

CurrentTap

Comprehensive **Current Affairs Magazine** Covering

GA**ESI****FINANCE**

February 2023 – 1st to 28th

PREFACE TO THE MAGAZINE

What is the most optimum way to utilize this document for RBI Grade B, NABARD Grade A and SEBI Grade A examinations?

Areas to be focused for Current Affairs:

- After thorough analysis of previous year papers, it is evident that the Current Affairs form an integral part of these examinations – both for **Phase 1 and phase 2** [Note: for SEBI/PFRDA Gr A – it would be majorly relevant for Phase 1].
- For **RBI Grade B**, current affairs-based questions are asked in General Awareness (GA) section in **Phase 1** and **Economics and Social Issues (ESI) and Finance papers in Phase 2**.
- For **NABARD Grade A** exam, current affairs questions are asked in **Merit Sections in Phase 1 (GA, ESI and ARD Sections)**, as well as under ESI and ARD Section of Phase 2.

WEIGHTAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS (CA) IN PHASE 1 AND 2:

Let's look at RBI Grade B first:

| Phase 1 – GA | Phase 2 – ESI | | Phase 2 – FM | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Total Marks = 80 | Objective (50 Marks) | Descriptive (50 Marks) | Objective (50 Marks) | Descriptive (50 Marks) |
| CA weightage = 60-65 Marks | CA weightage = 40-45 Marks | CA weightage = 15-20 marks | CA weightage = 5-10 Marks | CA weightage = 10-20 Marks |

Now, a closer look at NABARD Grade A exam:

| Phase 1 | | | Phase 2 (ESI and ARD) | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| GA – 20 Marks | ESI – 40 Marks | ARD – 40 Marks | Objective – 50 Marks | Descriptive - 50 Marks |
| CA weightage = 15-20 Marks | CA weightage = 25 -30 Marks | CA weightage = 10-15 Marks | CA weightage = 35-40 Marks | CA weightage = 20 - 25 Marks |

NATURE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED QUESTIONS:

To understand and better appreciate the nature of questions asked, this current affairs document provided by EduTap has been divided into 4 sections namely:

- GA** :- It covers news which is relevant only for the Phase 1 of examination
- GA + ESI** :- It covers those news which is relevant for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 (GA as well as ESI).
- GA + Finance** :- It covers those news which is relevant for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 (GA as well as Finance in RBI & SEBI and in ESI section of NABARD).
- Static GA** :- Relevant for Phase 1 of examination (covers static portion derived from Current Affairs).

Why this division?

- For the simple reason – **Current Affairs** needs to be prepared in a combined manner for Phase 1 as well as Phase 2 of these examinations.
- **General Awareness** has been taken as the **super set** and all other sections – **ESI, Finance and ARD** are nothing but subsets of the super set of **GA** when we talk about current affairs.
- Simply put, this means that all the **current affairs which are important for ESI, ARD and Finance can also be asked in GA** (ARD for NABARD Grade A specifically)

Examples from the Previous Year Questions:

Q. Germany has committed to provide additional support worth euro 10 bn to India by the year ____ to support Green Growth Papers. [RBI Gr B 2022 - Phase 1]

- A. 2026
 - B. 2027
 - C. 2028
 - D. 2029
 - E. 2030
- First look at this question suggests that this can be asked in the **ESI section of the examinations** as the topic “**Sustainable Development and Environmental issues**” has been mentioned in the official syllabus of ESI for both RBI Gr B and NABARD Gr A examinations.
 - But, **can this question also be asked under General Awareness Section** of Phase 1 of RBI Gr B and NABARD Gr A or SEBI Gr A? **Yes!**

Let us take another example:

Q. India has recently become the only country to adopt the T+1 settlement system after _____. [RBI Gr B 2022 - Phase 1]

- A. China
 - B. Russia
 - C. United States of America
 - D. Germany
 - E. Canada
- First look at this question suggests that this can be asked in the **Finance section of the examination** as the topic “**Primary and Secondary Market**” has been mentioned in the official syllabus of Finance for RBI Grade B examination.
 - But, **can this question also be asked under General Awareness Section** of Phase 1 of RBI Gr B and NABARD Gr A/B or SEBI Gr A? **Again, Yes!**
 - So, we have firmly established that the questions asked based on current affairs in ESI, ARD as well as Finance can be asked in the GA section as well, didn’t we say that **GA is the super set**?
 - This also implies that **there are certain areas in GA which cannot be asked in ESI, ARD or Finance**.
 - **What are those areas?** Let us consider an example:

Q. What is the name of third India-Bangladesh passenger train that is set to run from New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) to Dhaka Cantonment Railway Station (Bangladesh)? [NABARD Grade A 2022 – Phase 1]

- A. Samjhauta Express

- B. Sadhvna Express
 - C. Maitri Express
 - D. Mitali Express
 - E. Bandhan Express
- Now, this question can be asked in **GA** section **but not in ESI, Finance or ARD. Why?** For the simple reason that **these questions cannot be linked to any of the topics of ESI, ARD or Finance as given in the official syllabus for RBI Gr B and NABARD Gr A examinations.**

How to read this document for Phase 1?

- **For RBI Grade B** - you need to refer to **all three sections** of the magazine, as the Phase 1 syllabus includes **General Awareness (GA)**. This **GA** includes **GA in news, GA + ESI in news and GA + Finance in news**.
- **For NABARD Grade A** - you need to refer to **first and second part** of the magazine. The syllabus of the exam includes **GA, ESI & ARD** (A separate magazine is provided for ARD in NABARD Course).

How to read this document for Phase 2?

- **For RBI Grade B** - you need to refer to the **second and third sections** of this magazine. First section (GA in news) is not important for Phase 2. Section 2 (**GA + ESI in news**) and Section 3 (**GA + Finance in news**) are important for Phase 2 with two separate exams of ESI and FM, 100 marks each.
- **For NABARD Grade A** – you need to refer to **second and third sections** of this magazine for Phase 2 of this paper. It is important to note that financial developments covered in Finance sections are also relevant for the NABARD Grade A with the changing pattern of the examination.
- **Note:** Syllabus Topic mentioned in ESI part of NABARD Gr A which is related to all the Finance section news – “**Rural banking and financial institutions in India - Reforms in Banking/Financial sector**”.

How we are helping you?

- We have divided the GA section in certain tags based on the Previous Year Questions' analysis. These tags have been arranged in the order of their relevance for examination. You need to go through these tags in the order of priority for best coverage. For example – **First in News, Government Initiatives, MoUs and Agreements etc.**
- **ESI and Finance** sections have also been divided under tags segregated in the order of priority. In both ESI and Finance sections, tag-wise PIB news are being provided separately.

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| PREFACE TO THE MAGAZINE | 2 |
| 1 GA IN NEWS..... | 12 |
| FIRST IN NEWS | 12 |
| GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES..... | 17 |
| SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES..... | 21 |
| MOUs AND AGREEMENTS..... | 23 |
| BANKING AND FINANCE..... | 30 |
| SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY..... | 32 |
| DEFENCE..... | 33 |
| ENVIRONMENT | 35 |
| SPORTS | 36 |
| AWARDS | 39 |
| APPOINTMENT | 44 |
| PERSONS IN NEWS | 46 |
| BOOKS AND AUTHORS | 48 |
| FAIRS AND FESTIVALS..... | 49 |
| PLACES IN NEWS | 51 |
| DAYS IN NEWS | 52 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 55 |
| 2 GA + ESI..... | 59 |
|  PIB IN NEWS | |
| SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH | 59 |
| 2.1 Initiatives for Health Systems in Rural and Tribal Areas | 59 |
| 2.2 Mission to Eliminate Sickle Cell Disease..... | 59 |
| 2.3 Digital Portal for Crowd funding and voluntary donations for patients of Rare Disease | 60 |
| 2.4 Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme..... | 60 |
| 2.5 National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)..... | 61 |
| 2.6 National Action Plan on containment of Antimicrobial Resistance | 62 |

| | | |
|------|--|----|
| 2.7 | Tele-MANAS Scheme..... | 62 |
| 2.8 | Sarva Dawa Sevan Campaign | 63 |
| 2.9 | Swastha Mann, Swastha Ghar Campaign..... | 63 |
| 2.10 | “eSanjeevani” crosses milestone of 10 crore consultations | 63 |
| 2.11 | Suposhit Maa Initiative | 64 |
| 2.12 | Global patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030..... | 65 |
| 2.13 | Regional Epidemiology Training Program National Conference of Southeast Asian Region | |
| | 65 | |
| | SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION | 65 |
| 2.14 | Jadui Pitara: A Teaching Material | 65 |
| 2.15 | Age Alignment for Foundational Stage..... | 66 |
| | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES | 67 |
| 2.16 | Jal-Jan Abhiyan..... | 67 |
| 2.17 | Indo-French Workshop on Clean and Sustainable Energy Technologies (INFINITE) | 67 |
| 2.18 | MoU for Waste to Wealth/ Energy plants | 67 |
| 2.19 | Green Window Programme for Green Energy | 68 |
| 2.20 | Save Wetland Campaign | 68 |
| 2.21 | Sagar Parikrama | 69 |
| 2.22 | DHARA 2023: Annual Meeting of RCA | 70 |
| 2.23 | India Energy Week (IEW) 2023 | 71 |
| 2.24 | Global Biofuel alliance launched by India | 72 |
| 2.25 | Gyaan Vigyan Aur Hum’- Online Green Talk Series | 72 |
| 2.26 | Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR) | 73 |
| 2.27 | Common But Differentiated Responsibilities & Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)..... | 73 |
| 2.28 | Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability Project | 73 |
| 2.29 | India Hydrogen Alliance (IH2A) | 74 |
| 2.30 | National workshop on LiFE | 74 |
| 2.31 | Initiatives to address climate change | 76 |
| 2.32 | Electric Vehicles (EVs) Data..... | 76 |
| 2.33 | Initiatives for Green Steel | 77 |
| 2.34 | Initiatives to Incentivize Private Sector Investment in RE Industry..... | 77 |
| 2.35 | Don’t Choose Extinction campaign..... | 77 |
| 2.36 | Green Ports and Green Shipping | 78 |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| 2.37 | Capital subsidy for setting up of pelleting and briquetting plants | 78 |
| 2.38 | Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) | 78 |
| 2.39 | United Nation's Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) | 79 |
| 2.40 | Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)..... | 80 |
| EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA..... | | 80 |
| 2.41 | SARAS AAJEEVIKA MELA, 2023 | 80 |
| 2.42 | Initiatives for Female Workers..... | 80 |
| 2.43 | E-Shram Portal | 81 |
| SOCIAL JUSTICE | | 82 |
| 2.44 | Representation of OBC & ST | 82 |
| 2.45 | Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) | 82 |
| INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM | | 83 |
| 2.46 | Aadhaar for Electoral roll | 83 |
| 2.47 | Twenty Second Law Commission..... | 83 |
| 2.48 | PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)..... | 83 |
| 2.49 | 2 nd Edition of 'Secretariat Reforms' report..... | 84 |
| 2.50 | New security mechanism for Aadhaar authentication..... | 85 |
| BALANCE OF PAYMENTS | | 85 |
| 2.51 | Foreign Inward Remittances | 85 |
| INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION | | 86 |
| 2.52 | Shanghai Cooperation Organisation | 86 |
| 2.53 | G20 Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting..... | 86 |
| 2.54 | G20 Cyber Security Exercise and Drill | 87 |
| 2.55 | G-20 Education Working Group (EdWG) | 88 |
| 2.56 | First Meeting of Employment Working Group (EWG) of G20 | 88 |
| 2.57 | Youth20 (Y20) Inception Meeting | 88 |
| 2.58 | 9 th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) | 89 |
| 2.59 | Negotiating round of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework..... | 89 |
| 2.60 | G-20 Tourism Working Group Meeting | 89 |
| 2.61 | Agriculture Deputies Meeting of Agriculture Working Group | 90 |
| 2.62 | G-20 EMPOWER Inception Meeting | 90 |
| 2.63 | Environment & Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting | 90 |
| 2.64 | Urban 20 Inception Meeting..... | 91 |

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 2.65 | ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting | 91 |
| 2.66 | 1 st Meeting of G20 Digital Economy Working Group | 92 |
| 2.67 | NIELIT's International Conference on Communication, Electronics and Digital Technologies (NICE-DT 2023) | 92 |
| 2.68 | First meeting of Culture Working Group (CWG) of G20..... | 93 |
| 2.69 | MoU for Maritime Security between India and Seychelles..... | 93 |
| 2.70 | G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) Meeting | 94 |
| 2.71 | 1 st Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) | 94 |
| 2.72 | Womens 20 (W20) Inception Meeting | 95 |
| | GLOBALIZATION | 95 |
| 2.73 | UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) | 95 |
| | INDIAN AGRICULTURE | 96 |
| 2.74 | Initiatives for India's cooperative Sector | 96 |
| | INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA | 96 |
| 2.75 | Initiatives of Defence Production | 96 |
| 2.76 | Textile Advisory Group for Manmade Fibre (MMF) | 97 |
| 2.77 | National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) | 97 |
| 2.78 | Index of Industrial Production (IIP) | 97 |
| 2.79 | Occupational Safety, Heath and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020..... | 98 |
| 2.80 | Information Technology Exports from India..... | 98 |
| 2.81 | Ease of Doing Business in India..... | 99 |
| 2.82 | Rail Post Gati Shakti Express Cargo Service | 100 |
| 2.83 | 15 th edition of ELECRAMA..... | 100 |
| 2.84 | National Conference on "Geospatial Policy for National Development" | 100 |
| 2.85 | National Mission on Power Electronics Technology (NaMPET) | 101 |
| 2.86 | Initiatives for Aviation Sector | 101 |
| 2.87 | Government-e-Marketplace (GeM)..... | 102 |
| 2.88 | Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030..... | 102 |
| 2.89 | South India's 1st Industrial Corridor Project, Tumakuru | 103 |
| 2.90 | Steel Consumption in the Country..... | 103 |
| | SOCIAL MOVEMENTS | 104 |
| 2.91 | Operation SADBHAVANA (Goodwill) | 104 |
| 2.92 | Best Tourism Village Competition Portal and Rural Tourism Portal | 104 |

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 2.93 | Mission Antyodaya Survey, 2022-23 | 105 |
| 2.94 | Mission Amrit Sarovar..... | 106 |
| | PUBLIC FINANCE - POLITICAL ECONOMY - - SERVICES SECTOR IN INDIA | 106 |
| 2.95 | AirSewa Portal..... | 106 |



OTHER NEWS

| | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| | | 107 |
|--|-------|-----|

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| | SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH | 107 |
|--|---|-----|

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 2.96 | National Diagnostics Catapult (C-CAMP InDx 2.0)..... | 107 |
|------|--|-----|

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 2.97 | National Emergency Life Support (NELS) modules | 107 |
|------|--|-----|

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES | 108 |
|--|---|-----|

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 2.98 | International Solar Alliance..... | 108 |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----|

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----|
| | INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM | 109 |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----|

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 2.99 | Data on Linking of Aadhaar number to Voter ID (Others)..... | 109 |
|------|---|-----|

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-----|
| | MEASUREMENT OF GROWTH | 109 |
|--|------------------------------------|-----|

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 2.100 | IMF projections for Indian Economy | 109 |
|-------|--|-----|

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 2.101 | India's GDP projection by Morgan Stanley | 109 |
|-------|--|-----|

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 2.102 | GDP growth Projection by SBI and India Ratings | 110 |
|-------|--|-----|

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----|
| | BALANCE OF PAYMENTS | 110 |
|--|----------------------------------|-----|

| | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----|
| 2.103 | FDI equity inflows (others)..... | 110 |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----|

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----|
| | EXPORT-IMPORT POLICY | 110 |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----|

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 2.104 | GAIL signs Advance Pricing Agreement | 110 |
|-------|--|-----|

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| | INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION | 111 |
|--|---|-----|

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 2.105 | I2U2 Business Forum (others)..... | 111 |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|

| | | |
|---|--------------------|-----|
| 3 | GA + FINANCE | 112 |
|---|--------------------|-----|



PIB IN NEWS

| | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| | | 112 |
|--|-------|-----|

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| | PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET | 112 |
|--|---|-----|

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 3.1 | Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority..... | 112 |
|-----|---|-----|

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 3.2 | Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares..... | 112 |
|-----|---|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| FINTECH | 112 |
| 3.3 Real-time Payment Systems Linkage between India and Singapore | 112 |
| 3.4 Digital Transactions in India | 113 |
| 3.5 Audit standard on sustainability information | 113 |
| FINANCIAL INCLUSION | 113 |
| 3.6 Financial Literacy Week 2023 | 113 |
| 3.7 Digital Payments Utsav | 114 |
| 3.8 Digital Banking Units (DBU) | 114 |
| RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCIAL SECTOR | 115 |
| 3.9 Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) 117 | 115 |
| | |
|  | |
| OTHER NEWS | |
| 116 | |
| PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET | 116 |
| 3.10 India's Largest -Ever Private Bond Issue | 116 |
| 3.11 Issue Summary Document for filing IPO papers in XBRL format | 116 |
| 3.12 Green Bonds | 116 |
| 3.13 Green Bonds Framework | 117 |
| 3.14 Dividend Yield Fund | 117 |
| 3.15 Electronic Bank Guarantee | 118 |
| 3.16 Redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) | 118 |
| 3.17 Nifty India Municipal Bond Index | 118 |
| 3.18 Social Stock Exchanges | 118 |
| BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA | 119 |
| 3.19 Asset Repossession Module for Banks and NBFCs | 119 |
| 3.20 Pilot for QR code-based Coin Vending Machine | 119 |
| FINTECH | 119 |
| 3.21 Central Bank Digital Currency- Retail (CBDC-R) | 119 |
| 3.22 RuPay Credit Cards on UPI | 121 |
| 3.23 UPI LITE | 121 |
| 3.24 Second Global Hackathon of RBI- HARBINGER 2023 | 121 |
| 4 STATIC | 122 |



| | |
|---|-----|
| IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS | 122 |
| COUNTRY, CURRENCY AND CAPITAL | 123 |
| BANKS – HEADQUARTERS AND TAGLINES | 124 |

1 GA IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

| S.No | News | Place / Developed by / Launched | Key Facts |
|------|---|---|--|
| 1. | India's 1 st of its kind Drone with Parachute Integrated System | Developed by: Eminent Air Private Limited | Aim: To improve the safety and reliability of the goods being delivered |
| 2. | Asia's 1 st floating festival – 'Gandhisagar Floating Festival 2023' | Held at: Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh | Organized by: Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB) Aim: To promote Gandhisagar as a tourist destination in both the domestic and international markets |
| 3. | India's 1 st Multiplex within Airport Complex | Place: Chennai International Airport, Chennai Launched by: PVR Cinemas | -- |
| 4. | 1 st Female Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea – 'Manuela Roka Botey' | Place: Equatorial Guinea | She succeeds Francisco Pascual Obama Asue |
| 5. | 1 st woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to take part in an aerial wargame abroad – 'Squadron Leader Avani Chaturvedi' | Place: Japan | She participated in an air combat exercise with the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) at the Japanese airbase of Hyakuri |
| 6. | First Indian-American President of Harvard Law Review- Apsara Iyer | -- | She has been elected as the 137th President of the Harvard Law Review |
| 7. | India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2ICE) technology solution for heavy-duty trucks | Developed by: Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) under its Net carbon Zero vision. Vehicle Partner: Ashok Leyland | The truck was unveiled at India Energy Week in Bengaluru, Karnataka |
| 8. | Ladakh's first proposed biodiversity heritage site (BHS)- Yaya Tso Lake | Proposed by: Biodiversity Management Committee, the panchayat of Chumathang village, and SECURE Himalaya Project | Yaya Tso to be declared BHS under the Biological Diversity Act. Altitude of Yaya Tso: 4,820 metres Yaya Tso is also known as birds' paradise |
| 9. | First Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Gujarat Maritime Cluster- Madhvendra Singh | -- | Gujarat Maritime Cluster (GMC) is the first Commercial Maritime Cluster of India |

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| 10. | India's First Voice, Visual, Vernacular Banking App for Digitally Challenged – 'Hello Ujjivan' | Launched by: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) | Aim: To provide banking access to people with limited reading and writing skills Accessible in: 8 regional languages |
| 11. | First edition of 'Upnext India 2023' | Organized by: Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) and Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Held at: Gurugram, Haryana This initiative in the form of a series of Reverse Buyer Seller meet under the name of "UPNEXT INDIA" that kick starts with Japan |
| 12. | India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot integrated with OpenAI's ChatGPT – 'Lexi' | Launched by: Velocity | -- |
| 13. | First Hindu Girl from Pakistan posted as assistant commissioner- 'Sana Ramchand Gulwani'. | -- | -- |
| 14. | World's first 'super' magnet to test nuclear fusion power plant- 'Demo4' | Developed by: UK based Tokamak Energy | -- |
| 15. | India's first electric air-conditioned (AC) double-decker bus | Inaugurated at: Mumbai, Maharashtra | Inaugurated by: Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) |
| 16. | India's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant | To be set up at: Pune, Maharashtra To be setup by: TheGreenBillions Ltd | -- |
| 17. | First Global Support Centre of Boeing set up in India | Location: Gurugram, Haryana | --- |
| 18. | World's first satellite-based two-way capable messaging solution for premium smartphones- 'Snapdragon Satellite' | Introduced by: Qualcomm Technologies, Inc | The product was introduced at CES 2023 at Las Vegas, USA. |
| 19. | India's first fully automated escrow management solution for co-lending- 'Co-lend' | Launched by: Cashfree Payments | -- |
| 20. | India's first National Metro Rail Knowledge Centre | To be built by: GA Infra Location: Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station in Delhi | -- |
| 21. | India's 1st mobility focused cluster – 'Telangana Mobility Valley (TMV)' | Launched by: Government of Telangana | Aim: To attract investments of around Rs 50,000 crore and generate more than 4 lakh jobs in the next 5 years |

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| 22. | India's First Traffic Management System for Drones – 'Skye UTM' | Launched by: Skye Air | Aim: To allow drone operators to plan routes, make flight plans and assess risks before running drone-based operations in India |
| 23. | First VFS Global Joint Visa Application Centre (JVAC) and the VFS Global Academy | Launched at: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh | Launched by: Government of Uttar Pradesh Aim: To ease the process of visa applications |
| 24. | First-ever 'International Conference on Communication and Dissemination of Traditional Knowledge (CDTK - 2023)' | Organized at: New Delhi Organized by: CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) | SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge of India) Brochure was also released in the conference |
| 25. | First Indian American nominated to lead World Bank- Ajay Banga | -- | Recently, the President of the United States has nominated him for the role of President of World Bank. He presently serves as the Vice Chairman of General Atlantic , a US private equity firm. He previously served as the CEO of Mastercard . |
| 26. | First High Court (HC) in India to publish judgement in vernacular language- Kerala High Court | -- | Kerala HC has passed two of its recent judgements in Malayalam . The judgements were passed by a division of Chief Justice S Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chaly . |
| 27. | India's first frozen-lake marathon- 'Last Run' | Organized at: Pangong Tso (lake), Leh District, Ladakh | It has been officially registered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's highest Frozen Lake marathon . The 21 Km Marathon started from Lukung & ended at Maan village. Height of Pangong Tso: 13,862 feet |
| 28. | First City in the United States to ban caste discrimination- Seattle | -- | -- |
| 29. | World's first cloud-built demonstration satellite- JANUS-1 | Launched from: Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh | The satellite was developed & manufactured with Antaris' end-to-end cloud platform . The satellite was launched with the help of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D2 rocket developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). |

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| 30. | First heterogeneous swarm Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)/ drone system delivered to Indian Army | Delivered by: Bengaluru based NewSpace Research & Technologies | It is the world's first operational high density swarming UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) induction for military applications |
| 31. | India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer- CERVAVAC | Developed by: Serum Institute of India (SII) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) | -- |
| 32. | North India's first nuclear plant- Gorakhpur Nuclear Power Plant or the Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vid�ut Pariyojana (GHAVP) | Location: Gorakhpur village, Fatehabad district in Haryana | The plants comprise two units of 700 MWe capacity |
| 33. | First company to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions for foreign nationals visiting India- 'EbixCash Limited' | -- | The facility has been initially extended to travelers from G-20 countries arriving at select international airports. |
| 34. | First ship to be awarded 'on the spot' Unit Citation in Indian Navy- 'INS NIREEKSHAK' | -- | The diving team of INS NIREEKSHAK recently conducted the salvage operations at a depth of 219 meters in the Arabian Sea . It is the deepest salvage carried out in the country's waters . |
| 35. | First Saudi Arabian Women Astronaut to go on a space mission - Rayyana Barnawi | -- | She will join fellow Saudi male astronaut Ali Al-Qarni on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The astronauts will join the crew of the Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) by Axiom Space |
| 36. | First Arab astronaut to spend six months in space- Sultan al-Neyadi | -- | He is fondly known as " Sultan of Space ". He is from United Arab Emirates (UAE) |
| 37. | India's first indigenously developed Train Control & Supervision System- Indigenous - Automatic Train Supervision (i-ATS) System | Developed by: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation(DMRC) & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). Launched at: Shastri Park, Delhi | Developed under: 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives for metro rail transit systems |
| 38. | First bird festival in Sundarbans | Organized by: Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR) division, West Bengal Forest Department | 145 bird species spotted during the festival |
| 39. | First Indian Cricket Team Skipper to score century in all three formats of the game- Rohit Sharma | -- | He achieved this milestone at the 2023 Border-Gavaskar Test series. |

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| 40. | India's first hybrid sounding rocket by private players | Launched at: Pattipulam Village, Chengalpattu District of Tamil Nadu | Launched as a part of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission-2023. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission- 2023 was launched by Martin Foundation , in association with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India |
| 41. | First Indian president of International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Asia- Dr K Govindaraj | -- | He is the President of Basketball Federation of India (BFI). |
| 42. | 1st Global Responsible Tourism Summit | Venue: Kumarakom, Kerala | Organized by: Responsible Tourism Mission of the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala. |
| 43. | First Indian Navy submarine docked in Indonesia- INS Sindhukesari | -- | INS Sindhukesari has been docked at Jakarta for expanding military cooperation with South East Asian nations. The submarine travelled through Sunda Strait , which is between Java and Sumatra |
| 44. | First temple to perform rituals with robotic elephant- Iringadanpally Sree Krishna Temple in Thrissur district, Kerala | -- | The temple performed the ' Nadayiruthal ' ceremony of the mechanical elephant named 'Irinjadapilli Raman' . |
| 45. | 1st Snow Marathon in India | Place: Bhaderwah (Guldanda), Jammu | Organised by: Ministry of Tourism in association with Real Sports India, Amazing Bhaderwah Tourism Association (ABTA). |
| 46. | Ministry of Ayush to organize its first 'Chintan Shivir' | At Kaziranga National Park, Assam | Participants: Ministry of Ayush, Education, Health and Family welfare. Focus areas: Digital health, Technology and research |
| 47. | India's first supplier of parts for nuclear turbines | Azad Engineering along with General Electric (GE) steam power | Azad Engineering located in Hyderabad Parts will be assembled in Belfort, France |
| 48. | International Biotech Conclave (1st ever in North east region) | Ministry of Science and Technology | Venue: Manipur Organized by: Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable development (IBSD) Other events to be held along: 22 nd Congress of the international society for |

