

# CurrentTap

Comprehensive **Current Affairs Magazine** Covering

**GA****ESI****FINANCE**

**JANUARY 2023 - 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>**

# 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	
<b>Total Marks = 80</b>	<b>Objective (50 Marks)</b>	<b>Descriptive (50 Marks)</b>	<b>Objective (50 Marks)</b>	<b>Descriptive (50 Marks)</b>
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.

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# 1 GA IN NEWS

## FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Place / Developed by / Launched	Key Facts
1.	India's first green hydrogen blending project in the piped natural gas (PNG) network	<p>Launched at: <b>Surat, Gujarat</b>            Launched by: <b>NTPC Ltd and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL)</b></p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), the regulatory body has given approval for 5% vol./vol. blending of green hydrogen with PNG to start with and the blending level would be scaled phase wise to reach 20%.</p>	Aim: To supply H2-NG (natural gas) to households.
2.	First woman officer of the Indian Army to get operationally deployed at Siachen Glacier, Karakoram (Ladakh) – 'Captain Shiva Chouhan'	<p>Deployed by: <b>Indian Army</b></p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> Siachen Glacier, Karakoram is the world's highest battlefield.</p>	She is posted at the "Kumar Post".
3.	India's First Festival of Inclusion – 'Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity'	<p>Held at: <b>Panaji, Goa</b>            Organized by: <b>Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment</b></p>	Aim: To come together to create a welcoming and <b>inclusive</b> world for <b>everyone</b> and establish a milestone in Divyangjan's empowerment.
4.	World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum	<p>Inaugurated at: <b>Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala</b>            Set-up by: <b>Archives Department, Kerala</b> in association with the <b>Kerala Museum of History and Heritage</b></p>	The manuscripts span <b>6 centuries</b> from <b>1249 CE to 1896</b> .
5.	First Woman Cricketer to get a Bronze Statue at Walk of Honour of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) – 'Belinda Clark'	<p>Place: <b>Sydney, Australia</b></p>	She is an <b>Australian Cricket player</b> .
6.	India's 1 <sup>st</sup> ever ABB FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) Formula E World Championship race – '2023 Hyderabad E-Prix'	<p>To be hosted by: <b>Hyderabad, Telangana</b></p>	To be held in: <b>February 2023</b>
7.	India's first and largest coal gasification Urea plant – 'Talcher Fertilizers Project'	<p>Place: <b>Odisha</b></p>	To be operational by: <b>October 2024</b>
8.	India's first state to go fully digital in its banking service	<p>State: <b>Kerala</b></p>	--

9.	Asia's first semi-high-speed hydrogen train	<b>Launched by:</b> China's CRRC Corporation Ltd  <b>Additional Information:</b> Germany was the first country to operate the world's first hydrogen-powered passenger train fleet.	--
10.	First ever female Sikh judge in the United States (US) – ‘Manpreet Monica Singh’	<b>Place:</b> US	--
11.	First-ever female Vice President of Gabon – ‘Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda’	<b>Place:</b> Gabon	She was the <b>Prime Minister (PM)</b> of Gabon  New PM: <b>Alain-Claude Bile By Nze</b>
12.	India's first 3x-platform wind turbine generators (WTGs)	Installed at: <b>Gadag, Karnataka</b>  Installed by: <b>ReNew Power</b>	It combines <b>wind, solar</b> , and a <b>Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)</b> .
13.	First court in Maharashtra to introduce an e-system of functioning – ‘Osmanabad District Court’	<b>Place:</b> <b>Osmanabad, Maharashtra</b>	All the court-related work including <b>filing, payment</b> and other <b>court services</b> can be done through the <b>mobile app</b> or through <b>online mode</b> .
14.	India's first residential group captive solar plant	To be set up at: <b>Himayatnagar, Maharashtra</b>  To be set up by: <b>Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd. (TPREL)</b> and <b>Vivarea Condominium residential society</b>	Capacity: <b>3.125 MW</b>  To be commissioned by: <b>October 2023</b>
15.	First ever <b>district</b> in India for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startups	District: <b>Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh)</b>	Aim: To accelerate <b>Digital Transformation</b> across socio-economic verticals
16.	India's first <b>Centre of Excellence</b> in <b>Online Gaming</b>	To be set up at: <b>Shillong, Meghalaya</b>  To be set up by: <b>Digital India Startup Hub</b> , through the <b>Software Technology Parks of India</b>	Aim: To catalyze startups and entrepreneurs from the entire <b>North East Region</b> to build the <b>Next Gen Online Gaming ecosystem</b>
17.	1 <sup>st</sup> National Sports Federation to Enter Metaverse – ‘Hockey India’	--	Hockey India launched the ‘ <b>Hockeyverse</b> ’ on their social media platforms ahead of <b>FIH Odisha Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023</b> , Bhubaneswar-Rourkela.
18.	First woman <b>Chief Secretary</b> of Telangana – ‘Santhi Kumari’	<b>Place:</b> <b>Telangana</b>	--
19.	EU's first mainland orbital launch complex – ‘Spaceport Esrange’	Launched at: <b>Kiruna, Sweden</b>  Launched by: <b>European Union (EU)</b>	The 1 <sup>st</sup> satellite launch from here is scheduled for early <b>2024</b> .
20.	India's first 5G-enabled drone – ‘Skyhawk’	Developed by: <b>IG Drones</b>	It can carry a <b>10kg</b> payload and can operate through satellites in case an <b>internet link is unavailable</b>

21.	<b>First G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting under G20 India Presidency</b>	Held at: <b>Pune, Maharashtra</b>	<b>Theme:</b> <b>Financing Cities of Tomorrow-Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable</b> <b>Aim:</b> To explore ways to <b>collate the data on Infrastructure spending</b> and make the data useful for the private sector, along with sustainability targets
22.	<b>First woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the Border Roads Organization (BRO) – ‘Captain Surbhi Jakhmola’</b>	Posted at: <b>Bhutan</b>	She is an <b>Indian Army officer</b> from <b>117 Engineer Regiment</b> , has been posted in the <b>Project Dantak of Bhutan</b> under the <b>Ministry of Defence</b> to construct the pioneering <b>motorable roads in Bhutan</b>
23.	<b>First Indian state to implement Blindness Control Policy</b>	State: <b>Rajasthan</b>	Under the policy for Blindness Control, the state government will mandatorily run <b>Keratoplasty Centre and Eye Bank</b> in all the <b>government medical colleges</b> with the objective of ' <b>Right to Sight</b> '
24.	<b>First ever joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army - “Exercise Cyclone-I”</b>	Held at: <b>Jaisalmer, Rajasthan</b>	Aim: To bolster <b>defence co-operation</b> between the two nations and focus on sharing professional skills and interoperability of Special Forces in <b>desert terrain</b>
25.	<b>Multi-Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff examination 2022 conducted in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English for the first time</b>	Conducted by: <b>Staff Selection Commission (SSC)</b>	13 regional languages: <b>Urdu, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Konkani, Manipuri (also Meiti), Marathi, Odia and Punjabi</b>
26.	<b>Partnership to develop Asia's 1<sup>st</sup> Hydrogen powered mining truck</b>	Partners: <b>Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), Ashok Leyland and Ballard Power Systems of Canada</b>	Aim: To start a pilot project to develop a <b>hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Truck (FCET)</b> for mining logistics and transportation.
27.	<b>World's 1<sup>st</sup> Alpine skill and endurance challenge – “Soul of Steel” Alpine Challenge</b>	Launched by: <b>Ministry of Defence and Indian Army</b>	Aim: To promote <b>tourism</b> in border areas
28.	<b>First Public Sector Bank (PSB) to introduce a credit card against fixed deposits (FDs) digitally - Punjab National Bank (PNB)</b>	--	PNB introduced two types of consumer credit cards: ' <b>PNB Global Gold</b> ' and ' <b>PNB Global Classic</b> ' designed to meet various income levels and customer needs
29.	<b>World's first intranasal COVID19 vaccine- iNNCOVACC</b>	<b>Developed by:</b> Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) in collaboration with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance (BIRAC) under the Dept of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.  <b>Additional Information:</b> ZyCoV-D is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for Covid-19.	iNNCOVACC will be administered as a primary <b>2-dose &amp; heterologous booster</b>

30.	<b>World's first spacecraft engine powered by nuclear fission- 'Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations (DRACO) '</b>	<b>To be developed by:</b> National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in collaboration with Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)	DRACO will be <b>tested by the year 2027</b> . It would enable fast-transit missions to Mars.
31.	<b>First SARAS Fair to be hosted by the Jammu &amp; Kashmir Government</b>	<b>Venue:</b> Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu	<b>Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Society (SARAS) Fairs</b> is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Rural Development
32.	<b>Inauguration of North India's largest floating Solar project</b>	<b>Location:</b> Water Works, Chandigarh	<b>Project Capacity:</b> 2000kWp  <b>A 500kWp floating Solar Project with Fountains</b> has also been inaugurated at <b>Dhanas Lake in Chandigarh</b> .  <b>Both the projects developed</b> by Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society ( <b>CREST</b> )
33.	<b>First dedicated app for the Khelo India Youth Games</b>	<b>Launched by:</b> Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	The app provides access to all information about the games to athletes, coaches, etc.
34.	<b>World's first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer</b>	<b>To be developed by:</b> Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc (Canadian Startup)	The Canadian Government has recently approved a 40 million Canadian Dollar federal funding to build & commercialize the technology
35.	<b>India's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing facility</b>	<b>To be built by:</b> Luminous Power Technologies  <b>Location:</b> Rudrapur, Uttarakhand	--
36.	<b>India's 1<sup>st</sup> mission to study the Sun – 'Aditya-L1'</b>	To be launched by: <b>Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)</b>	To be launched in: <b>June-July 2023</b> Aim: To observe the <b>Sun</b> and the <b>solar corona</b> from the <b>L1 orbit</b>
37.	<b>First bowler to take a hat-trick in the opening over in Ranji Trophy – 'Jaydev Unadkat'</b>	--	He is an <b>Indian Cricket player</b> who plays for ' <b>Saurashtra</b> ' in domestic matches

## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

S.No	Initiatives / Programs in News	Launched by / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	<b>108<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress (ISC)</b>	Organized by: <b>Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA)</b> , Department of Science and Technology (DST)	Theme: <b>Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment</b>

2.	"One Week One Lab" Campaign	Set-up by: <b>Council of Scientific &amp; Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science &amp; Technology</b>	Aim: In this campaign of CSIR, each of its <b>37 constituent laboratories</b> , spread Nationwide, will showcase their <b>legacy, exclusive innovations and technological breakthroughs</b> every successive week.
3.	<b>High Powered Committee, (HPC)</b> to discuss measures to protect <b>Ladakh's unique culture, language and employment</b>	Set-up by: <b>Government of India</b>	Members: <b>17</b>  Chairman: <b>Nityanand Rai</b>  Aim: To discuss the <b>protections to Culture and Language</b> considering the <b>geographical location and strategic importance</b> of Ladakh.
4.	<b>100-day 'UP Global City' campaign</b>	Launched by: <b>Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government</b>	Aim: To transform the lifestyles of urban bodies of UP on par with global standards.
5.	<b>Shri Ram-Janaki Yatra: Ayodhya to Janakpur 'Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train'</b>	To be launched by: <b>Indian Railways</b>	Aim: To realize the vision to showcase India's <b>rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places</b> to the people of India and the world
6.	<b>'Geospatial Hackathon' Startup/Research Challenge</b>	Launched by: <b>Ministry of Science &amp; Technology</b>	Aim: To promote partnerships not only among the <b>public and private geospatial sectors</b> but also to strengthen our country's <b>geospatial Start-Up ecosystem</b> .
7.	<b>Technology for Air Quality Monitoring System (AI-AQMS v1.0)</b>	Developed by: <b>Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kolkata</b> in collaboration with <b>Technology Innovation in Exploration &amp; Mining Foundation (TEXMiN), Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad</b>	Developed under: <b>National programme on Electronics and ICT applications in Agriculture and Environment (AgriEnIcs)</b>  Aim: To monitor environmental pollutants which includes parameters like <b>PM 1.0, PM 2.5 ambient temperature, relative humidity</b> etc., for continuous air quality analysis of the environment
8.	<b>Mission LiFE awareness programmes</b>	Organized by: <b>Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Mysore</b> , a regional branch of <b>National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)</b> under the <b>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b>	Programmes: <b>#SaveEnergy, #LifestyleforEnvironment- Mission LiFE, Green talk and Green pledge</b>  Aim: To encourage students and general public to adopt <b>sustainable lifestyle</b>
9.	<b>14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)</b>	Launched by: <b>Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the Union Territory(UT) of Ladakh</b>	Launched at: <b>Ladakh</b>  Aim: To support the <b>digitization of land records</b> and also reach a conclusive <b>land titling</b>
<b>Additional Information:</b> ULPIN is a part of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and is a single, Authoritative Source of Truth for			

		information on any <b>parcel of land or property</b> to provide <b>Integrated Land Services</b> to the citizens	
10.	'Schools of Eminence' project	<b>Launched by:</b> Government of Punjab <b>Launched from:</b> Mohali	<b>Aim:</b> reimagining education in government schools envisioning holistic development of students and preparing them to be responsible citizens. <b>Key Feature:</b> 117 government schools in 23 districts will be upgraded with a special emphasis on classes 9 to 12
11.	Apprenticeship training framework	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship ( <b>MSDE</b> ) & <b>Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)</b> , under the aegis of Ministry of Defense	<b>Aim:</b> to address the need for skilled and future-ready workforce in the Central Public Sector Undertaking and Industries. Under the partnership, over 250 apprentices have been engaged in the <b>BDL facility in Hyderabad</b> where <b>Astra missile</b> is manufactured
12.	'Cyber Sangini' Programme	<b>Initiative of:</b> OPPO India and the Common service Centre (CSC) Academy. <b>Supported by:</b> Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	<b>Aim:</b> to train 10,000 women from rural and semi-urban areas in cybersecurity and cyber wellness.
13.	Veer Gatha 2.0	<b>Initiative of:</b> Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education.	The winners of the event were felicitated recently. Event launched under <b>Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav</b> . <b>Aim:</b> to disseminate the acts of bravery and life stories of the Armed Forces personnel, other lawfully constituted forces and civilians, among the students
14.	Decision support tool for seat capacity optimization - 'Ideal Train Profile'	Indian Railways	Aim: to maximize <b>capacity utilization and revenue generation</b> in reserved mail <b>express trains</b> by analyzing the demand pattern of each individual train
15.	'100 Days To Beat Plastic' campaign	Initiated by the <b>Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)</b>	<b>Aim:</b> To make the civic body's areas plastic-free through public participation. <b>Launched by:</b> Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi.
16.	'Fit India-Sunday Talks'	Launched by: <b>Fit India Movement, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</b>	It is an <b>online talk show</b> by eminent fitness experts and Fit India icons on the official <b>Instagram</b> and <b>YouTube</b> handles of <b>Fit India</b> , every Sunday

			The first series of <b>8 talks</b> with <b>4 panelists</b> have been titled <b>Fit India Healthy Hindustan</b> .
17.	<b>Tumkur Smart City Project, Tumakuru, Karnataka</b>	Funded by: <b>Central Government</b>	Fund amount: <b>Rs. 500 crore</b>

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS

S.No	Focus Area	Venue	Key Facts
1.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on 'Use of Technology and Elections Integrity'</b>	<b>New Delhi</b>	<p>Hosted by: <b>Election Commission of India (ECI)</b></p> <p>Theme: <b>Use of Technology and Elections Integrity</b></p> <p>Cohort: <b>Election Integrity</b></p>
			<p><b>Additional Information:</b> The first international conference of the Cohort was organized on Oct–Nov, 2022 at <b>New Delhi</b> on the topic '<b>Role, Framework and Capacity of Election Management Bodies</b>'</p>
2.	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Interpol Young Global Police Leaders Programme (YGPLP)</b>	<b>New Delhi</b>	<p>Theme: '<b>Trust</b>'</p> <p>Aim: To build trust between <b>public-police</b> and also to build trust factors between <b>international police forces</b> in the era of technology</p>
3.	<b>International Craft Summit</b>	<b>Jajpur, Odisha</b>	<p>It is a confluence of pioneering craftspeople, culture, and art enthusiasts.</p> <p>Four UN agencies and five UNESCO Creative Cities have partnered with the Jajpur District for the same</p>
4.	<b>Meet of the Quad Senior Cyber Group</b>	<b>New Delhi</b>	<p>Aim: To discuss the collective approach to enhance the cybersecurity cooperation and resilience</p>
5.	<b>First India Stack Developers Conerence</b>	<b>About Quad:</b> It is a multilateral dialogue between <b>Australia, India, Japan and the United States</b> , also known as <b>Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Dialogue</b>	<p><b>Organizers:</b> National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</p> <p><b>Tagline:</b> Innovative, Scalable, Secure: That's Indiastack Global</p>

**Additional Information:** India Stack will be one of the focus areas at the World Government Summit 2023 (Venue: Abu Dhabi).

## NATIONAL SUMMITS

S.No	Focus Area	Venue	Key Facts
1.	<b>15<sup>th</sup> India International Jewellery Show (IIJS Signature) and India Gem &amp; Jewellery Machinery Expo (IGJME)</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Organized by: <b>Gem &amp; Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)</b>
2.	Indian Library Congress	Kannur, Kerala	Organized by: <b>Government of Kerala</b>
3.	<b>27<sup>th</sup> Wharton India Economic Forum (WIEF) conference</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Theme: <b>India leading innovation in the age of uncertainty</b>
4.	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Convention</b>	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Inaugurated by: <b>Prime Minister of India</b> Theme: <b>Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal</b> Chief Guest: <b>President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali</b> Special Guest of Honour: <b>President of Suriname, H.E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi</b>  <b>Additional Information:</b> The Prime Minister released a <b>commemorative postal stamp 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen'</b> and also inaugurated the <b>first-ever digital PBD Exhibition</b> on the theme ' <b>Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle</b> '.
5.	<b>Voice of Global South Summit–2023</b>	Virtual Meet	Theme: <b>Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose</b>  Aim: To articulate the views of the developing countries regarding the effects of the <b>pandemic</b> and the <b>war in Ukraine</b> .  <b>Additional Information:</b> The ' <b>Global South</b> ' broadly refers to countries in <b>Asia, Africa, and South America</b> .
6.	<b>National Brainstorming Meeting</b>	New Delhi (Hybrid Mode)	Organized by: <b>CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi</b>  Aim: To Discuss Science Communication efforts in <b>22 Indian Languages</b>

7.	Youth Dialogue, India @ 2047 Program	Agartala, Tripura	Aim: To signify the importance of <b>youth</b> in nation's building and development
8.	Digital financing against e-Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWR) and way forward	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Head Office, Mumbai (Maharashtra)	Aim: To interact with <b>bankers</b> to increase post-harvest pledge finance against <b>e-NWRs</b> issued by warehouses registered by <b>Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)</b> and evolve mechanisms that would improve ease of doing business.
			<b>Additional Information:</b> A <b>warehouse receipt</b> is a type of <b>documentation</b> used in the <b>futures markets</b> to guarantee the <b>quantity and quality</b> of a particular <b>commodity</b> being <b>stored</b> within an <b>approved facility</b> .
9.	Financial Services Cyber Security (FINSCY) Symposium	New Delhi	Organized by: <b>Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance</b>  Aim: To share ideas, practices, and concerns on <b>cyber security measures</b> currently in place in the <b>financial services sector</b>
10.	57 <sup>th</sup> All-India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police	New Delhi	Aim: To discuss various aspects of <b>policing and national security</b> , including <b>Counter Terrorism, Counter Insurgency and Cyber Security</b>
11.	Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) meeting	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Conducted by: <b>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport</b>  This is the <b>first time</b> that the meeting was <b>outside Delhi</b>
12.	Regional Conference on "E-Governance"	Mumbai, Maharashtra	<b>Organized by:</b> Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra
13.	Symposium on the Quantum Computing Ecosystem	Pune, Maharashtra	<b>Organized by:</b> Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
14.	National Summit on Quality of Biologicals	New Delhi	<b>Organized by:</b> National Institute of Biologicals
15.	Smart Cities Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) Conference on Data and Technology	Panaji, Goa	Organized by: <b>Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)</b> along with <b>Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL)</b>  Aim: To enable peer <b>learning</b> and <b>exchange of ideas</b> so that best practices may be adopted across all Smart Cities

## MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

### BANKING/INSURANCE

S.No	Focus Area	Signed Between	Key Facts
1.	<b>Loan Agreements</b>	<b>Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India</b>	<p>Loan Amount: <b>USD 300 million</b>  Aim: To upgrade over <b>300km of state highways</b> and <b>major district roads (MDRs)</b> in Assam.</p>
			<p>Loan Amount: <b>USD 220 million</b>  Aim: To improve <b>energy security, quality of supply, efficiency, and resilience of power sector</b> in Tripura.</p>
			<p>Loan Amount: <b>USD 350 million</b>  Aim: To build new lines and improve the <b>connectivity</b> of the <b>metro rail system</b> in <b>Chennai</b> with the city's existing public transport system.</p>
			<p>Loan Amount: <b>USD 350 million</b>  Aim: To improve the <b>connectivity</b> of key economic areas in the state of <b>Maharashtra</b>.</p>
2.	<b>Partnership for Digital Transformation</b>	<b>HDFC Bank and Microsoft</b>	<p>Aim: To unlock the bank's <b>business value</b> by <b>transforming the application portfolio</b>, modernizing the data landscape and securing the enterprise with <b>Microsoft Cloud</b>.</p>
3.	<b>Partnership to launch "i3 Launchpad"</b>	<b>India Accelerator (IA), ICICI Bank and Infosys Finacle</b>	<p>Aim: To support a network of <b>entrepreneurs</b> on a quest to develop brands with <b>global impact</b>.</p>
4.	<b>Acquisition Agreement</b>	<b>Acquirer: SBI Funds Management Limited – SBI Mutual Funds</b> <b>Acquiree: Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB)</b>	<p>Stake Acquisition: <b>9.99%</b>  Approved by: <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b></p>
5.	<b>Partnership to launch a Fully Digital Current Account</b>	<b>Axis Bank and Open Financial Technologies Pvt Ltd (OPEN)</b>	<p>Aim: To make <b>Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), freelancers, homepreneurs</b> (home-based entrepreneurs), <b>influencers</b>, and other clients benefit from the <b>Fully Digital Current Account</b>.</p>

6.	<b>Partnership to start a Farmers Producers Organization (FPO) for Rajasthan Farmers</b>	<b>National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Neeru Yadav (Hockey Wali Sarpanch)</b>	Aim: To start an FPO, 'Sachhi Saheli Mahila Agro Producer Company Limited'
7.	<b>Strategic Bancassurance partnership</b>	<b>Punjab &amp; Sind Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance company</b>	Aim: To avail the bank customers a variety of insurance products.
8.	<b>MoU to facilitate low interest rate loans to farmers</b>	<b>WDRA and State Bank of India (SBI)</b>	Aim: To promote awareness about the new loan product called <b>Produce Marketing Loan</b> to exclusively fund against e-NWRs (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt) with features such as <b>Nil processing fee, No Additional collateral and attractive interest rates</b>
9.	<b>Partnership to extend loans to the MSMEs (Micro, Small &amp; Medium Enterprises)</b>	<b>Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Kolkata-based VFS Capital Limited</b>	As per the agreement, VFS Capital will extend MSME loans up to <b>Rs 5 lakh at 13% per annum interest rate</b>
10.	<b>Bancassurance Partnership</b>	<b>Punjab &amp; Sind Bank and Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd. (ABHICL)</b>	Aim: For the distribution of <b>health insurance products</b>
11.	<b>MoU for Financing Dealers</b>	<b>South Indian Bank (SIB) and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)</b>	Aim: To provide financial assistance to the <b>dealers of SAIL</b> in India
12.	<b>Partnership to Offer Loans for Lifestyle Products</b>	<b>Paytail Commerce Private Limited (Paytail) and HDB Financial Services Limited</b>	Aim: To provide loans on lifestyle products such as <b>bicycles, electric vehicles (EVs), mobile devices, consumer durables, and kitchen appliances</b>
13.	<b>Acquisition Agreement</b>	<b>State Bank of India (SBI) to acquire 40% stakes of Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) previously held by Canara Bank</b>	Stake Acquisition by SBI after the agreement: <b>100%</b>
14.	<b>Partnership to allow policyholders to pay their premiums via "UPI 123PAY"</b>	<b>HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited (HDFC Life) and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)</b>	Aim: To significantly streamline the premium payment procedure for <b>HDFC Life policyholders</b>

## OTHERS

S.No	Focus Area	Signed Between	Key Facts
15.	<b>MoU for collaborative and sponsored research projects</b>	<b>Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad</b>	Aim: To address <b>HCL's need for technical assistance, guidance and consultancy work from IIT-ISM for enhancing copper ore production.</b>
16.	<b>MoU for Renewable Energy (RE) Business and Green Power</b>	<b>NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)</b>	Aim: For the development of <b>Renewable Energy based Power Projects</b> to tap Business opportunities in RE and supply of <b>400 MW renewable power</b> for requirements of <b>HPCL</b> .

