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# National & States Affairs

**1.** On May 2, the University Grants Commission (UGC) launched the “CU-Chayan”, a unified recruitment portal, designed and developed specifically for the faculty recruitments in central universities. The portal aims at catering to the needs of all stakeholders in the recruitment process by providing a common platform for listing of vacancies/ advertisements/ jobs across making the recruitment process completely online in the central universities. [{Read more}](#)

## **Smart Points:**

- UGC – launched the “CU-Chayan”, a unified recruitment portal for the faculty recruitments in central universities
- HQs of UGC – New Delhi | Chairman – M. Jagadesh Kumar | Founded in – 1956

**2.** The Centre has extended the deadline by 6 months to obtain the mandatory Electric Vehicle (EV) Battery Safety Test Certification from the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The certification was compulsory for manufacturers from April 1, 2023, if they wanted subsidies under various EV-promotion schemes. Now, the ministry has given an extension till October 1, 2023. The incentives were under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II) Scheme and Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) schemes. The certification aimed at enhancing human safety of the battery used in EVs by requiring checks at 3 levels - the cell, battery management system (BMS), and the battery pack. [{Read more}](#)

## **Smart Points:**

- The Centre extended deadline to obtain mandatory EV Battery Safety Test Certification till October 1, 2023
- The Certification will be provided by – Ministry of Heavy Industries
- The certification is compulsory for manufacturers to get subsidies under FAME-II Scheme & PLI schemes
- Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal

**3.** India announced to join the International Civil Aviation Organisation’s (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027. This was announced at a meeting of the Parliament’s Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Civil Aviation held in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia. The ICAO has been tasked to reduce carbon emissions from international civil aviation as one of its focus areas. The ICAO has adopted several key aspirational goals including - 2% Annual Fuel Efficiency Improvement through 2050, and Carbon Neutral Growth and Net Zero by 2050. India committed to net zero by 2070 at the CoP26. [{Read more}](#)

## **Smart Points:**

- India – to join the ICAO’s Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) & the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027
- Parliament’s Consultative Committee of MoCA – held in New Delhi (chaired by – Jyotiraditya Scindia)
- ICAO has adopted several key aspirational goals:
  - 2% Annual Fuel Efficiency Improvement through 2050
  - Carbon Neutral Growth and Net Zero by 2050
- HQs of ICAO – Montreal, Canada | Council President – Salvatore Sciacchitano | Members – 193

4. A mutual firefighting Exercise named “AGNI DAMAN-23” was conducted at 29 Field Ammunition Depot, Dehu Road under the aegis of Headquarter Southern Command, Pune. The exercise aimed to emphasise the need for awareness and training of men on firefighting as also to exercise the capabilities of combined forces of all agencies including military and civil. The exercise was a landmark endeavour in synergizing all the firefighting resources available with military and civil establishment in Pune. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- “AGNI DAMAN-23” – a mutual firefighting exercise conducted under aegis of Headquarter Southern Command, Pune
- Aim – to exercise the capabilities of combined forces of all agencies including military & civil

5. On May 1, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) organised “Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyan”, a multi modal expedition as a part of 64<sup>th</sup> BRO Day Celebrations, to commemorate the sacrifices and contribution of its Karmyogis in nation building. Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhry, Director General Border Roads flagged off the Motor cycle and car rally teams from Seema Sadak Bhawan, New Delhi. The motorcycle leg of the expedition commenced from Kibithu, Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- BRO – organised “Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyan” as a part of 64<sup>th</sup> BRO Day Celebrations
- Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhry (DG BRO) – flagged off Motor cycle & car rally teams from Seema Sadak Bhawan, New Delhi
- Motorcycle leg expedition – commenced from Kibithu, Arunachal Pradesh
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary | Founded on – May 7, 1960
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

6. On May 1, the Central Government decided to extend the ‘Smart Cities Mission (SCM)’ deadline by one year, from June 2023 to June 2024. The flagship mission, which involves development of 100 cities into smart cities, had an initial deadline of June 2021. This would be the second extension of the mission, which was launched on June 25, 2015. According to sources, only 50 cities would be able to complete projects by June 2023. The extension would help cities to complete 100% of the projects by June 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Statistical Track**

<p>As per housing and urban affairs ministry, 7,742 projects worth ₹1,81,561 crore sanctioned under the mission</p>	<p>Around 5,700 projects (72%) worth ₹1,07,000 crore (60% by value) completed by April 30</p> <p>Around 50 cities have completed close to 75% of their projects and are on track to complete remaining works by June 2023</p>
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**Smart Points:**

- Central Government – extended the ‘Smart Cities Mission (SCM)’ deadline by one year (till June 2024)
- Smart Cities Mission – launched on June 25, 2015 for development of 100 cities into smart cities

7. India’s first undersea twin tunnels in Mumbai are set to open in November 2023. The tunnels are 2.07-km long and are a part of Rs 12,721 Crore Mumbai Coastal Road Project (MCRP). The twin tunnels start near Girgaon and end at Priyadarshini Park. The famous tunnels are being constructed by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The most important part of the project is the usage of the largest ever tunnel boring machine in the history of India, named ‘Mavala’. The name has been given in honour of Shivaji’s warfare experts from the Koli and Kunbi community. It is manufactured by the China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Company Ltd (CRCHI). [{Read more}](#)

**THE TWIN TUNNELS**

The tunnels start at Girgaon and end at Breach Candy. They are a part of the Mumbai Coastal Road Project

<b>2.07KM</b> Total length of each tunnel	<b>1KM</b> Stretch that lies under the sea	<b>17-20M</b> Depth of tunnels under the sea
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### Smart Points:

- India's first undersea twin tunnels – will be opened in Mumbai in November 2023
- The tunnels are part of Rs 12,721 Cr Mumbai Coastal Road Project & 2.07-km long
- The tunnels start near Girgaon & end at Priyadarshini Park
- Constructed by – Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation
- Manufactured by – China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Company Ltd (CRCHI)
- The largest ever tunnel boring machine named 'Mavala' was used
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

8. On May 4, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur, flagged off "MV-ITT LION (V-273)" from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata as the inaugural shipment to operationalise the Sittwe Port in Rakhine State of Myanmar. The Port has been built under a grant assistance from the Government of India as part of Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP). The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is a project Development Consultant for the implementation of Port. The V-273 was carrying 20,000 bags containing 1,000 metric tonnes of cement. The Kaladan Project is an another project between India and Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Shantanu Thakur – flagged off "MV-ITT LION (V-273)" from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
- It was the inaugural shipment to operationalise the Sittwe Port in Rakhine State of Myanmar
- Sittwe Port – built under a grant assistance from India as part of KMTTP
- Project Development Consultant – IWAI
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Myint Swe | PM – Min Aung Hlaing

9. On May 3, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone of the Vizag Tech Park, India's 1<sup>st</sup> data park. The 300-Megawatt (MW) data centre being set up by the Adani Group at Visakhapatnam would facilitate the laying of a submarine cable from Singapore and help change future dynamics of the broadband services. The Adani Group is setting up two data centres - one of 200 MW and the other of 100 MW. The Rs 21,844 Cr Vizag Tech Park is a subsidiary of the Adani Group. The Adani data centre would be the biggest such facility in India. The Tech Park would provide direct employment to 39,815 people in a phased manner over 7 years and indirect employment to 10,610 persons. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy – laid foundation stone of India's 1<sup>st</sup> data park, Vizag Tech Park, at Visakhapatnam
- Cost – Rs 21,844 Cr | Set up by – Adani Group | The Vizag Tech Park is a subsidiary of Adani Group
- Adani Group – setting up two data centres (200 MW + 100 MW)
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati | CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Syed Abdul Nazeer

**10.** On May 4, the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet decided to provide Rs 1,500 per month as 'Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi' to all the women aged 18-60 years in Spiti valley. This was one of the 10 guarantees promised by the Congress in its election manifesto during the assembly polls. The cabinet also decided to increase Certain Goods Carried by Roads (CGCR) tax on tobacco in all forms from Rs 3 per quintal to Rs 4.50 per quintal. Besides, the Cabinet decided to give Rs 600 in lieu of school uniforms through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to about 5.25 lakh students (girls and boys) of class I to VIII, studying in government schools. It also decided to amend Swaran Jayanti Energy Policy, 2021 to make transfer of land for setting up solar power and new and renewable energy projects on lease/ purchase/ acquisition basis. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Some key decisions taken by Himachal Pradesh Cabinet:
  - To provide Rs 1,500 per month as 'Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi' to all women of 18-60 years in Spiti valley
  - To increase CGCR tax on tobacco in all forms from Rs 3 per quintal to Rs 4.50 per quintal
  - To give Rs 600 in lieu of school uniforms through DBT to all government schools students of class I to VIII
  - To amend 'Swaran Jayanti Energy Policy 2021' for transfer of land for setting up solar power & new and RE projects
- **HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu | Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla**

**11.** As of May 4, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Government of India has set a target of 332 million tonne (MT) for foodgrain production for the 2023-24 crop year (July-June), a 2.6% increase from the previous year. The goal includes the production of 29.25 MT of pulses, 44 MT of oilseed, and 17 MT of millets. According to the government's second advance estimates, foodgrains production in 2022-23 crop year ending June is estimated at 323.5 MT.

[{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Govt set a target of 332 MT for foodgrain production for 2023-24 crop year (2.6% increase)
- The goal includes the production of 29.25 MT of pulses, 44 MT of oilseed, and 17 MT of millets
- Foodgrains production in 2022-23 crop year ending June is estimated at 323.5 MT
- **Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar | Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh**
- **MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary**

**12.** On May 4, Tata-SIA airline Vistara became the first Indian carrier to operate a commercial domestic flight on a wide-body aircraft using Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). With a blend of 17% SAF and 83% conventional jet fuel, the airline operated a brand new 'Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner' from Delhi to Mumbai. Last month, Vistara operated a wide-body aircraft on a long-haul international route using sustainable aviation fuel, first in India. Vistara is also working through the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) to lower CO2 emissions for international flights. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Vistara – became 1<sup>st</sup> Indian carrier to operate a commercial domestic flight on a wide-body aircraft using Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)
- With blend of 17% SAF & 83% conventional jet fuel, airline operated 'Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner' from Delhi to Mumbai
- **HQs of Vistara Airline – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Vinod Kannan (a JV between Tata Sons & SIA)**



**13.** On May 6, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) announced to set up Asia's largest biogas plant in Mumbai to scientifically treat the segregated wet-waste of the city into compressed bio-gas (CBG). The plant will have a capacity to treat 1,000 tonnes of wet waste daily. The proposal of setting up this plant came from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The BMC will set up this plant jointly with Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), which is a Public Sector Undertaking of the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). At present, Mumbai generates 6,000 tonnes of solid waste, out of which 3,500 tonnes are wet-waste. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Brihanmumbai MC – to set up Asia's largest biogas plant in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- The plant will have a capacity to treat 1,000 tonnes of wet waste daily
- BMC will set up this plant jointly with Mahanagar Gas Limited (a PSU of GAIL)
- **Maharashtra:** CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**14.** On May 6, the “Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship (C-i2 RE)” was inaugurated by IT Minister K. Taraka Ramarao at the Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science (KITS) Warangal campus in Telangana. The Centre will promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the student community to inculcate research and innovative skills among the students, faculty, and young researchers. Over Rs 5 Crore have been invested in the necessary infrastructural facilities. The main objective of the Innovation Centre is to face the latest Engineering, technological and entrepreneurship challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to adopt advanced technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship (C-i2 RE)” – inaugurated in Telangana
- The Centre will promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the student community
- **Telangana:** Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilsai Soundararajan

**15.** On May 8, a panel formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recommended that India should ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheeler vehicles by 2027 and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles in cities with more than a million people and polluted towns in order to cut emissions. India, one of the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, wants to produce 40% of its electricity from renewables to achieve its 2070 net zero goal. India aims to raise the share of gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030 from 6.2% now. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- A panel formed by MoPNG recommended: India should ban the use of diesel-powered 4-wheeler vehicles by 2027 in cities with more than 1 million people
- India aims to produce 40% of its electricity from renewables to achieve its 2070 net zero goal
- India aims to raise the share of gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030 (from 6.2% now)
- **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas:** Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- **MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas:** Rameswar Teli

**16.** In May 2023, Odisha government announced to build India's first Resettlement Colony for the people of Satbhaya in Kendrapada district, displaced due to coastal erosion and climate change. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sanctioned Rs 22.5 Crore for the colony's first development phase at Bagapatia. The funds will be utilised for the construction of houses, drinking water, electricity connections, road and other facilities for the displaced people. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Odisha – to build India’s first Resettlement Colony in Kendrapada district for the people of Satbhaya
- Odisha CM sanctioned Rs 22.5 Cr for the colony’s first development phase at Bagapatia
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**17.** On May 8, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State (MoS) for Health and Family Welfare, launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY)” - an initiative of Health Ministry and supported by Coal India Limited (CIL) as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. She also launched the Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana Portal. Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that causes a body to have less hemoglobin than normal. The Union Health Ministry has been implementing the TBSY since 2017 under the National Health Mission (NHM). The Coal India CSR-funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) program is a unique initiative aimed at providing a one-time cure opportunity to underprivileged Thalassemia patients. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Bharati Pravin Pawar – launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY)”
- She also launched the ‘Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana Portal’ (Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder)
- TBSY is an initiative of Health Ministry | Supported by – CIL (as part of CSR)
- ‘Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT)’ program – supported by CIL (as part of CSR)
- [Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya](#) | [Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar & S. P. Singh Baghel](#)

**18.** On May 5, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has levied ₹4,000 Crore environmental compensation on Bihar for failing to scientifically manage solid and liquid waste. The amount will be used for setting up solid waste processing facilities, remediation of legacy waste and setting up of sewage treatment plants, and faecal sludge and septage treatment plants so there remains no gap. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- NGT – levied ₹4,000 Cr environmental compensation on Bihar for failing to scientifically manage solid & liquid waste
- [Bihar: Capital – Patna](#) | [CM – Nitish Kumar](#) | [Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arleka](#)

**19.** On May 5, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur, flagged off the vessel “M.V. MSS Galena” from V.O. Chidambaranar Port. It is a direct shipping service between Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu and Maldives as part of efforts to improve connectivity and bilateral trade between the two countries. The ‘M.V. MSS Galena’ has a carrying capacity of 421 TEUs of containers. The initiative will cut logistical and other costs, enhance connectivity, and reduce the time taken to transport goods between India and Maldives. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Shantanu Thakur – flagged off vessel “M.V. MSS Galena” from V.O. Chidambaranar Port
- It is a direct shipping service between Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu and Maldives
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

**20.** On May 10, Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, launched the “SAKSHAM” (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management), a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). This digital learning platform has been developed by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi. SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in India. Currently, ‘SAKSHAM: LMIS’ is hosting more than 200 public health and 100 clinical courses through online mode. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Rajesh Bhushan – launched the “SAKSHAM”, a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of MoHFW
- SAKSHAM – **S**timulating **A**dvanced **K**nowledge for **S**ustainable **H**ealth **M**anagement
- The platform has been developed by – National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi
- SAKSHAM – a dedicated & unified platform for providing online training & medical education to health professionals

**21.** On May 12, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D. Y. Chandrachud launched ‘E-filing 2.0’, the facility for filing cases electronically around the clock. He also inaugurated an ‘e-Sewa Kendra’ on the apex court’s premises. It aims to provide litigants and lawyers with a one-stop solution for all their needs. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- D. Y. Chandrachud – launched ‘E-filing 2.0’ & ‘e-Sewa Kendra’ for lawyers & litigants
- Present CJI of Supreme Court – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – Jan 28, 1950
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25<sup>th</sup>) | Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- Election Commissioners (2) – Anup Chandra Pandey & Arun Goel

**22.** On May 9, MyGov and the Ministry of Culture launched the “Yuva Pratibha - Singing Talent Hunt”. The aim of the programme is to promote Indian music at the grassroots level on a national scale by identifying and recognising new and young talent in various singing genres. The initial submission for the competition will be open for one and half months. Those who want to participate can do so in three genres: Folk Songs, Patriotic Songs and Contemporary Songs. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- MyGov + Ministry of Culture = launched “Yuva Pratibha - Singing Talent Hunt”
- Three genres to participate in – Folk Songs, Patriotic Songs & Contemporary Songs
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi

**23.** On May 10, the Finance Ministry notified a reduction in the threshold for e-invoicing. Businesses with turnover of over Rs 5 Crore will have to generate e-invoice for B2B transactions with effect from August 1, 2023. Currently, the threshold of the turnover is Rs 10 Crore. Inclusion of MSME sector in the e-invoicing regime would benefit the overall business ecosystem by reducing costs, rationalising errors, ensuring faster invoice processing, and limiting commercial disputes in the long term. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Businesses with turnover of over Rs 5 Cr will have to generate e-invoice for B2B transactions – from Aug 1, 2023
- Currently, the threshold of the turnover is Rs 10 Cr
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

**24.** As of May 10, India has achieved another major milestone under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G)' with 50% of the total villages in the country achieving ODF Plus status under phase II of the SBM-G. An ODF Plus village is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems. As on date, more than 2.96 lakh villages have declared themselves ODF Plus, which is a significant step towards achieving the SBM-G phase II goals by 2024-25. The top performing states in terms of percentage of ODF Plus villages are - Telangana (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), and Tamil Nadu (97.8%) among the big states, and Goa (95.3%) and Sikkim (69.2%) among small states. Among UTs, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep have 100% ODF Plus Model villages. The allocation for the year 2023-24 under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) is Rs 52,137 Crore. In the next financial year, the Centre aims to bring around 50,000 more villages across India under the Open Defecation Free (ODF) plus status by 2024. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 50% of the total villages in India (2.96 lakh villages) – achieved 'ODF Plus' status under phase II of the SBM-G
- The Centre aims to bring around 50,000 more villages across India under 'ODF Plus' status by 2024
- The center has allocated Rs 52,137 Crore under the SBM-G for FY24
- Top performing states in terms of percentage of ODF Plus villages:
  - Big states – Telangana (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), Tamil Nadu (97.8%)
  - Small states – Goa (95.3%) & Sikkim (69.2%)
  - UTs – Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep (all with 100%)

**25.** On May 8, amid consistent rise in deaths of pedestrians and cyclists, Punjab has become first among the states and UTs to implement the 'Right to Walk' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), to provide footpath and cycle tracks in all future expansion of roads and construction of new ones. Government data show that the number of pedestrians killed in road crashes has increased from 25,858 in 2019 to 29,124 in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Punjab – became 1<sup>st</sup> states/UTs to implement the 'Right to Walk' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Santosh Kumar Yadav | Founded in – 1988

**26.** On May 9, Telangana government launched the "State Robotics Framework", a first of its kind policy in India, aimed at creating a sustainable robotics ecosystem and to position the state as a leader in the field of robotics. The framework was developed by the Emerging Technologies Wing of the ITE&C Department of Telangana in collaboration with the All India Robotics Association. To fulfill its vision, the state shall set up a separate body called the Telangana Robotics Innovation Center (TRIC). In addition, Telangana is planning to organize a "Global Robotics Summit" to showcase its growing robotics ecosystem and attract investments from across the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Telangana – launched "State Robotics Framework", a first of its kind policy in India
- The framework was developed by = ITE&C Department of Telangana + All India Robotics Association
- Telangana – to set up a separate body called 'Telangana Robotics Innovation Center' (TRIC)
- Telangana – to organize a "Global Robotics Summit" to showcase its robotics ecosystem & attract investments
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**27.** In May 2023, Kerala Higher Education Minister R. Bindu formally launched the “Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF)”, modelled on the lines of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), to assess the quality of higher education institutions in the State. The Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) will be the implementing agency of the annual ranking exercise. The State has become the first in the country to establish a State-specific Ranking Framework for its higher education institutions. The Minister also launched the KIRF website ([www.kirf.kshec.org](http://www.kirf.kshec.org)) & logo and released revised handbook on outcome based education prepared by KSHEC.