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| | | | Ethno-Pharmacology and 10 th Congress of society for Ethno-Pharmacology Theme: "Reimagine Ethnopharmacology : Globalization of traditional Medicine" |
| Additional information: India has developed four indigenous Vaccines - ZyCoV-D World's 1st and India's indigenously developed DNA Vaccine, CORBEVAXTM- India's first protein subunit vaccine, GEMCOVAC™-19 - World's 1st and India's indigenously developed mRNA vaccine and iNCOVACC-World's 1st and India's indigenously developed intranasal COVID-19 Vaccine. | | | |
| 49. | Bhutans 1st digital citizen: Royal Highness The Gyalsey (Prince) Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck | Country: Bhutan | Technology Used: Bhutan National Digital Identity (NDI) mobile wallet. It will provide secure and verifiable digital identities to citizens of Bhutan |
| 50. | North East India's first-ever compressed biogas plant project | Place: Domora Pathar in Sonapur under Kamrup (Metropolitan) district, Assam. | It is set up by entrepreneurs Pankaj Gogoi and Rakesh Doley under the banner of Redlemon Technologies Private Limited |
| 51. | First state to use robotic scavengers to clean manholes- Kerala | -- | Kerala Government has achieved this feat by launching Bandicoot- the world's first robotic scavenger . Bandicoot has been launched at Guruvayur, Thrissur District . Developer of Bandicoot: Genrobotics |
| | | | Additional Information: Bandicoot, has won the 'Kerala Pride' award at the Huddle Global 2022 conclave organised by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) at Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram. |

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

| S.No | Initiatives / Programs in News | Launched by / Developed by | Key Facts |
|------|---|--|---|
| 1. | Digi Yatra policy | Ministry of Civil Aviation | Digi Yatra is to be implemented at Kolkata, Pune, Vijayawada and Hyderabad Airports by March 2023 This initiative has been launched for biometric boarding system using Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) built by M/s Dataevolve Solutions |
| 2. | 'Main Bharat Hoon, Hum Bharat ke Matdata Hain' Song | Election Commission of India (ECI) in collaboration with Subhash Ghai Foundation | Launched Under: ECI's Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme |

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| | | | Aim: To appeal to voters to cast their vote and fulfil their Constitutional duty |
| | <p>About SVEEP: It is the flagship voter education programme focused on inclusion strategies and action plans for enhancing participation from all categories of voters under ECI's motto of 'No Voter to be Left Behind.'</p> | | |
| 3. | 'Swasth Drishti Smriddh Kashi' campaign | Ministry of Health & Family Welfare | Aim: To offer free cataract operations to the patients of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh |
| 4. | 35 Hydrogen trains under "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative | Indian Railways | Estimated cost: Rs. 80 crores per train and ground infrastructure of Rs. 70 crores per route |
| | | <p>About Hydrogen for Heritage: As a plan to modernize the heritage lines of Railway with the latest technology, Ministry of Railways announced a plan to introduce hydrogen power trains on its heritage lines in the 2nd half of 2023, calling it the Hydrogen for Heritage plan</p> | |
| 5. | Working Committee to draft rules for Mediation in India | Ministry of Law and Justice | Chairman of the committee: PK Malhotra (former law secretary) Aim: To provide suggestions for setting various standards including, certifications, accreditation, grading, criteria etc, for various stakeholders under the Mediation Bill, 2021 |
| 6. | WhatsApp Chatbot 'Bal Mitra' | Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) | Aim: To enable two-way communication between people and the child rights panel and eliminate the information gap |
| 7. | 'Mero Rukh Mero Santati' (Plant a Tree, Leave a Legacy) | Government of Sikkim | Under this, 100 trees will be planted for every child born in Sikkim |
| 8. | YUVA SANGAM Portal | Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region | Launched at: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi Yuva Sangam is an initiative of Prime Minister to build close ties between the youth of North East Region and rest of India under the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat |
| 9. | Vision for All School Eye Health program | Government of Goa, in partnership with OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation and Prasad Netralaya | Under the programme, training will be offered to 2000 teachers on basic visual acuity tests for the children in their respective schools. It is an extension of Vision for All Goa eye health program launched in 2021 |

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| 10. | Aarohini Initiative Training Programme | Government of Uttar Pradesh | Aim: to ensure safety and security of girls in all 746 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) in Uttar Pradesh. |
| 11. | IEEE C-DOT Certified Telecom Expert Program (ICCTEP) | IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) | Aim: To bring learning in the areas of Telecom including 5G, Cyber Security and Quantum Communication to bridge the skill gap |
| 12. | Operation Dost | Government of India | It is a humanitarian assistance initiative to aid earth quake-hit Turkiye (Turkey) and Syria |
| 13. | Aadhaar Mitra | Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) | It is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (MI) based chatbot. It can be used to check Aadhaar enrollment/update status, tracking of Aadhaar PVC card status, and information on enrollment centre location |
| 14. | KAVACH-2023 | All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) | It is a national level hackathon launched to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions for addressing the cyber security and cybercrime challenges of the 21 st century |
| 15. | mPassport Police App | Union Ministry of External Affairs | The app has been launched to fast track the passport verification process. The app will reduce the verification time from 15 days to 5 days |
| 16. | G20 stay safe online campaign | Meta & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) | Under the campaign, resources will be shared in multiple Indian languages to spread awareness on how to stay safe online. In addition, Meta has separately launched DigitalSuraksha campaign to offer a safer and more inclusive internet to everyone. Under Phase I of DigitalSuraksha , Meta has partnered with Delhi Police to provide digital literacy to users in Delhi. Both the campaigns have been launched on the sidelines of safer internet day . |
| 17. | Mission 100% Electrification | Indian Railways | Recently, under the Mission, Indian Railways has completed the electrification of entire broad-gauge network in Uttar Pradesh . This milestone has been achieved through the completion of electrification |

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| | | | <p>of Subhagpur-Pachperwa Broad Gauge (BG) route in North Eastern Railway.</p> <p>With this, Six Zonal Railways have been fully electrified.</p> <p>Also, Highly Utilized Network (HUN-5), Jhansi-Muzzaffarpur-Katni has been fully electrified</p> <p>85% of Route Kilometers (RKM)s have been electrified.</p> <p>With this, Indian Railways became the largest green railway network in the world</p> |
| Target of Mission 100% electrification: to electrify all of the broad-gauge routes by December 2023. | | | |
| 18. | Bringing the Cheetah Back to India Awareness Programme | Organized by: National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi, a subordinate office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Museums | -- |
| 19. | Capacity Building Programme for Senior Scientists in Effective Leadership and Creativity | Organized by: Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with Capacity Building Commission (CBC) | -- |
| 20. | Divyang Park- Anubhuti inclusive park | Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment | World's largest Divyang park In the city of Nagpur Contains facilities for all 21 disabilities. Vision: Inclusivity Funding: Rs. 12 crore . |
| 21. | Guru kripa yatra | Indian Railways (IRCTC) Through Bharat Gaurav tourist train | Tour to take place during baisakhi. Visit to famous Sikh shrines . Duration: 11 days/10 Nights . Starts from Lucknow on 5 th April Cost: 19,999/- per person |
| 22. | South Asia Distribution Utility Network (SADUN) | Union Ministry of Power, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and PFC | Aim: to modernise distribution of utilities in South Asia via knowledge sharing among the region's discoms |
| 23. | Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) Yuva Sangam tour | Ministry of Education | Aim: To strengthen people-to-people connect and build empathy between youth of the North Eastern States and other States of our country. |
| 24. | Yuva Sangam | Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region | Aim: To strengthen the people to people connect, To build empathy between youth of north eastern states and other states, to organize exposure visits of students/youths |

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| 25. | Digital Library Gyan Kendra | Ministry of education | Helps students in remote areas to access to study material for competitive exams |
| 26. | Operation Narcos and AAHT | Railway Protection Force (RPF) | <p>During January,2023</p> <p>Authority to arrest traffickers: NDPS Act,1984</p> <p>Op.AAHT: rescue victims of human trafficking</p> <p>Op.Narcos: tackling the issue of narcotic smuggling on railway network</p> |

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS

| S.No | Focus Area | Venue | Key Facts |
|------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | 10th International Indian Material Recycling Conference (IMRC 2023) | Kochi, Kerala | <p>Organizer: Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI)</p> <p>Key Information Shared: Scrap usage in primary steel production in India to increase from 15% to 50% by 2047</p> |
| 2. | World Government Summit 2023 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates | <p>Theme: "Shaping Future Governments"</p> |
| 3. | 18th World Security Congress | Jaipur, Rajasthan | <p>Organizers: Union internationale des chemins de fer (UIC) or International Union of Railways (UIC) & Railway Protection Force (RPF)</p> <p>Theme: "Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future"</p> <p>Sub-themes: "Protecting Critical Assets & Freight", "Human Security Approach", "Best Railway Security Tools & Practices across the World" and "Vision 2030".</p> <p>Sanjay Chander Director General of RPF, has taken over as the Chairman of the International UIC Security Platform from July 2022 to July 2024.</p> <p>Jaipur declaration was adopted at the Congress.</p> <p>The declaration highlighted the commitment of UIC to work towards providing a more safe and secure rail network across the globe, by also fully</p> |

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| | | | activating the Asia-Pacific, Latin America and African regional assemblies by 2025 |
| 4. | 12th World Hindi Conference (Vishwa Hindi Sammelan) | Fiji | Organized by: Union Ministry of External Affairs & Government of Fiji Theme: "Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence" |
| 5. | Economic Times Global Business Summit | Delhi | Hosted by: Times Group Theme: "Resilience. Influence. Dominance" |
| 6. | G20 Model Meeting for school students | New Delhi | Organized by: India's G20 Secretariat & the United Nations India Country Office Theme: "Youth for LiFE" It is the first official Model G20 event |
| 7. | BioAsia 2023 (20th Edition) | Hyderabad, Telangana | It is Asia's largest Life Sciences and Healthcare Convention. Host: Government of Telangana Theme: 'Advancing for One to celebrate the spirit of collaboration and promoting human prosperity'. |
| 8. | Materials for Sustainable Energy | Deliberation between G20 countries and other International organizations | Future roadmap on G20 cooperation and knowledge sharing Focus on: Solar energy, photovoltaic technology and materials. |

NATIONAL SUMMITS

| S.No | Focus Area | Venue | Key Facts |
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| 9. | 14th Aero India International Seminar – "Aerospace and Defence Technologies-Way Forward' | Bengaluru, Karnataka | Organized by: Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in association with the Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI) |
| 10. | Roundtable Conference and Panel Discussion on Postal Services | New Delhi | Organized by: Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications Theme: Postal Services - a tool for Global Socio-Economic development and Connect Aim: To recollect the critical role the postal sector is playing to drive socio-economic development around the world |
| 11. | 19th Annual Zone III Conference of Commonwealth | Gangtok, Sikkim | -- |

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| | Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region | | |
| 12. | Chintan Shivir on 'Drugs: Quality Regulations & Enforcements' | Hyderabad, Telangana | Organized by: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare |
| 13. | National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) Scientific Dialogue 2023 | New Delhi | Organized by: Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Key information shared: India has witnessed a 27% annual increase in organ transplantation. |
| 14. | SemiconIndia Conference of Electronics Manufacturing Supply Chain Ecosystem | Delhi | Organized by: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology |
| 15. | Inaugural Meeting of US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) 2023 | Washington DC, United States of America | Aim: To strengthen their defence partnership with an emphasis on co-production and co-development About iCET: Indian Prime Minister and US President jointly announced the iCET in 2022 to strengthen and broaden the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation |

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

BANKING/INSURANCE

| S.No | Focus Area | Signed Between | Key Facts |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1. | Work order to provide 4G LTE (Long-Term Evolution) connectivity to offsite Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) | Work Order issued by: State Bank of India Work Order issued to: RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. | Order Cost: Rs 253.35 crore Operation & Maintenance Period: 5 years |
| 2. | Partnership to train for a virtual relationship | HDFC Bank & NIIT | -- |
| 3. | Partnership to introduce 'RuPay Credit Card on UPI' | Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) | Aim: To allow users to link their RuPay credit cards to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure |
| 4. | MoU to provide financial services to corporate customers operating in the India – Europe corridor | ICICI Bank and BNP Paribas | Aim: To cater to the banking requirements of European corporates operating in India and Indian companies in the European Union |
| 5. | Support self-employment and augment entrepreneurial skills | New Delhi | NSDC (National skill development corporation) partnered with HDFC Life |

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| | and opportunities, and strengthen the last mile reach | | It is under the Skill India Mission NSDC work under the aegis of Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship |
| 6. | Official Development Assistance (ODA) to India | Provided by: Japan | Project: Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Project (III) Loan Amount: JPY 30.755 billion (Rs. 1,728 crore approx.) |
| | | | Project: Establishment of Mizoram State Super-Specialty Cancer and Research Centre Loan Amount: JPY 9.918 billion (Rs. 560 crore approx.). |

OTHERS

| S.No | Focus Area | Signed Between | Key Facts |
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| 7. | MoU to enable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to provide services offered by Common Service Centres (CSC) | Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited | Aim: To increase the business activities of PACS and help them to become self-sustaining economic entities |
| 8. | MoU to build training modules for Indian Spaceflight Program, using augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) & mixed reality (MR) technologies | Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) & Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras | -- |
| 9. | MoU to tackle climate change and support India's small holder farmers | Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and The Development Innovation Lab (DIL) at the University of Chicago | Aim: To explore the opportunities to harness innovation to improve food security , address climate change , and allow farmers to increase their incomes |
| 10. | MoU for Technical Vocational Education and Training Courses | Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) | Aim of both MoUs: To collaborate on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes |
| 11. | | Austrade and Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) | |
| 12. | MoU on Palm Oil Cultivation | Government of Nagaland and Patanjali Foods Limited | Aim: To develop Palm Oil Cultivation in the state as per the National Mission on Edible Oil- Oil Palm (NMOEO-OP) |
| 13. | MoU to open Bihar's 1st Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) training centre | Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna and Delhi-based Drone Destination Private Limited | UAV Training centre approved by: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) |

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| 14. | Trilateral partnership for cooperation in defence, energy, and technology | India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) | The trilateral initiative is to work as a forum to encourage the creation and implementation of joint projects |
| 15. | MoU for developing a National Interactive Digital Platform | Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Digital Green | The platform will host a digital library of curated content to farmers on time and upskill the extension workers for agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, livestock and rural livelihood missions through certified online courses |
| 16. | MoU for setting up of digital forensic laboratories | Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGII) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) | Aim: To establish digital forensic laboratories as well as collaborate in research and training programmes and provide technical assistance |
| 17. | Statement of Intent (SoI) to strengthen cooperation in field of data and research in energy sector | Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) and International Energy Agency (IEA) | Aim: To enhance global energy security, stability, and sustainability |
| 18. | Partnership to deploy technologies for implementation by industry and facilitating the entrepreneurs in Argentina | Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) of Argentina | -- |
| 19. | Partnership to promote energy efficient practices | Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council (IMT-GT JBC) | Aim: To promote the adoption of energy efficiency and sustainable practices in the region |
| 20. | Contract to procure 41 Modular Bridges for the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army | Ministry of Defence and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) | Bridges designed and developed by: Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) |
| 21. | MoU for development of renewable energy-based projects | NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) | Aim: To collaborate for Development of grid connected and/ or off-grid Renewable Energy based Power Projects |
| 22. | MoU for imparting Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law (PGDEL) to Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officer Trainees | Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun and National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru | -- |
| 23. | MoU to set up 'hPod'- health ATMs in Uttar Pradesh | Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) & India Health Link Additional Information: India Health Link would be establishing a manufacturing plant in the UP's first Medical Device Park at Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority | MoU signed under InvestUP programme . |

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| 24. | Loan Approval to increase agricultural productivity and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh. | Loan Approved by: Asian Development Bank (ADB) | Loan Amount: USD 130 million (over Rs 1,072 crore). |
| 25. | MoU to set up 'Industrial Internet of Things Labs' (IoT Innovation Labs) | Department of Collegiate and Technical Education (DCTE), Karnataka and Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR) | Under the MoU, IoT Innovation Labs will be established across in 35 Government Polytechnics across Karnataka. |
| 26. | Partnership to promote research and development in the field of on-chip electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection. | Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR) | -- |
| 27. | MoU to supply Liquefied natural gas (LNG) & low-carbon ammonia | NOVATEK (Russia) & Deepak Fertilisers (India) | -- |
| 28. | Partnership to Train Rural Women in Digital Skills | Reliance Jio and GSM (Groupe Speciale Mobile) Association (GSMA) | Aim: To train rural women to use internet services for several tasks |
| 29. | MoU for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors | India and Chile | A Chile-India Agricultural Working Group will be constituted which will be responsible for the supervision, review and assessment of the implementation |
| 30. | MoU for cooperation in Disability Sector | India and South Africa | Aim: To encourage cooperation between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India and Government of South Africa through joint initiatives in the disability sector |
| 31. | MoU for qualification & training of members | Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) | Aim: To provide recognition of the qualification, training of each-others' members and admit the members in good standing |
| 32. | MoU under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) | Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) and The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) | Aim: For the integrated development of village for Social Development – Model Village - Siroliya, District - Dewas, Madhya Pradesh |
| 33. | MoU to deal with problem of doping in sports | Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Hyderabad (NIPER Hyderabad) | Aim: To create nutritional supplement testing capacity in India, provide information & build awareness about the risks associated with use of nutritional supplements, increase research opportunities in the clean sport & anti-doping domain |

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| 34. | MoU to eliminate Plastic Pollution in the oceans | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Ocean Cleanup | Aim: To work together to eliminate plastic pollution in the world's oceans and rivers |
| 35. | MoU for constructing the Bahrain Metro Rail Project Phase-1 | BEML Limited(formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited) and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)-led Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) | The project involves the construction of a 30km network with 20 stations in Bahrain |
| 36. | MoU for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program | Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) | The AMCA is a 5th generation , multi-role, all-weather fighter aircraft designed with high survivability and stealth capability |
| 37. | MoU for networking and security | BEL and Cisco | Aim: For long-term strategic co-operation in the areas of networking, collaboration and security , among other associated services |
| 38. | MoU to Enhance Digital Literacy and skill development in India | CSC Academy and National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) | CSC Academy is a subsidiary of Common Service Centres. NIELIT is affiliated with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology . |
| 39. | MoU to enhance cooperation in the energy sector | ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) & YPF SA, Argentina | MoU signed on the sidelines of India Energy Week 2023 |
| 40. | MoU to develop co-develop niche technology and end products duly aligned to the dynamic requirements of Indian Army | Indian Army & Advanced Data Processing Research Institute | -- |
| 41. | MoU to collaborate on six new vehicles for domestic and international customers | Government of Tamil Nadu & Renault-Nissan Alliance | Under the MoU, Renault-Nissan Alliance will invest Rs 5,300 crore in Tamil Nadu to manufacture six new models at its plant near Chennai. |
| 42. | MoU to collaborate on research, academic growth, and sustainable solutions in mining | Tata Steel and Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), a constituent of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) | -- |
| 43. | MoU on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports | India and Fiji | Under the MoU, the exemption would be provided for 90 days . |
| 44. | MoU for domestic manufacture and supply of LORA Weapon System for the Indian Tri-services. | Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) & Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) | MoU signed at Aero India 2023 Under the MoU, the weapon system will be manufactured by BEL. |

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| | | | LORA is a sea-to-ground and ground-to-ground system. |
| 45. | Data Licensing Agreement | NSE & CME Group | Under the agreement, NSE can list and settle rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas (Henry Hub) derivatives contracts for Indian market participants. |
| 46. | MoU to engage in long-term cooperation in cancer care | University of Auckland (Waipapa Taumata Rau) & Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai | The MoU envisages to explore ways to enhance cancer care using digital health |
| 47. | MoU for naval marine propulsors | Rolls-Royce Marine North America and Kalyani Strategic Service Limited (KSSL), a subsidiary of Bharat Forge | Objective: to indigenously develop niche naval propulsion technologies and products for the Indian Navy |
| 48. | MoU to establish BIS Standardization Chair Professor | Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) with IIT Guwahati, IIT Gandhinagar and NIT Calicut | Under the MoU, BIS Standardization Chair will be established in each of these institutes. |
| 49. | Air Services Agreement | India and Guyana | It provides the legal framework for air operations between two countries. |
| 50. | MoU to drive digital inclusion of all women registered under State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) | Ministry of Rural Development and Meesho | <p>Under the MoU, rural women will be onboarded as online sellers.</p> <p>Key Targets Announced:</p> <p>The Government of India has set a target to have 10 Crore Self Help Group (SHG) sakhis or members by 2024</p> <p>Meesho has set a target to enable 100 million small businesses to succeed online</p> <p>Additional Information: Number of SHG members has reached over nine crore from 2.35 crore in the last nine years</p> |
| 51. | MoU to set up world's biggest Electric Vehicle (EV) hub | Government of Tamil Nadu & Ola Electric | <p>Under the MoU, Ola will be setting up an EV cell plant & EV four-wheeler plant on the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) premises in Bargur, Krishnagiri district.</p> <p>Ola has committed an investment of Rs 7,614 crore</p> <p>Additional Information: In 2022, Ola Electric unveiled India's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell- NMC 2170.</p> |
| 52. | Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) develop International | Central Water Commission (CWC), Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, | ICED Roorkee will be developed under the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II and Phase III. |

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| | Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED) | Ministry of Jal Shakti & Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee | It will offer specialized services to Indian and overseas dam owners. |
| 53. | MoU to work towards promoting women-friendly tourism & gender-inclusive tourism sites in Kerala | Government of Kerala & United Nations (UN) Women | The MoU was signed at 1st Global Responsible Tourism Summit . |
| 54. | Collaboration to accelerate industry adoption of cloud | Microsoft & Infosys | Under the partnership, Infosys Cobalt and Microsoft Cloud solutions will help businesses to accelerate enterprise cloud transformation. |
| 55. | Collaboration to develop early warning system for dense fog and cold wave conditions | Government of Bihar & US National Center for Atmospheric Research (US-NCAR). | The Government of Bihar has approved USD 50,000 towards the project. In this regard, Bihar Mausam Seva Kendra (BMSK) is developing an app. |
| 56. | Export promotion of Millets in GCC (Gulf cooperation council) countries. Between APEDA with Lulu Hypermarket | New Delhi | It is a part of promotional activities for International Year of Millers,2023 UAE is the major millet importing country for India. |
| 57. | Deep tech start-ups and Semiconductor chip manufacturing Between India and Lithuania | At New Delhi | Discussion of revival of 2010 Agreement in Science and tech. Areas of cooperation: Life science, Biotech and STEM field. |
| 58. | Empower youth for the hospitality and tourism sector and provide apprenticeship Between NSDC (National skill development corporation) and HTMi, Switzerland | New Delhi | Provide certificate, diploma and certification courses in hospitality Implementation by: LTSU Course: 3 modules, 6 months In 2 nd phase LTSU will join |
| 59. | To upgrade 150 state- run industrial training institutes (ITIs) | Uttar Pradesh Government and Tata Technologies. | It will upgrade the ITIs in accordance with the requirements of Industry 4.0. Investment amount: Rs 5,472 crore (Rs 4,282 crore by TATA group and Rs. 1,190 crore by UP Government) |
| 60. | Transfer-of-Technology (ToT) to locally manufacture small arms for the domestic market under the 'Make in India' Initiative | ICOMM (Company of Megha engineering and infrastructure ltd) and CARACAL, UAE | Signed at the IDEX 2023 defence exhibition, UAE. |
| 61. | To establish co-operative actions to contribute to the food security of both countries. | The India Pulses and Grains Association (IGPA) and IBRAFE, Brazil. | Signed at 6 th edition of pulses conclave, Mumbai |

BANKING AND FINANCE

BANKING INITIATIVES

| S.No | Program / Initiative / Landmarks | Launched / Developed by | Key Facts |
|------|---|--|--|
| 1. | 'Pay As You Drive' (PAYD) Vehicle Insurance Policy | New India Assurance (NIA) | Aim: To offer charges premium based on the usage of the vehicle |
| | | About PAYD: Usage-based insurance (UBI), or pay as you drive (PAYD), pay how you drive (PHYD) and mile-based auto insurance, is a type of vehicle insurance in which the costs are dependent upon type of vehicle used , measured against time, distance, behavior and place | |
| 2. | Bank loans up to a limit of Rs. 30 crore | Listed by: RBI | Aim: To avail easy financing to borrowers for purposes like solar based power generators, biomass-based power generators, wind mills, micro-hydel plants and for renewable energy based public utilities under Priority Sector Lending classification |
| 3. | Cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments service in 5 countries | PhonePe | Nations: United Arab Emirates (UAE), Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan Aim: To enable its Indian users who are travelling overseas to pay foreign businesses using UPI |
| 4. | BizKhata | Airtel Payments Bank | BizKhata is a current account solution for small merchants and business partners |
| 5. | Bajaj Allianz Life Sustainable Equity Fund | Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance | Aim: To enable investors to invest in companies that are socially responsible |
| 6. | "OfflinePay" Pilot Program | HDFC Bank and Crunchfish Digital Cash | Aim: To test offline digital payments for customers and merchants, as part of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Regulatory Sandbox Program |
| 7. | Mahabank Nakshatra | Bank of Maharashtra | It is bank's own private cloud infrastructure to improve the performance of cloud capabilities of the bank's digital infrastructure and hosting applications |
| 8. | Amrit Kalash Deposit | State Bank of India (SBI) | It is a new fixed deposit scheme Rate of Interest: 7.6% (senior citizens) and 7.1% (others). |

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| | | | Tenure: 400 days |
| 9. | To develop a novel Urine-based Tuberculosis diagnosis technology | IIT Madras and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) | This product envisaged to be faster and affordable. Technology: Plasmonic fibre optic absorbance biosensor (F-FA8) |
| 10. | SBIPay-UPI-based real-time cross-border transaction facility | SBI | It has been launched under UPI-PayNow payment system For Foreign inward and outward Remittances facilities. This will allow fund transfers from India to Singapore through registered mobile number and from Singapore to India using UPI ID |
| 11. | NMDC steel Limited listed at Bombay Stock exchange | NMDC steel limited | Held at BSE (Bombay stock exchange), Mumbai. It is NMDC's 3 MTPA integrated steel plant, Chhattisgarh . It is the wholly owned subsidiary of NMDC limited in 2015. Registered under companies Act, 2013 . Now it is a Public Sector Enterprise , under the control of Ministry of steel. (60.79% govt. share) |

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

| S.No | Program / Initiative / Landmarks | Launched / Developed by | Key Facts |
|------|--|--|--|
| 12. | Acquisition of Sonata Finance | To be acquired by: Kotak Mahindra Bank for Rs 537 crore | -- |
| 13. | Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of 100% of equity capital and sole control of VGP Holdings LLC by Gateway Velocity Holding Corp | -- | Gateway Velocity Holding Corp is a subsidiary of Saudi Aramco |

OTHERS

| S.No | Topic | Key Facts |
|------|--|---|
| 14. | Edelweiss General Insurance rebranded as Zuno General Insurance | The insurance company has also launched a consumer study titled ' Usage Based Insurance: Decoding Awareness, Perception and Behaviour '. |

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| 15. | Increase in the number of posts of executive directors in the Indian Bank | Total number of executive directors after increase: 4 Announced by: Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance |
| 16. | Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has suspended Russia's membership over Ukraine war | FATF has also placed South Africa and Nigeria in grey list. Grey List indicates countries with shortcomings in tackling illicit financial flows |
| 17. | IREDA plans to finance Renewable Energy projects in Foreign currency | This will allow IREDA to avoid foreign exchange hedging cost Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is under the aegis of Ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) This initiative is taken up as a part of G20 Events of MNRE |
| 18. | IREDA to establish office in Gujarat's GIFT city | For: Financing the renewable energy projects in Foreign currency Additional information: net NPA of IREDA reduced to 2.03% from 7.18% (3 years) |

