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PAHUJA
Law Academy

Current Affairs – English

Month of JUNE' 2023



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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

“CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF JUNE’ 2023”

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as MD and CEO of UCO Bank.

- Note: He has replaced Soma Sankara Prasad, who superannuated on May 31, 2023. Prior to this, he served as an Executive Director at Indian Bank. He would lead the public sector bank for a period of three years from June 1, 2023. He would also be eligible for an extension of the term of office, after a review of his performance.

Ajay Yadav has been appointed as the Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI).

- Note: He is a 2005 batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre. SECI is a Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). It was incorporated in the year 2011. It is the primary implementing agency of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for Renewable Energy schemes/projects towards the fulfillment of India's international commitments.

INAS, P Upadhyay assumed charge as Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) on June 1, 2023.

- Note: He has replaced KSC Iyer, who superannuated on 31 May 2023. He is an alumnus of the Naval Defence College of NDC-53. He belongs to the 1987 batch of the Indian Naval Armament Service. He joined the Naval Armament Organization of the Indian Navy in 1989. He is specialized in Missile and Torpedo Maintenance besides having vast knowledge of the disposal of ammunition.

Amarendu Prakash has taken charge as a Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) on May 31, 2023.

- Note: Prior to this, he was Director in charge at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL). He is a metallurgical engineer from BIT Sindhri and joined SAIL in 1991 as a Management Trainee (Technical). He also took on additional charge as Director In-Charge of the Rourkela Steel Plant, IISCO, and Durgapur Steel Plant.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan will be sworn in as the President of Turkish.

- Note: Ambassador Virander Paul will be representing India at the ceremony. The inauguration ceremony in Parliament will be followed by an elaborate ceremony at Erdogan's palace in Ankara. He won the presidential runoff election by securing 52.18% of the vote, defeating his opponent Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who received 47.82% votes.

Abdulla Al Mandous has been elected as the new President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for a 4-year term from 2023 to 2027.

- Note: He emerged as the official candidate of the UAE and secured 95 votes out of the representatives from WMO's 193 member states and territories. He succeeded Prof Gerhard Adrian. WMO is an authoritative body within the UN system that focuses on weather, climate, environment, etc.

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Ajay Banga has assumed charge as the President of the World Bank, after replacing David Malpass, who stepped down on June 1, 2023.

- Note: He has been appointed as the 14th President of the World Bank for a five-year term. In February 2023, US President Joe Biden nominated Ajay Banga to lead the World Bank. He has become the first-ever Indian-American to head the World Bank. Prior to this role, he served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic.

TransUnion CIBIL has appointed V Anantharaman as a new non-executive chairman.

- Note: He replaced M V Nair, who has stepped down from his post, after eleven years. He has worked in the banking industry to lead corporate and investment banking teams in Standard Chartered Bank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Bank of America. He also served on the boards of The Indian Hotels Company Limited, Axis Asset Management Company, IIFL Home Finance Ltd and Ecom Express Ltd.

Amit Agrawal has been appointed as the new CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

- Note: While Subodh Kumar Singh has been appointed as director general of the National Testing Agency. Both Agrawal and Singh are Indian Administrative Service officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre. Rashmi Chowdhary, additional secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training, has been appointed as secretary in the Central Information Commission.

Nitin Agarwal has been appointed as the new director general of the Border Security Force (BSF).

- Note: This appointment comes after a vacancy of over five months in the position. Presently, he is serving as the Additional DG of operations at the headquarters of the CRPF in Delhi. The additional charge of the BSF has been held by Sujoy Lal Thaoson, the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The government of India has appointed Pankaj Agrawal as the new Power Secretary.

- Note: He would replace present Secretary Alok Kumar, who will retire on June 30. While Rajat Mishra will be the new Fertiliser Secretary, and Chanchal Kumar to join the Civil Aviation Ministry as Secretary. Sudhansh Pant will move from the Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry to Health Ministry. Subhas Chandra Lal Das will move to the Ministry of MSME as Secretary.

Philip Green has been appointed as Australia's next High Commissioner to India.

- Note: He would succeed incumbent Barry O'Farrell, who served as Australian high commissioner to India since 2020. Presently, he is serving as Australia's ambassador to Germany. Previously, he has also served as Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, South Africa, and Kenya. Hilary McGeachy has been appointed as Australia's first Consul-General in Bengaluru.

Kamal Kishore Chatiwal has assumed charge as the new managing director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL).

- Note: He has replaced Sanjay Kumar, who has taken over as Director (Marketing) in GAIL (India) Ltd. Prior to this role; he was working as an executive director and head of Zonal Marketing of GAIL in Jaipur, Rajasthan. IGL is a joint venture of GAIL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) with the Delhi government holding 5% stake.

Jane Marriott has been appointed as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan.

- Note: She would be replacing Dr Christian Turner, who left Pakistan in January after serving as the envoy since December 2019. She also becomes the first female British envoy to Islamabad. Prior to this role, she was the high commissioner to Kenya since September 2019. She has also completed two diplomatic postings to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

P Vasudevan has been appointed as MD and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank.

- Note: He has been reappointed for a period of 3 years, from July 23, 2023, to July 23, 2026. Headquarters of Equitas SFB: Chennai. After receiving license from RBI on 30 June 2016, Equitas

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Small Finance bank began banking on 5 September 2016 and with effect from 4 February 2017, Equitas became a scheduled bank.

Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan as the nonexecutive chairman for three years.

- Note: His appointment will be effective from October 27, 2023, or the date of approval of his appointment by the RBI. NS Vishwanathan was a seasoned banker, who handled critical areas like regulation. He has also served as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between 2016 and 2020.

Ravi Sinha has been appointed as the new head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) for tenure of two years.

- Note: He would succeed Samant Goel, who completes his four-year tenure on June 30, 2023. Ravi Sinha is a 1988- batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre. At present, he is serving as Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat. Earlier, Sinha served in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast and foreign countries.

Swaminathan Janakiraman has been appointed as the deputy governor of Reserve Bank India for three years.

- Note: He would succeed Mahesh Kumar Jain, who was serving as a deputy governor since 2018, is set to retire. Prior to this role, he held various assignments across Corporate and International Banking, Retail and Digital Banking, Finance, and Assurance functions with SBI. He also served as a Nominee Director of SBI on the Boards of Yes Bank and Jio Payments Bank.

Hasmukh Adhia has been appointed as chairman of GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City.

- Note: In addition to this role, he was also appointed as the Chairman and Director of the Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC). He replaced Sudhir Mankad, to take the helm of GIFT City. He has also served as the Principal advisor to Narendra Modi when he was CM of Gujarat.

Umesh Kumar was appointed the chairman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), by the President of India.

- Note: President Droupadi Murmu has exercised the powers conferred by Section 45(b) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, read with sub-section 2 of Section 84 of the Electricity Act, 2003. He served as the justice of Allahabad High Court till July 2022.

Finland's parliament elected Petteri Orpo as prime minister at the head of a four-party coalition.

- Note: Parliament voted in favor of Orpo, who won the April elections. He was formally appointed as prime minister by President Sauli Niinisto. He took over from Sanna Marin, whose Social Democrats finished third behind Orpo's National Coalition Party and the Finns Party. The new coalition is made up of the smaller Swedish People's Party and Christian Democrats.

Eddie Wu will take over as the chief executive of the Alibaba Group.

- Note: He is one of the co-founders of Alibaba, who first served it as a technology director back in 1999. While Joe Tsai will take over as chairman on September 10th, 2023. He was appointed as the company's CFO until 2013. The present CEO and Chairman Daniel Zhang is planning to step down this year.

WHO has appointed Health Dr Vanessa Kerry as the first-ever WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Climate Change and.

- Note: She is a renowned global health expert and medical doctor and CEO of Seed Global Health. She will play a pivotal role in amplifying WHO's climate and health messaging and undertake high-level advocacy. Climate change is emerging as the greatest health challenge of the 21st century, impacting various aspects of human well-being.

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DBS Bank India has appointed Rajat Verma as managing director and head of institutional banking.

- Note: He will succeed Niraj Mittal, who will be taking up a new role as country head of DBS Bank in Australia. Rajat Verma was formerly with HSBC as the MD and country head of Commercial Banking in India. He will lead the growth of the institutional banking franchise for DBS Bank in India given the significantly expanded footprint of the lender.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis has been sworn in as the PM of Greece for a second term, after winning the Prime Minister election.

