 18 July 2010.

International Chess Day celebrated every year on 20 July

- International Chess Day is celebrated annually on 20 July, the day the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded in 1924.
- The 2023 year's theme of International Chess Day focuses on making the game universal and more accessible to everyone.
- The day was proposed by UNESCO, and it has been celebrated as such since 1966 after it was established by FIDE.

National Broadcasting Day observed on 23 July

- National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23 every year in India.
- The day marks the start of organised radio broadcasts in the country by All India Radio.
- On July 23, 1927, the India Broadcasting Company came into existence and became the first radio company in India.
- The famous Akashvani tune was composed by Indian Jewish refugee Walter Kauffman in 1930.

Kargil Vijay Diwas observed every year on 26 July

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on 26 July every year to honour the sacrifices of all 527 soldiers who were martyred in the war against Pakistan in 1999.
- It is named after the success of Operation Vijay.
- The Kargil war ended on 26 July after 60 days of fighting.
- To celebrate the 24th anniversary, an all-women motorbike expedition has been organised from Delhi to Kargil War Memorial in Drass.

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CRPF celebrated 85th Raising Day on 27 July 2023

- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), India's largest Central Armed Police Force, is observing its '84th Raising Day' on 27 July 2023
- CRPF is organizing its Raising Day Parade for the first time in Chhattisgarh's Bastar, the epicenter of Left Wing Extremism, and it is a matter of pride for the entire nation.
- The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation.

World Hepatitis Day observed on 28 July

- World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28 July to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe pain.
- The theme for the year 2023 is "One Life, One Liver,".
- The 63rd World Health Assembly in May 2010 declared July 28 to celebrate the day in honour of Nobel Laureate Baruch Samuel Blumberg, discoverer of the hepatitis B virus.

World Nature Conservation Day observed on 28 July

- World Nature Conservation Day is observed on July 28 to create awareness about the importance of protecting the environment.
- The theme for World Nature Conservation Day 2023 is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".
- The Day aims to highlight the significance of biodiversity preservation, and environmental balance for the benefit of present and future generations.

World tiger day is celebrated on 29th July

- July 29 is observed as International Tiger Day annually
- Aim is to promote tiger conservation worldwide.
- Goal: To safeguard tigers and preserve their natural habitat on a global scale.
- As an endangered species in various regions across the world, tigers confront multiple threats to their existence, including habitat loss and poaching.
- International Tiger Day serves as an encouragement for humans and tigers to peacefully coexist.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran becomes a new permanent member of SCO

- Iran has become the new permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at an India-hosted virtual summit of the grouping.
- With the addition of Iran as a new member, the total membership of the SCO reaches nine.
- The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- India and Pakistan became permanent members of SCO in 2017.
- SCO headquarters: Beijing, China.

PM Modi departs for three-day visit to France and UAE

- PM Narendra Modi has departed for an official visit to France and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- He will be visiting France on July 13-14 as the Guest of Honour for the Bastille Day celebrations in Paris.
- An Indian tri-services contingent will be part of the Bastille Day Parade.
- He will also visit UAE for an official visit on July 15 and meet President HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

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Nepali & Norwegian climbers set record of climbing 14 peaks in 92 days

- Kristin Harila and Tenjen Sherpa set a record for the fastest expedition of 14 peaks above 8000 meters within 92 days.
- They beat the previous record set by former British Soldier Nirmal Purja.
- They climbed Mt Shishapangma on April 26 to start their ambitious 14 peaks project.
- They also scaled the world's 13th-highest mountain, G2 on July 15.
- Both climbed Kanchenjunga on May 18.

India, Laos hold third Foreign Office Consultations in Vientiane

- The third India-Laos Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) took place in Vientiane.
- The FOC was co-chaired by Saurabh Kumar and Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune.
- Discussions included development cooperation, trade, defence, agriculture, and global issues of interest.
- The 2nd Foreign Office Consultation was held in New Delhi on 10 August 2015.
- Laos is a part of India's extended neighbourhood.

Russia Bans Sex Change and Transgender Marriages

- Russian President Vladimir Putin's signing of new legislation dealt a severe blow to the LGBTQ+ community in Russia.
- The legislation outlaws gender-affirming procedures, making it illegal for individuals to access essential medical care and support related to gender identity. This move further compounds the challenges and discrimination faced by the already embattled LGBTQ+ community in the country.
- The bill, passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, prohibits all medical procedures intended to alter a person's gender.
- Additionally, it forbids individuals from changing their gender on official documents and public records, except in cases of treating congenital anomalies.
- The legislation also invalidates marriages in which one partner has undergone a gender change and prohibits transgender individuals from becoming foster or adoptive parents.
- This legislation represents a significant setback for the rights and well-being of the transgender community in Russia.

Japan's population fell by more than 8,00,000 in 2022

- Japan's population has fallen by over 800,000 in the last year, marking the 14th consecutive year of contraction.
- The number of Japanese residents shrank by over 800,000, while the number of foreign residents rose by over 10%.
- Japan has one of the highest life expectancies in the world, with nearly one in 1,500 people reaching age 100 or older in 2020.

China released its first open-source computer operating system – Open Kylin

- China has rolled out its first-ever homegrown computer operating system called
- It is China's first open-source desktop operating system (OS).
- It is a Linux-based operating system built by a community of about 4,000 developers and is used in its space programme and industries such as finance and energy.
- Open Kylin users have access to the software's lines of code and can modify them as they wish, unlike Microsoft and Apple, which keep the workings of Windows and MacOS systems secret.

Taiwan to open 3rd Taipei Economic & Cultural Centre in Mumbai, India

- The Taiwanese government will establish a Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra as part of a broader aim to further deepen cooperation with India.
- At present, Taiwan has TECCs in Delhi and Chennai.
- The main aim of opening the Cultural Centre is to enhance cooperation between both countries.
- Also, the move to set up the TECC in Mumbai comes at a time when major companies in Taiwan are increasingly looking at relocating their production bases to India from China.

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India-United States conduct 'Operation Broader Sword' to prevent illegal drugs shipment

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) in collaboration with the Indian Government Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) conducted 'Operation Broader Sword'.
- It is a special bilateral multi-agency enforcement operation targeting illicit pharmaceuticals, devices, or precursor chemicals shipped using the international mail system.
- Operation Broader Sword was built upon the success of Operation Broadsword, which targeted mail parcels containing illicit medical products from India and was carried out in 2020, at Chicago IMF.
- Operation "Broader Sword", which was carried out in June 2023, targeted shipments of illicit, potentially dangerous, unapproved prescription drugs, combination medical devices, and synthetic drug precursors shipped through International Mail Facilities (IMF).

New Zealand to become 1st country in the world to ban thin plastic bag

- New Zealand became the first country in the world to ban thin plastic bags at supermarkets.
- The ban applies to single-use plastic bags that are less than 70 microns thick.
- This includes bags used to carry fruit and vegetables, as well as bags used for bread and other items.
- Customers will still be able to purchase thicker plastic bags, as well as paper bags, at supermarkets.

US formally reenters UNESCO

- In 2017, the USA, under Donald Trump's presidency, decided to withdraw from UNESCO.
- USA re-joining the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) after a five-year absence.
- UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1945.
- It contributes to peace and security by promoting international cooperation in education, sciences, culture, communication and information.

Algeria applied to Join BRICS Bank

- Algerian President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune informed that the Algeria has applied to join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group and submitted a request to become a shareholder member of BRICS Bank with an amount of \$1.5 billion.
- Argentina, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Comoros, Gabon, and Kazakhstan have expressed interest in joining the BRICS group of nations.
- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa make up the BRICS group of countries.

Japan becomes 2nd Quad partner to sign semiconductor pact with India

- Japan has become the second Quad partner after the United States (US) to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem.
- AIM is to bolster the resilience of the global supply chain, particularly in the crucial semiconductor industry.
- The agreement was signed between Union Minister for Electronics and IT Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yasutoshi Nishimura in the national capital.