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

| S.No | Initiatives / Programs in News | Launched by / Developed by | Key Facts |
|------|--|---|--|
| 1. | Introduction of Drone Technology 'Robotic Nozzle Water Sprayer' and Latest Safety Equipment through a web-based portal ' VIHANGAM ' | Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) | The portal allows an authorized person to access real time drone video from the mine |
| 2. | UnFurlable Reflector Antenna (UFRA) | Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) | Aim: To have a cost-effective option for small radar missions or constellations |
| 3. | 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)' | To be launched by: Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) | It is a Low-Earth orbit (LEO) observatory being developed jointly by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US) and ISRO, India |
| 4. | Planet with most number of moons- Jupiter | -- | Recently, Astronomers have discovered 12 new moons around Jupiter , taking the total count to 92 . Saturn, with 83 moons now takes the second spot . |
| 5. | Chandrayaan-3 (India's third mission to the moon) | Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) | Chandrayaan-3 lander has completed the EMI-EMC (Electro - Magnetic Interference/ Electro - Magnetic Compatibility) test at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru. The mission will be launched this year by Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LMV3) |

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISES

| S.No | Exercise | Countries / Forces Involved | Key Facts |
|------|---|--|--|
| 1. | Exercise Topchi 2023 | Indian Army | Held at: Nashik, Maharashtra Major highlight: Display and firing of Made in India Artillery equipment It is the annual firepower demonstration and training exercise of Indian Army |
| 2. | Exercise Trishakti Prahar | Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF) and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) | Held at: North Bengal |
| 3. | Exercise Dharma Guardian (4 th annual edition) | Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces | Conducted at: Camp Imazu in Shiga province, Japan. It is a Joint Military Exercise |
| 4. | TARKASH (Indo-US joint exercise) | National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF) | Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) terror response included in the drill for the first time . |
| 5. | 7 th Annual Defence Dialogue between India and Sri Lanka | -- | Venue: New Delhi Co-Chairs: Giridhar Aramane, Defence Secretary, India & Kamal Gunaratne, Defence Secretary, Sri Lanka |
| 6. | OPERATION DOST | Indian Army and NDRF in Turkey | Indian Army field hospital saves dozens of lives in quake hit turkey. Treated over 3600 earthquake victims in Hatya province, turkey . |
| 7. | INDEX and NAVDEX 23 | INS Sumedha (Indian Navy) and UAE | Scheduled from 20 to 24 th February It showcase the strengths of India's Indigenous ship building , i.e, ' Atma Nirbhar Bharat ' INS Sumedha - Indigenously built Saryu class, built at Goa shipyard limited . Inaugural edition was held in 2018 . |
| 8. | 'DUSTLIK' | India-Uzbekistan | Joint military exercise at Pitorgarh, Uttarakhand. It is the 4th edition . Duration: 14 days Focus on: counter-terrorist operation in mountainous and semi-urban scenario under UN mandate. |

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| 9. | Exercise Cobra Warrior | India, Finland, Sweden, South Africa, United States of America, Singapore and United Kingdom | Place: WADDINGTON IN UK It is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces of different country participates. |
| 10. | DESERT FLAG VIII | It is a Multilateral exercise involves: Indian Air Force, UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, Republic of Korea and USA. | At Al Dhafra Air base, UAE LCA Tejas and C-17 Globemaster taking part in the exercise 1 st international exercise outside India for LCA Tejas |

DEFENCE INITIATIVES AND TECHNOLOGIES

| S.No | Initiative / Missile / Technology | Launched / Developed by | Key Facts |
|------|--|--|---|
| 11. | All-women Car Rally | Indian Navy in association with Navy Wellness and Welfare Association (NWWA) and M/s Jeep India | Slogan: She's Unstoppable Tagline: Soar High Promoting Nari Shakti as part of 'Amrit kaal'. Distance to be covered: 2300km |
| 12. | 9th edition of Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC-9) | Launched by: Ministry of Defence | Theme: Cybersecurity DISC 9 is the first collaboration of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) with Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (i4C) division of Ministry of Home Affairs |
| 13. | 'Vayulink' Platform | Indian Air Force (IAF) | It is an ad-hoc data link communication system It helps pilots to deal with bad weather conditions. It would provide jammer-proof uninterrupted communication with the base station. |
| 14. | LCA (Navy) on INS Vikrant (push to Atmanirbhar) | Indian Navy | This LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) is indigenously developed INS Vikrant is India's 1 st indigenous Aircraft Carrier LCA's landing on INS Vikrant will be 1 st landing on that. |
| 15. | MoU between Abu Dhabi defence firm and India's HAL | HAL and EDGE (UAE) | Venue: IDEX (Defence Expo), UAE Focus areas: Joint design and development of missile systems and Drones |

ENVIRONMENT

| S.No | Topic | Country / State / Organization | Key Facts |
|------|---|--|---|
| 1. | Asian Waterbird Census-2023 | Ladakh | <p>Organized by: Himalaya project and the Department of Wildlife Protection of Ladakh in collaboration with the Ladakh Biodiversity Council</p> <p>52 avian species were observed in the Census in Ladakh</p> |
| 2. | Green Mobility Rally | Organized by: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) | The Prime Minister of India flagged off the rally from India Energy Week |
| 3. | New Catfish Species with no Eyes – ‘ <i>Horaglanis populi</i> ’ | Discovered in: Kerala | The discovery was published in the journal ‘Vertebrate Zoology’ |
| 4. | Cyclone Gabrielle | -- | <p>It is a severe tropical cyclone that recently hit New Zealand & parts of Australia.</p> <p>Auckland & North Island in New Zealand were the severely affected areas.</p> |
| 5. | Adani Group's Wind Power Projects in Sri Lanka | -- | <p>The Board of Investment of Sri Lanka has approved USD 442-million wind power projects of Adani Green Energy.</p> <p>Two wind power plants will be set up at Mannar (250 MW) & Pooneryn (100 MW) areas in Sri Lanka.</p> |
| 6. | A new species of Cuckoo Bee has been discovered | State: Kerala | <p>Name: <i>Thyreus narendrani</i> (named after late T.C. Narendran, Professor of Zoology)</p> <p>Found at: Kole wetland ecosystem of Sravinkadavu, Malappuram district, Kerala.</p> |
| 7. | IOC plans to set up Green hydrogen plants | Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). | <p>This is the part of a 2-lakh crore green transition plan</p> <p>Target year to cover all its refineries is 2047, 1st in Panipat</p> <p>Company plans to set up a 7,000 tonnes per annum green hydrogen-producing facility</p> |
| 8. | Omorgus Khandesh (Keratin Beetle) | -- | <p>It is a newly discovered beetle species.</p> <p>Discovered by: Scientist from Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Centre (WRC), Pune.</p> |

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| 9. | Vulture conservation and breeding centre, Pinjore | Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change. | <p>Proposal to release oriental White-backed vultures during 2023-24.</p> <p>Jatayu conservation breeding centre for vulture breeding in Haryana, in collaboration with Bombay natural history society.</p> <p>Aim: to establish population of 25 pairs of 3 species of vultures.</p> <p>Monitoring for adaptation and mortality of released vultures.</p> |
| 10. | Translocation of Twelve Cheetahs from South Africa to India | <p>Translocated to: Kuno National Park, Sheopur District, Madhya Pradesh.</p> <p>Translocated from: Phinda Game Reserve, Tswalu Kalahari Reserve, the Waterberg Biosphere, Kwandwe Game Reserve and Mapesu Game Reserve.</p> <p>Translocated through: Indian Air Force.</p> <p>With this, the total number of Cheetahs in Kuno NP increased to 20.</p> <p>In 2022, 8 cheetahs from Namibia were released in Kuno National Park.</p> | <p>Programme Co-Ordinator's:</p> <p>Indian Side: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the High Commission of India, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Madhya Pradesh Forest Department.</p> <p>South African Side: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South African National Parks (SANParks), The Cheetah Metapopulation Initiative, the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)</p> <p>Additional Information: Cheetah (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>) is the world's fastest mammal; It is considered vulnerable under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and is listed in Appendix I; cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952</p> |

SPORTS

| S.No | Tournament | Venue | Winner / Looser | Key Facts |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | 3rd Khelo India Winter Games 2023 | Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir | <p>Medal Tally- Top 3 states</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jammu & Kashmir 2. Maharashtra 3. Himachal Pradesh <p>Additional Information: Khelo India Winter Games started in 2020. It is a part of Khelo India Abhiyan, a thought of Prime Minister of India to encourage youth towards games and make India an emerging soft sports power on the global stage</p> | <p>Organized by: J&K Sports Council and Winter Games association of the J&K.</p> <p>Games supported by: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</p> <p>Mascot: Snow Leopard depicting heritage of Himalayas</p> |

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| 2. | 2027 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup | Host: Saudi Arabia | -- | -- |
| 3. | National Beach Soccer Championships [Inaugural Edition] | Surat, Gujarat | Winner: Kerala Runner-Up: Punjab | Best Goalkeeper of the Tournamanet: Santhosh Kasmeer (Kerala) Best Player of the Tournament: Siju S (Kerala) |
| 4. | Kenya Ladies Open 2023 golf tournament | Vipingo Ridge, Kenya | Winner: Aditi Ashok (India) | This is her fourth Ladies European Tour title. |
| 5. | 2023 FIFA Club World Cup | Host: Saudi Arabia | -- | -- |
| 6. | 2023 Grand Prix Zagreb Open | Zagreb, Croatia | Aman Sehrawat (India) won the bronze medal in the men's 57 kg category Ashu (Greco-Roman) won the bronze in men's 67 kg | -- |
| 7. | 5th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG), 2023 | Madhya Pradesh | Medal Tally: 1st: Maharashtra (90 medals) 2nd: Madhya Pradesh (59 medals) 3rd: Haryana (59 medals) | Official Sponsor of KIYG 2023: State Bank of India (SBI) |
| 8. | FIFA Club World Cup Morocco 2022 | Rabat, Morocco | Real Madrid (Spain) won the World cup by defeating Al Hilal (Saudi Arabia) | -- |
| 9. | 2023 Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix | Hyderabad, Telangana | Jean-Eric Vergne of DS Penske (France) won the championship | -- |
| 10. | Ranji Trophy 2022-2023 | Kolkata, West Bengal | Saurashtra cricket team won the Trophy by defeating Bengal cricket team | -- |
| 11. | 1st Women's Premier League (WPL) | -- | -- | Highlights of the Auction: Participating Teams: Mumbai Indians (MI) , Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Giants (GG) , Lucknow Warriors and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). First player to be sold at the WPL auction: Smriti Mandhana |

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| | | | | <p>Top 3 buys at the auction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smriti Mandhana (India)- RCB, Rs 3.4 crore 2. Ashleigh Gardner (Australia) – GG & Natalie Sciver (England) – MI. 3. Deepti Sharma (India)- Lucknow Warriors <p>Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has awarded the title sponsorship rights of the WPL seasons 2023-2027 to TATA Group</p> <p>Tennis player Sania Mirza appointed as the mentor of the RCB team</p> |
| 12. | ISSF World Cup (Women's) | Cairo, Egypt | Tilottama sen wins bronze medal in 10m Air Rifle. | Seonoid of Great Britain won Gold. |
| 13. | ISSF World Cup (Men's) | Cairo, Egypt | Rudrankksh Patil won Gold medal in 10m Air Rifle | This was his 2 nd Gold, 1 st one was in mixed double category with Narmada raju. |
| 14. | Argentina Open | Buenos Aires, Argentina | Winner: Carlos Alcaraz Looser: Cameron Norrie | Carlos became youngest player to top the world ranking at 19 years. |
| 15. | ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 (Cricket) | South Africa | Winner: Australia Runners-up: South Africa | <p>Australia won the title for the sixth time.</p> <p>Australia won by 19 runs.</p> <p>Player of the Tournament: Ashleigh Gardner (Australia).</p> <p>Player of the final: Beth Mooney (Australia)</p> |
| 16. | Qatar Open (Tennis) | Doha, Qatar | Winner: Daniel Medvedev (Russia) Runners-up: Andy Murray (United Kingdom) | -- |
| 17. | 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2023 | Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh | Winner: Madhya Pradesh Runners-up: Maharashtra | -- |
| 18. | New Balance Indoor Grand Prix 2023 (World Athletics Indoor) | Boston, USA | Winner: Tejaswin Shankar Runner: Donald Thomas (Bahamas) | <p>Tejaswin won gold in High Jump event, by leaping 2.26m height</p> <p>Donald Thomas is 4 times Olympian and 2007 world champion</p> |

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| 19. | National Race Walking Championship | Ranchi, Jharkhand | Winners: Akshdeep and Priyanka Goswami | Both of them qualified for Paris Olympics and World Championship Akshdeep set a new national record |
| 20. | All-India Taekwondo Championship | IG Stadium, New Delhi | - | Duration: 3 days It has been organized to mark the 50 years of India-Korea diplomatic relations Special performance by Korea National sport university and MoU signing ceremony for Taekwondo Event competition in 2 parts: poomsae and sparring |

AWARDS

| S.No | Award/Milestone | Category | Awardee | Key Facts |
|------|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. | India UK Achievers Honours 2023 | Lifetime Achievement Honour | Dr. Manmohan Singh | He is the former Prime Minister of India |
| 2. | 25th FORTUNE magazine's list of the "World's Most Admired Companies", 2023 | -- | Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) | List topped by: Apple 2 nd place: Amazon and Microsoft |
| 3. | 65th Annual Grammy Awards, 2023 | Best Immersive Audio Album | Stewart Copeland & Ricky Kej – Divine Tides | Ricky Rej is an Indian musician |
| | | Best Traditional R&B Performance | Beyoncé – Plastic Off the Sofa | Beyoncé has broken the records of Grammy wins of all time with 32 awards |
| | | Album of the Year | Harry Styles – Harry's House | -- |
| | | Song of the Year | Lizzo – About Damn Time | -- |
| 4. | FIH (International Hockey Federation) President's Award | -- | V.K Pandian , Private Secretary to the Chief Minister of Odisha | The Award recognises individuals or National Associations or other organisations for services towards the development of hockey |
| 5. | Mathrubhumi Book of The Year | -- | Dr Peggy Mohan for her book 'Wanderers, Kings and Merchants' | Awarded at: Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala |

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| 6. | Association for Talent Development (ATD) Best Awards 2023 | | NTPC Ltd. | This is the 6th time that NTPC Ltd. has won this award for demonstrating enterprise success in the field of talent development |
| 7. | Best Enterprise Award 2023 | Public Enterprise Management (under the Navratna Category) | Forum of Women in Public Sector (WIPS) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) | It has won the 3rd place |
| 8. | Felix Houphouet-Boigny United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Peace Prize | -- | Angela Merkel (Former Chancellor of Germany) | <p>She has been awarded for her open-door refugee policy</p> <p>Award was presented at Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast</p> <p>Award named after former President of Ivory Coast.</p> |
| 9. | Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award for excellence in Journalism- 2020 | -- | Dr ABK Prasad (Andhra Pradesh) | Awarded by: Press Council of India |
| 10. | Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (UBKYP) [2019, 2020, 2021] | -- | Total Awardees: 102 | Award Instituted by: Sangeet Natak Akademi Instituted in: 2006 The award honours outstanding young performers (upto 40 years of age) in the fields of music, dance, and drama |
| 11. | ATMA Lifetime Achievement Award | -- | K.M. Mammen (Chairman & MD of MRF) | Awarded at: Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) Annual Conclave 2023 in New Delhi |
| 12. | Highest Paid Athletes 2021- 22 | Compiled by: Genuine Impact Newsletter | 1. Lionel Messi (Football, Argentina) 2. LeBron James (Basketball, USA) 3. Cristiano Ronaldo (Football, Portugal) | Total Earnings of Lionel Messi during the mentioned period stood at USD 130 million. |
| 13. | The Hurun Industry Achievement Award 2022 | -- | F. VP Nandakumar | He is the Managing Director and Chief executive officer of Manappuram Finance Limited |
| 14. | Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2019, 2020 and 2021 | -- | 102 artists (including three joint awards) | The award has been given to those who have made a mark as young talents in their respective fields of performing arts |

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| 15. | 13th Sansad Ratna Awards | Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award | T K Rangarajan | 13 members of Parliament (MP), 5 from Rajya Sabha and 8 from Lok Sabha have been selected for the awards |
| 16. | Digidhan Awards 2021-22 | Prathista Puraskar | Karnataka Bank | Awarded by: Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Karnataka Bank has received the award for achieving target with highest percentage in Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in private sector bank category. |
| 17. | M-Gov Award | -- | Niyati Totala and Neel Kalpeshkumar Parikh of The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore | Awarded by: UAE government as part of the World Government Summit Awarded for: Developing block bill app |
| 18. | Governance Now 9th PSU Awards | PSU Leadership Award 2022 CSR Leadership CSR Commitment (Overall) HR Excellence (Overall) Nation Building | Sumit Deb, CMD of NMDC NMDC | NMDC won awards in five categories . The Awards recognizes the efforts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) towards the growth of the country. |
| 19. | Dadasaheb Phalke International film festival awards 2023 | Outstanding Contribution in The Film Industry Outstanding Contribution in The Music Industry Best Actor Best Actress Critics Best Actor Critics Best Actress Most Promising Actor | Rekha Hariharan Ranbir Kapoor (Brahmastra: Part 1) Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi) Varun Dhawan (Bhediya) Vidya Balan (Jalsa) Rishab Shetty (Kantara) | The award ceremony held in Mumbai . |

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| | | Most Versatile Actor Of The Year | Anupam Kher (The Kashmir Files) | |
| | | Best Actor in Negative Role | Dulquer Salman (Chup) | |
| | | Best Film | The Kashmir Files | |
| | | Film of The Year | RRR | |
| | | Best Director | R Balki (Chup: Revenge of The Artist) | |
| | | Best Web Series | Rudra: The Edge of Darkness | |
| | | Best Actor in a Web Series | Jim Sarbh (Rocket Boys) | |
| | | Best Actress in a Web Series | Shefali Shah (Delhi Crime – Season 2) | |
| | | Television Series of The Year | Anupamaa | |
| 20. | 76th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) | Best Film | All Quiet On The Western Front | |
| | | Leading Actress | Cate Blanchett (Tár) | |
| | | Leading Actor | Austin Butler (Elvis) | -- |
| | | Best Director | Edward Berger (All Quiet at the Western Front) | -- |
| | | Best Documentary | Navalny (Daniel Roher) | |
| | | EE Bafta Rising star Award | Emma Mackey | |
| | | Film Not in the English Language | All Quiet On The Western Front | |
| 21. | Sangeet Natak Akademi's Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puruskar) | -- | -- | Awarded for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 |
| 22. | International Mother Language Award | Promotion of Indigenous languages | Dr.Mahendra Mishra | Award was honoured by Prime Minister Hasina in Dhaka . For the work promotion of indigenous languages in odish. |

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| | | | | Award was instituted by UNESCO in 2021 . Bangladesh national awards to: Habibur Rahman and Ranjit Singh. |
| 23. | Jnanappana Award - 2023 | -- | V. Madhusoodanan Nair | Award Instituted by: Guruvayur Devaswom. The awardee is a poet from Kerala . He has been awarded for his overall contribution in the field of literature. |
| 24. | EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022 | Entrepreneur of the Year | Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Group | Sajjan Jindal is known as Man of Steel . He will be representing India at EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) at Monte Carlo |
| | | Lifetime Achievement Award. | K P Singh, Chairman Emeritus, DLF Group | -- |
| 25. | 6 th Hollywood Critics Association (HCA) Film Awards | Best International Film Best Action Film Best Stunts Honorary HCA Spotlight Award Best Original Song Best Picture Best Actor Best Actress Best Director | Naatu Naatu (RRR) Everything Everywhere All At Once Brendan Fraser (The Whale) Michelle Yeoh (Everything Everywhere All At Once) Daniel Kwan & Daniel Scheinert (Everything Everywhere All At Once) | Awarded by: HCA Venue: Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, USA |
| 26. | Best Adventure Tourism Award | -- | Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Tourism | Awarded by: India Today Tourism Survey. J&K tourism has been awarded for its efforts in promoting Gulmarg as an adventure destination of international order. |

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| 27. | Best FIFA Football Awards 2022 | Men's Player | Lionel Messi (Argentina) | The award ceremony was held at Paris, France |
| | | Women's Player | Alexia Putellas (Spain) | |
| 28. | Marconi Prize, 2023 | Computer Scientist | Hari Balakrishnan | He is a professor in MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Award given by U.S based Marconi Foundation For his work on 'Fundamental contribution to wired and wireless networking, mobile sensing.' |
| 29. | GSMA Government leadership Award 2023 | Telecom policy and regulation | India | Venue: Mobile world congress Barcelona Given by: GSM Association For: Reforms in telecom sector |
| 30. | Golden Book Awards,2023 | Outstanding fiction, non-fiction, poetry and literary works | - | Awards sponsored by: Wings publication International Jury: Dr Kailash Pinjani (President Indian Author Association) |

APPOINTMENT

| S.No | Person | Position | Organization / Country / State / Company | Key Facts |
|------|--|---|---|--|
| 1. | Harmanpreet Kaur | Brand Ambassador | Puma India | -- |
| 2. | Arun Kohli (replaced Sanjay Shah) | Country Head for India | Morgan Stanley | -- |
| 3. | Shamika Ravi | Member | Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) | Chair of EAC-PM: Bibek Debroy |
| 4. | Meenakshi Nevatia (replaced S Sridhar) | Additional Director and Managing Director | Pfizer | -- |
| 5. | Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu (to replace Mohammad Abdul Hamid) | President Elect | Bangladesh | He has been elected as the 22nd President of Bangladesh |
| 6. | H. E. Nikos Christodoulides | President | Cyprus | -- |
| 7. | K Satyanarayana Raju (succeeded L V Prabhakar) | Managing Director (MD) and Chief | Canara Bank | -- |

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| | | Executive Officer (CEO) | | |
| 8. | Raul Rebello | MD & CEO | Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited | -- |
| 9. | CA. Aniket Sunil Talati | President | Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) | -- |
| 10. | CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal | Vice President | Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) | -- |
| 11. | Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh Thakur | Brand Ambassadors | Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) | Both of them are Indian Women Cricket players |
| 12. | Afshan Khan (succeeded Gerda Verburg) | Coordinator | Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement | Appointed by: United Nations |
| | | | About SUN: The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a country-driven initiative, led by 65 Countries and 4 Indian States (Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh), which aims to eradicate all types of malnutrition by 2030. | |
| 13. | Sanjay Nayar | Vice-President | Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) | -- |
| 14. | Neal Mohan (replaced Susan Wojcicki) | Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | YouTube | Neal Mohan is an Indian American |
| 15. | Rajan Amba | Managing Director (MD) | Jaguar Land Rover India | -- |
| 16. | Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar (replaced Lt Gen B S Raju) | Vice Chief of Army Staff | Indian Army | -- |
| 17. | Ayushmann Khurrana | Brand Ambassador (United Nations Children's Fund) | UNICEF India | -- |
| 18. | Vikramaditya Singh Khichi | Member | Advisory Panel to advise the administrator of crisis-ridden Reliance Capital | The appointment was made by the Reserve Bank of India. |
| 19. | Rajesh Rai | Chairman and Managing Director | ITI Limited | -- |

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| 20. | Girish Chandra Murmu | External Auditor | International Labour Organization (ILO) | He has been selected to role for a tenure of four years (2024 to 2027) . He is the Comptroller and Auditor General of India . |
| 21. | Eknath Shinde | Chief | Shiv Sena | He is the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. |
| 22. | B.V.R. Subrahmanyam | Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | NITI Aayog | - |
| 23. | Shailesh Pathak | Secretary General | Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) | - |
| 24. | Lt Gen RS Reen | Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA) | Dept. of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence | DGQA is responsible for second party quality assurance of all defence stores and equipments. |

PERSONS IN NEWS

| S.No | Personality | Profession | Key Facts |
|------|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. | K. Viswanath | Telugu Filmmaker | He recently passed away |
| 2. | Parimal Dey | Former Indian Footballer | He recently passed away He was also known as " Jangla-da " |
| 3. | Joginder Sharma | Indian Cricketer | He recently announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket |
| 4. | Narendra Modi | Indian Prime Minister | He has recently been announced as the most popular leader in the world for the 2nd consecutive year by ' Morning Consult ' |
| 5. | Pervez Musharraf | Politics & Defence | He passed away recently He was the former President of Pakistan |
| 6. | Aaron Finch | Sports | He announced retirement from international cricket recently He is an Australian |
| 7. | Dipa Karmakar | Sports (Gymnast) | She has been recently banned failing a dope test |
| 8. | Elena Fanchini | Sports (alpine skiing) | She passed away recently. She was from Italy. |

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| 9. | Burt Bacharach | Music | <p>He passed away recently,</p> <p>He was a famous American pop composer, songwriter, and pianist.</p> |
| 10. | Kamran Akmal | Sports (Cricket) | <p>He recently announced retirement from all forms of cricket.</p> <p>He is a famous Pakistani wicketkeeper.</p> |
| 11. | Cristiano Ronaldo | Sports (Football) | <p>He recently scored four goals for Al-Nassr Football Club in the Saudi Pro League.</p> <p>With this, he has crossed the 500-league goal mark in his club career.</p> <p>He is from Portugal</p> |
| 12. | Ravichandran Ashwin | Sports (Cricket) | <p>He recently became the second fastest bowler to take 450 Test wickets in terms of Tests played after Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka).</p> <p>He achieved the feat in 89 matches as compared to 80 matches by Muttiah Muralitharan.</p> <p>He also broke the Indian record for the fastest to 450 wickets which was earlier held by Anil Kumble (93 tests)</p> <p>He achieved the feat at the Border-Gavaskar Trophy</p> |
| 13. | Gary Ballance | Sports (Cricket) | <p>He recently became the second player to score centuries for two different nations.</p> <p>He previously represented England & now represents Zimbabwe.</p> <p>The first player to create such record was Kepler Wessels, who played for Australia & South Africa.</p> |
| 14. | Cheteshwar Pujara | Sports (Cricket) | <p>He recently played his 100th Test match at Border-Gavaskar Trophy.</p> <p>He also became the 2nd player to hit winning runs in 100th test match after Ricky Ponting.</p> |
| 15. | Lalitha Lajmi | Painter | <p>She passed away recently.</p> <p>She hails from Kolkata, West Bengal.</p> |
| 16. | C B Ananthakrishnan | Director (Finance) and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) | Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved to extend his tenure as CMD for a period of 6 months |

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| 17. | N.R. Vignesh | Indian Chess player from Tamil Nadu | He recently became India's 80 th Grandmaster (GM) |
| 18. | David Malpass | Economic analyst | He currently serves as the President of the World Bank Group. He would be stepping down from the role in June 2023. |
| 19. | Om Prakash Kohli | Politics | He passed away recently He was the former Governor of Gujarat. He also held the additional charge as Governor of Madhya Pradesh & Goa |
| 20. | Shoichiro Toyoda | Business | He passed away recently He served as the honorary chairman of Toyota. He was from Japan. |
| 21. | Eoin Morgan | Sports (Cricket) | He recently retired from all forms of cricket. He is from Ireland. |
| 22. | Tulsidas Balaram | Sports (Football) | He passed away recently. He was part of 1960 Rome Olympics Indian Football Team. He was from Secunderabad, Telangana. |
| 23. | Balipa Narayana Bhagawatha | Music | He passed away recently. He is a Yakshagana playback singer and scriptwriter. Yakshagana is a theatrical dance-art performed in Coastal Karnataka |
| 24. | Kanak Rele | Classic Dancer Mohiniyattam exponent | She recently passed away She was conferred with Padma bhushan in 2013 Awarded with first guru gopinath National Puraskaram of Kerala Government |
| 25. | Sergio Ramos | Sports (Football) | He recently announced retirement from international football. He is from Spain |