[{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- R. Bindu (Kerala Minister) – launched “KIRF”, modelled on lines of NIRF
- KIRF – Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework
- Implementing agency – Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC)
- Kerala – became 1<sup>st</sup> in the country to establish a State-specific Ranking Framework for its higher education institutions
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**28.** In May 2023, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the “International Museum Expo 2023” at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The International Museum Expo was organised as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate the 47<sup>th</sup> International Museum Day (IMD). During the programme, Prime Minister inaugurated a virtual walkthrough of the upcoming National Museum called ‘Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum’ at the North and South Blocks. Prime Minister unveiled the Mascot of the International Museum Expo, a contemporized version of the Dancing girl made of wood in the Chennapatnam art style. Besides, he also unveiled the Graphic Novel - A Day at the Museum, the Directory of Indian Museums, the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards. An app-based video game ‘Indian Museum Tycoon’ was also launched. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- PM Modi – inaugurated “International Museum Expo 2023” at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
- He also inaugurated a virtual walkthrough of upcoming National Museum called ‘Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum’
- He also unveiled the Mascot of the International Museum Expo
- An app-based video game ‘Indian Museum Tycoon’ was also launched
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

**29.** On May 9, Israel Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, during his official visit to India, launched the project “World on Wheels (WoW) Bus”. The project World on Wheels aims to facilitate digital literacy, personality development, and entrepreneurship training in rural parts of India. He met India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and signed an agreement that will allow 42,000 Indian workers to work in Israel. During his visit, Cohen also visited the India Gate and then paid homage at Delhi’s Teen Murti Haifa Chowk along with Mr. Jaishankar. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Eli Cohen (Israel Foreign Minister) – launched the project “World on Wheels (WoW) Bus” (during his visit to India)
- Aim – to facilitate digital literacy, personality development, & entrepreneurship training in rural parts of India
- India + Israel = an agreement to allow 42,000 Indian workers to work in Israel
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**30.** On May 11, Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi has become the first in India to have a reading lounge. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's advisor Awanish Awasthi inaugurated the lounge. The lounge has been established with the assistance of National Book Trust (NBT). The lounge also has a dedicated shelf of the budding authors displaying their recently published books under the 'Prime Minister's Mentorship Scheme for Young Writers (PM-YUVA Scheme)'. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport (Varanasi) – became the first in India to have a reading lounge
- The lounge has been established with the assistance of – National Book Trust (NBT)
- The lounge has a dedicated shelf of recently published books under the 'PM-YUVA Scheme'

**31.** In May 2023, The Centre ordered that public broadcaster, previously known as 'All India Radio (AIR)', be exclusively referred to as 'Akashvani' in all broadcasts and programmes. Previously, the two names were used interchangeably. The name Akashvani was adopted by AIR in 1956. In India, the Radio Club of Bombay sent out the first commercial transmission in 1923. Today, with a network of over 262 radio stations, AIR is available to 92% of India's area and nearly all of its population. It broadcasts in 23 languages and 146 dialects. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 'All India Radio (AIR)' – to be exclusively referred to as 'Akashvani' in all broadcasts & programmes
- The name Akashvani – was adopted by AIR in 1956
- Radio Club of Bombay – sent out the first commercial transmission in 1923 (In India)
- AIR – available to 92% of India's area with over 262 radio stations & broadcasts in 23 languages and 146 dialects
- HQs of AIR – New Delhi | DG – Vasudha Gupta

**32.** On May 12, London Stock Exchange Group PLC (LSEG) announced to set up a 'Technology Centre of Excellence' in Hyderabad, Telangana. It will generate employment for about 1000 people in a year. An MoU was also signed by Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of IT and Industries Departments (Govt of Telangana), and LSE Group CIO Anthony McCarthy. The CoE will boost the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) ecosystem in the city. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- London Stock Exchange Group – to set up a 'Technology Centre of Excellence' in Hyderabad, Telangana
- The CoE will boost **B**anking, **F**inancial **S**ervices & **I**nsurance (BFSI) ecosystem in the city
- **Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan**

**33.** On May 16, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the "Sanchar Saathi", an artificial intelligence-based portal that will enable telecom users to trace and block their lost or stolen phones, even if a new SIM is inserted. The portal will help in protecting the personal data on stolen or lost phones and will allow them to be disconnected from any network provider. The minister launched total 3 consumer-facing reforms. First is centralised identity equipment registered as the first leg. The second is to know one's mobile. Astr is the third reform, which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to find out the total number of connections each person has taken. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

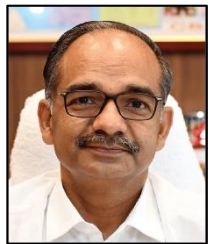
- Ashwini Vaishnaw – launched “Sanchar Saathi”, an AI-based portal to detect telecom frauds
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan

**34.** On May 14, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) along with BSE Ltd and NSE Ltd has established an “Investor Service Center (ISC)” in New Delhi. The ISC which is managed by BSE, was inaugurated by SEBI Whole Time Member Shri SK Mohanty. This Centre will facilitate the resolution of complaints of investors against all listed corporate entities and other registered intermediaries in the securities market and also facilitate conducting of investor awareness programs in the entire Northern Region. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- SEBI + BSE Ltd + NSE Ltd = established an “Investor Service Center (ISC)” in New Delhi
- SK Mohanty (SEBI Whole Time Member) – inaugurated the ISC
- The ISC which is managed by BSE | ISC – will facilitate the resolution of complaints from investors
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Subhash Sheoratan Mundra | MD & CEO – Sundararaman Ramamurthy

**35.** On May 14, a group, constituted by Ministry of Power for “Development of Electricity Market in India” under the chairmanship of Alok Kumar (Secretary, Ministry of Power), has submitted a report to Union Power Minister RK Singh. The report proposed comprehensive solutions to address key issues, including the dominance of inflexible long-term contracts, harnessing the inherent diversity of a large and synchronous grid. The solutions are aimed at creating an efficient, optimal, and reliable market framework to enable the energy transition and integration of renewable energy into the grid. The Union Minister also directed to immediately undertake the development of new renewable energy (RE) capacity based on Contract for Difference (CfD) methodology in order to ensure competition and transparency. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- A group constituted for “Development of Electricity Market in India” has submitted its report to Power Minister
- The group is chaired by – Alok Kumar (Secretary, Ministry of Power)
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar

**36.** On May 13, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members have unanimously adopted India’s proposal for developing the “Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)” as the right way for deploying digital technology among member states. Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said DPI is very important from the perspective of having completion, making sure that technology is democratised and making sure of digitally inclusive growth among member states. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- SCO members – adopted India’s proposal for developing “Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)”
- Aim – deploying digital technology among member states
- 4 Observer States of SCO – Iran, Belarus, Afghanistan & Mongolia
- 6 Dialogue Partners of SCO – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Turkey
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | SG – Zhang Ming | Present Member Countries – 8 | Current Presidency – India

**37.** In May 2023, PM Narendra Modi flagged off Odisha's first Vande Bharat Express from Puri to Howrah. It is overall 16<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express train. He also laid the foundation stone and dedicated several railway projects worth more than Rs 8,000 crore to the people of Odisha. He dedicated 100% electrification of the railway network in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – flagged off Odisha's first Vande Bharat Express from Puri to Howrah
- It is overall 16<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express train
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**38.** Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, L. Murugan, would lead Indian delegation to the 76<sup>th</sup> edition of “Cannes International Film Festival” this year. The India Pavilion is being conceptualised and designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, with the theme “Showcasing India's Creative Economy” to the global community. The pavilion design has been inspired by the Saraswati Yantra. Four Indian films have made it to the official selection in the festival. Mr. Murugan will be accompanied by Guneet Monga (filmmaker of ‘The Elephant Whisperers’), Manushi Chillar (actor, model & Miss World 2017 winner), actor Esha Gupta, and Kangabam Tomba - an acclaimed Manipuri actor whose restored film Ishanau is being screened in the Cannes Classic Section. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- L. Murugan – to lead Indian delegation to the 76<sup>th</sup> edition of “Cannes International Film Festival” this year
- India Pavilion is being conceptualised & designed by – National Institute of Design (Ahmedabad)
- Pavilion's Theme – “Showcasing India's Creative Economy” | Pavilion design is inspired by – Saraswati Yantra
- [Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh](#)
- [Ministry of Education – Dharmendra Pradhan \(Constituency – Deogarh, Madhya Pradesh\)](#)

**39.** On May 15, Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, launched a mobile application, called “Meri LiFE” (My life) to catalyze youth action for climate change. This app is inspired by the concept of LiFE, envisioned by PM Narendra Modi at COP 26, which emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless & wasteful consumption. Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was launched by the Prime Minister on 20 October 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat and focuses on bringing about behavior changes in individuals through simple easy-to-do actions. The ‘Meri LiFE Portal’ (merilife.org) has been developed for ministries and institutions to upload event reports and capture the progress of the mass mobilisation drive. The mass mobilization campaign will culminate on the occasion of World Environment Day 2023 on June 5. The theme for this year is “Solutions to Plastic Pollution”, a topic which aligns with one of the 7 themes of Mission LiFE: “Reducing the use of Single-use Plastic Items”. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav – launched “Meri LiFE” (My life) mobile application to catalyze youth action for climate change
- Mission LiFE – launched by PM Modi on 20 October 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat
- ‘Meri LiFE Portal’ – developed to upload event reports & capture progress of mass mobilisation drive
- June 5 – World Environment Day 2023 | Theme – “Solutions to Plastic Pollution”
- [Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey](#)



**40.** On May 13, the IRDAI constituted a 5-member expert committee comprising medical experts and insurers for advice on matters related to mental health and insurance. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) Director Pratima Murthy is the Chairperson of the committee. The committee will be providing advice and inputs on existing coverage and those to be offered for mental illnesses. The panel, with a two-year tenure, comes in the backdrop of mental health being identified as an important area requiring attention for insurance coverage. Separately, IRDAI advised all insurers to comply with the provisions pertaining to insurance covers for the surrogate mother and oocyte donor under the 'Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021', and 'ART Act, 2021'. Under the 'Surrogacy (Regulation) Act' the intending woman or couple should purchase a 3-year health insurance for the surrogate mother. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- IRDAI – constituted 5-member committee for advice on matters related to mental health & insurance with 2-year tenure
- Chairperson of the committee – Pratima Murthy (Director of NIMHANS)
- Under 'Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021' Intending woman or couple should purchase a 3-year health insurance for surrogate mother
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Debasish Panda

**41.** On May 15, Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra inaugurated an online rural education programme "Pahal" at Government UP Sainik Inter College, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This programme has been prepared by the Department of Secondary Education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur. Under this programme, free online education will be provided at 10 government secondary schools of the state in the initial phase. This facility will be provided in 40,000 schools in the state in the coming days. Moreover, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given the mantra of Triple S (Skill, Scale, Speed) - first you learn, scale-up and then through speed, benefit all the people. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Durga Shankar Mishra (UP Chief Secretary) – inaugurated an online rural education programme "Pahal"
- Free online education will be provided at 10 government secondary schools initially & later in 40,000 schools
- The programme is prepared by = Department of Secondary Education + IIT Kanpur
- The mantra of Triple S given by PM Modi – Skill, Scale, Speed
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**42.** On May 13, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), in collaboration with Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University and Sanrachna Foundation, held Rabindra Jayanti Celebrations in New Delhi. On this occasion, "Vigyan Vaibhav" portal, developed by IGNCA, was launched by Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs. Vigyan vaibhav is dedicated to 75 Indian scientists. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- IGNCA + Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University + Sanrachna Foundation = held Rabindra Jayanti Celebrations in New Delhi
- Meenakshi Lekhi – launched "Vigyan Vaibhav" portal, developed by IGNCA
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakashi Lekhi
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakashi Lekhi

**43.** On May 16, Skill development project Adani Saksham said its Adani Skill Development Centre (ASDC) has become the world's first skill centre to enter the metaverse. Adani Saksham is the skill-development vertical of Adani Foundation and completes a 7-year milestone. With Metaverse, ASDC is stepping into a phase where knowledge, skills, and technology converge to create an immersive educational experience through virtual classrooms. Recognising the national urgency in healthcare and safety standards, ASDC has prioritised courses like General Duty Assistant (GDA) to support the healthcare and hospital industry, and fire safety in the Metaverse. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Adani Skill Development Centre (ASDC) – became world's 1<sup>st</sup> skill centre to enter the metaverse
- Adani Saksham – skill-development vertical of Adani Foundation
- ASDC – has prioritised courses to support healthcare & hospital industry, and fire safety in the Metaverse

**44.** On May 13, Bhopal has become the first city in India to join the growing global movement on localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) following the release of its Voluntary Local Review (VLR). In 2015, the 193 member-states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets as a plan of action for 'People', 'The Planet', and 'Prosperity'. India's Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) has published a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for the review and monitoring of the SDGs, which contextualises the UN's Global Indicator Framework to represent India's unique development journey. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Bhopal – became 1<sup>st</sup> city in India to join growing global movement on localisation of SDGs following its release of VLR
- 193 member-states of UN adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which consists of 17 SDGs
- It also has 169 targets as a plan of action for 'People', 'The Planet', and 'Prosperity'
- MoSPI – published a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for review & monitoring of the SDGs
- [MoS I/C of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation: Rao Inderjit Singh](#) | [Constituency – Gurgaon, Haryana](#)

**45.** On May 16, the University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof M. Jagadesh Kumar launched the redesigned websites, "UTSAH" (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) and "POP" (Professor of Practice Portal). The objective behind introducing 'Professor of Practice' by UGC is to enhance the quality of higher education by bringing practitioners, policymakers, skilled professionals, etc. into the higher education system. It will help directly hire industry experts as professors. While the 'UTSAH' portal will provide a comprehensive platform providing detailed information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Prof M. Jagadesh Kumar (UGC Chairman) – launched the redesigned websites "UTSAH" & "POP"
- **UTSAH – Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education** | **POP – Professor of Practice Portal**
- 'UTSAH' – to provide a platform for information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education
- 'POP' – to enhance quality of higher education by bringing practitioners, policymakers, skilled professionals into system
- [HQs of UGC – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – M. Jagadesh Kumar](#) | [Founded in – 1956](#)

**46.** On May 13, Railway Energy Management Company (REMC) Limited, a subsidiary of RITES Ltd, has set up the National Energy Management Centre (NEMC) in New Delhi. The centre's objective is to oversee and handle the procurement of energy for the Railways on a national scale. The state-of-the-art NEMC was inaugurated by Naveen Gulati, a Member of Railway Board. The NEMC has assumed the role of gathering energy data from the 17 State Energy Management Centres (SEMCs) that are operational throughout the Railways. The NEMC will serve as a centralized hub, offering Indian Railways a convenient single-window service. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- REMC Ltd (subsidiary of RITES Ltd) – has set up the National Energy Management Centre (NEMC) in New Delhi
- It will oversee and handle the procurement of energy for the Railways on a national scale
- HQs of RITES Limited – Gurugram, Haryana | Chairman & MD – Rahul Mithal

**47.** On May 13, the Andhra Pradesh government started removing 'dotted lands' in the state from the prohibited list, restoring full rights of selling or pledging these lands to the farmers who own them. 2,06,171 acres of these British-era dotted lands have been identified for permanent denotification. Dotted lands are disputed lands for which there are no clear ownership documents. Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district has the largest number of dotted land parcels (43,000 acres). [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – started removing 'dotted lands' from the prohibited list, restoring full rights of selling or pledging these lands to farmers who own them
- Dotted lands – disputed lands for which there are no clear ownership documents
- Nellore district has the largest number of dotted land parcels (43,000 acres)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati | CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Syed Abdul Nazeer

**48.** On May 12, Kerala became the first State to have a welfare fund for 'Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)' workers. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the "Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund" at a function held in Palakkad. The workers of the Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (the first urban employment guarantee scheme in India) will also be part of the welfare fund. The Welfare fund, which will provide the workers with a pension, medical assistance, educational assistance for their children, and other benefits, has been formed as per the Kerala Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 2021. The workers will have to pay a nominal monthly amount of around ₹50 as a contribution. The government will contribute an equal amount. The benefits will be for workers who completed the age of 60 and paid contributions continuously. For those who have paid the contributions for not fewer than 10 years, their families will get the benefits in case of the beneficiary's death. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

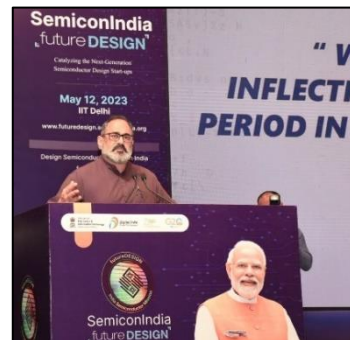
- Kerala – became 1<sup>st</sup> State to have a welfare fund for 'MGNREGS' workers
- Pinarayi Vijayan – inaugurated "Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund"
- The Welfare fund has been formed as per Kerala Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 2021
- The workers will have to pay a nominal monthly amount of around ₹50 as a contribution
- Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme – is the first urban employment guarantee scheme in India
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**49.** On May 15, Andhra Pradesh Revenue Minister Dharmana Prasada Rao launched “E-chits” application of the Registration and Stamps Department. The application is aimed at ensuring better regulation of the chit fund businesses in the State. The E-chits application would usher in transparency in the chit fund business and prevent duping of customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – launched “E-chits” application of Registration and Stamps Department
- It is to better regulation of the chit fund businesses in the state
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati | CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Syed Abdul Nazeer](#)

**50.** On May 12, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> “Semicon India Future Design Roadshow” at IIT Delhi. The primary objective of this initiative is to attract investments from across the world and help build a vibrant semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem. PM Modi has announced Rs 76,000 Crore as outlay for the semiconductor sector to fulfill the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Besides, the central government will invest \$2 billion in the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali for research and prototyping. The minister also said that the government will establish the India Semiconductor Research Institute which will serve as a centre of excellence, and will work with institutes like IIT Delhi, IIT Chennai, and others in a hub-and-spoke model. Moreover, MeitY has set up “ChipIN Centre” at C-DAC Bangalore to dedicate its services to the semiconductor design community of the country. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – launched 3<sup>rd</sup> “Semicon India Future Design Roadshow” at IIT Delhi
- Outlay for the semiconductor sector announced by PM Modi – Rs 76,000 Crore
- GoI – to establish the India Semiconductor Research Institute which will serve as a centre of excellence
- MeitY – set up “ChipIN Centre” at C-DAC Bangalore to dedicate its services to semiconductor design community of India
- [Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

**51.** As of May 2023, the government plans to develop the “Indian Carbon Market (ICM)” where a National Framework will be established with the objective to decarbonise the Indian economy by pricing the Green House Gas (GHG) emission through trading of Carbon Credit Certificates. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (under the Ministry of Power), along with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, is developing the “Carbon Credit Trading Scheme” for this purpose. A one-day ‘Stakeholder Consultation on Accredited Carbon Verifiers under ICM’ was also organized in New Delhi. The ICM will mobilize new mitigation opportunities through demand for emission credits by private and public entities. By accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy, the ICM will facilitate achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) goal of reducing the Emissions Intensity of the GDP by 45% by 2030 against 2005 levels. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- GoI – to develop “Indian Carbon Market (ICM)” to decarbonise Indian economy by pricing GHG emission
- BEE + MoEFCC = developing the “Carbon Credit Trading Scheme”
- ICM – facilitate achieving NDC goal of reducing the Emissions Intensity of the GDP by 45% by 2030 against 2005 levels
- [HQs of BEE – New Delhi | Director General – Abhay Bakre](#)

**52.** On May 17, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, announced that India's first elevated 8-lane access control Dwarka Expressway of 29.6 km length is being built at a cost of Rs 9000 Crore and it will almost be completed in April 2024. The 34 meter wide expressway is being constructed on 18.9 km single pillar in Haryana and 10.1 km long in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India's first elevated 8-lane access control Dwarka Expressway is being built at a cost of Rs 9000 Cr
- It is 34 meter wide & 29.6 km in length (18.9 km single pillar in Haryana & 10.1 km long in Delhi)
- [Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari](#) | [Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh](#)

**53.** In May 2023, Kerala has become the first state in India to have a drone surveillance system in all police districts in the state. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan also launched indigenously developed anti-drone software on the occasion. Kerala police had sent 25 police personnel to the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, for specialized training, and another 20 were given basic drone operation training from the drone lab in Kerala. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Kerala – become 1<sup>st</sup> state in India to have a drone surveillance system in all police districts in the state
- Kerala CM – launched indigenously developed anti-drone software
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

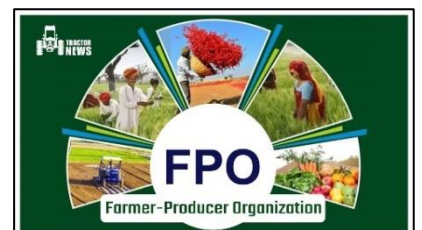
**54.** On May 14, the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Indian Navy seized around 2,500 kg of 'methamphetamine' drug from Indian waters off Kochi, Kerala, under "Operation Samudragupt". The seized drugs are worth around Rs 15,000 crore in the market. Operation Samudragupt is being carried out to make Indian waters drug-free as per directions from home minister Amit Shah. A total of 3,200kg of methamphetamine, 500 kg of heroin, and 529 kg of hashish has been seized so far in Operation Samudragupt. The consignment was intended for sale in India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Normally, these drugs come from the 'Death Crescent' (or Golden Crescent) - Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- NCB + Indian Navy = seized 2,500 kg of 'methamphetamine' drug under "Operation Samudragupt"
- It was found from – Indian waters off Kochi, Kerala
- [HQs of NCB – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Satya Narayan Pradhan](#)
- [HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi](#) | [Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar](#) | [Vice Chief – Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh](#)

**55.** On May 17, Ministry of Cooperation announced that 1,100 new Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will be established in the Cooperative sector under the central scheme. Under the scheme, a target of establishing 1,100 additional FPOs has been allocated to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). A financial assistance of Rs 33 lakh is provided to each FPO under the scheme. Further, a financial assistance of Rs 25 lakhs per FPO is provided to the Cluster Based Business Organisations (CBBO). Since February 2021, the Agriculture Ministry is implementing the central sector scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)" with a budgetary provision of Rs 6,865 Crore. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 1,100 new Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will be established in the Cooperative sector
- The target to establish 1,100 additional FPOs is allocated to NCDC | Financial Assistance to each FPO – Rs 33 lakh
- Financial Assistance of Rs 25 lakhs per FPO is provided to the Cluster Based Business Organisations (CBBO)
- Outlay of “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)” scheme – Rs 6,865 Crore

**56.** On May 17, the Union Cabinet has approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI 2.0) Scheme for IT hardware (such as laptops/tablets) with a Rs 17,000 Crore outlay & tenure of 6 years, after the success of PLI for mobile phones. The government expects the scheme will result in additional production worth ₹3.35 lakh Crore and investments of ₹2,430 Crore during its duration. Furthermore, it aims to create employment opportunities for around 75,000 people within the next 6 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of PLI 2.0 Scheme for IT hardware (such as laptops/tablets) has been approved
- Outlay – Rs 17,000 Crore | Tenure – 6 years
- The scheme will result in additional production worth ₹3.35 lakh Cr & investments of ₹2,430 Cr during its duration

**57.** On May 15, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep S. Puri, launched MoHUA’s mega campaign “Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar”. This nationwide campaign aims to highlight cities to setup ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Centres, one stop collection centres, for citizens to contribute clothes, shoes, old books, toys and used plastic to be reused or recycled. PM Narendra Modi’s Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) aims to protect and preserve the environment and bring about a pro-planet behavioural change that can be instilled through individual action in day-to-day life. The Union Minister also launched the RRR Theme song contest. The contest opens on the MyGov platform from May 20 till June 18, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Hardeep S. Puri – launched MoHUA’s mega campaign “Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar”
- He launched the RRR Theme song contest
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

**58.** On May 18, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, launched the “Sagar Parikrama Yatra Phase-V” in Karanja in the Raigad district of Maharashtra. The expedition covered various coastal regions, starting from the Gateway of India, Mumbai and concluding at Canacona (South Goa). Sagar Parikrama has already completed 4 phases, covering 19 locations in Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. Moreover, Mr Rupala emphasized the people-centric governance model and the significant investments made in the fisheries sector since 2014. The introduction of schemes like PMMSY with a budget of Rs 20,500 crore, FIDF with a budget of approximately Rs 8,000 crore, and the Blue Revolution with a budget of Rs 3,000 crore, totaling an investment of around Rs 32,000 crore, demonstrates the government’s commitment to the sector’s development. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Parshottam Rupala – launched the “Sagar Parikrama Yatra Phase-V” in Raigad, Maharashtra
- It started from Gateway of India, Mumbai & concluded at Canacona (South Goa)
- ‘Sagar Parikrama’ has already completed 4 phases in Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Maharashtra & Karnataka
- [Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Parshottam Rupala | Constituency – Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan & Dr. L. Murugan](#)

**59.** On May 17, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the 8<sup>th</sup> “All-India Pension Adalat” in New Delhi. Till date, 7 all-India pension adalats have been organised, in which 24,218 cases were taken up and 17,235 cases were resolved. The Pension Adalat initiative was started in 2017 by the Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare. The Minister also presided over the 50th Pre-retirement Counselling (PRC) Workshop, conducted by Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare, in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Jitendra Singh – inaugurated 8<sup>th</sup> “All-India Pension Adalat” in New Delhi
- Pension Adalat initiative – started in 2017 by Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare
- He also presided over the 50th PRC Workshop conducted by Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare
- [MoS for the PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions: Dr. Jitendra Singh \(Constituency – Udhampur, J&K\)](#)

**60.** On May 18, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched a mobile app called “Patch Reporting App” which will help make the roads of Uttarakhand pothole-free. By using the app, mobile phone users can record pictures of potholes and register their complaints with Public Works Department (PWD) authorities seeking their repair by giving details such as its location. The complainants will be given updates about action taken for the redressal of their complaints along with pictures. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Uttarakhand – launched “Patch Reporting App” to help make the roads of the state pothole-free
- Mobile phone users can record pictures of potholes & register their complaints with PWD authorities
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhama | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)

**61.** On May 17, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu announced that an Ethanol plant would be set up in Una district by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) on 30 acres of land with an outlay of Rs 500 Crore. The plant would provide employment and self-employment opportunities to the local people and farmers from Kangra, Hamirpur and Bilaspur. The state government plans to invest 50% equity in the project and would extend cooperation to the company for setting up the plant. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- HPCL – will set up an Ethanol plant in Una district, HP with an outlay of Rs 500 Cr
- HP state govt – to invest 50% equity in the project
- [HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu | Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla](#)