- Note: He took the oath of office in the presidential palace at a ceremony. In the election, he bagged 40.55% of the votes, more than twice the main opposition Syriza's 17.84%. He vowed to accelerate institutional and economic reforms. He became the PM for the first time in 2019 when his party defeated Syriza in an election.

The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval to the Federal Bank for the appointment of AP Hota as part-time Chairman, with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026.

- Note: In 2018, he was appointed as an Independent Director of Federal Bank Limited. He has also worked at RBI as a nominee director to the Board of Vijaya Bank and Andhra Bank. He was the architect of NPCI and served as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer between 2009-2017.

Rohit Jawa has assumed charge as the Managing Director and CEO of FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL).

- Note: He has replaced Sanjiv Mehta who retired after the company's annual general meeting. Mehta handed over the baton to Jawa, who was appointed as an Additional Director and CEO-Designate from April 1, 2023. Prior to this role, Jawa was the Chief of Transformation for Unilever in London. He started his career with HUL as a management trainee in 1988.

Ajay Bhatnagar has been appointed as Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effective until his superannuation on November 20, 2024.

- Note: At present, he is serving as Additional Director in the agency. While Anurag and Manoj Sashidhar have been promoted to the position of Additional Director. The government has also extended the tenure of Sharad Agarwal as Joint Director.

Audi has appointed Gernot Dollner as Chairman of the Board of Management, effective September 1, 2023.

- Note: He will take over Markus Duesmann. Gernot Dollner joined Volkswagen as a Ph. D. candidate in 1993 and subsequently served in a number of management roles at Porsche, including as head of Concept Development and head of the Panamera Series.

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Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) has launched the Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO) Pilot initiative.

- Note: Aim: To validate certain transformational policy and process changes to make India the Repair Capital of the World. The pilot project is being conducted in Bengaluru and will run for three months. The government has supported this project to make India a world leader in a hitherto untapped domain.

Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project of the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector in at least ten selected districts.

- Note: The Cabinet has approved the constitution and empowerment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for the facilitation of the "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector".

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This will be done by the convergence of various schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project in at least ten selected districts.

According to the Statistics Ministry's provisional estimate, India's GDP is pegged to grow at 7.2% during the fiscal year 2022-23.

- Note: The data is 20 basis points higher than the government's second advance estimate of 7%. The GDP registered a growth of 6.1% in January-March 2023. Quarterly terms in 2022-23: 13.1% growth (Q1), 6.2% (Q2), and 4.5% (Q3). In the fourth quarter, the agricultural growth was estimated at 5.5% and Manufacturing growth at 4.5 %.

Union health ministry has amended the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004, to mandate the display of anti-tobacco warnings and disclaimers on over-the-top (OTT) platforms.

- Note: India has become the first country to make it mandatory for OTT platforms. To display anti-tobacco health spots of a minimum of 30 seconds each at the beginning and middle of a program. An audio-visual disclaimer of a minimum of 20 seconds on the ill effects of tobacco use

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has introduced 31 Indian standards related to Ayush.

- Note: It encompassing 30 herbs and one product, the stainless steel neti pot. BIS has established an additional department with a dedicated focus on Ayush for strengthening its standardization framework. A Working Group on 'Traditional Medicine' established within the ISO/TC-215 'Health Informatics'. BIS also initiated efforts to formulate international standards in collaboration with ISO.

India is set to remain United Arab Emirates' (UAE) largest export destination by 2030, according to a new report by Standard Chartered titled 'Future of Trade: New opportunities in high-growth corridors'.

- Note: The report forecasts that the UAE's exports will reach around USD 543 billion by 2030, showcasing a robust annual growth rate of 5.5%. It also highlights that trade corridors anchored in Asia, Africa, and Middle East are expected to outpace the global trade growth rate by 4%.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has released the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023 in New Delhi.

- Note: These regulations will facilitate the creation of many more quality-focused deemed to be universities in an objective and transparent manner. It will encourage universities to focus on quality and excellence and strengthen the research ecosystem and have a long-term impact in transforming the higher education landscape.

MV Empress, maiden International Cruise Vessel was flagged off from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai on June 5, 2023.

- Note: It was built at a cost of 17.21 crore rupees. This marks the beginning of the international cruise tourism terminal in Chennai. For this cruise service, a MoU was signed in 2022 between Chennai Port and M/S Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd to start domestic and international cruise services.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has released NHAI's first 'Sustainability Report for FY2021-22'.

- Note: This report will cover NHAI's governance structure, stakeholders, environment, and social responsibility initiatives. From FY2019-20 to 2021-22, direct emissions were reduced by 18.44% and 9.49% due to less fuel consumption. Green House Gas Emissions saw a decline of 9.7% in FY2020-21 and 2% in FY2021-22. Similarly in operations, energy intensity in Giga Joules/km reduced by 27% in FY2021-22.

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) signed a MoU in Lucknow.

- Note: Aim: To collaborate in the development of Renewable Energy Parks and Projects. Signed by: Mohit Bhargava (CEO, NGEL) and Nidhi Kumar Narang (Director (Finance) UPRVUNL). NTPC is India's largest Power Utility, with a total installed capacity of about 72 GW. UPRVUNL was constituted to set up and operate Power-generating stations in UP.

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IIT Kharagpur and HCLTech signed a MoU for collaboration in the field of petroleum engineering and earth sciences.

- Note: Aim: To develop innovative and sustainable solutions to address critical challenges of the petroleum industry, which include reduction of carbon footprint, and provide significant sustainable solutions towards net zero, HCL Tech will provide opportunities to IIT Kharagpur students and research scholars to undertake projects and internships at the company.

NHPC Limited and Vidhyut Utpadan Company Limited (VUCL), Nepal signed an MoU in New Delhi for the development of the Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project (480MW) in Nepal.

- Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of PM Modi and Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’. The project will use the flow from the Karnali River for power generation and the generated power will be fed into the integrated power system of Nepal. The installed capacity of the project shall be 480 MW.

Tata Group has signed an MoU with Gujarat government to set up a first-ever lithium-ion cell manufacturing gigafactory.

- Note: This MOU is an outcome of the newly formulated Electronics Policy. Estimated initial investment: 130 billion rupees. Production capacity: 20 GWh. The state government is committed to increasing carbon-free, energy-efficient, and clean energy production by boosting the production of electric vehicles and reducing carbon emissions.

The India-EU Connectivity Conference is being organized in Meghalaya on June 1, 2023.

- Note: It is jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, EU Delegation to India, and the Asian Confluence. Aim: To explore possibilities of boosting connectivity investments in India’s North Eastern States and with India’s neighbours -- Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. It was inaugurated by Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, and MoS for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.

India G20 - South Centre Event on International Taxation has been concluded successfully in Nagpur.

- Note: It was a two-day event on International Taxation was organized on the 1st and 2nd June at the National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur in collaboration with South Centre, a Geneva-based intergovernmental policy research think-tank of 55 developing countries, including India. It was an initiative of the Indian Presidency to bolster capacity building for Indian tax officials.

UAE will host the 2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from October 10-21, 2025.

- Note: WCC: It is the world’s largest and most important gathering of conservationists, and it is expected to draw more than 10,000 delegates from over 160 countries. It is expected to bring an estimated 10,000 - 15,000 delegates from over 160 countries across the globe.

The City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0) has been approved for Four years (2023-2027).

- Note: Conceived by: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in partnership with the French Development Agency, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs. Funding: A loan of Rs.1760 crore (EUR 200 million) from AFD and KfW and a technical assistance grant of Rs.106 cr. (EUR 12 million) from the EU.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the Unified Registration Portal for Gobardhan.

- Note: Aim: One-stop repository to assess investment and participation in the Biogas/CBG sector at the pan India level and streamline the process of setting up CBG/Biogas plants. Gobardhan refers to Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan. It is an initiative of the Government of India that aims to convert waste to wealth towards promoting a circular economy.

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Maharashtra government has launched Asia's largest, ambitious and historic cluster development scheme.

- Note: This scheme was conceptualized for the collective redevelopment of unauthorized and official dangerous buildings after the collapse of the Sairaj Building in Thane. The redeveloped township plan includes well equipped health, educational, sports, recreational, parking, mandi, and civic facilities. The project will be executed by the CIDCO.

PM Modi has launched two schemes 'Amrit Dharohar' and 'MISHTI' to revive the country's wetlands and mangroves.

- Note: Amrit Dharohar: To ensure the conservation of the existing Ramsar sites through public participation. These sites will become the center of eco-tourism and a source of green jobs for thousands of people. MISHTI: It refers to Mangrove Initiative for Shossreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes. It will help revive and protect the mangrove ecosystem in the country.