17.	<b>MoU for Green Molecule Solutions</b>	<b>Granules India Limited and Greenko Group</b>	Aim: To develop and promote built-in green pharmaceutical zones (GPZ) in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
18.	<b>Partnership to monetize Wi-Fi projects at more than 6,100 railway stations across India</b>	<b>RailTel with 3i Infotech Ltd, Forensics Intelligence Surveillance and Security Technologies Private Limited (FISST) and Yellow Inc.</b>	Contract period: 5 years
19.	<b>Partnership to manufacture Aerostructures</b>	<b>General Atomic Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) and Bharat Forge Limited, India</b>	Aim: To manufacture main landing gear components, subassemblies, and assemblies of remotely piloted aircraft.
20.	<b>Partnership for 5G technology</b>	<b>Motorola and Reliance Jio</b>	Aim: To ensure that Motorola's 5G smartphones in India support Jio's advanced standalone 5G technology.
21.	<b>Partnership for the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> edition of FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023</b>	<b>International Hockey Federation (FIH) and JSW Group</b>	<b>JSW Group</b> will be the <b>Global World Cup Partner</b> . To be held at: <b>Bhubaneswar-Rourkela (Odisha)</b>
22.	<b>Partnership for the 2023 theatrical content rollout in India</b>	<b>Hollywood studio Lionsgate and PVR Pictures</b>	Aim: To offer the <b>best viewing experience</b> of quality content of Hollywood movies in India
23.	<b>Partnership to empower the growth of space technology startups in India</b>	<b>Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Microsoft India</b>	Aim: To empower <b>Indian space tech startups</b> with <b>technology tools and platforms</b> , <b>go-to-market support</b> , and <b>mentoring</b> to help them <b>scale</b> and <b>become enterprise ready</b> .
24.	<b>Partnership to be the official sponsor of Indian Cricket team</b>	<b>Kewal Kiran Clothing Limited's (KKCL) flagship brand 'Killer' and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)</b>	KKCL will put on the brand <b>Killer logo</b> on Team India's Kit until <b>May 2023</b> .
25.	<b>MoU for the development of SMEs (Small Medium Enterprises) in Goa</b>	<b>Government of Goa &amp; Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)</b>	Under the MoU, BSE will create awareness among SMEs on the benefits of listing on the exchange.
26.	<b>MoU to Set up Centre for Mathematics and Computing</b>	<b>Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and Axis Bank</b>	To be set up at: <b>IISc Bengaluru</b>
27.	<b>MoU on the cooperation in the training of diplomats</b>	<b>India and Panama</b>	Signed during: <b>17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention 2023</b> <b>Note:</b> See 'National Summits and Conferences' tag for 17 <sup>th</sup> PBD Convention.
28.	<b>MoU to boost Agriculture</b>	<b>Garuda Aerospace and Rallis India Limited</b>	Aim: To work for the betterment of the farmers by <b>leveraging technology</b> in their agricultural operations through drones

29.	<b>MoU</b> for the development of various Geographic Information System (GIS) applications	<b>Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe)</b> and <b>Nascent Info Technologies Private Ltd.</b>	Aim: To use the refined technology of both the entities for <b>mineral mapping and exploration</b> .
30.	<b>MoU</b> to establish <b>Hindi Chair</b> at <b>Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka</b>	<b>Indian High Commission</b> and <b>Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka</b>	Aim: To familiarize students with Indian language, history and culture
31.	<b>MoU</b> for exploring opportunities in the areas of <b>sustainability</b>	<b>Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) Ltd.</b> and <b>Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh</b>	Aim: To explore the areas of <b>sustainability</b> and <b>carbon-neutrality</b> in <b>steel and power sectors</b>
32.	<b>MoU</b> to develop 250 MW battery Energy Storage Project in Assam	<b>ONGC Tripura Power Company Ltd. (OTPC)</b> and <b>Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd. (APDCL)</b>	Aim: To develop the <b>battery energy storage system</b> in a phased manner in <b>Assam</b>
33.	<b>Amalgamation Agreement</b>	<b>PVR Cinemas</b> and <b>Inox Leisure</b>	Approved by: <b>National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)</b>
34.	<b>MoU</b> for Development of <b>Floating and Ground Mounted based Renewable Energy Projects</b> in <b>Tripura</b>	<b>NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL)</b> and <b>Government of Tripura</b>	Aim: To develop large sized <b>Renewable Energy Projects</b> in <b>Tripura</b> and help the state in meeting its <b>Clean Energy Commitments</b>
35.	<b>MoU</b> to develop <b>floating green ammonia and green hydrogen projects</b> for industrial applications	<b>Larsen &amp; Toubro (L&amp;T)</b> and Norway-based <b>H2Carrier</b>	The companies will become partners for <b>engineering, procurement, construction, installation and commissioning</b> for <b>H2C's plants</b>
36.	<b>Contractual Partnership</b> to supply and service <b>electric locomotives</b> for <b>freight movement</b> in <b>India</b>	<b>Siemens</b> and <b>Indian Railways</b>	Contract Amount: <b>Rs. 26,000 crore</b> Siemens will deliver <b>1,200 electric locomotives</b> of high capacity
37.	<b>Agreement on Green Hydrogen Development and Under Sea Cable Connectivity</b>	<b>India</b> and <b>United Arab Emirates (UAE)</b>	The launch of a <b>sub-sea cable</b> between <b>India</b> and the <b>UAE</b> is under the Mission, ' <b>ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID INITIATIVE</b> ', announced by Prime Minister of India.
38.	<b>Framework Agreement</b> for <b>Deep Space Exploration</b>	<b>United States of America (USA)</b> and <b>Japan</b>	Signed at: <b>National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)</b> Aim: For Cooperation in <b>Space Exploration</b> and Use of <b>Outer Space</b> , Including the <b>Moon</b> and Other Celestial Bodies, for <b>Peaceful Purposes</b>
39.	<b>Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)</b> for setting up a <b>Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity</b>	<b>Indian Ports Association (IPA)</b> and <b>Research &amp; Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)</b>	--

40.	<b>MoU setting annual performance target for the year 2022-23</b>	<b>Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)</b>	Targets: The Government of India has set a target ₹ 3,361 crores for Revenue from Operation, up by approx. 18% from the previous year
41.	<b>MoU to organize a string of educational programmes for the school children through an educational programme titled “BANDIPUR YUVA MITRA”</b>	<b>National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) with Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Karnataka Forest Department</b>	--
42.	<b>MoU to exchange knowledge &amp; developments in the Carbon Market</b>	<b>Carbon Markets Association of India (CMAI) and Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS)</b>	Aim: To work for a <b>carbon-neutral economy</b> and support the development of the <b>Indian carbon market</b>
43.	<b>Agreement to construct 10 Deep-Sea Tuna Long Liner-cum-Gill netter fishing vessels</b>	<b>Udupi Cochin Shipyard Limited (UCSL), Department of Fisheries (Kerala) and 5 fishermen Self-Help Group (SHGs) societies from Kerala</b>	--
44.	<b>MoU to improve Drone Technology in Northeast India</b>	<b>Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-G) with Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (AMTRON) and RC Hobbytech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (RCH) to</b>	--
45.	<b>Strategic engineering partnership</b>	<b>L&amp;T Technology Services Limited(LTTS) and Airbus</b>	Aim: To provide <b>Advanced Engineering Capabilities</b> and Digital Manufacturing Services to Airbus
46.	<b>Partnership for Hockey Development Programmes and Men's World Cup</b>	<b>International Hockey Federation (FIH) and Jindal Steel &amp; Power (JSP) Foundation</b>	Aim: To work on some of the FIH's significant <b>hockey development initiatives</b>  The <b>JSP Foundation</b> will become a <b>global partner</b> of the ongoing <b>FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023</b>
47.	<b>Cooperation in the Re-introduction of Cheetah to India</b>	<b>India &amp; South Africa</b>	<b>Objective:</b> to translocate 12 cheetahs every year for the next eight to 10 years  <b>First batch of 12 cheetahs</b> will be translocated in February 2023.  <b>Programmer Co-ordinator's:</b> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South African National Parks (SANParks), the Cheetah Range Expansion Project, and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) in South Africa, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

		<b>Additional Information:</b> Under Project Cheetah, eight cheetahs were introduced to India from Namibia during 2022.	
48.	<b>Loan Agreement to upgrade the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal, Navi Mumbai &amp; boost international trade</b>	Asian Development Bank ( <b>ADB</b> ) and Nhava Sheva Freeport Terminal Private Limited ( <b>NSFTPL</b> )	<b>Loan Amount:</b> USD 131 million (about Rs 1,066 crore)
49.	<b>Facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and Co-Productions between Prasar Bharati and National Media Authority of Egypt.</b>	India & Egypt	MOU part of <b>Prasar Bharati's efforts</b> to expand the reach of DD India Channel
50.	<b>Development of new, improved and innovative technologies for advancing healthcare and diagnostic access in India</b>	Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research ( <b>SAMEER</b> ), a R&D institute of Ministry of Electronics & IT & <b>Siemens Healthineers</b>	The MoU intends to improve access to MRI in India.
51.	<b>Partnership to launch a Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) Education Program in Asia</b>	<b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</b> and <b>Solvay (Belgian chemical company)</b>	Aim: To explore the mutual <b>impact</b> on the <b>environment</b> by focusing on the theme “ <b>Sustainable living for one planet</b> ”
52.	<b>MoU on Cultural Cooperation</b>	<b>Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Government of Egypt</b>	Period: <b>5 years</b>
53.	<b>MoU for manufacturing of high-quality marine diesel engines</b>	Defence PSU <b>Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd</b> and <b>Rolls Royce (Germany)</b>	--
54.	<b>Recognition and Skilling Initiatives for Healthcare Professionals Across the Country</b>	National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers ( <b>NABH</b> ) and Healthcare Sector Skill Council ( <b>HSSC</b> )	Aim: Recognition of HSSC certification for NABH accreditation, develop training programs for Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling required for healthcare professionals.
		<b>Additional information:</b> HSSC is a National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) recognized awarding body working under the ambit of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).  NABH is a constituent board of Quality Council of India, set up to establish and operate accreditation program for healthcare organizations	

## BANKING AND FINANCE

### BANKING INITIATIVES

S.No	Program / Initiative / Landmarks	Launched / Developed by	Key Facts
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1.	'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign	Bandhan Bank	The campaign featured <b>Sourav Ganguly</b> , the <b>brand ambassador</b> of the bank.
		<b>Additional Information:</b> The campaign was <b>conceived</b> by <b>Leo Burnett Orchard</b> , who was brought in as <b>Bandhan Bank's creative agent</b> in <b>August 2022</b> .	
2.	Retail Internet Banking Services 'DhanDelight' and Mobile Banking App 'DhanSmart'	Dhanlaxmi Bank	Aim: To provide <b>safe and secure banking to retail and general customers</b>
3.	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) online portal	South Indian Bank	Aim: To provide instant online ' <b>In Principle</b> ' approval of up to <b>Rs. 1 crore</b>
4.	India's Fastest Payment App – 'PayRup'	--	It uses <b>Web 3.0 technology</b> and offers an <b>enhanced digital payment experience</b>
5.	Direct payments in rupees	Russian VTB Bank	The initiative was launched to <b>significantly increase bilateral trade and investment between Russia and India</b>
6.	SwipeUp platform	AU Small Finance Bank	The platform provides an opportunity to other bank credit cardholders to upgrade their card to one of AU credit cards
7.	Partnership to offer financing for Electric Vehicle Dealers	ICICI Bank & Tata Motors	--
8.	Vikram Credit Card	BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)	It is a <b>dedicated credit card for Indian defence, paramilitary, and police personnel</b> .
9.	UPI (Unified Payments Interface) API (Application Programming Interface) engine – 'Timepay Evok'	NPST (Network People Services Technologies Ltd)	The engine has been built for <b>PAPGs (Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways)</b> to act as a <b>one-stop UPI payment solution</b>

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Initiatives / Programs in News	Launched by / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	Intelligent Tray Retrieval System (ITRS)	Manufactured by: M/s SJK Innovations Pvt. Ltd (a MSME-Make in India Company)	Inaugurated at: <b>Manohar International Airport – Mopa, Goa</b>  It is an <b>Artificial Intelligence</b> based fully automatic machine that helps in providing <b>enhanced passenger security</b> with <b>advanced screening technology</b> .

2.	<b>Pushan-Alpha Satellite</b>	Developed by: Bengaluru-based <b>space situational awareness (SSA)</b> start-up <b>Digantara</b>	Launched through: <b>SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket</b> Aim: To monitor the <b>space weather</b> .
3.	<b>4 Indigenous Multipurpose Drones – 'Warehouse Drones', 'Reaper Drones', 'Ornithopters', 'RAVEN'</b>	Engineered by: <b>Aeromodelling club of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati</b>	Aim: To <b>improve the inventory management, military or law enforcement, wildlife photography or delivery and surveillance systems</b> .
4.	<b>20cm New Dwarf Boa (Snake) – 'Tropidophis cacuangoae'</b>	--	Discovered at: <b>Ecuadorian Amazon, Ecuador</b>  The new species is named after the <b>Indigenous rights activist Dolores Cacuango</b> .
5.	<b>Low Smoke Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO)</b>	Launched by: <b>Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)</b>	Launched for: <b>Indian Army</b> Launched at: <b>Jammu</b>
6.	<b>Untethered multi-copter payload Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)</b>	Launched by: <b>Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)</b>	Aim: To carry out <b>logistic operations</b> in the <b>Himalayan frontier</b> from <b>5kg-25kg</b>
7.	<b>System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust</b>	Invented by: <b>Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), Ranchi (Jharkhand)</b>	Aim: To reduce the <b>dust generation</b> from <b>open sources</b> and provide <b>noise attenuation</b>
8.	<b>4 Doppler Weather Radar Systems</b>	Launched by: <b>Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)</b>	These were recently Western Himalayan States of <b>Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh</b> .  IMD targets to establish <b>660 District Agro Meteorological Units (DAMUs)</b> by <b>2025</b> and increase from <b>3,100 blocks in 2023 to 7,000 blocks in 2025</b>
9.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Earth-sized planet – 'TOI 700 e'</b>	Discovered by: <b>NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission</b>	<b>TOI 700 e</b> takes <b>28 days</b> to orbit its star called <b>TOI 700</b> .
		<b>About TESS:</b> It was launched in <b>April, 2018</b> , aboard a <b>SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket</b> to find <b>Earth-sized planets</b> orbiting nearby stars.	
10.	<b>Geotail spacecraft</b>	<b>First joint mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)</b>	It retired after <b>30 years</b> in orbit due to the <b>failure of its data recorder</b>

## DEFENCE

### DEFENCE EXERCISES

S.No	Exercise	Countries / Forces Involved	Key Facts
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1.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> edition of 'Veer Guardian 2023'</b>	<b>Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)</b>	Held at: <b>Japan</b> Technical Participants from IAF: <b>Sukhoi Su-30 MKI aircraft</b>
2.	<b>THEATRE LEVEL OPERATIONAL READINESS EXERCISE (TROPEX-23)</b>	Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard assets also participates along with Indian Navy.	<b>Place:</b> Indian Ocean Region <b>It is Indian navy's largest war game.</b> Duration 3 months (January to March)
3.	<b>AMPHEX 2023</b>	It is biennial <b>Tri-Services Amphibious Exercise</b>	Place: Organised first time in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. It was largest edition till date.
4.	<b>Veer Guardian-2023</b>	<b>Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)</b>	Held at: <b>Japan</b> <b>Sukhoi Su-30 MKI</b> will be participating from India, along with <b>tankers</b> and <b>Globemasters</b>
5.	<b>21<sup>st</sup> edition of Exercise 'Varuna'</b>	Bilateral Naval Exercise between <b>India</b> and <b>France</b>	Held at: <b>Western Seaboard</b> Indian Participants: <b>INS Chennai, INS Teg, maritime patrol aircraft P-8I and Dornier, integral helicopters and MiG29K fighter aircraft</b>

**Additional Information:** The bilateral exercise between the two navies was initiated in **1993** and was christened as '**VARUNA**' in **2001**.

## DEFENCE INITIATIVES AND TECHNOLOGIES

S.No	Initiative / Missile / Technology	Launched / Developed by	Key Facts
6.	<b>DRDO Industry Academia-Ramanujan Centre of Excellence' (DIA-RCoE)</b>	<b>Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)</b>	Aim: To develop <b>advanced technologies</b> to cater the <b>national defence and security</b> needs.
7.	<b>'Prithvi-II' short-range, surface-to-surface ballistic missile</b>	Developed by: <b>Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)</b> Developed for: <b>Indian Army</b>	It is the <b>first</b> missile developed under <b>Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)</b> . Range: <b>350 km</b>
8.	<b>Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORAD) Missile</b>	To be developed and designed by: <b>DRDO</b> To be developed for: <b>Indian Air Force</b>	Development Approved by: Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)
9.	<b>Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Kamla Devi</b>	Developed by: <b>Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata</b>	It is the <b>5<sup>th</sup></b> and the last <b>fast patrol vessel (FPV)</b> named after <b>Kamla Devi Chattopadhyay</b> , a social reformer and activist
10.	<b>Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) operations &amp; Search and Rescue (SAR) course</b>	Conducted by: <b>Indian Coast Guard (ICG)</b>	Conducted under: <b>Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)</b>

			Participating nations: <b>6 (Bangladesh, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Myanmar and Maldives)</b>
11.	<b>Fuel Cell-based Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system</b>	Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	The AIP system will be fitted on <b>INS Kalvari</b> .  <b>NMRL and Naval Group France</b> signed an agreement safely integrate the indigenous AIP system in Kalvari-class submarines

## ENVIRONMENT

S.No	Topic	Country / State / Organization	Key Facts
1.	<b>Zero poaching of endangered rhinos in 2022</b>	Feat Achieved by: <b>Assam</b>	The last time no poaching was reported in Assam was in <b>1977</b> .
2.	<b>Equipment to predict rip currents, prevent drowning at sea</b>	<b>Developed by:</b> Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO), National Centre for Earth Sciences (NCES), and Andhra University	--
3.	<b>Neelakurinji recently included in the list of protected plants</b>	Listed by: <b>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b>	Listed Under: <b>Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972</b>  <b>Neelakurinji</b> is a shrub found in the <b>Western Ghats</b> in the Shola forests in the <b>Southern part of India</b> that blooms only once in twelve years

## SPORTS

S.No	Tournament	Venue	Winner / Looser	Key Facts
1.	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)-2022</b>	Madhya Pradesh	--	Mascots: <b>Asha and Mowgli</b>  Smart Torch: <b>Amarkantak</b>  Theme song sung by: <b>Shaan</b>
			<b>Additional Information:</b> For the first time water sports namely <b>kayaking and canoeing, canoe slalom and rowing</b> , as well as <b>fencing</b> will be part of these games.	
2.	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Tata Open Maharashtra</b>	Pune, Maharashtra	<b>Tallon Griekspoor (Netherlands)</b> won the title by defeating <b>Benjamin Bonzi (France)</b>	--

3.	<b>2023 Adelaide International 1</b>	Adelaide, Australia	<b>Novak Djokovic (Serbia)</b> won the Men's singles title	He defeated <b>Sebastian Korda (United States of America)</b>
			<b>Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)</b> won the Women's singles title	She defeated <b>Linda Noskova (Czech Republic)</b>
4.	<b>Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league</b>	To be held at: <b>Chandigarh University, Punjab</b>	--	To be organized by: <b>Kho Kho Federation of India</b> Financial Support from: <b>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</b>
5.	<b>23rd National Sqay Championship</b>	Jammu	Gold: <b>Falak Mumtaz (J&amp;K)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> : <b>J&amp;K</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> : <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> : <b>Odisha</b>	She is an <b>11-year old</b> girl from Jammu & Kashmir
6.	<b>International Hockey Federation (FIH) Men's Hockey World Cup 2023</b>	To be held at: <b>Rourkela-Bhubaneshwar (Odisha)</b>	--	Opening Ceremony at: <b>Barabati Stadium, Cuttack (Odisha)</b>
7.	<b>India vs Sri Lanka One Day International (ODI) Cricket</b>	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	<b>India</b> defeated <b>Sri Lanka</b> by <b>317 runs</b> to clinch the ODI series	The margin of victory ( <b>317 runs</b> ) is the <b>biggest</b> in the history of <b>men's ODI cricket</b> in terms of <b>runs</b>
8.	<b>Spanish Super Cup 2023</b>	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	<b>Barcelona</b> won the Spanish Super Cup for the <b>first time</b> by defeating <b>Real Madrid</b>	--
9.	<b>PETRONAS Malaysia Open 2023</b>	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	<b>Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)</b> won the <b>Men's Singles title</b> by defeating <b>Kodai Naraoka (Japan)</b>	--
			<b>Yamaguchi Akane (Japan)</b> defeated <b>An Se-Young (South Korea)</b> to win the <b>Women's Singles title</b>	
10.	<b>Bangkok Open 2023(2)</b>	Nonthaburi, Thailand	India's Tennis players, <b>Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni (1st seed)</b> won the <b>Men's doubles title</b> by defeating <b>Christopher Rungkat (Indonesia)</b>	--