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

| S.No | Book Title | Author | Key Facts |
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| 1. | The Last Heroes- Foot Soldiers of Indian Freedom | Palagummi Sainath | Sainath is an Indian Columnist/Journalist |
| 2. | The Best of Satyajit Ray | Published by: Penguin Random House India | Satyajit Ray was a renowned Indian Filmmaker |
| 3. | 'Savdaan: A Chronicle of Central Command' | Lt Gen Vivek Kashyap and Vikram D Souza | The book highlights the unique status of the Central Command in the Indian Army |
| 4. | Victory City | Salman Rushdie | Salman Rushdie is British Indian Author. Midnight's Children, Satanic Verses, Quichotte are some of his other famous books |

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

| S.No | Festival | Country / State | Key Facts |
|------|--|--|--|
| 1. | 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela | Faridabad, Haryana | Inaugurated by: Vice President of India Organized by: Haryana Tourism |
| 2. | Madrid International Book Fair, 2025 | To be held at: Madrid, Spain | India will be invited as the Theme Country in the fair |
| 3. | 'Me-Dam-Me-Phi' Festival 2023 | Hosted at: New Delhi | The festival is celebrated by Assam's Tai Ahom community to worship and pay respect to the ancestors |
| 4. | 14th edition of Asia's biggest aero show – 'Aero India 2023' | Bengaluru, Karnataka | Theme: The runway to a billion opportunities A commemorative stamp was also released by the Prime Minister on the occasion. |
| 5. | Kala Ghoda Arts Festival | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Organized by: Kala Ghoda Association |
| 6. | Rann Utsav | Tent City, Dhordo Village in Kutch district, Gujarat | It is an annual crafts, art, music, dance, food, and nature festival. |
| 7. | Divya Kala Mela 2023 | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Organized by: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Aim: To provide a platform to Divyang craftsmen, entrepreneurs and artists for marketing their skills and products |
| 8. | International Engineering and Technology Fair 2023 | New Delhi | Inaugurated by: President of India Aim: To celebrate India's growth story in the engineering and manufacturing sector |

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| 9. | Khajuraho dance festival | Madhya Pradesh | The festival was held at Khajuraho Temple Complex at Chhatarpur district. |
| 10. | 14TH Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav | Organised at: Bikaner, Rajasthan | Organized by: Ministry of Culture Objective: To preserve, promote and popularize the rich cultural heritage of the country. |
| 11. | Aadi Mahotsav – National Tribal Festival | Organised in New Delhi | Theme: A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Entrepreneurship, Crafts, Culture, Cuisine and Commerce. It is an annual initiative of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. |
| 12. | Siang Unying Festival | Boleng, Arunachal Pradesh | It is a spring festival marking the beginning of the spring season & new year of Adi community. |
| 13. | World Book Fair 2023 | New Delhi | Guest of Honor: France Organized by: National Book Trust (NBT) along with ITPO (Indian Trade Promotion Organization) This is one of the largest book fair in the world Unique: G20 and NEP pavilion. |
| 14. | Barisu Kannda Dim Dimava (Cultural festival) | Karnataka | Venue: New Delhi Inaugurated by: PM N.Modi Held under aegis of 'Azadi of Amrit Mahotsav' to celebrate Karnataka's culture, tradition and history and 75 years journey of Karnataka Sangha |
| 15. | Ellora Ajanta International Festival 2023 | Venue: Soneri Mahal in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Chatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad), Maharashtra. | Organised by: Maharashtra Tourism Development corporation. it was first launched in 1985 |
| | | Additional Information: Ellora Ajanta caves are UNESCO world heritage site. | |
| 16. | Kol Janjati Mahakumbh | Venue: Satna, Madhya Pradesh | Organized on the occasion of Shabri Mata Janm Jayanti. |
| | | About Kol Tribes: Kol tribes are Indigenous tribal community from Chotanagpur in Eastern Parts of India. They are settled northern districts of Madhya Pradesh. & also in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra. Additional Information: The Government of India is setting up tribal freedom fighters museums across India. | |

PLACES IN NEWS

| S.No | Place | Why in News | Key Facts |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1. | Historic centre of Odesa, Ukraine | It was recently listed as a World Heritage Site in Danger | Listed by: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |
| 2. | Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Greenfield Helicopter Factory, Tumakuru (Karnataka) | It was recently dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister of India | The factory is India's largest helicopter manufacturing facility and will initially produce Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) |
| 3. | Rajwada (Holkar Palace), Indore, Madhya Pradesh | The delegates of the G-20 Agriculture Working Group Meeting visited these historical sites. | -- |
| 4. | Mandu Fort, Dhar District, Madhya Pradesh | | |
| 5. | Dholavira, Kutch District, Gujarat | The delegates of Tourism Working Group Meeting visited the historical site | It is a Harappan city & United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site |
| 6. | Sculpture Park | Inaugurated at: Bikaner House in Delhi | -- |
| 7. | Neerasagar Dam, Neerasagar Village, Dharwad, Karnataka | The village has been benefited from Jal Jeevan Mission. | -- |
| 8. | Mount Everest | Recently, World's highest weather station has been rebuilt on Mount Everest | According to the Guinness World Records report, the team of mountaineers and scientists installed a record-breaking weather station at an altitude of 8,810 metres (28,904 ft) . The reinstallation is part of National Geographic and Rolex's 'Return to Everest Expedition' in May 2022 . The group was led by mountain guide Tenzing Gyalzen Sherpa . |
| 9. | Shree Muktinath Temple, Mustang, Nepal | Recently, ' Bipin Bell ' was installed at this temple as a tribute to India's late Chief of Defense Staff, General Bipin Rawat . | -- |
| 10. | New campus of Aljamea-tus-Saiiyah Arabic Academy | Recently inaugurated at Marol in Mumbai . | -- |
| 11. | Shiv Srishti theme park, Pune, Maharashtra | First phase of the theme park has been inaugurated recently. | The theme park is based on the life of Shivaji Maharaj |
| 12. | Jorhat Majuli bridge, Assam | The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways recently reviewed the work progress of the bridge | The bridge is built over the Brahmaputra River . It connects Majuli (Kamalabari) and Jorhat (Nimati Ghat) . |

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| 13. | Shinkun La tunnel, Ladakh | Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the construction of this tunnel on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha road link . | This tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity to the border areas of Ladakh. length: 4.1-km |
| 14. | mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine hub | World Health Organisation (WHO) will be setting the mRNA vaccine hub in Telangana | -- |
| 15. | Shivamoga Airport, Karnataka | It was recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister | Airport is designed like a lotus flower. |
| | | Additional Information: As per Union Civil Aviation minister, in 2014, there were 74 airports. In last 9 years, it has reached to 148 (100% increase). | |

DAYS IN NEWS

| S.No | Days | Date | Themes & Misc. |
|------|---|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | National Commission for Women (NCW) foundation day | January 31 | NCW organized a panel discussion on the theme ' Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat ' to provide a platform with diverse and varied exchange of dialogue focusing on gender equality in decision-making and leadership roles of women |
| 2. | World Interfaith Harmony Week | February 1 – February 7 | The week focusses on creating mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue to promote harmony between people regardless of their faith |
| 3. | World Wetlands Day | February 2 | Theme: Wetlands Restoration |
| 4. | 3rd International Day of Human Fraternity | February 4 | Aim: To honour the principles of compassion, religious understanding, and mutual respect to keep humans united |
| 5. | World Cancer Day | February 4 | Campaign theme of World Cancer Day 2022-2024: "Close the care gap" For 2023: Close the care Gap: Uniting our voices and taking action |
| 6. | 75th Independence Day of Sri Lanka | February 4 | India delivered fifty more buses of Ashok Leyland to Sri Lanka Additional Information: Ashok Leyland had bagged the contract for supplying 500 buses to the Sri Lanka Transport Board as a part of a Line of Credit extended by the Export-Import Bank of India , under the Economic Assistance Scheme of the Indian government |
| 7. | Safer Internet Day 2023 | February 7 | Theme: Together for a better internet |

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| 8. | World Pulses Day 2023 | February 10 | Theme: "Pulses for a sustainable future" |
| 9. | International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2023 | February 11 | Theme: 'Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance. Sustain. (I.D.E.A.S.): Bringing communities Forward for sustainable and equitable development'. Implemented by: UNESCO & UN Women |
| 10. | World Radio Day | February 13 | Theme: Radio and Peace |
| 11. | Safer Internet Day | February 7 | The day is observed every year in February. Theme: "Together for a better internet". |
| 12. | National Productivity Day | February 12 | National Productivity Day is celebrated as part of National Productivity Week, which is observed annually from February 12-18 Theme of the National Productivity Week: Productivity, Green Growth, and Sustainability: Celebrating India's G20 Presidency |
| 13. | 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati | February 12 | The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the year-long celebrations commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati. Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati was born in 1824 He founded Arya Samaj in 1875 |
| 14. | National Deworming Day | February 10 | Observed by: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Launch year: 2015 Aim: to raise awareness about the importance of deworming, mainly for children from 1 to 19 years of age . The day is celebrated to reduce the prevalence of Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), or parasitic intestinal worms . Some states/UTs also conduct a bi-annual round on 10 August , depending on worm prevalence in their state/UT. |
| 15. | International Childhood Cancer Day | February 15 | Theme (2021-2023): 'Better Survival' is achievable #throughtheirhands |
| 16. | World Pangolin Day | February 18 | It is observed annually on the third Saturday in February |

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| 17. | International Mother Language Day 2023 [24th edition] | February 21 | Theme: "Multilingual education – a necessity to transform education". |
| 18. | World Thinking Day | February 22 | Theme: 'Our World, Our Peaceful Future.' Celebrated by: World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., and other WAGGGS member organizations |
| 19. | World Scout Day | February 22 | Theme: "Our World: Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality," The day commemorates the birth anniversary of the founder of the Boy Scouts Movement, Lord Robert Baden-Powell |
| 20. | National Women's Day | February 13 | This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, who was referred to as the "Nightingale of India" |
| 21. | International Epilepsy Day | February 13 | The Campaign of International Epilepsy Day 2023 is #StampOutStigma of epilepsy |
| 22. | Statehood day of Mizoram | February, 20 | PM greeted people of the state on statehood day. Year of statehood status: 1987 |
| 23. | Statehood day of Arunachal Pradesh | February, 20 | PM greeted people of the state on statehood day. Year of statehood status: 1987 |
| 24. | World Social Justice day | February, 20 | Celebrated by Department of Empowerment of persons with Disabilities in collaboration with Change Ink . In a conclave at Ambedkar International centre, New Delhi . |
| 25. | Central Excise Day 2023 | February 24 | Celebrated annually to commemorate the establishment of the Central Excise and Salt Act in 1944 . Celebrated by: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) |
| 26. | World Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Day 2023 | February 27 | Theme: "role and influence of NGOs in advancing human rights, addressing social and environmental challenges, and achieving sustainable development goals" |
| 27. | 4th National Protein Day | February 27 | Theme: "Easy Access to Protein for All" . India launched its first Protein Day in 2020. |

Additional information: The Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for protein is **0.8 grams of protein per kilogram** of body weight.

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| 28. | National Science Day | 28 th February | Theme: 'Global Science for Global Wellbeing' Celebrated to mark the discovery of Raman effect (1928) by C.V Raman DRDO celebrated the by conducting Lectures and open house activities. |

MISCELLANEOUS

| S.No | Miscellaneous News | Key Facts |
|------|---|---|
| 1. | 'Wool Fab' - an exclusive handloom exhibition of woolen product | Held at: New Delhi Organized by: Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Ltd. Aim: To provide direct access to the handloom woolen weavers to market their products to consumers in various cities of India |
| 2. | U.S.-India Alliance for Women's Economic Empowerment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative in India | Launched by: United States (U.S.)-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Aim: To increase the number of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and the workforce in India |
| 3. | New Capital declaration of Andhra Pradesh | New Capital: Visakhapatnam |
| 4. | 30 th National Child Science Congress | Organized at: Ahmedabad, Gujarat Organized by: Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST), the Gujarat Council of Science City, and SAL Education |
| 5. | 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' declared as the State song of Maharashtra | The song's two stanzas have a total duration of 1.41 minutes |
| 6. | Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) banned 94 mobile apps | Digital lending platforms blocked: LazyPay and Kissht |
| 7. | Google launches an experimental conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI) service called Bard | Bard is powered by a language model developed by Google called Language Model of Dialogue Application (LaMDA) |
| 8. | Google invests USD 300mn to acquire 10% stake in Artificial Intelligence start-up Anthropic | Anthropic is developing Claude- an AI assistant tool that could compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT |
| 9. | The Government of India has approved the conversion of Rs 16,133 crore interest dues of Vodafone Idea into equity, | After the conversion of dues into equity, the Government of India will get around 35% stake in the company. |

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| 10. | G20-theme based workshop on Women participation in the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and Madhya Pradesh (MP) Farm Gate | Organized at: Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh Theme: One Earth, One Family, One Future Aim: To seek participation of more women entrepreneurs in agricultural sector |
| 11. | An article titled ' A Day in the Parliament and PMO' | Written by: Lopoli Melo (a student of |
| 12. | Bengaluru Open Tennis Tournament has signed DafaNews as its title sponsor | -- |
| 13. | USD 50 million from the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) to support women | Announced by: Hillary Clinton , former United States (US) secretary of state Aim: To support women in the fight against climate change in collaboration with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) |
| 14. | National Philatelic Exhibition 'AMRITPEX2023' | Organized by: India Post under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at New Delhi Aim: To create children's and people's interest in philately and letter writing |
| 15. | Indigenously developed Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and Flight Data Recorder (FDR) | Developed by: Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) HAL recently received the Indian Technical Standard Order (ITSO) authorization from Directorate General of Civil Aviation for these 2 devices |
| 16. | External Affairs Minister unveiled the bust of Sardar Patel at the India House in Suva, Fiji. | -- |
| 17. | Zepto launches Zepto's farmer engagement programme & 'Zepto Bloom' app | The app will help digitize supply chains for farmers. |
| 18. | Birth centenary celebrations of Jawaharlal Darda & completion of 50 years of 'Lokmat Nagpur Edition' | Celebration held at Nagpur, Maharashtra Jawaharlal Darda was the founder of Lokmat group of newspapers. |
| 19. | Philips Domestic Appliances globally renamed as Versuni | The rebranding follows the sale of domestic appliance business to Hillhouse Capital |
| 20. | Team of Doctors from Central Command of the India Army has used advanced 3D printing technology for titanium cranioplasty repair to rehabilitate a young patient's skull defect | -- |
| 21. | Ship leasing Singapore based RBB ship chartering comes to GIFT city | RBB ship chartering becomes GIFT city's (Gandhinagar) first ship leasing operator. |
| 22. | Mumbai's Churchgate railway station to renamed after first RBI Governor | 1 st governor: CD Deshmukh. (1 st Indian to be appointed as Governor of RBI) He represented in IMF and IBRD during Bretton Woods conference 1944. |

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| 23. | Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has roped in Adidas as the kit sponsor for the Indian cricket team . | Adidas will replace Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd. |
| 24. | Bhutan's flagship programme ' Digital Drukul' | Optical fibre has been provided at the village level across all 20 districts of Bhutan with the help of India. |
| 25. | Technotex 2023 | Tagline: 'Envisioning Indian Technical Textile @2047' Under aegis of: Ministry of Textiles This is the 10 th edition, Venue: Mumbai Release of 'Knowledge Report' on global best practices in technical textile and Seven BIS standards. |
| 26. | Asia Economic Dialogue | Venue: Pune Addressed by Minister of Commerce and Industry. |
| 27. | MV Ganga Vilas makes history in India's River Cruise sector | It completed its maiden trip from Varanasi to dibrugarh Duration: 50 days (3200+ km) This is world's longest river cruise, passed 27 river system |
| 28. | 2 Day regional workshop on various acts, rules and schemes of : Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment | Venue: Pune Conducted by: Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment Participants: 12 States/UTs Aim: to promote education and economic interest of vulnerable sections of society (SC,ST,OBC,Senior citizen) |
| 29. | 36th Inter-University North Zone Youth Festival (Antarnad) | Venue: University of Jammu Under the aegis of: Association of Indian Universities (AIU) 18 Universities participated Chief guest: Anurag Thakur |
| 30. | Geological Survey of India (GSI) finds Lithium and Gold Deposits | No.of Mineral blocks:51 Where? : Salal-Haimama, Resai District of JK GSI (1 st in 1851) is under Ministry of Mines, HQ: Kolkata Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) is discussion platform of GSI Additional information: Lithium is called as 'White Gold' |
| 31. | NTPC ranked as the top independent power producers and energy traders Globally | Ranking by: S&P Global Commodity Insights Top 250 Global Energy company ranking-2022 Ranking based on 4 key metrics: Asset worth, revenue, profits and return of investments. NTPC contributes 24% of total electricity produced in India. It targets 50% of companies portfolio to be non-fossil based by 2032 |

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| 32. | Letter of Intent (LoI) signed between Dept of science and technology (DST) and Fraunhofer ISE, Germany | Focus areas: Hydrogen and clean energy technologies for energy transition |
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Following are the YouTube reference videos for this week; however, this does not cover all the news and comprises of important news in a very crisp manner (not in detail):

| Date | YouTube Link |
|---|---|
| 1 st February | https://youtu.be/3QbsulPdxNU |
| 2 nd & 3 rd February | https://youtu.be/Q3Rv_fWxB-Q |
| 4 th to 6 th February | https://youtu.be/FHOGPPrGDZA |
| 7 th February | https://youtu.be/Wi6-teJ0e1c |
| 8 th February | https://youtu.be/_jibiVxJymc |
| 9 th February | https://youtu.be/b04AdtxjpH8 |
| 10 th February | https://youtu.be/sVtmgzkhHE |
| 11 th February | https://youtu.be/iQGq5-pG_Vk |
| 12 th to 13 th February | https://youtu.be/6k0rCzjqPmo |
| 14 th February | https://youtu.be/FncUIvkpf0I |
| 15 th February | https://youtu.be/3efCoCU69Zs |
| 16 th February | https://youtu.be/fW9i9_bHZho |
| 17 th February | https://youtu.be/037-FXjSleU |
| 18 th to 20 th February | https://youtu.be/Ee1xtirTcII |
| 21 st February | https://youtu.be/CIfBhfEoJs8 |
| 22 nd February | https://youtu.be/3TjsfhbSyuw |
| 23 rd February | https://youtu.be/4lfkbSEql4s |
| 24 th & 25 th February | https://youtu.be/608v4SLK-QY |
| 26 th & 27 th February | https://youtu.be/OcrnLloj00U |
| 28 th February | https://youtu.be/y8zB2hbs8hQ |

2 GA + ESI



SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH

2.1 Initiatives for Health Systems in Rural and Tribal Areas

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare informed about the health systems in Rural and Tribal Areas.

Key details shared

- Government of India has approved to establish **22 AIIMS** in various part of country
- Government has launched **Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), 2022.**
 - It is the set of **uniform standards** to provide norms and benchmarks for delivering health services at health facilities.
- Initially, IPHS were published in **2007.**
- 15th Finance Commission** has recommended grants aggregating to **Rs. 70,051 Crores** over the **period of five years (2021-2026)** through **local government** to **strengthen the healthcare system** in states.

2.2 Mission to Eliminate Sickle Cell Disease

Why in News?

- Recently, the **initiatives to eliminate Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)** were mentioned in **Parliament Budget Session.**

Key Information Shared

| S.No | Particulars | Key Information |
|------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Mission to eliminate SCD | <p>Announced in: Union Budget FY 2023-24 Target year to eliminate SCD: 2047</p> <p>Focus Areas: awareness creation, universal screening of approximately seven crore people in the 0-40 years age group in affected tribal areas and counselling</p> |
| 2. | State Haemoglobinopathy Mission | Launched in Madhya Pradesh to tackle SCD |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 3. | Integrated Centre for Hemophilia and Heglobinopathies | Launched by the Madhya Pradesh Government in 22 Tribal Districts in the state. |
|----|--|--|

2.3 Digital Portal for Crowd funding and voluntary donations for patients of Rare Disease

Why in news?

- An update on status of digital portal for crowd funding and voluntary donations for patients of rare disease has been released by Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Key details of the Update:

- 120 patients suffering from rare disease are financially supported under the programme.
- 11 Centers of Excellence identified to receive financial assistance from institutions under Corporate Social Responsibility scheme.

Digital Portal:

- Launched by: Department of Health and Family Welfare.
- Launch year: 2021.
- Under the mandate of: National Policy for Rare Disease, 2021.
- It is registered under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

National Policy for Rare Disease: 2021

- Categorisation: policy has categorised rare disease in 3 groups.
- Group 1- Disease which need one time treatment.
- Group 2- These require lifelong treatment.
- Group 3- Treatment is available, but selection of beneficiary is challenging.

Financial support:

- Up to 20Lakh for Group 1 diseases.
- Assistance extend not just to BPL families, but to about 40% of the population who are covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- Financial support will be provided under the umbrella scheme of Rastriya Arogya Nidhi and NOT PM-JAY.

Additional information:

Rare disease:

- WHO defines rare disease as, <1/1000 number of people affected by a disease. In case of India this number is, 1/2500.
- Prevalence in India: 7-8 crore people are affected.
- Top affected states: Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Bihar.

2.4 Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme

Why in news?

- An update has been released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on status of the programme.
- Key details:
- A total of 17.27 lakh beneficiaries availed dialysis services till 31st December 2022.
- 1350 Dialysis Centers established in the country.

Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme:

- **Launch year:** 2016-17
- It ensures the availability of dialysis services free of cost to Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries at the district hospitals.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Health Mission (NHM).
- **Dialysis covered:** Haemodialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis services.
- **Identification of beneficiaries:** done by States/UT through the annual Programme Implementation Plans (PIP).
- Programme has implemented in **all the 36 States/UTs** in 641 districts at 1350 dialysis centres by deploying 8871 haemodialysis machines as on 31st December 2022.
- **National PMNDP portal:** to ensure accessibility and portability under 'Nation-One Dialysis' concept.
- **Launch year:** May 2022.

2.5 National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)

Why in news?

- An update on status of Treatment of Lifestyle Ailments has been submitted by Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Key details of the update:

- A **population-based initiative** for prevention, control and screening for common Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) rolled **under NHM** (National Health Mission).
- Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres expanded services to include **Comprehensive Primary Health Care that caters to NCDs**.
- 707 Districts NCD Clinics, 193 Districts Cardiac Care Units, and 5541 Community Health Centre **NCD Clinics set up under NPCDCS**.

NPCDCS:

- Launch year: **2010**
- Launched as a part of: **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- **Technical and financial support** to States by: Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Focus areas:

- Health promotion.
- Early diagnosis.
- Management and referral of cases.
- Strengthening the infrastructure.
- Targeted Population: Age of 30 Years and above

Funding:

- The funds are being provided to States under **NCD Flexi-pool** through State PIPs (programme implementation plans) of respective States/UTs, with **centre to state share in the ratio of 60:40** (except for **North-Eastern** and Hilly states, where the share is **90:10**).

Initiatives to create awareness about Lifestyle Diseases:

- Observation of National and International Day.
- Promotion of Healthy eating through Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Fit India movement by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Various Yoga Initiatives by Ministry of Ayush.

Additional information:

Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)

- As per the India, 'Health of the Nation's states' (ICMR study), Heart diseases were top cause of death in India (28% of total deaths)
- Diseases includes: Cancer, Heart related issues, Diabetes and others.
- According to WHO, **over 60 lakh people** died due to NCDs in India in 2019.

2.6 National Action Plan on containment of Antimicrobial Resistance

Why in news?

- AMR surveillance network of state medical college labs (NARS-Net) been established to generate quality data on AMR.

Key details:

- NARS-Net has been launched to **generate quality data on AMR** (Antimicrobial Resistance) for **priority bacterial pathogen of public health importance**.

National Action Plan on containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR)

- Launch Year: **19th April, 2017**.
- Launched by: **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

Features:

- Antibiotics are included **in schedule H1 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules**, and required be sold by retail only under the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.
- Container of the medicine for treatment of food producing animals shall be labelled with **the withdrawal period** of the drug for the species on which it is **intended to be used**.
- Sales and distribution** of drugs are regulated under **Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940** and rules by respective states.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance?

- It occurs when **Microbes change (mutate)** and become **resistant** to the drugs and antibiotics used to treat them.

Causes of AMR:

- Over-prescribing** of antibiotics.
- Patients **not finishing** their treatment.
- Over-use** of antibiotics on livestock and fish farming.
- Poor infection control in hospitals
- Lack of hygiene** and poor sanitation

2.7 Tele-MANAS Scheme

Why in news?

- An Update has been submitted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding Tele-MANAS.

Key details of the Update:

- Rs. 120.98 crore** has been allocated for National Tele-Mental Health Programme (NTMHP) for the **year 2022-23**.
- Tele-MANAS services are available **in 20 languages**, based on language opted by states.
- (Hindi, English, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Konkani, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese, Bengali, Odia, Punjabi, Kashmire, Bodo, Dogri, Urdu, Manipuri, Mizo and Rajasthani.)

- Services under the Programme provided through **130 mental health professionals**, 173 District mental health program personnel and 580 Tele-MANAS counsellors.

Tele-MANAS:

- Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS).
- Objective: To provide **free tele-mental health services** all over the country, particularly to people in remote or under-served areas.
- Launch year: **October, 2022**.
- Launched by: **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Nodal implementing Agency: **NIMHANS, Bengaluru**.
- **Technology support** by: National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC), **IIT Bengaluru and IIT Bombay**.
- It includes network of **23 tele-mental health centres of excellence**.
- **Implementation: in 2 tiers.**
 - **Tier-1- State Tele-MANAS cells**, consists of trained counsellors and mental health specialists.
 - **Tier-2-** Comprises specialists at **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)** medical college resources for Physical consultation and **e-Sanjeevini** for Audio-Visual consultation.

2.8 Sarva Dawa Sevan Campaign

Why in News?

- Recently, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched the **Sarva Dawa Sevan or Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign**.
- **Aim:** to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in India by 2027 three years ahead of the global target.
- **Launched in:** High Burden Districts in **Ten Focus States**.
 - Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Under the campaign, Health workers will go door-to-door to administer anti-filaria medicine.

2.9 Swastha Mann, Swastha Ghar Campaign

Why in News?

- Recently, the following initiatives have been announced under the Swastha Mann, Swastha Ghar campaign:
 - **Health Melas** - will be organized on **14th of every month** in **1.56 lakh Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** across India.
 - **Mega Cyclathon Event:** organized at all AB-HWCs.
 - **Cyclathon in Delhi:** organized under the theme '**Cycle for Health**' at **Lady Hardinge Medical College**.

Swastha Mann, Swastha Ghar Campaign

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Initiative of | → Ministry of Health & Family Welfare |
| Duration | → One year → November 2022 to October 2023 |
| Objective | → to promote the theme of Health and Wellness to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). |
| Aligned with | → National Health Policy, 2017 Fit India Movement, 2019 |

2.10 "eSanjeevani" crosses milestone of 10 crore consultations

Why in news?