The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy joined hands to launch a National Mission titled MAHIR.

- Note: MAHIR refers to Mission on Advanced and HighImpact Research. Aim: To quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India. Funded by: Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and CPSEs under the two Ministries. Tenure: Five years, 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has unveiled the 5th State Food Safety Index on the occasion of World Food Safety Day 2023.

- Note: Among the larger states, Kerala secured the top ranking, followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu. Smaller 15 | P a g e states: Goa, Manipur and Sikkim; UTs: J&K, Delhi and Chandigarh; The index has evaluated the performance of states and UTs across six different aspects of food safety. He has also unveiled Rapid Food Testing Kit (RAFT) portal.

Union Cabinet has approved the third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of 89,047 crore rupees, includes an allotment of 4G/5G spectrum through equity infusion.

- Note: The authorised capital of BSNL will be increased from 1,50,000 crore rupees to 2,10,000 crore rupees. BSNL will emerge as a stable telecom service provider focused on providing connectivity to the remotest parts of India. First revival package approved in 2019, amounting to 69,000 crore rupees.

The union cabinet has approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme of “Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme” with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2980 crore.

- Note: It has been approved with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2980 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26 co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission cycle. Two broad stages conducted under this scheme: (i) Promotional (Regional) Exploration (Outlay: Rs.1650 crore), (ii) Detailed Exploration in Non-Coal India Limited blocks (Outlay: Rs.1330 crore)

NTPC Kanti has launched the Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM)-2023, a four-week residential workshop program for 40 underprivileged rural girls.

- Note: This is the first time NTPC Kanti is organizing the GEM program. The participants will receive academic training and development skill sets such as soft skills, life skill training, sports, meditation, yoga, self-defence, computer application, communication skills, and other extra-curricular activities.

Researchers at IIT Mandi have developed smart biodegradable microgels.

- Note: Aim: To make agricultural practices more sustainable and minimize the adverse impact caused by the use of insecticides and agrochemicals. The research has been published in the "Carbohydrate Polymers" journal. Modern agriculture relies heavily on the application of various agrochemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on crops to meet the demand for food for the growing population.

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According to data released by the private economic think tank CMIE, the unemployment rate in India fell to 7.7% in May due to a decline in labor participation at 441.9 million.

- Note: The unemployment rate in India among people aged 15 years and above fell to 7.7% in May 2023, from 8.5% in the previous month. The urban labour market recorded a fall in the number of employed as well as unemployed people. The rural labour force reduced to 299.4 million in May.

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, the index of industrial production (IIP) in India has increased to 4.2% on an annual basis in April 2023 from 1.1% in March 2023.

- Note: Manufacturing sector output rose to 4.9% in April 2023 against 5.6% and Power generation declined by 1.1% in April 2023 against a growth of 11.8%. Mining output rose by 5.1% during the month under review compared to a growth of 8.4% in the year-ago period.

The Union Government has released the third instalment of tax devolution to State governments amounting to 1,18,280 crore rupees, as against the normal monthly devolution of 59,140 crores.

- Note: One advance instalment in addition to the regular instalment due in June is being released to States. Reason: To speed up capital spending and finance their development and welfare-related expenditure. UP received the highest share of Rs 21,218 crore and Goa the least at Rs 457 crore.

Vigyan -Vidushi – 2023 has been commenced at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), in Mumbai.

- Note: It is an initiative to address the gender balance in the discipline of Physics at the doctorate level. 40 women students from forty different institutes all over India have attended this program which gave them exposure to advanced physics courses. This program is an initiative of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), through its HBCSE.

Microsoft and AirJaldi network signed a three-year MoU to provide internet access for underserved communities in 12 states.

- Note: Aim: To advance access to high-speed internet and meaningful connectivity, build solutions for broadband adoption and digital transformation. The program will expand AirJaldi Networks into three new states namely, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha, with an increase in the number of network locations from 40 to 62 in 12 states.

ICAR has signed a MoU with Amazon Kisan to combine strengths and create synergy between the two organizations.

- Note: Aim: To guide the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income. ICAR will provide technological backstopping to the farmers through Amazon's network. It will improve farmers' livelihood and boost crop yield. This MoU will help ensuring access to high quality fresh produce for consumers across India.

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) signed an MoU for academic and research collaboration.

- Note: Aim: To synergise the professional capabilities towards capacity building, education, research and consulting in the domain of Internal Security, Financial Crimes, Law Enforcement, Corporate Frauds and other subject matters common to their mandate and objectives. It provides for exchange of knowledge and resources.

Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare signed an MoU with Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited to generate employment.

- Note: Aim: To bring the corporate companies and Ex-Servicemen on a common platform to generate employment opportunities for the esteemed Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Services. This partnership would bring in more visibility of our Ex-servicemen to the industry and corporates.

The Wholesale Price Index (Provisional) for the month of May 2023 was (-) 3.48%.

- Note: In April 2023, it was recorded (-) 0.92%. Reason: Fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, and chemical & chemical

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products. The food index has declined to 1.59%, while fuel and power fell to 9.17%. Manufactured product prices fell 2.97% in May 2023.

Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan has flagged off the first Agri- SEZ project of Gabon from New Delhi.

- Note: This project will be implemented by the AOM group with Centurion University as the technical and knowledge partner. In the first phase 30 farmers and 20 B. Sc. /M. Sc. Agri and B. Tech/M. Tech Engineering students from Gajapati district, Odisha will be traveling together as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture SEZ.

CBIC Chairman, Vivek Johri has released the National Time Release Study 2023 report.

- Note: Time Release Study is a performance measurement tool. Aim: To present quantitative measure of the cargo release time. Import Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the period between 'arrival of Goods' and the Customs' granting of 'Out of Charge'. Export Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the time between cargo's arrival at the port and its physical departure from the port/Customs station.

Google has joined hands with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to drive citizen awareness 'G20-Stay Safe Online' campaign on online cyber safety in the country.

- Note: Aim: To foster citizen awareness about online safety and security. Google will raise awareness on the fundamentals of online safety through the 'Be Internet Awesome' programme. Both are working to enhance user awareness on cyber fraud and helping people identify common types of online scams.

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has released National Working Plan Code-2023 for scientific management of forests.

- Note: It has evolved new approaches during the 'World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought' organized by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun on 17th June 2023. It will act as a guiding principle for State Forest Departments in preparation for the working plan for different forest divisions.

Department of Legal Affairs has set up a panel to recommend reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act.

- Note: The committee would be led by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan. Aim: To reduce the burden on courts. Other members: Rajiv Mani (Law Ministry additional secretary), some senior advocates, representatives of private law firms, and officials of the Legislative Department, Niti Aayog, NHAI, railways, and CPWD

PM Narendra Modi has collaborated with Falguni Shah to promote the benefits of millet and its potential to alleviate world hunger.

- Note: Title of the song track: Abundance in Millets. Falu was awarded the Grammy Award in 2022. The year 2023 has been designated as the 'International Year of Millets' after a proposal for it was brought forward by India and endorsed by Members of the UN's FAO Governing Bodies.

Union minister of heavy industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey has launched the "Dugdh Sanakalan Sathi Mobile App" in Mussorie, Uttarakhand.

- Note: This mobile application was developed by Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited (REIL), a CPSE Mini Ratna under the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Aim: To bring about a significant transformation in the Indian dairy industry by addressing key challenges in the milk collection process.

Gross Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023- 24 (till now) have registered a growth of 12.73% to 4,19,338 crore rupees.

- Note: In the preceding financial year, the government recorded a growth of 3,71,982 crores rupees. Net collections are at three lakh 79 thousand 760 crores, showing a growth of 11.18%. The Gross collections include Corporation Tax at 1,87,311 crore and Personal Income Tax at two lakh 31 thousand 391 crore.

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Genova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine has received Emergency Use Authorization from the Drugs Controller General of India.

- Note: The vaccine, 'GEMCOVAC-OM' is approved against the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. GEMCOVAC-OM has demonstrated robust immune responses in phase 3 clinical trials conducted at 20 centers across 13 cities in India. Presently approved vaccines are used as precautionary/ booster doses.

Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani has donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.

- Note: Reason: Fostering world-class infrastructure, stimulating research in emerging areas of engineering and technology, and nurturing a deep tech startup ecosystem at IIT Bombay. A MoU was signed between Nandan Nilekani and Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT Bombay. His contribution will catalyze philanthropic contributions toward advancing research and development at universities in India.