			<b>and Akira Santillan (Australia)</b>	
			<b>Arthur Cazaux (France)</b> won the Men's Singles title defeating <b>Lloyd Harris (South Africa)</b>	
11.	<b>ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup (1st edition)</b>	South Africa	<b>Winner:</b> India <b>Runner-up:</b> England	India won the final by <b>seven wickets</b> . <b>Finals held at Potchefstroom.</b> Indian Team was led by <b>Shafali Verma</b> <b>Player of the Match (Finals):</b> Titas Sadhu [India] <b>Player of the Tournament:</b> Grace Scrivens [England Captain]
12.	<b>Maitri Cup 2023</b>	Vijay Yadav Residential Cricket Academy, Faridabad	<b>Winner:</b> NHPC <b>Runner up:</b> CVPPPL	Maitri Cup is a <b>T20 cricket tournament</b>
13.	<b>India Open Badminton Championship 2023</b> <b>(Officially named: Yonex Sunrise India Open 2023)</b>	KD Jadhav stadium, Delhi.	<b>Mens Single:</b> Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailad) won by defeating World No.1 Viktor Axelsen (Denmark's). <b>Women's Singles:</b> An Seyoung (South Korea) won by defeating World No.1 Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)	--
14.	<b>Australian Open Tennis Tournament 2023</b>	Melbourne, Australia	<b>Novak Djokovic</b> defeated <b>Stefanos Tsitsipas</b> in the final of men's singles match	--
			<b>Aryna Sabalenka</b> defeated <b>Elena Rybakina</b> in the final to win the <b>women's singles tennis title</b>	
15.	<b>FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023</b>	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	<b>Germany</b> defeated <b>Belgium</b> to win the title	--
16.	<b>85th edition of Tata Steel Chess, 2023</b>	Wijk aan Zee	<b>Dutch player Anish Giri</b> won the tournament	--

## AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Category	Awardee	Key Facts
1.	<b>Assam State Civilian Award 2023</b>	Assam Baibhav (Asom Baibhav)	<b>Dr Tapan Saikia</b>	He has been awarded for his work in the <b>healthcare (cancer treatment) and public service sectors</b> .
2.	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Digital India Awards (DIA), 2022</b>	Digital Empowerment of Citizens	<b>Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) initiative</b>	It is an initiative of <b>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</b> , which won the <b>Platinum Award</b> in this category
		<p>About DIA: The award has been instituted by <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</b>, under the aegis of <b>National Portal of India</b> to encourage and honour innovative <b>digital solutions/ exemplary initiatives</b> by various government entities in the <b>realm of Digital Governance</b>.</p>		
3.	<b>Maharashtra 'Best Police Unit' awards 2021</b>	Class A	<b>Jalna district police</b>	--
		Class B	<b>Nagpur city police</b>	
4.	<b>UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023</b>	--	<b>Odisha</b>	It has won the award for <b>Jaga Mission</b> , which is the <b>world's largest land titling and slum upgrading program</b> empowering the lives of slum dwellers
5.	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Jaipur International Film Festival</b>	Lifetime Achievement Award	<b>Aparna Sen</b>	She is an <b>Indian actress and director</b>
6.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dr Patangrao Kadam Memorial Award</b>	--	<b>Adar Poonawalla</b>	He is the <b>Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</b> of the <b>Serum Institute of India (SII)</b> awarded for the contribution to the <b>fight against COVID-19</b>
7.	<b>80<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Globe Awards 2023</b>	Best Original Song	<b>'Naatu Naatu'</b> from the movie ' <b>RRR</b> '	It is an <b>Indian film</b> directed by <b>SS Rajamouli</b>
		Best Television Series – Drama	<b>House of the Dragon</b>	--
		Best Motion Picture – Drama	<b>The fablemans</b>	--
		Best Director — Motion Picture	<b>Steven Spielberg for The Fabelmans</b>	--
8.	<b>International Banking Systems Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022</b>	Best Digital Channel Channel/Platform Implementation: Best Project Implementation	<b>Clayfin Technologies and Bandhan Bank</b>	--

9.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Secretaries National Conference Recognitions, 2023</b>	Thrust on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	<b>Year of Enterprises project, Kerala government's Industries department</b>	The project by <b>Kerala Government</b> was started in the current fiscal year with the aim to create <b>one lakh enterprises in one year</b>
10.	<b>Guinness Book of World Records</b>		<b>Kerala Football Team</b>	It made a record by taking <b>4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours</b>
11.	<b>71<sup>st</sup> Miss Universe, 2023</b>	--	<b>R'Bonney Gabriel</b>	She is from <b>Texas, United States of America (USA)</b> , and is the <b>first Filipino American</b> to win <b>Miss USA</b>
12.	<b>Critics Choice Awards, 2023</b>	Best Foreign Language Film	<b>RRR</b>	It is an <b>Indian film</b>
		Best Song	<b>Naatu Naatu</b>	For the movie " <b>RRR</b> "
		Best Actor	<b>Brendan Fraser</b>	For the movie " <b>The Whale</b> "
		Best Actress	<b>Cate Blanchett</b>	For the movie " <b>Tár</b> "
		Best Television Series	<b>Better Call Saul</b>	--
		Best Picture	<b>Everything Everywhere All at Once</b>	--
13.	<b>Business Today-KPMG Best Small Bank award, 2022</b>	Banks with a book size of less than Rs. 1 lakh crore	<b>Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) Limite</b>	--
14.	<b>National Startup Awards(NSA) 2022</b>	--	NSA 2022 recognized <b>46 winners (41 startups, 2 incubators, and 1 accelerator)</b> in their respective categories	Awarded on: <b>National Start-up Day MAARG platform (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth)</b> was also launched during the awards
15.	<b>United Nations Human Settlements Programme's (UN-Habitat) "World Habitat Awards 2023"</b>	Bronze Award	<b>Odisha</b>	Odisha has won the award for the <b>Jaga Mission</b> , which is India's largest land titling and slum upgrading initiative, and one of the largest in the world
16.	<b>Bahrain's Isa Award for Service to Humanity 2023</b>		<b>Dr Sanduk Ruit</b>	He is a renowned <b>Nepali ophthalmologist</b> , and has been declared the <b>5<sup>th</sup> laureate 2021-2022</b> of the <b>Isa award</b> for his work on <b>blindness prevention</b> and his service to the community and his achievements
17.	<b>Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)'s 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference-</b>	Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport	<b>New Goa Manohar International Airport (MIA)</b>	It was formerly known as <b>Mopa International Airport</b> and has been awarded for <b>implementing sustainability</b>

	<b>cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023</b>			
18.	<b>Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022</b>	--	<b>ESAF Small Finance Bank</b>	The SFB has been awarded in recognition of its contributions to advancing the goal of <b>financial inclusion</b> and supporting <b>inclusive growth</b>
19.	<b>Padma Awards 2023</b> (Total 106 Padma Awards including 3 duo cases)	<b>Padma Vibhushan</b> (6)-awarded for <b>exceptional and distinguished service</b>  <b>Padma Bhushan</b> (9)- Awarded for <b>distinguished service of high order</b>  <b>Padma Shri</b> (91)- Awarded for <b>distinguished service in any field</b>	<b>Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous)</b> [Gujarat, Others - Architecture] <b>Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous)</b> [West Bengal, Medicine] <b>Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous)</b> [Uttar Pradesh, Public Affairs] <b>Zakir Hussain</b> [Maharashtra, Art] <b>S M Krishna</b> [Karnataka, Public Affairs] <b>Srinivas Varadhan</b> [USA, Science & Engineering]  <b>Important Awardees</b> <b>Kumar Mangalam Birla</b> [Maharashtra, Trade & Industry] <b>Sudha Murty</b> [Karnataka, Social Work] <b>Vani Jairam</b> [Tamil Nadu, Art] <b>Suman Kalyanpur</b> [Maharashtra, Art]  <b>Important Awardees</b> <b>Rakesh Jhunjhunwala (Posthumous)</b> [Maharashtra, Trade & Industry] <b>M M Keeravaani</b> [Andhra Pradesh, Art]	Padma Awards are <b>one of the highest civilian honours of India</b> . Announced annually on the eve of Republic Day. Conferred by: President of India. Recommended by: Padma Awards Committee. Padma Awards Committee constituted by the <b>Prime Minister</b> & headed by the <b>Cabinet Secretary</b> .
20.		Best Original Song	Naatu Naatu (RRR)	RRR is the first Indian feature film to be nominated for anything other than best

	<b>95<sup>th</sup> Academy (Oscar) Awards 2023 Nominations</b>		<b>[Composer:</b> M.M. Keeravani', <b>Lyricist:</b> Chandrabose]	international film at the Academy Awards.
		Best Documentary Feature Film	All That Breathes [Director: Shaunk Sen]	
		Best Documentary Short Film	The Elephant Whisperers [Director: Kartiki Gonsalves]	
21.	<b>Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023</b>	Art & Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Scholastic, Social Service and Sports	<b>Total Awardees:</b> 11	<b>Award Instituted by:</b> Ministry of Women and Child Development.  <b>Purpose:</b> to acknowledge the exceptional achievement of children in the age group of 5 to 18 years
22.	<b>Annual ranking of police station for 2022</b>	Best Police Station	<b>Aska police station</b>	It is situated in Ganjam district of Odisha.  This ranking is given by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on the basis of 165 different parameters.
23.	<b>Asian Film Competition (21<sup>st</sup> Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF))</b>	Best scriptwriting Best actress	<b>film Aparajito (The Undefeated)</b> <b>Ketaki Narayan for film Prappeda (Hawk's Muffin).</b>	film Aparajito was directed by Anik Dutta  film Prappeda was directed by Krishnendu Kalesh
24.	<b>Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023</b>	Institutional category	<b>Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and Lunglei Fire Station (LFS), Mizoram</b>	<b>Award Instituted by:</b> Government of India.  <b>Purpose:</b> to recognize the contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in the field of disaster management
25.	<b>Indian Achievers Awards 2023</b>	--	<b>R Vishnu Prasad</b>	He has been awarded ' <b>the most distinguished scientist of the year 2022'</b> award
26.	<b>Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar National Contribution Award 2022</b>	--	<b>Sunil Krishnan</b>	He is a global <b>entrepreneur</b> awarded for his contribution to India, for spreading <b>Indian Cuisine</b> globally with <b>Moksh Restaurant</b>
27.	<b>Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award</b>	--	<b>Dr Prabha Atre</b>	Dr Prabha Are is a renowned Hindustani Vocalist.

28.	Gallantry awards and other defence decorations	--	<b>Total Awardees: 412</b> Armed Forces personnel	--
29.	Tatrakshak Medals	President's Tatrakshak Medal (PTM) and Tatrakshak Medal (TM)	<b>Total Awardees: 6</b>	Tatrakshak Medals are conferred to <b>Indian Coast Guard Personnel</b> for distinguished service
30.	Debbie Hockley Medal	--	--	<b>To be introduced by the New Zealand Cricket (NZC)</b> at the annual awards ceremony, to honour the outstanding female cricketer of the year.  It is the equivalent of the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for the outstanding male cricketer of the year
31.	Green Railway Station Certification with highest rating of Platinum	--	<b>Visakhapatnam railway station of East Coast Railway</b>	<b>Awarded by:</b> Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)  The award has been conferred to for adopting green concepts

**About Green Railway Station rating system:** Developed by The Environment Directorate of Indian Railways, with the support of the IGBC.

## APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person	Position	Organization / Country / State / Company	Key Facts
1.	Maithili Thakur	State Icon for Bihar	Election Commission of India (ECI)	She is an <b>Indian classical and folk music-trained musician</b> , appointed as a State Icon to <b>create awareness</b> among the <b>voters</b> for their <b>participation</b> in the electoral process.
2.	Nalin Negi (succeeded Suhail Sameer)	Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	BharatPe	--
3.	Hong Ju Jeon (succeeded Young Lak Kim)	Managing Director (MD)	LG Electronics India Pvt. Ltd.	--
4.	Prasanna Kumar Motupalli	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	NLC India Ltd (NLCIL)	--
5.	Surinder Chawla	CEO	Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)	Appointment approved by: <b>RBI</b>

				He is currently serving as <b>Head of Branch Banking at RBL Bank.</b>
6.	Saiyam Mehra	Chairman	All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)	--
7.	Chetan Sharma	Chairman	Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)	Re-appointed
8.	Ajay Kumar Srivastava (replaced Partha Pratim Sengupta)	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)	--
9.	Sanjay Mudaliar	Executive Director	Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)	--
10.	Kevin McCarthy (replaced Nancy Pelosi)	Speaker	House of Representatives, United States of America	--
11.	Jayen Mehta (succeeded RS Sodhi)	Interim Managing Director (MD)	Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) – ‘Amul’	--
12.	Anurag Kumar	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)	Appointment approved by: <b>Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)</b>
13.	Smriti Mandhana	Brand Ambassador	Herbalife International India private limited (Herbalife Nutrition)	She is an <b>Indian Cricket player.</b>
14.	Vikas Purohit	Director of Global Business in India	Meta	--
15.	Michael Debabrata Patra	Deputy Governor	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Re-appointed
16.	A.C Charania (replaced Bhavya Lal)	Chief Technologist	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	--
17.	Ravi Kumar S (replaced Brian Humphries)	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Cognizant	He was a former <b>Infosys President</b>
18.	Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber	President	Conference of Parties (COP) 28 climate summit	He is the <b>Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology of United Arab Emirates (UAE)</b>

		<b>Additional Information:</b> The COP 28 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be held in Dubai, UAE, from 30 <sup>th</sup> November to 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023		
19.	Clare Lombardelli	Chief Economist	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	She is the Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury in United Kingdom (UK)
20.	Justice Sabina (succeeded Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed)	Chief Justice	Himachal Pradesh High Court	She was appointed by the President of India
21.	Pankaj Kumar Singh	Deputy National Security Adviser (Dy NSA)	National Security Council Secretariat of India	Appointment approved by: Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC)
22.	Inger Andersen	Executive Director (ED)	United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)	Re-elected She hails from Denmark
23.	Vishal Kapoor	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)	He is currently the CEO of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and has been given additional charge of CESL
24.	Jeff Zients (replaced Ron Klain)	White House chief of staff	USA	--
25.	Siddharth Sharma (replaced Srinath Narasimhan)	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Tata Trusts	--
26.	Aparna Uppaluri	Chief Operating Officer (COO)		The role of COO has been created for the first time in Tata Trusts.
27.	Prabdev Singh (replaced Madhav Kalyan)	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	--
28.	Sangeeta Verma (replaced Ashok Kumar Gupta)	Chairperson (Acting)	Competition Commission of India (CCI)	The Government of India has extended her tenure to the role.
29.	Chris Hipkins (replaced Jacinda Ardern)	Prime Minister	New Zealand	He is the 41st Prime Minister of New Zealand
30.	Koji Sato (replaced Akio Toyoda)	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Toyota	Akio Toyoda to take up the role of Chairman of Toyota
31.	Nikhat Zareen	Brand Ambassador	NMDC	Nikhat Zareen won gold medal in the women's light flyweight category at Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

32.	Petr Pavel (to replace Milos Zeman)	President-elect	Czech Republic	--
33.	Prof. Bharat Bhasker	Director	The Indian Institute of Ahmedabad (IIMA)	
34.	Naresh Lalwani (succeeded Ashok Kumar Misra)	General Manager	Central Railway	--
35.	Hein Schumacher	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Unilever	--
36.	Air Marshal A.P. Singh (succeeded Air Marshal Sandeep Singh)	Vice Chief of Air Staff	Indian Air Force	--
37.	Shamalbhai B Patel Valamjibhai Humbal	Chairman Vice Chairman	Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) (AMUL Federation)	<p><b>Additional Information:</b> GCMMF is India's largest food products organization. It was founded by Dr V. Kurien (Father of white revolution in India).</p> <p>India is the world's largest milk producer.</p>

## PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Personality	Profession	Key Facts
1.	Rayaroth Kuttambally Krishna Kumar	Former Director of Tata Sons	He recently <b>passed away</b> .
2.	Anita Marie Pointer	Grammy-winning American singer-songwriter	She recently <b>passed away</b> .
3.	Venugopal Lambu	Whole-time director and Markets President of LTIMindtree	He recently <b>resigned</b> .
4.	Lingam Venkata Prabhakar	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank	He recently <b>retired</b> .
5.	Shyamal Ghosh	Former Indian Football Player	He recently <b>passed away</b> .
6.	Dr. Tehemton Erach Udwadia	Indian Surgeon	He recently <b>passed away</b> .  He was also known as <b>father of laparoscopic surgery in India</b> .
7.	Walter Cunningham	NASA Astronaut	He recently <b>passed away</b> .  He was the <b>last survivor of NASA's 'Apollo 7' moon mission</b>

8.	Sania Mirza	Indian Tennis Player	She recently announced her <b>retirement</b> from <b>professional tennis</b> .
9.	Dwaine Pretorius	South African cricketer	He recently announced his <b>retirement</b> from <b>International cricket</b>
10.	Keshari Nath Tripathi	Former Governor and politician	He recently <b>passed away</b> He was the <b>former governor</b> of <b>West Bengal</b> and <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
11.	Suryakumar Yadav	Indian Cricketer	He was recently signed by <b>ICICI Prudential Life Insurance</b> for its ' <b>360° Financial Protection with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance</b> ' digital-first campaign  He recently became the <b>fastest player</b> to reach <b>1,500 runs</b> in <b>T20 International cricket</b> in terms of balls faced ( <b>843 balls</b> ).
12.	Gareth Bale	Welsh Football player	He recently announced his <b>retirement</b> from <b>professional football</b>
13.	Prof Abdul Rehman Rahi	Kashmiri Poet	He recently <b>passed away</b>
14.	Sharad Yadav	Former Union Minister	He recently <b>passed away</b>
15.	Hugo Lloris	French Football Player	He recently announced his <b>retirement</b> from <b>International football</b>
16.	Constantine II	Former and last King of Greece	He recently <b>passed away</b>
17.	Ronald E. Asher	Renowned linguist and ambassador of Tamil and Malayalam	He recently <b>passed away</b>
18.	Suriya	Tamil Actor	He was recently ranked <b>No. 1</b> in <b>Indian Institute of Human Brands (IIHB)</b> ranking of <b>South India's top celebrities</b>
19.	Sanjiv Chadha	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bank of Baroda (BoB)	His tenure got recently <b>extended</b> for about <b>5 months</b> till <b>June, 2023</b>
20.	Dr A D Damodaran	Scientist and former Director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) National Institute For Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST)	He recently <b>passed away</b>
21.	Virat Kohli	Indian Cricket player	He recently became the <b>fifth-highest run-scorer</b> in history of ODI cricket, overtaking Sri Lankan player <b>Mahela Jayawardene</b> , in the ODI match against <b>Sri Lanka</b>

22.	Michele Santelia	Italian person	He recently achieved a <b>Guinness world record</b> by typing copies of <b>81 books backwards</b> , a technique that is called ' <b>mirror writing</b> '  His latest book, <b>Das Nibelungenlied Backwards</b> (a medieval German heroic epic) was typed in <b>2022</b>
23.	Gina Lollobrigida	Italian Actress	She recently <b>passed away</b>
24.	Mukarram Jah Bahadur	Last Nizam of Hyderabad	He recently <b>passed away</b>
25.	Badara Alieu Joof	Vice-President (VP) of Gambia	He recently <b>passed away</b>
26.	Nilmani Phookan	Renowned Assamese poet and recipient of the Jnanpith Award	He recently <b>passed away</b>
27.	Abdel Fattah el-Sisi (President of Egypt)	Politics	He was the <b>Chief Guest of India's 74th Republic Day Celebrations</b> held at <b>Kartavya Path, New Delhi</b> .  He is the <b>first Egyptian president to be invited for the Indian Republic Day celebrations</b> .
28.	Sabir Ali	Sports	He <b>passed away</b> recently  He was known as the <b>Ironman of India</b> .  He won the <b>decathlon gold</b> at the <b>1981 Asian Athletics Championships</b> in Tokyo
29.	Shanti Bhushan	Lawyer, Politics	He <b>passed away</b> recently.  He was from <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
30.	Dr. BV Doshi	Architect	He recently passed away
31.	Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora	Former Vice Chief of Air Staff	He recently passed away
32.	Murali Vijay	Sport	He recently announced <b>retirement from international cricket</b> .  He is from <b>Tamil Nadu</b> .
33.	Late Amrita Sher-Gil	Indian-Hungarian painter	<b>National Gallery of Modern Art, Ministry of Culture</b> in association with <b>Liszt Institute, Hungarian Cultural Centre, New Delhi</b> celebrated her <b>110<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary</b>
34.	Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi	Head of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)	<b>Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)</b> has recently recommended his name as the new <b>Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)</b>

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Author	Key Facts
1.	<b>Breaking Barriers: The Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary</b>	Kaki Madhava Rao	He is a former <b>Indian Administrative Service (IAS)</b> officer.
2.	<b>Ambedkar: A Life (biography of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar)</b>	Shashi Tharoor	--
3.	<b>Human Anatomy</b>	Dr Ashvini Kumar Dwivedi	The book was released recently in Hindi – “ <b>Manav sharir Rachna Vigyan</b> ”, by <b>Governor of Madhya Pradesh</b> .
4.	<b>The World: A Family History</b>	Simon Sebag Montefiore	The author is a <b>British Historian</b>
5.	<b>Chief Minister's Diary No.1</b>	Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma (Chief Minister of Assam)	The book chronicles the first year in office of the Assam Chief minister.
6.	<b>Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom</b>	Sanjeev Sanyal	The author is a renowned economist and historian
7.	<b>Njaan Sakshi</b>	Professor K.K. Abdul Gaffar	Released by: <b>Mahendra Singh Dhoni</b> It is an <b>autobiography</b>
8.	<b>Roller Coaster: An Affair with Banking</b>	Tamal Bandyopadhyay	He is a <b>journalist</b>
9.	<b>Spare</b>	Prince Harry and J. R. Moehringer	It is <b>Prince Harry's memoir</b> .
10.	<b>Braving a Viral Storm: India's COVID-19 Vaccine Story</b>	Ashish Chandorkar and Suraj Sudhir	Launched by: <b>Union Health Minister at New Delhi</b>
11.	<b>Jadunama</b>	Arvind Mandloi	This book is written on veteran writer-lyricist <b>Javed Akhtar</b>
12.	<b>Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies</b>	Shubhra Gupta	--
13.	<b>Odalam Vanga (Come! Let's Run)</b>	Ma. Subramanian (Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Minister)	The English translation was done by <b>Geeta Padmanaban</b> along with <b>J. Joicy and Sharon</b>
14.	<b>Exam Warriors</b>	Narendra Modi (Prime Minister)	This book is now available in <b>13 languages</b>
15.	<b>India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn</b>	Dr Ashwin Fernandes	Launched by: <b>Union Minister of Education</b>
16.	<b>The Poverty of Economics: How Economics Abandoned the Poor</b>	Meghnad Desai	--

17.	<b>Electing the First President- An illustrated Chronicle of India's Presidential Elections</b>	<b>Election Commission of India</b>	--
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## FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