**62.** On May 19, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has announced a new initiative titled “NEP SAARTHI” (Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India) to involve students in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The UGC has urged all vice chancellors, directors and principals of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to nominate three students from their institutions to be considered as NEP SAARTHIs. Through this initiative, the UGC aims to foster an environment where students can engage meaningfully. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- UGC – announced a new initiative titled “NEP SAARTHI” to involve students in the implementation of the NEP 2020
- HQs of UGC – New Delhi | Chairman – M. Jagadesh Kumar | Founded in – 1956

**63.** As of May 18, Uttar Pradesh now holds 2<sup>nd</sup> position in India in terms of having the maximum number of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged goods after receiving GI tags for three more crafts - Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft & Sambhal horn craft. While Tamil Nadu leads with 55 GI-tagged goods, UP and Karnataka follow with 48 and 46 GI products, respectively. Uttar Pradesh is not only the biggest exporter of GI-tagged products but it also involves the largest amount of manpower in this sector. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft & Sambhal horn craft (UP) – received GI tags
- UP – holds 2<sup>nd</sup> position in India in terms of having the maximum number of GI tagged goods (48 goods)
- Top – Tamil Nadu (55 goods) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Karnataka (46 goods)
- UP – biggest exporter of GI-tagged products & it also involves the largest amount of manpower in this sector
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**64.** In May 2023, AirAsia India operated India’s 1<sup>st</sup> commercial flight on ‘indigenous’ Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). AirAsia India flight i5-767 departed from Pune to New Delhi using a blend of ‘indigenously produced SAF’ supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) in partnership with Praj Industries. The SAF sourced for this initiative by Praj Industries, is in partnership with Gevo Inc, which has developed a breakthrough Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ) technology for the production of SAF using bio-based feedstock. Global aviation is currently responsible for about 3% of total global GHG emissions. If the emission remains unchecked, it could be responsible for 22% of GHG emissions by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- AirAsia India – operated India’s 1<sup>st</sup> commercial flight on ‘indigenous’ Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)
- Flight i5-767 – departed from Pune to New Delhi using a blend of ‘indigenously produced SAF’ supplied by IOCL
- SAF was sourced by = Praj Industries + Gevo Inc
- Gevo Inc – developed a breakthrough Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ) technology for production of SAF using bio-based feedstock
- Global aviation – currently responsible for about 3% of total global GHG emissions
- The emission could be responsible for 22% of GHG emissions by 2050, if left unchecked
- HQs of AirAsia India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sunil Bhaskaran | Established in –2013
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959



**65.** On May 17, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced to set up a “Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation Institute” in Lucknow. The institute will primarily focus on research and innovation, as well as act as a bridge between other institutes and industries related to the sector. In terms of the number of pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, Uttar Pradesh is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest state in the nation. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- UP Govt – to set up a “Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation Institute” in Lucknow
- UP – 6<sup>th</sup> largest state in India in terms of number of pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**66.** On May 22, Madhya Pradesh became the first state in India to provide the facility of free air travel to the elderly for pilgrimage under “Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana”. 32 elderly pilgrims, including 24 male and 8 female pilgrims, are participating in the first pilgrimage to Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh from Raja Bhoj Airport in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The CM flagged off a regular Indigo flight carrying the pilgrims to Prayagraj. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – became the first state in India to provide the facility of free air travel to the elderly for pilgrimage under “Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana”
- 32 elderly pilgrims are participating in the first pilgrimage to Prayagraj (UP) from Raja Bhoj Airport (MP)
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal](#) | [CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#) | [Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

**67.** On May 21, Rajasthan government has approved a proposal for developing Geographic Information System (GIS)-based 3D models of four cities - Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota and Ajmer - for better planning and management of urban development. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved a financial proposal of Rs 106.46 Crore for the implementation of GIS-based 3D city and Rajdhara Satellite Imagery Repository projects in these four cities. It will be easier to make effective assessments, simulations and planning. A virtual tour of the city can also be done through Augmented Reality or Virtual Reality of the developed 3D model. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Rajasthan CM – approved a financial proposal of Rs 106.46 Cr for the implementation of GIS-based 3D city models & Rajdhara Satellite Imagery Repository projects in 4 cities - Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota & Ajmer
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur](#) | [CM – Ashok Gehlot](#) | [Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

**68.** On May 20, Ministry of Textiles and Government of Madhya Pradesh signed an MoU to set up ‘PM MITRA Park’ in Bhensola village, Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. The Central Government had announced plans to set up 7 mega textile parks under the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme with a total outlay of Rs 4,445 Crore over 5 years. Support worth Rs 500 Crore to all greenfield and Rs 200 crore to brownfield MITRA parks for development was announced. Support worth Rs 300 Crore to all MITRA parks to incentivise competitiveness of the manufacturing units was announced. In addition to Madhya Pradesh, these parks are being established in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh. The Park would have common infrastructure like road, electricity (220 KV, 132 KV, 33 KV), water, Effluent and other support facilities like plug & play infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

**PM MITRA**  
**A LANDMARK DECISION TO EMPOWER TEXTILES SECTOR**

Approves 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region & Apparel (MITRA) Parks

- MITRA Parks will be setup at Greenfield/Brownfield sites located in different willing states
- Support worth ₹500 crore to all Greenfield & ₹200 Crore to Brownfield MITRA Parks for development
- Support worth ₹300 crore to all MITRA Parks for competitiveness incentives to the manufacturing units

### Smart Points:

- Ministry of Textiles + MP = an MoU to set up 'PM MITRA Park' in Bhensola village, Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh
- GoI – to set up 7 mega textile parks under PM MITRA scheme with a total outlay of Rs 4,445 Crore over 5 years
- These parks are being established in – TN, Telangana, Karnataka, MH, Gujarat, & UP
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**69.** On May 20, Uttarakhand Metro Rail Corporation (UKMRC) announced to construct state-of-the-art Rapid Transit Systems in Dehradun, Haridwar and Rishikesh within next 4 years to ease traffic congestion. India's first Neo Metro will start on two corridors in Dehradun by 2026-27. Also, Haridwar will have India's first Pod taxi by 2026-27. Neo-Metro is the rubber tyre-based mass transit system that draws power from an overhead electric conductor. While Provide on Demand (Pod) taxis are driverless electric vehicles that move on a specially designed track. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Uttarakhand Metro Rail Corporation – to construct Rapid Transit Systems in Dehradun, Haridwar & Rishikesh
- India's first Neo Metro will start on two corridors in Dehradun by 2026-27
- India's first Pod taxi by 2026-27 – to be launched in Haridwar
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**70.** On May 22, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal, made 5 major announcements namely "Panch Karma Sankalp" focusing Green Shipping and Digitisation of the ports, during the ministry's 2nd Chintan Shibir held in Munnar, Kerala. The 'Panch Karma Sankalp' includes 5 major announcements which are - MoPSW to provide 30% financial support for the promotion of Green Shipping; Under the Green Tug Transition Programme Jawaharlal Nehru Port, VO Chidambaranar Port, Paradip Port and Deendayal Port, Kandla will procure two tugs each; Deendayal Port and VO Chidambaranar Port, Tuticorin to be developed as Green Hydrogen Hub; Single Window Portal to facilitate and monitor river and sea cruises; Jawaharlal Nehru Port and VO Chidambaranar Port, Tuticorin to become smart port by next year. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – made 5 major announcements namely "Panch Karma Sankalp"
- Aim – focusing Green Shipping and Digitisation of the ports
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur

**71.** In May 2023, National Investigation Agency (NIA), the anti-terror federal probe agency, conducted the 'Operation Dhvast' against the terrorists, gangsters and drug smugglers in India. Under the operation, nationwide raids were conducted covering 324 places across 8 states and a UT including - Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and UT of Chandigarh. The cases are connected with conspiracies related to targeted killings, terror funding of pro-Khalistan outfits and extortion. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- NIA – conducted the 'Operation Dhvast' against the terrorists, gangsters, and drug smugglers in India
- Nationwide raids were conducted covering 324 places across 8 states and a UT under the operation
- HQs of NIA – New Delhi | Director General – Dinkar Gupta

**72.** On May 20, Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, formally inaugurated the “Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM)” at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. During CoP-14 in September 2019, PM Modi had announced the establishment of CoE-SLM. CoE-SLM aims to promote South-South Cooperation and address land degradation issues through sustainable land management practices. Bhupendra Yadav also released two publications “Technical Paper on Pathway to achieve LDN in India” and “Compendium of Sustainable Land Management Practices” on this occasion. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Bhupendra Yadav – inaugurated “CoE on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM)” at ICFRE, Dehradun
- Aim – to promote South-South Cooperation and address land degradation issues through sustainable land management
- PM Modi had announced the establishment of CoE-SLM during CoP-14 in September 2019
- Bhupendra Yadav also released two publications:
  - “Technical Paper on Pathway to achieve LDN in India”
  - “Compendium of Sustainable Land Management Practices”
- [Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav](#) | [Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey](#)

**73.** In May 2023, Angamaly-based CML Biotech Ltd, one of the largest manufacturers of blood collection tubes in India, has installed the world’s first integrated machine ‘Husky-Ichor’ in Kerala, for manufacturing blood collection tubes. The machine is manufactured by Canada-based Husky Technologies, a global leader in injection moulds and moulding machines. The machine, set up at a cost of ₹12 crore, is capable of manufacturing 8 lakh blood collection tubes per day. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- CML Biotech – installed world’s 1<sup>st</sup> integrated machine ‘Husky-Ichor’ in Kerala, for manufacturing blood collection tubes
- CML Biotech Ltd – one of the largest manufacturers of blood collection tubes in India
- The machine is manufactured by Canada-based Husky Technologies (Cost – Rs 12 Cr)

**74.** Uttar Pradesh has surpassed Maharashtra in sugar production in the current season even as 118 sugar mills operated in UP during the period compared to 210 mills that were operational in Maharashtra. The total sugar produced by Uttar Pradesh in sugar season 2022-2023 is 107.29 lakh tonnes, as compared to 105.30 lakh tonnes by Maharashtra. Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary is UP’s Cane Development and Sugar Mills’ minister. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- UP – surpassed Maharashtra in sugar production | 118 sugar mills are operated in UP & 210 mills in MH
- Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary – UP Cane Development and Sugar Mills’ minister
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**75.** In May 2023, Ministry of Education and World Bank organised a one of its kind ‘Workshop on School-to-Work Transition’ under the ‘STARS Program’ in Mumbai. The workshop was co-chaired by Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of School Education and Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary at Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The workshop was also attended by the Secretaries of Education and Skill Department of the six STARS states - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. One of the key components of STARS program is strengthening of ‘Vocational Education and School-to-Work Transition’. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- MoE + World Bank = organised 'Workshop on School-to-Work Transition' under 'STARS Program' in Mumbai
- The workshop was co-chaired by – Sanjay Kumar + Atul Kumar Tiwari
- Key component of STARS program – strengthening of 'Vocational Education and School-to-Work Transition'
- HQs of Worldline – Bezons, France | CEO – Gilles Grapinet
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

**76.** On May 23, the Indian government has appointed L&T Engineering Limited as its project management consultant for the "Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0" in Puducherry and Karaikal regions. Under the scheme, the government is expecting financial assistance of around ₹80 crore for each region to develop places of importance that have heritage and cultural significance, as tourism spots. The government is evolving various projects to attract more tourists. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- L&T Engineering – appointed as project management consultant for "Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0" in Puducherry & Karaikal regions
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam

**77.** On May 23, the consortium led by Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) has received an advance purchase order (APO) valued at over Rs 15,000 Crore from public sector telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to deploy 4G network across India. The TCS-led consortium that will deploy this order includes the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) and Tejas Networks. At about \$1.8 billion worth of APO, this deal also marks one of the largest deals closed by the IT services major in recent quarters. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- The TCS-led consortium – received an APO worth Rs 15,000 Cr from BSNL to deploy 4G network across India
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan (K. Krithivasan from Sep 2023) | Founded in – 1968
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar

**78.** On May 24, US-based StemCures announced to establish India's largest stem cell manufacturing plant in Hyderabad, Telangana with a focus on stem cell therapy. The facility will be set up with an investment potential of around USD 54 million. The objective of the proposed plant is to capitalise on the latest technology and expertise from the US to manufacture the highest quality and affordable stem cell products for treating various serious medical conditions. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- StemCures – to establish India's largest stem cell manufacturing plant in Hyderabad
- The facility will be set up with an investment potential of around USD 54 million
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**79.** On May 25, PM Narendra Modi flagged off Uttarakhand's first semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express. The train, which is overall 17<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express to be flagged off in India, will connect Dehradun with New Delhi. It will cover a distance of about 302 km in four hours and 45 minutes and operate 6 days a week. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- PM Modi – flagged off Uttarakhand’s first semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express between Dehradun & New Delhi
- It is India’s 17<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express train
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**80.** On May 24, Mountaineers of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh are on a unique expedition named “Har Shikhar Tiranga”. The team is hoisting the National Flag on the highest point of every state of India for the first time. The mission was flagged off by Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, from NIMAS, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh. It is the brainchild of Colonel Jamwal who is a veteran of more than 52 successful expeditions. The highest peak under Indian control is Kanchenjunga (8,586 m) in Sikkim but is closed for climbs. The next is Nanda Devi (7,816 m) in Uttarakhand, but it’s a world heritage site and national biosphere reserve. Thus the highest climbable mountain in India is Uttarakhand’s Mt Kamet (7,756 m) which the team will summit in June. Some of the other highest points under the mission include - Mt Purgyal in Himachal Pradesh, Mt Gorichin in Arunachal, Mt Jongsong in Sikkim, Anamudi Peak in Kerala, Doddabetta Peak in Tamil Nadu, Mt. Kalsubai in Maharashtra, Mt. Reo Purgiyil in Himachal, Guru Shikhar in Rajasthan, and Nun Peak on the border of J&K and Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- “Har Shikhar Tiranga”, a unique expedition launched to hoist tricolour at highest points of all states
- The mission was flagged off by Pema Khandu (Arunachal Pradesh CM) from Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh
- Highest climbable mountain in India – Mt Kamet (Uttarakhand)
- Some of the other highest points under the mission:
  - Mt Purgyal (Himachal Pradesh), Mt Gorichin (Arunachal), Mt Jongsong (Sikkim), Anamudi Peak (Kerala),
  - Doddabetta Peak (Tamil Nadu), Mt. Kalsubai (Maharashtra), Mt. Reo Purgiyil (Himachal), Guru Shikhar (Rajasthan),
  - Nun Peak on the border of J&K and Ladakh

**81.** On May 28, PM Narendra Modi dedicated the new Parliament House to the nation. Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister installed the “Sengol” with Nandi at the top facing East-West direction in the new Parliament House. This traditional practice of establishment of ‘Sengol’ is related to the great Chola empire. Sengol was seen as a symbol of the path of service duty and nation. The 5-foot tall ‘Sengol’ is made of silver & gold. A symbol of governance in Tamil Kingdoms of yore, ‘Sengol’ was made by then Madras-based jeweller Vummidi Bangaru. It was displayed at the Allahabad Museum after being handed over to Jawaharlal Nehru. Moreover, PM Modi has unveiled the commemorative coin of Rs 75 denominations to mark the inauguration of the new Parliament building which was designed by Bimal Patel, a Gujarat-based architect. The building was under construction by Tata Group for the last 3 years as part of the ambitious Rs 20,000 Cr Central Vista plan. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- PM Modi – dedicated the new Parliament House to the nation (built by - Tata Group | designed by - Bimal Patel)
- PM Modi – installed the 5-foot tall “Sengol” with Nandi at the top facing East-West direction in new Parliament House
- The practice of establishment of ‘Sengol’ – is related to the great ‘Chola Empire’
- ‘Sengol’ was made by – Madras-based jeweller Vummidi Bangaru & it is made of silver & gold
- PM Modi – unveiled the commemorative coin of Rs 75 denominations to mark the inauguration of new Parliament

**82.** On May 23, Infosys launched “Topaz”, a new offering that combines data analytics, artificial intelligence & generative AI, to accelerate business value. Infosys has used its own applied A.I. Framework to develop an AI-first core that potentially has over 12,000 use cases. The AI offering from Infosys is aimed to create efficiencies across the enterprise. It uses smart tools, platforms, and autonomous software engineering for business agility. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Infosys – launched “Topaz” which combines data analytics, AI & generative AI, to accelerate business value
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Salil Parekh | Chairman – Nandan Nilekani | Founded in – 1981

**83.** On May 26, speaking at the “Total e-Governance Kerala” event, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced that Kerala has become India’s first fully e-governed state. The southern state has successfully digitized an extensive range of government services, ensuring prompt and transparent delivery to its citizens. Under this comprehensive e-governance initiative, the Kerala government aims to bring services directly to the masses, eliminating the need for citizens to visit government offices in person. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Kerala – has become India’s first fully e-governed state & has digitized an extensive range of government services
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**84.** On May 26, Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister, R. K. Singh, and Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, launched the website and logo for the 14<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial and 8<sup>th</sup> Mission Innovation Meeting (CEM14/MI-8) which will be held in Goa during July 19-22, 2023. Scheduled on the margins of the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting, the theme for CEM-14/MI-8 is “Advancing Clean Energy Together”. The CEM14/MI-8 will bring together governments, international organizations, private sector, academia, innovators, civil society, early career researchers and policymakers over a four-day program. The meetings would enable stakeholders to accelerate the deployment of clean energy by encouraging development of policies and programmes which advance clean energy technology and solutions around the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- R. K. Singh + Dr. Jitendra Singh = launched website & logo for CEM14/MI-8
- CEM14/MI-8 – 14<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial & 8<sup>th</sup> Mission Innovation Meeting – will be held in Goa during July 19-22
- Theme – “Advancing Clean Energy Together”
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**85.** On May 26, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, constituted a 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee. The committee will be headed by Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General of Global Tiger Forum, New Delhi. The committee is formed for 2 years to review, progress, monitor and advice on the Cheetah introduction to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and NTCA. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- NTCA (under MoEFCC) – constituted an 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee
- The committee will be headed by – Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General of Global Tiger Forum, New Delhi
- The committee will review, progress, monitor & advice on Cheetah introduction to MP Forest Department & NTCA
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

**86.** On May 29, Karnataka government launched “Kaveri 2.0” software/portal in Bengaluru, finally bringing the service that promises to make property registration a smooth affair to the tech hub. The Department of Stamps and Registration aims to introduce the facility, which will offer a host of services, across all its 43 sub-registrar offices in Bengaluru by mid-June amid pushback by the land mafia. Kaveri 2.0 is integrated with applications such as Bhoomi (agriculture property details), e-Swathu and e-Aasthi (rural and urban non-agricultural properties), Khajane II (payment portal) etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Karnataka Govt – launched “Kaveri 2.0” software/portal in Bengaluru for property registrations
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Siddaramaiah | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**87.** On May 31, JSW Steel, a leading integrated steel manufacturer, became the first manufacturer to receive “GreenPro Ecolabel” for its ‘Automotive Steel’ products. The GreenPro Ecolabel, developed by the Confederation of Indian Industry’s Green Business Centre, recognises the highest standards of environmental sustainability and product performance in the Indian manufacturing sector. The GreenPro ecolabel signifies that JSW Steel’s products are manufactured with due care to their environmental impact throughout their lifecycle, including raw material sourcing, production processes, energy consumption, and end-of-life management. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- JSW Steel – became the first manufacturer to receive “GreenPro Ecolabel” for its ‘Automotive Steel’ products
- ‘GreenPro Ecolabel’ is developed by – CII’s Green Business Centre
- HQs of JSW Steel – Mumbai, MH | Chairperson Emeritus – Savitri Devi Jindal | CMD – Sajjan Jindal



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The Question Bank

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**Aishi Chatterjee**

IBPS PO 2022

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Thank you, SK!

”

“



**Rishikesh Prasad**

SBI PO 2022

Thank you Smartkeeda for providing us with the best contents. I personally enjoyed the whole journey with Smartkeeda, ofcourse Mocks Questions are of exam level or ahead of that but good to mark my weaknesses and overcome the same. One thing I must want to recommend to every banking aspirants to go through Mockdrill(600-700) MCQs a month which played a very major role in my GA success. Thank you once again to the whole team of Smartkeeda.

”

“



**Ritwick Das**

IBPS PO & IBPS Clerk 2022

Smartkeeda had become my daily routine. I didn't study a single topic separately. But all I did everyday was solve mocks. The contents of the current affairs are a life saver. If someone can manage to study all of their CA mock for 6 months before exam and can retain them, it will be extremely helpful for the aspirant and give them an extra edge in the competition.

”

“



**Muskan Saxena**

SBI Clerk 2022

It was FEB 16, 2022 when I got the result of IBPS PO 2022 and I failed. It was a very shattered moment for me. For one second I was clueless. But through Smartkeeda guidance I got the courage to start it again. I analysed my mistakes and started preparing firmly on them. I bought Smartkeeda mocks which are of a very good level. They help you to get thorough understanding of the topic and also CA mock drills have so many exam related questions. The smart points helped me in remembering the news very easily. I really want to thank SK for this guidance that I was able to clear SBI clerk. Also cleared mains of IBPS PO and SBI PO this year. I'll continue to use SK for my further studies.