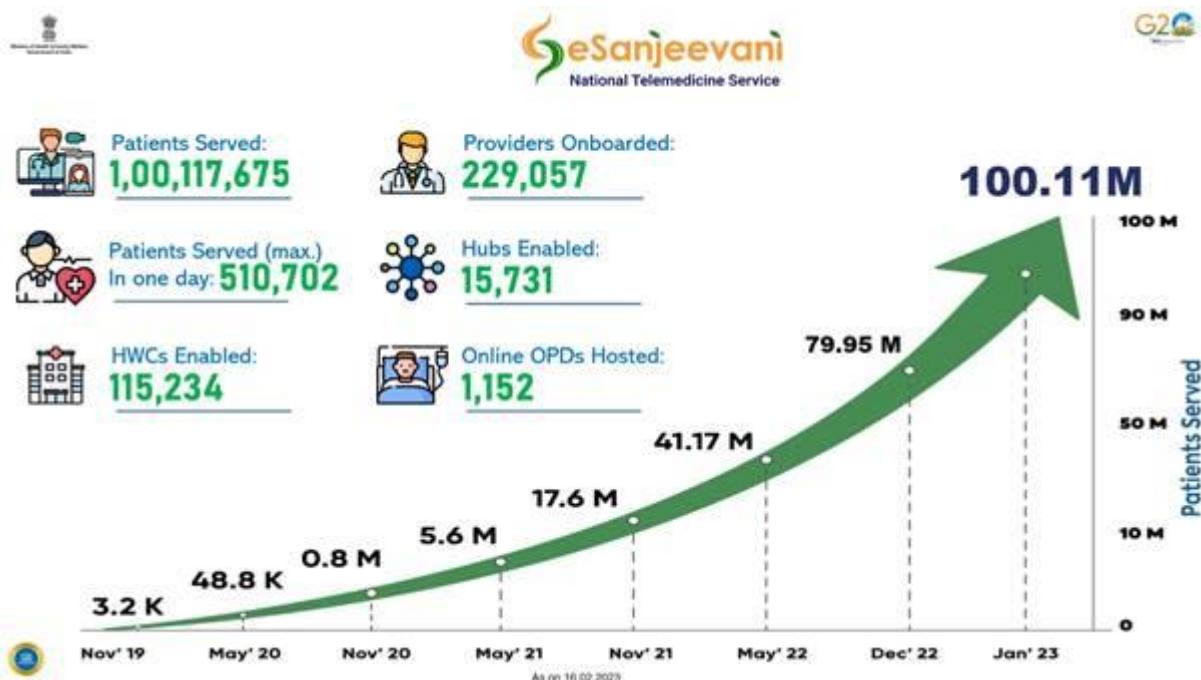
- Recently, the **eSanjeevani** registered another landmark by providing teleconsultation services to **10 crore beneficiaries**.

Key details:

- More than 100 million patients are being served on the platform.
- Over 57% of Sanjeevani beneficiaries are women, around 12% beneficiaries are senior citizens.
- More than 1, 15,234 Health and wellness centres are operational.
- More than 5 lakh patients provided teleconsultation services in a day.
- eSanjeevani 2.0 will be rolled out, this version will include dimension of telediagnosis.
- This includes the integration of vast spectrum of Point of Care Diagnostic devices (PoCDs).

eSanjeevani:

- It is an integrated TeleMedicine solution.
- Aim:** To provide specialized healthcare services through audio and video in rural and remote areas.
- Launch year:** **2019** (as a part of Ayushman Bharat Scheme)
- Modes of Introduction:** 2 modes
 - eSanjeevani AB-HWC:** a provider-to-provider telemedicine platform.
 - This connects the health workers and medical officers on health and wellness centres.
 - eSanjeevani OPD:** a patient to provider telemedicine platform.
 - It empowers citizens to access outpatient services in the confines of their homes through smartphones or laptops etc.
- Top States** in terms of Adoption of eSanjeevani: **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat.**



2.11 Suposhit Maa Initiative

Why in News?

- Recently, the Prime Minister has praised the initiative of '**Suposhit Maa**', launched by Lok Sabha speaker to keep every mother and child healthy.
- It also provides nutritional support to pregnant women and adolescent girls.

Key details

- It was launched in **March, 2020 (1st Phase)** in **Kota, Rajasthan**.
 - In first phase, 1000 women were identified for nutritional support.
- **2nd Phase** was launched in **May 2022**.
 - In this, 3,000 women will be given nutrition kits for 9 months with the help of public support and health check-up will be done every month.

2.12 Global patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030

Why in news?

- Recently Minister of state for Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the National workshop on Accelerating Patient Safety in India.

Key details:

- Venue: New Delhi, Conducted By: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO).

Global Patient Safety Action Plan: 2021-2030

- When: In 74th World Health Assembly meeting.
- Goal: To achieve the maximum possible reduction in avoidable harm due to unsafe health care globally.
- Seven strategic Objectives:
- Policies to eliminate avoidable harm in health care.
- High-reliability systems.
- Safety of clinical processes.
- Patient and family engagement.
- Health workers education and safety.
- Information, research and risk management.
- Synergy, partnership and solidarity.
- Involved agencies - Governments, Healthcare facilities and services, Stakeholders and The WHO secretariat.

2.13 Regional Epidemiology Training Program National Conference of Southeast Asian Region

Why in News?

- Recently, **Regional Epidemiology Training Program National Conference of Southeast Asia Region** was held at Rudraksh Convention Center, **Sigra, Varanasi**.
- **Organized by:** Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE).
- **Apex co-ordinator for the programme:** National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

Key Highlight

- **One India Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Roadmap Document and CD Alert on Ebola Virus Disease** was released during the programme.

SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

2.14 Jadui Pitara: A Teaching Material

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Education Minister launched the Jadui Pitara.

Jadui Pitara

- **what is it?** → It is a play-based learning-teaching material (LTM)
 - ↳ For the children between age group of 3-8 years
- **Launched by** → Ministry of Education
- **Developed under**
 - ↳ National Curriculum Framework for foundational stage
 - ↳ In line with New Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- **Developed by** → National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- **Aim** → To make learning-teaching environment more child-centric, lively and joyful
- **Learning and Development in 5 domains**
 - Physical Development
 - Socio-emotional and Ethical Development
 - Cognitive Development
 - Language and Literacy Development
 - Aesthetic and Cultural Development
- **Key Highlights**
 - Available in 13 Indian languages (at present)
 - it will be made digitally available on DIKSHA platform - portal and mobile app.
 - NCERT will be responsible to translate it in all Indian languages.
 - Resources available under this
 - ↳ toys, puzzles, puppets, posters, flash cards, attractive books etc



Additional information

- The Department of School Education & Literacy has constituted a **National Steering Committee** to develop the National Curriculum Framework for each of the stages.
 - **Chairman: Prof. K. Kasturirangan**

Note: National curriculum framework has been covered in CurrentTap-December 2022 (Article: 2.14)

2.15 Age Alignment for Foundational Stage

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Education has directed states/UT to align their **age of admission of children for Grade-I to 6+ years**.

Key details

- The foundational stage consists of **5 years** (between 3 to 8 years of age) of learning opportunities for all children that includes:
 - **3 years of pre-school education** (from age 3 to 6).
 - **2 years of early primary Grade-I and Grade-II** (from age 6-8).
- The National Education Policy 2020 recommends strengthening of learning of children at the 'foundational stage' as a national priority for the country

Additional information

- States have also been advised to initiate the process of designing and running a **two years Diploma in Preschool Education (DPSE) course** in their State and UT.
 - It is expected to be designed by the **State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)**.

- Implementation through District Institute of Education & Training (DIETs) under supervision and hold of SCERTs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.16 Jal-Jan Abhiyan

Why in News?

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India has virtually launched the **Jal Jan Abhiyan** in **Abu Road** in **Sirohi district of Rajasthan**
- **Initiative of:** Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Brahma Kumaris Organization.
- **Objective:** to connect individuals with water conservation issues.
- **Duration:** The campaign will run for eight months to preserve more than 5,000 water bodies & construct new water bodies across India.
- **Target:** to reach 10 crore people by organising 10,000 programmes through the campaign.

2.17 Indo-French Workshop on Clean and Sustainable Energy Technologies (INFINITE)

Why in News?

- Recently, Indo-French Workshop on Clean and Sustainable Energy Technologies (**INFINITE**) was organized at Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) – **National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi**.
- **Organized by:** CSIR – Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR), Dhanbad, and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France.

Key Information Shared

- Using **Thar Desert** as a **site for solar power generation**, India is estimated **to generate up to 2,100 GW of solar energy**.
- The Government of India had set a target to install **100 GW of solar energy in 2022**.
- **Indian renewable sector** ranks **4th** on the list of the **world's most attractive renewable energy sectors**

2.18 MoU for Waste to Wealth/ Energy plants

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Engineers India Limited** to develop large scale Waste to Energy and bio-methanation projects in cities with a **population of million plus**.

Key details

- In the first phase, **25 million plus cities** will be selected.
- The initiative will result in additional processing capacity of 15,000 TPD for Bio-Methanation and 10,000 TPD for Waste to Energy respectively.

Additional information

- There are **59 million plus cities** in India.
- In Waste to Energy and bio-methanation projects, green energy is produced from dry and wet waste component of municipal solid waste.

2.19 Green Window Programme for Green Energy

Why in news?

- Recently Green Energy Open Access web portal has been launched by Ministry of Power.

Key details:

- Green Energy Open Access web portal launched to submit all the application on **Green Energy Open Access**.
- Nodal Agency: **Grid controller of India Limited (Grid-India)** is a central nodal agency to set up and operate a single window green energy open access system.

Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022.

- Notified by: **Ministry of Power**.

Features:

- These rules aim at **promoting generation, purchase and consumption** of green energy including waste-to energy plants.
- Reduction in the limit of open access transaction from **1MW to 100 kW** for green energy, this enabled **small consumers** to purchase renewable power through open access.
- No Minimum limit on Captive consumers.**
- Simplified, transparent and streamlined process with time bound approvals within **15 days**.
- Facilitates **RPO** (Renewable energy Purchase Obligation).

Additional information:

Status of Green Energy in India:

- According to **REN21 Renewables 2022 Global Status report**, India stands 4th globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity, 4th in Wind power capacity and 4th in solar power capacity.
- India pledged to meet **50% of its energy requirements** from renewable energy by **2030** at **COP 26**.
- Present status share of various sources: **Wind > Solar > Bio Energy > Small hydro**.

2.20 Save Wetland Campaign

Why in news?

- Recently Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the ‘Save Wetland Campaign’ as a “**Whole of Society**” approach for wetland conservation.

Key details of the event:

- Launched ‘Whole of Society’ approach, which means enabling affirmative actions for wetland conservation **at all levels of the society and involving all strata of the society**.
- Venue: **Nanda Lake, Goa**.
- Nanda Lake is **Goa’s 1st Ramsar site**.

Focus areas of campaign:

- Sensitizing people** about the value of wetlands.
- Increasing the coverage** of wetland mitras.
- Building **citizen partnership** for wetland conservation.
- Publications released**:
- India’s 75 Amrit Dharohar- ‘India’s Ramsar sites Factbook’
- Managing Climate Risks in Wetlands- A Practitioner’s Guide.

Various green initiatives taken in Budget 2023:

- **Amrit Dharohar:** for optimal usage of wetlands.
- **MISHTI:** mangrove conservation.
- **PM-PRANAM:** to promote alternative fertilizers.
- **Green Credit Programme:** to incentivize sustainable actions.

Mission Sahbhagita

- Launch year: **2022**.
- Launched by: **MoEFCC** (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change)
- **Objectives:**
 - A healthy and effective management of network of 75 wetlands of national and international significance which support water and food security, buffer from various natural calamities.
 - Employment generation.
 - Conservation of species of importance.
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation.
 - Recognition, conservation, and celebration of cultural heritage.

World Wetlands Day

- Observed on: **2nd February**
- To commemorate the **signing of the Ramsar Convention** on Wetlands of International Importance in **1971**.
- Ramsar is a **city in Iran**, where convention was signed.
- **Theme** for the year 2023: '**Wetland Restoration**'.
- India became member in 1983.

Additional information:

- **Status of Wetlands in India:**
 - Number of Wetlands: **75 (23 States and UTs)**
 - India has the **largest network wetlands in Asia**.
 - According to The National Wetland inventory and assessment compiled by ISRO, wetlands **covers 4.63% of the total area** of the country.
 - Highest Number of wetlands in: Uttar Pradesh.
 - **Renuka wetland** (Himachal Pradesh) smallest wetland in India.
 - **Sunderban** (West Bengal) is the largest wetland in India.

2.21 Sagar Parikrama

Why in News?

- Recently, **Sagar Parikrama** was mentioned in the **Parliament Budget Session**.

Sagar Parikrama



2.22 DHARA 2023: Annual Meeting of RCA

Why in News?

- Recently, the annual meeting of the members of the River Cities Alliance (RCA): DHARA 2023 was organised in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

Key details

- **Organised by:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi.
- **Organised for:** Municipal Commissioners of member cities to come up with possible learning solutions for urban river management.
- **Objective:** To co-learn and discuss solutions for managing local water bodies.
- '**Ghat Par Yoga**' session was organised on a Ghat of **Mulla Mutha River** in Pune.
- '**Ghat Par Yoga**' is an initiative under Namami Gange Programme.
 - **Aim:** Mobilizing people to use ghats along Ganga and its tributaries for beneficial and recreational activities such as Yoga.

Additional information

- Urban River Management Plan for Ayodhya and Aurangabad and '**75 River Initiatives**' – a Compendium were also launched at the event.
- The target has been set to make **250 cities as members of the RCA** before the next annual meeting of RCA.
- DHARA 2024 will take place in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**.

2.23 India Energy Week (IEW) 2023

News 1

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the India Energy Week (IEW) 2023 in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- Duration: 6th to the 8th of February 2023.
- Organised by: **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**
- Theme: '**Growth Collaboration Transition**'.

Key details shared by the PM on the occasion

- India's share in the global oil demand is 5%** which is expected to rise **to 11%**, whereas the **gas demand** of India is expected to rise up **to 500%**.
- India has become the **2nd largest manufacturer** of mobile phones (**Largest: China**).
- 6 Lakh kilometres of optical fibers** have been laid in the country for internet access.
- In the last **9 years**, the number of **broadband users** in the country has gone up **thirteen times** and **internet connections** have gone up **three times**.
- India is the **fourth largest country** for its refining capacity.
 - Aim: To increase the capacity to **450 MMTPA** (current capacity: 250 MMTPA)
- Government is targeting to increase the consumption of natural gas in our energy mix from **6% to 15%** **by 2030** where all the needed infrastructure will be provided by 'One Nation One Grid'.
- The **LNG terminal regasification capacity** of 21 MMTPA has **doubled in 2022**.
- Number of **CGDs (City Gas Distribution)** in the country has gone up **9 times from 2014**.
- Number of **CNG stations** has gone up to **5000 from 900 in 2014**.
- Gas pipeline network has increased to **22,000 kilometres** from 14,000 in 2014.
 - It will expand to **35,000 kilometres in the next 4-5 years**.
- In the last 9 years, renewable energy capacity increased from **70 gigawatts to about 170 gigawatts** (**Solar power increased by 20 times**).
- Government is aiming to have **50% non-fossil fuel capacity** by the end of this decade.
- The Prime Minister also launched the uniforms under the '**Unbottled**' initiative of Indian Oil.
 - Indian Oil has adopted uniforms for retail customer attendants and LPG delivery personnel made from **recycled polyester (rPET) & cotton**.

News 2

River Cities Alliance



- Recently, the Prime Minister also launched the **E20 fuel at 84 retail outlets** of Oil Marketing Companies in **11 States/UTs** along the lines of the ethanol blending roadmap.

Key Details shared

- 15 cities** will be covered **under phase 1**.
- Target: Rollout of **E20 in the entire country** between now and **April 2025 (Next Two years)**.
- The Government aims to achieve a **complete 20% blending of ethanol by 2025**.
- Ethanol production capacity has increased 6 times since 2013-14.
- E20 fuel is a **20% blend of ethanol and 80% of fossil-based fuel**.

MoUs/ Agreements signed during IEW

- An MoU has been signed between **Directorate General of Hydrocarbon, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** and **University of Houston, Texas, USA**
 - Objective:** For establishing a **data center** with **University of Houston**.
- A **Statement of Intent (SoI)** has been signed between **Petroleum Planning and Analysis cell (PPAC)** and **International Energy Agency (IEA)**
 - Objective:** To strengthen cooperation in the field of data and research in the energy sector to enhance global energy security.

Side Events

- India- US Executive roundtable with US-Indian Business council and US-India Strategic partnership Forum.

2.24 Global Biofuel alliance launched by India

Why in News?

- Recently, it was announced by the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas during India Energy Week (It is **one of the priorities** under India's G20 Presidency).
- Aim:** Facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels and facilitating global biofuels trades.

Key details

- Key stakeholders:** United States, Brazil, India, European Union, IEA (**International Energy Agency**), Bio Future Platform, SIAM (**Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers**), ISMA (**Indian Sugar Mills Association**).
- This alliance shall work in collaboration with relevant existing regional/international agencies as well as initiatives in the bioenergy, bioeconomy, and energy transition fields.
 - Which includes the **Clean Energy Ministerial Biofuture Platform**, the **Mission Innovation Bioenergy** initiatives, and the **Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)**.

Additional information

- India is the **third-largest consumer and importer** of oil in the world.

2.25 Gyaan Vigyan Aur Hum'- Online Green Talk Series

Why in News?

- Recently, "**Gyan Vigyan Aur Hum**" - an **online Green talk series** on **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment) was organized by **National Museum of Natural History** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- The event was organized as a part of **MISSION LIFE Awareness Programme**.

2.26 Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has informed about the inter-linking of Rivers in India.

Key details shared

- The **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** has been entrusted with the work of inter-linking of rivers under **National Perspective Plan (NPP)**.
- National Perspective Plan (NPP)** for development of water resources was formulated by Government of India in **1980**.
- NPP has two components, viz., **Himalayan Rivers Development Component** and **Peninsular Rivers Development Component**.
 - 30 link projects have been identified under NPP (**16 under Peninsular component** and **14 under Himalayan component**).
- First river interlinking project:** Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP).
 - States Involved: **Uttar Pradesh (Betwa River)** and **Madhya Pradesh (Ken River)**.
 - Budget allocation in FY 23 from Central Government: **Rs. 1,100 crore**.
 - Implementation:** By **Centre and both the States** jointly through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority)**.
 - The **Government of India and Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh** signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the **joint implementation** of the project in **March 2021**.
 - The total amount spent on the project till 31.12.2022 is **₹ 7,665 crore** (major funding coming from Central Government).
 - Estimated cost of Project: **Rs 44,605 crore** (year 2020-21 price level).
 - ✓ It includes central support of **Rs 39,317 crore** through a Special Purpose Vehicle [Ken Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA)].
 - The project is planned to be completed in **period of 8 years**.
- The **Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR)** in its **20th meeting** approved the proposal of integration of the **Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)** with the **Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link** and the **Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) link**.
- It will particularly help in the drinking water needs of **13 districts of Rajasthan** and **7 districts of Madhya Pradesh**.

2.27 Common But Differentiated Responsibilities & Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)

Why in News?

- Recently, **CBDR-RC** was mentioned in the **Parliament Budget Session**.

About CBDR-RC

- Introduced in: 1992**
- It is a **principle** within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**).
- It acknowledges the **different capabilities** and **differing responsibilities** of **individual countries** in addressing climate change.

2.28 Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability Project

Why in News?

- Recently, **Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability Project** was mentioned in the **Parliament Budget Session**

About Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability Project

- Implemented by:** Government of India in collaboration with United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).
- Objective:** to minimize the negative environmental impacts of Indian Textile by promoting sustainable practices and mainstreaming knowledge on circular production based practices in the Textiles and Apparel sectors.

2.29 India Hydrogen Alliance (IH2A)

Why in News?

- Recently, the European Investment Bank (**EIB**) has agreed to join the **India Hydrogen Alliance (IH2A)**.
- EIB** would be supporting **large-scale green hydrogen hubs and projects** with an **indicative funding of 1 billion euros**.
 - EIB** is the **lending arm of the European Union (EU)**.

About IH2A

- It is an industry coalition of global and Indian companies committed to the creation of a hydrogen value-chain and economy in India.
- Secretariat:** New Delhi.

2.30 National workshop on LiFE

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP)** organised a '**National workshop on LiFE**' in association with **National Museum of Natural History**.
- Objective: To come up with ideas to align the activities of the government with '**Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment)**'.

About Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)

- The pilot project was **launched in June, 2017**.
- Launched by: **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**
- Objective:** For skill development in the environment and forest sector to enable India's youth to get gainful employment and/or self-employment.
 - The first GSDP course was formulated for skilling of **Biodiversity Conservationists** and **Para-taxonomists** on a pilot basis in **ten selected districts** of the country (covering **nine bio-geographic regions**).

About EIACP

- The ENVIS (Environmental Information System) has been renamed as EIACP by the MoEF&CC in **October 2022**.
 - ENVIS was established in **1982**.
- Objective: For **providing environmental information** to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and engineers, research workers, etc. all over the country.

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)



Proposed by → Narendra Modi, The Prime Minister of India

Announced at → 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) at Glasgow, United Kingdom in 2021

Launch date → October 20, 2022

Launched at → Statue of Unity, EktaNagar, Kevadia, Gujarat

Initiated & led by → Government of India

Need → Nearly 3 billion people are projected to experience chronic water scarcity due to droughts at 2°C warming

global economy could lose up to 18% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2050 without urgent action by one and all

Aim → to nudge individuals and communities to practice a lifestyle that is synchronous with nature and does not harm it.

↳ People practicing such life lifestyle are recognized as '**Pro Planet People**'.

Objectives → to mobilize at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting & preserving environment during 2022-2027
at least 80% of all villages and urban local bodies within India to become environment-friendly by 2028.

Key Principle → Lifestyle of the planet, for the planet and by the planet

Duration → 5 years

Nodal Agency → 1st Year (Curator & Incubator) → NITI Aayog
2nd to 5th Year (Implementor) → Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Three Pronged Strategy → Change in Demand (Phase I)
↳ to nudge individuals to practise simple yet effective environment-friendly actions in daily lives
Change in Supply (Phase II)
↳ to enable industries and markets to respond swiftly to the changing demand
Change in Policy (Phase III)
↳ to influence government and industrial policy to support both sustainable consumption and production

Focus Area → 2022-23 → Change in Demand (Phase 1)

Implementation Mechanism

Compilation of **75 LiFE actions lists** across **seven categories**, viz

energy, water saving, single-use plastic, sustainable food systems, waste reduction (swachhata actions), healthy lifestyle, and e-waste
compiled to commemorate the mission launch in the **75th year of India's Independence**

Creation of **LiFE Dashboard**

Conducting a **baseline survey** to gain insight into the baseline level of all LiFE action indicators to measure success

Identification of Key Performance Indicators (**KPIs**) and impact of LiFE actions

Coordinated and concerted actions by Ministries/Departments

Global promotion activities

Proposal by India to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to declare **International LiFE Day**

MoEFCC, Ministry of External Affairs, with support from **NITI Aayog** will identify & build capacity to countries to implement the Mission

Top 5 ideas research proposals on how environment-friendly actions can be adopted will be acknowledged at **International LiFE conference in June 2023**.

2.31 Initiatives to address climate change

Why in News?

- Recently, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has informed about the various initiatives to address climate change.

Key details

- State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC):**
 - 34 States /Union Territories (UTs) have prepared and some have updated their SAPCC in line with NAPCC (National Action Plan on Climate Change) taking into account the **State-specific issues** relating to climate change.
- National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)**
 - Established in **August 2015**.
 - Objective:** To support adaptation activities in the States/UTs of India that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
 - National Implementing Entity (NIE)** for implementation of adaptation projects under NAFCC: **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.
 - Till date, 30 projects have been sanctioned in 27 States and UTs.
- Green Grids Initiative—One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG):**
 - OSOWOG is an initiative, first proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the first assembly of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in **2018**.
 - Objective:** To introduce a transnational electricity grid that supplies power worldwide.
 - GGI was launched by the **United Kingdom (UK)**.
 - Objective:** To create a framework for international collaboration on the optimal use of renewable resources to ensure that clean and efficient energy is a reliable alternative for all countries to meet their energy requirements by 2030.

Additional information

- India has achieved **reduction of 24% in emission intensity** of its GDP (Gross Domestic Product) between **2005 and 2016**.

Note: NAPCC will be covered in SchemesTap of February 2023.

2.32 Electric Vehicles (EVs) Data

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries informed about the number of EVs sold in India (as per Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) in Lok Sabha.

Key details

| S.No | Category | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|------|---------------------------|---------|----------|
| 1. | Passenger Vehicles (e-4W) | 5,000 | 19,000 |
| 2. | Three Wheelers (e-3W) | 88,000 | 1,78,000 |
| 3. | Two Wheelers (e-2W) | 41,000 | 2,31,000 |

2.33 Initiatives for Green Steel

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Steel has informed about various initiatives taken for the production of Green Steel and decarbonization in steel industry.

Key details Shared

- For the **medium term (2030-2047)**:
 - Green Hydrogen and Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** technologies are the focus areas to reduce carbon emission.
- For **long term (2047-2070)**:
 - Disruptive alternative technological innovations** can help in achieving the transition to net-zero by 2070.
- However, following **2 pilot projects** on CCUS have been undertaken:
 - Tata Steel** commissioned a **5 tonnes per day (TPD) carbon capture plant** at **Jamshedpur, Jharkhand**.
 - Jindal Steel Works (JSW)** has CCUS facility with **100 tonnes per day (TPD) capacity** at its Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) plant at **Dolvi, Maharashtra**.

Additional information

- Recently, **Saarloha (Kalyani Group)** has pioneered the production of green steel and launched its two green steel brands.
 - KALYANI FeRRESTA** and **KALYANI FeRRESTA PLUS**.

2.34 Initiatives to Incentivize Private Sector Investment in RE Industry

Why in News?

- Recently the initiatives taken by the Government of India to incentivize private sector investment in Renewable Energy (RE) Industry was mentioned in the Parliament Budget Session.

Key Initiatives

- 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** allowed under the **Automatic Route**.
- Waiver** of Inter State Transmission System (**ISTS**) charges for inter-state sale of solar and wind power for projects to be commissioned by **30th June 2025**.
 - It includes a provision for **gradual phasing out of waiver for projects** commissioned from **1st July 2025 onwards**.
- Declaration of trajectory** for Renewable Purchase Obligation (**RPO**) up to **2029-30**.
- Project Development Cell** setup to **attract and facilitate investments**.
- Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)** launched to facilitate **sale of RE Power through exchanges**.

2.35 Don't Choose Extinction campaign

Why in News?

- Recently, the '**Don't Choose Extinction**' campaign has won **gold & silver** at the **2nd Annual Anthem Awards** under the following categories:
 - Gold for Sustainability, Environment & Climate – Non-Profit Campaign,
 - Silver for Sustainability, Environment & Climate – Global Awareness Campaign.

About Don't Choose Extinction campaign

- **Launched in:** 2021; **Launched by:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Objective:** to raise awareness about the climate emergency.

2.36 Green Ports and Green Shipping

Why in News?

- Recently, the consultative committee for the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** had a discussion on '**Green Port and Green Shipping**' in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key details shared

- Under the **Green Ports and Green Shipping initiative of MIV** (Maritime India Vision) 2030, Major ports are taking various initiatives that would help in reducing the GHG (Green House Gases) emissions from the Port and Shipping sector.
 - **MIV 2030** is a **10 Year blueprint** on India's vision of a sustainable Maritime sector and vibrant blue economy.
- **Targets:**
 - To increase the **share of renewable energy to 60%** of the total power demand of each of its major Ports from a present share of less than 10%.
 - To reduce Carbon emissions, per ton of cargo handled, by **30% by the year 2030**.
- As envisaged in the **National Hydrogen Mission**:
 - The ministry has nominated **Paradip Port (Odisha)**, **Deendayal Port (Gujarat)** and **V.O. Chidambarar Port (Tamil Nadu)** for developing them as Hydrogen Hubs by **2030**.