S.No	Festival	Country / State	Key Facts
1.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Sari Festival "VIRAASAT"- Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India</b>	Organized at: <b>New Delhi</b>	Organized by: <b>Ministry of Textiles</b> A social media campaign has been launched under a common hashtag <b>#MySariMyPride</b> to support the handloom weavers.
2.	<b>Gaan Ngai Festival</b>	<b>Manipur</b>	Celebrated by: <b>Zeliangrong Naga or Kabui Community of Manipur</b> This festival is celebrated to bring <b>peace, prosperity</b> and <b>unity</b> to the people of <b>Manipur</b> , while <b>welcoming the new year</b> .
3.	<b>Octave 2023 – Northeastern Cultural Festival</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	Aim: To showcase the indigenous <b>art and culture of North-East India</b> .
4.	<b>Imoinu Eratpa Festival</b>	<b>Manipur</b>	Celebrated by: <b>Meitei community</b> It is celebrated as a <b>wealth and prosperity festival</b> dedicated to goddess <b>Imoinu Eratpa</b>
5.	<b>Cherchera festival</b>	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	The festival is celebrated in the happiness of taking the crops to homes after cultivation
6.	<b>Magh Bihu (Bhogali Bihu/Maghgor Bihu)</b>	<b>Assam</b>	It is an auspicious <b>harvest festival</b> .
7.	<b>Pongal Festival</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	It is an auspicious <b>harvest festival</b> .
8.	<b>Makar Sakranti</b>	<b>India</b>	It is an auspicious <b>harvest festival</b> .
9.	<b>28<sup>th</sup> 'Sarang – 2023' Annual Cultural Festival</b>	<b>IIT-Madras, Chennai (Tamil Nadu)</b>	It is one of the <b>largest student-run festivals</b>
10.	<b>Jallikattu bull-taming competition, 2023</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	The competition is customarily done as a part of <b>Mattu Pongal</b> , the <b>third</b> day of <b>Pongal Festival</b>
11.	<b>India International Science Festival, IISF-2022</b>	<b>Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh</b>	Organized by: <b>Ministry of Science &amp; Technology</b>

			<b>Theme: Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science Technology and Innovation</b>
12.	'Vigyanika' - a Science Literature Festival	Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	<p>It is being organized as part of the <b>8<sup>th</sup> India International Science Festival (IISF)</b></p> <p>Aim: To engage the public with science and demonstrate how <b>science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)</b> provide solutions to improve our lives</p>
13.	Millets & Organics 2023 – International Trade Fair	Held at: Thripuravasini, Bengaluru (Karnataka)	<p>Aim: To serve as a platform for farmers, domestic and international companies, etc. in <b>organic and millet sector</b> to connect and explore opportunities in <b>agriculture, horticulture, processing, machinery and agri-technology</b></p>
14.	Bharat Parv 2023	<b>Nodal Ministry:</b> Ministry of Tourism <b>Venue:</b> Red Fort, Delhi	<p>Event organized as a <b>part of Republic Day Celebrations.</b></p> <p><b>Ministry of Tourism's Incredible India digital calendar 2023</b> was launched during the event.</p> <p><b>Theme of the calendar:</b> The Incredible Festivals of India.</p> <p><b>1st Bharat Parv</b> was held in <b>2016</b></p>
15.	Vande Bharatam Nritya Utsav (Dance Festival) 2023	Initiative of: Union Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Defence.	<b>Venue:</b> Kartavya Path, New Delhi during Republic Day celebrations. <b>Theme:</b> Nari Shakti <b>Highlight of the event:</b> 'Shakti Rupen Sansthita' - the tableau of Ministry of Culture <b>Music Composed by:</b> Raja Bhavtarini and Aloknanda Das Gupta
16.	Vitasta programme	--	<b>Organized by:</b> Ministry of Culture The program showcases the culture, arts and crafts of Kashmir.
17.	Khadi Fest 2023	KVIC, Mumbai	<b>Organized by:</b> Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
18.	Annual Orange Festival 2023 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition)	Held at: Rusoma Village, Kohima district, Nagaland	--
19.	Annual Ethnic Mamani Festival	Styngkung Village and Chiktan Shagaran, Ladakh	Organised by: <b>The Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF)</b> and <b>Ladakh Tourism Department.</b>

			<p>In this, People exchange food with their relatives and neighbours and worship a variety of spirits (Lha).</p> <p>It helped in the <b>revival of more than 35 cuisines</b> of Kargil Ladakh.</p>
20.	'Dhara' event on <b>Sangeet and Natya Parampara</b>	Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu	<p><b>Organized by:</b> Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education in association with <b>Brhat, Prachyam and Sangam Talks</b></p> <p><b>Aim:</b> To create a <b>Vision Document 2047</b> to revitalize and popularize the <b>performing art traditions</b></p>
21.	'Beating the Retreat' ceremony	<b>Venue:</b> Vijay Chowk, New Delhi	<p><b>India's biggest Drone Show</b> comprising of 3,500 indigenous drones was organized.</p> <p><b>3-D anamorphic projection</b> organized for the <b>first time</b>.</p> <p>The event marks the <b>culmination of Republic Day celebrations</b>.</p> <p><b>Ceremony developed by:</b> Major Roberts of the Indian Army in 1950s</p>
22.	Adi Shaurya - Parv Parakram Ka	<p><b>Organized by:</b> Ministry of Tribal Affairs &amp; Ministry of Defence</p>	<p><b>Venue:</b> Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.</p> <p>the event marks the <b>126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose</b></p> <p><b>Famous Tribal Dances:</b> Gaddi Nati (Himachal Pradesh), Siddhi Dhamaal (Gujarat), Balti Dance (Ladakh), Mangho Dance (Jammu and Kashmir), Purulia Chhau (West Bengal)</p>
23.	16 <sup>th</sup> Jaipur Literature Festival 2023	<p>Jaipur, Rajasthan</p>	<p>The festival celebrates <b>literature, art and culture</b> with a focus on <b>Indian languages</b></p> <p>Keynote address delivered by: <b>Abdulrazak Gurnah</b></p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> Abdulrazak Gurnah is the recipient of the <b>Nobel Prize in Literature (2021)</b></p>

## PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place	Why in News	Key Facts
1.	Samvidhan Udyan at Raj Bhavan, Jaipur (Rajasthan)	It was recently <b>inaugurated</b> by the <b>President of India</b> .	The Udyan displays the <b>historical journey of three years of Constitution making</b> .

2.	Varanasi Cantt Railway Station, Uttar Pradesh	<p>It recently has been awarded a <b>5-star 'Eat Right Station'</b> certification for providing <b>high-quality, nutritious food</b> to passengers.</p>	<b>Awarded by:</b> Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
3.	National Genome Editing & Training Centre (NGETC), Mohali (Punjab)	<p>It was recently inaugurated at <b>National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) Mohali, Punjab.</b></p>	<b>Aim:</b> To serve as a <b>national platform</b> to cater to the <b>regional</b> needs to adapt different <b>genome editing methods</b> .
4.	Indira Point, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	<p><b>Union Defence Minister</b> recently <b>visited</b> here.</p>	It is the <b>southernmost tip</b> of the country.
5.	Kangla Nongpok Thong, Manipur	<p>This gate was recently <b>opened</b> in <b>Manipur.</b></p>	This <b>Eastern Gate of Kangla</b> is considered to be the pathway to <b>peace, prosperity</b> and <b>happiness</b> for the people of <b>Manipur.</b>
6.	Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, Rourkela (Odisha)	<p>It was recently inaugurated as <b>India's largest hockey stadium</b> in terms of <b>seated (chair) capacity.</b></p>	<b>Capacity:</b> <b>20,000</b>
			<b>Additional Information:</b> The “Mo Bus” (my bus) services in Rourkela with <b>30 vehicles</b> to ensure <b>hassle-free movement</b> during the <b>hockey world cup</b> was also inaugurated.
7.	Silent Valley National Park, Kerala	Recently, a total of <b>175 species of birds</b> have been <b>spotted</b> here	Among those 175, <b>17</b> were <b>new</b> species
8.	Ghaziabad-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya section	It has become <b>India's longest fully Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) section</b>	<b>Total Length:</b> 762 km
9.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	<p>Recently, the Prime Minister of India, on <b>Parakram Diwas</b>, has named <b>21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</b> after <b>21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.</b></p> <p>He also opened the <b>model of the National Memorial</b> dedicated to <b>Netaji</b> to be built on <b>Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep.</b></p>	The <b>largest unnamed island</b> has been named after the first <b>Param Vir Chakra awardee Major Somnath Sharma.</b>
		<p><b>Additional Information:</b> Previously, Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island have been renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep respectively.</p> <p><b>Indian Flag</b> was hoisted for the first time in <b>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands.</b></p>	
10.	Mega International Container Transhipment Port (ICTP), Galathea Bay of Great Nicobar Island Andaman and Nicobar Islands	<p>The <b>Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways</b> has invited <b>Expression of Interest (EOI)</b> to setup the project</p>	The initiative is part of <b>Island Development program</b> announced by the Government of India. <b>Nodal Agency to implement the project:</b> Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) <b>Total handling capacity:</b> 16 million Containers per year.

11.	<b>Charaideo Moidams (pyramids), Assam</b>	<p>It is India's nomination for UNESCO's world heritage site status in the cultural category for 2023-24.</p>	<p><b>Moidams:</b> The Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty.</p> <p>Presently, there are 40 UNESCO's heritage sites in India out of 32 are in the cultural segment, 7 natural and 1 mixed.</p> <p>In Assam we have two in natural segments (Kaziranga National park and Manas National park)</p>
12.	<b>Atal Community Innovation Center - Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (ACIC-CBIT) Research and Entrepreneurship Foundation, Hyderabad (Telangana)</b>	<p>It was recently inaugurated by <b>Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog</b></p>	<p>Aim: To build a community <b>innovation</b> and <b>entrepreneurship ecosystem</b> to nurture innovators and startups of unserved and underserved regions</p>
13.	<b>Mudwani Dam Eco-park, Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh)</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Mines</b> recently converted mine areas into eco parks and sites for <b>water sports</b> like this</p>	<p><b>Developed by:</b> Northern Coalfields Limited</p>
14.	<b>AnanyaVatika Eco-Restoration Park cum Pit Lake, Dola (Madhya Pradesh)</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Mines</b> recently converted mine areas into eco parks and sites for <b>water sports</b> like this</p>	<p><b>Developed by:</b> South Eastern Coalfields Limited</p>
15.	<b>Siyom Bridge, Along-Yinkiong Road (Arunachal Pradesh)</b>	<p>This was recently <b>inaugurated</b> along with <b>22 bridges</b> in Arunachal Pradesh to enhance the <b>operational preparedness</b> of the <b>Armed Forces</b> and ensure <b>socio-economic development</b> of the far-flung regions.</p>	<p>Length: <b>100m</b> Built over: <b>Siyom River</b></p>
16.	<b>Sammed Shikharji Parvat Kshetra, Jharkhand</b>	<p>It recently was in news due to its <b>issues</b> with the <b>management plan</b> of the <b>Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ)</b> of Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>It is a sacred <b>Jain religious place</b> in the <b>Parasnath Hills of Jharkhand</b>.</p>
17.		<p>Additional Information: <b>Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary in Jharkhand</b> was declared as <b>ESZ</b> in <b>2019</b>. ESZs act as some kind of "<b>shock absorbers</b>" to the <b>Protected Areas</b> by <b>prohibiting, regulating</b> and <b>promoting activities</b> around <b>Protected Areas</b>.</p>	
18.	<b>Kariba dam, Zambia</b>	<p>Recently, the <b>water levels</b> at the Kariba reservoir <b>plunged</b> to a record low of <b>less than 1%</b>, curtailing power supply to <b>Zambia and Zimbabwe</b></p>	<p>It is the <b>world's largest man-made dam</b> as per the <b>water capacity</b>, built on the <b>Lake Kariba</b>, the <b>world's largest artificial lake</b> and <b>reservoir</b> by <b>volume</b>.</p>

## DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Days	Date	Themes & Misc.
1.	<b>65<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)</b>	January 1	--
2.	<b>Global Family Day</b>	January 1	Aim: To promote the concept of <b>harmony and unity</b> in the world.
3.	<b>World Braille Day</b>	January 4	This day commemorates the <b>birth anniversary of Louis Braille</b> who invented Braille in <b>1824</b> and raises awareness about the <b>importance of Braille</b> as a means of <b>communication</b> for the <b>partially sighted and blind</b> .
4.	<b>World Day of War Orphans</b>	January 6	This day is celebrated to create <b>initiatives</b> to ensure a <b>better future for children</b> who have been left <b>orphaned by war</b> .
5.	<b>World Hindi Day</b>	January 10	This day is celebrated to mark the <b>importance and celebrate Hindi</b> as a language
6.	<b>National Road Safety Week</b>	January 11 – January 17	Aim: To create awareness about the <b>importance of road safety</b> and to highlight the <b>importance of road safety measures</b> to prevent accidents.
7.	<b>National Human Trafficking Awareness Day</b>	January 11	This day is celebrated across <b>India</b> to increase <b>public awareness</b> of the <b>pervasiveness of human trafficking</b>
8.	<b>National Youth Day (Rashtriya Yuva Diwas)</b>	January 12	This day is celebrated on the <b>birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda</b> . Theme: <b>Viksit Yuva-Viksit Bharat</b> .
9.	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Veterans' Day</b>	January 14	This day is celebrated in recognition of the services rendered by the <b>First Commander-in-Chief of Indian Armed Forces</b> , Field Marshal KM Cariappa, OBE who <b>retired</b> on this day in <b>1953</b> .
10.	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Indian Army Day</b>	January 15	This day is celebrated as a homage to <b>Indian Army</b> . <b>'Shaurya Sandhya'</b> was organized in <b>Bengaluru, Karnataka</b> . It was the <b>first time</b> that the <b>Army Day</b> was held <b>outside the National Capital</b> in order to increase

			the participation of people, especially the youth in 'Knowing their Army'.
11.	<b>National Startup Day</b>	January 16	<b>Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b> is organizing <b>Startup India Innovation Week</b> to celebrate the <b>Indian Startup Ecosystem</b> as well as <b>National Startup Day</b> this year
12.	<b>18<sup>th</sup> National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day</b>	January 19	This day is celebrated to commemorate the <b>establishment</b> of the <b>NDRF</b> , under the <b>Ministry of Home Affairs</b>
13.	<b>48<sup>th</sup> Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur Statehood Day</b>	January 21	All these states attained statehood on <b>January 21, 1972</b> under the <b>North East Reorganization Act of 1972</b>
14.	<b>Parakram Diwas (Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose)</b>	January 23	Selected youngster under the ' <b>Know Your Leader</b> ' programme interacted with the Prime Minister of India on the occasion.
15.	<b>International Day of Education 2023</b>	January 24	<b>Theme:</b> 'To Invest in People, Prioritize Education' <b>Celebrations led by:</b> UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) The day has <b>dedicated to all the girls &amp; women in Afghanistan</b> who have been denied the right to education.
16.	<b>74<sup>th</sup> Uttar Pradesh Diwas</b>	January 24	On this day in 1950, United Provinces was recognized as UP
17.	<b>National Girl Child Day</b>	January 24	It was first initiated in <b>2008</b> by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
18.	<b>13<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day</b>	January 25	<b>Theme:</b> Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure.  <b>Additional Information:</b> A song- " <b>Main Bharat Hoon- Hum Bharat Ke Matdata Hain</b> " produced by ECI (Election Commission of India) in association with Subhash Ghai Foundation was released at the Occasion.
19.	<b>53rd Statehood Day Of Himachal Pradesh</b>	January 25	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b> became the <b>18<sup>th</sup> state of India</b> on this day in <b>1971</b>
20.	<b>National Tourism Day 2023</b>	January 25	<b>Host of National level celebrations:</b> Pochampally, Telangana
21.	<b>International Customs Day</b>	January 26	<b>Theme:</b> Nurturing the Next Generation: Promoting a Culture of Knowledge-sharing and Professional Pride in Customs

			<b>Initiated by:</b> World Customs Organisation (WCO)
22.	<b>World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2023</b>	January 30	<b>Theme:</b> Act now, Act together, Invest in neglected tropical diseases
23.	<b>Shaheed Diwas (Martyrs' Day)</b>	January 30	The day is observed as a <b>tribute to all the freedom fighters.</b> The day also marks the <b>death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji.</b>

## MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	Miscellaneous News	Key Facts
1.	<b>International Year of Millets (IYM) - 2023</b>	Adopted by: <b>United Nations General Assembly</b>  <b>January 2023</b> is the focused month for the <b>Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India</b> and States of <b>Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Rajasthan</b> for conducting events/activities for IYM.  <b>Additional Information:</b> In <b>December 2022</b> , the <b>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</b> of the United Nations, organized an <b>opening ceremony</b> for the <b>International Year of Millets – 2023</b> at <b>Rome, Italy.</b>
2.	<b>Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)</b> recently announced ' <b>DEXA</b> ' and ' <b>Yo-Yo Test</b> ' to be the <b>selection criteria</b> for the players	<b>DEXA:</b> Dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) is a form of X-ray that is used to conduct a <b>bone density scan.</b>  <b>Yo-Yo Test:</b> The <b>Yo-Yo test</b> is a <b>maximal aerobic endurance fitness test</b> , involving running between markers placed <b>20 meters apart</b> , at increasing speeds, until exhaustion.
3.	<b>National Campaign on 'RISE-Rising India through Spiritual Empowerment'</b>	Organized by: <b>Brahma Kumaris, Mount Abu (Rajasthan)</b>
4.	<b>Greenfield International Airport Mopa, Goa</b> renamed	New Name: <b>Manohar International Airport – Mopa, Goa</b>  It is <b>Goa's second international airport</b> , besides the existing airport at <b>Dabolim, Goa.</b>
5.	Introduction of a <b>transgender category</b> from <b>2023</b>	To be introduced by: <b>World Boxing Council (WBC)</b>  Aim: To ensure <b>safety</b> and <b>inclusion.</b>
6.	<b>12-week paternity leave policy</b> for employees	Announced by: <b>Pfizer</b>  Applicable from: <b>January 1, 2023</b>
7.	<b>The largest contingent of women peacekeepers</b> in <b>United Nations (UN) mission</b>	Deployed by: <b>Indian Army</b>  Deployed at: <b>United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)</b>
8.	<b>120-feet tall Polo Statue</b> inaugurated	Inaugurated at: <b>Imphal, Manipur</b>

		Inaugurated by: <b>Union Minister of Home Affairs</b>
		<b>Additional Information:</b> Manipur is known as the birthplace of the game <b>polo</b>
9.	<b>Jashn – e – Chillai Kalan</b> organized at Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir	Organized by: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)  About <b>Chillai Kalan</b> : It is the local name given to the period of <b>harsh winter in Kashmir</b> .
10.	<b>World's longest river cruise, "Ganga Vilas"</b> from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh, Assam	Launched by: <b>Prime Minister of India</b>  Distance: <b>3200km</b>
11.	<b>Hydrogen powered trains on heritage routes</b>	To be launched by: <b>December 2023</b>  Announced by: <b>Ministry of Railways</b>
12.	<b>1000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project</b> recently inaugurated at <b>Rajasthan</b>	Inaugurated by: <b>President of India</b>  Developed by: <b>SJVN Ltd.</b>
13.	<b>382 MW Sunni Dam Hydro Electric Project, Himachal Pradesh</b> approved	Approved by: <b>Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)</b>  To be constructed by: <b>SJVN Ltd.</b>
14.	<b>National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2023</b> in New Delhi	Inaugurated by: <b>Vice President of India</b>
15.	<b>Space Kidz India satellite</b> made by <b>750 school Girls</b> to be launched	To be launched by: <b>Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)</b>  Space Kidz India chose <b>10 female students</b> from <b>75 government schools</b> across the nation for this
16.	<b>3 significant Indian Standards</b> in the area of <b>Electronics</b> published	Published by: <b>Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)</b>  1 <sup>st</sup> standard: Indian Standard for <b>digital television receivers with built in satellite tuners</b>  2nd standard: Indian Standard for <b>USB Type C receptacles, plug and cables</b>  3 <sup>rd</sup> Standard: Indian Standards for <b>Video Surveillance Systems</b> .
17.	<b>Astro Night Sky Tourism</b>	Organized by: <b>National Science Centre Delhi</b>  Aim: To ignite <b>curiosity</b> towards <b>space and astronomy</b> among youth
18.	<b>National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality, Kolkata (West Bengal)</b> to be renamed	New Name: <b>Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS)</b>  <b>Additional Information:</b> The Institute was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in <b>December, 2022</b> .
19.	'Music in the Park' series under the name " <b>Shruti Amrut</b> "	Organized by: <b>Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY)</b> in collaboration with <b>Ministry of Culture</b> and the <b>New Delhi Municipal Council</b>  Organized at: <b>New Delhi</b>

20.	<b>Transfer of ownership of Jet Airways to Jalan-Kalrock consortium (JKC)</b>	Approved by: <b>National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)</b> JKC will have an <b>89.79% stake</b> and the rest will go to lenders
21.	Media rights for the upcoming <b>Women's Indian Premier League (IPL)</b> for 5 years	Attained by: <b>Viacom 18</b> Announced by: <b>Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)</b>
22.	<b>Largest Human Red Ribbon Chain</b> formed at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) during <b>FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023</b>	Formed by: <b>National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)</b> in coordination with the <b>Odisha State AIDS Control Society, Department of Sports &amp; Youth Services and Hockey India</b>
23.	<b>World's largest international travel exhibitions – 'FITUR'</b>	Held at: <b>Madrid, Spain</b> <b>Ministry of Tourism, Government of India</b> is to participate in the exhibition Indian participation coordinated by: <b>Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)</b>
24.	<b>Rs. 170.11 crores</b> Work Order for Puducherry Smart City Project	Obtained by: <b>RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RailTel)</b> Obtained from: <b>Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Puducherry</b> Period: <b>5 years</b>
25.	<b>Mastercard's Girls4Tech Programme</b> expanded to promote <b>STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)</b> education among <b>Girl students in India</b>	Programme supported by: <b>Mastercard Impact Fund</b> in partnership with the <b>American India Foundation (AIF)</b> Aim: To reach an additional <b>1 lakh female students in India by 2024</b>
26.	<b>World's Oldest Runestone</b> found	Found by: Archaeologists in <b>Norway</b> The inscriptions are up to <b>2,000 years old</b>
27.	Target of "first Green Energy State" by the end of <b>2025</b>	Target set by: <b>Himachal Pradesh</b> The feat is to be achieved by harnessing <b>hydro, hydrogen and solar energy</b> and switching on to green products
28.	<b>Sagar Samrat</b> re-dedicated to the nation as Mobile Offshore Production Unit (MOPU)	<b>Sagar Samrat</b> is Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) iconic drilling rig.
29.	<b>Title partner</b> of 1 <sup>st</sup> ABB FIA Formula E World Championship in <b>India</b> , 'Hyderabad Formula E-Prix' announced	Title Partner: <b>Greenko Group</b> E-Prix to be held at: <b>Hyderabad, Telangana</b>
30.	'Khadi Fashion Show'	Organized by: <b>Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)</b> Organized at: <b>Gandhinagar, Gujarat</b> Aim: To popularize <b>khadi</b> among youth and markets abroad
31.	'She Feeds the World' program	Launched by: <b>PepsiCo and CARE</b> Aim: To strengthen the role of <b>small-scale women producers</b> through sustainable training and economic support
32.	<b>Indian Oil exports aviation fuel AVGAS 100 LL</b>	Exported to: <b>Papua New Guinea</b>

33.	<b>Category-III power trading licence in India</b>	<p>Secured by: <b>Amazon.com Inc</b></p> <p>Aim: To build a <b>portfolio of wind and solar power</b> to sell on local electricity exchanges</p>
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## 2 GA + ESI



### SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH

#### 2.1 Elimination of Kala Azar

##### Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare has chaired a high-level meeting with to review the **status of Kala-Azar (Black Fever)** in **four endemic states**.