”



# International Affairs

**88.** On May 4, Russia has deployed the world's largest bomber "Tu-160" in the Ukraine war and has already started hitting enemy targets. Russia used its two Tu-160 bombers to fire 'Kh-101/Kh-555' cruise missiles on Ukrainian targets. The Tu-160 bomber, also known as 'Blackjack' in NATO countries, is a supersonic, variable-sweep wing, strategic bomber developed by Russia's Tupolev Design Bureau. It is one of the largest and heaviest military aircraft ever built, and due to its impressive size, it is nicknamed as 'White Swan'. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Russia – deployed "Tu-160", world's largest bomber, in the Ukraine war (developed by Russia's Tupolev Design Bureau)
- Russia – used its two Tu-160 bombers to fire 'Kh-101/Kh-555' cruise missiles on Ukrainian targets
- Tu-160 bomber – is a supersonic strategic bomber & one of the largest and heaviest military aircraft ever built
- Tu-160 bomber – nicknamed as 'White Swan' due to its impressive size & also known as 'Blackjack' in NATO countries
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 31

**89.** The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a new initiative called "Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET)" to be better prepared for future outbreaks of a similar scale & devastation as the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative is aimed at providing guidance on integrated planning for responding to any respiratory pathogen such as influenza or coronaviruses. The current focus of PRET will be on respiratory viruses. The PRET monitoring framework lists a host of actions which countries will be expected to work on with progress being achieved by December 2025. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- WHO – launched a new initiative called "Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET)" to be better prepared for future outbreaks
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**90.** On May 9, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has launched the first ever "India Jewellery Exposition Centre (IJEX)" in Dubai to commemorate the first year of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. IJEX is a 365-day exhibition and showcasing venue in Dubai located at the new Gold Souk in Deira, Dubai. This will act as a platform for MSME jewellers to exhibit their indigenous products on a regular basis in the West Asia market that accounts for 30% of India's gem and jewellery exports. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- GJEPC – launched 1<sup>st</sup> ever "India Jewellery Exposition Centre (IJEX)" in Dubai
- GJEPC – Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council
- It is to commemorate the first year of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
- IJEX – a 365-day exhibition and showcasing venue in Dubai
- West Asia market – accounts for 30% of India's gem and jewellery exports
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**91.** On May 5, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V. R. Chaudhari laid foundation stone for “India-Sri Lanka Friendship Auditorium” at Sri Lanka Air Force Academy, Trincomalee. The auditorium will be built under a grant assistance of 25 Crore Lankan Rupees. The assistance is a gift from Government of India to the island nation which displays India’s unwavering commitment towards capacity building of Sri Lanka’s Armed Forces. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- V. R. Chaudhari – laid foundation stone for “India-Sri Lanka Friendship Auditorium” at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka
- The auditorium will be built under a grant assistance of 25 Crore Lankan Rupees
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

**92.** On May 7, Bhutan launched a new online platform, “Naykap Gokab”, aimed to promote local innovative ideas and solutions. The platform connects innovators, policymakers, and investors to create opportunities for collaboration and investment. Developed by a group of young software engineers in collaboration with the UNDP, DHI, and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, the web application aims to foster the innovation ecosystem in Bhutan. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Bhutan – launched a new online platform “Naykap Gokab” to promote local innovative ideas & solutions
- Developed by = UNDP + DHI + Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Employment (Bhutan)
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering | Monarch – Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

**93.** In May 2023, the 27-member European Union (EU) announced to introduce the first-of-its-kind policy, “Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)”, aimed at leveling the playing field for EU and non-EU manufacturers and spurring trading partners to adopt carbon pricing regimes as a critical approach to the climate fight. Earlier this month, the EU’s legislative body voted to approve a sweeping deal to reform the EU’s carbon market to cut emissions by 62% by 2030 from 2005 levels. The carbon market mechanism has helped slashed power plant and factory emissions by 43% since 2005. The new reform, however, will phase out free CO2 permits to factories by 2034. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- EU – to introduce first-of-its-kind policy, “Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)”
- Aim – leveling playing field for EU & non-EU manufacturers & spurring trading partners to adopt carbon pricing regimes
- EU – approved a sweeping deal to reform EU’s carbon market to cut emissions by 62% by 2030 from 2005 levels
- Carbon market mechanism has slashed power plant & factory emissions by 43% since 2005
- The new reform will phase out free CO2 permits to factories by 2034
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

**94.** During the “International Maternal Newborn Health Conference 2023” in Cape Town, South Africa, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched its 1<sup>st</sup>-ever comprehensive framework on reducing Anaemia, calling on countries to accelerate action to halve anaemia prevalence in women of reproductive age by 2025. Anaemia is a serious global public health problem, affecting 571 million women and 269 million young children worldwide. In 2019, anaemia affected 40% of children between 6 months and 5 years of age, 37% of pregnant women and 30% of women 15-49 years of age. It is most prevalent in low- and middle-income countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “International Maternal Newborn Health Conference 2023” – held in Cape Town, South Africa
- WHO – launched 1<sup>st</sup>-ever framework on reducing Anaemia to halve anaemia prevalence in women of reproductive age by 2025
- Anaemia – affected 571 million women & 269 million young children worldwide
- Anaemia – affected 40% children (6 months - 5 years), 37% of pregnant women & 30% of women (15-49 years) in 2019
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**95.** In May 2023, the UN General Assembly (UNGA), during the 70<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the 77<sup>th</sup> session, has adopted a resolution to designate November 26 every year as “World Sustainable Transport Day”. The resolution, initiated by Turkmenistan, emphasises the contribution of sustainable, low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- November 26 – to be designated “World Sustainable Transport Day” every year – by UNGA
- It was adopted during the 70<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the 77<sup>th</sup> session
- HQs of UNGA – New York, US | President – Csaba Korosi (Hungary) | Member Countries – 193

**96.** On May 20, INS Gharial brought 10 medical pallets as High availability disaster recovery supplies for the people affected by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar, as part of “Operation Karuna” which is launched by India to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar. Operation Karuna has so far provided 16 medical pallets. INS Gharial is a Magar-class amphibious warfare vessel of the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – launched “Operation Karuna” to provide humanitarian assistance for people affected by ‘Cyclone Mocha’ in Myanmar
- INS Gharial brought 10 medical pallets as High availability disaster recovery supplies for the affected people
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Myint Swe | PM – Min Aung Hlaing

**97.** On May 21, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched a global network, called “International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN)” to help swiftly detect the threat from infectious diseases, like COVID-19, and share the information to prevent their spread. IPSN will provide a platform for connecting countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analysing samples. The network will rely on pathogen genomics to analyse the genetic code of viruses, bacteria and other disease. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- WHO – launched IPSN, a global network to help swiftly detect the threat from infectious diseases, like COVID-19
- IPSN – International Pathogen Surveillance Network
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**98.** On May 25, the World Meteorological Congress approved a new “Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Watch” initiative in a landmark decision, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced. The initiative supports urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases, which are fuelling temperature increases. GHG Watch will fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated and operational framework. The framework will bring all space-based and surface-based observing systems, as well as modelling and data assimilation capabilities, under one roof. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- World Meteorological Congress – approved a new “Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Watch” initiative
- The initiative supports urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases which are fuelling temperature increases
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | SG – Petteri Taalas | President – Gerhard Adrian | Established in – 1950

**99.** On May 28, Somalia announced to introduce “Direct Universal Suffrage” in the local elections set to be held in June 2024. The reform aims to encourage the multiparty political system that is independent and corruption free. The basic principles should be that the election of the Federal Somali Republic must be one that gives the public the opportunity to cast their votes democratically in a one-person, one-vote system. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Somalia – to introduce “Direct Universal Suffrage” in the local elections set to be held in June 2024
- Somalia – Mogadishu – Dollar/Shilling | President – Hassan Sheikh Mohamud | PM – Hamza Abdi Barre

**100.** On May 23, a street in Australia was officially renamed as “Little India” by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese. It is located in Harris Park, a hub in Western Sydney where the Indian community celebrates festivals and events such as Diwali and Australia Day. A 2021 Census revealed that 45% of the 5,043 Harris Park residents have Indian roots. During PM Modi’s visit, India and Australia also signed agreements in the field of migration and mobility partnership and on establishing a Green Hydrogen task force. Besides, India announced to open its 4<sup>th</sup> consulate in Australia at Brisbane, after existing 3 consulates in - Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- A street in Harris Park (Western Sydney, Australia) – officially renamed as “Little India”
- A 2021 census: 45% of the 5,043 Harris Park residents have Indian roots
- India + Australia = agreements in field of migration & mobility partnership & establishing a Green Hydrogen task force
- India – announced to open its 4<sup>th</sup> consulate in Australia at Brisbane | Other 3 are in – Sydney, Melbourne & Perth
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese

# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**101.** On May 2, First Republic Bank has become the 3<sup>rd</sup> large bank in the US (with assets over \$200 billion) to fail, after Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in recent times. First Republic grew rapidly through deposits from wealthy individuals and companies. Many of the bank's accounts had deposits well north of the federally-insured \$250,000. Once Silicon Valley Bank was seized by the government, clients pulled their money, fearful their deposits were in danger. First Republic said, recently, depositors had withdrawn more than \$100 billion, mostly during mid-March. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- First Republic Bank – 3<sup>rd</sup> large bank in the US to fail after Silicon Valley Bank & Signature Bank in recent times
- Depositors had withdrawn more than \$100 billion (mostly during mid-March)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**102.** On May 1, at the high-level Internal Governmental Commission Meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), India and Russia agreed to explore the possibility of accepting RuPay (India) and Mir (Russia) cards in each other's country for hassle-free payments amid sanctions imposed by the West on Moscow. The meeting, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, also agreed to explore the possibility of interaction of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of NPCI and the Faster Payments System (FPS) of the Bank of Russia. Besides, it was also agreed to look at adopting the Russian financial messaging system called, "Services Bureau of Financial Messaging System of the Bank of Russia", for cross border payments. Currently, overseas payments from India and Russia are through the SWIFT network. Moreover, the PayNow-UPI linkage is the world's first real-time payment systems linkage to use a scalable cloud-based infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Union Minister S. Jaishankar – chaired the high-level meeting 'IRIGC-TEC'
- India + Russia = agreed to explore the possibility of accepting RuPay (India) & 'Mir' (Russia) cards in each other's country
- They also agreed to explore UPI & the FPS of 'Bank of Russia' for cross border payments
- PayNow-UPI linkage is world's 1<sup>st</sup> real-time payment systems linkage to use a scalable cloud-based infrastructure
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**103.** On May 5, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank for International Settlements (BIS) have launched the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of "G20 TechSprint", a global technology competition. The 2023 TechSprint focuses on developing innovative technology solutions for cross-border payments. The competition is open for developers around the world for submitting application from May 5 to June 4, 2023. The winners for each problem statement will receive an award of Rs 40 Lakh (approx 50,000 US dollar). [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- RBI + BIS = launched 4<sup>th</sup> edition of global technology competition "G20 TechSprint"
- HQs of BIS – Basel, Switzerland | General Manager – Agustin Carstens | Established in – 1930
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**104.** On May 2, PhonePe announced that it has gone live with the “UPI Lite” feature on its app. The feature allows users to quickly initiate low-value payments under Rs 200 from their UPI Lite account without entering a PIN. Users can load up to Rs 2,000 in their UPI Lite account. The transaction is processed directly by debiting the on-device UPI Lite balance without involving the customers’ banks’ core banking systems. UPI Lite was launched by the RBI in September, 2022 and the service is controlled by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- PhonePe’s new “UPI Lite” feature has gone live on its app
- It allows users to quickly initiate low-value payments under Rs 200 from their UPI Lite account without entering a PIN
- Users can load up to Rs 2,000 in their UPI Lite account
- UPI Lite was launched by RBI in Sep, 2022 | The service is controlled by – NPCI
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015

**105.** On May 1, HDFC Bank launched digital distribution platform (DDP), “Smart Saathi”, that would help connect business correspondents and business facilitators to the bank. HDFC Bank Smart Saathi will contribute by making banking products and services available, especially credit for rural customers, which will help in the development of the country. The platform will also boost capacity building for agents and further financial literacy for customers. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- HDFC Bank – launched digital distribution platform (DDP), “Smart Saathi”
- Smart Saathi – will connect business correspondents & business facilitators to the bank
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

**106.** India’s services exports soared by a record 26.6% in 2022-23 to \$322 billion, according to data provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). While the merchandise exports climbed only 6% to \$447 billion. The services imports grew 22.2% to \$179.7 billion. India’s service exports span from information technology (IT) to services offered by doctors and nurses abroad. The software exports continue to dominate India’s services exports. The government has set a goal of \$2 trillion in combined goods and services exports by 2030. According to World Trade Organisation data for 2021, India has a 4% proportion of global commercial services exports. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Key highlights of data provided by RBI:
  - India’s services exports soared by a record 26.6% in 2022-23 to \$322 billion
  - India’s merchandise exports climbed 6% to \$447 billion
  - The services imports grew 22.2% to \$179.7 billion
  - The software exports continue to dominate India’s services exports
- Government’s goal – combined goods & services exports of \$2 trillion by 2030
- WTO data 2021: India has a 4% proportion of global commercial services exports
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7<sup>th</sup> DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Members – 164 | Founded – 1995

**107.** On May 4, HDFC Bank launched its retail banking programme 'Vishesh' for customers in semi-urban and rural geographies wherein it plans to onboard around 1 lakh new customers. As a part of this, the bank plans to add more branches and launch customised, tailor-made products and financial solutions for this market segment. HDFC Bank plans to add 675 branches in semi urban and rural geographies in FY24 to take the total number to nearly 5,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- HDFC Bank – launched 'Vishesh', its retail banking programme for customers in semi-urban & rural areas
- Aim – to onboard around 1 lakh new customers
- HDFC Bank – to add 675 branches in semi urban & rural geographies in FY24 to take total number to nearly 5,000
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

**108.** On May 4, India's unemployment rate increased in April to 8.11% from 7.8% in March 2023 due to a significant rise in the Labour Participation Rate (LPR) which was the highest in the last 3 years, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). According to CMIE, the labour participation rate increased from 39.77% in March to 41.98%. The Rural Unemployment rate declined to 7.34% in April 2023, while the Urban unemployment rate rose to 9.81%. Moreover, the employment rate in India also inched up by 1.91% points to 38.57% in April, which is the highest recorded since March 2020.

[{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Key highlights of the data released by CMIE:
  - India's unemployment rate increased in April to 8.11% from 7.8% in March 2023 due to a significant rise in LPR
  - The LPR was increased from 39.77% in March to 41.98%
  - Rural Unemployment rate declined to 7.34% in April 2023
  - Urban unemployment rate rose to 9.81%
  - Employment rate in India inched up by 1.91% points to 38.57% in April (highest since March 2020)

**109.** In May 2023, the SEBI has introduced a “Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)” system for issuers that have listed or planning to list non-convertible securities, securitised debt instruments and security receipts. LEI, a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions, is designed to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity, in any jurisdiction, that is party to a financial transaction. It is a unique 20-character code to identify legally distinct entities that engage in financial transactions. Presently, RBI mandates non-individual borrowers having aggregate exposure of above Rs 25 Crore to obtain LEI code. The LEI code can be obtained from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd, a subsidiary of the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL). [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SEBI – introduced LEI system, a 20-character global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions
- LEI is for issuers that have listed non-convertible securities, securitised debt instruments & security receipts
- LEI code – can be obtained from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd, a subsidiary of CCIL
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**110.** On May 6, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited announced that it has successfully re-domiciled Alchemy India Long Term Fund from Mauritius to GIFT City in Gandhinagar. The bank has issued the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) license to Alchemy's Fund incorporated in GIFT and registered with FISCA for relocating from its original jurisdiction to the new one. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> such FPI license issued by a custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in India, to a fund incorporated in GIFT City, to relocate an existing fund. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – successfully re-domiciled Alchemy India Long Term Fund from Mauritius to GIFT City
- The bank has issued the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) license to Alchemy's Fund incorporated in GIFT
- This is the 1<sup>st</sup> such FPI license issued by a custodian bank in India to relocate an existing fund
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let's make money simple”

**111.** On May 4, BharatPe Group, a fintech startup, announced the rebranding of its loyalty program, 'PAYBACK India' to 'Zillion'. As per the company, the new brand identity aims to target customers across age groups and add a new dimension to their overall shopping experience, across categories and brands. The customers will be able to earn 'Zillion coins' for their routine spends. The new web address for Zillion is 'https://zillionrewards.in/'. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- BharatPe Group – announced rebranding of its loyalty program, 'PAYBACK India' to 'Zillion'
- Customers will be able to earn 'Zillion coins' for their routine spends
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | CEO – Nalin Negi (Interim)

**112.** On May 11, Agritech firm Unnati's subsidiary Ora Finance has received a license to operate a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). It is the first such firm to get licence in the Agritech space. With the NBFC license, Ora Finance will target its services to farmers, retailers, traders, distributors, food processors, manufacturers and brands focused on the agriculture sector. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Ora Finance (subsidiary of Unnati) – became the 1<sup>st</sup> firm to get NBFC licence in the Agritech space
- HQs of Unnati – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | HQs of Ora Finance Pvt Ltd – New Delhi

**113.** On May 11, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) launched a premium banking programme, “Privy League”, aimed at high-net-worth individuals. The programme offers lifestyle privileges and bespoke financial solutions. One of the features of this account is the Premium Metal Debit Card, designed by artist Arunanshu Chowdhury for the Privy League black tier, lets customers enjoy luxury deals and complimentary airport lounge access, among many other benefits. The Signature LED Debit Card, designed for Privy League Platinum tier, is India's first LED card. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – launched a premium banking programme, “Privy League” for high-net-worth individuals
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let's make money simple”

**114.** On May 10, the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) plans to set up an online 'Bank Clinic' to assist bank customers with grievance redress. The Bank Clinic will be one more channel through which a retail bank customer can get his grievances addressed besides the normal Banking Ombudsman channel. By launching the Bank Clinic, the Association hopes to earn goodwill of customers' and give feedback to Banks on the areas where there is deficiency in service. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- AIBEA – plans to set up an online 'Bank Clinic' to assist bank customers with grievance redress
- HQs of AIBEA – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | General Secretary – C. H. Venkatachalam



**115.** In May 2023, Asian Development Bank (ADB) is launching the “Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP)”, a landmark program that will help ADB accelerate much-needed climate financing. Using a leveraged guarantee mechanism, IF-CAP’s initial ambition of \$3 billion in guarantees could create up to \$15 billion in new climate investment. And it will contribute to ADB’s raised ambition of \$100 billion in climate finance for 2019-2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ADB – launched “Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia & Pacific (IF-CAP)” to accelerate climate financing
- IF-CAP’s initial ambition of \$3 billion in guarantees could create up to \$15 billion in new climate investment
- ADB’s ambition – \$100 billion in climate finance for 2019-2030
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

**116.** The Reserve Bank of India’s gold reserves increased by 34.22 tonne year-on-year to reach 794.64 tonne at March-end 2023, according to the “Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves: October 2022 - March 2023” released by the RBI in May 2023. While 437.22 tonne of gold is held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), 301.10 tonne of gold is held domestically. During the half-year period, India’s total forex reserves increased from \$532.66 billion as of September-end 2022 to \$578.45 billion as of March-end 2023. Forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights and reserve tranche position in the International Monetary Fund. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves: October 2022 - March 2023” – released by RBI
- RBI’s gold reserves increased by 34.22 tonne year-on-year to reach 794.64 tonne at March-end 2023
- During the half-year period, India’s total forex reserves increased to \$578.45 billion as of March-end 2023
- Forex reserves comprise – Foreign Currency Assets, Gold, Special Drawing Rights & Reserve Tranche Position in IMF
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**117.** On May 11, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to participate in the Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)’s first ever “Greenwashing TechSprint”. The TechSprint will be hosted on the UK Digital Sandbox. The RBI plans to address the risks of greenwashing in financial services to boost market confidence on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) credentials. Greenwashing is all about making misleading claims about ESG credentials to make consumers wrongly believe that a product is eco-friendly. As many as 13 international regulators will be taking part in the TechSprint. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI announced to participate in Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)’s first ever “Greenwashing TechSprint”
- TechSprint will be hosted on the UK Digital Sandbox
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**118.** On May 12, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a “100 Days 100 Pays” campaign for banks to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days. The banks will commence the campaign from June 1, 2023. Balances in savings/current accounts that are not operated for 10 years, or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from the date of maturity are classified as “unclaimed deposits”. These amounts are transferred by banks to the “Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund” maintained by the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- RBI – announced a “100 Days 100 Pays” campaign for banks to trace & settle top 100 unclaimed deposits in every district
- The banks will commence the campaign from June 1, 2023
- From “unclaimed deposits, the amounts are transferred by banks to “DEA Fund” maintained by RBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**119.** On May 17, the government has appointed IDBI Capital, BOB Capital and SBI Capital to manage the initial public offer (IPO) of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). IDBI Capital is the lead banker for the transaction. Besides, Saraf and Partners has been appointed as the legal adviser for the IPO. The IPO is expected in FY24 and it may consist of a 10% stake sale by the government and 15% fresh equity issuance by the renewable energy project financier to fund its business growth. Overall, the government plans to offload up to 25% stake in the IREDA. The IREDA is currently a wholly owned Government of India enterprise incorporated in 1987 and is engaged in the financing of Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in India. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- IDBI Capital + BOB Capital + SBI Capital = appointed by the GoI to manage the IPO of IREDA
- IDBI Capital is the lead banker for the transaction | Saraf and Partners – appointed as the legal adviser for the IPO
- GoI plans to offload up to 25% stake in the IREDA
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das | Motto – “Energy for Ever” | Founded – 1987

**Stake Sale in Process**

Govt planning to offload up to **25%** stake in IREDA

Merchant bankers: SBI Capital Markets, BOB Capital Markets & IDBI Capital Markets

Legal advisor: Saraf and Partners

Last year, govt infused ₹1,500 cr to improve IREDA's net worth

AS OF END-MARCH, THE COMPANY'S NET WORTH STOOD AT ₹5,935 CR, UP 13% FROM A YEAR AGO

**120.** On May 12, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked all Banks and other RBI-regulated Financial Institutions to ensure complete transition away from the US\$ LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) or the Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR) from July 1, 2023. New transactions undertaken by them or their customers should not rely on it. The central bank said the Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd (FBIL) will cease to publish MIFOR after June 30. The use of LIBOR was called into question following the global financial crisis. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- RBI – asked all Banks & other RBI-regulated FIs to transition away from US\$ LIBOR or MIFOR from July 1, 2023
- Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd (FBIL) – will cease to publish MIFOR after June 30
- LIBOR – London Interbank Offered Rate | MIFOR – Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**121.** On May 12, HDFC Bank and Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK), a not-for-profit organisation, signed an MoU to promote the employment of fresh graduates and post-graduates. As per the MoU, HDFC Bank will be able to access a large pool of talent across 700 institutions registered with TASK. Under the partnership, TASK will help HDFC Bank hire trained students. Logistical support for placement drives and interviews will be provided by TASK. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- HDFC Bank + TASK (Telangana) = an MoU to promote employment of fresh graduates & post-graduates
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**122.** On May 18, Godrej Agrovet Ltd (GAVL) partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to introduce a first-of-its-kind horticulture loan for palm oil farmers. This collaborative product aims to provide farmers with loans for various purposes related to their oil palm farms. It includes the provision of funds for setting up micro irrigation facilities, establishing fencing arrangements to protect against cattle grazing, and enhancing tube wells on their farms. Launched initially for the oil palm farmers of Telangana, GAVL's farmers from other states such as Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Assam, Manipur, and Tripura can now easily avail of loan with the ticket-size of ₹1 lakh to ₹50 crore. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Godrej Agrovet Ltd + SBI = partnered to introduce a first-of-its-kind horticulture loan for palm oil farmers
- It was initially launched for the oil palm farmers of Telangana
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**123.** On May 19, Tide, the UK's leading SME-focused business financial platform in partnership with Transcorp International Limited, RBI-regulated Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) license holder, launched India's first recycled (rPVC) RuPay card, along with MCT Cards & Technology Pvt Ltd and NPCI. Made of 99% recycled plastic, this is the first such move by a fintech company in India. The cards will go through an open loop recycling process, which means that old products are transformed into new ones, reducing industrial plastic waste. In March, Tide became the first fintech in the world to remove 100% of its emissions with durable carbon removals as of 2022 onwards. The company has also committed to becoming fully Net Zero by 2030. Ayan Agarwal is the CEO of Transcorp International Ltd, while Gurjodhpal Singh is the CEO of Tide (India). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Tide (UK) + Transcorp Int. + MCT Cards + NPCI = launched India's first recycled (rPVC) RuPay card
- It is made of 99% recycled plastic
- In March, Tide became the first fintech in the world to remove 100% of its emissions with durable carbon removals
- HQs of Transcorp International Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Ayan Agarwal
- CEO of Tide (India) – Gurjodhpal Singh