The Indian cabinet has granted approval for Micron Technology to proceed with its \$2. 7 billion plan for a semiconductor testing and packaging unit.

- Note: It has also sanctioned production-linked incentives worth 110 billion rupees for the plant in Gujarat. The necessary approval stems from the significant size of the incentive package. Micron Technology's venture coincides with the White House's efforts to encourage U. S. chip companies to invest in India.

India will host the 2025 International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) Annual Conference in Kochi, Kerala.

- Note: Theme: Next Generation Administrative Reforms – Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile. The hosting decision has been conveyed to the IIAS's Council of Administration via video conference. IIAS was established in 1930; HQ: Brussels. Aim: To elaborate the public administration solutions to the policy challenges of the day.

The two-day conference of Science-20 under G-20 is being organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- Note: The theme of the conference is "Connecting Science to Society and Culture". The conference will be chaired by Professor Ashutosh Sharma, President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). The conference will be attended by representatives of G-20 countries, invited states and international organisations.

The concluding G20 Tourism Working Group meeting along with the Tourism Ministerial Meeting started in Goa.

- Note: Union Minister for Culture, G Kishan Reddy has addressed the first session of "Making Cruise Tourism a Model for Sustainable and Responsible Travel". The minister highlighted that India is one of the potential cruise tourism destinations with many of its best tourist destinations yet to be disclosed to the world.

Tata Steel Limited and Germany's SMS group have signed an MoU to collaborate on the decarbonization of steel making process.

- Note: Under this MoU, the companies shall undertake further technical discussions and initiate actions for conducting Joint Industrial Demonstration of the EASyMelt technology (developed by SMS group). The demonstration will be executed at 'E' Blast Furnace in Tata Steel's Jamshedpur plant with an objective to reduce CO2 emission.

NITI Aayog and the United Nations, India has signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation (GoI-UNSDC) Framework 2023-2027.

- Note: This framework represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.

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Intel has signed an agreement with the German government for investing more than 30 billion euros in a chip manufacturing site in Magdeburg, Germany.

- Note: An agreement was signed between German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger. Intel has acquired the land for two semiconductor facilities in Magdeburg in eastern Germany in November 2022 and is expected to start production in four or five years.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has joined hands with India's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

- Note: Reason: To empower women to make well-informed career choices in the field of entrepreneurship. The partnership will provide support for women looking to start and expand their own enterprises, particularly in sectors such as the care economy, digital economy, electric mobility, waste management, food packaging, and more

The Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission unanimously elected India as chair of the Standing Committee on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the biennium 2023-24.

- Note: The APPPC Workshop on Systems Approach for the management of fruit flies on mango has been scheduled from 19-23 June 2023 in Navi Mumbai. The Minister of State for Agriculture, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje inaugurated the workshop.

Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar has unveiled a new feature on the PM-Kisan mobile app.

- Note: Farmers can be registered by scanning their faces without a one-time password or fingerprint, by using the "face authentication" feature on the mobile application. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs.6,000 per year in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months.

IFFCO has started exporting the world's first Nano urea invented and manufactured indigenously in India to the US.

- Note: An agreement to export Nano urea was signed between IFFCO and Kapoor Enterprises Inc of California. The nano urea is a revolution in the agriculture sector as it has the potential to reduce storage space and money. A 500 ml bottle of IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid has the capacity to replace at least one bag of conventional Urea.

The first hydrogen-powered trains in India are expected to start from the Jind district of Haryana by the end of this year, 2023.

- Note: The officials informed that the plant development has entered the final phase and hydrogen will be produced from water. The Hydrogen fuel-based train of eight bogies will be environment-friendly. Presently, trains are being run on diesel and electricity. The officials claimed that hydrogen-powered trains are running only in Germany.

REC Limited has decided to extend financial assistance of Rs. 3,045 crores to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

- Note: Reason: For establishment and development of Metro Lines under the Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro. The Phase-II project of Namma Metro will enhance connectivity and ease traffic in the densely populated city of Bengaluru. REC is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power.

The Finance Ministry has approved an investment of worth Rs 56,415 crore in 16 states as part of the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' scheme.

- Note: Aim: To boost capital spending by states. The Departments of Expenditure has approved investment projects in several sectors including health, education, roads, and railways among others. It has also included the state share of two projects - Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

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Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala today launched NANDI (NOC Approvals for New Drugs & Inoculation System).

- Note: This portal has been developed to pave the way to a resilient Animal Health Sector in India by streamlining and digitizing the regulatory approval process. Aim: To speed up the process to assess and examine the safety, efficacy, and essentiality of veterinary product proposals received in the Department.

Bangalore International Airport Limited has created a personalised digital travel buddy named BLR Pulse to cater to the needs of flyers.

- Note: It is an omnichannel platform, developed in collaboration with Gray Matter Software Services. It will allow passengers to navigate within the terminal buildings and provide essential information about the airport in real-time. The interactive chatbot feature in the app will enable a self-sufficient mode of finding answers.

Union Minister for Fisheries, Parshottam Rupala has launched the Report Fish Disease App.

- Note: The app has been developed by ICAR-NBFGR under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD). It is funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. This app will help the farmers to report the incidences of diseases in finfish and shrimps on their farms with field-level officers and fish health experts.

8th edition of the world's largest urban swachhata survey, Swachh Survekshan 2023 – Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan has been started.

- Note: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Field Assessment for Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023. Swachh Survekshan 2023 indicators focus on parameters pertaining to segregated door-to-door waste collection, zero waste events, Divyang-friendly toilets, improved plastic waste management, and cleaning backlanes.

The Centre government has extended the timeline for the disbursement of loans for the completion of ethanol projects up to 30 September 2023 in respect of all the schemes notified during 2018-2021.

- Note: Aim: To boost the agricultural economy, reduce fossil fuel dependency, save foreign exchange, and cut air pollution. The decision has been taken under the 'scheme for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for augmentation of ethanol production capacity'.

The CCEA has approved the fair and remunerative price of Rs 315 per quintal per quintal for sugarcane farmers for the season 2023-24.

- Note: It will be applicable for the purchase of sugarcane from farmers by sugar mills from Oct 1, 2023. It will be applicable for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%. A premium of Rs.3.07 per quintal will be provided for every 0.1% increase in recovery above 10.25%. Conversely, the FRP will be reduced by Rs.3.07 per quintal for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.

The Centre has provided financial incentives of 66,000 crore rupees to 12 states to accelerate power sector reforms.

- Note: These states include Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur and Andhra Pradesh. The primary objectives of granting financial incentives for undertaking power sector reforms are to improve operational and economic efficiency within the sector and promote a sustained increase in paid electricity consumption.

The Union Cabinet approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023, in parliament.

- Note: Aim: To pave the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF.

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Inter Globe Aviation Ltd (Indigo) has become India's leading airline to cross ₹1 trillion in market capitalization.

- Note: The stock hit a 52-week high of ₹2,634.25 on the BSE, with a market value of ₹1.01 trillion. Shares of IndiGo settled 3.55% higher at ₹2,619.85 apiece on the BSE, compared to the previous close of ₹2,529.95. IndiGo placed an order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft in the largest order in the history of commercial aviation.

Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi has unveiled India's first-ever report on Critical Minerals for India.

- Note: The report identifies 30 critical minerals essential for sectors including defense, agriculture, and telecom. This list marks a milestone in India's pursuit of self-reliance and security in mineral resources, aligning with the vision of achieving 'Net Zero' targets. Aim: To guide policy formulation, strategic planning, and investment decisions in this sector.

Meta declared a fresh Mixed Reality program in India that has an award of \$250,000 for home grown new companies and developers to construct applications and experiences.

- Note: They can assemble applications utilizing the expansive scope of machine perception, and AI capabilities for the Meta Quest Platform and Metaverse. Aim: To foster innovation and establish a national XR technology ecosystem. A selected group of 5 Indian developers and new companies will get a monetary grant.

PM Modi will inaugurate the 17th edition of the Indian Cooperative Congress (ICC) on July 1st, 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

- Note: The two days Indian Cooperative Congress would be organized by the National Cooperative Union of India. Theme 2023: Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India. Chaired by: HM Amit Shah. Aim: To discuss various trends in the cooperative movement, to showcase the best practices being adopted by the successful cooperatives.

Indian Railways has signed an MoU with the United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India) for collaboration on Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency.

- Note: It was signed in the presence of the Chairman of the Railway Board, Anil Kumar Lahoti. As Indian Railways is proactively working towards the achievement of Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030. As part of its commitment to reduce carbon footprints, Indian Railways is taking several initiatives.