NATIONAL NEWS

Smt. Murmu Launches Theme of the year "the year of positive change"

- Droupadi Murmu laid foundation stone for "Divine Light House" of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at Dasabatia, Tamando and launched its theme of the year "The Year of Positive Change" for conducting seminars and conferences

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- She said that Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya is not just an organization, but also a social and spiritual campaign run by women.

MRPL becomes largest single-location PSU refinery in India

- The Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a mini-Ratna CPSE PSU refinery based in coastal Karnataka has become the single largest PSU refinery in the country for the year 2022-23.
- It processed 17.14 million metric tonnes of crude oil during the past financial year.
- It processes 10 per cent of the total crude oil refined by the PSU petroleum refineries in the country.
- MRPL can process more than 250 different types of crude from around the world.

Twitter replaces iconic bird logo with 'X'

- Elon Musk, owner of Twitter launched the new logo of Twitter 'X' by replacing the iconic bird logo.
- The "X" logo has been in the pipeline for a while with Musk's strong want of an "everything app".
- Before he bought Twitter for \$44 billion, Musk described the platform as "an accelerant to creating X, the everything app" – something he plans to launch eventually.

Union Government forms a new panel to review All Surveys Conducted Under NSO

- The Union government has established a new oversight mechanism to review data from the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- The Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) set up in 2019 will be replaced by a Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS).
- Pronab Sen, India's first chief statistician, has been named as the chairman of the new committee.

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 'Semicon India 2023' in Gandhinagar

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'Semicon India 2023' in Gandhinagar.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel will inaugurate a special exhibition for the public.
- The exhibition will inform about the manufacturing process of semiconductors and the progress made in this field.
- The exhibition will remain open till the 30th of July.
- The national-level event will showcase the latest technology related to semiconductors.
- Leading companies involved in the semiconductor sector will participate in Semicon India 2023.

Zoological Survey of India celebrates 108th ZSI Day

- Union Minister for Environment & Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav inaugurated a three-day celebration program of the 108th Zoological Survey of India Day in Kolkata.
- The Special Focus of this day is 'Mission Life'.
- ZSI has completed its 108 glorious years dedicated to the service of faunal diversity.
- Minister has also appreciated the efforts of ZSI in establishing globally well-known protected areas.

106 MoUs signed on the occasion of Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023

- The Ministry of Education and Skill Development signed 106 MoUs on the occasion of the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 and the 3rd anniversary of the National Education Policy.
- The MoUs encompass partnerships with both public and private entities to foster innovation, and research in multiple domains.
- NCERT signed 20 MoUs under the aegis of eVidya initiative with several states.

Centre to develop carbon markets for green sectors

- India plans to develop carbon markets for renewables, green hydrogen, bio-fuels and clean mobility to facilitate carbon trading between green and polluting sectors.
- The Niti Aayog in India is creating a framework to set up carbon markets for renewable energy, green hydrogen, biofuels, and clean transportation.

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- According to the government, the expansion of carbon markets will boost economic activity and open up job opportunities.
- Such markets may initially be voluntary, meaning that carbon credits will be issued, purchased, and sold voluntarily.

India's first 'Police Drone Unit' launched in Chennai

- Greater Chennai Police, in India, established a 'Drone Police Unit' to assist cops in aerial surveillance.
- The project costs approximately Rs 3.6 crore, according to a press release by the GCP.
- The project was inaugurated by outgoing Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu, in the presence of Chennai Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwal at Besant Avenue, Adyar.
- A total of nine drones under three categories are available in this unit: Quick Response Surveillance Drones (6), Heavy Lift Multirotor Drone (1), and Long Range Survey Wing Plane (2).

India welcomes its first regional AI news anchor, 'Lisa'

- In a significant milestone for the AI industry, Odisha TV, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled "Lisa," India's first regional AI news anchor.
- Lisa's introduction marks a groundbreaking moment in TV broadcasting and journalism, with the potential to revolutionize the industry.
- Lisa possesses the remarkable ability to speak multiple languages, including Odia, English, and others.
- The introduction of Lisa, Odisha's first AI news anchor, sets a new standard for regional television journalism.

PM inaugurates International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre - 'Bharat Mandapam'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) named as 'Bharat Mandapam,' at the redeveloped Pragati Maidan complex in Delhi.
- The G-20 coin and stamp were also released at the grand opening ceremony.
- The 'Bharat Mandapam' complex, built at a cost of approximately US\$329.17 million (Rs 2,700 crore), serves as a national project aimed at showcasing India as a global economic destination.
- The name of the complex, 'Bharat Mandapam', takes inspiration from the idea of Lord Basaveshwara's Anubhava Mandapam, a pavilion for public festivals.

World's largest museum 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' to come up in Delhi

- The national capital will soon have world's largest museum, namely 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' National Museum. The existing buildings of North Block and South Block will be converted into the national museum in New Delhi.
- The Sanskrit name "Yuge Yugeen Bharat" translates to "everlasting India" in English. It captures the eternal character of the country's history.
- The iconic blocks were constructed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker in the 1930s and have long served as the hub of Indian governance.
- In 2021, the government announced plans to convert the North and South Blocks into museums.

India's first indigenous nuclear reactor starts operation in Gujarat

- India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat started commercial operations on 1 July 2023.
- The NPCIL plans to build sixteen 700 MW PHWRs across the country.
- Construction of 700 MW nuclear power plants is underway at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan (RAPS 7 and 8) and at Gorakhpur in Haryana (GHAVP 1 and 2).

India's 1st airport to get 4th Runway

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) achieved a significant milestone as it became India's first airport to have four runways.

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- The civil aviation minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, inaugurated the airport's fourth runway, increasing its throughput capacity from approximately 1400-1500 air traffic movements per day to almost 2000 air traffic movements per day.
- The addition of the fourth runway will allow the airport to serve more than 109 million passengers annually.

STATE NEWS

First-ever transgender birth certificate issued in Rajasthan

- Noor Shekhawat became the first transgender person in Rajasthan to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender.
- In her old birth certificate, her gender was marked as male.
- Shekhawat was handed her new birth certificate by municipal and state government officials.
- She runs an NGO for the transgender community and also wants to complete her graduation.

Tamil Nadu's Authoor Betel Leaves received GI Tag

- Tamil Nadu's Authoor Betel Leaves received GI Tag. The Geographical Indications Registry has issued the Geographical Indication (GI) tag certificate of Tamil Nadu's Authoor Vetrilai (Authoor Betel Leaves) to Thoothukudi district administration.
- The betel leaves, locally known as Vetrilai in Tamil, cultivated in the Authoor village of Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu (TN) attained the GI tag in April 2023.
- The tag was facilitated by the Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum (MABIF) and registered in the name of Authoor Vattara Vetrilai Vivasayigal Sangam.

Odisha government approved Kui language inclusion in 8th schedule

- Odisha state cabinet approved a proposal to recommend the inclusion of the Kui language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India.
- Kui is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community. Kui is traditionally written using the Odia script, which is also used for writing the Odia language.
- The inclusion of Kui in the eighth schedule will help in the preservation, promotion and propagation of the language and culture. Besides, publication, creation of content and recognition will get momentum.
- It will create an eco-system to facilitate research and studies anchored around the preservation, promotion and propagation of the Kui language.

Indore Municipal Corporation becomes first urban body to receive EPR credit

- Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) in Madhya Pradesh, India has made history by becoming the first urban body in the country to receive Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) credit for recycling banned single-use plastic items.
- Indore has implemented a complete ban on single-use plastic items within the city.
- In recent times, the IMC seized approximately eight tonnes of such plastic, preventing its circulation.
- Moreover, Indore has also been recognized as India's cleanest city for the sixth consecutive year in the central government's annual cleanliness survey.

Aditi Tatkare becomes first woman minister in Shinde govt.

- NCP leader Aditi Tatkare became the first woman minister in the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government.
- She was elected as a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from Shrivardhan on October 24, 2019. Hailing from Roha town in Maharashtra, Aditi took the oath as an MLA on November 26, 2019.

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- During her tenure as minister, Aditi Tatkare has handled various departments, including tourism, information and public relations, law, judiciary, food and civil supplies, water resources, energy, and finance, among others.