2.37 Capital subsidy for setting up of pelleting and briquetting plants

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) declared a **financial assistance model** through **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** for capital subsidy for setting up of pelleting/ briquetting plants for different ex-situ projects.

Key details

- It was announced at a workshop "**पराली - एक पूँजी (Paraali – ek Punji)**", organised at **Chandigarh**.
 - Organised by the **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM)** in association with **Government of Punjab and Haryana**.
 - Organised under the guidance of MoEF&CC.
 - **Aim:** To maximize management/ utilization of paddy stubble to reduce the incidences of paddy stubble burning.

2.38 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Why in news?

- An information is shared by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change regarding amount of plastic covered under the EPR.

Key details:

- A total of 2.26 million tonnes of plastic packaging has been covered under Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for the year 2022-23.

- A National level Taskforce constituted to take coordinated efforts to eliminate single use plastic and effective implementation of plastic waste management rules, 2016.
- All 36 States and UTs constituted State level taskforce.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Concept where manufacturers and importers of products should bear a significant degree of responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products throughout the product life-cycle
- 1st time introduced for: **e-waste management rules 2011**.
- Recently from July, 2022 introduced for Plastic waste management as well, through Plastic waste management rules, 2016.
- Guidelines: (EPR Targets)
- Plastic packaging is categorized into 4 categories.
- Producers to manage 35% of their waste in 2021-22, targets will be increased to 70% in 2022-23 and 100% from 2023-24 onwards.
- Recycling Obligations: 50% of rigid plastic in 2024-25, 60% in 2025-26, 70% in 2026-27, and 80% from 2027-28 onwards.
- Registration and filing of returns on centralized portal of CPCB.
- Trading in EPR certificates is allowed.

Additional information:

- According a report by CPCB (Central pollution control board), Only 9% of total plastic is recycled, 12% incinerated and 79% is left undecomposed.

2.39 United Nation's Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS)

Why in news?

- Recently India urged the member states to stay dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the oceans and support the UNCLOS.

Key details:

- India supported freedom of navigation and overflight, and unimpeded commerce in line with UNCLOS.

UNCLOS:

- It is an international agreement that establishes the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
- It is also called as Law of the sea or treaty.
- Opened for signature: 1982, Came into force: 1994 (India is a party)
- Sector: Guidelines for the use of world's oceans and marine resources.
- Functions:
 - It divides marine areas into **five main zones** namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.
 - Stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
 - The backbone for offshore governance by coastal states and those navigating the oceans.
 - Provides specific guidance for states' rights and responsibilities in the five concentric zones.

2.40 Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Why in news?

- Recently Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Science in a draft statement supported the High ambition coalition.

Key details:

- What is it?
- It is an international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- It is also known as the “Treaty of the High Seas”
- BBNJ is a legally binding statement.
- Convened under: UNCLOS.
- Launched at: the One Ocean Summit in February 2022,
- Currently under negotiation at the United Nations.
- Encompasses the high seas, beyond the exclusive economic zones or national waters of countries.
- Framework Addresses:
- Conservation
- Sustainable utilization.
- Equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the same.

Additional information:

- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), High seas account for “almost half of the Earth’s surface”.
- These areas are hardly regulated and also least understood or explored for its biodiversity - only 1% of these areas are under protection.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA

2.41 SARAS AAJEEVIKA MELA, 2023

Why in News?

- Recently, the first SARAS AAJEEVIKA MELA for the year 2023 was organized at Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Information Shared

- The Government of India has proposed to create a Women Self Help Group (SHG) bank to fund the innovative ideas and products of Didis (SHG Members).
- The Government of India has set a target to achieve 10 Crore SHG members by 2024.

About Saras Aajeevika Mela

- Initiative of:** Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY- NRLM).
- Objective:** to bring the rural women SHG members in one platform to showcase their skills.

2.42 Initiatives for Female Workers

Why in News?

- Recently, the Initiatives by the Government of India for the welfare of female workers were discussed in the Parliament Budget Session.

Key Information Shared

| S.No | Particulars | Key Details |
|------|--|--|
| 1. | Paid Maternity Leave | Increased to 26 weeks from 12 weeks |
| 2. | Creche Facility | Mandatory for establishments having 50 or more employees |
| 3. | Working Hours for women workers in the above/ground mines including opencast | For mines above ground- 7 pm to 6 am For mines below ground- 6 am to 7 pm |

2.43 E-Shram Portal

Why in News?

- Recently, **E-Shram Portal** was mentioned in the **Parliament Budget Session**.

Key Information Shared

| S.No | Particulars | Key Details |
|------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Female workers registered on e-SHRAM Portal | More than 15 crores |
| 2. | Percentage of female workers registered | 52.80 % |

E-Shram Portal

- **First ever National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW)**
- **Launch Date** → 26th August, 2021
- **Launched by** → Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE)
- **Technology Partner** → National Informatics Centre (NIC)
 - to create a comprehensive NDUW, seeded with Aadhar
 - To improve the implementation efficiency of the **social security services** for the unorganized workers (**UW**)
 - **Integration of Social Security Schemes meant for UW being administered by MoLE and subsequently by other ministries**
- **Key Objectives**
 - Covers construction workers, gig and platform workers, street vendors, domestic workers, agriculture workers, migrant workers and similar other workers.
- **Scope** → Covers construction workers, gig and platform workers, street vendors, domestic workers, agriculture workers, migrant workers and similar other workers.
- **Amount Sanctioned to maintain the portal** → Rs. 45.39 crore
- **Key Features**
 - **Eligibility** → UW aged between **16-59 years**
 - **Registration**
 - Free Registration
 - Self Registration or through Common Service Centre (CSC)
 - **E-shram cards**
 - Issued to **Registered UW**
 - Contains **12 digits Universal Account Number (UAN)**
 - Can be used by UW to **avail social security benefits**
 - **Benefits** → **Accidental Insurance Cover** under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (**PMSBY**)
 - Death or permanent disability- Rs 2 Lakh
 - Partial disability - Rs 1 lakh
- **Estimated Beneficiaries** → around 38 crore



e-Shram
Shramev Jayate
NATIONAL DATABASE OF UNORGANISED WORKERS

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.44 Representation of OBC & ST

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** has shared the data on **representation of Other Backward Classes (OBC)**, Scheduled Caste (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Central Government & Higher Education Institutions

Key Information Shared

- Representation of OBC against total appointment** made through **direct recruitment** has been consistently above 27% during 2014-2021.
- ST female enrolment in universities and colleges** registered **63.4% increase in 2020-21** as compared to 2014-15.

2.45 Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) dedicated a batch of **25 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs)** to the nation under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

Key Details

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan



Additional information

- The Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) programme is being coordinated nationally by the **National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC)**, AIIMS, New Delhi.
 - The Ministry plans to have **at least 125 districts** covered under the ATF programme.
- Ministry has a budget of **Rs.200 crore** for the current year for Drug Demand Reduction.

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

2.46 Aadhaar for Electoral roll

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister of Law and Justice has informed about the role of Aadhaar in purification process of the electoral roll.

Key details

- As per the **Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021**, the electoral registration officer may also require the Aadhaar number for the purposes of authentication of entries in electoral roll.
- Therefore, **Aadhaar is only one of several documents (Not Mandatory)** for authentication and identification for the purposes of purifying the electoral rolls.

2.47 Twenty Second Law Commission

Why in news?

- Recently cabinet chaired by the prime minister extended the term of 22nd Law commission, **upto 31st August, 2024**.
- Term of present law commission was supposed to end on 20th February, 2023.

Law Commission:

- **Law Commission** of India is **neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body, it is an executive body** established by an order of the Government of India.
- Works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- The **first Commission** was established in **1834** under the Charter Act of 1833
- 1st time constituted in (Post Independence): 1955.
- **Composition:**
 - A full-time Chairperson.
 - Four full-time Members (including Member-Secretary)
 - Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex-officio Member.
 - Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member.
 - Not more than five part-time Members.
- **Functions of Law commission:**
 - Repealing the obsolete laws.
 - Suggest enactment of new laws to implement directive principles and objectives in preamble.
 - Suggesting legal view to Government on various issues.
 - Preparing and submitting the reports of the studies done on various issues.

2.48 PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)

Why in news?

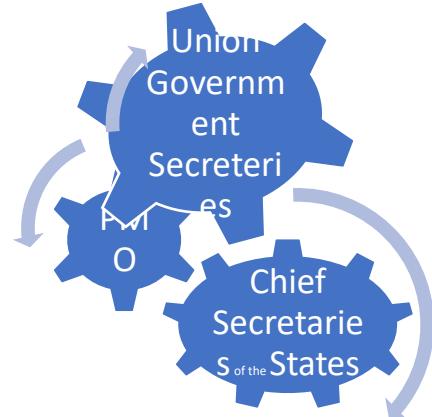
- Recently Prime Minister chaired the meeting of 41st edition of PRAGATI.

Key details:

- PM reviews nine key infrastructure projects spread across 13 states having cumulative worth over Rs. 41,500 crores.
- He advises on using PM GatiShakti portal for planning and reviewed Mission Amrit Sarovar as well.

PRAGATI:

- It is a platform which enables the Prime Minister to discuss the issues with the concerned Central and State officials with full information and latest visuals of the ground-level situation.
- It is also a robust system for bringing e-transparency and e-accountability with real-time presence and exchange among the key stakeholders.
- Launch year: 2015
- Launched by: Prime Minister Office (PMO) in collaboration with National informatics centre (NIC).
- PRAGATI Day**- On 4th Wednesday of every month.
- It is a three tier system.
- It uses three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.



Objectives of PRAGATI:

- Grievance Redressal.
- Programme Implementation.
- Project Monitoring.
- It strengthens the Cooperative federalism.
- It is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform that is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects.

2.49 2nd Edition of 'Secretariat Reforms' report

Why in News?

- Recently, the 2nd Edition of 'Secretariat Reforms' report for the month of January 2023 has been released by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
 - Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.
 - It is a monthly report initiated in December 2022 (1st Edition).

Key findings

- Swachhata Campaign & Reduction in Pendency**
 - 89.59% Public Grievances disposed (3,94,805 disposed out of 4,40,671 received).
 - Around Rs.17.50 crore of revenue earned by scrap disposal.
- Increasing Efficiency in Decision Making**
 - 64 Ministries/ Departments implemented delayering.
 - 69 Ministries/ Departments implemented delegation.
 - Desk Officer System is operational in 28 Ministries/ Departments.
- e-Office implementation and analytics**

- 72 ministries/ departments migrated on E-Office version 7.0.
- 10 Ministries/ Departments have 100% e-Receipts.

- **Best Practices**

- **EPFO Gorakhpur (Ministry of Labour and Employment)** provides wheelchair facilities for senior citizens at the office.
- **Vijayawada railway station** segregates waste at source.
- **Department of Agricultural Research and Education** conducted an **awareness programme** on the importance of cleanliness and conversion of farm waste to wealth for school children at KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) Solapur, Maharashtra.

2.50 New security mechanism for Aadhaar authentication

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, Ministry of Electronics & IT has successfully rolled out a **new security mechanism** for Aadhaar based **fingerprint authentication**, and faster **detection of spoofing attempts**.

Key details

- It is based on artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML)
- It is a **two factor/layer authentication** using a combination of **both finger minutia and finger image** to check the **liveness of the finger print** captured.

Additional information

- By the end of **December 2022**, cumulative number of Aadhaar authentication transactions had **crossed 88.29 billion** (an average per day transactions of 70 million).

Note: UIDAI has been covered in CurrentTap-January 2023 (Article: 2.34).

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

2.51 Foreign Inward Remittances

Why in News?

- Recently, data on **Foreign Inward Remittances** to India was shared in the Parliament Budget Session.

| S.No | Particulars | Key Details |
|------|--|--|
| 1. | Highest ever foreign inward remittances received by India in a single year | USD 89,127 million (2021-22) |
| 2. | Top 3 countries with major share in Inward Remittances in 2020-21 (RBI Remittance Survey, 2021 published in RBI article- "Headwinds of COVID-19 and India's Inward Remittances") | 1. United States (23.4%) 2. United Arab Emirates (18.0%) 3. United Kingdom (6.8%) |

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.52 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

News 1

- Recently, the **2nd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Young Scientist Conclave** was hosted by Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) at Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Event Organizer:** Department of Science & Technology (DST)

Key Information Shared

- The Prime Minister of India has coined the term '**HEALTH**', which means-
 - Health-care cooperation, Economic cooperation, Alternate Energy, Literature and Culture, Terrorism free society, Humanitarian Cooperation.
- India ranks 3rd in the world in terms of number of Start-Ups & number of publications respectively.**

News 2

- Recently, a seminar on "Building capacities among Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) partner nations through skill training and new generation of entrepreneurs" was organised in **New Delhi**.

Key details

- Organised by: **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- Objective:** To strengthen the capacities of aspiring entrepreneurs and small businesses through skill-based capacity building on the usage of IT platforms.

Additional information

- India began its association with SCO as an observer state in 2005.
- India became a member state of SCO in 2017.

Note: SCO has been covered in CurrentTap- January 2023 (Article: 2.29)

2.53 G20 Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, the **first G20 Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) Meeting** under India's G20 Presidency was held at **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- Theme:** "One Earth, One Family and One Future"
- Six Priority Areas:** Energy Transition through Addressing Technology Gaps; Low-cost Financing for Energy Transition; Energy Security and Diversified Supply Chains; Energy Efficiency, Industrial Low Carbon Transitions and Responsible Consumption; Fuels for Future (3F) and Universal Access to Clean Energy and Just, Affordable, and Inclusive Energy Transition Pathways

Key Highlights of the Event

- International Seminar on Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)**, hosted by NTPC Ltd.
- 3D-Model of NTPC flagship project on Flue Gas CO₂ to Methanol Synthesis** was displayed at the seminar.
- An **MoU** was signed between **India & Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council** to further promote adoption of energy efficiency and sustainable practices in the region.

Group of Twenty (G20)



- The premier forum for international economic cooperation
- Establishment → 1999
- Members → 19 countries + European Union (EU)
 - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, UK, USA & EU
- India's G20 Presidency for 2023
 - Theme → One Earth, One Family, One Future or Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam
 - Green Development, Climate Finance & LiFE
 - Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth
 - Accelerating progress on SDGs
 - Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure
 - Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century
 - Women-led development
 - Priority Areas
 - Sherpa Track → Coordinated by: Sherpas of member countries
 - India's Sherpa: Amitabh Kant
 - oversees inputs from 13 Working Groups, engagement groups & 2 Initiatives viz, Research Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) and G20 Empower
 - Work Tracks
 - Finance Track → Led by: Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors
 - Guest Countries (9) → Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE.
 - Total Invited Organizations → Fourteen
 - Highlights
 - Startup20 Engagement Group & Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group to be established for the first time
 - India to host meetings across 32 different work streams
 - Secretariat
 - No permanent Secretariat
 - Presidency supported by G20 Troika – previous, current and incoming Presidencies
 - Indonesia (2022), India (2023) and Brazil (2024)
 - Significance
 - G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP
 - G20 members represent over 75% of the global trade
 - G20 members constitute about two-thirds of the world population

2.54 G20 Cyber Security Exercise and Drill

Why in News?

- Recently, the Secretary, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, inaugurated the **G20 Cyber Security Exercise and Drill** under India's G20 presidency.
- Objective: To counter cyber challenges/ Cyber-attacks.

Key details

- **Conducted by:** Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).
- Participants: More than 400 domestic and international participants.
- Strategic Table-Top Exercise (TTX) and Operational Drill were also conducted using **CERT-In Exercise Platform**.
- Two TTX were conducted on the following themes:

- **Synergy to counter Global Cyber Crisis:** It is for Board & Top Management focused on Crisis Management & Crisis Communication.
- **Building Collective Cyber Resilience:** It was for CISO (Chief Information Security Officer) and Mid-management.

About CERT-In

- It was established in **2004**.
- As per the **Information Technology Amendment Act, 2008**, It is the **national Nodal Agency** for responding to Cyber Security Incidents.

2.55 G-20 Education Working Group (EdWG)

Why in News?

- Recently, the first G-20 Education Working Group (EdWG) Meeting was organised in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- Chairman of EdWG: **Shri. Sanjay Murthy**, Secretary Higher Education.

Key details

- The EdWG was established in **2018** during Argentina's Presidency.

2.56 First Meeting of Employment Working Group (EWG) of G20

Why in News?

- Recently, the first meeting of **Employment Working Group (Under Sherpa Track) of G20** was organised by **Ministry of Labour & Employment** at Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Co-Chaired by: **Indonesia & Brazil**.

Key Details

- 3 Priority area for the meeting: **Addressing Global Skills Gaps, Gig & platform economy and Sustainable Financing of Social Security**.

About EWG

- It was started as the G20 Taskforce on Employment in **2011** under the **French Presidency**.
- It was raised to Working Group level following the **Leaders' Declaration** under the **Australian Presidency** in **2014**.
- It mainly discusses labour, employment and social issues to further develop strong, sustainable, balanced, inclusive and job-rich growth.

2.57 Youth20 (Y20) Inception Meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, the **first Y20 Inception Meeting** was organised in **IIT Guwahati, Assam**.
- The White Paper on **the five themes of Y20** was launched by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports.

Key details about Y20 Group

- Established in **2012**.
- It is one of the **Engagement Groups** Under G20.
- It provides a platform that allows youth to express their vision/ideas on the G20 priorities, and provide a series of recommendations which are submitted to the G20 Leaders.
- it is the **only officially recognized platform** for **young people** to engage with the G20.

Note: Y20 Summit and its theme has been covered in CurrentTap- January 2023 (Article 2.23).

2.58 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9)

Why in News?

- Recently, India hosted the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) in association with the **International Energy Forum (IEF)** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka.
- Theme:** Mapping new pathways for energy security, inclusive growth and energy transitions.
- It was organised on the sidelines of **India Energy Week 2023**.

Key details

- It is a platform for dialogue between producers, consumers & International Organizations to join and debate energy issues which confront the Asian and the global energy sector.

Key information shared by Union Minister at the event

- The **share of Asian Economy** in global GDP has risen from **38% to 45%** and is likely to exceed **50% by 2030**.
- Asian Economy has grown at the **average rate of 5.5%** over the **preceding two decades** and registered **growth of 6.5% in 2021**.
 - it is expected to moderate to **4% in 2022** amid an uncertain global environment and rise to **4.3% in 2023**.
- India has met its commitment of **40% of its installed electricity capacity** from **non-fossil energy sources** by 2030 in **November 2021**.
- India will support battery energy storage system with capacity of 4,000 MWH through Viability Gap Funding.

About IEF

- It is the world's largest international organization of **energy ministers from 72 countries (Including India)** and includes both **producing and consuming** nations.
- Established in **1991** (Headquarter/ Secretariat: **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**).

2.59 Negotiating round of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

Why in News?

- Recently, India hosted the special negotiating round (2nd) for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for Prosperity in New Delhi.
- The round covered **IPEF Pillars II (Supply Chains), III (Clean Economy), and IV (Fair Economy)**.
- Chief Negotiator of India: Shri Rajesh Agarwal**, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce.

Additional information

- Previous round (1st) was held in Brisbane, Australia, in December 2022.

Note: IPEF has been covered in CurrentTap-December 2022.

2.60 G-20 Tourism Working Group Meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Ministry of Tourism** has organized the **first G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting** from in **Rann of Kutch, Gujarat**.
- The meeting was organized as a part of **India's G20 Presidency**.

Key Information Shared

- **Five Priority Areas in the Tourism Sector during India's G-20 Presidency**
 - Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, Tourism MSMEs & Destination Management.
- **Three Mega Events to be organized under G20 Tourism track**
 - **First Global Tourism Investors' Summit (GTIS)** by **Ministry of Tourism at New Delhi**
 - **G20 CEO Forum alongside the Ministerial Meeting** by World Travel and Tourism Council (**WTTC**) and **WTTC (India initiative)** at **Goa**.
 - **MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) Global Conference** by **Ministry of Tourism**.

About G20 Tourism Working Group

- **Established in:** 2020.

2.61 Agriculture Deputies Meeting of Agriculture Working Group

Why in News?

- Recently, the **1st Agriculture Deputies Meeting (ADM)** of **Agriculture Working Group (AWG)** under **India's G20 Presidency** was held at **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Organized by:** Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Key Information Shared

- **Demand for food grains** will increase to **345 million tonnes by 2030**.
- The Prime Minister of India has named **Millets** as **Sri Ann**.
- United Nations declared **2023 as International Year of Millets**.

About G20 Agriculture Deputies Group

- **Established in:** 2011.

2.62 G-20 EMPOWER Inception Meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, the **G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (EMPOWER) Inception Meeting** was held at **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Theme:** Empowering Women to Lead Across Sectors: Role of Digital Skilling and Future Skills.

About G20 EMPOWER 2023

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development; **Chair:** Dr Sangita Reddy
- **Three Focus Areas:**
 - Women's Entrepreneurship: A win-win for Equity and Economy
 - Partnership for promoting women's leadership at all levels including at grassroots
 - Education, the key to women's empowerment and equal workforce participation.
- **Aim:** to accelerate women's leadership and empowerment in the private sector.

2.63 Environment & Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, the **first G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting** was held at **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

- **Meeting Led by:** Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- **Key Outcome:** G20 members agreed to work towards **three priority areas**:
 - Arresting Land Degradation, Accelerating Ecosystem Restoration and Enriching Biodiversity
 - Promoting a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy
 - Encouraging Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy.

Key Highlights

- **Inception report** of the technical study on '**Accelerating the transition to Sustainable & Climate Resilient Blue Economy**' was presented by the **Indian G20 Presidency**.
- **Indian G20 Presidency**, in collaboration with **Japan**, will be publishing the **5th report** on **actions against marine plastic litter** under the **G20 Framework for Marine Plastic Litter**.
- India has proposed to convene an **Ocean 20 dialogue**.

2.64 Urban 20 Inception Meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, the **inaugural City Sherpa Meeting of the 2023 Urban 20 (U20) Engagement Group /6th U20 Cycle** was held in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
- **Organized by:** Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- **Six Priority Areas**
 - Encouraging environmentally responsive behaviour
 - Ensuring water security
 - Accelerating Climate Finance
 - Leveraging 'local' potential and identity

About U20

- It is an **engagement group** under the **G20**.
- It brings together city sherpas, mayors and representatives from cities in G20 countries, to deliberate key urban challenges and inform the G20 negotiations.
- **Chair city for U20 2023:** Ahmedabad

2.65 ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, the **3rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India** was held **virtually**.
- **Theme:** "Synergy Towards a Sustainable Digital Future".
- **Key Outcome:** India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2023 was approved in the Meeting.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Establishment | → 1967 |
| Headquarters | → Jakarta, Indonesia |
| Ten Members | → Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam |
| Chairmanship (2023) | → Indonesia |
| Theme (2023) | → ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth |
| India ASEAN Relations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1992 → India became a Sectoral Partner → 1996 → India became a Dialogue Partner → 2002 → India became a Summit Partner → 2022 → ASEAN India Friendship Year Commemorated 30th Anniversary of India ASEAN Relations |

2.66 1st Meeting of G20 Digital Economy Working Group

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has organised the **1st Meeting of G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG)** in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Chairman:** Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, MeitY.
- Co-chair:** Shri Sushil Pal, Joint Secretary, MeitY

Key details

- Invited Countries (9) other than G20 Members:** Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Invited International Organisations (5):** ITU, OECD, World Bank, UNESCO, and UNDP (These are also knowledge partner).
- MeitY has launched various initiatives as a precursor to the first DEWG meeting:
 - Stay Safe Online Campaign:** To raise awareness among citizens of all ages about cyber risks and how to protect oneself online.
 - G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (G20-DIA):** To support and recognize innovative digital technologies developed by startups from G20 countries.
 - Digital India Mobile Van:** Launched in February 2023 (By CM of Uttar Pradesh).
 - Objective:** To showcase the Digital India's key initiatives to the citizens of India to relive the Digital India journey.
 - The van's **first tour will be in Lucknow** in 45 pre-identified destinations.
- An exhibition along with **virtual reality experience centre** has been set up to showcase, how Digital India has transformed the lives of people in India.

About DEWG

- It was formed in **2017 as Digital Economy Task Force (DETF)** as part of the **German G20 presidency** with the aim of promoting the implementation of a secure, interconnected, and inclusive digital economy.
 - In **2021**, it is raised to the Working Group Level.
- 3 priority areas identified by India: **Digital Public Infrastructure, Cybersecurity in the Digital Economy** and **Digital Skilling**.

Additional information

- Global digital economy is estimated to be worth **USD 11 trillion** and It is expected to reach **USD 23 trillion by 2025**.
- As per **NASSCOM** (National Association of Software and Service Companies) and **UNESCO**, Global economy could **lose up to USD 11.5 trillion by 2028** due to the **Digital Skills gap**.

2.67 NIELIT's International Conference on Communication, Electronics and Digital Technologies (NICE-DT 2023)

Why in News?

- Recently, the 1st International conference on Communication, Electronics and Digital Technologies (NICE DT 2023) was organised by the **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** in New Delhi.
 - Aim: To prepare strategy for developing "**Global Future Ready Workforce**".

- As a precursor to the DEWG (Digital Economy Working Group) meeting, 1st international conference on Digital Skilling was also organised under NICE-DT 2023.
 - It is a lead of event of G20.

About NIELT

- Established in **1994 (Headquarter: New Delhi)**.
- It is an autonomous Scientific Society of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- Objective:** To carry out Human Resource Development and related activities in the area of Information, Electronics & Communications Technology (IECT).
 - NIELIT has trained around **8 million candidates in the last ten years**.
- Courses on technologies like Robotics, Data Science, Blockchain, Information System Security, VLSI, Cyber Forensics etc. are delivered through NIELIT Virtual Academy.

Additional information

- 1st International Journal of Digital Technologies was also unveiled at the occasion.

2.68 First meeting of Culture Working Group (CWG) of G20

Why in News?

- Recently, it was organised by **Ministry of Culture at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Knowledge Partner:** UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Key details

- A consensus has emerged for **4 main themes proposed by India** for Culture Working Group meeting of G20. These are:
 - Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property.
 - Harnessing Living Heritage of Sustainable Future.
 - Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy.
 - Leveraging of Digital Technology for Protection and Promotion of Culture.
- As a part of the meeting, an exhibition "**Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures**" has been organised by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and National Museum Institute (NMI).
 - Focus:** On voicing repatriation stories of objects from across the globe.
- One of the important things displayed:
 - The '**Parrot Lady**' repatriated to India in **2015 by Canada**.

About Culture Working Group

- Launched in **2021**
- Aim:** To strengthen international cooperation to support cultural and creative industries.
- It is one of the working groups of G20 under Sherpa Track.

Additional information

- G20 delegates also visited the following places:
 - Adivart Tribal and Folk Art Museum** in Khajuraho.
 - Western Group of Temples**, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Khajuraho.
 - Panna Tiger Reserve** (Madhya Pradesh)

2.69 MoU for Maritime Security between India and Seychelles

Why in News?

- Recently, the Indian Navy's **Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC), Seychelles**.
- Aim:** To promote collaboration between the two centres towards enhancing maritime domain awareness, information sharing and expertise development.

About IFC IOR

- It was established in **2018** by Government of India at **Gurugram, Haryana**.
 - Hosted by: **Indian Navy**.
- Aim:** To enhance collaborative maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean Region in line with India's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- It has established linkages with several multinational maritime security centres.
- IFC-IOR also hosts **International Liaison Officers (ILOs)** from partner nations.
 - Till date, the Centre has hosted ILOs from 12 partner nations.