India and UAE formally inked an agreement on the sidelines of the 141st/142nd sessions of the World Customs Organization's Customs Co-operation Council meeting held in Brussels.

- Note: Both countries have signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorized Economic Operators. Aim: To promote greater trade facilitation and ease of doing business. The agreement establishes a framework that enables the recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) from both countries.

India has signed the Artemis Accords with the USA with the ultimate goal of expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond.

- Note: Artemis Accord is a US-led effort to send humans to the moon again by 2025. Aim: To build a permanent presence in lunar orbit and on the surface after the Apollo missions ended. It will boost the cooperation between the two nations and explore the domain beyond the boundaries of Earth. India has become the 27th signatory of the Artemis Accords.

Infosys has bagged a \$454-million deal for the digital transformation of Denmark's Danske Bank.

- Note: The deal is for a period of five years, which could be ramped up to \$900 million and also renewed for up to another three years. The collaboration with Infosys would help achieve its strategic priorities regarding customer experience and operational excellence. Infosys was selected to help with the bank's technology transformation, optimize access to talent and capabilities.

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Ministry of Agriculture has signed an MOU with Pixxel Space India Pvt Limited to develop various geospatial solutions pro bono for the Indian Agriculture Ecosystem, with the help of Pixxel's hyperspectral dataset.

- Note: This project focuses on leveraging sample hyperspectral data from Pixxel's pathfinder satellites. It will develop analytics models focused on crop mapping, crop stage discrimination, crop health monitoring, and soil organic carbon assessments.

The Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank signed an MoU for the disbursement of financial assistance to veteran artists under the "Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists".

- Note: Ministry of Culture has administered a Scheme under which financial assistance of Rs. 6000 per month is provided to artists and scholars above 60 years. Eligibility: Contributed in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture in their active age or are still contributing.

The Central government has allocated ₹145 crore for the construction of a Unity Mall in Dimapur, Nagaland.

- Note: Aim: For promoting and showcasing the state's One District One Product offerings. The allocation is part of the Union Budget 2023-24, which has earmarked ₹5,000 crore for the establishment of Unity Malls. The announcement was made during an ODOP Sampark event, which was organized by the DPIIT, Invest India, and the Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland.

OBITUARIES

Dr. Ved Kumari Ghai, who passed away at 91, was a noted scholar in Sanskrit.

- Note: She was an Indian Sanskrit scholar from Jammu City, J&K, and was head of the Sanskrit department at Jammu University. She was awarded the Padma Shri (India's fourth highest civilian award), a Certificate for her scholarship in Sanskrit, and President's Award for Sanskrit. She was also awarded Gold Medal by Jammu and Kashmir Government for social work and the Dogra Ratan award.

Amir Raza Husain, who passed away at 66, was a veteran Actor.

- Note: He was known for his large outdoor stage productions such as "The Fifty Day War" based on the Kargil War and "The Legend of Ram". He was also the Creative Director of the Stagedoor Theatre Company, established in 1974, which has presented over 91 productions and more than 1,100 performances. He was honoured with the Padma Shri (2001) by the government for his contribution to theatre.

Sulochana, who passed away at 94, was veteran Actor (female).

- Note: She was featured in more than 250 Hindi and 50 Marathi films. She started her career with Marathi films in the early 1940s and soon moved to Hindi films, where she portrayed several mother roles in movies like Shammi Kapoor's Dil Dekhe Dekho, Dilip Kumar's Aadmi, Dev Anand's Jhonny Mera Naam, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar, Himmatwala, and Andar Baahar. She was honoured with Padma Shri in 1999.

Gitanjali Aiyar, who passed away, was a veteran Journalist.

- Note: Aiyar joined Doordarshan in 1971 and was awarded the best anchor four times. She also won the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for Outstanding Women in 1989. She was a diploma holder from the National School of Drama (NSD). She had also been a popular face in several print advertisements and even acted in Sridhar Kshirsagar's TV drama "Khandaan".

Silvio Berlusconi, who passed away at 86, was a former PM of Italy.

- Note: Berlusconi founded Forza Italia, a center-right party, in 1994 with the aim of defeating the 'communists'. His party introduced a populist style of politics in Italy, propelling him to the upper

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ranks of the political establishment. He was also known as 'Il Cavaliere' (The Knight) and remained a flamboyant and influential figure in Italian politics.

Cormac McCarthy passed away at 89 in the USA, was a veteran Novelist.

- Note: "All the Pretty Horses," "The Road" and "No Country for Old Men" were among his acclaimed books that explore a bleak world of violence and outsiders. He was awarded the National Book Award in 1992 for his novel 'All the Pretty Horses'. He also won a Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for 'The Road'. Other novels: Suttree, Blood Meridian, The Border Trilogy, No Country for Old Men.

Dr. M. A. Kuttappan, who passed away, was associated with Politics.

- Note: He began his career as a doctor at Alappuzha Medical College and Cochin Port Trust Hospital. Later he became a four-time MLA in the Kerala assembly and was a member of the AK Antony ministry in 2001 as minister for the welfare of backward classes and SC/ST. He was elected to the state assembly from Wandoor, Chelakkara, and twice from Njarakkal constituencies. Other novels: Suttree, Blood Meridian, The Border Trilogy, No Country for Old Men.

Sylvester daCunha, the man behind the iconic Amul Girl 'utterly butterly' campaign, passed away, was a veteran Advertiser.

- Note: He conceived the 'Utterly Butterly' campaign for Amul, the brand owned by Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), in 1966. In 1969, daCunha solidified his legacy by establishing daCunha Communications. The 'Utterly Butterly' campaign for Amul had celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016.

Co-inventor of lithium-ion batteries, John Bannister Goodenough passed away at 101, was honoured with the Nobel Prize in 2019.

- Note: He shared the 2019 Nobel Prize with Stan Whittingham, a British-American scientist, for discovering that lithium may be held within sheets of titanium sulphide. He was also instrumental in the invention of computer RAM (Random Access Memory). He also worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Oxford University.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Bicycle Day 2023 is observed every year on 3rd June.

- Note: Aim: To promote the importance of bicycles as a means of transportation, fostering sustainability, health, and well-being. The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2018 to recognize the uniqueness, versatility and sustainability of the bicycle and its positive impact on society. The initiative to establish this Day was led by Turkmenistan, with the support of numerous other countries.

World Environment Day is observed annually on June 5 to create awareness about the protection of the environment and the earth's well-being.

- Note: The theme for World Environment Day 2023 is 'Solutions to plastic pollution', under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution. The day is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the Netherlands. This year marks the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day, which will focus on solutions to plastic pollution.

The fifth World Food Safety Day is celebrated on 7 June 2023 to draw attention to help prevent, detect, and manage food borne risks, contributing to food security, human health, agriculture, and sustainable development.

- Note: 2023 theme: Food Standards Save Live; the 2023 theme emphasizes that how important food standards are to protecting public health. This day was established by the WHO and FAO in 2018. On June 7, 2019, the first World Food Safety Day was observed.

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The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed every year on June 4.

- Note: Aim: To bring attention to children who experience various forms of aggression; It serves as a solemn reminder of the suffering endured by countless children globally, regardless of the specific type of abuse they endure.

International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is celebrated on June 5 every year.

- Note: The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 to raise awareness of the problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing is a major threat to global fish stocks and the marine environment.

World Milk Day is observed every year on 1st June.

- Note: This day was created in the year 2001 by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN). Aim: To promote the consumption and benefits of milk around the world. The goal of this day is to provide us with a chance to raise awareness of and support in any manner possible initiatives related to the dairy industry. For 2023, the theme for World Milk Day will focus on the importance of dairy in the reduction of carbon footprints as well as providing nutritious foods and livelihoods.

The Global Day of Parents is observed every year on June 1 to recognize the critical role parents play in the lives of their children and the well-being of society as a whole.

- Note: This day serves as an opportunity to honor and appreciate the dedication, love, and sacrifices of parents worldwide. The day emphasizes the importance of parental guidance in shaping the lives of children and promoting their overall well-being.

World Oceans Day is observed every year on 8 June to create awareness about the significance of oceans, and importance of preserving and conserving oceanic resources.

- Note: 2023 theme: Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing; The concept was originally proposed by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada at the Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.

World Brain Tumor Day is celebrated annually on June 8 for creating awareness about brain tumors.