**124.** On May 19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to withdraw ₹2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation in pursuance of its "Clean Note Policy". However, the ₹2,000 notes will continue to be legal tender. The central bank has advised the public to deposit ₹2,000 notes into their bank accounts and/or exchange them into banknotes of other denominations at any branch. For operational convenience and to avoid disruption of the regular activities of banks, the exchange of ₹2,000 notes into banknotes of other denominations can be made up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time at any bank starting from May 23, 2023. To complete the exercise in a time-bound manner and to provide adequate time to the members of the public, all banks have been directed to provide deposit and/or exchange facilities for ₹2,000 notes till September 30, 2023. The facility for the exchange of ₹2,000 notes will also be available at the 19 Regional Offices of the RBI having "Issue Departments". The ₹2000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of 'RBI Act, 1934' to meet the currency requirement of the economy after the withdrawal of all ₹500 and ₹1000 banknotes. Later, the printing of ₹2,000 notes was stopped in 2018-19 after the fulfilment of the objective. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- RBI – withdrew ₹2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation in pursuance of its “Clean Note Policy”
- ₹2,000 notes will continue to be legal tender
- Exchange of ₹2,000 notes into banknotes of other denominations can be made up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time
- Banks have been directed to provide deposit and/or exchange facilities for ₹2,000 notes till September 30, 2023
- The ₹2000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of ‘RBI Act, 1934’
- Printing of ₹2,000 notes was stopped in 2018-19
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**125.** On May 19, Bajaj Allianz Life has launched “Bajaj Allianz Life Small Cap Fund”, India’s first Small Cap fund in the ULIP segment. The New Fund Offer (NFO) will offer customers an opportunity to achieve capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of small-cap stocks. The Fund will track Nifty Small Cap 100 index. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Bajaj Allianz Life – launched India’s first Small Cap fund in the ULIP segment
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Life – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tarun Chugh

**126.** On May 19, Aditya Birla Capital, the financial services business of the Aditya Birla Group, through its lending arm, Aditya Birla Finance, announced the launch of “Udyog Plus”, an innovative one-stop business platform, designed for MSME customers. This new B2B digital platform offers a wide range of solutions for MSMEs, including financing, protection, investments, advisory and value-added services for managing and growing their businesses. Udyog Plus is an open marketplace. The platform is live and offers a completely paperless digital journey for business loans of up to Rs 10 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Aditya Birla Finance – launched “Udyog Plus”, an innovative one-stop business platform for MSME customers
- It offers a completely paperless digital journey for business loans of up to Rs 10 lakh
- HQs of Aditya Birla Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rakesh Singh
- HQs of Aditya Birla Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Vishakha Mulye

**127.** On May 20, during the 602<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the RBI’s Central Board of Directors, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) almost tripled its annual surplus transfer to the government. It will transfer Rs 87,416 Crore as surplus for the fiscal year ended March 2023, up from Rs 30,307 Crore a year earlier. It decided to keep the Contingency Risk Buffer at 6%. The meeting was chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The budget had estimated receipts worth ₹48,000 crore by way of total dividends from public sector banks and the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- RBI – announced to transfer Rs 87,416 Cr as surplus for FY23 | RBI Transferred Rs 30,307 Crore in FY22
- RBI – to keep the Contingency Risk Buffer at 6%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**128.** Public Sector Banks' (PSB) cumulative profit crossed the Rs 1 lakh Crore-mark in the financial year ended March 2023. Their profit touched Rs 1,04,649 crore in 2022-23. These 12 PSBs witnessed 57% increase in total profit compared to Rs 66,539.98 crore earned in 2021-22. In percentage terms Pune-based Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) had the highest net profit growth with 126%, followed by UCO (100%) and Bank of Baroda (94%). However, in absolute term, SBI has reported an annual profit of Rs 50,232 crore in 2022-23, representing nearly half of the total earnings all 12 PSBs. The government has implemented a comprehensive 4R strategy: Recognising NPAs transparently, Resolution and recovery, Recapitalising PSBs, and Reforms in the financial ecosystem. As part of the strategy, the government infused an unprecedented Rs 3,10,997 crore to recapitalise PSBs during the last 5 financial years. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**


- PSB's cumulative profit in FY23 – Rs 1,04,649 Crore (57% increase in total profit compared to earned in FY22)
- Highest net profit growth: Top – Bank of Maharashtra (126%) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – UCO (100%) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – BoB (94%)
- Profit in absolute terms: Top – SBI (Rs 50,232 crore)
- Gol's implemented comprehensive 4R strategy:
  - Recognising NPAs transparently
  - Resolution and recovery
  - Recapitalising PSBs
  - Reforms in the financial ecosystem
- Gol – infused Rs 3,10,997 Cr to recapitalise PSBs during the last 5 financial years
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”

**129.** On May 22, the Ministry of Finance clarified that no Tax Collection at Source (TCS) will be levied on individual payments using international debit and credit cards of up to Rs 7 lakh in a financial year from July 1, 2023. Such payments will be excluded from the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) limits. On May 16, the Finance Ministry amended rules under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to bring international credit card spending under the LRS. Further, the Union Budget 2023 has increased TCS for foreign remittances under the LRS from 5% to 20% (except for education and medical purposes). This rule will be effective from July 1, 2023. Under the LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to \$2,50,000 per financial year. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Finance Ministry: No TCS to be levied on individual payments using international debit & credit cards of up to Rs 7 lakh
- It will be applicable in a financial year from July 1, 2023 & Such payments will be excluded from LRS limits
- 2023 Budget increased TCS for foreign remittances under LRS from 5% to 20% (except for education/medical purposes)
- Under the LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to \$2,50,000 per FY
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

<b>CHANGES OR INCREASE IN RATES OF TAX COLLECTION AT SOURCE (TCS)</b>				
Purpose of remittance	Till 30 - June -2023		From 1-July-2023	
	Threshold	Rate	Threshold	Rate
Purchase of an overseas tour travel package	Nil	5%	Nil	20%
Investment in bonds, stocks or real estate, gifts to non-residents, etc.	Rs 7 lakh	5%	Nil	20%
Medical treatment	Rs 7 lakh	5%	Rs 7 lakh	5%
For education out of a loan obtained from a financial institution	Rs 7 lakh	0.5%	Rs 7 lakh	0.5%
For education remitting from own funds	Rs 7 lakh	5%	Rs 7 lakh	5%
International spends on credit or debit cards	Rs 7 lakh	5%	Rs 7 lakh	20%

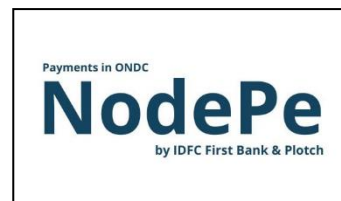
Source: Ministry of Finance 

**130.** On May 25, Axis Bank launched “Sarathi”, a first-of-its-kind digital onboarding journey for merchants to adopt Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (PoS). The solution enables merchants to complete the onboarding process in just 4 simple steps. Now, merchants won’t have to spend their time filling out lengthy documents or waiting around for their POS terminals to be installed due to the paperless onboarding procedure. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Axis Bank – launched “Sarathi”, a digital onboarding journey for merchants to adopt EDC or PoS
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**131.** In May 2023, Plotch, along with IDFC First Bank, launched an ONDC-focused payment solution, “NodePe”. Plotch aims to bring over 10,000 sellers to the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Plotch is founded in 2020 by Craftsvilla.com founders Manoj and Monica Gupta. Using NodePe, payments can be routed between buyer and seller apps based on transaction level contracts agreed upon by network participants. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Plotch + IDFC First Bank = launched an ONDC-focused payment solution, “NodePe”
- Plotch – founded in 2020 by Craftsvilla.com founders Manoj & Monica Gupta
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018

**132.** On May 26, Karnataka Bank announced Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as its new Managing Director & CEO for a period of 3 years. The appointment follows M. S. Mahabaleshwara retiring after two terms of 3 years as MD & CEO. Srikrishnan succeeds Sekhar Rao, who had been serving as the Interim MD & CEO of the bank since April 2023. Mr. Sarma previously held key positions at HDFC Bank, Yes Bank, and Jio Payments Bank. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma – appointed as new MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank (succeeding - Sekhar Rao)
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma

**133.** On May 28, the SEBI reconstituted its Intermediary Advisory Committee, which suggests on matters pertaining to changes in legal framework and enhancing transparency in systems and procedures of market intermediaries including stock brokers, depository participants and clearing members. The 21-member panel will continue to be chaired by S. Ravindran Jain, former Executive Director at SEBI. Also, the regulator has inducted several new members including Nithin Kamath, Founder & CEO of Zerodha Broking and Groww’s CEO Lalit Keshre. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SEBI – reconstituted its 21-member Intermediary Advisory Committee which is chaired by S. Ravindran Jain
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**134.** Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the Best Bank as far as management of bad loans is concerned with its net non-performing assets (NPAs) falling as low as 0.25% during the financial year ended March 2023. Among Private banks, BoM was followed by HDFC Bank (0.27%) and Kotak Mahindra Bank (0.37%). On the PSB side, BoM was followed by SBI (0.67%) and Bank of Baroda (0.89%). With regard to Capital Adequacy Ratio, BoM has the highest CAR of 18.14% among PSBs followed by Punjab & Sind Bank (17.10%) and Canara Bank (16.68%). In terms of loan growth, BoM retained the top spot among the scheduled commercial banks, followed by Indian Overseas Bank & IndusInd Bank. With regards to deposits growth rate, HDFC Bank was at the first spot with 20.80%, followed by Federal Bank (17%) and Kotak Mahindra Bank (16.49%). [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Bank of Maharashtra – emerged as the Best Bank in management of bad loans
  - Among Private Banks: BoM is followed by HDFC Bank & Kotak Mahindra Bank
  - Among PSB: BoM is followed by SBI & Bank of Baroda
- BoM – has the highest CAR among PSBs | Followed by – Punjab & Sind Bank and Canara Bank
- BoM – recorded the highest loan growth among SCBs | Followed by – IOB & IndusInd Bank
- HDFC Bank – recorded the highest deposits growth | Followed by – Federal Bank & Kotak Mahindra Bank

**135.** On May 30, Razorpay launched “Turbo UPI”, India’s fastest one-step UPI (unified payments interface) payment solution. This new product allows customers of online merchants to make UPI payments directly without getting redirected to a third-party UPI app during checkout. Razorpay Turbo UPI aims to deliver a 5X faster payment experience. This solution was developed in partnership with NPCI and Axis Bank. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Razorpay – launched “Turbo UPI”, India’s fastest one-step UPI payment solution (in partnership with NPCI + Axis Bank)
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO & Co-founder – Harshil Mathur

**136.** India reclaimed its spot as the world’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest stock market after losing that status to France in January 2023. Market capitalization of India stood at \$3.3 trillion as of May 26, 2023 as Adani shares rebounded from a rout and foreign funds accelerated purchases. While, France recently lost more than \$100 billion in market value as luxury goods makers such as LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE and Vivendi SE saw a sell-off on fears of a slowdown in China and the US. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India – reclaimed its spot as the world’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest stock market (overtaking - France)
- Market capitalization of India stood at \$3.3 trillion as of May 26, 2023

**137.** Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India declined by 22% to \$46 billion in FY23, dragged by lower inflows in Computer Hardware & Software, and Automobile Industry, according to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data. The FDI inflows stood at \$58.77 billion during FY22. During FY23, Singapore emerged as the top investor with \$17.2 billion in FDI. It was followed by Mauritius (\$6.13 billion), & the US (\$6 billion). Though the Computer Software and Hardware Sector attracted the highest inflows of \$9.4 billion during FY23. State-wise, Maharashtra received the highest inflows of \$14.8 billion during FY23. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- DPIIT data: FDI into India declined by 22% to \$46 billion in FY23 (from \$58.77 billion during FY22)
- Singapore – emerged as the top investor with \$17.2 billion in FDI | Followed by – Mauritius & US
- Computer Software & Hardware Sector – attracted the highest inflows of \$9.4 billion during FY23
- State-wise, Maharashtra – received the highest inflows of \$14.8 billion during FY23
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Anurag Jain | DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**138.** In May 2023, Kiwi, a credit card platform, announced the launch of its “Credit on UPI”, solution for customers. Certified by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Kiwi claims to be the first app in India that will help customers experience “Credit on UPI” by issuing Rupay Cards in partnership with banks. With this launch, Kiwi aims to create one of the largest direct-to-consumer (D2C) models in the credit market through its cutting-edge mobile app. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Kiwi – launched its “Credit on UPI” solution for customers
- Kiwi – is the first app in India that will help customers experience “Credit on UPI” by issuing Rupay Cards





## A GLIMPSE OF SOME GENUINE TESTIMONIALS

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**Soumyajit Bhattacharyya**

IBPS PO 2022

Smartkeeda is the mock test you need to prepare for Banking preparation both in prelims and mains. It has helped me a lot in the GA section through the Mock Drills & also helped me in other sections to crack IBPS Clerk. Believe it or not, you have to be patient in your banking preparation & 'Practice makes a man perfect'. Smartkeeda has helped me to find out my strong and weak areas. Thank you Smartkeeda, I would highly recommend this test series. ❤️

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“



**Tripti Rani Paul**

SBI PO 2022

Smartkeeda has been really helpful in this journey of mine as a banking aspirant. The mocks specially the mains one are really good with real exam relevance. I have also used CA mock drills which have further strengthened my preparation. This was my 2nd attempt at this exam and 1st serious attempt.

”

“



**Hardik Dave**

IBPS Clerk 2022

I am Hardik Dave from Gandhidham Kutch Gujarat, and I have cleared both the IBPS Clerk and RRB Office Assistant exams, securing a position in Punjab National Bank. Smartkeeda played a pivotal role in my preparation journey by helping me cover each type of question with detailed solutions and preparing me for the toughest level of the exams. CA Mockdrills were especially useful for practicing and analyzing my CA preparation. I am grateful to the entire Smartkeeda team for their contribution to my success. Thank you, and हर हर महादेव!

”

“



**Kuldeep Singh Rawat**

IBPS RRB Clerk 2022

I believe smartkeeda provides exact exam-level mocks that help students like me ace the exams. Also, the CA Mockdrill is the best and the most effective way to learn and recall current affairs, which definitely helped me in my examination. With smartkeeda i have cleared all the preliminary examinations of IBPS and SBI and IBPS PO Mains 2022.

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# Defence Affairs

**139.** Indian Army, for the first time ever, has inducted 5 women officers into its Regiment of Artillery, during their passing out parade at OTA, Chennai. Lt. Mehak Saini has been commissioned into a SATA regiment, Lt. Sakshi Dubey and Lt. Aditi Yadav into field regiments, Lt. Pious Mudgil into the medium regiment, and Lt. Akanksha into the rocket regiment. The parade was reviewed by General S. M. Shafiuddin Ahmed, the Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff. He also presented the Sword of Honour and gold medal to ACA Ajay Singh Gill, silver medal to SUO Ajay Kumar A. and the bronze medal to BUO Mehak Saini. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Indian Army – inducted 5 women officers into its Regiment of Artillery for the first time ever
  - Lt. Mehak Saini – commissioned into SATA regiment
  - Lt. Sakshi Dubey & Lt. Aditi Yadav – commissioned into Field regiments
  - Lt. Pious Mudgil – commissioned into Medium regiment
  - Lt. Akanksha – commissioned into Rocket regiment
- General S.M. Shafiuddin Ahmed (Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff) reviewed the parade & awarded:
  - Sword of Honour & Gold medal – to ACA Ajay Singh Gill
  - Silver medal – to SUO Ajay Kumar A
  - Bronze medal – to BUO Mehak Saini

**140.** On May 1, INS Satpura & INS Delhi arrived at Singapore to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of “ASEAN India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023)” scheduled from 2 to 8 May, 2023. The Harbour Phase of the exercise was scheduled to be held at Changi Naval Base from 2 to 4 May 2023 and the Sea Phase was scheduled to be conducted from 7 to 8 May, 2023 in the South China Sea. AIME-2023 provided an opportunity for Indian Navy and ASEAN navies to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain. INS Delhi, India’s first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer and INS Satpura, an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate are a part of Indian Navy’s Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- INS Satpura & INS Delhi – participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of “ASEAN India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023)” in Singapore
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | Vice Chief – Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh

**141.** On May 4, the Indian Armed Forces conducted a “Buland Bharat” exercise in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh. The training was aimed at testing their integrated surveillance and firepower capabilities. The Artillery and Infantry collaborated with Special forces, Aviation, and CAPF to combine their surveillance and firepower. The exercise took place at the newly operationalised High Altitude Artillery Ranges of Eastern Theatre in West Kameng and Tawang. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Indian Armed Forces – conducted a “Buland Bharat” exercise in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
- Aim – testing integrated surveillance & firepower capabilities
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

**142.** On May 2, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over a Fast Patrol Vessel “Huravee” and a Landing Craft Assault Ship to the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF). Rajnath Singh asserted that the ties emanate from the twin policies of ‘Neighbourhood First’ and ‘SAGAR’ (Security and Growth for All in the Region). The Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) is capable of coastal and offshore surveillance at high speeds. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – handed over a Fast Patrol Vessel “Huravee” & Landing Craft Assault Ship to Maldives NDF
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

**143.** On May 5, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) unveiled its first unmanned mini submarine, named “BlueWhale”. Developed by IAI’s subsidiary Elta Systems, the modular, electric-propelled large autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) is designed for covert intelligence-gathering operations above the sea surface, as well as anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and minehunting missions. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Israel – unveiled its first unmanned mini submarine, named “BlueWhale”
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel](#) | [President – Isaac Herzog](#) | [PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)

**144.** On May 3, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Didi laid the foundation stone for the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) Coast Guard ‘Ekatha Harbour’. The development of the ‘Ekatha Harbour’ is one of the biggest grant-in-aid projects of India in Maldives. This is the first visit of an Indian Defence Minister to the island nation in 11 years. The Ministers agreed to explore additional avenues for cooperation, including in the areas of defence trade, capacity building and joint exercises. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Rajnath Singh + Mariya Didi (Maldivian counterpart) = laid foundation stone for MNDF Coast Guard ‘Ekatha Harbour’
- ‘Ekatha Harbour’ – India’s one of the biggest grant-in-aid projects in Maldives
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

**145.** On May 8, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has received its first indigenously designed and developed Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) loitering munition named “ALS 50”, also known as a ‘Suicide Drone’. Developed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), the autonomous system has successfully demonstrated its capability to carry out precision strikes during trials and tests. These are capable of operating from all kinds of terrain and high altitude areas and can take down targets at a range of over 50 km, without exposing any personnel to risk. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- IAF – received its 1<sup>st</sup> indigenously designed & developed VTOL loitering munition named “ALS 50” aka ‘Suicide Drone’
- It is developed by – Tata Advanced Systems Limited
- [HQs of IAF – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari](#) | [Vice Chief – Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh](#)

**146.** As of May 6, the Indian Army is working on creating a Battlefield Surveillance System under 'Project Sanjay' to provide a composite operational picture to commanders and staffers at all levels for swifter decision-making. It seeks to create multiple surveillance centres for the field formations and enable the integration of a large number of sensors. The Army is observing 2023 as the 'Year of Transformation' to set itself on a course to become a future-ready, technology-driven, lethal and agile force. Bharat Electronics Limited, Ghaziabad, is the project's system integrator. Another project the Army is working on is SAMA (Situational Awareness Module for the Army). SAMA, the in-house decision support system, has been developed in conjunction with BISAG-N. Moreover, 'Project INDRA (Indian Army Data Repository and Analytics)' has been developed to manage a database of junior commissioned officers and other personnel spread across 47 Record Offices.

[{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Indian Army is working on creating a Battlefield Surveillance System under 'Project Sanjay'
- BEL (Ghaziabad) is the project's System Integrator | The Army is observing 2023 as the 'Year of Transformation'
- Other projects of Army:
  - 'SAMA' (Situational Awareness Module for the Army)
  - 'INDRA' (Indian Army Data Repository and Analytics)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General MV Suchindra Kumar

**147.** On May 6, INS Magar, the oldest Landing Ship Tank (Large) of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned at a sunset ceremony held at the Naval Base, after serving the nation for 36 years. The vessel was commissioned in 1987 at Garden Reach Shipyard and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. It had the unique distinction of being the first indigenous ship of the Indian Navy. In 2018, the ship was converted into a training ship and joined the First Training Squadron in Kochi. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- INS Magar, the oldest Landing Ship Tank (Large) of Indian Navy, is decommissioned after serving the nation for 36 years
- It was commissioned in 1987 at GRSE, Kolkata | It was the first indigenous ship of the Indian Navy
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | Vice Chief – Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh

**148.** On May 8, the first 'C295' tactical lift aircraft made for the Indian Air Force undertook its maiden test flight in Spain. The first 16 aircrafts of the type are being made in Spain by Airbus and will be delivered by 2025, while the following 40 are to be manufactured in Gujarat by Tata Advanced Systems Limited in collaboration with Airbus. Tata is establishing the main manufacturing facility at Vadodara and will also set up an Aerospace and Defence Complex at Dholera. In 2021, the company tied up with Airbus that won a Rs 21,935 Crore contract to supply 56 transport aircraft to the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- First 'C295' aircraft (made for IAF) – undertook its maiden test flight in Spain
- 16 'C295' aircrafts will be made in Spain by Airbus by 2025 | Other 40 will be manufactured in Gujarat by TASL
- Tata is establishing the main manufacturing facility for 'C295' aircraft at Vadodara, Gujarat
- HQs of Airbus – Leiden, Netherlands | CEO – Guillaume Faury
- HQs of Tata Advanced Systems – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Sukaran Singh

**149.** INS Kavaratti, indigenously designed & built ASW Corvette, arrived at Batam, Indonesia to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise “Samudra Shakti 2023” from 14-19 May 23. An Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter also participated. Exercise Samudra Shakti is aimed at enhancing interoperability, jointness and mutual cooperation between both navies. The exercise was held in the South China Sea. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- India + Indonesia = conducted the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Bilateral exercise “Samudra Shakti 2023” in the South China Sea
- INS Kavaratti, an Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft & Chetak helicopter – participated in the exercise
- Indonesia – Jakarta (Nusantara in future) – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

**150.** The “Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023” is scheduled to be held in Busan, South Korea from June 27 to 30, 2023. The continental kabaddi event will be played after a hiatus of six years. The last edition was held in Gorgan, Iran in 2017. The Indian men’s kabaddi team is the most successful side in the history of the Asian Kabaddi Championship, winning 7 gold medals from the 8 editions. The trials to select the Indian men’s kabaddi team for the Asian Kabaddi Championship was set to take place at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, Bihar on May 17. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- “Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023” – to be held in Busan, South Korea
- The trials to select Indian men’s team for the Championship – took place at Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, Bihar
- The last edition was held in Gorgan, Iran in 2017
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arleka

**151.** On May 16, the Gajraj Corps of the Indian Army conducted a joint flood relief “Exercise Jal Rahat” at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River in Assam to validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns. Apart from Indian Army, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and police representatives also took part in the exercise. The event included coordination and rehearsals for rescue missions of people from inundated areas by joint efforts of the Army, NDRF and SDRF specialist teams. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Gajraj Corps (Indian Army) – conducted a joint flood relief “Exercise Jal Rahat”
- It was conducted at Hagrama Bridge on the Manas River in Assam
- Participants in the exercise – Indian Army + SSB + NDRF + SDRF + DDMA + Police representatives
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General MV Suchindra Kumar

**152.** On May 17, Indra Sistemas, S.A., a Spanish information technology and defense systems company, is installing the naval version of 'Lanza 3D Radar' on one of the Indian Navy's destroyer ship, beginning the delivery of the 23 radars that it will provide to the Indian Navy over the next decade. This milestone is part of the contract signed by the company in 2020 with the Indian company TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), within the framework of a technology transfer program. The primary function of radar is the detection of aircraft within the instrumented coverage volume, even in adverse conditions. It also includes the integration of a Secondary Surveillance Radar (IFF/SSR). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Indra Sistemas (Spain) – is installing the naval version of 'Lanza 3D Radar' on one of Indian Navy's destroyer ship
- It is part of a contract signed by Indra Sistemas in 2020 with TATA Advanced Systems Ltd
- The primary function of radar – detection of aircraft within instrumented coverage volume, even in adverse conditions
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | Vice Chief – Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez

**153.** On May 19, INS Vaghsheer (Yard 11880), the 6<sup>th</sup> Scorpene Submarine of Project-75, commenced her sea trials. It is Indian Navy's Kalvari class submarine. Vagsheer is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024 after the completion of these trials. It is built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL). INS Vagsheer is named after the Sand Fish, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean. The state-of-art technology utilized in the Scorpene has ensured superior stealth features. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- INS Vaghsheer (6<sup>th</sup> Scorpene Submarine of Project-75) – commenced her sea trials
- INS Vagsheer – scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024
- Built by – Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) | Named after – the Sand Fish of the Indian Ocean

**154.** On May 21, INS Tarkash and INS Subhadra arrived at Port Al-Jubail to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the naval exercise "AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023" conducted between India & Saudi Arabia. This year, the naval exercise also included the participation of a maritime patrol aircraft. INS TARKASH is a state-of-the-art stealth frigate of the Talwar class. INS SUBHADRA is a patrol vessel of the Sukanya class. 'AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023' encompasses a series of exercises conducted on land and at sea. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India + Saudi Arabia = conducted 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the naval exercise "AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023"
- INS Tarkash and INS Subhadra arrived at Port Al-Jubail to participate in the exercise
- Saudi Arabia – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | PM – Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud | King – Salman bin Abdulaziz

**155.** The sea phase of 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of bilateral exercise "Al Mohed Al Hindi 23", between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) was held from 23-25 May, 2023 off Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. INS Tarkash, INS Subhadra and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft (MPA) participated in the exercise from the Indian side. The exercise aimed to improve maritime security, encourage information exchange & build improved interoperability. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Indian Navy + Royal Saudi Naval Force = conducted 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of bilateral exercise “Al Mohed Al Hindi 23”
- It was conducted off Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia
- INS Tarkash + INS Subhadra + Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft (MPA) = participated in the exercise from Indian side
- Saudi Arabia – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | PM – Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud | King – Salman bin Abdulaziz

**156.** The Sapta Shakti Command of the Indian Army conducted exercise “Sudarshan Shakti 2023” along the Western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab from May 22 to 25. The exercise was designed to validate operational plans in a Network-centric Environment. The elements of combat power, combat support, and logistic support were exercised in a synergised application under all domains of enemy threat including Grey Zone Warfare as part of high-tempo operations. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Sapta Shakti Command – conducted exercise “Sudarshan Shakti 2023” along Western borders in Rajasthan & Punjab
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**157.** In May 2023, India and the US announced to launch “INDUS-X” initiative under the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) to promote partnerships between the two countries’ defence innovation ecosystems. INDUS-X is scheduled to be launched in Washington, D.C., ahead of the Prime Minister’s visit in June 2023. The INDUS-X is going to be a major initiative under iCET and the focus is firmly on advancing high-tech cooperation. As announced earlier this year, India and the U.S. are discussing possibilities of co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery and infantry vehicles under the iCET.