Additional information

- The **Maritime Security Architecture in the Western Indian Ocean** is implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).
 - It is supported by the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC), the RCOC and the national centres of the 7 signatory countries (Comoros, Djibouti, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles).

2.70 G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) Meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, the **2nd G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) Meeting** has been organised in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Co-chaired by: Shri Ajay Seth, and Dr Michael D. Patra, Deputy Governor, RBI.

Key details

- It is under the finance track of G20, which focuses on economic and financial issues.
- The finance track is led by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of G20 countries.

Additional information

- The **1st meeting** was organised in December 2022 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Hosted jointly by the **Ministry of Finance** and the **Reserve Bank of India**.

2.71 1st Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)

Why in News?

- Recently, it was organised by **Ministry of Finance** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- It is the **first Minister-level dialogue** under India's G20 Presidency.
- Chair: Union Finance Minister and Governor of Reserve Bank of India.

Key details and outcomes

- Discussions in the meeting are intended **to provide a clear mandate** for the various **workstreams** of the **G20 Finance Track** in 2023.
- FMCBG group agreed to enhance the international policy cooperation and steer the global economy towards securing strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

2.72 Womens 20 (W20) Inception Meeting

Why in News?

- Recently, it was organised by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)** under India's G20 presidency in **Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar)**, Maharashtra.
- Theme:** 'Pursuit of gender equality, equity and dignity for women-led development'.

About W 20 group

- It is an **official engagement group** under the G20.
 - It was established during the **Turkish presidency in 2015**.
- Objective:** To realize Gender equality and women's economic empowerment in G20 discussions and G20 Leaders' Declarations.
- W20, 2023** aims to ensure that the **W20 communique is representative and comprehensive** and will provide solutions to enhance the status of women across the globe.
- Five priority areas** of W20 under India's Presidency include:
 - Women in Entrepreneurship,
 - Women Leadership at Grassroots,
 - Bridging the Gender Digital Divide,
 - Education & Skill Development
 - Women & Girls as change makers Climate Resilience Action.
- W-20 India has adopted the **4C strategy of Collaboration, Cooperation, Communication to build consensus and Call to Action** to achieve its mission and goals.
- Chair of W20 India: **Dr. Sandhya Purecha**, Chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Additional information

- As per Union Minister of MoWCD:
 - Out of the 3 million women** across the world who are appointed to **political offices** at the grassroots level, **1.4 million women are from India**.
 - Around, **100 million women** in India are also part of the **workforce in the agricultural sector**.
- A coffee table book called "**Avvaya**" highlighting **the contribution of women** to the heritage city of **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar** was also launched.

GLOBALIZATION

2.73 UAE-India Business Council (UIBC)

Why in News?

- Recently, **India** & the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) have launched the **UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC)**.

- The launch of UIBC-UC coincides with the first anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India & UAE.
- Target:** to increase non-oil bilateral trade to USD 100 billion and attract USD 75 billion in investment from the UAE to India.
- UIBC-UC will be the counterpart organization for the UIBC India Chapter.

India UAE CEPA

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Significance | First deep and full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade. |
| Signed on | → 18 February 2022 |
| Effective Date | → 1st May 2022 |
| Target | <p>to increase the total value of bilateral trade in goods to over USD 100 billion within five years</p> <p>to increase the trade in services to over USD 15 billion within five years.</p> |

INDIAN AGRICULTURE

2.74 Initiatives for India's cooperative Sector

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Cooperation shared various steps taken for India's Cooperative Sector.

Important steps

- Ministry of Cooperation** was created in **July 2021** by transferring the existing entries related to cooperation/cooperative from the **erstwhile Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare**.
- Computerization of PACS (**Primary Agricultural Credit Societies**).
 - Objective: To onboard 63,000 functional PACS on an ERP (**Enterprise resource planning**) based common national software with an outlay of **Rs. 2,516 Crore**.
- Model byelaws for PACS:
 - to enable PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities.
- MoU signed between **Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, NABARD** and **CSC -SPV (Common Service Centre- Special Purpose Vehicle)** to facilitate **functioning of PACS as CSCs** to improve their viability, provide e-services at village level and generate employment.
- Creation of **National Cooperative Database** to facilitate stakeholders in policy making.
- Cooperatives permitted to register as '**buyer**' on GeM (Government e Marketplace).
- Surcharge reduced from 12 % to 7%** for cooperative societies having income between **Rs. 1 to 10 Cr.**
- Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)** reduced for Co-operatives from **18.5% to 15%**.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

2.75 Initiatives of Defence Production

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Defence informed about the production and initiatives for self-reliance in Defence manufacturing.

- **Target of Government:** Achieving defence manufacturing worth **Rs. 1,75,000 Crore** including **defence exports of Rs. 35,000 Crore** by the **year 2024-25**.

Key Initiatives

- Notification of 4 'Positive Indigenization Lists' of total 411 items of Services and 3 'Positive Indigenization Lists' of total 3738 items of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
- Liberalization of Foreign Direct Investment policy allowing **74% FDI** under automatic route.
- Launch of **SRIJAN Portal** to facilitate indigenisation by Indian Industry including MSMEs.
- Opening up of **Defence Research & Development (R&D)** for industry, startups and academia with **25%** of defence R&D budget.

Key Figures

- Value of production undertaken by private companies, DPSUs and other PSUs in defence sector in 2021-22 is **Rs 94,846 crore**.
- Value of indigenous procurement of defence equipment (both Capital and Revenue) by the three Services (Army, Navy & Air Force) in 2021-22 is **Rs 86,078.06 crore**.

2.76 Textile Advisory Group for Manmade Fibre (MMF)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Minister for Textiles** hosted the inaugural meeting of the newly formed **Textile Advisory Group for MMF** at New Delhi.
- **Members:** Senior Officials from the Ministries of Textiles, Commerce and Petroleum & Natural Gas; industry associations and councils.

2.77 National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)

Why in news?

- A reply has been submitted by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry regarding projects under National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust.

Key details:

- In total **8 projects** have been sanctioned under NICDIT.
- **National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)**
 - Under the aegis of: Department for promotion of Industry and internal trade (DPIIT).
 - Function: Act as implementing agency for National Industrial Corridor Development Programme.
 - Objectives: To expand the industrial output, Increase employment opportunities, Provide better living and social facilities.

2.78 Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Why in news?

A reply has been submitted by Minister of state for Commerce and Industry regarding industrial growth.

Key details:

- As per IIP the Industrial growth during 2021-22 was 11.7 per cent over the corresponding period of the last year, Whereas during:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2009-14 (Base year: 2004-05) | 2014-19 (Base year: 2011-12) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 3.4 | 3.2 |
|-----|-----|

IIP (Index of Industrial Production)

- Released by: **National Statistical office (NSO).**
- IIP is an Indicator that measures the changes in volume of production of Industrial products during a given period.
- Measures Industry Groups classified as, Broad Sectors: Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
- Use-based Sectors: Basic goods, Capital goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- **Base year: 2011-12** (Changed in 2017, from 2004-05 to 2011-12).

Additional information:

- **Index of Eight Core industries (ICI):** released by **Office of Economic Advisor (OEA)**, Department of Industrial Policy and promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It measures combined and individual performance of production in 8 core industries.
- These comprise 40.27% of weight of items included in the IIP.
- **Eight core industries** in Decreasing order of their weightage:
 - Refinery products > Electricity > Steel > Coal > Crude Oil > Natural Gas > Cement > Fertilizers

2.79 Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020

Why in news?

- Recently a reply has been submitted by Minister of state for Labour and Employment regarding status of Migrant workers.

Key details:

- **Inter-State Migrant workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979** has now been subsumed in **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020.**

Key-Provisions of OSH Code, 2020:

- Only **one registration** for one establishment.
- Improve ease of doing business.
- **Grievance redressal** mechanism, protection from abuse and exploitation.
- **Appointment letter made statutory.**
- **Free of cost annual health checks-up** for employees.
- Decent working conditions and **Minimum wages**.
- **Women permitted to work in night shifts**, after their prior consent.

2.80 Information Technology Exports from India

Why in news?

- Recently an information is shared by Minister of state for Electronics and IT about the growth in exports of information technology from India, which is provided by NASSCOM.

Key details:

- As per the Data shared by National Association of Software and services Companies (NASSCOM), total amount of IT export from the country during last 3 years is as follows,

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| FY 2019-20 | \$ 150 Billion |
|------------|----------------|

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| FY 2020-21 | \$ 151 Billion |
| FY 2021-22 | \$ 178 Billion |

Government measures to increase the Information Technology export:

1. **Software Technology parks in India (STP) Scheme:**
 - Under the Aegis of: Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)
 - It is a **100% export oriented.**
 - Objective: Development & export of computer software, including export of professional services.
2. **Special Economic Zones (SEZ):**
 - Launch year: by SEZ Act, 2005. And supported by SEZ Rules.
 - Objective: Promotion of export of goods and services, creation of employment opportunities and generation of additional economic activities.
3. **Future skills PRIME (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability):**
 - Launch by: MeitY in collaboration with NASSCOM.
 - It is an 'Aggregator of aggregators' Platform comprising various online skills providers for digital skill training.
 - Re-skilling and up-skilling of IT professionals in 10 new emerging technologies, like 3D Printing and others.
4. **National Policy on Software Products-2019:**
 - Objective: To develop India as global software product hub and creating robust Indian software product development ecosystem.

Additional information:

- **IT sector contributes 7.4% to the GDP of India.**

2.81 Ease of Doing Business in India

Why in news?

- Recently a reply has been submitted by Minister of state for commerce and Industry about the initiatives taken up by the government to improve the ease of doing business.

Key details:

- **Aim:** To extend the benefits to all entities/sectors/industries and startups.
- **Focus areas:**
 - Simplified procedure for application, renewals, inspection, record filing, etc.
 - Rationalizing the laws by repealing, amending or subsuming the redundant ones.
 - Digitization by creating online interfaces eliminating manual forms and records.
 - Decriminalization of minor technical or procedural defaults.

Regulatory reforms specific to Startups:

- **53 Key regulatory reforms** outlined for startups.



2.82 Rail Post Gati Shakti Express Cargo Service

Why in news?

Recently Indian Railways and Indian Post have formally launched Rail Post Gati Shakti Express Cargo Services.

Key details:

- Joint initiative by Indian Railways and Indian Post.
- It is a part of Budget Announcement of 2022-23.
- Pilot mode: March 2022, from Surat to Varanasi.
- Initial phase: Services are to start in 15 sectors, launching at 4 locations.
 - i. Delhi to Kolkata
 - ii. Bengaluru to Guwahati.
 - iii. Surat to Muzaffarpur.
 - iv. Hyderabad to Hazrat Nizamuddin.
- Salient Features of the Services:
 - For the first time tariff on the basis of per Kg of the goods per Kilometre has been determined.
 - Door-step pick-up and delivery.
 - Flexibility of Quantum of Load.
 - Time tabled Services.
 - Safe Transmission.
 - Insurance (at 0.03% of cargo value).
 - Affordable tariff.
 - Single point of contact.
- Mobile Application (Facilitates online payment, tracking status of consignment, booking the consignments).

2.83 15th edition of ELECRAMA

Why in News?

- Recently, it was organised by the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) in Greater Noida.



Key details

- ELECRAMA is the flagship showcase of the Indian Electrical Industry ecosystem and the largest standalone show in the electrical and allied equipment arena.
- Theme: Reimagining Energy for Sustainable Future.

Key information shared by Union Minister at the occasion

- Electrical Industry Target: To achieve exports worth USD 25 billion in next 5 years.

Additional Information

- IEEMA was established in 1948.
 - It is the apex association of manufacturers of electrical, industrial electronics and allied equipment in India.

2.84 National Conference on “Geospatial Policy for National Development”

Why in News?

- Recently, it was organised by Department of Science and Technology in New Delhi.

Key details shared by Union Minister at the Occasion

- The Troika of **Space, Drone and Geospatial Policy** will propel India as a pre-eminent Technological Power in a few Years from now.
- Indian Geospatial economy provided employment to around **5 Lakh people in 2021**.
 - It is expected to rise over **10 lakhs by 2025**.
- **The Survey of India** will provide the baseline for collection and collation of Data by the private sector for strengthening the Geospatial Infrastructure.

Additional information

- **Chairman** of Geospatial Data Promotion and Development Committee (GDPDC): **Shri R.S.Sharma**.

Note: National Geospatial Policy has been covered in CurrentTap- December 2022 (Article: 2.129).

2.85 National Mission on Power Electronics Technology (NaMPET)

Why in News?

- Recently, the transfer of technology has taken place of indigenously developed Smart Energy Meter & Electric Vehicle Charger under NaMPET.

About NaMPET

- It is a National level Research & Development (R&D) Programme.
- Launched in **2004**.
- Launched by **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- **Vision:** To provide the country with capability to become a dominant player in **Power Electronics Technology** at the global level
- Nodal Agency: **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Ministry has initiated the **NaMPET Phase-III** in **January 2019** for five years.

About Smart Energy Meter

- **Developed by:** C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram under NaMPET as per Indian Standards
- This technology was transferred to Shri Anil Mahashur, Chairman & Shri Virendra Kumar, Managing Director, **Pragati Electrocom Private Limited**.

About Electric Vehicle Charger

- **Developed by:** C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram under NaMPET as per Bharat EV AC Charger (BEVC-AC001) specifications and AIS-138 standards.
- This technology was transferred to Shri Nimish Swadia, Director, **M/s Electronic System** and Shri S. Nagarajan, Founder & MD, **M/s Vellore Electronics and Systems Private Limited**, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

2.86 Initiatives for Aviation Sector

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation shared about the various initiatives and important figures of Aviation Sector.

Key details shared:

- **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP 2016):**
 - **Target:**
 - Domestic ticketing to **30 crore by 2022** and **50 crore by 2027**.
 - International ticketing to **20 crore by 2027**.

- Cargo volumes to **10 million tonnes by 2027.**
- **New MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) guidelines:** Released in September, 2021.
 - It provides for the **allotment of land at AAI (Airport Authority of India) airports** through call of open tenders without levy of any royalty or cess of whatsoever nature to MRO operators.
- **Liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) guidelines:**
 - The **Airport royalty** (revenue share payment by FTOs to AAI) has been abolished.
 - Land rentals have been rationalised to encourage setting up of FTOs to address the shortage of pilots in the country.
- **Capital expenditure** of approximately **Rs 98,000 crore** in the **next 5 years** have been taken up by AAI and other airport developers.
 - **Objective:** For development of new and existing airports.
- Under **Greenfield Airport Policy, 2008** of the Government, 'in principle' approval has been accorded for setting up of **21 Greenfield airports** across the country.
 - So far, 10 airports have been operationalized.

2.87 Government-e-Marketplace (GeM)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of commerce has shared information about GeM portal.

Key details

- As on **1st February 2023**, GeM has achieved a milestone of **Rs. 1.5 lakh crore** of Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) in FY23 alone.
 - By this rate, it can achieve its ambitious target of **Rs. 1.75 lakh crore**.
 - Cumulatively, GeM has surpassed the **Rs. 3 lakh crore** GMV since inception.
- The total number of transactions on GeM: Over **1.3 crore**.
- GeM has over **66,000 government buyer organisations** and more than **58 lakh sellers and service providers**.
 - Over **13 lakh sellers** are registered on the GeM to sell their products directly to various Government departments and organizations.
- Based on various studies, the **minimum savings** on the platform are **about 10%**, which translates into a savings of **over Rs. 30,000 crore** worth of public money.

News 2

- Recently, the Ministry of Textiles has informed that, so far, about **1.50 lakh handloom agencies/weavers** and **26,644 artisans** have been on-boarded on the GeM portal.

2.88 Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has informed about the Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 in Rajya Sabha.

Key details shared:

- MIV 2030 estimates the investments to the tune of **Rs. 1,00,000–1,25,000 crore** for capacity augmentation and development of world-class infrastructure at Indian Ports.
- At present, India does not have ports to deal with Ultra-large container ships.

- The upcoming ports at **Vizhinjam (Kerala)** and **Vadhavan (Maharashtra)** have **natural drafts in excess of 18m** that would deal with ultra large container and cargo vessels.

About MIV 2030

- Formulated by: **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.
- **Aim:** To ensure coordinated and accelerated growth of maritime sector in the next decade.
- It has identified **150+ initiatives across 10 themes** which will propel Indian maritime sector.
- It will work across **6 key guiding principles**.
- It envisions an **overall investment of Rs 3,00,000-3,50,000 Cr**.
- It will help in unlocking **Rs. 20,000+ Cr worth of potential annual revenue** for Indian Ports.
- it is expected to create an additional -**20,00,000+ jobs** in the Indian maritime sector.

2.89 South India's 1st Industrial Corridor Project, Tumakuru

Why in news?

- Honourable Prime Minister lays foundation stone to south India's **1st Industrial Corridor Project**, the Tumakuru Industrial Township, as a part of National Industrial Corridor programme.

Key details

- This project is a part of **Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC)**.
- Project planned with holistic and integrated approach, in line with the principles of **PM-Gatishakti**.
- This will help in tackling the issue of **last mile multi-modal** connectivity to the economic zone.
- Tumakuru node will generate employment for around 88,000 people and attract investment of around Rs. 7,000 crore over a period of 5-6 years.

Implementing Agencies

- National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (**NICDIT**) and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board, along with Special purpose vehicles (**SPV**).

National Industrial Corridor Development Programme

- Nodal agency: **DPIIT**, Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
- **Aim:** To develop **Greenfield manufacturing hubs** and new industrial cities as "Smart Cities".
- It includes **32 Projects in 4 Phases under 11 Corridors**. (Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor was the **1st** corridor taken up for development in 2011).

2.90 Steel Consumption in the Country

Why In news?

- A reply has been submitted by Ministry of Steel regarding status of steel consumption in the country.

Key details

- India has become the **2nd largest consumer** of finished steel in the world. (**1st –China**)
- The finished steel consumption was **106 million tons** (MT) during the FY22.
- **Per capita** steel consumption is around **77.2 Kg**, gone up by 50% in last 8 years.
- (World average per capita – **233Kg**)

National Steel Policy (NSP), 2017

- Envisages to increase the per capita steel consumption to **160 Kg by 2030-31**.
- Development of **globally competitive** steel manufacturing capabilities.

- **Domestic availability** of iron ore, coking coal and natural gas.
- Facilitating **foreign investment**.
- **Asset acquisitions** of raw materials.
- **Cost-efficient** production.
- Enhancing the **domestic steel demand**.
- Encourages adequate **capacity additions**.

Additional information:

Green Steel:

- Production of steel entirely on **Renewable source of energy** like Green Hydrogen is called green steel.
- “**Kalyani FeRRESTA**” becomes the 1st green steel brand in India.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

2.91 Operation SADBHAVANA (Goodwill)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Defence has informed about the Operation Sadbhavna.

Additional information

- ‘**Kargil Ignited Minds**’: It is an initiative of **Ministry of Defence** in Collaboration with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** exclusively for girl students of Kargil.
 - **Objective**: For preparation for various competitive examinations for admissions into various

Operation Sadbhavana

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Launch | In 1998 |
| Initiative of | Indian Army |
| Operation Area | Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh |
| Aim | To address aspirations of people affected by terrorism in the region |
| Focus Area | Infrastructure Development, Health and Sanitation, Women and youth empowerment, Education, Community development Projects |
| Motto | Jawan Aur Awam, Aman Hai Muqaam It means "The soldier and people, peace is the destination" |
| Key Highlights | Activities Undertaken Army Goodwill Schools, Education Tours, Human Resource/Skill Development, Sports, Healthcare, National Integration etc. Fund allocated for Ladakh in FY -23: Rs 8.82 crore |

2.92 Best Tourism Village Competition Portal and Rural Tourism Portal

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Tourism launched the ‘Best Tourism Village Competition Portal’ and ‘Rural Tourism Portal’.

Key details

- Competition Portal is launched to select the **best tourism village** across the country.
 - It will be held in **three stages** (district level, state level, national level).
 - The evaluation criteria have been **aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Key information shared by Union Minister at the occasion

- Over 1 crore foreign tourists had come to India in 2019 before covid.
- In 2022, Jammu & Kashmir received around **1.84 crore tourists** breaking all previous records since Independence.
- The Ministry of Tourism has been working with **Ministry of Home Affairs** and **Ministry of External Affairs** for easing of the **Visa Regime** in the country to facilitate seamless travel.
 - **e-Visa regime** was launched in **2014** (subsequently e-Tourist Visa).
 - At present, the e-Tourist visa facility is available for the nationals of **165 countries**.
- The Ministry had introduced **National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry (NIDHI)**, a technology driven system for providing services to Hospitality and travel industry.
- The Government introduced **International Tourism Mart (ITM)** in **2014** with focus on promoting **tourism in North Eastern region**.
- **Dekho Apna Desh** initiative was launched in **January 2020**.
- Ministry has also launched a program for **Yuva Tourism Club** across the country to provide youth with better understanding of their culture, heritage and tourism by engaging in a variety of activities.
- Target: To make India **USD 1 trillion tourism economy by 2047** with **100 million international visitors**.

Additional Information

- Tourism Ministry will be organizing **1st Global Tourism Investors' Summit** in May 2023 in New Delhi.
 - **Aim:** To showcase investible projects and opportunities in tourism and hospitality sector in India to domestic and international investors.

2.93 Mission Antyodaya Survey, 2022-23

Why in news?

- Recently Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj inaugurated the "Mission Antyodaya Survey" (MAS) at **Delhi**.

Key details of the Event:

- **Launch year: 2017-18** under the aegis of **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- The Mission will ensure **effective utilization of resources through convergence of various government schemes** with a **focused Micro plan for sustainable livelihood** for each marginalized household.

Where will the survey be conducted?

- In all 2,69,253-Gram panchayats and equivalent, whose profile has been created on e-Gram Swaraj.
- The Survey-2022 Questionnaire has 183 indicators and 216 data points covering 21 areas and has been translated in 13 regional languages.
- A total of 26 Central Government Ministries/Departments have been consulted for finalization of questionnaire.

Details of Survey:

- Questions are categorized into **5 stream**:
 1. Panchayat infrastructure.
 2. Panchayat Services.
 3. Village infrastructure.
 4. Village Services.
 5. Village practices.
- **21 Sectors** Covered under Survey.
- Survey is in line with SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), 2030. It will help in attaining the UN goal of "No one is left behind".

2.94 Mission Amrit Sarovar

Why in news?

- Recently more than **30,000 Amrit Sarovars** dedicated to the country in a short span of Nine months.

Key details:

- 60% of **targeted 50,000 Sarovars** by 15th August 2023 completed.
- Significant achievement of Ministry of Rural Development with 'Jan Bhagidari' as its core.
- Excavated soil/silt being used to raise infrastructure projects in the vicinity.

Mission Amrit Sarovar:

- Launch year:** April 2022 on the occasion of 75th year of Independence, as a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- Target:** Construct/Rejuvenate **at least 75 Amrit Sarovars in each district** across the country. In total 50,000 Amrit Sarovars by August, 2023.
- Aim:** To overcome the water crisis in rural areas of the country.
- 'Whole of Government' approach** is the soul of this mission.
- Convergence of 6 Ministries.
 - Ministry of Rural Development.
 - Ministry of Railways.
 - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
 - Ministry of Jal Shakti.
 - Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change.
- Technical support** by: **National Institute of Space Application and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N)**.
- Various Public and CSR Bodies have also been participating in the mission.

Additional information:

- India contains **17% of the world population** but **only 4% of the world's fresh-water resources**.
 - Components of water stress/scarcity: Availability, Quality, Accessibility.
 - Composite water management Index by NITI Ayog: talks about water stress at state level.
- According to NITI Ayog's Index, **54%** of India faces High to Extremely high water stress situation.

PUBLIC FINANCE - POLITICAL ECONOMY - - SERVICES SECTOR IN INDIA

2.95 AirSewa Portal

Why in News?

- Recently, **AirSewa Portal** was mentioned during the **Parliament Budget Session**

About AirSewa Portal

- A **grievance redressal portal** managed by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.



SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH

2.96 National Diagnostics Catapult (C-CAMP InDx 2.0)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms** (C-CAMP) launched the National Diagnostics Catapult (C-CAMP InDx 2.0).
- Aim:
 - To boost India's preparedness for current and future pandemics and scale up diagnostics space for infectious diseases (Including Covid 19).
 - To set a global model for capacity building in the diagnostics domain in **lower- and middle-income countries** to meet the **twin goals of affordability and accessibility** in the United Nations vision for universal health coverage.

Key details

- **Anchored by:** C-CAMP with support from the **Bangalore Life Sciences Cluster (BLiSc)**.
- **Funded by:** The Rockefeller Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and FIND, a global alliance for diagnostics.

Additional information

- **Indigenisation of Diagnostics (InDx)** initiative was launched in **July 2020**.
- C-CAMP was conceptualised by **Department of Biotechnology** in **2009** as an enabler for research and innovation in the life sciences.

2.97 National Emergency Life Support (NELS) modules

Why in news?

- A reply has been submitted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding paramedical force in India.

Key details of modules:

- Targeted Group: **Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics**.

Aim:

- **Capacity building** of doctors, nurses and paramedics integrated under Central Sector scheme, **Human Resource Development for Emergency Medical Services**.
- **Hands-on skill-based training** of paramedical personnel and emergency medical technicians.
- Modules are in line with the Standardized norms approved by **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- Modules are being developed under the provisions of National Commission for Allied and Healthcare professions (**NCAHP Act, 2021**).

NCAHP Act, 2021.

- Act provides for creation of National commission for allied and healthcare professionals (**NCAHP**).

Functions of the commission:

- Creation and maintaining an **online and live central register** with details of academic qualifications.
- **Training, skill and competencies** of Allied and healthcare professionals related to their professions as specified in the schedule.

Additional information:

- **Status of paramedics in India:** India has one of the lowest number of Paramedics per **10,000 people** at **15.8 workers**, making its position lower than South Africa, Thailand, and Sri Lanka.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.98 International Solar Alliance

News 1

- Recently, the **Republic of Congo** became the **latest country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement**.

News 2

- Recently, the **government of Bangladesh** signed an agreement with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to increase the **use of solar energy** in the country.
 - It is to be implemented by **December 2026**.

Additional Information

- Bangladesh has set up following targets:
 - To generate **40% of its total energy** through **renewable sources** by **2041**.
 - To produce **4000 MW of solar power** by the **end of 2030**.

International Solar Alliance

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Initiative of | India and France |
| Launched at | COP 21 of United Nations Climate Change Conference └ in Paris, France |
| Launched in | November 2015 |
| Members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signatory — 114 Signatory and ratified — 92 |
| Headquarter/ secretariat | Gurugram, Haryana, India |
| Aim | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational solar energy solutions to help member countries against climate change With particular focus on countries categorized as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) |
| Objective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided by "Towards 1000" strategy To mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030. while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity. This would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1,000 million tonnes of CO2 every year |
| Key Highlights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the first international intergovernmental organisation to be headquartered in India. |

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

2.99 Data on Linking of Aadhaar number to Voter ID (Others)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has shared the data on linking of Aadhaar to Voter ID.

Key details

| S.No | Particulars | Figures |
|------|---|---|
| 1. | Number of total voters in India | Around 94.5 crore |
| 2. | Voters linked their Aadhaar number to their voter IDs | Around 60% (56.9 crore) |
| 3. | Top 3 States/UTs with highest linkage | 1. Tripura (92%) 2. Lakshadweep (91%) 3. Madhya Pradesh (86%) |
| 4. | State with lowest linkage | Gujarat (31.5%) |
| 5. | Linkage in National Capital | Less than 34% |

Additional information

- Form 6B (Introduced in 2022 by ECI) has to be filled up primarily by Aadhar number.
 - Electors can only provide an alternative document after declaring that they do not have an Aadhaar.
- The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 was passed to deduplicate electoral rolls by allowing election authorities to collect the 12-digit Aadhaar from voters.