- Note: Theme 2023: Protect yourself – keep away from stress; Brain tumor is characterised by abnormal growth of cells in the brain, it can be grown in any part of the brain or skull including the underside of the brain, brainstem and nasal cavity among others. Researchers have identified more than 120 types of brain tumors which are based on the brain tissue that it impacts

World Accreditation Day is an annual global observance held on June 9 to recognize and promote the role of accreditation across various sectors.

- Note: Aim: To raise awareness about the value and benefits of accreditation in ensuring competence, reliability, and credibility in industries such as healthcare, laboratories, certification bodies, and conformity assessment services. 2023 theme: Accreditation: Supporting the Future of Global Trade.

The World Day against Child Labour is observed annually on June 12 to support the expanding anti-child labour movement.

- Note: ILO declared June 12 to be the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to raise awareness of this problem. "Week of Action against Child Labour" is the theme for the 2023 World Day Against Child Labour. The ILO intends to start a week-long campaign to raise public awareness of the injustice of child labour and inspire people to take action.

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International Albinism Awareness Day is observed annually on June 13 to ensure the inclusion of the voices of persons with albinism in all sectors of life.

- Note: 2023 theme: Inclusion is Strength; Albinism is a genetic condition that can lead to the absence of melanin production in the human body. In 2013, the United Nations Human Rights Commission passed a resolution called Attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism.

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year on June 14 to raise awareness for the necessity of blood donation and thank the altruistic acts of selflessness of voluntary blood donors and celebrate life and humanity.

- Note: 2023 theme: Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often; This day was first distinguished by the WHO in 2004. At the 58th World Health Assembly (2005), it was declared an annual global event on June 14 (the birthday of Karl Landsteiner).

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed every year on June 15 to raise awareness about the abuse experienced by older adults.

- Note: 2023 theme: Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age - Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses. In 2006, this day was started by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). In 2011, the United Nations adopted it as a designated day for the prevention of abuse of older people.

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed annually on June 17th to raise awareness about the threats posed by desertification and drought and promote efforts to combat these challenges.

- Note: 2023 theme: Her land, Her rights. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was established in 1994 following a convention held at the United Nations General Assembly. The inaugural observance took place in 1995.

The International Day for Countering Hate Speech is observed on June 18, every year to address the pressing global problem of hate speech.

- Note: This day holds great importance as it calls for collective action to counter the spread of divisive rhetoric and promote understanding, respect, and inclusivity. The Day marked by UNGA recognized the devastating consequences of hate speech and reaffirms the commitment to human rights and equality.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed every year on June 19th each year to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD).

- Note: 2023 theme: Building and strengthening global sickle cell communities, formalizing new born screening, and knowing your sickle cell disease status. It is a genetic blood disorder characterized by abnormal red blood cells that take on a crescent or sickle shape. These irregularly shaped cells can cause blockages in blood vessels.

World Refugee Day is commemorated every year on 20th June to serve as a reminder of the challenges faced by millions of individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence.

- Note: 2023 theme: Hope Away from Home. This year's theme highlighted the resilience and challenges faced by refugees, who lost everything. On December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly established this day through Resolution 55/76.

The International Day of Yoga is observed every year on June 21 since 2015.

- Note: This year, the theme for International Yoga Day is "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". This year's theme highlighted beautifully encapsulates collective aspiration for "One Earth, One Family, One Future. On 11 December 2014, the UN proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131. The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India.

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World Music Day is an annual event that is observed on June 21 every year to celebrate the global language of music.

- Note: The theme for World Music Day 2023 is "Music on the Intersections". Aim: To promote peace and bring together people of different nationalities, cultures, races and ethnicity together through the power of music. World Music Day is also known as Fête de la Musique as it has its origin in France.

International Widows Day is observed annually on June 23 to spread awareness about the plight of millions of widows facing poverty.

- Note: 2023 theme: Innovation and technology for gender equality. The first-ever International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation back on June 23rd, 2005. In 2010, the UNGA recognized the importance of this day and they officially adopted International Widows Day to share its importance on a global level.

International Women in Engineering Day is observed every year on June 23 for improving the participation of young girls in the field of engineering.

- Note: The theme of the special day this year is 'Make Safety Seen'. In 2014, the United Kingdom officially dedicated June 23 to lead a national campaign for women in the engineering field. In 2017, UNESCO celebrated this day for the first time, to mark the vigilant efforts of women in the engineering society.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed annually on June 26 to spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse.

- Note: Various campaigns, rallies, and awareness programs are held worldwide on this day. This is observed to honour Lin Zexu, who played a key role in the demolition of the opium trade in the Guangdong region of China. 2023 theme: People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention

World MSME Day is observed on June 27 every year to raise awareness about the importance of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in promoting inclusive and sustainable development worldwide.

- Note: The Global Council for the Promotion of International Trade is celebrating the day with "Building a Stronger Future Together" theme of this year. The theme of MSME Day 2023 in India is "Future-ready MSMEs for India@100."

India observed National Statistics Day on June 29 every year, to celebrate the birth anniversary of statistician P. C. Mahalanobis.

- Note: This day was first celebrated in 2007 in India. The theme of Statistics Day, 2023 is "Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals". Statistics Day in India is celebrated by conducting seminars, conferences, and other interactive events.

International Asteroid Day is observed annually on 30 June to raise awareness about the potential hazards posed by asteroid impacts.

- Note: It also aims to educate people about the global crisis communication measures to be taken in the event of a credible near-Earth object threat. In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution (A/RES/71/90) establishing June 30th as International Asteroid Day. World Music Day is also known as Fête de la Musique as it has its origin in France.

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LEGAL NEWS

Telangana Eunuchs Act

- The Telangana High Court recently made a significant ruling on July 6, striking down the Telangana Eunuchs Act of 1919. The court found the Act to be unconstitutional, infringing upon the rights of transgender individuals and undermining their equality, privacy, and dignity.

Horizontal Reservations for Transgender Persons

- The issue of providing additional reservations for transgender persons in education and public employment has come under scrutiny in the Bombay High Court. The Maharashtra government has responded that it would be challenging to implement additional reservations due to the existing reservation system for various communities in India. Vertical reservations target social asymmetry and backwardness based on caste hierarchy, benefiting Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. On the other hand, horizontal reservations cut across all vertical groups to ensure affirmative measures for disadvantaged groups within categories, such as disabled persons.

Livestock and Livestock Products (Importation and Exportation) Bill, 2023

- The proposed Livestock and Livestock Products (Importation and Exportation) Bill-2023 aims to replace outdated laws and establish regulations for the import and export of live animals. The Livestock and Livestock Products (Importation and Exportation) Bill-2023 is intended to replace two existing laws, namely the Live-stock Importation Act, 1898, and the Live-stock (Amendment) Act, 2001. These laws have become outdated, necessitating alignment with contemporary requirements and prevailing circumstances related to sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. The 2001 amendment to the Live-stock Importation Act broadened its scope by including the import of livestock products in addition to live-stock. This change recognized the importance of regulating the importation of not only live animals but also various livestock products, such as meat, milk, and genetic materials.

Right to Change One's Name

- The right to change one's name has been a subject of legal scrutiny in recent cases. The High Courts of Allahabad and Delhi have ruled that this right is an intrinsic part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The High Courts of Allahabad and Delhi have played a significant role in recognizing the right to change one's name. Both courts have acknowledged that this right is protected under Article 21, which guarantees the right to life. This landmark ruling establishes the importance of personal autonomy in choosing one's name. In the case of '*Sadanand & Anr. vs CBSE & Ors*', the Delhi High Court allowed two brothers to change their surname due to caste atrocities and social stigma. The petitioners sought to overcome the disadvantages associated with their original surname, 'Mochi'. The court determined that the right to one's identity is an inherent component of the Right to Life as enshrined in Article 21.

Supreme Court Order on Manglik

- In a significant development, the Supreme Court of India has intervened and stayed the order of the Allahabad High Court that directed the examination of a rape complainant's horoscope to determine her "manglik" status. The Supreme Court took a decisive step by staying the implementation of the Allahabad High Court's order. This intervention ensures that the legal proceedings focus on the substantive merits of the case, setting aside any reliance on superstitious beliefs. The belief surrounding being manglik is steeped in superstition, where people associate it with the potential to bring misery, ill-health, and even death to a non-manglik spouse. This belief lacks scientific evidence and predominantly stems from cultural traditions and astrological practices.