India’s first online gaming academy opens in Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh is launching its first online gaming industry, MP State Esports Academy, to provide a platform for young esports players to advance to a professional level.
- The academy will hold an esports tournament to select top players for admission, with 80% of seats reserved for gamers from Madhya Pradesh.
- The Esports Academy aims to promote sports represented in the Asian Games.

Odisha Naveen Patnaik becomes 2nd longest serving CM in India

- Naveen Patnaik became the second longest-serving chief minister in India, replacing Jyoti Basu.
- Pawan Kumar Chamling still holds the record of being the longest-serving Chief Minister in India.
- Patnaik took charge as the Chief Minister of Odisha on March 5, 2000, and holds the post for 23 years and 138 days.
- Mr Basu was the chief minister of West Bengal from June 21, 1977, to Nov 5, 2000.

Government of Himachal Pradesh launched “Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojana for women empowerment

- The government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) has launched “Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojana”, a collateral-free loan scheme for women that will empower them.
- It is an initiative of Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (HPSCB), which will provide loans to women for self-employment and livelihood activities, fulfil their day to day needs, help in becoming financially independent and uplift their socio-economic status.
- Under the scheme, the women applicants need not provide any collateral as security against the loan amount.
- Under the scheme, the bank offers a loan of Rs 21,000, Rs 51,000 and Rs 1,01,000 at a relatively low-interest rate of 8.51%.
- Himachal government has also sought immediate assistance from the centre for the losses in the state that occurred due to flash floods and landslides.

Bengaluru becomes first Indian city to join World Cities Culture Forum

- Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to become part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- It is a global network of cities that share research and intelligence, and explore the role of culture in future prosperity.
- Bengaluru being the latest addition is set to join the league of cities like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo and Dubai among others.

Tamil Nadu emerges as India’s top electronics exporter in 2023

- Tamil Nadu becomes India's Top Electronics Exporter of 2023 with the export worth USD 5.37 billion while Uttar Pradesh was second.
- India's total electronics exports for the fiscal stood at \$23.5 billion- also a record high.
- The state was the No. 3 exporter of electronics, after Karnataka (\$3.87 billion), Uttar Pradesh (3.77 billion) and Maharashtra (42.08 billion) in 2021-22.

Seven products from Uttar Pradesh get Geographical Indication tag

- The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has given tags to seven different products from Uttar Pradesh.
- ‘Amroha Dholak’, ‘Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip’, ‘Mainpuri Tarkashi’, ‘Sambhal Horn Craft’, ‘Baghpat Home Furnishings’, ‘Barabanki Handloom Product’ and ‘Kalpi Handmade Paper’ are the products that been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

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RANKING AND INDEX

List of missing women in India

- Maharashtra is on the top of the list of missing women in India of 2021 with 56,498 women which is followed by Madhya Pradesh (55,704), West Bengal (50,998) and Odisha (29,582).
- According to the data published in "Crime of India", the publication of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the total of 375,058 women (above the age of 18 years) and as many as 90,113 girls (below the age of 18 years) went missing in India in 2021.
- Most of the women and girls were missing from the Maharashtra (56,498 women) followed by Madhya Pradesh (55,704), West Bengal (50,998) and Odisha (29,582) in 2021.
- In a three-year period of 2019-2021, concerning total of 10,61,648 women and 2,51,430 girls went missing in India. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh were the two states that witnessed highest number of missing women and girls from 2019-2021.

India ranks 67th on WEF's Energy Transition Index

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) published a report titled 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023' which ranked 120 countries on the basis of energy transition.
- In this ranking, WEF has placed India at 67th position (a jump of 20 places) globally in the Energy Transition Index (ETI). Because in the year 2021, India was at 87th position among 115 countries.
- India and Singapore (70th) are the only major economies showing transition momentum by advancing sustainability, energy security and equity in a balanced way, according to the report titled 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023'.
- According to WEF, India is the only major economy where the pace of energy transition is accelerating in all dimensions.
- Sweden topped the list and was followed by Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland in the top five on the list of 120 countries.

Global Peace Index 2023

- The 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) recently released its annual ranking of the most peaceful countries in the world.
- It is released annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) ranked 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness.
- Iceland is the most peaceful country in the world – a title it has held since 2008. It is accompanied at the top by Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, and Austria.
- Conversely, Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the eighth consecutive year. It is followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- India has occupied the 126th spot in the rankings, two higher than its previous position.

Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0

- Ministry of Education released the report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the year 2021-22.
- The Performance Grading Index assesses the performance of school education system at the State/UT level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.
- The new PGI structure covers 73 indicators, focused more on qualitative assessment besides including digital initiatives and teacher education.
- The grades/level obtained by States/UTs in previous edition of the PGIs are thus not comparable as with the grades/levels obtained by States/UTs in this new edition.
- Chandigarh received the highest in this edition, Punjab came second followed by Delhi and Kerala.

United States has world's most powerful military

- The US has the strongest military force in the world, with Russia and China in second and third and India in fourth place, according to Global Firepower, a data website that tracks global defense-related information.

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- The 2023 Military Strength list – which also includes the nations with the weakest military force in the world, which includes Bhutan and Iceland – assessed over 60 factors.
- The top four nations remain as they were in the 2022 Global Firepower list.
- However, the UK has moved up from eighth place last year to fifth this year. South Korea remains in sixth place as it was last year.

Henley Passport Index 2023

- The Henley Passport Index is the original, authoritative ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- It is published by Henley & Partners, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm, in partnership with the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.
- The index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and enhanced by Henley & Partners' research team.
- Singapore has topped the passport rankings with visa-free access to 192 global destinations.
- With visa-free access to 190 destinations, three European countries – Germany, Italy and Spain – share the second rank on the list.
- Japan, the previous top-rank holder, slipped down to the third rank. Japan shares the rank with Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea and Sweden.
- With 101, 102 and 103 ranks respectively, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan are the world's weakest passports. Pakistan is on the 100th spot.
- India has climbed seven places to 80th rank from 87 last year.

Unsafe WASH behind 395,000 deaths of children under 5 in 2019: WHO report

- As per the WHO report, Unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) were responsible for 395,000 deaths among children under the age of five in 2019.
- Report title: Burden of Disease Attributable to unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and Hygiene: 2019 Update
- Out of these, 273,000 deaths are attributed to diarrhea, while 112,000 deaths are from acute respiratory infections.
- Half of the world's population still does not have adequate access to WASH.

India to become 3rd largest economy by 2027: SBI Research

- India is expected to become the world's 3rd largest economy by 2027 if it maintains its current rate of growth, said SBI Research in its 'Ecowrap' report 2023.
- It will surpass Japan and Germany in terms of economic size.
- SBI Research had previously predicted that India would reach this milestone by 2029.
- Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh will cross USD 500 billion mark by 2027.

National Multidimensional Poverty Index is unveiled by Niti Aayog.

- The number of persons living in multidimensional poverty in the country has fallen from 24.85 per cent to 14.96 per cent between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- This was unveiled in the National Multidimensional Poverty Index released by the NITI Aayog.
- Briefing media in New Delhi, NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R.
- Subrahmanyam said, 13.5 crores of people have escaped from multidimensional poverty in five years.
- Uttar Pradesh has registered the highest decline in the poor, with 3.43 crore people followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have the most number of rich households in India

- Ten Indian states account for more than 80 per cent of the rich households, according to a newly released study.
- Maharashtra houses a majority of them - 2.62 million
- It is followed by Tamil Nadu with 0.9 million.

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- This is according to a recently released study by the think tank People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE), titled The Rise of the Middle Class: A Force to Reckon With.
- It also notes that close to 4 per cent of India's households are rich.
- That is 10.67 million households in India as of FY21.