##### Key Information Shared

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
1.	Target Year to eliminate Kala-Azar from India	2023
2.	Kala-Azar cases in India	44,533 (2007) 834 (till November 2022) Overall decline: 98.7%
3.	Four Endemic States	In India, Kala-azar is <b>endemic in 633 blocks of 54 districts in four states</b> viz, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. <b>More than 90% of the Kala-azar cases are contributed by Bihar and Jharkhand.</b>
4.	States that achieved Kala-Azar elimination targets at the block level	Uttar Pradesh (2019) and West Bengal (2017)
5.	Total endemic blocks that have already achieved elimination status (<1 case/10,000 population)	632 (99.8%)
6.	Block still in endemic category (1.23 case/10,000 population)	Littipara, Pakur district, Jharkhand
7.	Global cases	About 90% of global cases of kala Azar were reported from <b>eight countries</b> : Brazil, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan in 2021
8.	India's contribution in global cases	11.5%

## 2.2 SMART Program

### Why in News?

- Recently, The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (**NCISM**) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (**CCRAS**), have launched the **Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals (SMART)** program.
- Aim:** to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.
- Both CCRAS & NCISM work under the aegis of the **Ministry of Ayush**.

## 2.3 National Workshop on Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Reproductive Child Health (RCH) Portal

### Why in News?

- Recently, it was organised by the Union **Ministry for Health & Family Welfare** in New Delhi.
- Objective:** To reiterate utility of **HMIS portal** and **RCH portal** and their use as a monitoring and policy intervention tool.
- New features of **ANMOL** (ANM Online), **Kilkari** and **Mobile Academy** were also shown.

### About Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal

- It is for **early identification and tracking** of the individual beneficiary throughout the reproductive lifecycle of women.
- It promotes, monitors and support the Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health (RMNCH) schemes/programme delivery and reporting.

### About ANMOL

- It is a **tablet-based application** that allows ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) to enter and updated data for beneficiaries.
- It is Aadhaar-enabled app, which will help in authentication of the records of field workers and beneficiaries.

### About Kilkari Mobile Application

- Launched in **2016**.
- Objective:** It delivers weekly, time-sensitive audio information about reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health (RMNCH) directly to families' mobile phones from the 4<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy until the child is a year old.

### Health Management Information System (HMIS) Portal

<b>Launch</b>	In <b>2008</b>
	Initially launched for District level
<b>Launched Under</b>	National Health Mission, <b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To support planning, management, and decision making based on Grading of facilities, various indicators at Block, District at State as well as National Level
<b>HMIS Version 2.0</b>	Developed in collaboration with <b>WHO (World Health Organisation)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	It stores information of the health indicators in India.

### About Mobile Academy

- It is a free audio training course designed to expand and refresh the knowledge base of **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** and improve their communication skills.

## Additional Information

- Operationalised **Health and Wellness Centres (HWCS)** in India: **More than 1.54 lakh.**
  - It offers 12 health packages free of cost along with free drugs and diagnostics, free screening tests for common Cancers, Diabetes and Hypertension.
  - They also offer **e-Sanjeevani Teleservices.**

## 2.4 National Symposium on India's Roadmap to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)

### Why in News?

- Recently, it was organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi.

### Key details shared

- The Ministry has come up with a renewed **five-pronged strategy** for elimination of LF. The five pillars are as follows:
  - **Mission Mode MDA (Multi-drug administration):** MDA Campaign twice a year synchronized with National Deworming Day (10th Feb and 10th August)
  - **Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP):** Early diagnosis and treatment, engagement of medical colleges for strengthening **MMDP services.**
  - **Vector Control (Surveillance and Management).**
  - **High level Advocacy:** For inter sectoral convergence with allied departments and ministries.
  - **Innovative Approaches:** Leveraging existing digital platforms for LF and exploring alternate diagnostics.
- **Target to eliminate LF: 2027,** three years ahead of the global target (2030).
- **4 States (UP, Odisha, Telangana, and Bihar)** account for around **60% Lymphedema cases**, while **4 States (Odisha, Jharkhand, UP and Bihar,)** account for around **80% Hydrocele cases.**

### About Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)

- LF, commonly known as **elephantiasis**, is a **Neglected Tropical Disease.**
- It is caused by infection with parasites classified as **nematodes (roundworms)** of the family Filariodidea. (It is transmitted to humans through mosquitoes).

## 2.5 “Har Ghar Dhyan” campaign

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has organized a Session on Meditation and Mental Health under **“Har Ghar Dhyan”** campaign for their employees.

### About the Campaign

- It was launched in **October 2022 (In Bangalore, Karnataka).**
- Launched by **the Ministry of Culture** in partnership with **Art of Living Foundation** under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- **Aim:** To engage the **youth in mental health education** and to equip them with meditation practices for improved health and wellness.
- It will be completed on Independence Day (15<sup>th</sup> August) in 2023.

## 2.6 National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare informed about the **National Leprosy Eradication Programme** on the occasion of National Anti-Leprosy Day (30<sup>th</sup> January).
- **Theme:** Let us fight Leprosy and make Leprosy a history.

### Key Initiatives launched at the event

- **National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27).**
  - It will aid in the campaign against leprosy, to stop transmission, by speeding case detection efforts and maintaining a robust surveillance infrastructure.
- **National Guidelines for Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Surveillance in leprosy.**
  - It will provide the technical guidance in developing and sustaining a robust surveillance system for AMR surveillance in leprosy patients.
- **Nikusth 2.0 Portal.**
  - It is an integrated portal for **leprosy case management** under NLEP.
  - It will aid in efficient data recording, analyzing and reporting of the data in the form of indicators and a real time dashboard at center, state and district levels.

## National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)

### Launched in

1983

- └ In, 1955 National Leprosy Control Programme (NLCP) was launched
- └ Initially NLEP was taken up in endemic Districts
- └ Later it was extended to all districts in the country from 1993-94 with **World Bank** Assistance.

### Nodal Ministry

Ministry of Health and family welfare

### Type of Programme

**Centrally sponsored**

- └ Under the Umbrella of **National Health Mission**

### Aim

To detect the cases of leprosy at an early stage and to provide complete treatment, free of cost, in order to prevent the occurrence of disability.

### Target year for Leprosy Mukt Bharat

**2027** (Three year ahead of global goal , 2030)

### Objectives

- └ To reduce Prevalence rate **less than 1/10,000 population** (as per WHO criteria) at sub national and district level
  - └ It is achieved at National level in 2005
- └ To reduce **Grade II disability % < 1 among new cases** at National level
- └ To reduce **Grade II disability cases < 1 case per million population** at National level
- └ Zero stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy
- └ Zero disabilities among new Child cases.

### Major initiatives under NLEP

- └ Leprosy Case Detections Campaign (LCDC) in high endemic districts.
- └ Focused Leprosy Campaign (FLC) in low endemic districts for case detection
- └ ASHA Based Surveillance for Leprosy Suspects (ABSULS)
- └ 12 packs of MDT (Multi Drug Therapy) blister packs are given to Multi Bacillary (MB) Leprosy cases as per the Standard Treatment Protocol.
  - └ three essential drugs in the Multi Drug Treatment of Multibacillary Leprosy (MB-MDT)
    - └ Clofazimine, Rifampicin and Dapsone
- └ Leprosy Screening
  - └ Under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for screening of children (0-18 years)
  - └ Under Ayushman Bharat for screening of people above 30 years of age
- └ Disability Prevention & Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) Programme

### Key Highlights

- └ Welfare allowance
  - └ Raised from Rs 8,000 to **Rs 12,000** to patients for their reconstructive surgery
- └ Prevalence rate of leprosy
  - └ Came down from 0.69 per 10,000 population in 2014-15 to 0.45 in 2021-22.
- └ Annual new case detection rate per 100,000 population
  - └ Came down from 9.73 in 2014-15 to 5.52 in 2021-22.

## 2.7 Promotion of Medical Value travel in India

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Ayush** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)**.

- **MoU Objective:** to work together for the promotion of Medical Value Travel in Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine.

#### Additional Information

- According to 'The Global Wellness Economy: Looking beyond COVID' Report by the Global Wellness Institute (GWI)-
  - The Global Wellness economy will grow at **9.9% annually**.
  - **Ayush based healthcare & Wellness economy** is estimated to grow to **USD 70 billion by 2025**.

## SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

### 2.8 Scientifically Validated Traditional Knowledge to the Society (SVASTIK)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the **first Indian Architectural Heritage Sub-Committee Meeting** for "Communicating India's Scientifically Validated Traditional Knowledge to the Society (**SVASTIK**)" was organised.
- **Hosted by:** CSIR-NIScPR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research).

#### Key details

- SVASTIK was created to share information related to scientific validation of the traditional knowledge/practices to the public.
- **Objective:** To conserve the practice of the right tradition, inculcate scientific temper of verifying tradition in a scientific manner and build confidence in citizens regarding the scientific value of our traditional knowledge/practices.
- It is disseminated through digital platforms **in English, Hindi, and regional languages**.
- **Nodal organisation** for this initiative: **CSIR-NIScPR**.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### 2.9 1st All India Annual State Ministers' Conference on Water

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the 1st All India Annual States' Ministers Conference has been organised by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** in **Bhopal**, Madhya Pradesh.
- Theme: **Water Vision @ 2047**.

#### Key details

- The following **5 thematic sessions** were held on various challenges and targets for 2047:
  - Water Security in Water Deficit, Water Surplus and Hilly Regions.
  - Water Use Efficiency including Reuse of Waste Water/ Grey Water.
  - Water Governance.
  - Climate Change Resilient Water Infrastructure.
  - Water Quality.
- **4 Es** of Water Governance i.e., **Ecology, Equity, Efficiency and Economics**.

#### Additional information

- The **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh** proposed the idea of creating '**Water Vision Park**' by planting saplings to promote the idea of afforestation for water conservation.

- Maharashtra was the first state to create the water regulatory authority.

## 2.10 CII Bio-Energy Summit

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **11<sup>th</sup> edition** of **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Bio-Energy Summit** was organised in New Delhi.
- Theme: “**Energy Transition: Solution for Sustainable tomorrow**”.

### Key details shared at the event

- India has enacted **Green Hydrogen Policy** under which we have following targets:
  - Production target of **5 million tonnes (Green Hydrogen)** by **2030**.
  - To produce **4 MT Green Hydrogen annually** & accrue **Rs. 1 lakh crore** of cumulative fossil fuel import savings by 2030.
- Government is setting up **2G refineries** to make **ethanol from Parali (Panipat, Haryana)** and **Bamboo (Numaligarh, Assam)** with the twin objective of **reducing pollution** along with achieving **energy security goals** is another milestone in this direction.
- Respective net zero targets of OMCs (Oil Market Companies).
  - **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd** by **2046**.
  - **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.** And **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd** by **2040**.

### About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- Establishment: **In 1895**. (HQ- New Delhi).
- It is a **non-government, not-for-profit**, industry-led and industry-managed organization.
- **Aim:** To create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

## 2.11 Coal Mine Water

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Coal has informed that **Mine water** discharged from the operational/ abandoned mines are benefitting approximately **18 lakh people living in about 900 villages** in the proximity of coal mining areas.

### Key details

- During the current fiscal, coal/lignite PSUs have planned to supply around **4000 LKL of mine water** for community use, out of which **2788 LKL has been supplied till December 2022**.
- Beneficiaries of mine water are **mainly tribal people** and those living in **remote areas**.
- This endeavour is in line with the **Government's Jal Shakti Abhiyan** for water conservation.
- Greening initiatives inside mine lease area during the **last five years** in **4392 hectares** has created a **carbon sink potential of 2.2 LT/year**.
- Coal/Lignite PSUs have covered around **2230 Ha land under plantation** in the current fiscal till December 2022 and around **360 Ha under grassing**.

### Additional information

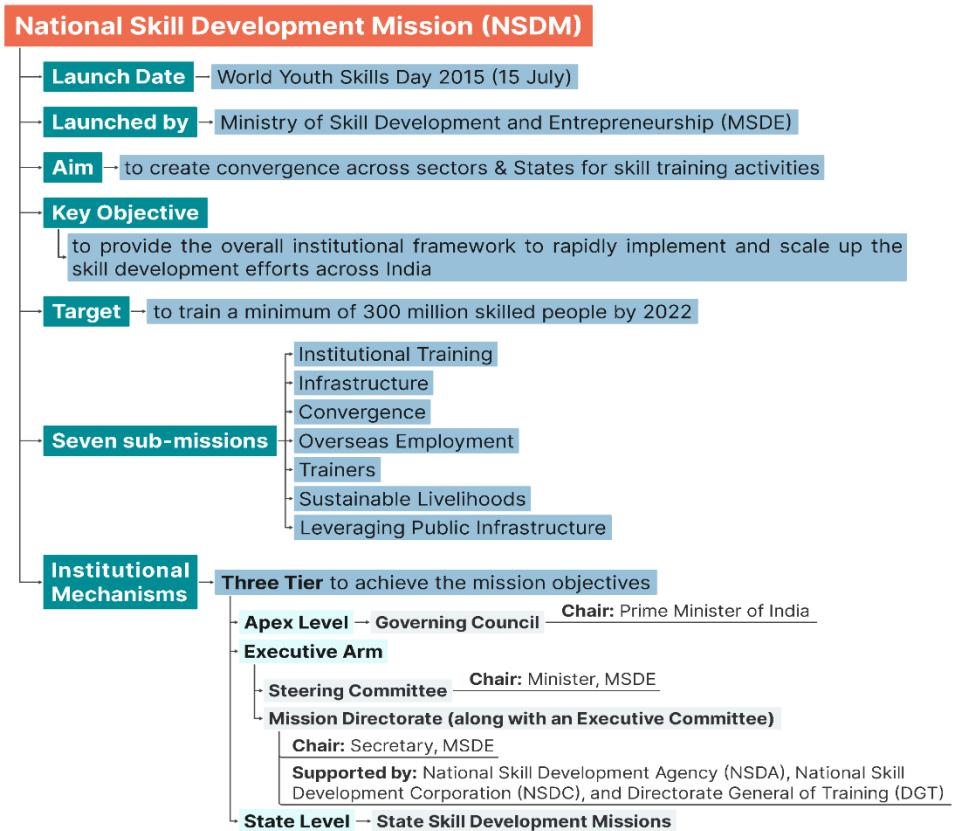
- In 2022-23, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has already surpassed its **annual plantation target of 1510 hectares** by expanding its green cover to 1600 hectares ending December of FY'23.

## EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA

### 2.12 National Skill Development Mission

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** has chaired the **3rd meeting** of the steering committee of the **National Skill Development Mission**.



### 2.13 Startup India Innovation Week (SIIW) 2023

#### News 1

- Recently, it was inaugurated by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**.
- Organised by: **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, MoC&I
- Duration: **10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.
- Objective: To celebrate the **7 years of Indian Startup Ecosystem** and **National Startup Day (16<sup>th</sup> January)**: Startup India Scheme was launched on this day in **2016**.

#### Key details

- The DPIIT organized the **ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Calibre & Entrepreneurial Drive) SAMAGAM** as a part of SIIW 2023.
  - Objective:** To share knowledge and create a robust startup ecosystem in **Northeast**.
- The final webinar was organised on the topic: **Championing the billion-dollar dream**.
  - It focused on propelling gender equality within the startup ecosystem.

## 2.14 National Startup Awards 2022 and MAARG Portal

### Why in News?

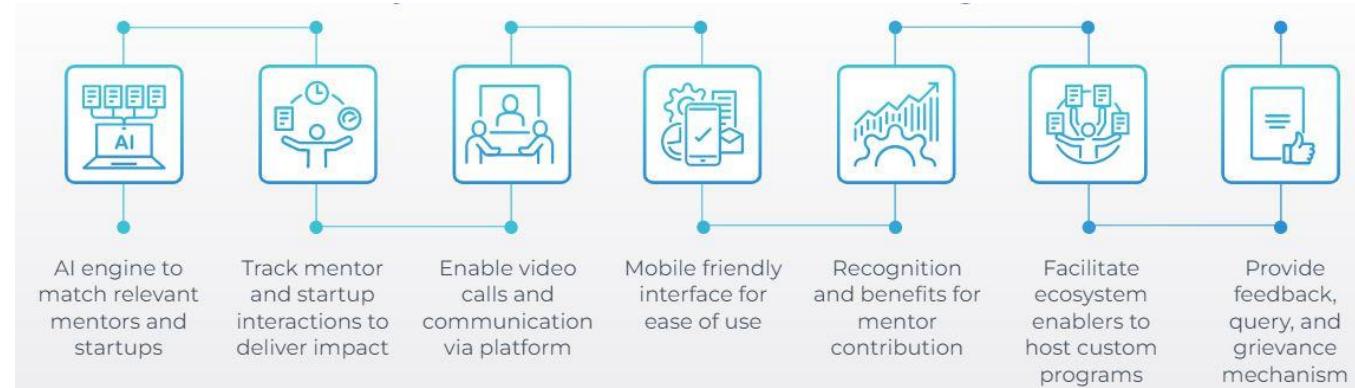
- Recently, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry addressed the felicitation ceremony of National Startup Awards 2022 in New Delhi.
- MAARG portal was also launched by the Union Minister at the Occasion.

### About National Startup Awards 2022

- The **3<sup>rd</sup> edition** of the Awards was launched in February 2022 with focus on diversity, inclusion, and innovation.
- Nodal Agency:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- 2 sectors, 5 sub-sectors, and 2 special categories** have been added to this edition.
  - Manufacturing Excellence and Startups from North-East and Hilly States and Union Territories** are the two **new special categories**, that are added.
- Awards:**
  - Rs. 5 lakh each** for winning startups (per category).
  - Rs. 15 lakhs** for the winning incubator and accelerator.
- Winners: 41 startups, 2 incubators, and 1 accelerator** (In their respective categories).

### About MAARG Portal

- It is a one-stop platform to facilitate mentorship across all sectors for startups.
- MAARG stands for **Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth**.
- Nodal Agency:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Key functions** of this Portal: -



## 2.15 Rozgar Mela in 2023

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **first Rozgar Mela of 2023** was organised.
- The Prime Minister of India distributed about **71,000 appointment letters** to newly inducted recruits in Government departments and organisations.

Note: Rozgar Mela is covered in our CurrentTap Magazine of December 2022 (Article 2.48).

## 2.16 Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0

### Why in News?

- Recently, **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** has launched "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0", a district outreach program for expanding its presence in more than 685 districts.

- **Aim:** To strengthen the relationship between the organization and its stakeholders.

### Key details

- It will be conducted on **27<sup>th</sup> of every month** starting from **January 2023**.
- This program will serve as:
  - **Grievance redressal platform.**
  - **Information exchange network** for the employers, employees, district level authorities and Central Government departments.

### Background

- In 2015, **Bhavishya Nidhi Adalat** was renamed as **Nidhi Aapke Nikat Program**.
- In 2019, the outreach of the Program was improved by inviting trade unions.
- In 2021, for grievances redressal of pensioners, an exclusive platform monthly Pension Adalat was initiated.

## GENDER ISSUES

### 2.17 Womaniya on Government e Marketplace (GeM)

#### Why in News?

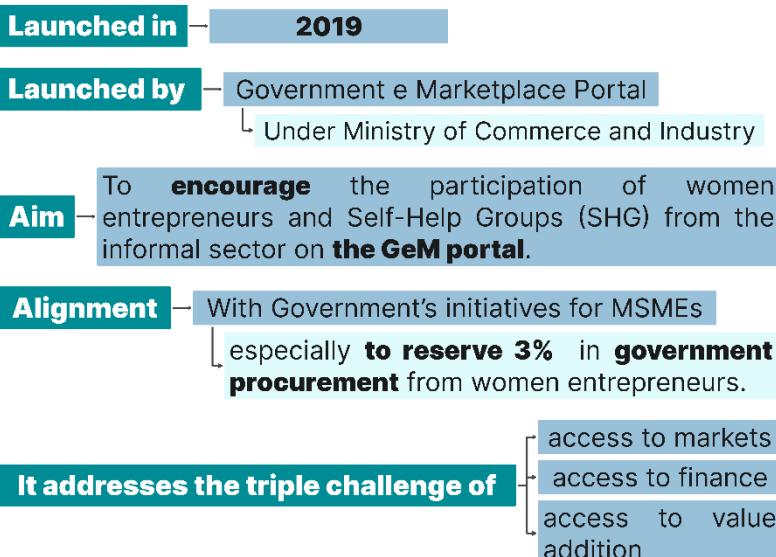
- Recently, a function was organised by the **GeM** in association with **Self-Employed Women's Association, Bharat (SEWA Bharat)** to commemorate the success of Women on GeM in New Delhi.

#### Key details

- Presently, **more than 1.44 lakh Udyam-verified women micro, small enterprises (MSE)** known as "**Womaniya**" are registered as **sellers and service-providers** on the **GeM portal**.
  - They have fulfilled **14.76 lakh+** orders worth **Rs 21,265 Crore (74% in products to 26% in Service)** in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV).
- **Top 5 Product categories:** 1. Desktop Computers, 2. Smart Phone-IS:13252, 3. Special Purpose Telephones, 4. Smart Phone and 5. Hopper Tipper Dumper.
- **Top 5 Services categories:** 1. Manpower Outsourcing Services - Minimum Wage, 2. Custom Bid for Services, 3. Human Resource Outsourcing Service, 4. Monthly Basis Cab & Taxi Hiring Services, and 5. Manpower Outsourcing Services - Fixed Remuneration.

**Note:** GeM has been covered in our December CurrentTap Magazine 2022 (Article: 2.96)

#### Womaniya Initiative



### 2.18 Women Centric Initiatives

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has shared some Women Centric Initiatives taken for the welfare of women officers and staff.

### Key initiatives

- Women employees with Disability:** Special Allowance @ Rs.3000/- per month has been granted for child care with effect from 01<sup>st</sup> July, 2022.
  - It will increase by 25% on increase of DA (Dearness Allowance) by 50%.
- Special Leave provision on Sexual Harassment:** Leave up to a period of 90 days can be availed by an aggrieved female Government Servant.
- Special Maternity Leave** in case of death of a child soon after birth / stillbirth: 60 days to a female Central Government Servant.
- Child Care Leave (CCL):** Applicable to Female Government servants under Rule 43-C of the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972.
  - For a maximum period of 730 days during entire service for taking care of two eldest surviving children upto the age of 18 years (No age limit in case of disabled child).
  - Minimum period for CCL is reduced from mandatory 15 days to 5 days.
  - Maximum three spells in a calendar year.
  - In case of a single female Government servant, grant of CCL shall be extended to six spells in a calendar year.
- Family Pension for a divorced daughter:** In case a decree of divorce was issued after the death of her parents, she will be eligible for family pension if the divorce petition was filed before death of the parents.
- Family pension of missing employees covered under NPS** (National Pension Scheme): They can avail family pension within 6 months of lodging FIR and they do not have to wait for 7 years after which employee considered deemed dead.
- In cases where the Government servant dies before completing a service of 7 years, family pension shall be payable to the family at enhanced rate of 50% of last pay for first 10 years and thereafter @ 30% of last pay.