SEBI-SAT Stalemate Over Provision 23(E) of SCRA

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) are currently embroiled in a stalemate over the interpretation of a specific provision in the securities law. At the heart of the impasse lies Provision 23(E) of the Securities Contracts (Regulations) Act (SCRA). This provision states that any company violating listing conditions could face a penalty of

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up to ₹25 crore. However, there is a disagreement between Sebi and SAT regarding the interpretation of “listing conditions.” Sebi has taken the stance that “listing conditions” specified in the Act refer to violations of listing rules. On the other hand, SAT rejects this interpretation and argues that the provision only applies if listing conditions are not met. Consequently, SAT has overturned more than half a dozen Sebi orders related to listing-agreement violations.

Karnataka High Court’s Verdict on Necrophilia

- The Karnataka High Court recently delivered a significant verdict regarding a controversial case involving sexual intercourse with a woman’s dead body. In the case before the Karnataka High Court, which involved a rape and murder incident of a 21-year-old woman, the court held that having sexual intercourse with a woman’s dead body does not fall under the offense of rape punishable under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The court acquitted the accused of the charge of “raping” the victim’s dead body, stating that there is no provision in the IPC to punish such an act. The court further stated that the dead body cannot be considered a human or a person, leading to the conclusion that the provisions of Sections 375 (rape) and 377 (unnatural offenses) of the IPC do not apply. The court specifically labeled sexual intercourse with a dead body as necrophilia, defining it as a morbid fascination with death and the dead. It highlighted that necrophilia is not explicitly listed as an offense in the IPC.

Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016

- The Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act of 2016 is a significant legislation aimed at enforcing a complete ban on the sale, consumption, and transportation of liquor and intoxicants within the state. Over time, the law has undergone several amendments to address various challenges and improve its effectiveness. The Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016, is a law that imposes a comprehensive ban on the sale, consumption, and transportation of liquor and intoxicants in Bihar. Its primary objective is to promote social welfare and address issues such as domestic violence and crimes against women.

Law Commission’s Report on Sedition Law

- The Law Commission of India has recently proposed key amendments to the law of sedition, aiming to prevent alleged misuse while ensuring clarity and safeguarding constitutional rights. Let’s delve into the details of these proposed changes and their potential impact. Last year, in response to concerns about potential misuse of the sedition law, the Supreme Court temporarily stayed its operation. Former Chief Justice of India, N V Ramana, expressed apprehensions regarding the law’s application. However, in 1962, the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in the Kedarnath Singh case upheld the constitutional validity of Section 124A, narrowing its scope to those who incite violence. To address the ambiguities surrounding sedition, the Law Commission recommends incorporating the ratio decidendi of the Kedarnath Singh ruling. This inclusion would bring greater clarity to the interpretation and application of the provision. By doing so, the proposed amendments aim to strike a balance between safeguarding fundamental rights and maintaining social harmony.

Draft Aircraft Bill, 2023

- The civil aviation ministry in India has taken a significant step towards enhancing regulations in the aviation sector with the introduction of the Draft Aircraft Bill, 2023. This bill aims to streamline and improve provisions related to the design, manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import, and export of aircraft. The Draft Aircraft Bill, 2023 is a proactive measure by the civil aviation ministry to establish an effective framework for the regulation and control of various aspects related to aircraft operations in India. It recognizes the need to modernize and simplify existing regulations to meet the current needs of the industry. Before drafting the new bill, a comprehensive review of the existing legislation, the Aircraft Act of 1934, was undertaken. This evaluation aimed to identify redundancies, address shortcomings, and align the regulations with the evolving aviation landscape.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

India-EU Global Gateway Conference

- The Ministry of External Affairs, the EU Delegation to India, and the Asian Confluence have come together to organize the India-EU Connectivity Conference. This conference aims to explore opportunities for boosting connectivity investments in India's North Eastern States and its neighboring countries. The India-EU Connectivity Conference, scheduled to take place in Meghalaya, marks an important milestone in enhancing connectivity and building infrastructure. It is the outcome of the India – EU Connectivity partnership that was launched in May 2021 during the India – EU Leaders' Meeting.

Brazil's Bill 490

- Protests have broken out across Brazil in response to the approval of a new land bill by the country's Chamber of Deputies. The bill, known as Bill 490, imposes restrictions on the recognition of ancestral land for indigenous people. This move has sparked outrage and opposition from tribal communities and their supporters. Bill 490 was approved by a vote of 283 to 155 in the Chamber of Deputies. This outcome has heightened tensions and exacerbated the already existing disputes over land rights and indigenous sovereignty in Brazil.

Kakhovka Dam

- A significant event has unfolded in southern Ukraine, where the Kakhovka Dam on the Dnipro River, separating Russian and Ukrainian forces, was breached. Situated on the banks of the Dnipro River, the dam in question was constructed in 1956 during the Soviet era. This engineering marvel stands at an impressive height of 30 meters (98 feet) and spans a length of 3.2 kilometers (2 miles). Its primary purpose was to support the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant and harness the river's energy potential.

Helmand River Dispute

- Iran and Afghanistan have been involved in a longstanding conflict concerning the distribution of water resources from the Helmand River. Recent events, including clashes between Iranian and Taliban troops along the border, have further escalated tensions between the two countries. The Helmand River serves as a crucial water source for both Afghanistan and Iran, supporting agriculture, livelihoods, and ecosystems in the region. Originating near Kabul in the Hindu Kush mountain range, the river flows for approximately 1,150 kilometers (715 miles) before emptying into Lake Hamun, which straddles the Afghanistan-Iran border.

Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project

- In a significant collaboration, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Vidhyut Utpadan Company (VUCL) have signed an initial pact for the development of the Phukot Karnali hydroelectric project. The Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project is expected to have an installed capacity of 480 MW. This substantial capacity will enable the generation of approximately 2,448 GWh of electricity annually. The project aims to leverage the flow of the Karnali River to harness hydroelectric power and contribute to the energy needs of the region.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Act

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is a significant international treaty that upholds the civil and political rights of individuals. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1966 and has since gained substantial global participation. It has been implemented in Sri Lanka through the ICCPR Act, which is facing criticism due to its misuse by the government.

GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027

- The Government of India (GoI) and the United Nations (UN) have joined hands to strengthen their commitment towards sustainable development. A significant milestone was achieved with the signing of the Government of India – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation

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Framework (GoI-UNSDCF) 2023-2027. This partnership aims to accelerate progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promote gender equality, empower youth, and uphold human rights.

UK Treasury Grants Equivalence to RBI-Authorized Clearing Houses

- The United Kingdom Treasury has recently made a significant decision to accord equivalence to central counterparties authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This move marks a crucial step in resolving a regulatory tussle between the RBI and overseas authorities. The decision by the UK Treasury to grant equivalence to RBI-authorized clearing houses represents a significant milestone in addressing the regulatory conflict between the RBI and foreign regulatory bodies. This resolution offers a path forward for cooperation and collaboration in the realm of financial market infrastructures.

India-Egypt Strategic Partnership

- India and Egypt have taken significant steps to enhance their bilateral cooperation through a strategic partnership agreement. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Egypt, several key developments unfolded, solidifying the relationship between the two nations. The strategic partnership agreement between India and Egypt aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation across various sectors. Its primary purpose is to enhance the existing relationship between the two nations and foster closer ties on multiple fronts. Egyptian President El-Sisi visited India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January. This visit played a crucial role in setting the foundation for the strategic partnership agreement. It marked a significant moment in bilateral relations and laid the groundwork for future collaborations.

SPORTS NEWS

Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav

- The recently concluded Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav at KIIT, Bhubneshwar witnessed an incredible display of talent and sportsmanship as tribal athletes from across India came together to compete in various disciplines. With a resounding victory in multiple categories, Odisha emerged as the undisputed champion in the men's and women's divisions, cementing their stature as a sporting powerhouse. With a remarkable showcase of talent, the inaugural edition of the Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav witnessed the participation of 5,000 tribal athletes, representing 26 states across India. Karnataka showcased their competitive spirit, securing the first runners-up position in the overall standings. Jharkhand showcased their talent as well, securing the second runners-up position, further adding to the excitement and intensity of the event.

Bhavani Devi: First Indian Fencer to Win Medal in Asian Championships

- Indian fencer C.A. Bhavani Devi achieved a historic milestone by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian fencing championships. Competing in the women's sabre event, Bhavani's exceptional performance earned her a well-deserved bronze medal. In the semi-finals, Bhavani faced off against Zaynab Dayibekova from Uzbekistan. Despite a hard-fought battle, Bhavani narrowly lost the match by a score of 14-15. Nevertheless, her performance throughout the tournament showcased her exceptional abilities and resilience.