India best-performing in South Asia in terms of trade facilitation: UNESCAP

- India is now the best-performing nation amongst all the countries of South Asian region in terms of trade facilitation, as per the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) report.
- As per the Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, India improved its score compared to 2021 survey.
- The 2023 survey, covering more than 140 economies and evaluating 60 trade facilitation measures, has positioned India at the forefront of global trade facilitation reports, with an impressive score of 93.55 per cent in 2023 vis a vis 90.32 per cent in 2021.
- The 2023 survey has recognised India's exceptional progress across various sub indicators, with the country achieving a perfect score of 100 per cent in four key areas: Transparency, Formalities, Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation, and Paperless Trade.

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) launched heat index

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has come out with the heat index for different regions of the country on the basis of recent tests.
- The heat index launched by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) aims to provide information on the effect of humidity on high temperatures. It calculates a "feel-like" temperature for humans, which shows how the weather conditions can cause discomfort.
- This was announced by Union Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijju.
- The heat index is designed to provide general guidance and information about the level of discomfort caused by high temperatures in the hot regions of India.

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report, 2022

- The third edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022 is set to be released by NITI Aayog.
- This index assesses the export performance of Indian states and UTs, considering the global trade context in FY22.
- The report emphasizes the importance of developing districts as export hubs and conducts a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan-3, India's third moon mission, successfully launched

- India's third moon mission, Chandrayaan-3 has been successfully launched as the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 with the satellite onboard took off from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- India's third lunar exploration after:-
 - ✓ Chandrayaan 1- 2008
 - ✓ Chandrayaan 2- 2019
- If successful, India will be the first country to land spacecraft near the moon's South Pole.
- After USA, Soviet Union/Russia, & China, India will be 4th to soft land.
- It Consists: Lander module (Vikram), Propulsion Module (PM), Rover (Pragyaan).

ISRO to transfer its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle to private sector

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will soon transfer its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) to the private sector amid growing demand for small satellites.

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- The space agency has decided to opt for the bidding route to transfer the mini-rocket to the industry.
- ISRO will be transferring the SSLV completely to the private sector, not just the manufacturing, but full transfer.
- SSLV provides on-demand services for launching satellites weighing up to 500 kg into low-earth orbit.

ISRO PSLV-C56 mission launched with 7 foreign satellites

- The Indian Space Research Organisation launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C56), from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The primary payload of the PSLV-C56 mission is the DS-SAR satellite, a Synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) that creates two-dimensional images or three-dimensional reconstructions of objects.
- Aims: To fulfill the imagery requirements of various Singapore government agencies and ST Engineering's commercial clients.

SpaceX launches world's largest private communications satellite

- SpaceX launched the world's largest private communications satellite 'Jupiter 3' using a Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex-39A of NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- The 'Jupiter 3' satellite, developed by Maxar Technologies in Palo Alto, California, holds the record as the largest commercial communications satellite ever built.
- This upcoming launch marks the seventh mission of SpaceX's triple-booster rocket, the Falcon Heavy, which first attracted widespread attention during its debut in 2018.
- Jupiter 3' will play a key role in enhancing enterprise networks, meeting the connectivity needs of businesses across North and South America.

NASA released new image to celebrate Webb space telescope's first year of science

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released a new image of a small star-forming region captured by James Webb Space Telescope to celebrate the completion of the telescope's first year of science.
- The new image features the nearest star-forming region in the Rho Ophiuchi cloud complex.
- Its proximity at 390 light-years allows for a highly detailed close-up, with no foreground stars in the intervening space.
- The region contains approximately 50 young stars, all of them similar in mass to the Sun, or smaller.

China launched world's first methane-fuelled space rocket

- A private Chinese company launched the World's first methane-fuelled space rocket into orbit named "Zhuque-2".
- Jiuquan Satellite Launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, Gobi desert, China.
- China's Zhuque-2 has become the World's first methane propelled rocket to successfully fly into orbit.
- This was Landscape's second attempt after a launch failed in December.

Canada launches a remote-work scheme for digital nomads

- Canada is developing a scheme to attract digital nomads to the country.
- This plan aims to make Canada a go-to destination for digital nomads.
- Under current Canadian immigration rules, digital nomads can stay in Canada for up to six months under a visitor status while still working for foreign companies.
- They are also planning to collaborate with public and private partners to access if more policies were needed to attract global remote workers.

WHO identifies first case of MERS-CoV in UAE this year

- The World Health Organization has identified a case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in a 28-year-old male from United Arab Emirates
- MERS-CoV is a viral respiratory infection caused by a coronavirus known as MERS
- The infection is transmitted to humans through direct or indirect contact with dromedary camels,

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which are the natural host and zoonotic source of the MERS-CoV infection.

- The symptoms include: Fever, Cough, Shortness of breath.

SCHEMES

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)

- Southern Railway has taken a significant step towards enhancing the facilities at railway stations by identifying 90 stations for development under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).
- The scheme aims to prepare master plans for these stations and implement them in a phased manner.
- Each of the six divisions within the Southern Railway network has identified 15 stations for development, totaling 90 stations. This strategic allocation ensures an equitable distribution of development projects across the region.

New Swarnima Scheme For Women

- The Swarnima Scheme is a term loan scheme introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs from backward classes.
- The scheme aims to empower women by offering social and financial security through term loans.
- Implemented by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and carried out by State Channelising Agencies (SCAs), the scheme facilitates access to loans of up to ₹2,00,000/- at an interest rate of 5% per annum.

'Mission Vatsalya' scheme for rape victims minor girls

- The Central Government has started a new relief scheme under the 'Mission Vatsalya' scheme in relation to the abandonment of the families of minor girls who are victims of rape when they become pregnant.
- Mission Vatsalya launched in 2021 by the ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Mission Vatsalya focused on protection and welfare of children.
- The Government establish 415 POSCO fast-track courts in the country to provide assistance access to justice for minor victims of rape.

PM Modi launches National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission(NSCAEM) 2047 in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
- The mission aims to tackle the challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among the tribal population in India.
- PM Modi also unveiled a portal and released guidelines for disease management, along with different monitoring modules.

Madhya Pradesh Government's Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana

- The Madhya Pradesh state government has introduced the Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana, a new scheme designed to empower women financially with an outlay of ₹8000 Crore.
- The program's key objectives are to promote economic independence among women, improve their health and nutrition, and empower them to have a greater say in family decisions.
- The Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana in Madhya Pradesh has set multiple objectives to uplift women's status in society.

'Ama Odisha, Naveen Odisha' Scheme

- The Odisha Cabinet recently approved the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme, allocating a budget of Rs 4,000 crore.
- The scheme aims to enhance rural infrastructure and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the state, particularly the Jagannath culture.

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- Under the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme, Gram Panchayats have been empowered to undertake various works worth up to Rs 10 lakh.
- This includes the preservation and protection of local places of worship, historical sites, and other essential infrastructure needs.

Mo Jungle Jami Yojana

- The Odisha government has recently introduced a groundbreaking scheme named Mo Jungle Jami Yojana, aimed at bolstering forest rights among tribal communities and forest dwellers across the state.
- With this initiative, Odisha is set to become the first state in India to recognize both individual and community forest rights.
- The Mo Jungle Jami Yojana scheme operates in conjunction with the 2006 Recognition of Forest Rights Act (FRA), which focuses on acknowledging the rights of scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

SPORTS

India bags six medals including four Golds at World University Games

- Indian shooters and archers bagged six medals including four golds at the World University Games in Chengdu, China.
- Shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Divyansh Singh Panwar and Arjun Babuta joined forces to outclass local favourites China to win the 10m air rifle men's team gold.
- Aishwary also secured gold in the 10m air rifle men's individual event.

Anshuman Jhingran Becomes Youngest Person To Cross North Channel

- Anshuman Jhingran, an open sea swimmer, became the youngest person in the world to cross the North Channel.
- With this achievement, 18-year-old Anshuman has become qualified for a place in the Guinness World Records.
- He is only the 114th person to cross the channel since 1947.
- The North Channel, located between Scotland and Northern Ireland, is considered the toughest of the Ocean Seven Swims because of its chilling temperature, the presence of numerous extremely dangerous lions' main jellyfish and competing tides and currents all the way across right up until the final few metres.