## MEASUREMENT OF GROWTH

### 2.19 First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income 2022-23

#### Why in News?

- National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2022-23.

#### Key details

- 'First Advance Estimates of National Income' was introduced in 2016-17.
  - It is based on limited data and compiled using the Benchmark-Indicator Method.

S.No	Particulars	Real At Constant price (2011-12)	Nominal At Current Price (2022-23)
1.	GVA (Gross Value Addition) at Basic prices	₹145.19 lakh crore (+6.7%)	₹247.26 lakh crore (+15.8%)
2.	Net Taxes on Products	₹12.42 lakh crore (+9.9%)	₹25.82 lakh crore (+11.5%)
3.	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	₹157.60 lakh crore	₹273.08 lakh crore (+15.4%)

		(+7%)	
4.	<b>Net Domestic Product (NDP)</b>	₹136.47 lakh crore (+7%)	241.04 lakh crore (+15.3%)
5.	<b>Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) (Highest share in GDP)</b>	₹90.22 lakh crore (57.2% of GDP)	₹163.98 lakh crore (60.1% of GDP)
6.	<b>Gross National Income (GNI)</b>	₹154.62 lakh crore (+6.66%)	₹267.99 lakh crore (+15%)
7.	<b>Net National Income (NNI)</b>	₹133.48 lakh crore (+6.66%)	₹235.95 lakh crore (+14.9%)
8.	<b>Per Capita GDP</b>	₹1,13,967 (+5.8%)	₹1,97,468 (+14.2%)
9.	<b>Per Capita GNI</b>	₹1,11,807 (+5.5%)	₹1,93,790 (+13.8%)

**Note:** 1. (+/- \_\_%) indicates percentage change over the previous year.

## 2.20 GST Revenue

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Finance** shared about the GST (Goods and Services Tax) collection of **December 2022**.
- GST revenue collected is **more than Rs 1.4 lakh crore** for **10 straight months** in a row.
- The gross GST revenue collected is Rs 1,49,507 crore (15% higher from December 2021).

### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

**It is an Indirect Sales Tax**

**Applicable with effect from** → 1st July 2017

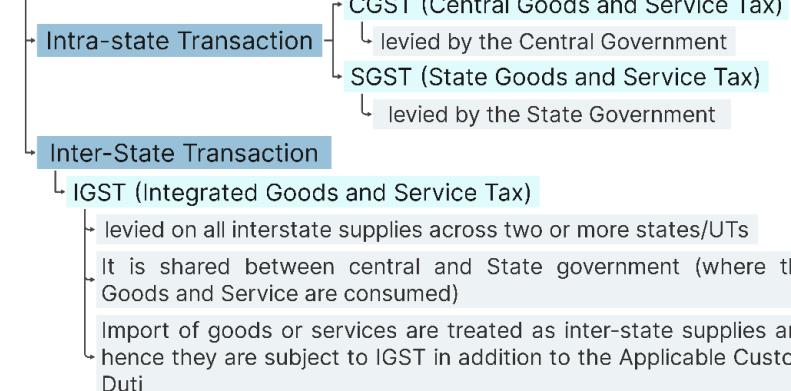
**Governed by** → Goods and Services Act, 2017

**Applicable on** → 'supply' of goods or services

**Based on** → Destination-based consumption taxation

**4 Major Slabs** → 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% (At present)

#### Components



## 2.21 Annual Conference of the Indian Econometric Society (TIES)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** of the **Indian Econometric Society (TIES)** was held at the **University of Hyderabad, Telangana**.

### Key Information Shared

- Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) of India will touch around **USD 20 trillion by 2047**.
- India will have a **per capita income of USD 10,000**, in the value of today's dollar in **2047**.

## 2.22 Indian Economy

### Why in News?

- Recently, the union Home minister shared some information of Indian Economy while addressing Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of B V Bhoomaraddi College of Engineering & Technology as a chief Guest.

### Key details shared by the Union Minister

- India has reached to 5<sup>th</sup> place from 11<sup>th</sup> (2004-14) in the world economy.
  - It is expected to reach the **3rd place by 2027**.
- More than **30% startups** have been created by **girl students**.
- **45% startups** are from **Tier-2 and Tier-3** cities.
- In 2022, India achieved a record export of about USD 400 billion.

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### 2.23 Y20 (Youth-20) Summit India

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports** has launched the **themes of Y20 summit, logo and website** in the Curtain raiser event of Y20 Summit India in New Delhi.
- This is the **first ever Y20 Summit to be held in India** on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.
- **Objective** of Summit: To allow the youth to provide constructive policy inputs.



#### Key details

- There will be **Pre summits** on the following **five Y20 (Youth 20) themes** along with various discussions at different Universities across states in India.
  - Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century skills.
  - Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a way of life.
  - Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War.
  - Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance.
  - Health, Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth.

#### Additional information

- **Y20 is a part of G20 Engagement Groups**, which brings together civil societies, parliamentarians, think tanks, women, youth, labour, businesses and researchers of the G20 countries.
- First Y20 conference was held in 2010.

### 2.24 India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF)

#### Why in News?

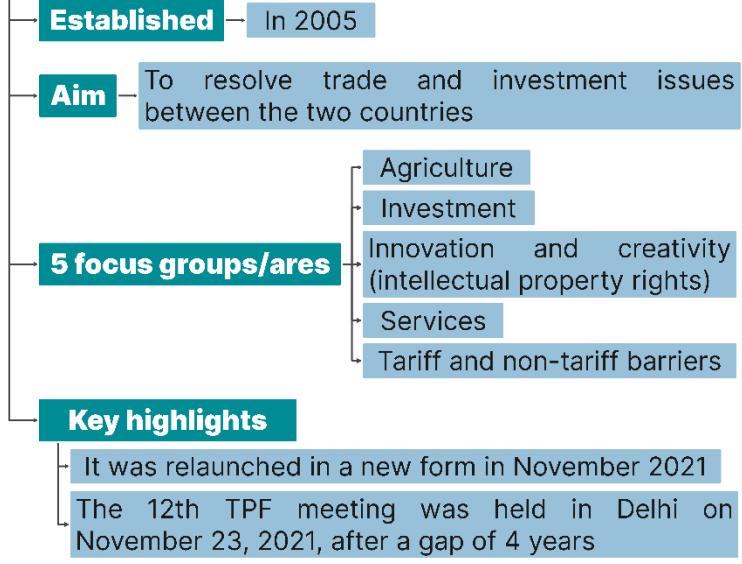
- Recently, the **13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial-level meeting** of **India – United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF)** has been organised in **Washington, DC, USA**.
- **Co-chaired by**: Minister of Commerce and Industry, India and U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador.
- **Objective**: To expand their trade and investment between the two countries

#### Key details shared

- Both the countries welcomed the finalization of the **Turtle Excluder Device (TED)** design with the technical support of the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**. (It will help in minimizing the impact of fishing on sea-turtle populations).
- A new TPF Working Group on “**Resilient Trade**” was also launched.

- **Objective:** To enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the trade relationship and to build sustainable supply chains.
- It will **initially focus** on trade facilitation, digitization of customs procedures, issues related to mobilization of sustainable finance and scaling up of innovative clean technologies.
- The US welcomed the efforts to regulate the certain electronic devices under **Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunication Equipment (MTCTE)** and **Compulsory Registration Order (CRO)**. (To reduce the compliance burden and facilitate the ease of doing business).
- Both countries acknowledged the positive impact of **Trade Margin Rationalization (TMR)** on patient access to **affordable medical devices** during the Covid Pandemic.
- They directed the **TPF Working Groups to reconvene quarterly**.
- The TPF will **reconvene** on a ministerial level in 2023.
- As per President of US Chamber of Commerce's U.S.-India Business Council, India and US have shared goal of achieving a **USD 500 billion trade** relationship.
- Bilateral trade in goods and services reached **about USD 160 billion in 2021**.

### India US Trade Policy Forum



### Additional information

- The two countries are also collaborating under the **QUAD**, **I2U2 (India-Israel/ UAE-USA)** and **IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework)**.

## 2.25 India Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind Aus ECTA)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has shared about **Ind Aus ECTA**.

### Key details

- India's imports from Australia amount to **USD 17 billion (around 96% is raw materials & intermediate goods, out of which 74% is coal)**.
- India's exports to Australia amount to **USD 10.5 billion (Mainly finished products)**.
- India also spends around **USD 4 billion** each year on education of students in Australia.

## India- Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

**Signed in** → April 2022 (Came into force on 29th December 2022)

**Aim** → To encourage and improve trade between India and Australia

**It covers the following major areas** → Trade in Goods and Services, Rules of Origin, Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, Trade Remedies, Legal & institutional Issues, Movement of Natural Persons.

### Key Features

Trade / Services

Total bilateral trade → It will cross **USD 45-50 billion by 2035**

India's Merchandise Exports → Likely to increase by **10 billion by 2026-27** (Next 5 years)

Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status → It will be granted to India in about **120 sub-sectors**  
It will be granted to Australia in **31 sub-sectors**

#### Preferential Market Access

provided to **India by Australia** on **100%** of its tariff lines

→ immediate market access at zero duty to 98.3% of tariff lines, rest will be achieved in 5 years.

→ It will benefit various labor-intensive Indian sectors (currently subjected to 5% import duty)

→ provided to **Australia by India** on over **70%** of its tariff lines.

India is offering **zero duty access to 90% value of products** from Australia (including coal)

→ Zero duty on 85.3 % value of products will be offered immediately

→ zero duty on 3.67 % value of products will be offered progressively over 3, 5, 7 and 10 years

India will provide Negative list treatment to services exports from Australia, after a period of 5 years

Offered commitments/ Market Access → Australia to india in around **135 sub-sectors**

India to Australia in around **103 sub-sectors**

Duty-free access to over **6,000 broad categories** of Indian products in the Australian market.

India will reduce import duties from 150% to 100% on Australian wines of USD 5 per bottle, down to 50% in 10 years.

→ Australia will also allow duty-free import of Indian wines

#### Employment Generation

**10 lakh jobs** are estimated to be created by this Agreement

Over **1 lakh Indian students** would benefit from post-study work visa (for 18 months to 4 years)

**Annual Visa quota of 1800** is to be instituted for **Indian Yoga teachers and Chefs**

#### Protective Features

A Bilateral Safeguard Mechanism will be available for 14 years in case of surge in imports

Provision of Review for parts (cause of concern) of the Agreement, after 15 years

→ Must be completed in 6 months

#### Other Benefits

Issue under Double taxation related to IT/ITES (Information Technology Enabled Services) has been resolved (Double taxation will be **eliminated from 1st April 2023**)

→ It will provide a financial savings of more than **USD 200 million per year**

**Fast track approval** for patented, generic and biosimilar medicines developed in other jurisdiction

Benefit to more than **7 lakhs of Australia's Indian diaspora**, second highest taxpaying diaspora.

## 2.26 G20 Health Track

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **1<sup>st</sup> Health Working Group (HWG) Meeting** under **G20 Health track** was organised at **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- The Health Track of the G20 India Presidency will comprise **4 Health Working Group (HWG) Meetings** and **1 Health Ministerial Meeting (HMM)**.
- They will be organised at different location including Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Goa, Hyderabad (Telangana) and Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

### Key details

- 3 priorities For the G20 Health Track:**
  - Health emergencies prevention, preparedness and response (with focus on One Health & AMR).
  - Strengthening cooperation in pharmaceutical sector with focus on Access and Availability to safe, effective, quality and affordable Medical Countermeasures (Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics).
  - Digital Health Innovations and Solutions to Aid Universal Health Coverage and Improve Healthcare Service Delivery.
- The delegates also visited the **Somatheeram Ayurveda Village at Kovalam, Kerala** to understand holistic healthcare service delivery system.
- Special invitee countries for 1<sup>st</sup> HWG meeting:** Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Singapore, Spain, Sultanate of Oman, The Netherlands and United Arab Emirates.

### Additional information

- Important Side events:
  - An event on Medical Value Travel and Digital Health (Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala).
  - A co-branded event on **Global Centre for Traditional Medicine**.

**Note:** G20 has been covered in CurrentTap of December 2022 (Article 2.82).

## 2.27 First Global Tourism Summit

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Tourism has informed that **1<sup>st</sup> Global Tourism Summit** will be organised under the aegis of India's G20 Presidency in **April 2023 in New Delhi**.
- Industry Partner for the summit: **Confederation of Indian Industry**.
- A roadshow was also organised ahead of summit in **Mumbai (Maharashtra)** to emphasize how G20 will be the Union Tourism Ministry's main area in 2023 to establish the country as a key tourism destination.

### Key details shared

- Target of India:** To Contribute **USD 56 Billion forex to GDP** and **create around 140 million jobs** in tourism sector **by 2030** through inclusive growth and are particularly focusing on cruise tourism, ecotourism and adventure tourism.

### Additional information

- Mumbai (Maharashtra) is also known as the Cruise Capital.
- Maharashtra has reduced the no. of licenses to 10 only for Ease of Doing Business.

## 2.28 First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting

### Why in News?

- Recently, India has participated in the **First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting** of the **World Economic Forum**.
- Objective of Meeting:** To deliberate on the world need for clean energy technologies to confront climate crisis globally.

### About FMC

- It was launched **by United states in partnership of WEF in 2021**.
- It is a global initiative harnessing the purchasing power of companies to decarbonize **seven “hard to abate” industrial sectors** that currently account for **30% of global emissions**.
  - Those Seven sectors are: Aluminum, Aviation, Chemicals, Concrete, Shipping, Steel, and Trucking; along with innovative Carbon Removal technologies.
- Aim of FMC:** Reducing emissions to **net-zero by 2050**.
- Members: 70 from top global corporations who made a total of 93 commitments.
  - Each member has made ambitious commitments in at least 1 sector.

### About WEF

- Recently, the **53<sup>rd</sup> edition** of the **Annual World Economic Forum summit** was held in Davos, Switzerland.
  - Theme: **Cooperation in a Fragmented World**.
- It is the International Organization for **Public-Private Cooperation**.
- Established in **1971**, (HQ: Geneva, Switzerland).

## 2.29 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Film Festival

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **SCO Film Festival** was held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** to mark **India's Presidency at SCO**.
- Organized by:** National Film Development Corporation under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), in association with the SCO Council of Heads of States.
  - India** is hosting the event **for the first time**.
- Theme:** Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

### Key Highlights

- Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremony:** Hema Malini.
- Director Priyadarshan's Tamil Film - 'Appatha'** was premiered.
- Bharat Hai Hum' animation series promo** released.
  - Produced by:** Central Bureau of Communication on behalf of Ministry of I&B & Graphiti Multi Media.

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



- The series tells the **story of freedom fighters** to children.
- Series anchored by cartoon characters **Krish, Trish and Baltiboy**.
- Gujarati Film '**ChhelloShow**' (Director: PanNalin) & Marathi Film '**Godavari**' (Director: Nikhil Mahajan) have been **nominated** in the **Competition Section** of the Film Festival.

### Winners at the SCO Film Festival

S.No	Category	Winner
9.	<b>Best Film</b>	Godavari
10.	<b>Best Director</b>	Xiaozhi Rao for Chinese film Homecoming
11.	<b>Best Actor (Male)</b>	Askar Ilyasov (Kazakh) for Paralympian
12.	<b>Best Actor(Female)</b>	Rano Shodiyeva (Uzbek) for The Fate of a Woman
13.	<b>Special Jury Award</b>	Don't Bury Me Without Ivan (Russian; Director- Liubov Borisova)
14.	<b>Special Mentions</b>	Road to Eden (Kyrgyz) & Fortune (Tajik)

### 2.30 G20-Chief Science Advisers Roundtable (G20-CSAR)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the planning meeting of the **G20-Chief Science Advisers Roundtable (G20-CSAR)** was held to discuss the agendas and planning for the proposed high-level roundtables.
  - **Chaired by:** Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India.
- During India's presidency, **2 high-level G20-CSAR meetings/ roundtables** will be organised.
  - First in March 2023 at Hyderabad, Telangana.
  - Second in August 2023 at Bengaluru, Karnataka.

#### Key details about G20-CSAR

- It is a government-to-government level initiative conceptualised through India's G20-Presidency.
- **Aim:** To bring together the **Chief Science Advisers** and their equivalents of **G20 member countries**, as well as the invited countries, to deliberate upon and develop collaborative frameworks for some of the global science and technology (S&T) policy issues.

### 2.31 Inception Meeting of Business 20 (B20)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Inception Meting of Business 20 (B20) was organised in Gandhinagar.

#### About B20

- Established in **2010**.
- It is the official **G20 dialogue forum** with the global business community.
- **Aim:** To deliver policy recommendations for economic growth and development.
- B20 India will operate through **7 Task Forces** and **2 Action Councils** entrusted to develop consensus-based policy recommendations to the G20.
- **Chairman** of B20 India: **Shri N Chandrasekaran**, Chairman of Tata Sons.

#### Additional information shared by Union Minister at the event

- India is one of the top 5 countries in terms of adopting/implementing environmental goals.
- India has already exceeded its goal for 2030, of having a **40% share of renewable energy** in its installed capacity in 2021.
- India is focusing on 4 I's **Infrastructure, Investment, Innovation & Inclusion** for inclusive growth.

## 2.32 International Financial Architecture Working Group (IFAWG)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **first International Financial Architecture Working Group** meeting of G-20 under the chairmanship of India was organised in **Chandigarh**.
- Organised by: **Ministry of Finance** and the **Reserve Bank of India**.
- Co-chaired by: **France and South Korea**.

### Key details

- It is one of the working groups under the **G20 finance track**, which deals with the following issues:
  - International financial architecture such as global financial safety net (GFSN).
  - Matters related to development finance.
  - Managing debt vulnerabilities and enhancing debt transparency.
  - Capital flow management and promoting local currency bond markets.
  - Multilateral development bank to meet the global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- It will inform the G-20 **Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs)** on key deliberations on related priorities.

### Additional information

- The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the G20 FMCBGs is scheduled to be held in **Bengaluru in February 2023**.
- A G20 event titled '**Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs): Opportunities and Challenges**' was also organised as the side event.

## 2.33 Visit India Year 2023

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of tourism launched the Visit India Year 2023 initiative and its logo to promote tourism in India.

### Key details

- As per Union Minister, each foreign delegate of G20 will be a brand ambassador of India's culture, heritage and tourist destinations.
- The logo design is inspired by belief system of **Atithi Devo Bhava**.
  - It is shaped like a **grand namaste**.
  - Every icon shown in the logo represents India, in its own unique way.



## INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

### 2.34 Focus areas of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the UIDAI has decided to work on **five core areas** to provide continued support to residents in their daily lives, enhance data security, and encourage good governance.

#### Key details

- 5 core areas are:** – 1. Resident centricity, 2. Expanding the usage of Aadhaar, 3. Security and privacy, 4. Continuous technology upgradation, and 5. Collaborate with global economies and support them in their aspiration to achieve SDG 16.9 (provide legal identity for all).

#### About UIDAI

- Launch:** In January, 2009, as an attached office of the then Planning Commission.
- In July 2016, it was established as **statutory authority** under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (Aadhaar Act 2016).
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology**.

#### Additional information

- The first Aadhaar number was generated in 2010.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

### 2.35 First Mile Connectivity (FMC) Projects

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Coal informed that it will be taking up **additional 19 First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects** for **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** and **Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL)** with a capacity of **330 Million Ton (MT)**.
- These projects will be implemented by **FY 2026-27**.

#### Key details

- The Ministry has already undertaken **55 FMC projects** with an investment of **Rs.18000 crores**, out of which **8 projects have been commissioned**.
  - Remaining will be commissioned by **FY 2025**.

#### About First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects

- The Ministry is working on **First Mile Connectivity** to ensure efficient and environment-friendly coal evacuation in future.
  - Objective:** To replace the existing road transport in coalmines by mechanized systems like conveyor belts, **Coal Handling Plants (CHPs)** and **SILOs with Rapid Loading Systems** and strengthening of **rail network in coalfields**.

#### Additional Information

- Targets of Ministry:** To produce **1.31 Billion Ton coal by FY25** and **1.5 Billion Ton in FY30**.
- National Environmental Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur in 2020-21 has established that these projects will result in Diesel savings of **Rs. 2100 crore per year**.

## 2.36 Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has launched various initiatives at its **76<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day** (6<sup>th</sup> January 2023).

### Key Launches

- Standard National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022-27:** It will serve as **strong foundation for standardization**.
  - Effective implementation of SNAP 2022-27 will strengthen the **quality culture**.
  - First SNAP was formulated in 2019 for 3 years.
- Revised National Electrical Code of India (NEC 2023):**
  - It provides guidelines for regulating the Electrical Installations practices.
  - India's first NEC was formulated in the year **1985** (Revised in 2011).
- Training Courses on Revised NBC 2016 and NEC 2023.**
  - The **National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS)**, training arm of BIS, has designed training courses for national capacity building.
- Standards Clubs in Schools:**
  - Aim: To expose science students of **class 9th and above** to the concepts of Quality and Standardization through student centric activities.
  - Till date, it has established over 4000 Standards Clubs across India.
  - Target is to create **10,000 clubs by the end of 2022-23**.

### About Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- It came into existence on **1 April 1987** under the **BIS Act, 1986** as **National Standards Body of India**.
- Objective:** Development of **standardization, marking and quality certification** of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- Nodal Agency:** Department of Consumer affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

## 2.37 National Single Window System (NSWS) Portal

### Why in News?

- Recently, the NSWS Portal has achieved a new milestone by crossing **75 thousand approvals** for various Central and State/UTs.
- NSWS is a platform for investors for taking all the regulatory approvals and services related to investments.

### Key details

- Major portion (57,850) of Approvals is cleared by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- NSWS has also **onboarded various government schemes** namely Vehicle Scrapping Policy, Indian Footwear and Leather Development Policy (IFLDP), Sugar and Ethanol Policy, National Program on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules under PLI Schemes.

### Additional information

- Update:** Currently, Investors can apply for approvals from **27 Central Ministries/Departments and 19 States/UTs on the portal**

**Note:** NSWS has been covered in Current Tap - December 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Article 2.23).

## 2.38 National Logistics Portal (NLP)-Marine

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways inaugurated the National Logistics Portal (marine) in New Delhi.
- It is a project of national importance by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping Waterways and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.

### Key details

- Objective:** It will serve as a single window to improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and time delays for the growth of the logistics sector and trade.
- The activities of NLP Marine are categorized into **four distinct verticals** viz. **1. Carrier, 2. Cargo, 3. Banking and Finance and 4. Regulatory Bodies and Participating Government Agencies (PGAs)**.
- Latch On feature:** It facilitates the trade by providing the required features that are **not directly embedded into NLP Marine**, by linking through systems **developed by other agencies** seamlessly without duplication of efforts.

### About National Logistic Portal (NLP)

- The implementation of NLP had been **initiated in July 2021** with the development of **NLP Marine as a first phase**.
- It is a single window for all trade processes of the logistics sector spread across the country covering all modes of transport along with an E-marketplace to provide a seamless end-to-end logistic service coverage.
- It is an “open platform” that allows the coexistence of multiple service providers to provide EXIM-related services independently or by combining different connectivity options.

## 2.39 Startup20 (S20)

### Why in News?

- The inception meeting of Startup 20 (S20) was organised in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- S20 is one of the engagement groups established under India’s G20 Presidency for the first time, as part of India’s special focus on innovation.
- The final Summit of S20 will be organised in July 2023 in Gurugram, Haryana.