[{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India + US = to launch “INDUS-X” initiative to promote partnerships between their Defence Innovation Ecosystems
- It will be launched in Washington, D.C., US in June 2023 (under iCET)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

# TOPIC TEST

## Features:

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# Sports & Games

**158.** On May 1, Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal became India's first player to win "2023 Roma Garden Open", an ATP Challenger Event on clay court in Rome, Italy. The 25-year-old Nagal defeated Dutchman Jesper de Jong to clinch his third ATP Challenger title and the first since his victory in Buenos Aires in 2019. Nagal, ranked 347<sup>th</sup> in the world, had little difficulty overcoming his Dutch opponent three years younger and currently ranked 234<sup>th</sup> in the world. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Sumit Nagal – became India's 1<sup>st</sup> player to win "2023 Roma Garden Open", an ATP Challenger Event in Rome, Italy
- [Italy – Rome – Euro](#) | [President – Sergio Mattarella](#) | [PM – Giorgia Meloni](#)

**159.** The Odisha government has further extended its sponsorship for both the Men and Women Indian Hockey Teams (senior and junior) for another 10 years from 2023 to 2033. Earlier, Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) had entered into an agreement with Hockey India for a period of 5 years from 2018 to 2023. A total amount of ₹434.12 Crore will be released by OMC to Hockey India during this period. The decision in this regard was taken at the Cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Naveen Patnaik. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Odisha – extended its sponsorship for both Men & Women Indian Hockey Teams for another 10 years (till 2033)
- A total amount of ₹434.12 Crore will be released by OMC to Hockey India during this period (2023 to 2033)
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**160.** On May 1, Ding Liren has become 17<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion, the first from China. He defeated Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi at the "FIDE World Chess Championships 2023" in Astana, Kazakhstan. With this triumph, he took over the world championship title from Norway's Magnus Carlsen. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- "FIDE World Chess Championships 2023" (Astana) – won by Ding Liren (defeating - Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi)
- Ding Liren – became & 17<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion (1<sup>st</sup> from China)
- He took over world championship title from – Norway's Magnus Carlsen
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#) | [PM – Li Qiang](#)
- [Kazakhstan – Astana – Tenge](#) | [President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev](#) | [PM – Alikhan Smailov](#)

**161.** On May 9, Visakhapatnam's K. Hardik Varma has become World No.1 in the under-7 category, after his impressive performance in the "Dani Rumenke International Chess Tournament" in Serbia with 3 wins, 4 draws and 1 loss in 8 rounds. Some of the previous best achievements of Hardik were winning the 2021 All India Open rapid chess (under-7), being the youngest national player at the age of three in 2019, third place in the 2023 International Open FIDE-rating (ELO1600). [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- K. Hardik Varma (Andhra Pradesh) – has become World No. 1 Chess Player in 'Under-7' category, after his impressive performance in the "Dani Rumenke International Chess Tournament" in Serbia



**162.** On May 2, Belgium's Luca Brecel became the first player from continental Europe to win "2023 Cazoo World Snooker Championship", defeating four-time champion Mark Selby of England. Brecel is only the 4<sup>th</sup> modern-era world champion from outside the UK. The championship was held in Sheffield, UK. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Luca Brecel (Belgium) – won the "2023 Cazoo World Snooker Championship" in Sheffield, UK (defeating - Mark Selby)
- She became the first player from continental Europe to win this championship

**163.** On May 5, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur, launched the official logo, Mascot, Torch, Anthem & Jersey of "Khelo India University Games Uttar Pradesh 2022" on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima in Lucknow. "Jitu", the mascot represents the 'Barasingha', an exotic vibrant state animal which embodies "Garv se Gaurav". While the logo represents the rich heritage of Uttar Pradesh. 'Shakti' is the official torch of the Khelo India University Games Uttar Pradesh. Four cities in Uttar Pradesh will host the Khelo India University Games i.e., Gautam Budh Nagar, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, and Lucknow. More than 4000 athletes from 200 Indian universities will compete in 21 sporting disciplines at the games which are officially scheduled from May 25 to June 3, 2023. The opening ceremony will be held at the Babu Banarasi Das (BBD) University in Lucknow. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Anurag Singh Thakur – launched official logo, Mascot, Torch, Anthem & Jersey of "Khelo India University Games 2022"
- Khelo India University Games 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) – to be held in 4 cities of Uttar Pradesh (from May 25 to June 3, 2023)
- 4 cities – Gautam Budh Nagar, Gorakhpur, Varanasi & Lucknow
- Mascot – "Jitu" (Barasingha) | Official torch – 'Shakti'

**164.** On May 5, a 18-year-old Geoffrey Emmanuel from Chennai became the first Indian to participate in the "FIM World JuniorGP World Championship". The opening round of the Moto3 feeder series, organised by Dorna Sports, was scheduled from May 5-7 in Portugal. FIM JuniorGP World Championship, comprising seven rounds, is a junior class race event that runs under FIM Moto3 regulations & acts as Moto3 World Championship feeder class. The 2022 FIM JuniorGP World Championship was the 11<sup>th</sup> season of former CEV Moto3 and the 9<sup>th</sup> edition under the FIM. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Geoffrey Emmanuel (Chennai) – became the first Indian to participate in "FIM World JuniorGP World Championship"
- It was organised by – Dorna Sports (11<sup>th</sup> season of former CEV Moto3 & 9<sup>th</sup> edition under the FIM)

**165.** On May 5, Hockey India named the 18-member Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team for the upcoming "Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023", set to be held in Oman's Salalah from May 23 to June 1, 2023. This will be a qualifying event for the forthcoming 'FIH Junior Men's World Cup' in Malaysia in December, 2023. Uttam Singh has been named the captain with Bobby Singh Dhama as the vice-captain of the squad. While Mohith HS and Himwaan Sihag have been named as goalkeepers. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Hockey India – named the 18-member Indian Junior Men’s Hockey Team for the “Men’s Junior Asia Cup 2023”
- The tournament is set to be held in Oman’s Salalah from May 23 to June 1, 2023
- Captain – Uttam Singh | Vice-captain – Bobby Singh Dhami
- ‘FIH Junior Men’s World Cup’ – to be held in Malaysia in December, 2023
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Dilip Tirkey | Secretary General – Bhola Nath

**166.** On May 7, Neeraj Chopra clinched the top spot in the javelin event of the ‘Doha Diamond League 2023’ with a throw of 88.67m. He achieved the distance with his very first throw. Czech thrower Jakub Vadlejch finished 2<sup>nd</sup> with a best attempt at 88.63m and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada managed only 85.88m to take 3<sup>rd</sup> spot. The Diamond League, an annual series of elite track and field competitions with \$30,000 prize money, is organised by World Athletics. It was started in 2010. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Neeraj Chopra – clinched top spot in ‘Doha Diamond League 2023’ (88.67m)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic (88.63m) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Anderson Peters of Grenada (85.88m)
- Diamond League – organised by World Athletics | Started in – 2010
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani

**167.** On May 9, Indian weightlifters finished the “Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023” in Jinju, South Korea, with 3 silver medals. Jeremy Lalrinnunga won silver medal in men’s 67kg category in ‘snatch’. While Bindyarani Devi won two silver medals in women’s 55kg category in ‘overall’ as well as in ‘clean & jerk’. A total of 6 Indian weightlifters competed at the continental championships, which is second in the series of qualifying events for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Indian weightlifters – finished with 3 Silver medals at “Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023” in Jinju, South Korea
- Bindyarani Devi – won two silver medals in women’s 55kg category in ‘overall’ and ‘clean & jerk’
- Jeremy Lalrinnunga – won silver medal in men’s 67kg category in ‘snatch’

**168.** In May 2023, India’s top long-distance runner Avinash Sable broke a 30-year-old national record in the 5000m at the ‘Sound Running Track Meet’ in San Juan Capistrano, USA. Avinash Sable clocked 13:25.65s to finish 12<sup>th</sup> in the race and broke the previous record of 13:29.70 set by Bahadur Prasad in Birmingham back in 1992. The Sound Running Track Meet is a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level event. Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway won the race with a time of 13:02.03. Moreover, in the women’s 5000m race, India’s Parul Chaudhary finished 9<sup>th</sup> with a national record-setting time of 15:10.35. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Avinash Sable (Runner) – finished 12<sup>th</sup> & broke a 30-year-old national record in 5000m at ‘Sound Running Track Meet’
- ‘Sound Running Track Meet’ – held in San Juan Capistrano, USA
- He clocked 13:25.65s & broke previous record of 13:29.70 set by Bahadur Prasad in Birmingham in 1992
- Parul Chaudhary (Runner) – finished 9<sup>th</sup> with a national record-setting time of 15:10.35

**169.** In May 2023, the 16-member Indian archery team finished the Asia Cup 2023 stage 2 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with 14 medals across the compound and recurve events. India's archers bagged 7 golds, 5 silvers and 2 bronze medals in all. Gold medal winners in compound archery are - Abhishek Verma (Men's Individual), Raginee Markoo (Women's Individual), Abhishek Verma, Kushal Dalal & Amit (Men's team), Pragati, Praneet Kaur & Raginee Markoo (Women's team), and Parneet Kaur & Abhishek Verma (Mixed team). Gold medal winners in Recurve archery are - Jayanta Talukdar, Mrinal Chauhan & Tushar Shelke (Men's team), and Sangeeta & Mrinal Chauhan (Mixed team). The next stage of Asia Cup archery will be held at Bukit Gombak Stadium in Singapore from June 5 to 10, 2023. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Asia Cup 2023 stage 2 – held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Indian archery team finished with 14 medals (7G + 5S + 2B)
- Gold medal winners in compound archery:
  - Abhishek Verma (Men's Individual)
  - Raginee Markoo (Women's Individual)
  - Abhishek Verma, Kushal Dalal & Amit (Men's team)
  - Pragati, Praneet Kaur & Raginee Markoo (Women's team)
  - Parneet Kaur & Abhishek Verma (Mixed team)
  - Jayanta Talukdar, Mrinal Chauhan & Tushar Shelke (Men's team)
  - Sangeeta & Mrinal Chauhan (Mixed team)
- Next stage of Asia Cup archery – to be held at Bukit Gombak Stadium in Singapore
- [Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev](#)

**170.** In May 2023, Malaysian former badminton player Lee Chong Wei, along with China's Lin Dan, has been elected into the Badminton Hall of Fame for 2023 by the Badminton World Federation (BWF). Lin was a two-time Olympic winner and a five-time world champion; Lee retains the record for the most weeks as world number one, with 349. Additionally, Lin dominated in his World Championships finals, winning five golds and two silvers. While Lee won 47 BWF Super Series and World Tour titles during his career, as well as three Olympic silver medals. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia) + Lin Dan (China) = elected into Badminton Hall of Fame for 2023 by BWF
- Lee Chong Wei – retains the record for the most weeks as the world's number one
- [HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen](#)

**171.** In May 2023, India won 3 bronze medals at "2023 IBA Men's World Boxing Championships" held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The bronze winners are - Deepak Bhorla (51kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg). Uzbekistan topped the medal tally with 5 Gold, 2 Silver & 2 Bronze medals, followed by Kazakhstan & Russia. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- India – won 3 bronze medals at “2023 IBA Men’s World Boxing Championships” held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 3 winners - Deepak Bhoria (51kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg) & Nishant Dev (71kg)
- Uzbekistan topped the medal tally, followed by Kazakhstan & Russia

**172.** On May 9, India’s Wushu athletes bagged a total of 17 medals (10 Gold, 4 Silver & 3 Bronze) at the “Wushu Stars Championship 2023” held at Moscow, Russia. The girls bagged medals in the junior girls, sub-junior girls and senior girls categories across Sanda (Fight) and Taolu in Moscow. Medal winners were felicitated at the Sports Authority of India by Deputy Director Generals Smt Ekta Vishnoi and Sh Shiv Sharma. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- India bagged a total of 17 medals (10 Gold, 4 Silver & 3 Bronze) at “Wushu Stars Championship 2023” in Moscow, Russia

**173.** On May 14, Indian rifle and pistol shooters finished the “ISSF World Cup 2023” in Baku, Azerbaijan, with 4 medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver & 1 Bronze). In the overall medals tally, India finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. China topped with 12 medals (8 Gold, 2 Silver & 2 Bronze). Sarabjot Singh and Divya TS combined to win a gold medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event, while Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra bagged silver medals in the men’s and women’s 10m air rifle events, respectively. Rhythm Sangwan won the only bronze medal - her first individual senior ISSF World Cup medal - in the women’s 10m air pistol event. The 19-year-old shooter, Rhythm, also broke a 29-year-old world record when she scored 595 in the qualification round of the women’s 25m pistol event but failed to medal in that event. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “ISSF World Cup 2023” – held in Baku, Azerbaijan
- India finished 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4 medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Bronze) | China – topped with 12 medals (8 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze)
  - Sarabjot Singh & Divya TS – Gold medal in 10m air pistol mixed team
  - Hriday Hazarika – Silver medal in men’s 10m air rifle
  - Nancy Mandhotra – Silver medal in women’s 10m air rifle
  - Rhythm Sangwan – Bronze medal in women’s 10m air pistol
- Rhythm also broke a 29-year-old world record when she scored 595 in qualification round of women’s 25m pistol event
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin

**174.** Rajasthan Royals leg spinner Yuzvendra Chahal overtook Dwayne Bravo to become the highest wicket-taker in the history of the Indian Premier League. Chahal has taken total of 184 wickets in the 143 matches of IPL, followed by Bravo with 183. Mumbai Indians’ leg spinner Piyush Chawla is in third place with 174 wickets. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Yuzvendra Chahal (Rajasthan Royals) – became the highest wicket-taker in the history of IPL (184 wickets)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dwayne Bravo (183) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Piyush Chawla (174)

**175.** The Special Olympics Bharat have started the preparation of the athletes ahead of the “Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023” which is set to take place in Berlin, Germany between June 17-25, 2023. India will be sending a 280 - strong contingent comprising of 198 athletes and partners along with 57 coaches who will be competing across 16 sports disciplines at the prestigious event. Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana joined the Indian Team as Ambassador for Special Olympics Journey to Berlin. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- “Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023” – to take place in Berlin, Germany (in June)
- Ayushmann Khurrana – joined the Indian Team as Ambassador

**176.** On May 14, Telangana’s Prraneeth Vuppala has become India’s 82<sup>nd</sup> Grandmaster, by defeating Hans Niemann of the US at the “Baku Open 2023”. The win against Niemann helped Vuppala to cross 2500 in the live rating. Prraneeth scored his final IM-norm and maiden GM-norm in the same event back in March 2022. To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Prraneeth Vuppala (Telangana) – became India’s 82<sup>nd</sup> Grandmaster (defeating - Hans Niemann) at “Baku Open 2023”
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

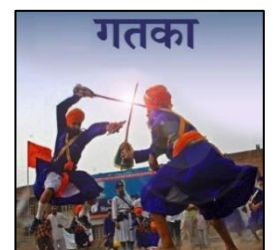
**177.** On May 15, Spain’s Barcelona FC claimed their 27<sup>th</sup> Spanish championship title (LaLiga title), their first championship title since 2019. Barcelona FC defeated Spain’s Espanyol FC for this title. La Liga, founded in 1929, is the top professional football league in Spain. Real Madrid FC currently holds the second position in the league standings. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Barcelona FC (Spain) – claimed their 27<sup>th</sup> LaLiga Spanish championship title (defeating - Spain’s Espanyol FC)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Real Madrid FC | La Liga – was founded in 1929
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez

**178.** On May 16, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), for the first time, officially included ‘Gatka’ in the 37<sup>th</sup> National Games 2023 scheduled to be held in Goa in October 2023. During this national event, the IOA would organize competitions for a total of 43 disciplines. Harjeet Singh Grewal is the President of the National Gatka Association of India (NGAI). ‘Gatka’ is the traditional martial art form of Punjab. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- IOA – officially included ‘Gatka’ in the 37<sup>th</sup> National Games 2023 scheduled to be held in Goa in October 2023
- IOA – would organize competitions for a total of 43 disciplines
- ‘Gatka’ – traditional martial art form of Punjab
- President of the National Gatka Association of India (NGAI) – Harjeet Singh Grewal
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**179.** On May 15, FIDE and the Mexican Chess Federation, in collaboration with National Sports Commission, Mexican Olympic Committee and Culture Ministry, invited all FIDE Member Federations and eligible players to participate in the “FIDE World Junior Chess Championships (Under 20)” to be held in Mexico City, Mexico from September 20 to October 2, 2023. Each National Federation can register one player born on or after January 1, 2003, in each of two categories - Open and Girls. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “FIDE World Junior Chess Championships (Under 20)” – to be held in Mexico City, Mexico
- It will be played two categories – Open and Girls
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on – July 20, 1924
- Mexico – Mexico City – Peso | President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

**180.** On May 18, FIFA President Gianni Infantino unveiled the logo for “2026 FIFA World Cup” at an event in Los Angeles, California, US. This is the first time in the history that three nations will be hosting the tournament. It will be hosted by the US, Canada and Mexico in June-July, 2026. This is the first time that India will also be participating in this sport. The 2022 FIFA World Cup was held in Qatar, the first time the tournament was held in an Arab country. Argentina won the final. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Gianni Infantino – unveiled the logo for “2026 FIFA World Cup” at an event in Los Angeles, California, US
- 2026 FIFA World Cup will be hosted by = US + Canada + Mexico (for the 1<sup>st</sup> time by 3 nations)
- This is the first time that India will also be participating in this sport
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

**181.** On May 18, with the conclusion of the 26<sup>th</sup> ‘National Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships’ in Ranchi, as many as 6 athletes from the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) qualified for the prestigious ‘Asian Athletics Championships 2023’ to be held in Bangkok from July 12 to July 16, 2023. Priya Mohan was the first to make the cut in the 400-metre event, striking gold with a time of 53.40 seconds. Other five are - high jump athlete Rubina Yadav, long jump athlete Ancy Sojan, triple jumper Abdulla Aboobacker and javelin throwers Rohit Yadav & Manu DP. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- 26<sup>th</sup> ‘National Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships’ – held in Ranchi
- ‘Asian Athletics Championships 2023’ – to be held in Bangkok in July 2023
- 6 athletes from IIS – qualified for the prestigious ‘Asian Athletics Championships 2023’
- The 6 athletes are – Priya Mohan (400 m), Rubina Yadav (high jump), Ancy Sojan (long jump), Abdulla Aboobacker (triple jump) & Rohit Yadav (javelin throw) & Manu DP (javelin throw)
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha

**182.** On May 22, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that renowned German sportswear brand, Adidas, will become new kit sponsor for Indian cricket team, effective from June 2023 till March 2028. Adidas replaces MPL Sports, the sports merchandise brand of Mobile Premier League. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Adidas (German sportswear brand) – became new kit sponsor for Indian cricket team (replacing - MPL Sports)
- HQs of Adidas – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Bjorn Gulden

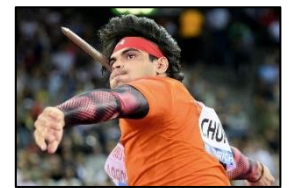
**183.** On May 22, in her first major senior outdoor international event, long jumper Shaili Singh won a Bronze at the “Seiko Golden Grand Prix 2023” in Yokohama, Japan. The 19-year-old, an Under-20 World Championship silver medallist, achieved this milestone by jumping 6.65 metres. Germany’s Maryse Luzolo won the gold with 6.79m, while Australia’s Brooke Buschkuhl took the silver with 6.77m. Shaili is currently ranked 42<sup>nd</sup>. Shaili was the youngest competitor in the women’s long jump at Yokohama - a World Athletics Continental Tour-Gold event. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Shaili Singh (long jumper) – won Bronze at “Seiko Golden Grand Prix 2023” in Yokohama, Japan (by jumping 6.65 metres)
- Gold was won by – Maryse Luzolo (Germany ) with 6.79m | Silver – Brooke Buschkuhl (Australia) with 6.77m

**184.** On May 22, 25-year-old Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra became the World No. 1 for the first time in his career in the latest “Men’s Javelin Throw Rankings” issued by the World Athletics. Chopra topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada’s reigning world champion Anderson Peters (1433). Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic was third with 1416 points. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Neeraj Chopra – became the World No. 1 for the first time in his career in the latest “Men’s Javelin Throw Rankings”
- Neeraj topped the charts with 1455 points | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Anderson Peters (Grenada) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jakub Vadlejch (Czech Republic)

**185.** A total of 11 Indian table tennis players, including Olympians Sharath Kamal, Sathiyana Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra, competed at the “ITTF World Table Tennis Championships 2023” held in Durban, South Africa from May 20 to May 28, 2023. This year, India didn’t win any medal at the World Table Tennis Championships. Chinese players or pairs won all five gold medals at the Final in Durban. Fan Zhendong defeated Wang Chuqin to win Men’s Singles title. While Fan Zhendong and Wang Chuqin won Men’s Doubles title. Sun Yingsha defeated Chen Meng to win Women’s Singles title. While Wang Yidi and Chen Meng won Women’s Doubles title. Besides, Mixed Doubles title was won by Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “ITTF World Table Tennis Championships 2023” – held in Durban, South Africa | India didn’t win any medal
- Men’s Singles title – won by Fan Zhendong (defeating - Wang Chuqin)
- Women’s Singles title – won by Sun Yingsha (defeating - Sun Yingsha)
- Men’s Doubles title – won by Fan Zhendong & Wang Chuqin
- Women’s Doubles title – won by Wang Yidi & Chen Meng
- Mixed Doubles title – won by Wang Chuqin & Sun Yingsha

**186.** On May 18, the “South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023” concluded in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. It was a three-day international event in which more than 100 athletes and officials from 6 countries Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal participated. In the Under-19 Boys singles, Ankur Bhattacharjee defeated Payas Jain to claim Gold medal. Meanwhile, in Under-19 girls’ singles, Suhana Saini defeated Yashaswini Ghorpade. In the mixed doubles, Payas Jain and Yashaswini took gold, beating their Maldivian rivals, Akhyar Ahmed Khalid and Fathimath Dheema Ali. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- “South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023” concluded in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
- Ankur Bhattacharjee – won Gold medal in U-19 boys (defeating - Payas Jain)
- Suhana Saini – won Gold Medal in U-19 girls (defeating - Yashaswini Ghorpade)
- Payas Jain + Yashaswini Ghorpade = won Gold medal in mixed doubles
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik](#)

**187.** On May 17, the 19-year-old archer Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar won the gold medal in the men’s individual compound section at the ‘Archery World Cup 2023’ stage 2 campaign in Shanghai, China. He surprised everyone by beating world No. 1 Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands. Moreover, Jyothi Surekha Vennam & Ojas Pravin Deotale also won Gold Medal in Compound Mixed Team. While Avneet Kaur won Bronze medal in individual women’s compound. With the end of stage 2, India stands second in the overall medal tally of the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the international archery circuit, with 4 Gold, 1 Silver & 2 Bronze medals, after South Korea (5 Gold, 4 Silver & 2 Bronze). The next stage 3 is scheduled to be held in Medellin, Colombia from June 13-18, 2023. Archery World Cup 2023 is also known as the ‘Hyundai Archery World Cup’. [{Read more}](#)

The calendar for the 2022 World Cup, announced by World Archery.