Neeraj Chopra clinches Lausanne Diamond League title 2023

- Javelin thrower champion Neeraj Chopra has clinched the 2023 Lausanne Diamond League title with the best throw of 87.66 meters.
- While Julian Webber from Germany secured second place with a best throw of 87.03 meters and Jakub Vadlech of the Czech Republic got third place with an 86.13-meter throw.
- He won his first Diamond League Trophy when he won the Lausanne leg in August 2022 and went on to win the Diamond League Trophy in the final later that year.

Indian wins Gold and Bronze medals at the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles 2023

- India's squash players, Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Harinderpal Singh Sandhu, showcased their excellence by clinching the gold medal at the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships in Huangzhou.
- India's campaign at the championship saw another shining moment as Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh partnered together to claim a bronze medal.
- They faced a tough semifinal battle against Malaysia's Ivan Yuen and Rachel Arnold.

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Anurag Thakur inaugurates Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting 2023

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Greater Noida.
- The international event will see the participation of more than 30 Indian weightlifters, including many Khelo India Athletes who won 61 medals at Weightlifting Commonwealth Championships.
- More than 15 nations from the Asian region, 200 athletes are participating.
- It will conclude on the 5th of August.

Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd chess Grandmaster

- Aditya Samant became India's 83rd Grandmaster after earning his third GM norm at the Master Tournament (MTO) in the Biel International Chess Festival 2023
- The Maharashtra player had earned his first norm to become a grandmaster at the Abu Dhabi Masters in August 2022
- To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points and his live rating going into the ninth round game is 2525.4.

India ranked 2nd at ISSF World Championship in South Korea 2023

- India secured the 2nd position at the ISSF Junior Shooting World Championships 2023 held in Changwon, South Korea
- Indian shooters achieved a total of 17 medals, comprising 6 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze.
- Seven Indian athletes earned more than one medal each.
- Abhinav Shaw and Kamaljeet both claimed two gold medals.
- Sainyam won three medals, including a gold in the 10m air pistol women's event, and a bronze each in the 10m air pistol mixed team and women's team events.

Indian javelin throwers bagged gold medals at Lebanon Athletics 2023

- Indian javelin throwers Annu Rani and Kishore Jena bagged gold medals in the women's and men's javelin throw events, respectively, at the Lebanon Athletics Championships 2023 in Beirut
- In the women's event, Annu Rani recorded a best throw of 55.32m to top the six-woman field.
- In the men's event, Kishore Jena achieved a distance of 78.96m to clinch the gold medal.
- Tokyo Olympics champion 2022 Neeraj Chopra holds India's national record in men's javelin throw.

India beat Kuwait to lift SAFF Championship title for 9th time

- India defeated Kuwait 5-4 in the penalty shoot-out to lift the SAFF Championships trophy 2023 held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- India recorded its win for the ninth time in the SAFF Championships trophy.
- Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh turned out as the hero for the Indian side, saving the final kick from the Kuwaiti captain.
- In the semi-final, India defeated Lebanon while Kuwait defeated Bangladesh 1-0 in the other last-four clash.

132nd Edition of Durand Cup

- The Durand Cup, known as Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament, is set to captivate football enthusiasts once again as the 132nd edition commences on August 3rd, 2023.
- Organized by the Indian Armed Forces, this prestigious event embodies excellence, sportsmanship, and fierce competitiveness.
- General Manoj Pande, along with Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and Mr. Kalyan Chaubey, President of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), ceremoniously flagged off the "Trophy Tour" of the Durand Cup.
- This signifies the beginning of a captivating journey leading up to the highly anticipated tournament.

Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023

- The Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023, one of the most anticipated hockey tournaments, is set to take place in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

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- Recently, the prestigious trophy was unveiled by Anurag Thakur, the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, in a grand ceremony held in New Delhi.
- Alongside the trophy, Thakur also launched the 'Pass the Ball Trophy Tour' campaign, which aims to ignite excitement and passion among hockey fans across India.
- The Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023 will witness fierce competition between six top-notch teams. India, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan, and China will battle it out for the coveted title.

Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard Won the 110th Edition of the Tour de France

- Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard, representing the Jumbo-Visma team, has emerged victorious in the 110th edition of the prestigious Tour de France for the second consecutive year.
- The thrilling race concluded on the iconic Champs-Elysees in Paris, France.
- The Tour de France is an annual men's multiple-stage bicycle race primarily held in France, known for its challenging and diverse terrain.

Shubhankar Sharma's historic best finish in The 2023 Open golf Championship by an Indian

- Shubhankar Sharma, the talented Indian golfer, achieved a historic feat at the 151st Open held at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Merseyside, England.
- His exceptional performance marked a significant milestone for Indian golfers, securing the best result ever by an Indian golfer at the esteemed tournament.
- Throughout the tournament, Shubhankar Sharma exhibited his prowess, finishing in a remarkable tied-eighth position alongside Cameron Young from the USA.

Nishad Kumar of India won silver at the current Para Athletics World Championships 2023.

- India's Nishad Kumar has clinched a silver medal in the ongoing Para Athletics World Championships 2023.
- Paris will host the Para Athletics World Championships from 8 to 17 July at the Charlety Stadium.
- Over 1200 athletes from 107 nations are set to take part in this year's competition.
- She bagged this medal in the High Jump T47 Event.
- The top-four ranked athletes at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships in each of the individual medal events qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games, also to be held in Paris.

Asian Athletics Championships 2023: India finishes 3rd with 27 medals in Bangkok, Thailand

- In the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok, India displayed a fantastic performance as they finished third, winning 27 medals, with 6 Gold, 12 Silver and 9 Bronze.
- The five day-event started on the 12th of July 2023.
- Indian shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor and runner Parul Chaudhary won gold medals at the Asian Athletics Championships 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand
- The Indian 4X400m mixed relay team bagged gold ahead of Japan and SriLanka at the Asian Athletics Championships 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand
- Priyanka Goswami and Vikash Singh won silver and bronze respectively in the 20km race walk event at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok

AWARDS

Lallianzuala Chhangte wins AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year award 2022-23

- Indian football team midfielder Lallianzuala Chhangte has been named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23.
- He beat Nandhakumar Sekar and Naorem Mahesh Singh of East Bengal to win the award.
- While Manisha Kalyan won her second consecutive Women's Footballer of the Year award.
- AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Akash Mishra
- AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Shilji Shaji

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Veteran journalist Prem Prakash receives Lifetime Achievement Award

- Veteran journalist and ANI founder Prem Prakash was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Delhi for his contributions to journalism.
- The ceremony was attended by Union Minister Gajendra Shekhawat.
- The Global Education Mentor Awards program was organized at Ambedkar International Center in Delhi.
- The award aims to foster collaboration and partnership among education stakeholders.

Heritage Byculla Railway station received the UNESCO award 2023

- The Byculla Railway station, a heritage site on the Central line of the Mumbai Suburban Railway, was awarded by UNESCO after its successful restoration to its original glory in July 2023.
- The project, launched in July 2019 by Shaina NC, Trustee of 'I Love Mumbai' and in memory of her father Nana Chudasama, aimed to revive the station's original architectural splendor.
- Minister for Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav congratulated Central Railway.

Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor awarded to Prime Minister Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the highest French award 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour' by the President of the Republic of France, Emmanuel Macron.
- Prime Minister Modi was honored at an award ceremony held at the Elysee Palace in Paris.
- The Prime Minister thanked President Macron on behalf of the people of India for this distinguished honour.
- Prime Minister Modi is on an official visit to France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 13 to 15 July 2023.
- This is the sixth visit of Prime Minister Modi to France.
- The Prime Minister is the Chief Guest at the Bastille Day Parade on 14 July 2023, in which a contingent of the Indian Armed Forces from the three Services is also participating.
- This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership and the Prime Minister's visit will provide an opportunity to chart out a roadmap for the future of the partnership in various areas such as strategic, cultural, scientific, educational and economic cooperation.