### Key details

- Startup20 India Chairman: **Dr. Chintan Vaishnav**.
- It has three main taskforces: **1. Foundation and Alliances Taskforce, 2. Finance and 3. Inclusion and Sustainability**.
- Objectives:** To harmonize the global startup ecosystem through consensus-based definitions and promote knowledge sharing among startup ecosystems.
- Expected outcomes and key deliverables:
  - Official Policy Communiqué.
  - A Startup Handbook having commonly agreed upon definitions and terminologies.
  - A Global Innovation Centre to foster collaborations across borders.
  - Promotion of Startup20 as a Global Point of Contact for startup ecosystems.

### Additional information

- Union Minister for Commerce & Industry gave the Mantra of ‘SENSE’ i.e. Share, Explore, Nurture, Serve & Empower for growth of startups.

- India has around **85,000 registered start-ups** with **100 plus unicorns** at a combined valuation of **USD 350 billion**.
- India has the **third highest number of Startups globally**.

## PUBLIC FINANCE - POLITICAL ECONOMY - - SERVICES SECTOR IN INDIA

### 2.40 Aadhaar

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has enabled a facility by which address in Aadhaar can be updated online with the consent of the **Head of Family (HoF)**.

#### Key details

- It is in addition to the existing address update facility using any valid Proof of Address.
- Process: Resident must pay the fee of **Rs. 50/- for the service**.
  - On successful payment, a service request number (SRN) would be shared with the resident, and an SMS would be sent to the HoF about the address request.
  - The HoF must approve the request within **30 days**.
- Any resident **above the age of 18 can be** an HoF for this purpose.

#### About UIDAI

- Launch: **July, 2016**, under **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology**.
- It is a **statutory authority** under the provisions of the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016** (Aadhaar Act 2016).

### 2.41 Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules 2022

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Department of Telecommunications** under the **Ministry of Communications** has formulated the Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules 2022
- **Objective:** To address the issues of safety to the existing telecom infrastructure.

#### Salient features of Rules

- Anyone exercising a legal right to dig any property which is likely to cause damage to a telegraph infrastructure shall give **notice to the licensee**, prior to commencement, through a common portal.
- Excavators/utility asset owners will be given alerts via **SMS, email and in-app notification** and will also have the facility of '**Click to call**' from the app itself.
- Any person, who has dug/excavated any property causing damage to a telegraph infrastructure, shall be **liable to pay the damage charges** to the telegraph authority.

#### Additional information

- In Telecom Sector alone, there are nearly 10 lakh OFC (Optical Fiber Cable) cuts per year causing an economic loss of approx. **Rs 3000 Crore/year**.



**OTHER NEWS**

## SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH

### 2.42 Digitisation of Universal Immunisation Programme: U-WIN

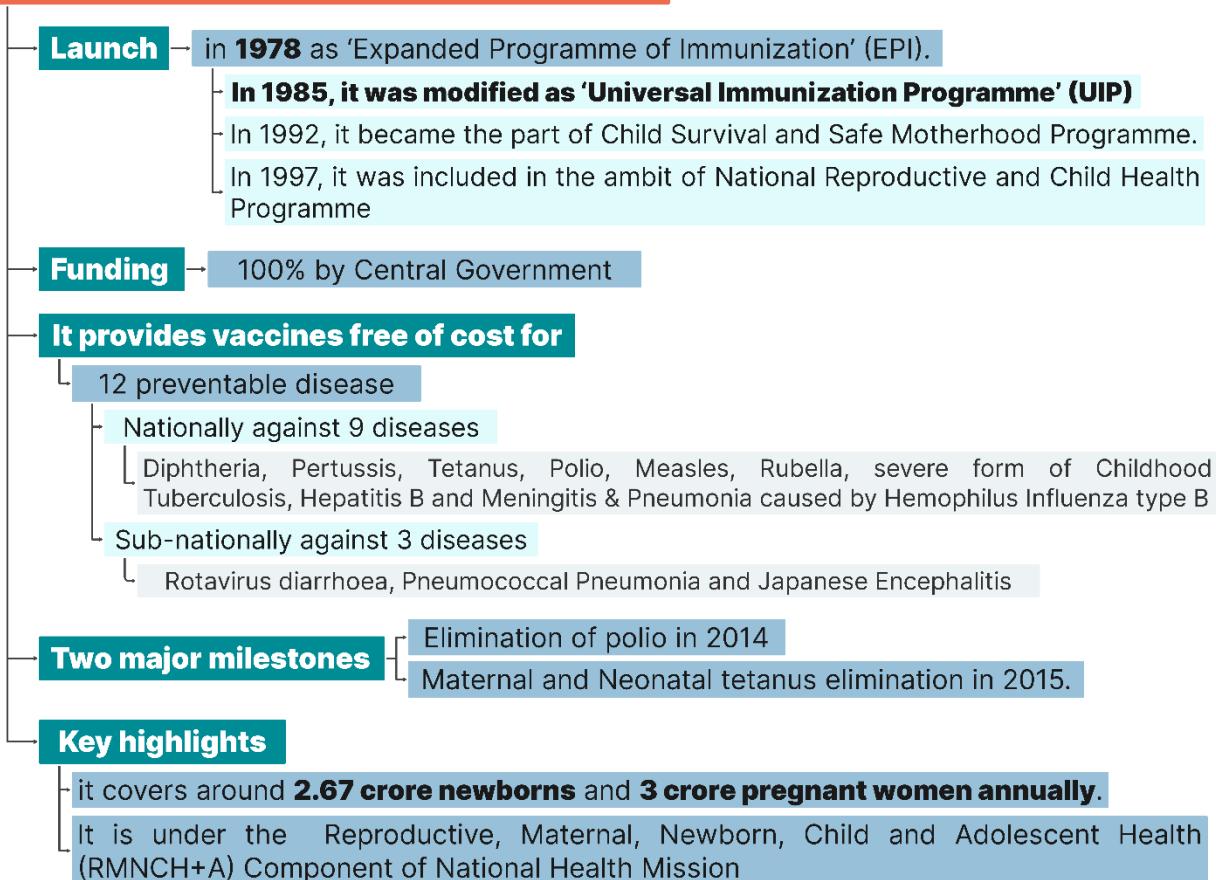
#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of India has launched U-WIN platform for digitization of Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- It is an electronic registry for routine vaccinations launched as per the lines of Co-WIN portal, used for Covid-19 Vaccinations.

#### Key details

- It has been launched in a **pilot mode** in **two districts (65) of each state and Union Territory**.
- Objective:** To register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses and all vaccination events thereafter.
- For pregnant women and children, vaccine acknowledgement and **immunisation card linked to ABHA ID (Ayushman Bharat Heath Account)** will be generated.
  - All states/districts can access a **common database** to track beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries will get **Digital Certificates** on the spot, which can be stored in **Digi-lockers**.
- It will be the single source of information for immunisation services, and reports like antigen-wise coverage, etc.

#### Universal Immunisation Programme



#### Additional Information

- A child is said to be fully immunized if child receives all due vaccine as per national immunization schedule within 1st year age of child.

## SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

### 2.43 Chief Minister Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of Himachal Pradesh** has launched the **Chief Minister Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh**.
- Aim:** to help needy students and destitute women to get their higher education

### 2.44 India's first national assessment regulator: PARAKH

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the **National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT)** has launched the India's first national assessment regulator, PARAKH as a part of the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP)-2020**.
- NEP 2020 envisaged a **standard-setting body** to advise school boards regarding new assessment patterns and latest research, and promote collaborations between them.
- It is established within the **education survey division** of the NCERT.

#### Key details

- PARAKH stands for **Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**.
- Aim: To set up **assessment guidelines for student assessment and evaluation** for all **recognised school boards** in the country.
- Key functions of PARAKH:
  - It will work on **three major assessment areas**: Large-scale assessments, School-based assessment, and examination reforms.
  - It will be responsible for the next NAS (National Achievement Survey) 2024.
    - It will also guide the State Achievement Survey (SAS).
  - It will also manage India's participation in **international assessments**.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### 2.45 Climate of India in 2022

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the India Meteorological Department (**IMD**) has declared **2022** as the **fifth warmest year for India since 1901**.
- Annual mean land surface air temperature in 2022:** 0.51 degrees Celsius above the long-term average which is the mean temperature for the 1981-2010 period.
  - The **highest warming** was observed in India in **2016** when the **average temperature** was **0.71 degrees Celsius**.

## 2.46 National Electric Bus Programme (NEBP)

### News 1

- Recently, the **Convergence Energy Services Limited** (CESL) has floated a tender for 4,675 electric buses worth **₹5,000 crore** on the basis of a **dry lease**.
- This tender is for three states/UTs: **Delhi (2400), Kerala (775) and Telangana (1500)**.
- It will lead to **fuel savings of 15 lakh kiloliters/year**.

### Key details shared

- The value of the tender is **over ₹30,800 crore for 6,465 electric Buses**.
- Prices discovered for tender is **29% less** than that what it costs to operate diesel buses.
  - The buses are expected to save about **1,842 million liters** of fossil fuel over **twelve years**.
- It constitutes demand for electric buses from **6 states/UTs: Delhi, Telangana, Haryana, Surat (Gujarat), Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh**.

### Additional information

- CESL was mandated by NITI Aayog to implement NEBP.
  - Aim of NEBP: Deployment of **50,000 electric Buses** across country.
- CESL is a subsidiary of state-owned **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**.
  - EESL is a joint venture of **4 public sector companies** (NTPC, Power Finance Corporation Limited, REC Limited and POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited) under the Ministry of Power.
- Dry lease Model:** the operator provides the buses to state transport corporations (STCs) without drivers or conductors, which are deployed by STCs.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

## 2.47 Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) announced the launch of **e-SCR project**.
- Aim of project:** To provide free access to about 34,000 judgements of Supreme Court to lawyers, law students and the common public in Digital Mode.

### Key details

- As of now, the judgements, delivered till January 1, 2023, will be made available on the apex court website, its mobile app and the **judgment portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**.
- Supreme Court has also developed a search engine with the help of the **National Informatics Centre** for easier access to judgements.

### Additional information

- CJI also announced that **neutral citations** will be introduced in the Supreme Court.
  - A 3-judges committee has been constituted for the same.
  - It comprises **3 judges**: Justice **Rajiv Shakdher** (Delhi HC, Justice **Raja Vijayaraghavan** (Kerala HC) and Justice **Suraj Govindraj** (Karnataka HC).
  - In neutral citation, Courts assign a **unique sequential number** to each of their decisions.

## BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

## 2.48 India's International Investment Position (IIP)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released **India's International Investment Position (IIP), September 2022**

### Key Findings

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
1.	Net claims of non-residents on India during Q2 of FY23	USD 389.6 billion (increased by USD 34.3 billion)
2.	Reduction in non-residents' financial assets in India	USD 9.6 billion
3.	Overseas financial assets of Indian residents during July-September 2022	Decreased by USD 43.9 billion Reason: reduction in reserves assets
4.	Dominant Component in India's international financial assets	Reserve assets (62.9 %)
5.	Ratio of international assets to international liabilities in September 2022	68.5%

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### 2.49 Asian Pacific Postal Union

#### Why in News?

- Recently, **Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh**, erstwhile Member (Personnel), Postal Services Board has took over as the **Secretary General** of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (**APPU**) for a tenure of **4 years**.
  - This is for the **first time an Indian is leading an international organization** in the **postal sector**.
- He was elected to the role during the **13<sup>th</sup> APPU Congress** at **Bangkok** in 2022.
- He will also act as the **Director** of the Asian Pacific Postal College (**APPC**).
  - APPC is the **largest intergovernmental postal training institute** in the **Asia Pacific region**.

#### About Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)

- Created in:** 1961; **Total Members:** 32; **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand.
- It is the **only Restricted Union** of the Universal Postal Union (**UPU**) in the **Asia Pacific region**.

### 2.50 Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF)

#### News 1

- Recently, the Annual Meeting/Summit 2023 (**53<sup>rd</sup> Edition**) of **World Economic Forum (WEF)** was held in **Davos, Switzerland**.
- Theme:** 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World'.

#### Key details

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** was responsible for representing India at the Forum with **three lounges** focusing on **investment opportunity, sustainability and inclusive approach** to compliment economic growth.
- States present at the Forum: **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana**.
- Indian Companies present at the Forum: **HCL, Wipro, Infosys and TCS**.

- Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (**MITRA**) signed a partnership with the Forum on **urban transformation** to give the state government “strategic and technical direction”.

## News 2

- The WEF has launched the **Giving to Amplify Earth Action (GAEA)** initiative.

### Key details

- **Aim:** To fund new and existing **Public, Private and Philanthropic Partnerships (PPPPs)** to help unlock the **USD 3 trillion of financing** needed each year to reach net zero, reverse nature loss and restore biodiversity **by 2050**.
- It was **supported by 45 partners including HCL technologies**.

### World Economic Forum

#### What is it ?

It is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

#### Established

In January 1971

#### Headquarter

Geneva, Switzerland

#### Founder/ Executive Chairman

Klaus Schwab

### Additional information

- Philanthropic financing for climate mitigation has risen in recent years, but still **represents less than 2% of total philanthropic giving**, estimated at **USD 810 billion in 2021**.

## 2.51 India's first Model G-20 Summit

### Why in News?

- Recently, the India's **G-20 Sherpa Mr. Amitabh Kant** has inaugurated India's first Model G-20 Summit organised by **Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL)**, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- **Aim:** To celebrate India's presidency and take the idea of G-20 to the youth
- **Chairman:** Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) and Vice Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.

### Key details

- IIDL organises **Model International Leaders Meet (MILM)** every year to orient students towards international relations. (This year orgainsed on G20 theme).
- The students will get into the roles of G-20 member countries and discuss on various political and social issues across **the four committees or tracks**, namely **Leader track, Sherpa track, Civil-20 and Business-20**.
- A total of **150 youngsters** from across the country will participate.
- The best two delegates will be awarded a **cash prize of Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 10,000**.

### Additional information

- Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, the parent organisation of IIDL is also the Secretariat of the G-20 Civil Society engagement group (Civil-20).

## 2.52 United Nation Security Council (UNSC)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the UNSC welcomed the 5 new non-Permanent members of UNSC.

## Key details

- New Members are: **Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland.**
- Mozambique and Switzerland are the **first-time member of UNSC.**
- Term of New Members: **1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

## Additional information

- India is one of the outgoing countries, whose term as a non-permanent member ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

## United Nation Security Council (UNSC)

<b>what is it ?</b>	It is one of the six principal organs of United Nations (UN) established under UN charter in 1945					
<b>Prime Responsibility</b>	To maintain international peace and security					
<b>Members (15)</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Permanent Members (5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>United Kingdom, United States, France, Russia, China</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Permanent Members (10)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland, Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and United Arab Emirates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duration: Two year for each member</td> </tr> </table>	Permanent Members (5)	United Kingdom, United States, France, Russia, China	Non-Permanent Members (10)	Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland, Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and United Arab Emirates	Duration: Two year for each member
Permanent Members (5)						
United Kingdom, United States, France, Russia, China						
Non-Permanent Members (10)						
Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland, Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and United Arab Emirates						
Duration: Two year for each member						
<b>Headquarters</b>	New York, US					
<b>Presidency</b>	Rotates every month among its 15 Members (As per Alphabetical order) <table border="0"> <tr> <td>December 2022: India</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 2023: Japan</td> </tr> </table>	December 2022: India	January 2023: Japan			
December 2022: India						
January 2023: Japan						

## 2.53 The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA assembly was organised in **Abu Dhabi, UAE.**
- **India has assumed the Presidency of the 13<sup>th</sup> session.**
- From India, a 14-member delegation from the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has participated in the session.

### About IRENA

- It was officially founded in **Bonn, Germany**, on **26 January 2009** (HQ- Abu Dhabi, UAE).
- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** mandated to facilitate cooperation, advance knowledge, and promote the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy.

## 2.54 Resolution Adopted at UNGA

### Why in News?

- Recently, the resolution for '**Education for Democracy**' is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- **Objective of Resolution:** To encouraged Member States and other stakeholders to **integrate education for democracy** into their **education standards**.

### Key details about resolution

- It was **put forward by Mongolia.**
- It was **co-sponsored by India and adopted by Consensus.**
- It reaffirms the right of everyone to education & recognizes that '**Education For All**' contributes to the strengthening of democracy.

### Additional information

- Earlier in March 2015, the UNGA adopted a **similar resolution** on **education** to encourage all UN entities to use education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy.
- India's **Right to Education** is committed to provide **free and compulsory education** for all children between the **ages of six and fourteen**.

## 2.55 India's Civil 20 Engagement Group

### Why in News?

- Recently, **India's Civil 20 Engagement Group** has been inaugurated in **Kerala's Kollam District**.

### Key details

- It is the **official engagement group** of country's **G20 leadership** representing the voice of non-profit, voluntary citizens' groups, Civil Society Organisations in service to the Society.
- **Chair of C20:** Sri Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma), founder of Mata Amritanandamayi Math.
- Members of India's C20 include:
  - Sri M, the Satsang Foundation as **Participant**.
  - Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini as **Secretariat**.
  - Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari as **Institutional Partner**.
- Motto – "**You Are The Light**".
- The **logo** of India's C20 group symbolises the **flame of hope**, self-motivation, and selfless service.



### Additional information

- C20 Engagement Group was launched as an **official G20 Engagement Group in 2013**.
- On the occasion, **Mata Amritanandamayi Math** initiated a **Rs. 50 crore project** to support pregnant women who are malnourished and people with disabilities in underdeveloped districts across India and other developing nations.

## 2.56 First meeting of the Youth20 (Y20) Group

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has informed that the first meeting of Y20 group will be held in **Guwahati, Assam** in February 2023.

- This is the first of the various meetings to be held on the **five Y20 themes** across India till the **final Youth-20 Summit in August 2023**.

**Note:** Y20 Summit has been covered in 1<sup>st</sup> week Magazine of January 2023 (Article 2.8).

## 2.57 Think 20 (T20) Engagement Group Meeting

### Why in News?

- Recently, it was held under India's G20 Presidency at **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Theme:** 'Global Governance with Life Values and Wellbeing: Fostering Cooperation in Framework, Finance and Technology'
- Outcome: **Bhopal Declaration**.

### Key details

- The **declaration made an appeal** to all the stakeholders to focus more on:
  - Inclusive development, welfare of every section of society, special attention to children, encourage the model of development led by women.
  - Bridge the gap between North and South and work together to ensure the health for all.

### About T20

- T20 is an official G20 Engagement Group, initiated during the Mexican Presidency **in 2012**.
- It serves as an "**idea bank**" for the G20 by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss relevant international socio-economic issues.
- There are **7 Task Forces** Under T20 group.

### Additional information

- Chief Coordinator for India's G20 Presidency: **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**.

## 2.58 Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) (o)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has chosen **Hyderabad** (Telangana) for establishing its **C4IR** focused on **healthcare and life sciences**.
- Telangana government and WEF entered into a collaboration agreement for the same at the Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

### Key details

- It will be an **autonomous, non-profit organization**.
- It is only World Economic Forum in India with a focus on healthcare and life sciences.
- It will be the **18<sup>th</sup> centre** to join WEF's 4IR network across 4 continents.

### Additional information

- As per, Telangana's Industries and IT Minister:
  - Telangana accounts for **1/3<sup>rd</sup> of global vaccine output** (Vaccine capital of the world).
  - Also, the State contributes to about **35% of India's pharmaceutical production**.

## INDIAN AGRICULTURE

### 2.59 New Cooperative Societies

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by Prime Minister approved the setting up of **3 National level multi-state cooperative societies**
- They will be set up under **Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.**

#### Key details

S.No	New cooperative societies	Key Information
1.	Multi-State Cooperative <b>Export Society</b>	For undertaking exports of all goods and services produced by cooperatives and related entities
2.	Multi-State Cooperative <b>Seed Society</b>	It will act as an apex organization for <b>production, procurement, processing, branding, storage, etc.</b> for quality seeds.
3.	Multi-State Cooperative <b>Organic Society</b>	It will act as an umbrella organisation for aggregation, procurement, certification, testing, branding, supply chain and marketing of organic products. Primary to national level cooperatives societies can become member.

#### About Cooperative Societies

- Definition:** A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise.
- 97<sup>th</sup> Amendment (2011)** of Constitution (Part IX B) provides them **constitutional Status**.
- Right to form a Cooperative society is a **fundamental right under Article 19**.
- It comes under State Subject (7<sup>th</sup> Schedule) in Indian Constitution.

#### Additional information

- Registered cooperative societies: Around **8.5 lakhs** with **around 29 crore members**.
- A separate '**Ministry of Co-operation**' has been created in July, 2021 for realizing the vision of '**Sahkar se Samriddhi**' (Prosperity through Cooperation).

## PUBLIC FINANCE - POLITICAL ECONOMY - - SERVICES SECTOR IN INDIA

### 2.60 New guidelines for Social Media Influencers

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Department of Consumer Affairs has released the endorsement guidelines.
- Name of Guidelines: '**Endorsement Know Hows** — for celebrities, influencers and virtual media influencers (Avatar or computer-generated character) on social media platforms'.
- Aim:** To ensure that individuals do not mislead, when endorsing products and services.

#### Key details

- It mandates compulsory disclosure of **monitory/material benefits** of a product/brand they are promoting through their social media platforms.

- Terms such as '**advertisement**', '**sponsored**' or '**paid promotion**' should be used for all sort of endorsements.
- **Penalty:** Applicable as per Consumer Protection Act 2019.
  - The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** can impose a penalty of up to **Rs. 10 lakh** on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers.
  - For repeated offences, a **penalty of up to Rs. 50 lakh** can be imposed.
  - The authority can prohibit the endorser from making any endorsement for up **to 1 year** and for subsequent contravention, prohibition **can extend up to 3 years**.

### Additional information

- As per the **Secretary of Consumer Affairs**:
  - The size of the social media influencer market in **2022 was around Rs. 1,275 crore**.
  - **By 2025**, it is likely to rise to **Rs. 2,800 crore** in India with a compound annual growth rate of about 19-20%.

## INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

### 2.61 Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajya Sabha committee has approved the request of **Ministry of Home Affairs** to grant **six more months to frame rules** under the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)** for the seventh time in a row.

#### Additional information

- Citizenship Act, 1955 provides citizenship by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and by incorporation of the territory into India.

#### Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

<b>Amendment of</b>	Citizenship Act, 1955
<b>Passed by Parliament</b>	→ On 11th December 2019
<b>Objective</b>	To grant Indian citizenship to the illegal migrants.
<b>Eligibility for Citizenship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Date → Entered in India on or before 31st December 2014</li> <li>Religion → Non-Muslim communities (6) (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians)</li> <li>Country → Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan</li> </ul>
<b>Exempted by Central Government from</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920</li> <li>Foreigners Act, 1946</li> </ul>
<b>Not Applicable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura.</li> <li>These are included in the <b>6th Schedule</b> of the Constitution</li> <li>To the "Inner Line" areas notified under the <b>Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Highlights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A person must have resided in India (or been in the service of the Central Government) for <b>at least 11 years</b> in order to be eligible for citizenship (As per Citizenship Act 1955)</li> <li>It has been <b>reduced to 5 years</b> in amendment for these illegal Migrants</li> </ul>

## GLOBALIZATION

### 2.62 Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh (MP) Tourism Board** has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with chapters of **eight countries** of the **Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)** in Indore, MP at the **17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention**.
- These MoUs were signed with France Metropole Paris, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPIO International, Malaysia, and Mauritius.
- Objective:** Boosting cooperation in the development of the Tourism sector of the State.