Stage	Date	Location	Ref.
1	18-23 April	Antalya, Turkey	[2]
2	16-21 May	Shanghai, China	[3]
3	13-18 June	Medellin, Colombia	[4]
4	15-20 August	Paris, France	[5]
Final	9-10 September	Hermosillo, Mexico	[6]

**Smart Points:**

- ‘Archery World Cup 2023’ stage 2 campaign – held in Shanghai, China
- Gold (men’s individual compound) won by – Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar (defeating - Mike Schloesser of Netherlands)
- Gold (Compound Mixed Team) won by – Jyothi Surekha Vennam & Ojas Pravin Deotale
- Bronze (individual women’s compound) – won by Avneet Kaur
- India – stands 2<sup>nd</sup> in the overall medal tally of 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the international archery circuit (4G + 1S + 2B)
- Top – South Korea (5 Gold, 4 Silver & 2 Bronze)
- Stage 3 is scheduled to be held in – Medellin, Colombia
- Archery World Cup 2023 – also known as ‘Hyundai Archery World Cup’
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping | PM – Li Qiang](#)
- [Colombia – Bogota – Peso | President – Gustavo Petro](#)
- [South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol](#)



**188.** On May 21, Russia's Daniil Medvedev won Men's Singles title at the '2023 Italian Open', by defeating Holger Rune of Denmark. Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina won Women's Singles title by defeating Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine. While the pair of Monaco's Hugo Nys and Poland's Jan Zieliński won Men's Doubles title. Belgium's Storm Hunter and Elise Mertens won Women's Doubles title. The Italian Open is one of the most prestigious clay-court tournaments. The competition takes place in Rome. The Italian Open comes under the Masters 1000 series on the ATP Tour and the WTA 1000 series on the WTA Tour. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Winners at '2023 Italian Open' that took place in Rome (in clay court):
  - Men's Singles title – Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
  - Women's Singles title – Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
  - Men's Doubles title – Hugo Nys (Monaco) & Jan Zieliński (Poland)
  - Women's Doubles title – Storm Hunter & Elise Mertens (Belgium)

**189.** On May 21, China has won a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive "BWF Sudirman Cup 2023" (Badminton's world championships in mixed team), defeating Republic of Korea 3-0 in the final in Suzhou, China. Zheng Si Wei & Huang Ya Qiong defeated Republic of Korea's Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yu Jung in mixed doubles. Earlier, China's Chen Yu Fei secured the women's singles title, defeating Korean star An Se Young. While China's Shi Yu Qi secured the men's singles title, defeating Korea's Lee Yung Gyu. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- China – won 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive "BWF Sudirman Cup 2023" in the final in Suzhou, China (defeating – Republic of Korea)
- Chen Yu Fei (China) – won women's singles title (defeating - Korean An Se Young)
- Shi Yu Qi (China) – won the men's singles title (defeating – Korean Lee Yung Gyu)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping | PM – Li Qiang
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

**190.** The "2023 Squash World Cup" will be organised in Chennai by Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) and World Squash Federation (WSF) from June 13 to 17, 2023. Eight countries - India, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa, Australia, and Colombia - will participate in the tournament. Squash players Saurav Ghosal, Abhay Singh, Joshna Chinappa, and Tanvi Khanna will represent India. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> edition. The last edition of the World Cup was also held in Chennai in 2011. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- "2023 Squash World Cup" (4<sup>th</sup> edition) – to be organised in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (in June)
- It will be organised by = Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) + World Squash Federation (WSF)
- India, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa, Australia & Colombia – will participate in the tournament
- HQs of WSF – Hastings, UK | President – Zena Wooldridge
- HQs of Squash Rackets Federation of India – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Anil Wadhwa

**191.** On May 23, India's Murali Sreeshankar successfully defended his title in the men's long jump event at the "International Jumping Meeting 2023" in Kallithea, Greece. Murali jumped 8.18m to beat compatriot and national record holder Jeswin Aldrin & won Gold medal. M Sreeshankar had won the International Jumping Meeting last year with an effort of 8.31m. This was Murali Sreeshankar's 3<sup>rd</sup> competition of the year and also the 3<sup>rd</sup> gold medal. He won the gold medal at the 'MVA High Performance Athletics Meet' in Chula Vista, USA in May with an effort of 8.29m. Earlier, he won the long jump event at the 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Indian Grand Prix' in March with a jump of 7.94m. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- "International Jumping Meeting 2023" – held in Kallithea, Greece
- Murali Sreeshankar (long jump) – won Gold & successfully defended his title (defeating - Jeswin Aldrin)
- Murali Sreeshankar (long jump) – had won gold medal at 'MVA High Performance Athletics Meet' in Chula Vista, USA
- He also won the long jump event at the 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Indian Grand Prix'
- [Greece – Athens – Euro](#) | [PM – Kyriakos Mitsotakis](#)

**192.** On May 28, HS Prannoy clinched the Men's Singles title at the "Malaysia Masters 2023". Ranked No. 9 in the BWF rankings, HS Prannoy defeated Weng Hong Yang of China. Meanwhile, Japan's Akane Yamaguchi won Women's Singles title, by defeating Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung. While South Korea's Kang Min-hyuk & Seo Seung-jae won Men's Doubles. Women's Doubles was won by Baek Ha-na & Lee So-hee. And Mixed Doubles title was won by Thailand's Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Sapsiree Taerattanachai. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Winners at the "Malaysia Masters 2023":
- HS Prannoy – won Men's Singles title (defeating - Weng Hong Yang of China) | He was ranked No. 9 in BWF rankings
- Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) – won Women's Singles title (defeating - Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia)
- Kang Min-hyuk & Seo Seung-jae (South Korea) – won Men's Doubles
- Baek Ha-na & Lee So-hee (South Korea) – won Women's Doubles
- Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand) – won Mixed Doubles
- [Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit](#) | [PM – Anwar Ibrahim](#) | [King – Al-Sultan Abdullah](#)
- [HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia](#) | [President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen](#)

**193.** On May 29, India's Jyothi Yarraji clinched the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles event, while Mohammed Afsal Pulikkalakath finished third in the men's 400m race at the "T-Meeting 2023 Athletics Meet" in Tilburg, the Netherlands. The 23-year-old Jyothi Yarraji clocked 13.20s in the final to win the event at the category E World Ranking competition. Two days ago, the Andhra Pradesh's runner Jyothi clinched the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles event and Assam's Amlan Borgohain won Gold in men's 200m race at the "Kurfalz Gala 2023 Athletics Meet" in Weinheim, Germany where Jyothi Yarraji clocked a season-best time of 12.84s. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- "T-Meeting 2023 Athletics Meet" – held in Tilburg, Netherlands
  - Gold: Jyothi Yarraji in women's 100m hurdles race | Bronze: Mohammed Afsal Pulikkalakath in men's 400m race
- "Kurfalz Gala 2023 Athletics Meet" – held in Weinheim, Germany
  - Gold medals: Jyothi Yarraji in women's 100m hurdles race | Mohammed Afsal Pulikkalakath in men's 200m race

**194.** On May 30, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated Gujarat Titans (GT) by 5 wickets and win its 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Premier League (IPL) title at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Gujarat. Tata IPL 2023 was the 16<sup>th</sup> season of the IPL. Mumbai Indians is the only other IPL Team to win 5 IPL titles. During IPL 2023, Shubman Gill (GT) was named Orange Cap winner, Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Season & Gamechanger of the Season, while Mohammed Shami (GT) was Purple Cap winner, and Yashasvi Jaiswal was named Emerging player. The CSK team has been captained by MS Dhoni since inception and is currently coached by Stephen Fleming. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- CSK – won the ‘Tata IPL 2023’ for the 5<sup>th</sup> time (this time, by defeating - Gujarat Titans)
- Captain of CSK team – MS Dhoni | Coach – Stephen Fleming
- Mumbai Indians – the only other IPL team to win 5 IPL titles
- Shubman Gill – named Orange Cap winner, Most Valuable Player of the Season & Gamechanger of the Season
- Mohammed Shami – named Purple Cap winner | Yashasvi Jaiswal – named Emerging Player

**195.** On May 29, the Indian women’s team defeated Kazakhstan in the finals to win the “Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Women’s Volleyball Challenge Cup” held at the National Sports Council Covered Hall in Nepal. The Indian team had won silver at the AVC Women’s Challenge Cup last year. For the third-place, Nepal defeated Uzbekistan to win the bronze. CAVA is Asian Volleyball Confederation’s zonal association. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Indian women’s team – won “CAVA Women’s Volleyball Challenge Cup” held in Nepal (defeating - Kazakhstan)
- Nepal defeated Uzbekistan to win bronze
- HQs of AVC – Bangkok, Thailand | President – Rita Subowo

**196.** On May 29, India’s Selva Prabhu Thirumaran claimed the Gold medal in the men’s triple jump event at the “Venizelia-Chania International 2023 Athletics Meet” in Greece and in the process, he recorded his personal best and also overhauled the junior national record. The 18-year-old Tamil Nadu athlete topped the podium in the event with a leap of 16.78m. Julian Konle of Australia finished second with a jump of 16.60m, while local athlete Dimitrios Tsiamis claimed third place with a 16.33m effort. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Selva Prabhu – won Gold in men’s triple jump at “Venizelia-Chania International 2023 Athletics Meet” in Greece
- Silver – Julian Konle (Australia) | Bronze – Dimitrios Tsiamis (Greece)
- Greece – Athens – Euro | PM – Kyriakos Mitsotakis

## Persons in News

**197.** On May 2, Arishka Laddha, a 6-year-old from Maharashtra's Pune city has become the youngest Indian girl to climb the Mt. Everest Base camp. The base camp lies at more than 17,500 ft. She completed this 15 days expedition with her mother Dimple Laddha. Nepal is home to 8 of the world's 10 highest peaks. Mt. Everest is known as Sagarmatha in Nepali and Chomolungma in Tibetan. The first expedition was launched in 1921 by the British. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Arishka Laddha (Pune) – became youngest Indian girl to climb Mt. Everest Base camp which lies at more than 17,500 ft
- Mt. Everest – known as Sagarmatha in Nepali & Chomolungma in Tibetan
- The first expedition was launched in 1921 by the British
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Ram Chandra Poudel | PM – Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

**198.** On May 17, Nepali climber Kami Rita Sherpa reached the top of Mount Everest for the 27<sup>th</sup> time, reclaiming the record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain. A guide for more than two decades, Kami Rita Sherpa first summited in 1994 when working for a commercial expedition. Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks, including the 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) Everest. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Kami Rita Sherpa (Nepal) – reclaimed the record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain (27 times)
- Nepal – home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Ram Chandra Poudel | PM – Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

## Arts & Cultural Affairs

**199.** Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Chair of Startup20, an official engagement group of G20, along with Ms. Durga Jasraj, Founder of Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation, launched the "UPAJ: A Festival of Innovations in Arts" in New Delhi. The event was a segment of the larger World IP Day celebration. The UPAJ festival is planned for the first week of July when the G20 Startup20 summit meeting is planned. Simultaneously, Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog) hosted a panel discussion on the Importance and Challenges of Protecting Innovation in Performance Arts. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Dr. Chintan Vaishnav + Durga Jasraj = launched "UPAJ: A Festival of Innovations in Arts" in New Delhi
- Dr. Chintan Vaishnav – Chair of Startup20 | Durga Jasraj – Founder of Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation
- Startup20 – an official engagement group of G20
- UPAJ festival – a segment of World IP Day & planned for 1<sup>st</sup> week of July when G20 Startup20 summit meeting is planned
- 8 official engagement groups under G20 – B20, C20, L20, S20, T20, U20, W20, Y20
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India's G20 motto – 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' | Theme – 'One Earth One Family One Future' | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant



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# Science & Technology

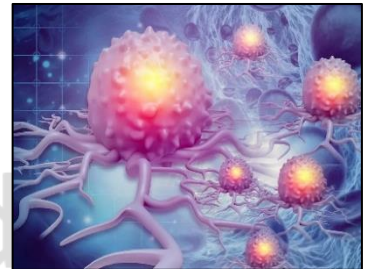
**200.** In May 2023, the Russian lender Sberbank unveiled its chatbot “GigaChat” as a rival to OpenAI’s sensational ChatGPT. At present, GigaChat is accessible only in an invite-only testing mode. GigaChat’s ability to converse fluently and intelligently in Russian is its biggest distinguishing feature when compared to other global neural networks. Sberbank is currently Russia’s largest financial institution that is currently working towards becoming the country’s tech leader. GigaChat is its latest innovation as part of its digital transformation drive. Sberbank is banking on GigaChat’s image generation capabilities, something which is currently spearheaded by OpenAI’s DALL-E image generator. As of now, ChatGPT is not available in Russia. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Sberbank (Russia) – unveiled its chatbot “GigaChat” as a rival to OpenAI’s ChatGPT
- ChatGPT – not available in Russia
- Sberbank – Russia’s largest financial institution working towards becoming country’s tech leader
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**201.** On May 1, researchers at IIT Madras have developed a machine learning-based computational tool named ‘GBMDriver’ (Glioblastoma Mutiforme Drivers) for better detection of cancer-causing tumours in the brain and spinal cord. Glioblastoma is a fast and aggressively growing tumour in the brain and spinal cord. Although there has been research undertaken to understand this tumour, therapeutic options remain limited with an expected survival rate of less than 2 years from initial diagnosis. GBMDriver was developed specifically to identify driver mutations & passenger mutations in Glioblastoma. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- IIT Madras – developed ‘GBMDriver’ for better detection of cancer-causing tumours in brain & spinal cord
- GBMDriver (Glioblastoma Mutiforme Drivers) – is a ML based computational tool
- [Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti](#)

**202.** In May 2023, Google launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of its “Startups Accelerator: Women Founders” programme to enable women entrepreneurs in India who are using technology to solve complex problems and are making a positive impact on society. The three-month programme includes mentorship, workshops, access to resources and networks for startups from across all sectors, including but not limited to healthcare, education, finance, and e-commerce. The programme includes specific modules to support women entrepreneurs. Applications are open until June 4, 2023. The first cohort that recently graduated, included Startups working on a range of innovative solutions. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Google – launched 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of its “Startups Accelerator: Women Founders” programme
- The programme includes specific modules to support women entrepreneurs
- [HQs of Google – California, US](#) | [CEO – Sundar Pichai](#) | [Founded in – 1998](#)

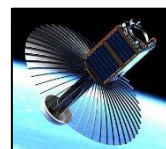
**203.** On May 5, Recently, the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) above Mount Saraswati in Ladakh captured a rare phenomenon called “Aurora lights” - a geomagnetic storm which struck Earth’s magnetic field, causing the charged particles from the sun to collide with atoms and molecules in the Earth’s atmosphere. “Aurora” is also known as the Northern or Southern Lights. The Aurora phenomenon is a natural light show that is regarded as one of the most beautiful displays in the world. The capture of the rare Aurora phenomena on camera in India is significant as the Aurora is most commonly visible in the polar regions. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- IAO – captured a rare phenomenon called “Aurora lights”
- IAO – located above Mount Saraswati in Ladakh
- The phenomenon is a geomagnetic storm which struck Earth’s magnetic field
- “Aurora” – also known as Northern or Southern Lights & is most commonly visible in polar regions
- [Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – B. D. Mishra](#)

**204.** On May 5, the two UK’s companies - Surrey Satellite Technology Limited and Oxford Space Systems - announced to launch a low-cost radar satellite, called “CarbSar”. The spy satellite will use radar technology to see through cloud and will even work at night. The mission will launch next year and could help fill a gap in Britain's spying capacity. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- UK – to launch a low-cost radar satellite, called “CarbSar”
- The spy satellite will use radar technology to see through cloud & will even work at night
- The 2 companies working on “CarbSar” – Surrey Satellite Technology Limited and Oxford Space Systems
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak \(57<sup>th</sup>\) | New King – King Charles III | Queen – Camilla](#)

**205.** Rocket Lab delayed the launch of NASA’s “TROPICS” (Time-Resolved Observations of Precipitation structure and storm Intensity with a Constellation of Smallsats) Mission, due to unfavourable weather conditions. The launch was scheduled for April 30, 2023. TROPICS is a constellation of four identical CubeSats to observe tropical cyclones from low Earth orbit. This launch is the first of two planned launches, each sending a pair of shoebox-sized satellites or CubeSats into orbit to increase the frequency in which tropical cyclones are measured from space. Moreover, the NASA is developing a snake-like robot, known as ‘Exobiology Extant Life Surveyor (EELS)’, which it says can boost space exploration through its diverse adaptability to various terrains. It's special focus is on Enceladus, the sixth largest moon of Saturn. Besides Enceladus, EELS system can explore Martial polar caps and descending crevasses in the Earth's ice sheets. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Rocket Lab – delayed the launch of NASA’s “TROPICS” Mission, due to unfavourable weather conditions
- TROPICS – Time-Resolved Observations of Precipitation structure and storm Intensity with a Constellation of Smallsats
- NASA – is also developing a snake-like robot, known as ‘Exobiology Extant Life Surveyor (EELS)’
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958](#)

**206.** In May 2023, ISRO has launched a new introductory-level online training programme called “Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)” aimed at post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme will cover various domains of space science, including Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy. It will be delivered by the scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres. Indian academic institutions can register for the programme through the Jigyasa portal by May 20, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ISRO – launched a new introductory-level online training programme called “START”
- START – **S**pace **S**cience and **T**echnology **A**wa**R**eness **T**raining
- Indian academic institutions can register for the programme through ‘Jigyasa portal’
- **HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969**

**207.** On May 9, IIT Madras researchers partnered with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists to develop ‘Piezoelectric MEMS technology’, a sensor technology for underwater communications, which will be advantageous to defence applications, especially in the Navy. It aims to support futuristic technologies for the ‘Next-Gen SONAR’ programme of DRDO for the Indian Navy. The establishment of cutting-edge piezo MEMS technology enables India to push the boundaries of defence competencies and allows the nation to execute the strategic operations of critical applications. Currently, the piezo thin film-based piezoelectric device market is worth about \$5 billion and is estimated to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 12% in the next 3 to 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- IIT Madras + DRDO = partnered to develop ‘Piezoelectric MEMS technology’ for underwater communications
- It aims to support futuristic technologies for ‘Next-Gen SONAR’ programme of DRDO for Indian Navy
- **Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti**
- **HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958**

**208.** On May 13, Google announced that its AI chatbot “Bard” is now officially open in over 180 countries in English, including India. Recently, Google moved Bard to ‘PaLM 2’, a far more capable language model that has led to many recent improvements. Bard will also be offered in Japanese and Korean. These are the first two languages beyond English that are being launched by Google for Bard. Bard is a powerful tool that can be used for a variety of purposes, such as generating text, translating languages, and writing different kinds of creative content. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Google’s AI chatbot “Bard” is now officially open in over 180 countries in English, including India
- Recently, Google moved ‘Bard’ to ‘PaLM 2’, a far more capable language model
- **HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998**

**209.** On May 14, the researchers at IIT Madras have developed a ‘Non-aqueous all-Organic Redox Flow Battery’ (NORFB). Conventional flow batteries feature aqueous (water-based) electrolytes which bring forth two problems. Thus, as an alternative, researchers have been looking for electrolytes that are non-aqueous and organic. The IIT-M researchers have developed a new type of electrolyte using ‘Pyrylium Salts’, which are a class of organic chemicals. This new type of electrolyte promises cheaper non-aqueous, all-organic means of energy storage. The electrolyte is designed to carry more current density as well as voltage. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- IIT Madras – developed a ‘Non-aqueous all-Organic Redox Flow Battery’ (NORFB)
- IIT Madras – developed a new type of electrolyte using ‘Pyrylium Salts’, which are a class of organic chemicals
- [Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti](#)

**210.** In May 2023, Vast, a pioneer in space habitation technologies, announced its plans to launch the world’s first commercial space station, called “Haven-1”, scheduled to launch on SpaceX’s ‘Falcon 9’ rocket to low-Earth orbit by August 2025. Haven-1 will initially act as an independent crewed space station before being connected as a module to a larger Vast space station currently in development. The mission will be quickly followed by Vast-1, the first human spaceflight mission to Haven-1 on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft. The vehicle and its four-person crew will dock with Haven-1 for up to 30 days while orbiting Earth. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Vast – announced to launch world’s 1<sup>st</sup> commercial space station, called “Haven-1”
- “Haven-1” – is scheduled to launch on SpaceX’s ‘Falcon 9’ rocket to low-Earth orbit by August 2025
- Haven-1 will act as an independent crewed space station & later will be connected as a module to a Vast space station
- Vast space station – is currently in development
- [HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | Founder & CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002](#)