Mumbai's Byculla railway station gets UNESCO's Cultural Heritage award

- Mumbai's Byculla railway station gets UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award.
- The 169-year-old Byculla railway station in Mumbai is one of the oldest railway stations in the world.
- The award was presented to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on 25 July 2023.
- The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya also won the award of excellence in the UNESCO Asia Pacific awards 2022.

Ratan Tata to Get Maharashtra Govt's First 'Udyog Ratna' Award

- The Maharashtra Government has decided to honor Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata with the prestigious Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award, which is a newly instituted recognition.
- This award is similar to the Maharashtra Bhushan award, the highest honor given by the state to eminent individuals.
- Starting this year, the Udyog Ratna Award will be presented to Ratan Tata for his significant contributions to the industrial sector.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will get the renowned Lokmanya Tilak Award in 2023:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be awarded the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak Award
- An official announcement in this regard was made by the President of Tilak Smarak Trust Dr Dipak Tilak and Rohit Tilak at a press conference in Pune.
- The award will be conferred by the hands of the President of the Trust Dr. Deepak Tilak on August 1, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak.

Shankari Chandran wins Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023

- Sri Lankan-origin Australian writer Shankari Chandran won the Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023.

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- She won the award for her book ‘Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens’.
- ‘Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens’ is a story about family, memories, community, and race.
- It highlights Australia’s difficult and complex equation with multiculturalism and the traumas of post-colonialism.
- Miles Franklin Literary Award is given to a novel which is of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases.

Boxing champion Mary Kom named Global Indian Icon at UK-India Awards

- Mary Kom was awarded the Global Indian Icon of the Year award at the annual UK-India Awards.
- Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to cinema across both nations.
- The Nehru Centre in London won the UK-India Award for Significant Contribution to UK-India Relations.
- The awards were organized by India Global Forum (IGF) as part of UK-India Week.

DEFENCE

India-Mongolia joint military exercise “Nomadic Elephant – 2023” commenced at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

- An Indian Army contingent comprising 43 personnel left for Mongolia to take part in a joint military exercise ‘Nomadic Elephant 2023’ between India and Mongolia.
- Nomadic Elephant 2023 is the 15th edition.
- Nomadic Elephant 2023’ is scheduled from 17 July 2023 till 31st July 2023.

Indian Navy hosts the 7th edition of Japan-India maritime exercise 2023 - JIMEX-23

- The 7th edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) hosted by the Indian Navy (IN), is being conducted from 5 July to 10 July 2023 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX since its inception in 2012.
- To promote mutual cooperation and underline the region’s common commitment to maritime security.

‘Operation Trinetra II’ launched by the Security Forces to Neutralize Hiding Terrorists in J&K’s Poonch

- Jammu-Kashmir continues Operation Trinetra-II in Sindarah and Maidana of Surankote tehsil on 17th July to neutralize hiding terrorists.
- A joint search and cordon operation of the army and the police named Operation Trinetra II to track down the terrorists hiding in Jammu-Kashmir’s border of district Poonch.
- Operation Trinetra-II has been launched on 17th July afternoon in Sindarah and Maidana of Surankote tehsil which led to an immense gunfight with hiding terrorists.

IAF to hold biggest air exercise ‘Tarang Shakti’

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to host its first-ever multi-national air exercise called ‘Tarang Shakti’ in October-November this year.
- With the participation of several nations, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Australia, this exercise aims to strengthen military cooperation and foster strategic alliances.
- ‘Tarang Shakti’ is anticipated to be the largest multi-national air exercise ever hosted by India, showcasing the IAF’s commitment to global engagement.

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SALVEX 2023

- In a remarkable display of collaboration, the Indian Navy and the US Navy recently joined forces for the seventh edition of the IN-USN Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, known as SALVEX.
- Held from June 26th to July 6th, 2023, the vibrant city of Kochi served as the backdrop for this highly anticipated event.
- SALVEX 2023 marked an important chapter in the history of naval cooperation between India and the US, fostering enhanced interoperability and operational capabilities.

Australia's largest bilateral military exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 begins

- Australia's largest bilateral military exercise with United States, Exercise Talisman Sabre, officially commenced, with an opening ceremony on-board HMAS Canberra.
- Now in its tenth edition, 2023 is the largest Exercise Talisman Sabre in terms of its geographical area and the number of participating partners.
- Over the next two weeks 13 nations will participate in high-end multi-domain warfighting across sea, land, air, cyber and space.

India-France Maritime Partnership Exercise

- Recently, Indian Naval ships INS Rana and INS Sumedha undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with French Navy ship FS Surcouf in the Bay of Bengal.
- The India-France Maritime Partnership Exercise is a joint naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy.
- The Indian Navy participated with INS Rana, a guided missile destroyer, and INS Sumedha, an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel.
- The French Navy was represented by the La Fayette class frigate Surcouf.
- The exercise took place in the Bay of Bengal.
- In addition to the maritime partnership exercise, India and France also conduct other joint military exercises such as VARUNA for naval exercises, FRINJEX for military exercises, and GARUDA for air force exercises.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

A Book "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" has been Released

- Honouring the indomitable courage of heroes who scripted historic victory in the Kargil War, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt released books and illustrations on the supreme sacrifice of the brave-hearts at the Constitution Club, Delhi
- The book and illustrations - "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" - authored by renowned writer Shri Rishi Raj, and published by Prabhat Prakashan.

Amit Shah releases 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' book

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah, launched the book titled 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram in July 2023,
- The book is about the history of Indian rocketry, science, technology and innovation, beautiful representation of Indian politics and administrative system and description of many incidents related to wishes and imagination of Dr. Kalam.
- Amit Shah also paid a visit to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam House and the Mission of Life Gallery Museum.

Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva by Sudha Pai & Sajjan Kumar

- Sudha Pai and Sajjan Kumar have authored a book called "Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva."

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- In this book, they provide a perceptive and thought-provoking examination of the interplay between Maya, Modi, and Azad in the realm of Dalit politics.
- Their analysis holds great importance in comprehending not only the dynamics of Dalit politics but also the broader democratic landscape of India, especially as we approach the highly contentious general election of 2024.

A book titled "India Rising Memoir of a Scientist" authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra

- A book titled "India Rising Memoir of a Scientist" authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra.
- The book looks at the life of one of India's foremost scientists, Dr R. Chidambaram, who served as principal scientific advisor (PSA) to the Government of India and as chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C) from November 2001 to March 2018.
- As one of India's most distinguished experimental physicists, Dr Chidambaram has made outstanding contributions to many aspects of basic science and nuclear technology.

Former vice president Venkaiah Naidu releases book named "As the wheel turns"

- On the occasion of Rayala Corporation's Diamond Jubilee, the Managing Director of Rayala Corporation, Ranjit Pratap has released an insightful book that offers a captivating account of his remarkable journey in the world of business.
- Titled "As the wheel turns," this compelling narrative hopes to motivate readers by sharing Ranjit Pratap's personal experiences, hardships, and triumphs.
- This book was released in the presence of M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice President of India, a galaxy of prominent Industrialists, officials and friends from Rayala Corporation, including several retired company personnel.

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

India's External Debt reaches \$624.7 billion in End-March 2023

- India's external debt has increased marginally to \$624.7 billion annually in end-March 2023, although the debt-GDP ratio declined
- The external debt increased by \$5.6 billion from \$619.1 billion at end-March 2022.
- Valuation gains due to the appreciation of the US dollar compared to the Indian rupee and major currencies were placed at \$20.6 billion.
- Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$26.2 billion instead of \$5.6 billion in March 2023.

GST collections rise 12% to over Rs 1.61 lakh crore in June

- The government collected over Rs 1.61 lakh crore of Goods and Services Tax in June 2023, which rose 12% from May 2023.
- The gross GST collection has crossed Rs 1.60 lakh crore mark for the fourth time since the roll-out of the indirect tax regime six years ago on July 1, 2017.
- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June 2023 is Rs 1,61,497 crore of which Central GST is Rs 31,013 crore, State GST is Rs 38,292 crore, and Integrated GST is Rs 80,292 crore.