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.

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Current Objective Questions

1. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Cheetah Project Steering Committee set up by NTCA?
 - (a) Rajesh Bansal
 - (b) Jitendra Singh
 - (c) Ashwini Vaishnaw
 - (d) Gagandeep Singh Bedi
2. Which institutions released the 'Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan'?
 - (a) ISRO and Indian Air Force
 - (b) ISRO and Indian Navy
 - (c) ISRO and Indian Army
 - (d) ISRO and NSIL
3. What is 'Gomphonema rajaguruii', which was discovered recently?
 - (a) Algae
 - (b) Bacteria
 - (c) Fungi
 - (d) Virus
4. Which company is set to build Israel's most powerful AI supercomputer- Israel1?
 - (a) Samsung
 - (b) NVIDIA
 - (c) IMD
 - (d) Qualcomm
5. Which Union Ministry releases 'Periodic Labour Force Survey Figures'?
 - (a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
 - (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
 - (c) Ministry of MSME
 - (d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
6. The 'Greentech Safety Award 2023' was awarded to which organisation?
 - (a) REC
 - (b) RINL
 - (c) PFC
 - (d) SAIL
7. PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search spectrograph (PARAS) Telescope is in which place?
 - (a) Nainital
 - (b) Guwahati
 - (c) Mount Abu
 - (d) Mahendragiri
8. What is Hvaldimir, which is being suspected of being a Russian spy?
 - (a) Robot
 - (b) Whale
 - (c) Eagle
 - (d) Horse
9. Which city is the host of the 'International Organic Mahotsav-2023'?
 - (a) Mysuru
 - (b) Guwahati

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- (c) Visakhapatnam
(d) Kochi
10. As of 2023, India has how many joint logistics nodes?
(a) One
(b) Three
(c) Five
(d) Seven
11. Which state government has been permitted to continue mining work in Gaula river?
(a) Assam
(b) Uttarakhand
(c) Jharkhand
(d) West Bengal
12. Which term refers to the increased build-up of fat in the liver?
(a) Steatosis
(b) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
(c) Cerebral palsy
(d) Ataxia
13. Narengi Military Station is situated in which state/UT?
(a) West Bengal
(b) Assam
(c) Punjab
(d) Rajasthan
14. Which Union Territory topped the 'Food Safety Index 2022-23'?
(a) New Delhi
(b) Lakshadweep
(c) Ladakh
(d) Jammu and Kashmir
15. Which Indian cricketer has become only the third Indian opener to cross 13,000 runs across formats?
(a) Virat Kohli
(b) Rohit Sharma
(c) Ravindra Jadeja
(d) Shubman Gill
16. Who is the head of the committee set up by the Union Home Ministry in Manipur to facilitate the peace-making process?
(a) Union Home Minister
(b) Manipur Governor
(c) Manipur Chief Minister
(d) Prime Minister of India
17. Which city is the most expensive city in India for expatriates, as per the Mercer's Cost of Living Report?
(a) New Delhi
(b) Bengaluru
(c) Mumbai
(d) Hyderabad
18. Which state/UT hosted the 'National conference of tribal writers'?
(a) Maharashtra
(b) Jammu and Kashmir

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- (c) West Bengal
(d) Odisha
19. Which country has approved record USD 153bn budget aimed at creating jobs?
(a) Iraq
(b) USA
(c) UK
(d) Israel
20. Which country clinched its maiden Women's Junior Hockey Asia Cup title?
(a) Sri Lanka
(b) India
(c) China
(d) South Korea
21. Kamala Sohonie, who was honoured in the Google Doodle, was the first Indian woman to achieve which feat?
(a) Get a PhD degree in a scientific discipline.
(b) Become an Astronaut
(c) Get the first Sports Medal
(d) Receive Academy Award
22. Which city hosted the 'National Conference on 'Foundational Literacy and Numeracy'?'
(a) Chennai
(b) Pune
(c) Mysuru
(d) Varanasi
23. Which institution released the 'Food Outlook Report'?'
(a) WEF
(b) FAO
(c) NABARD
(d) NITI Aayog
24. Which institution conducts the 'India's Household Consumption Expenditure Survey'?'
(a) Reserve Bank of India
(b) National Statistical Office
(c) Ministry of Finance
(d) NITI Aayog
25. ISRO has agreed to undertake a joint mission to the International Space Station in 2024, along with which country?
(a) UAE
(b) Israel
(c) USA
(d) France
26. As per a recent report, which is the fastest warming Continent in the World?
(a) North America
(b) Europe
(c) Australia
(d) Asia
27. Which institution released the 'Global Food Policy Report (GFPR) 2023'?'
(a) FAO
(b) IFPRI

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- (c) FSSAI
(d) FCI
28. Where was the 91st Annual Meeting of International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD 2023) held?
(a) Sweden
(b) Denmark
(c) India
(d) Brazil
29. Which Union Ministry launched 'PM-Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature'?
(a) Ministry of Electronics and IT
(b) Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare
(c) Ministry of MSME
(d) Ministry of Home Affairs
30. What is the name of the closest supermassive black hole to the Earth?
(a) Tarzan A
(b) Sagittarius A
(c) Titan A
(d) Suzlon A
31. Which country unveiled the 'Obstetric Fistula Strategic Plan'?
(a) India
(b) Zambia
(c) Malaysia
(d) Japan
32. Which state/UT inaugurated the 'Shiva Srishti' theme park?
(a) Uttarakhand
(b) Maharashtra
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Gujarat
33. Which city has successfully tested Medication Delivery via Drones with collision avoidance technology and real-time monitoring?
(a) New York
(b) Dubai
(c) Melbourne
(d) London
34. Strawberry Moon is the full moon of which month?
(a) June
(b) July
(c) August
(d) September
35. Who is the first female officer in Army Service Corps to take charge of Communication Zone Mechanical Transport Battalion?
(a) Colonel Shuchita Shekhar
(b) Colonel Avani Chaturvedi
(c) Captain Mohana Singh Jitarwal
(d) Captain Bhawana Kanth

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36. Which state hosted the Urs-e-Sharif event of Sufi saint Hazrat Khwaja Banda Nawaz Gesudaraz?
(a) Tamil Nadu
(b) Karnataka
(c) West Bengal
(d) Odisha
37. Which state/UT launched Disha Mobile App aimed at safety and security of women?
(a) Kerala
(b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Rajasthan
(d) West Bengal
38. What is the outlay of 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' from 2021 to 2025?
(a) Rs 298 crore
(b) Rs 798 crore
(c) Rs 2980 crore
(d) Rs 7980 crore
39. Which country is set to deploy a satellite constellation called "Silent Barker"?
(a) Russia
(b) Ukraine
(c) USA
(d) China
40. Which state/UT approved the Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS) to employees?
(a) Kerala
(b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Odisha
(d) West Bengal
41. Which state recently announced that the prisons in the state will be known as "Reform Homes"?
(a) Uttar Pradesh
(b) Assam
(c) Bihar
(d) Gujarat
42. Roger Payne, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?
(a) Politician
(b) Biologist
(c) Sports person
(d) Business person
43. The first consignment of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was transported from Kolkata to which place?
(a) Assam
(b) Sikkim
(c) Myanmar
(d) Laos
44. 'Miyawaki forests' is a method originated in which country?
(a) South Korea
(b) Japan
(c) China
(d) Israel

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45. Which city hosted the 'National Conference on 'Foundational Literacy and Numeracy'?
- (a) Chennai
 - (b) Pune
 - (c) Mysuru
 - (d) Varanasi
46. Which country is the host of the 'Ex Khaan Quest 2023' multilateral peacekeeping joint exercise?
- (a) India
 - (b) Sri Lanka
 - (c) Mongolia
 - (d) Israel
47. What is the name of the plant which grows on another plant/tree drawing moisture and nutrients not from host?
- (a) Parasite
 - (b) Epiphyte
 - (c) Phorophyte
 - (d) Photophyte
48. What is the name given to tiny particles of plastic debris that are smaller than 5 millimeters in size?
- (a) Mini plastics
 - (b) Micro plastics
 - (c) Milli plastics
 - (d) Tiny plastics
49. Which country announced the 'Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme'?
- (a) France
 - (b) Ireland
 - (c) Germany
 - (d) UK
50. Which famous personality has been conferred the prestigious German peace prize?
- (a) Narendra Modi
 - (b) Salman Rushdie
 - (c) Kamala Harris
 - (d) Venus Williams

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ANSWER - KEY

CURRENT OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

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



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UTTAR PRADESH



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