MEASUREMENT OF GROWTH

2.100 IMF projections for Indian Economy

Why in News?

- Recently, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has released the January edition of its World Economic Outlook.

Key details shared in this edition

- It projects **Indian economy** to grow **6.8% in 2022, 6.1% in 2023 and 6.8% in 2024**.
- It projects **global growth** at **3.4% in 2022, 2.9% in 2023 and 3.1% in 2024**.
 - Global growth projected for 2023 and 2024 is below the historical (2000-19) annual average of 3.8%.
- Asia** is expected to grow **5.3% in 2023 and 5.2% in 2024**.

2.101 India's GDP projection by Morgan Stanley

Why in News?

- Recently, the Morgan Stanley (Financial Services Company of US), projected that India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at **6.2% in FY24**.

2.102 GDP growth Projection by SBI and India Ratings

News 1

- Recently, the State Bank of India's Ecowrap report estimated that Indian GDP (Gross Domestic Product) will grow between **6.8% to 7% for FY-23**.
- It also projected the **India's Q3 (Oct- Dec) GDP growth at 4.6%**.
 - It is based on SBI research report Ecowrap.
 - Projection is based on an in-house **SBI Artificial Neural Network (ANN) model**.

Key details

- As per SBI report, GDP is estimated to grow between 6.8 and 7% for FY-23.

News 2

- Recently, India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) also projected Indian economy to grow at **5.9% in FY 2023-24**.
- As per Ind-Ra, annual GDP growth of **7.6%** is required till 2036-37 to catch up with the pre-pandemic GDP trend.

Additional information

- RBI (Reserve Bank of India) projection for FY-24 growth: 6.4%.
- NSO (National Statistical Office) projection for FY-23 growth: 7%.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

2.103 FDI equity inflows (others)

Why in News?

- As per the latest data of **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India declined by **15% to USD 36.75 billion** during the **April-December (FY-23)**.

Key details

- The total FDI inflows, which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital, declined to **USD 55.27 billion** during **April-December (FY-23)** as against **USD 60.4 billion** in the year-ago period.
- Top 5 Investors country:**
 - Singapore (USD 13 billion)**, Mauritius (USD 4.7 billion), US (about USD 5 billion), UAE (USD 3.1 billion) and the Netherlands (USD 2.15 billion).
- Top 5 Sectors:**
 - Computer software and hardware (USD 8 billion)**, Services (USD 6.6 billion), Trading (USD 4.14 billion), Chemicals (USD 1.5 billion) and automobile industry (USD 1.27 billion).

EXPORT-IMPORT POLICY

2.104 GAIL signs Advance Pricing Agreement

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)** entered into an **Advance Pricing Agreement (APA)** with the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
 - Objective:** For determining the transfer pricing margin payable on its long-term LNG sourcing contract from the **United States (US)** for a **period of five years**.
- It is the **first public sector undertaking** (oil & gas sector) to successfully sign the APA.

About Advance Pricing Agreement Programme

- It was launched **in 2012**.
- Aim:** To enhance the government's goal of promoting a non-adversarial tax system and improve the ease of doing business in India.
- APA is an agreement between a **tax payer** and **tax authority** to determine the **transfer pricing methodology** for pricing the tax payer's international transactions for future years.
 - It provides certainty to taxpayers** in respect of the transfer price of the cross-border transactions undertaken by such taxpayers with their group entities.
 - It resolves transfer pricing issues in advance**, i.e., before the cross-border related party transaction actually takes place.

Additional information

- Up to **55%** of India's local gas demand is met through imports.
 - While **gas meets only 6.2%** of India's energy needs.
- Qatar and the US** are the two largest producers globally, currently supply LNG to India.
- GAIL (India) currently has two contracts to buy a combined **5.8 million tons per year** of LNG from the US.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.105 I2U2 Business Forum (others)

Why in News?

- Recently, the inaugural **I2U2 Business Forum** was held at **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**.
- Objective:** To discuss opportunities for cooperation between the business communities of the four countries (India, Israel, US and UAE).
- Focus:** On potential partnerships in the fields of food security, energy, water, space, transport, health, and technology.

Key details about I2U2

- It was officially launched by **US president** during the **I2U2 Leaders' Summit in July, 2022**.
 - Aim:** To mobilize private sector capital and expertise to help modernize infrastructure, decarbonize industries, improve public health, and promote development of green technologies.

Additional information

- During the meeting, India became the latest member of the **Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate** launched by the UAE and the US at COP26.

3 GA + FINANCE



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.1 Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority

Why in News?

- Recently, the Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (**IEPFA**) has launched an **internship programme for young students/scholars**.
- Purpose: to allow young students/scholars to participate in awareness, research, and related activities of IEPFA.

About IEPFA

- Establishment:** 2016; **Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)
- Established under:** sub-section (5) of section 125 of Companies Act, 2013.
- Objectives: to promote Investor Education, Awareness and Protection & administer the IEPF fund.

3.2 Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares

Why in News?

- Recently, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved subscription of Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (**CCPS**) of Hero Future Energies Global by Ardor Holdings.

About CCPS

- CCPS is a **hybrid security**.
- It provides **option to the holders to convert preference shares into a fixed number of equity shares** of the issuing company **after a specified date**.
- It offers **fixed income to the investors**.

FINTECH

3.3 Real-time Payment Systems Linkage between India and Singapore

Why in News?

- Recently, **real time payment linkage** between the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) of India and **PayNow of Singapore** has been launched virtually.
- It is the **first cross-border person-to-person (P2P) payments link** for India and the **second for Singapore**.
- The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) & the Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) made the **first cross-border transaction between India and Singapore**.

- UPI PayNow Linkage will enable **easy, cost effective & real time cross border remittances.**
- Additional Information:** MAS is the Central Bank of Singapore.

3.4 Digital Transactions in India

Why in News?

- According to latest data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there has been a growth of **more than 200%** in **digital payment volume** during the last four years from **2018-19 to 2021-22**.

| S.No | Financial Year | Digital Payments Volume (in crores) |
|------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | 2018-19 | 2326.02 |
| 2. | 2019-20 | 3400.25 |
| 3. | 2020-21 | 4374.45 |
| 4. | 2021-22 | 7197.68 |

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in 2021-22: 45 billion

3.5 Audit standard on sustainability information

Why in news?

- Recently The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India** has come out with world's first ever audit standard for sustainability information.
- Rolled out by:** Sustainability reporting standards board of ICAI.

Key details:

- It will enable an auditor to give **limited as well as reasonable** assurance.
- This move came on backdrop guidelines of SEBI on "**Mandatory audit**" of Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting, **of top 1000 listed companies** are required to include as part of their annual reports.
- Along with sustainability information reporting, Standard on sustainability Assurance Engagement (**SSAE**) **3000**, has also been rolled out.

Social Audit Standards:

- The ICAI has now issued **16 social Audit standards (SAS)** that will apply to social enterprises listed on the social stock exchange.
- Social Audit standards include themes like **Hunger, Gender equality, Environment sustainability** and others.

Additional information:

- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- It is a **statutory body**, formed by an act of parliament.
- Formed under the **Chartered Accountants Act, 1949**.
- Function: Acts as authority responsible for establishing national standards and accounting rules in India.
- Head quarter: **New Delhi**.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

3.6 Financial Literacy Week 2023

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has organized the **Financial Literacy Week 2023** during **February 13 - 17, 2023**.
- Theme:** "Good Financial Behaviour, Your Saviour"
- Focus Areas:** "Saving, planning, and budgeting" and "Prudent use of digital financial services".
 - The theme is **aligned with overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025**.

About Financial Literacy Week

- Started in:** 2016
- Aim:** to propagate financial education messages on relevant themes every year through a focused campaign.

Note: National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025 is discussed in ESI Schemes & Reports.

3.7 Digital Payments Utsav

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** has launched the '**Digital Payments Utsav**'- a comprehensive campaign to promote digital payments across India.
- Campaign Duration:** 9th February to 9th October 2023.
- Aim:** to showcase India's journey of digital transformation
- Focus Area:** to promote digital payments, especially in the cities of Lucknow, Pune, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru, as part of the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) event.

Key Initiatives launched during the event

- G20-themed QR Code:** Launched by Paytm.
- Digital Payment Sandesh Yatra:** flagged off to educate citizens about digital payments and its security.
- G20 edition of the preloaded RuPay On-The-Go device.**
- A joint campaign by MeitY and Delhi Police** to promote secure digital payments.

Key Highlight

- 28 DigiDhan Awards** presented to banks and fintech companies.

3.8 Digital Banking Units (DBU)

Why in news?

- Recently Union Minister of state for Finance have submitted a reply regarding DBUs.

Key details:

- 84 DBUs** are **operational** across the country.
- Growth** of more than **200% in digital payment volume** during the last four years since 2018-19.
- UPI transactions grow 8 times in last 3 years and 50 times in last 4 years.
- AePS (Aadhar enabled payment system) transactions during FY 21-22 grown 4 times in last 3 years and 10 times since last 4 years.

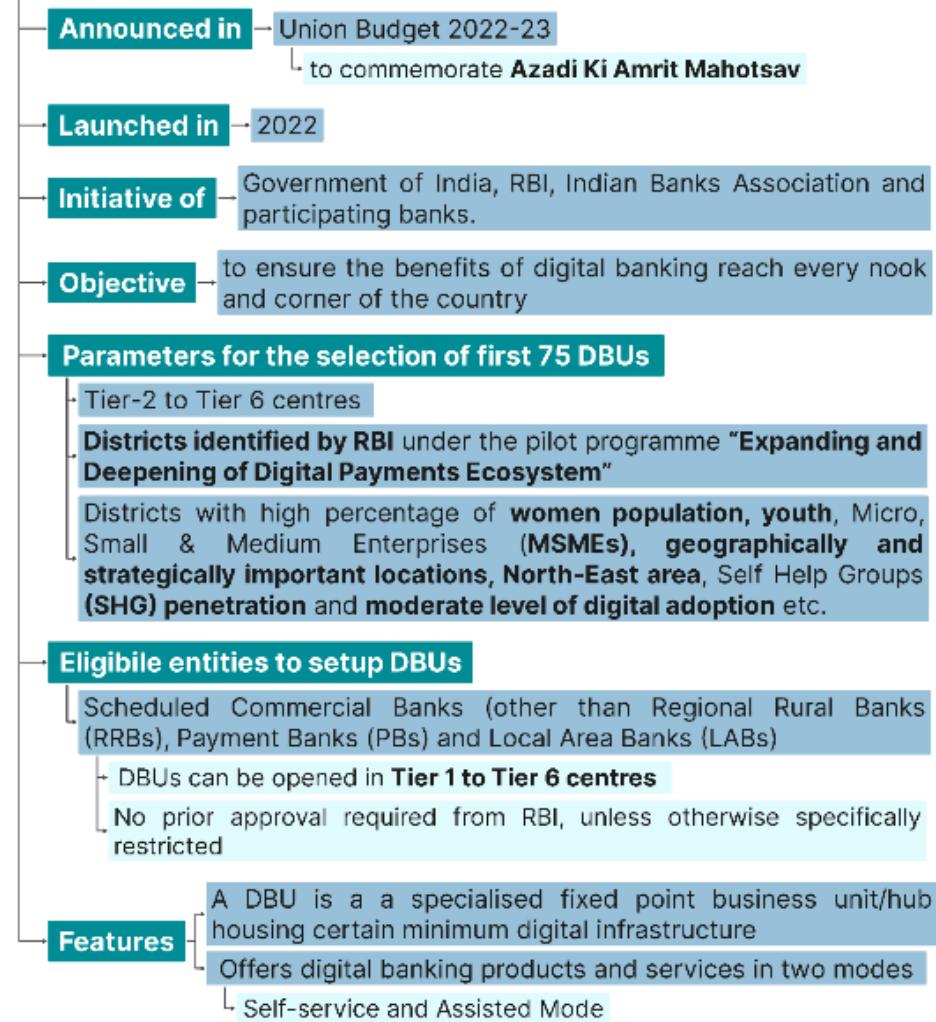
Additional information:

- Digital literacy in India:** According to Deloitte-AssoCham study, 'Digital India-Unlocking the trillion dollar opportunity', India has one of the largest populations of digital illiterates.
- Only 10% of the Population is digitally literate**, having the skills needed to take advantage of digital access.

Digital Divide: (Access to Internet)

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-------------|
| Rural - 14.9% | V/S | Urban - 42% |
| Female - 30% | V/S | Male - 45% |

75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts



RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.9 Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) 117

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Financial Reporting Authority (**NFRA**) has interacted with members of the life insurance industry to discuss the **proposed changes in Ind AS 117**.

About Ind AS 117

- It is an **accounting standard for insurance & investment contracts of the Insurance Entities**.
- It introduces changes in the measurement, presentation and disclosures in the financial statements of the Insurance Entities.
- The **exposure draft** of the standard has been issued by **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**.
- IndAS 117** is based on International Financial Reporting Standard (**IFRS 17**)- Insurance Contracts.

About IFRS 17

- Issued by:** International Accounting Standard Board of IFRS Foundation.
- Issued in:** May 2017; **Came into effect** worldwide from **1 January 2023**.

It helps investors to understand about **insurers' risk exposure, profitability and financial position**.



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.10 India's Largest -Ever Private Bond Issue

Why in News?

- Recently, the Housing Development Finance Corporation (**HDFC**) has raised **Rs 25,000 crore** through a **10-year non-convertible debenture issue**.
- It is **India's largest privately placed corporate bond issue on a private placement basis**.
 - **Issue size:** Rs 5,000 crore; **Option to retain oversubscription:** Rs 20,000 crore
 - **Coupon Rate:** 7.97%.

3.11 Issue Summary Document for filing IPO papers in XBRL format

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has decided to introduce **Issue Summary Document (ISD)** in Extensible Business Reporting Language (**XBRL**) for filing **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** papers.
 - It would also be used for further issues viz, **preferential issue**, qualified Institutions Placement (**QIP**), **rights issue**, issue of American Depository Receipts (**ADRs**), Global Depository Receipts (**GDRs**), Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (**FCCBs**), etc.
- It will be **rolled out in phases**, starting from **March 1, 2023**.
 - **Phase I:** ISD will be rolled out for public issues of specified securities, for offer documents filed on or after March 1, 2023.
 - **Phase II:** ISD for further issues will be implemented from April 3, 2023.
 - **Phase III:** ISD for open offer, buy-back and voluntary delisting will be implemented from May 2, 2023.
- **Stages of Implementation**
 - **Stage I:** ISD will be filed with pre-issue fields
 - **Stage II:** ISD will be filed with post-issue fields after allotment is completed.
- **Objective:** to help provide data to stakeholders in a structured manner.

About XBRL

- It is a language for the electronic communication of business and financial data used for business reporting.

3.12 Green Bonds

Why in News?

- Recently, **Indore Municipal Corporation's (IMC)** has raised about **Rs 720 crore** through its **maiden public issue of green bonds**.
 - IMC planned to raise **Rs 244 crore**.
- This was the **first time a municipal body targeted individual/ retail investors** in India

- The amount raised will be utilized to install a **60 MW solar power plant in Samraj and Ashukhedi villages in Khargone district, Madhya Pradesh.**

About Green Bonds

- Debt securities issued by a public or private organization to finance or refinance projects that have a positive impact on the environment.**

Additional Information

- India's **first green municipal bond** was issued by **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN)** in **Uttar Pradesh**

3.13 Green Bonds Framework

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has **strengthened** the **Green Bonds Framework**.
- The framework is **aligned** with updated **Green Bond Principles** recognized by International Organization of Securities Commissions (**IOSCO**).
- The updated framework would **come into effect** from **April 1, 2023**.

Key Highlights from the framework

| S.No | Particulars | Key Information |
|------|--|---|
| 1. | Definition of Green Debt Securities | Debt securities issued for raising funds that are to be utilised for projects or assets falling under certain categories. |
| 2. | Two new sub-categories of green debt securities | Blue bonds - for water management and marine sector, Yellow bonds - for solar energy. |
| 3. | Subscription Period for public issue of debt securities or non-convertible redeemable preference shares | Minimum Period: 3 days; Maximum Period: 10 days In case of a revision in the price band or yield , the issuer would extend the bidding or the issue for three working days . However, the overall issue period would not exceed 10 working days . |
| 4. | Intimation of recall or redemption of non-convertible securities before maturity date | The issuer must inform the eligible holders of such securities and the debenture trustees at least 21 days before the date from which such right is exercisable . |

Note: Green Bonds, Green Bonds Principles discussed in CurrentTap- November 2022 (News 3.1).

3.14 Dividend Yield Fund

Why in News?

- Recently, **SBI Mutual Fund** has launched a **dividend yield fund**.
- It is an **open-ended scheme**.
- The fund aims to maintain at least a **minimum of 65% of the assets into equity & equity related instruments** predominantly into dividend yielding companies.

About Dividend Yield Funds

- A type of mutual fund that mostly invests in **companies** that have the **potential to provide regular dividend payout**.
- According to Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**), a dividend yield fund **invests at least 65% of its portfolio in dividend-yielding instruments**.

3.15 Electronic Bank Guarantee

Why in News?

- Recently, Indian Overseas Bank (**IOB**) has launched Electronic Bank Guarantee (**e-BG**) scheme in association with the National e-Governance Services Ltd (**NeSL**).

Note: Electronic Bank Guarantee discussed in CurrentTap- November 2022 (3.2).

3.16 Redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)

Why in News?

- Recently, Indore Municipal Corporation has launched secured **redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs)**
 - Total Issue Size:** Rs 244 crore; **Rate of return:** 8.25% per annum.

About NCDs

- NCDs **cannot be converted** into **shares or equities**.
- Types of NCDs**
 - Secured NCDs**
 - Backed by the assets of the company.
 - If a company fails to make the payment on time, the investors can recover their investments by liquidating the assets of the company.
 - Unsecured NCDs**
 - Not-backed by the assets of the company.

3.17 Nifty India Municipal Bond Index

Why in News?

- Recently, NSE Indices has launched **India's first ever municipal bond index- Nifty India Municipal Bond Index**.
- The index was launched at Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) **workshop on Municipal Debt Securities in Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

Key Features of the Index

- Base Date:** January 1, 2021; **Base Value:** 1,000
- The index **tracks the performance of municipal bonds** issued by Indian municipal corporations across maturities and having investment grade credit rating.
- The index is computed using the **total return methodology** including **price return and coupon return**.
- The index will be **reviewed quarterly**.

3.18 Social Stock Exchanges

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Stock Exchange (**NSE**) has received **final approval** from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) to set up a **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a **separate segment of the NSE**.

Note: Social Stock Exchange discussed in CurrentTap- December 2022 (mind maps in News 3.19 & 3.20).

BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

3.19 Asset Repossession Module for Banks and NBFCs

Why in News?

- Recently, debt recovery platform **Mobicule** has launched **mCollect**.
- It is the **first Asset Repossession Module** launched for **Banks & Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.

3.20 Pilot for QR code-based Coin Vending Machine

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has announced a **pilot project on QR (quick response) code-based Coin Vending Machine (QCVM)**.
- The pilot will be launched in association with banks.
- The pilot project will be **initially rolled out at 19 locations in 12 cities across India**.
- Objective:** to improve the distribution of coins among public

Features of QCVM

- It is a **cashless coin dispensation machine**.
- It would **dispense coins against a debit to the customer's bank account** using Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**).
- QCVM would **eliminate the need for physical tendering of banknotes and their authentication**.
- Customers can withdraw coins in the required quantity and denominations in QCVMs.

FINTECH

3.21 Central Bank Digital Currency- Retail (CBDC-R)

News 1

- Recently, **CCAVenue**, the flagship payments brand of Infibeam Avenue, has become **India's first payment gateway player** to process **CBDC-R or Retail Digital Rupee (e₹-R) transactions**

News 2

- Recently, **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has implemented Phase I of the **e₹-R** at **Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad**.

What is CBDC?

- A digital currency issued by a central bank, rather than by a commercial bank.
- Difference between Crypto Currency and CBDC: Crypto currency operates in a regulatory vacuum, but CBDC are legal tenders issued and backed by a central bank.
 - Bahamas** was the **first economy** to launch its nationwide CBDC- Sand Dollar.

Additional information:

- Legal tender:** Any official medium of payment recognized by law. These cannot be refused by any citizen of the country for settlement of any kind of transaction.

Retail Digital Rupee (e₹-R) Pilot

Initiative of → Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**)

Pilot Launch Date → December 1, 2022

Aim → to reduce Rs 32 lakh crore of cash in circulation
to save costs associated currency printing, solve fake currency problem, avoid wear and tear, etc

Scope → select locations in closed user group (CUG)
└ participating customers and merchants

Cities Covered

Phase I

→ Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar and Chandigarh

Subsequent Phases

→ Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna & Shimla

Participating Banks

→ **Eight banks** identified for the pilot

Phase I- Four Banks

→ State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank

Remaining four banks

→ Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank

Denomination → Same denomination like paper currency and coins

Distribution → Will be distributed by intermediaries i.e. banks

Transaction Mode → **Digital wallets** offered by participating banks
Can also be stored on mobile phones / devices

Transactions → both Person to Person (**P2P**) and Person to Merchant (**P2M**)
Payments can be made using Quick Response (**QR**) codes

Key Features → A **digital token** that represents **legal tender**
Offers **features of physical cash**
└ Trust, safety and settlement finality
It will **not offer interest**
Can be **converted to other forms of money** like deposits with banks
The components are based on **blockchain technology**
A **liability** to the **RBI**

3.22 RuPay Credit Cards on UPI

News 1

- Recently, **MobiKwik** became the **first fintech app** to support **RuPay Credit Cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

News 2

- Recently, **HDFC Bank** became the **first private sector lender** to allow its customers the option to use their **Rupay credit cards on the unified payments interface (UPI)**.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

India's flagship digital payments platform

Launch Year → 2016

Initiative of → National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

Key Target → to cross 1 billion transactions per day in the next 5 years

Key Features → an instant real-time payment system

enables immediate money transfer through mobile phones 24*7 and 365 days

3.23 UPI LITE

Why in News?

- Recently, Paytm Payments Banks Limited (**PPBL**) has become the **first payments bank to launch Unified Payments Interface (UPI) LITE**.

About UPI Lite

- Launch Year:** 2022; **Launched by:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Designed by:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- It enables **multiple small-value UPI transactions**.
- Upper limit of a UPI LITE Transaction:** Rs. 200
- Maximum amount that can be added to UPI Lite:** Rs 2,000 (can be added twice a day).
- Cumulative daily usage:** Rs 4,000.

3.24 Second Global Hackathon of RBI- HARBINGER 2023

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has announced its **second global hackathon -- 'HARBINGER 2023 - Innovation for Transformation'**.
- Theme:** 'Inclusive Digital Services'.
- RBI has invited **fintechs** to come up with **innovative ideas in four segments**:
 - Innovative, easy-to-use, digital banking services for differently-abled (Divyaang);
 - RegTech solutions to facilitate more efficient compliance by Regulated Entities (Res)
 - Exploring use cases/solutions for CBDC-Retail transactions, including transactions in offline mode
 - Increasing Transactions Per Second (TPS)/ throughput and scalability of blockchains.
- Additional Information:** RBI launched its first hackathon in 2021.

4 STATIC

IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS

| S.No | Organization Name | Headquarter | Establishment Year |
|------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Election Commission of India (ECI) | New Delhi | 1950 |
| 2. | International Energy Agency (IEA) | Paris, France | 1974 |
| 3. | Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) | New Delhi | 1942 |
| 4. | Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL) | New Delhi | 2009 |
| 5. | Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) | Bengaluru, Karnataka | 1969 |
| 6. | Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) | New Delhi | 1958 |
| 7. | FIH | Lausanne, Switzerland | 1924 |
| 8. | Asian Development Bank (ADB) | Manila, Philippines | 1966 |
| 9. | Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) | Rome, Italy | 2006 |
| 10. | Clean Energy Ministerial Biofuture Platform | Paris, France | 2020 |
| 11. | International Union of Railways (UIC) | Paris, France | 1922 |
| 12. | World Bank | Washington, D.C, USA | 1944 |
| 13. | International Monetary Fund | Washington DC, US | 1944 |
| 14. | Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) | London, UK | 1911 |
| 15. | International Basketball Federation (FIBA) | Mies, Switzerland | 1932 |
| 16. | UN Women | New York, USA | 2010 |
| 17. | Financial Action Task Force (FATF) | Paris, France | 1989 |

| | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|------|
| 18. | International Cricket Council (ICC) | Dubai, United Arab Emirates | 1909 |
| 19. | Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) | Zurich, Switzerland | 1904 |

COUNTRY, CURRENCY AND CAPITAL

| S.No | Country | Currency | Capital |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Equatorial Guinea | Central African CFA Franc | Malabo |
| 2. | United Kingdom | Pound Sterling | London |
| 3. | Argentina | Peso | Buenos Aires |
| 4. | Australia | Australian Dollar | Canberra |
| 5. | Sri Lanka | Sri Lankan Rupee | Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte |
| 6. | Ukraine | Hryvnia | Kyiv |
| 7. | Spain | Euro | Madrid |
| 8. | Saudi Arabia | Saudi Riyal | Riyadh |
| 9. | Japan | Yen | Tokyo |
| 10. | United States of America | US Dollar | Washington DC |
| 11. | United Arab Emirates | Dirham | Abu Dhabi |
| 12. | Greece | Euro | Athens |
| 13. | Turkiye | Turkish lira | Ankara |
| 14. | Syria | Syrian Pound | Damascus |
| 15. | Fiji | Fijian Dollar | Suva |
| 16. | Singapore | Singapore dollar | Singapore City |
| 17. | France | Euro | Paris |
| 18. | Morocco | Moroccan Dirham | Rabat |
| 19. | Israel | Israeli New Shekel | Jerusalem |
| 20. | Bhutan | Bhutanese Ngultrum | Thimpu |
| 21. | Seychelles | Seychellois Rupee | Victoria |

BANKS – HEADQUARTERS AND TAGLINES

| S.No | Banks | Headquarter | Tagline |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | HDFC Bank | Mumbai, Maharashtra | We Understand Your World |
| 2. | State Bank of India | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Pure Banking, Nothing Else |
| 3. | Canara Bank | Bengaluru, Karnataka | Together We Can |
| 4. | ICICI Bank | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Khayal Apka |
| 5. | Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) | Pune, Maharashtra | One Family One Bank |



EduTap Hall of Fame

NABARD Grade A 2021**62 Selections Out of 74**

Mr. Albin Sunny



Mr. Amol Darade



Mr. Ankith



Mr. Deepak Kumar



Mr. Gowtham



Mr. Vikram Joshi



Mr. Vinayak Langote



Ms. Arti Shukla



Mr. Nimish



Mr. Nithin



Mr. Prajakt Dhawale



Mr. Pravin



Ms. Dharana



Ms. Pavithra

RBI Grade B 2020 - 21**198 Selections Out of 257**

Mr. Ajil



Mr. Aman Choudhary



Mr. Arun Sharma



Ms. Ila Sahu



Mr. Nishant Yadav



Ms. Ojaswi Dale



Mr. Parimal S Athaley



Ms. Resmarani Sahoo



Mr. Ryan Varghese



Mr. Shubham



Mr. Somya Atre



Ms. Srishtil Dabas



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Avinash Jaiswal



Chetan Choraria



Gourav Singh



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