IMF raises India's 2023 GDP growth forecast to 6.1%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 25 July 2023, revised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.1% for 2023.
- However, the IMF kept the growth forecast for 2024 at 6.3%.
- Earlier in June 2023, Fitch Ratings raised its FY24 (2023-24) growth forecast for the Indian economy to 6.3%.

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also projected FY24 Indian economic growth at 6.5%.

ADB retained India's GDP Growth forecast at 6.4% for current fiscal

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) retained India's economic growth forecast at 6.4% for the current financial year (FY2023) and 6.7% for the next financial year (FY2024).
- This comes after the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee projected GDP growth of 2023-24 at 6.5%.
- The real GDP growth for 2022-23 fiscal ended March 2023 was recorded at 7.2%.

HDFC Bank merges to become world's fourth largest bank

- The boards of directors of Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd (HDFC) and HDFC Bank, approved the merger between the two institutions effective from July 1 creating the world's fourth biggest bank by market value behind J P Morgan, ICBC and Bank of America.
- All share and warrant holders of HDFC as of July 13 would be eligible for HDFC Bank shares.
- Termed as the biggest transaction in India's corporate history, HDFC Bank on April 4 last year agreed to take over the biggest domestic mortgage lender in a deal valued at about USD 40 billion, creating a financial services titan.

LIC introduces new term assurance plan named "Jeevan Kiran"

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced Jeevan Kiran, a new plan that offers life cover with the return of premium.
- The plan is a non-linked and non-participating, individual, savings, life insurance plan.
- The plan is for customers desiring high life cover at a reasonable cost.
- The plan is available for young people starting at age 18 and till age 65.
- The plan has a minimum Sum Assured of Rs 15 lakh for moderate life cover.
- The policy term varies from 10 years to 40 years.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE

India hosts 23rd Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization virtually

- PM Narendra Modi hosted the 23rd edition of the SCO Summit virtually on July 4, 2023.
- Theme 2023: Towards a SECURE SCO.
- SECURE stands for Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.
- The summit was attended by SCO Members China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Observer States: Iran, Belarus, and Mongolia
- Guest of the Chair: Turkmenistan

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurates 20th annual conference

- Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla inaugurated the 20th annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region in July 2023.
- The conference will focus on discussing natural disasters and management strategies, particularly concerning the northeast region.
- He also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and connectivity through the Act East policy, as it can lead to enhanced regional integration at economic, and social levels in the North East.

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India and Indonesia to launch “India – Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue”

- Nirmala Sitharaman, during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Gandhinagar, announced the commencement of the “India – Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue.”
- This dialogue intends to strengthen cooperation and promote mutual understanding on global issues between the two nations.
- It will serve as a platform for discussing shared interests and exploring mutually beneficial matters.

Third World Hindu Conference to be organized in Bangkok

- The World Hindu Foundation has announced that the third World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Bangkok in November 2023.
- The three-day event, known as Vishwa Hindu Sammelan, will take place at the Convention Center in Bangkok.
- With the theme “Jayasya Aayatnam Dharmah” meaning “Dharma, the Abode of Victory,” the conference will focus on exploring opportunities and addressing challenges faced by the global Hindu community.

Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurates Heli Summit 2023 and UDAN 5.2

- Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, inaugurated the Heli Summit 2023 and also unveiled RCS UDAN 5.2 and the HeliSewa-App in Madhya Pradesh.
- Theme "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft".
- Objectives: Providing a common platform for all industry stakeholders, and policymakers to discuss the growth story of the Indian Helicopter and Small Aircraft industry.

Thani Al Zeyoudi elected as chair of WTO’s 13th Ministerial Conference

- Thani Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister for Foreign Trade, has been elected as the chair of the 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation held to take place in Abu Dhabi.
- The announcement was made during a meeting with WTO director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at the WTO General Council in Geneva
- The conference will be attended by representatives from 164 countries and will involve reviewing the trading system's performance and making decisions on future work.

India & Malaysia hold a meeting on Military Cooperation in New Delhi

- The 10th meeting of the Sub Committee on Military Cooperation between India and Malaysia was held in New Delhi.
- During the meeting, the existing defence cooperation between the two countries was reviewed and wide-ranging discussions were held on issues of mutual interest.
- Both sides explored practical initiatives to further expand the bilateral defence engagements.

5th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit was held in Madhya Pradesh

- The 5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit was held on the 25th of July 2023 at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.
- The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd., and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The Summit was inaugurated by Chief Minister, of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel Jyotiraditya M. Scindia.
- The objective of the Summit includes enhancing the scope of the UDAN scheme in remote and hilly terrains.
- The event's theme is "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft".

PM Modi to address the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress on 1st July

- PM Narendra Modi will address the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress in New Delhi on 1st July 2023.

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- Its objective is to discuss various trends in the cooperative movement, showcase best practices being adopted, and chalk out future policy direction for the growth of India's cooperative movement.
- The theme of the event is "Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India".

First ever BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers meeting started in Bangkok, Thailand

- The first-ever Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) started in Bangkok, Thailand.
- India's External Affairs Minister Mr S Jaishankar attended the meeting.
- Also, Mr. Jaishankar Co-chaired the 12th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting in Bangkok along with Foreign Minister of Lao PDR Saleumxay Kommasith.
- Many issues will be discussed during this meeting including the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway.
- BIMSTEC was established in 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration
- Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

India to host G20 Global Food Regulators Summit in New Delhi

- The Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 is being organised in New Delhi, Delhi for the first time, as a G20 or Group of 20 event.
- The summit is being organised by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 20th and 21st July, 2023 at Manekshaw Auditorium, New Delhi.
- For the first time, this summit is being held outside Rome, Italy.
- Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) unveiled the logo of the Summit in presence of Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S P Singh Baghel.

50th GST Council meeting in New Delhi is presided over by FM Nirmala Sitharaman

- The 50th GST Council meeting chaired by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is underway in New Delhi.
- The meeting is being attended by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, Finance Ministers of States and UTs, and Senior officials.
- In February this year, the 49th GST Council met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.
- In that meeting, the government decided to clear the entire pending balance GST compensation of 16 thousand 982 crore rupees for June 2022 to States and Union territories.

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Current Objective Questions

1. Which team won the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation – International Tournament in July 2023?
 - (a) England
 - (b) Spain
 - (c) India
 - (d) Germany
2. Who did Carlos Alcaraz defeat to win the Men's title at the Wimbledon championship 2023?
 - (a) Roger Federer
 - (b) Rafael Nadal
 - (c) Novak Djokovic
 - (d) Andy Murray
3. National Doctors Day is celebrated on 1st July every year in memory of:
 - (a) Dr. Rajender Prasad
 - (b) Dr. Manmohan Singh
 - (c) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
 - (d) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy
4. What is the recent change made by Twitter in its branding?
 - (a) Changed its name to X Corp.
 - (b) Replaced its blue bird logo with an X.
 - (c) Introduced a new social media platform.
 - (d) Acquired a competitor company.
5. Who won the Korea Open 2023 Badminton men's doubles title in Yeosu?
 - (a) Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto
 - (b) Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang
 - (c) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
 - (d) None of the above
6. Which railway station received the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Merit for Heritage Restoration and Modernization efforts?
 - (a) Byculla railway station
 - (b) Mumbai Central railway station
 - (c) Howrah Junction railway station
 - (d) Chennai Central railway station
7. Which day was recorded as the World's hottest day according to data from the U.S. National Centers for Environmental Prediction?
 - (a) 5 August 2023
 - (b) 3 July 2023
 - (c) 21 July 2023
 - (d) 22 June 2023
8. Parul Chaudhary, won a gold medal in which event at the Asian Athletics Championships 2023?
 - (a) Women's 3000m steeplechase
 - (b) Women's 100m sprint