#### Key details

- GOPIO was founded at **First Global Convention of People of Indian Origin** in New York, United states in **1989**.
- Initially its aim was to **fight for human rights violation** of people of Indian origin.
- It has now set its priorities for the **benefit of PIOs (Person of Indian Origin)**.

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## 3 GA + FINANCE



## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

### 3.1 Framework for Disclosures by Fund Management Entities for ESG Schemes

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has released **Framework for Disclosures by Fund Management Entities for Environmental, Social or Governance (ESG) Schemes**.
- Objective:** to promote consistency, comparability and reliability in disclosures concerning ESG schemes.

#### Key Highlights from the Framework

- Applicability:** retail schemes, exchange traded funds (ETFs), restricted schemes and venture capital schemes, which-
  - terms, such as 'Environment', 'Social', 'ESG', 'Green', 'Sustainability' or any combination thereof or similar terms, incorporated in their names, or
  - represent or market themselves as ESG focused schemes.
- Initial Disclosures:** every ESG scheme launched by a FME must disclose the following-

- Name of the Scheme, Investment Objective, Investment Strategy, Investment Processes, Risks and Risk Management Practices & Benchmark.
- **Periodic Disclosures for ESG Schemes**
  - Disclosures on retail schemes should be done on a half-yearly basis.
  - Disclosures on other types of schemes, the compliance with the stated ESG-related investment objectives of the scheme, etc, should be done on annual basis.
- **Monitoring and Compliance**
  - To be done on half-yearly basis on retail schemes & annual basis for other types of schemes.

## Additional Information

- **Initiatives by IFSCA** to establish Gujarat International Finance Tech-city- International Financial Services Centre (**GIFT- IFSC**) as a hub for various sustainable finance related activities
  - Disclosure and listing of **Green Bonds, Social Bonds, Sustainability Bonds and Sustainability Linked Bonds**
  - **Sustainability reporting** by listed companies having **market capitalization above USD 50 million**
  - **IBUs and Finance Companies** to have **board approved framework on sustainable financing** and to have **at least 5% of their loan assets towards sustainable sectors**
  - **Sustainability related Disclosures by Fund Management Entities** managing corpus /Assets Under Management (**AUM**) above **USD 3 Billion**.



## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

### 3.2 Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has notified the **maiden issue of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)**.

#### Details of the Issue

- RBI will issue the bonds through **Uniform Price Auctions**.
- **Aggregate amount to be raised:** Rs 16,000 crore
- The auction will be conducted in **two tranches of Rs 8,000 crore each**.
  - It comprises **two bonds** maturing in **5 years** and **10 years** worth **Rs 4,000 crore each** at **both auctions**.
- **5% of the notified amount of sale** will be reserved for **retail investors** and will be **eligible for repurchase transactions (Repo)**.
- The **amount raised** will be deployed in **public sector projects** that **help in reducing the carbon intensity of the economy**.

#### Key Highlights

- SGrBs will be designated as **specified securities** under the **Fully Accessible Route** for **investment by non-residents**.

- SGrBs would be eligible for **when issued trading** in accordance with RBI guidelines.
- SGrBs would be **considered eligible investments** for Statutory Liquidity Ratio (**SLR**) purposes.

## Background

- The Government of India had announced the issuance of SGrBs in the **Union Budget 2022-23** as part of the **overall market borrowing**.
- In this regard, the **Sovereign Green Bonds framework** was released in **November 2022**.

## Key Terms

- **Fully Accessible Route:** Securities listed under the RBI's Fully Accessible Route do not have any limit on overseas investment.
- **When issued trading:** a transaction segment that enables market players to place bids at certain price levels before the actual auction of a bond is carried out.

## Additional Information

- The **market borrowing for 2022-23** is pegged at **Rs 14.21 trillion**, a **record high**.

**Note:** Sovereign Green Bonds Framework discussed in CurrentTap- November 2022 (News 3.1)

## 3.3 Debt Brokerage License

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has awarded **debt brokerage license** to **GoldenPi Technologies**, an Online Bond Platform Provider (**OBPP**) backed by Zerodha.
- GoldenPi Technologies has become the **first OBPP to receive debt brokerage license**.
- The license has been awarded under **the framework for OBPPs**.

**Note:** OBPPs discussed in CurrentTap- November 2022 ( News 3.5)

## 3.4 Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) Norm

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of India** has amended **Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956**.
- Under the amendment, **state-run companies** viz, listed central, state or Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) owned entities will continue to remain **exempted from minimum public shareholding (MPS) norm**.
- The exemption would be valid for a **specific period** & shall continue **even in case of change of control**.
- The move comes against the backdrop of **privatization of IDBI Bank**.

### MPS Norm

- All listed firms must ensure that non-promoters (public) hold at least 25% of their equity shares.

### SEBI Norm

- A company must have **MPS of 25% within one year** of the **merger with/acquisition of a company or three years after listing**.

## About Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956

- **Aim:** to prevent undesirable transactions in securities and to regulate the working of stock exchanges in India.

### 3.5 IDBI Bank Disinvestment

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has allowed the **Central Government to re-classify its stake** in IDBI Bank as '**public holding**' after disinvestment.
  - This is subject to the **condition** that the **Government's voting rights** in IDBI bank will **not exceed 15% of the total voting rights** after disinvestment.

**Note:** IDBI Bank Disinvestment details discussed in October 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.116)

### 3.6 Sustainability Bond

#### Why in News?

- Recently, **Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)** has issued **Sustainability Bond** under its Environmental Social Governance (**ESG**) Framework.
- With this issue, **India Exim Bank** became the **first Indian issuer** to open the markets for **dollar and sustainability bond issuances in 2023**.

#### Key Details of the Issue

- Amount Raised:** USD 1 billion
- Coupon Rate:** CT10 (US 10-year Treasury Bond) +190 basis points

#### About Sustainability Bonds

- A bond type where the proceeds will be exclusively used to finance or re-finance green and social projects.

### 3.7 e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, State Bank of India (**SBI**), in association with National e-Governance Services Limited (**NeSL**), has launched e-Bank Guarantee (**e-BG**) facility.

**Note:** e-Bank Guarantee discussed in CurrentTap- November 2022 (News 3.2).

### 3.8 Passive equity-linked savings scheme (ELSS)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has allowed **mutual funds** in India to launch **passive equity-linked savings scheme (ELSS)**.

#### Guidelines

- Passive ELSS can be launched **only after closing** the **existing actively managed ELSS fund for subscription**.
- All the **Systematic Investment Plan** and **Systematic Transfer Plan** into the **existing actively managed ELSS** should also be **stopped** after intimating the investors.
- Passive ELSS will be based on any **index comprising shares** from the **top 250 companies** in terms of **market capitalization**.
- Investors will be provided an **option to redeem their units without exit load**, subject to lock-in requirements.
- After **completing three years** from the date of stopping inflows in the **actively managed ELSS scheme**, it will be **merged with the passive ELSS**.

#### Background

- SEBI launched **passive ELSS category** in **May 2022** through a circular titled - **Development of Passive Funds.**

### About ELSS

- An **open-ended equity mutual fund** that mainly invests in **equities & equity-related products**.
- Lock-in period for investments under ELSS scheme:** three years
- Tax reduction:** up to Rs 1.5 lakh per financial year under 80C, Income Tax Act.

### About Passive Funds

- A passive fund builds its portfolio by tracking a **market index or a specific market segment**.
- Benefits:** low-cost investment option, tax benefits & lower expense ratio.

## 3.9 Corporate Bond Indices

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has allowed **stock exchanges to introduce future contracts on Corporate Bond Indices**.
- Recommended by:** Secondary Market Advisory Committee of SEBI, Working Group to recommend on the matter of 'Derivatives on Bond Indices'.
- Key Objective:** to enhance liquidity in the bond market

### Guidelines

- Stock Exchanges are permitted to introduce **derivative contracts on indices of corporate debt securities rated AA+ and above**.
- Stock Exchanges must submit **a detailed proposal to SEBI** to introduce such contracts.
- The derivative contract should be composed of **corporate debt securities**.
- The constituents of the index will be **reviewed every six months**.
- Minimum issuers in the index:** 8 issuers
- Maximum weight of single issuer in the index:** 15%
- Maximum weight in a particular group of issuers:** 25% (excluding public sector undertakings (PSUs), public financial institutions, and PSU banks).

## 3.10 Norms for AIF investment in CDS

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has allowed Alternative Investment Funds (**AIFs**) to participate in **Credit Default Swaps (CDS)**.
- In this regard, SEBI has amended **SEBI AIF Regulations, 2012**.

### Guidelines

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
15.	Guidelines for buying	<p><b>Category I and Category II AIFs-</b> can buy CDS on underlying investment in debt securities, only for the purpose of hedging.</p> <p><b>Category III AIFs -</b> can buy CDS for hedging or otherwise, within permissible leverage</p>

16.	<b>Guidelines for selling</b>	<b>Category II and Category III AIFs-</b> can sell CDS by earmarking unencumbered government bonds and treasury bills equal to the amount of the said CDS exposure.  <b>Condition for Category III AIFs to sell CDS-</b> effective leverage undertaken is within the permissible limits
17.	<b>Reporting details of CDS transactions</b>	AIFs must report the details to the custodian by the <b>next working day</b> .
18.	<b>Unhedged positions</b>	unhedged position, <b>exceeding 25%</b> of investable funds of the scheme of an AIF, would be taken only after intimating to all unit holders of the scheme
19.	<b>Guidelines for borrowing</b>	<b>Category I and II AIFs cannot borrow funds directly or indirectly and engage in leverage except for meeting temporary funding requirements for not more than 30 days, not more than four occasions in a year and not more than 10% of the investable funds</b>
20.	<b>Cooling off period between the two periods of borrowing or engaging in leverage.</b>	30 days

### About Credit Default Swap

- A specific kind of **counter-party agreement** that allows the **transfer of third-party credit risk from one party to another**.

**Note:** AIFs discussed in CurrentTap- November 2022 ( News 3.9)

### 3.11 Infrastructure Bonds

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the State Bank of India (**SBI**) has raised **Rs 9,718 crore** through the **issue of second tranche of infrastructure bonds**.
  - **Tenure: 15-years; coupon rate: 7.70%.**
- **SBI** has become the **first Indian Bank to issue infrastructure bonds with a tenure of 15 years**.

#### About Infrastructure bond

- A type of bond issued by public and private companies to raise funds to finance long term infrastructure projects.

### 3.12 Information Database on Municipal Bonds

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has organized an **outreach programme on municipal bonds and municipal finance** at New Delhi.
- SEBI has launched an **information database on municipal bonds** during the event.

#### About Municipal Bonds or Muni Bonds

- A debt instrument issued by municipal corporations or associated bodies.
- The funds raised through these bond will be used to fund projects for socio-economic development.

### 3.13 Sovereign Green Bonds

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has informed that there will be **no foreign investment cap on sovereign green bonds (SGrBs)**.
- SGrBs** will be considered as **specified securities** under the **fully accessible route**.

### 3.14 Issue of Bonds by NABARD

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has raised close to **Rs 5,000 crore** [Base size- Rs 2,000 crore & green shoe option- Rs 3,000 crore] via **bonds**.
  - Bond Maturity:** 3 years; **Coupon rate:** 7.63%.
- It is the **first bond issue by NABARD** in 2023.

## FINTECH

### 3.15 Regulatory Sandbox of RBI

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has announced the **opening** of the **Fourth Cohort** under **Regulatory Sandbox**.
- Theme:** 'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds'.
- Six entities** have been selected for the **test phase**.

#### Regulatory Sandbox of RBI

<b>Introduced in</b>	→ 2019
<b>Recommended by</b>	→ RBI's Working Group on FinTech and Digital Banking
<b>Meaning</b>	→ live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment
<b>Objective</b>	→ to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefits to consumers
<b>Themes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1st Cohort</b> → Retail Payments</li><li><b>2nd Cohort</b> → Cross-Border Payments</li><li><b>3rd Cohort</b> → Micro Small &amp; Medium Enterprises (MSME) Lending</li><li><b>4th Cohort</b> → Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds</li><li><b>5th Cohort</b> → Theme Neutral</li></ul>

### 3.16 UPI transactions for non-resident bank accounts

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has allowed **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions** for **non-resident bank accounts** like Non-Residential External (**NRE**) and Non- Resident Ordinary (**NRO**) linked to **International mobile numbers**.
- Ten countries** have been **allowed** under this facility viz, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and UK.

- All UPI members must comply with the norms by **April 30, 2023**

**Note:** UPI discussed in CurrentTap- December 1 to 7, 2022 (News 2.13).

### 3.17 Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit

#### Why in News?

- Recently, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (**PPBL**) has received **final approval** from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to operate as Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (**BBPOU**).
- The approval has been granted under **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

#### About BBPOU

- BBPOUs handle **payment and aggregation of payment services relating to bills** under the Bharat BillPay System (**BBPS**).

### 3.18 Payment Aggregators

#### Why in News?

- Recently, **EnKash, Hitachi Payment Services** and **BharatPe** have received **in-principal approval** from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to operate as an **online payment aggregator**.

**Note:** Payment Aggregators discussed in CurrentTap- November 2022 (News 3.12).

## RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

### 3.19 Mandatory KYC for Insurance

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has made Know Your Customer (**KYC**) norms **mandatory to buy new insurance policies, irrespective of the premium amount**.
- The new rule came into effect on **January 1, 2023**.
- It is **applicable for all types of insurance** viz, life, general and health insurance.

#### Key Guidelines

- **At present**, submitting KYC documents to renew policy is **not mandatory**
- However, if a **policy is due for renewal after January 1, 2023**, a customer must provide **photo identity and address proof** to the insurer to become KYC compliant.
- **Timeframe to submit KYC documents for renewal** by existing policy holders.
  - **Two years for low-risk policyholders**
  - **One year for other customers including high-risk customers.**

## 3.20 Memorandum of Association

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has directed State Bank of India (**SBI**) to **delete/amend various clauses** in its original Memorandum of Association (**MoA**) to **set up State Bank Operations Support Services Pvt. Ltd.**

### Memorandum of Association (MoA)

#### Features

- A **mandatory legal document** prepared during the **formation & registration process** of a company
- Represents the **charter** of a company
- Defines specific objectives** for which a company has been formed
- Defines relationship with shareholders**
- A company can **undertake only those activities mentioned** in MoA

#### Clauses

- Name Clause
- Registered Office Clause
- Object Clause
- Liability Clause
- Capital Clause

#### Minimum Signatories

- |                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| <b>Public Company</b>  | → Seven |
| <b>Private Company</b> | → Two   |

## 3.21 National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)

### Why in News?

- Recently, National Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd (**NARCL**) or **bad bank** emerged as the **top bidder** for the **assets of Kolkata-based Srei Group**.
- NARCL submitted the **highest offer** with a net present value (**NPV**) of **Rs 5,555 crore**.

### National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)

<b>Announced in</b>	→ Union Budget 2021-22				
<b>Set up by</b>	→ Public & Private Banks				
<b>Incorporated in</b>	→ July 2021				
<b>Registration</b>	→ Registered with RBI under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI) 2002				
<b>Aim</b>	→ to aggregate & consolidate stressed assets for subsequent resolution				
<b>Objective</b>	→ to resolve stressed loan assets above Rs 500 crore each amounting to about Rs 2 lakh crore				
<b>Acquisition Mode</b>	→ <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Cash</b></td> <td>→ 15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Security Receipts (SRs)</b></td> <td>→ 85%</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Cash</b>	→ 15%	<b>Security Receipts (SRs)</b>	→ 85%
<b>Cash</b>	→ 15%				
<b>Security Receipts (SRs)</b>	→ 85%				
<b>Government Guarantee</b>	→ invoked to cover the shortfall between the amount realised from the underlying assets and the face value of SRs issued				
	→ <b>Overall ceiling</b> → Rs 30,600 crore				
	→ <b>Validity</b> → 5 years				
<b>Sponsor Bank</b>	→ Canara Bank				
<b>PSBs share in ownership</b>	→ 51%				

## 3.22 Audit Standard on Sustainability Information

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (**SRSB**) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (**ICAI**) has issued **Standard on Sustainability Assurance Engagements (SSAE) 3000, "Assurance Engagements on Sustainability Information"**.
- It is the **world's first audit standard on sustainability information**.
- Objective:** to help its members provide reasonable or limited assurance on sustainable information by the reporting entities.

## Additional Information

- The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a **mandatory audit** of the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (**BRSR**) reports.
  - Under the initiative, **top 1,000 listed companies** are mandated to **submit BRSR reports** to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (**MCA**) starting from **2022-23**.
- **BRSR reports** have replaced the Business Responsibility Report (**BRR**).

## 3.23 Social Audit Standards

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (**ICAI**) has released the final set of its **Social Audit Standards (SASs)**.
- **Aim:** to provide the social auditor with the necessary guidance about independent assurance engagement on the impact assessment including the auditing procedure.
- **Total Social Audit Standards: 16**
- **Themes:** hunger, poverty, malnutrition, inequality, healthcare, education, gender equality, environmental sustainability, etc.
- Applicable to **social enterprises** that will get listed on the **social stock exchange**.
- **Mandatory for social auditors** registered with **Institute of Social Auditors of India (ISAI)**.

### Background

- The Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) had **mandated ICAI to develop SASs**.
- **ICAI central council had approved the framework of social audit standards (SAS)**.

**Note:** Social Stock Exchanges discussed in CurrentTap- December 2022 (News 3.19).

## BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

## 3.24 National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)

### Why in News?

- Recently, banks have completed the **transfer of Rs 9,234 crore of Jaypee Infratech loan** to the National Asset Reconstruction Company (**NARCL**).
- It is the **first acquisition of NARCL**.
- NARCL will **only acquire Jaypee Infratech loans** that are currently held by **9 public sector banks**.

**Note:** NARCL discussed in CurrentTap- December 1st to 7th, 2023 ( News 3.8).

## 3.25 Guidelines for Acquiring Stake in Banks

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has issued **Master Direction on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies**.

### Key Guidelines

- Any **person who intends to acquire**, which is likely to **result in major shareholding in a banking company**, must seek **previous approval of the RBI**.
- **Meaning of Major shareholding:** aggregate holding of 5% or more of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in a banking company by a person.

- Restriction:** Any person from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) non-compliant jurisdiction will not be allowed to acquire a major shareholding in a bank.
- Time period to comply to the norms:** banks where aggregate shareholding of entities is not in conformance with the guideline will have to comply with the norms **within six months**.
- Guidelines for private banks:** RBI will prescribe a differentiated shareholding dilution plan for private banks where the state or central government has a stake.

## 4 STATIC

### IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS

S.No	Organization Name	Headquarter	Establishment Year
1.	<b>Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)</b>	New Delhi	1958
2.	<b>United Nations (UN)</b>	New York, United States of America	October 24, 1945
3.	<b>Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	December, 1928
4.	<b>Gem &amp; Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1966
5.	<b>Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)</b>	New Delhi	September 5, 2005
6.	<b>Universal Postal Union (UPU)</b>	Bern, Switzerland	1874
7.	<b>National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS)</b>	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	1995
8.	<b>Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)</b>	Bengaluru, Karnataka	August 15, 1969
9.	<b>Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)</b>	New Delhi	December 23, 1986
10.	<b>Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)</b>	Hyderabad, Telangana	1967
11.	<b>Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)</b>	New Delhi	1958
12.	<b>NPCI</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	2008
13.	<b>India Exim Bank</b>	Mumbai	1982

14.	<b>Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)</b>	New Delhi	1985
15.	<b>Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)</b>	New Delhi	October 26, 2010
16.	<b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</b>	Bonn, Germany	1992
17.	<b>Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)</b>	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	April 2, 1990
18.	<b>Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</b>	Paris, France	September 30, 1961
19.	<b>Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	December, 1928
20.	<b>Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)</b>	New Delhi	2006
21.	<b>Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)</b>	New Delhi	1987
22.	<b>IFSCA</b>	GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.	2020
23.	<b>EPFO</b>	New Delhi	1952
24.	<b>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	Manila, Philippines	1966
25.	<b>World Customs Organisation (WCO)</b>	Brussels, Belgium	1953
26.	<b>NABARD</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1982

## COUNTRY, CURRENCY AND CAPITAL

S.No	Country	Currency	Capital
1.	<b>Australia</b>	Australian Dollar	Canberra
2.	<b>Belarus</b>	Belarusian Ruble	Minsk
3.	<b>Bhutan</b>	Ngultrum	Thimphu
4.	<b>Czech Republic</b>	Czech Koruna	Prague
5.	<b>Ecuador</b>	US Dollars	Quito
6.	<b>Egypt</b>	Egyptian Pound	Cairo

7.	<b>France</b>	Euro	Paris
8.	<b>Germany</b>	Euro	Berlin
9.	<b>Guyana</b>	Guyanese Dollar	Georgetown
10.	<b>Italy</b>	Euro	Rome
11.	<b>Japan</b>	Japanese Yen	Tokyo
12.	<b>Malta</b>	Euro	Vallletta
13.	<b>Mozambique</b>	Metical	Maputo
14.	<b>Netherlands</b>	Euro	Amsterdam
15.	<b>New Zealand</b>	New Zealand dollar	Wellington
16.	<b>Russia</b>	Ruble	Moscow
17.	<b>Serbia</b>	Serbian Dinar	Belgrade
18.	<b>South Korea</b>	South Korean Won	Seoul
19.	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Sri Lankan Rupee	Colombo
20.	<b>Suriname</b>	Surinamese Dollar	Paramaribo
21.	<b>Switzerland</b>	Swiss Franc	Bern
22.	<b>United Arab Emirates (UAE)</b>	Dirham	Abu Dhabi
23.	<b>United States</b>	US Dollars	Washington DC
24.	<b>United States of America</b>	US Dollar	Washington DC
25.	<b>United States of America</b>	U.S. dollars	Washington DC
26.	<b>United States of America (USA)</b>	US Dollar	Washington DC
27.	<b>South Africa</b>	Rand	Pretoria (executive) Cape Town (legislative) Bloemfontein (judicial)

## BANKS – HEADQUARTERS AND TAGLINES

S.No	Banks	Headquarter	Tagline
1.	<b>HDFC Bank</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	We Understand Your World
2.	<b>ICICI Bank</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Khayal Apka
3.	<b>Bandhan Bank</b>	Kolkata, West Bengal	Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai

4.	<b>Canara Bank</b>	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Together We Can
5.	<b>RBL Bank</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Apno Ka Bank
6.	<b>Axis Bank</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi
7.	<b>Dhanlaxmi Bank</b>	Thrissur, Kerala	Tann Mann Dhan
8.	<b>Indian Overseas Bank</b>	Chennai	Good People to Grow With
9.	<b>Bandhan Bank</b>	Kolkata, West Bengal	Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai
10.	<b>Canara Bank</b>	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Together We Can
11.	<b>AU Small Finance Bank</b>	Jaipur, Rajasthan	--



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