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- (c) Women's long jump
(d) Women's shot put
9. Where is the biggest FIFA Women's Football World Cup being jointly hosted?
(a) United States and Canada
(b) Australia and New Zealand
(c) France and Spain
(d) Brazil and Argentina
10. At the ISSF Junior Shooting World Championships 2023, which country finished in 2nd place on the medals tally?
(a) South Korea
(b) India
(c) United States
(d) China
11. Which was the launch site for the LVM3-M4 rocket that carried Chandrayaan-3 to the moon on July 14, 2023?
(a) Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota,
(b) Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station,
(c) Abdul Kalam Island,
(d) Indian Space Research Organisation, Bangalore
12. When is World Population Day observed?
(a) July 11
(b) July 10
(c) June 11
(d) June 10
13. Who recently joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra as the Deputy Chief Minister?
(a) Devendra Fadnavis
(b) Sharad Pawar
(c) Ajit Pawar
(d) Eknath Shinde
14. In which city is the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2023 being held?
(a) Greater Noida
(b) Mumbai
(c) New Delhi
(d) Kolkata
15. Which rank did the Indian Team secure in the 64th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2023 out of 112 participating countries?
(a) 1st
(b) 5th
(c) 9th
(d) 12th
16. What is the primary payload of ISRO's PSLV-C56 rocket launched from Sriharikota on 30 June 2023?
(a) DS-SAR satellite
(b) VELOX-AM microsatellite

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- (c) ARCADE microsatellite
(d) ST Engineering payload
17. Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen has announced his resignation and will hand over power to whom in early August?
(a) His brother, Fue Nasa
(b) His eldest son, Hun Manet
(c) The Cambodian monarch, Den Bona
(d) The leader of the opposition party, Homi Tana
18. Which region is the largest trade partner of India?
(a) East Asia
(b) North America
(c) West Asia
(d) South America
19. Which country will host the next meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in 2024?
(a) China
(b) Russia
(c) India
(d) Kazakhstan
20. Which ship, known as India's first indigenously built Guided Missile Destroyer, participated in the seventh edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX 23)?
(a) INS Delhi
(b) INS Kamorta
(c) INS Shakti
(d) INS Vikrant
21. Which Team win the SAFF Championship 2023?
(a) Kuwait
(b) India
(c) Lebanon
(d) Pakistan
22. When is Nelson Mandela International Day observed?
(a) January 18
(b) April 18
(c) July 18
(d) October 18
23. Who is the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)?
(a) Jay Shah
(b) Sourav Ganguly
(c) Ehsan Mani
(d) David Richardson
24. Where is the UNESCO Headquarters located?
(a) New York, USA
(b) London, UK
(c) Paris, France
(d) Geneva, Switzerland

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25. What is the purpose of the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign ahead of Independence Day 2023?
- (a) To celebrate Independence Day
 - (b) To honor the martyred men and women
 - (c) To organize Amrit Mahotsav celebrations
 - (d) To build the National War Memorial
26. What is eye flu or conjunctivitis?
- (a) Inflammation of the retina
 - (b) Inflammation of the cornea
 - (c) Inflammation of the conjunctiva
 - (d) Inflammation of the iris
27. The PM SHRI Scheme focuses on nurturing students to become _____.
- (a) Wealthy entrepreneurs
 - (b) Engaged, productive, and contributing citizens
 - (c) Government employees
 - (d) Members of the armed forces
28. Which operation is celebrated as Kargil Vijay Diwas, observed on July 26 every year?
- (a) Operation Cactus
 - (b) Operation Meghdoot
 - (c) Operation Vijay
 - (d) Operation Pawan
29. Which organization celebrated its 85th Raising Day on 27th July 2023?
- (a) Indian Army
 - (b) CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force)
 - (c) BSF (Border Security Force)
 - (d) IAF (Indian Air Force)
30. Where will the event "Semicon India 2023" take place from 28th to 30th July 2023?
- (a) New Delhi
 - (b) Bengaluru
 - (c) Hyderabad
 - (d) Gandhinagar
31. What is the estimated tiger population in India, as per the report released by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change on Global Tiger Day on 29 July 2023?
- (a) 2,500
 - (b) 3,167
 - (c) 3,682
 - (d) 3,925
32. According to the latest report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), what is the projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate for India in the current fiscal year (2023-2024)?
- (a) 5.9 percent
 - (b) 6.1 percent
 - (c) 6.3 percent
 - (d) 6.5

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33. Who received the National Geoscience Award 2022 for Lifetime Achievement?
- (a) Dr. Om Narain Bhargava
 - (b) Dr. Amiya Kumar Samal
 - (c) President Droupadi Murmu
 - (d) Banaras Hindu University
34. In the recent national elections in Spain, which party emerged as the winner?
- (a) Socialist Party
 - (b) Far-right Vox party
 - (c) Popular Party (PP)
 - (d) Conservative Party
35. What is the full form of NATO?
- (a) North American Treaty Organization
 - (b) North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 - (c) North African Treaty Organization
 - (d) North Asian Treaty Organization
36. Why will Russian President Vladimir Putin not attend the BRICS summit in South Africa in August?
- (a) He is facing charges of war crimes issued by the ICC.
 - (b) He is occupied with foreign ministerial duties.
 - (c) South Africa refused to grant him entry to the country.
 - (d) He disagreed with the summit's agenda.
37. Who is the United Kingdom National Security Adviser?
- (a) Tim Barrow
 - (b) Ajit Doval
 - (c) Jake Sullivan
 - (d) Maureen O'Brien
38. Who won the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 title in javelin throw?
- (a) Neeraj Chopra
 - (b) Julian Webber
 - (c) Jakub Vadlech
 - (d) Shivpal Singh
39. Which of the following sessions is not one of the three sessions of the Indian Parliament?
- (a) Monsoon session
 - (b) Winter session
 - (c) Spring session
 - (d) Budget session
40. Who is the Indian badminton player that set a new Guinness World Record for the fastest shot in badminton?
- (a) Chirag Shetty
 - (b) Lakshya Sen
 - (c) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
 - (d) Prakash Padukone
41. What is the name of the launch vehicle for Chandrayaan 3?
- (a) GSLV Mark II
 - (b) PSLV-C50

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- (c) GSLV Mark III
(d) ISRO-XL
42. Which name has been given to the alliance formed by the opposition parties to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha election?
(a) National Democratic Alliance (NDA)
(b) Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)
(c) Congress National Alliance (CNA)
(d) Democratic Opposition Front (DOF)
43. Which state in India registered the highest decline in the number of poor according to the National Multidimensional Poverty Index released by NITI Aayog in July 2023?
(a) Bihar
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Odisha
44. Who became the first male archer to win a gold in the recurve category at the Youth World Championships?
(a) Parth Salunkhe
(b) Song Injun
(c) Pravin Jadhav
(d) Atanu Das
45. Where will the first IIT campus outside of India be established?
(a) Zanzibar, Tanzania
(b) Nairobi, Kenya
(c) Cape Town, South Africa
(d) Dubai, UAE
46. What is ISRO's plan for the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)?
(a) Collaborate with international space agencies
(b) Decommission the SSLV due to low demand
(c) Transfer SSLV to the private sector
(d) Develop a larger version of SSLV for heavy satellite launches
47. Which categories of trucks are included in the draft notification?
(a) N1 and N2
(b) N2 and N3
(c) N3 and N4
(d) N4 and N5
48. Which state has achieved 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) plus status?
(a) Assam
(b) Sikkim
(c) Manipur
(d) Meghalaya
49. The "Ring of Fire" is known for:
(a) High precipitation levels
(b) Frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity

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- (c) Rich biodiversity
- (d) Historical cultural sites

50. Which former cricketer has been appointed as the chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee?

- (a) Salil Ankola
- (b) Shiv Sundar Das
- (c) Subroto Banerjee
- (d) Ajit Agarkar

ANSWER - KEY

CURRENT OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

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



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DELHI



MADHYA PRADESH



NITIN AGNIHOTRI
(Test Series & IGP)

JHARKHAND



GUJARAT



ODISHA



ALL INDIA RANK - 2

UPSC (2021), PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, GOI.

BIHAR



UTTAR PRADESH



UTTRAKHAND



UPSC P.P CBI Results-2022



RAJASTHAN



UTTRAKHAND APO



UPSC A.P.P CBI Results-2022



HARYANA



DELHI A.P.P



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