**211.** On May 16, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in the third launch of the year, announced to launch the “NVS-01” to augment the seven-satellite navigation constellation, NavIC. It will be the first launch of a navigational satellite under the new moniker NVS. The NVS-01 satellite will replace the navigational capabilities of another satellite IRNSS-1G in the constellation. At present, there are 4 major global navigation systems - the US global positioning system, the Russian GLONASS, the European Galileo, and the Chinese Beidou. There are two regional navigational systems in the world - Japan’s Quasi-Zenith system and India’s NavIC. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- ISRO – to launch the “NVS-01” to augment the seven-satellite navigation constellation, NavIC
- NVS-01 satellite will replace the navigational capabilities of another satellite IRNSS-1G
- 4 major global navigation systems – GPS (US), GLONASS (Russia), European Galileo, & Beidou (Chinese)
- 2 regional navigational systems in the world – Japan’s Quasi-Zenith system & India’s NavIC
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)

**212.** In May 2023, Pune-based MIT-World Peace University (MIT-WPU) established the Centre for Subsea Engineering Research (CSER), a research laboratory that will enable students studying a petrochemicals’ course to conduct practical projects. This laboratory provides hands-on training using real-time drilling and well control systems for simulation experiments. This initiative showcases a working prototype of deep-water offshore petroleum operations. The state-of-the-art laboratory is the brainchild of the department of petroleum engineering. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- MIT-WPU (Pune) – established the Centre for Subsea Engineering Research (CSER)
- CSER – a research laboratory that will enable students studying a petrochemicals' course to conduct practical projects

**213.** On May 18, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under the Ministry of Communications, developed a tool called the “Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR)”. It can potentially bring down cyber frauds by detecting and blocking possible fraudulent mobile connections. It has the capability of running checks on subscriber databases of telecom operators to deduce whether it contains multiple connections associated with the same person. A pilot project was launched in Haryana’s Mewat region to test ASTR’s feasibility. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

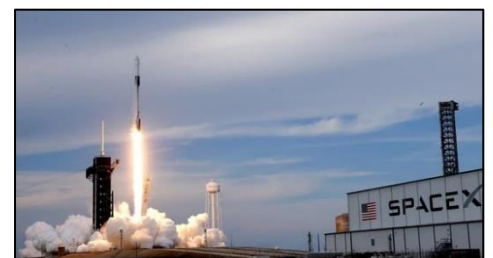
- DoT – developed a tool, “A.I. & Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR)”
- It will bring down cyber frauds by detecting and blocking possible fraudulent mobile connections
- [Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnav](#) | [Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan](#)

**214.** On May 15, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the “Integrated Biological Control Laboratory” at the National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad. The use of biocontrol for pests is necessary to overcome the adverse effects of excessive pesticide use in different crops as well as to reduce the cost of cultivation and to increase farmers’ income. The Union Agriculture Minister also talked about the need on how work in the lab reaches the land (of farmers). He also highlighted that the country has now become a surplus in food grains. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – inaugurated “Integrated Biological Control Laboratory” at NIPHM, Hyderabad
- India – has now become a surplus in food grains
- [Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar](#) | [Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary](#)

**215.** On May 21, SpaceX’s Falcon 9 Rocket, carrying the Crew Dragon capsule, launched the Crew of 4 astronauts on the ‘Axiom Mission 2’, a private crew mission, from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, US. The crew has two Saudi Arabian astronauts - Rayyanah Barnaw & Ali AlQarni. Rayyanah becomes the first woman from Saudi Arabia to travel to space. The AX-2 crew is led by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson. John Shoffner is the pilot. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- SpaceX’s Falcon 9 Rocket – launched a Crew of 4 astronauts on ‘Axiom Mission 2’ from Kennedy Space Center, Florida
- It carried ‘Crew Dragon’ capsule | Rayyanah Barnaw – becomes the first woman from Saudi Arabia to travel to space
- [HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S.](#) | [Founder & CEO – Elon Musk](#) | [Founded in – 2002](#)

**216.** On May 26, South Korea launched a commercial-grade Next Generation Small Satellite 2 (NEXTSat-2), nicknamed “Nuri”, using a domestically produced Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle Two (KSLV-II). The rocket lifted off from Naro Space Center on the southern coast of South Korea. The three-stage KSLV-II Nuri is South Korea’s first domestically built space launch vehicle using only South Korean rocket technology, and three more flights are expected by 2027. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- South Korea – launched “Nuri”, a commercial-grade NEXTSat-2 using a domestically produced three-stage KSLV-II
- KSLV-II Nuri – South Korea’s first domestically built space launch vehicle using only South Korean rocket technology
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

**217.** On May 25, Iran unveiled the latest version of its liquid-fuelled ballistic missile named “Khorramshahr-4”, amid wider tensions with the West over its nuclear programme. The missile has a 2,000-kilometre (1,240-mile) range with a 1,500-kilogram (3,300-pound) warhead. The missile is also known as (aka) “Kheibar” which is a Jewish fortress conquered by the Muslims in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Iran – unveiled the latest version of its liquid-fuelled ballistic missile named “Khorramshahr-4” aka “Kheibar”
- Range of the missile – 2,000-kilometre (1,240-mile)
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ebrahim Raisi | Supreme Leader – Ali Khamenei

**218.** On May 24, Microsoft has introduced “Jugalbandi”, an AI chatbot for rural India. Users can engage in a conversation with the chatbot, creating a duet of sorts, thus the name. To use the Jugalbandi bot, a user can simply send a text or audio message to a WhatsApp number. The message will be transcribed to text using the ‘AI4Bharat’ speech recognition model and then translated to English by the ‘Bhashini’, which is an AI-powered language solution to help people access digital services in their native language. Jugalbandi uses GPT models via Microsoft’s Azure OpenAI Service. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Microsoft – introduced “Jugalbandi” AI chatbot for rural India
- User can simply send a text or audio message to a WhatsApp number
- Message will be transcribed to text using ‘AI4Bharat’ speech recognition model & then translated to English by ‘Bhashini’
- Jugalbandi – uses GPT models via Microsoft’s Azure OpenAI Service
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

**219.** On May 26, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that it has successfully completed a flight test of its super-pressure balloon carrying the “Super Pressure Balloon Imaging Telescope (SuperBIT)” science mission. It was launched from New Zealand’s Wanaka Airport and it took 39 days and 14 hours of flight for the completion of the mission. The balloon completed a record five full circuits about the Southern Hemisphere’s mid-latitudes, maintaining a float altitude of around 108,000 feet during its nearly 40-day journey. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- NASA – completed flight test of super pressure balloon carrying “SuperBIT” science mission
- SuperBIT – Super Pressure Balloon Imaging Telescope
- Launched from – Wanaka Airport (New Zealand) | Time taken for completion of mission – 39 days & 14 hours of flight
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

**220.** In May 2023, SpaceX launched Arabsat's new-generation telecommunications satellite, "BADR-8", into orbit. The satellite is scheduled to lift off on a Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, US. The BADR-8 satellite will deliver broadcast, broadband and telecommunications services over Europe, the Middle East, Africa and central Asia. The first stage will land on the Just Read the Instructions droneship, which will be stationed in the Atlantic Ocean. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

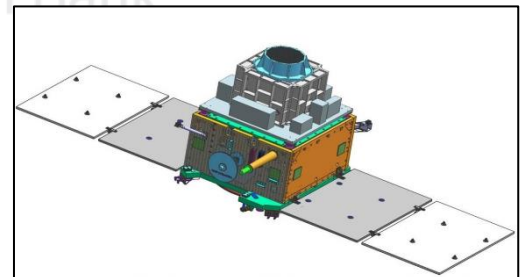
- SpaceX – launched "BADR-8", Arabsat's new-generation telecommunications satellite into orbit
- BADR-8 – will deliver broadband & telecommunications services over Europe, Middle East, Africa & central Asia
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | Founder & CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

**221.** On May 24, Union Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju announced that India will unveil its new 18 petaflop Supercomputer for weather forecasting institutes later this year. He made the announcement after a visit to the ministry's National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The new supercomputer will be bought at a cost of Rs 900 Crore. The NCMRWF houses 'Mihir', a 2.8 petaflop supercomputer, while the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, is home to 'Pratyush', a 4.0 petaflop supercomputer. 'Mihir' and 'Pratyush', launched in 2018, will be decommissioned once the new supercomputer is unveiled. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – to unveil its new 18 petaflop Supercomputer for weather forecasting institutes | Cost – Rs 900 Cr
- National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) – is located in Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- NCMRWF – houses 'Mihir' (2.8 petaflop) | IITM Pune – houses 'Pratyush' (4.0 petaflop)
- 'Mihir' and 'Pratyush' (launched in 2018) – to be decommissioned once the new supercomputer is unveiled
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**222.** On May 26, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is collaborating with the Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, to build the "X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)" that is scheduled to be launched later this year. It has been billed as India's first, and only the world's second polarimetry mission that is meant to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions. The other such major mission is NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) which was launched in 2021. The XPoSat will carry two scientific payloads in a low earth orbit. The primary payload POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) will measure the polarimetry parameters (degree and angle of polarisation). The XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing) payload will give spectroscopic information (on how light is absorbed and emitted by objects). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- ISRO + RRI (Bengaluru) = collaboration to build "X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)"
- It is India's 1<sup>st</sup> & world's 2<sup>nd</sup> polarimetry mission to study bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions
- The XPoSat will carry two scientific payloads in a low-earth orbit
- NASA – had launched Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) in 2021
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

# Appointments & Resignations

**223.** On May 1, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) appointed Odia physicist and director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy. Kumar will hold the post till the age of 66, or till 10 October 2025. The Department of Atomic Energy comes directly under the Prime Minister's Office. Mohanty will replace outgoing secretary and chairman Dr Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas. Mohanty is also the recipient of several awards, including - Young Physicist Award from the Indian Physical Society, Young Scientist Award by the Indian National Science Academy, and Homi Bhabha Science and Technology Award by the Department of Atomic Energy. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty – appointed as Chairman of 'Atomic Energy Commission' & Secretary of DAE
- He replaced Dr Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
- Awards received by Ajit Kumar Mohanty:
  - Young Physicist Award (Indian Physical Society)
  - Young Scientist Award (Indian National Science Academy)
  - Homi Bhabha Science & Technology Award (DAE)

**224.** On May 1, Air Marshal Saju Balakrishnan took charge as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC). Balakrishnan is the 17<sup>th</sup> Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN). He succeeds Lt Gen Ajai Singh. Before assuming Command of the ANC, Balakrishnan was the senior Air Staff Officer at the IAF Training Command at Bengaluru. The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), the only tri-services command in India, is serving as a model for the ambitious theaterisation plan that is aimed at bringing greater synergy among the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Saju Balakrishnan – took charge as 17<sup>th</sup> Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)
- He succeeded – Lt Gen Ajai Singh
- Andaman and Nicobar Command – only tri-services command in India serving as a model for theaterisation plan
- [Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lt. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi](#)

**225.** On May 1, Economist and former finance minister Santiago Pena, from the rightwing Colorado Party, won the Presidential Election of Paraguay with more than 42% of votes cast. He defeated Efraim Alegre of the Concertacion center-left coalition. The Colorado Party has governed almost continually since 1947. Pena's political mentor, ex-president and Colorado Party leader Horacio Cartes, was recently sanctioned by the United States over graft. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Santiago Pena (rightwing Colorado Party) – won Presidential Election of Paraguay
- He defeated – Efraim Alegre (Concertacion center-left coalition)
- [Paraguay – Asuncion – Guarani | President – Santiago Pena](#)

**226.** On May 2, Justice T. S. Sivagnanam, the senior most judge of the Calcutta High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. He was currently serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. Meanwhile, following the directions of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Sivagnanam has reassigned the two primary school recruitment irregularities cases to the bench of Justice Amrita Sinha (previously heard by Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Justice T. S. Sivagnanam – appointed as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – C. V. Ananda Bose](#)

**227.** On May 4, Indian-American business leader Ajay Banga was appointed as the 14<sup>th</sup> President of the World Bank for a 5-year term. He is the first Indian-born nominee to the World Bank President role. He will succeed incumbent President David Malpass, effective from June, 2023. Banga was nominated for the post by US President Joe Biden in February. Banga, a US citizen since 2007, currently serves as vice chair of General Atlantic. In 2016, Banga was honoured with the ‘Padma Shri’ Award by the President of India. In 2019, the Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence named Ajay Banga as ‘Global Indian of the Year’. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Ajay Banga – 1<sup>st</sup> Indian-born to be appointed as 14<sup>th</sup> President of World Bank (succeeding - David Malpass)
- Ajay Banga – was honoured with ‘Padma Shri’ Award by the President of India (in 2016)
- Ajay Banga – named as ‘Global Indian of the Year’ by Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence (in 2019)
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – Ajay Banga](#) | [MD/CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

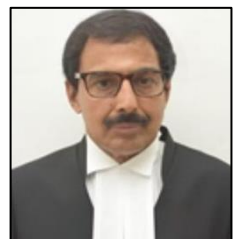
**228.** On May 4, the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has recommended the name of P. M. Prasad (Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad) for the post of Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India Limited (CIL). Prasad is currently the Chairman cum Managing Director of the Ranchi-based CIL arm - Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL). Coal Ministry has set an ambitious roadmap for 2023-24, setting a total coal production target of 1012 MT. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- P. M. Prasad (Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad) – recommended by PESB for CMD of Coal India Limited (CIL)
- Coal Ministry’s roadmap for 2023-24 – setting a total coal production target of 1012 MT
- [HQs of CIL – Kolkata, West Bengal](#) | [CMD – Pramod Agrawal](#)

**229.** In May 2023, Delhi High Court appointed former Karnataka High Court judge P. Krishna Bhat as the Administrator of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) with immediate effect for conducting elections in the body. The administrator shall function till a newly-elected body takes charge of BFI. The court’s order came on a batch of petitions concerning the election of the office bearers and members of the Executive Committee of BFI for the term 2023-2027. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- P. Krishna Bhat – appointed as Administrator of Basketball Federation of India (BFI)

**230.** In May 2023, Famous cricket commentator Mark Nicholas, who was also a cricketer, is appointed as the new President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). The 65-year-old's term will begin on October 1, 2023 and last for one year. His appointment was announced by current MCC president Stephen Fry at the Club's Annual General Meeting. Mark, who played as a top-order batter and medium-pace bowler for Hampshire and captained England A, was elected as a Member of MCC in 1981. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Mark Nicholas – is appointed as the new President of the Marylebone Cricket Club, London (effective from Oct 1, 2023)
- Current MCC President – Stephen Fry

**231.** On May 8, the Manipur government approved the appointment of Dr. Vineet Joshi as the new Chief Secretary of the state. Joshi, a 1992-batch IAS officer from the state, replaced Dr. Rajesh Kumar. The top administrative rejig came after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' held on May 3 to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status turned violent and later large scale clashes broke out in the northeastern state. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Dr. Vineet Joshi – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Manipur (replacing - Rajesh Kumar)
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Sushri Anusuiya Uikye

**232.** On May 5, Neera Tandon was appointed as the Domestic Policy Advisor to the US President Joe Biden, replacing Susan Rice. Tanden, a longtime Democratic aide who served in two prior presidential administrations, will take on one of the most senior policy jobs in the US administration, covering most areas outside of national security and the economy. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Neera Tandon – appointed as the Domestic Policy Advisor to the US President Joe Biden
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**233.** On May 9, Rathendra Raman, an IRTS officer of 1995 batch, has taken over charge as Chairman of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata. Before this appointment, Raman was Chief Freight Traffic Manager (CFTM) in South Eastern Railway. Kolkata Port (Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port) is the oldest operating port in India and is the country's only riverine port that has capability to handle large ocean-going ships. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Rathendra Raman – took over the charge as Chairman of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
- It is the oldest operating port in India & it is India's only riverine port

**234.** On May 11, Wesley W. Simina was elected as the new President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) during the first regular session of the 23<sup>rd</sup> FSM Congress. Simina will serve as the 10<sup>th</sup> President of the country, succeeding David W. Panuelo. Aren B. Palik was re-elected as Vice President. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Wesley W. Simina – elected as the 10<sup>th</sup> President of Micronesia (succeeding - David W. Panuelo)
- Micronesia – Palikir – US Dollar | President – Wesley W. Simina

**235.** On May 9, the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has recommended the name of Parminder Chopra for the post of Chairman & Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation (PFC). She has over 35 years of experience in the power sector, including work experience at NHPC and the Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL). Parminder will be the first woman CMD of the PFC - an NBFC, under the Ministry of Power. After approval, she will replace Ravinder Singh Dhillon for this post. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Parminder Chopra – recommended by PESB for the post of Chairman & MD of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)
- Parminder will be the first woman CMD of the PFC (an NBFC under the Ministry of Power)
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon

**236.** On May 9, Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) announced that Non-executive Chairman AM Naik has decided to step down from the post. SN Subrahmanyam, L&T's MD & CEO, will take over as the Chairman and Managing Director with effect from October 1, 2023. Naik has been associated with L&T for over 58 years. While SN Subrahmanyam has been at the helm of L&T for 6 years since July 1, 2017. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- SN Subrahmanyam – appointed as next Chairman & MD of L&T from Oct 2023 (replacing - AM Naik)
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – A. M. Naik (From Oct'23 - S. N. Subrahmanyam)

**237.** On May 11, Sportswear retailer Puma appointed Karthik Balagopalan as the new Managing Director of PUMA India. He earlier served as Global Director Retail and e-commerce at the company. He will succeed Abhishek Ganguly, who worked for PUMA's Indian business for 17 years. Balagopalan will report to Puma CEO Arne Freundt. Cricketers like Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, and Actress Sara Ali Khan are among the Brand Ambassadors of Puma India. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Karthik Balagopalan – appointed as the new Managing Director of PUMA India (succeeding - Abhishek Ganguly)
- Brand Ambassadors of Puma India – Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, & Actress Sara Ali Khan
- HQs of Puma – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Arne Freundt

**238.** On May 14, Karnataka Director General of Police Praveen Sood has been appointed as the next Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for two years. Praveen Sood is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre. He succeeds Subodh Kumar Jaiswal who completes his tenure on May 25, 2023. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Praveen Sood – appointed as next Director of CBI for 2 years (succeeding - Subodh Kumar Jaiswal)
- Praveen Sood – Karnataka Director General of Police
- HQs of CBI – New Delhi | DG – Praveen Sood | Motto – “Industry, Impartiality, Integrity”

**239.** On May 11, Italian luxury fashion house Gucci announced Alia Bhatt as its first global brand ambassador from India. The announcement came after Bhatt's recent debut at the Met Gala in New York City. As per reports, Bhatt will make an appearance at Gucci's upcoming Cruise 2024 showcase in Seoul, South Korea. [{Read more}](#)





### Smart Points:

- Alia Bhatt – appointed as Gucci’s first global brand ambassador from India
- Gucci – is an Italian luxury fashion house
- Alia Bhatt – will make an appearance at Gucci’s upcoming Cruise 2024 showcase in Seoul, South Korea
- [HQs of Gucci – Florence, Italy](#) | [GM – Marco Bizzarri](#) | [Founder – Guccio Gucci](#) | [Founded – 1921](#)

**240.** Mahavir Singh Phogat is appointed as Chairman of the Mumbai-based Mixed Martial Arts (MMA-1) Federation. He is the man who trained & polished the biggest names of the wrestling world, Gita Phogat, Babita Kumari, and India’s biggest female Mixed Martial Arts star Ritu Phogat. They are also daughters of Mahavir Singh Phogat. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Mahavir Singh Phogat – appointed as Chairman of the Mixed Martial Arts (MMA-1) Federation
- [HQs of MMA1 Federation – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Chairman – Mahavir Singh Phogat](#)

**241.** On May 12, Twitter owner Elon Musk announced that Linda Yaccarino, NBCUniversal’s former head of advertising, will be the new CEO of social media site Twitter. Linda, the first to come from a non-tech background, will replace Elon Musk as the CEO. She is the first female CEO at Twitter. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Linda Yaccarino (former advertising head of CUniversal) – to be new & 1<sup>st</sup> female CEO of Twitter (replacing – Elon Musk)
- [HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, US](#) | [CEO – Linda Yaccarino](#) | [Founded in – 2006](#)

**242.** On May 15, the UN migration agency, International Organization for Migration (IOM), elected Amy E. Pope of the US as its next Director General. She will be the first woman to head the Geneva-based IMO. Pope currently serves as the deputy of Director General Antonio Vitorino, a former Portuguese government minister. She will start her five-year term on October 1, 2023. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Amy E. Pope (US) – became the first woman to be appointed as Director General of IOM
- She will start her five-year term on October 1, 2023
- [HQs of IOM – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [Director General – Amy E. Pope \(from October 1\)](#)

**243.** On May 16, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Anil Kumar Jain (AK Jain) as Chairperson of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for a period of 5 years or till attaining the age of 65 years or until further orders whichever is the earliest. AK Jain (former Coal Secretary) succeeds DK Saraf who retired as the PNGRB chief on December 3, 2020. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Anil Kumar Jain – as Chairperson of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) (succeeding - DK Saraf)
- [HQs of of PNGRB – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson– Anil Kumar Jain](#)

**244.** On May 17, One97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns Paytm, has elevated Bhavesh Gupta as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and President of Paytm. Before this elevation, Gupta was a senior Vice President of the company. Gupta will be responsible to lead verticals of lending, insurance, payments - online and offline, Consumer payments, and drive key initiatives. He will be reporting to Vijay Shekhar Sharma, MD & CEO of Paytm. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Bhavesh Gupta – appointed as Chief Operating Officer (COO) & President of Paytm
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, UP | MD & CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | President & COO – Bhavesh Gupta | Founded – 2010

**245.** On May 15, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Ravneet Kaur as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), becoming the first woman to hold the post on a full-time basis. Kaur, a 1988 Punjab cadre IAS officer, will be the 5<sup>th</sup> full-time Chairperson of the CCI, which started functioning in 2009. Ravneet Kaur replaces Sangeeta Verma, who was serving as CCI's interim Chairperson after Ashok Kumar Gupta demitted office in October 2022. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Ravneet Kaur – became 1<sup>st</sup> woman to be appointed as Chairperson of CCI on full-time basis (replacing - Sangeeta Verma)
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ravneet Kaur | Established in – 2003

**246.** On May 16, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he was Commissioned in the fighter stream on December 6, 1986. Air Marshal Dixit commanded a Mirage 2000 Squadron, a frontline fighter base in the Western sector. The Air Marshal is a Qualified Flying Instructor as well as an Experimental Test pilot, with over 3300 hours of flying experience on fighter, trainer and transport aircraft. He participated in Operation 'Safed Sagar' and 'Rakshak'. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit – took over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff
- He participated in Operation 'Safed Sagar' and 'Rakshak'
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh

**247.** On May 16, Manoj Soni took the oath as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The Oath was administered by Smt. Smita Nagaraj, senior most Member of the Commission. Dr Manoj Soni joined the Commission as Member in June, 2017. Prior to joining UPSC, he served a total of three terms as Vice-Chancellor of the M.S. University of Baroda (one term) and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Gujarat for two terms. He has been the youngest-ever Vice Chancellor in independent India. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Manoj Soni – took the oath as Chairman of UPSC
- UPSC is headed by a Chairperson & can have a maximum of 10 members
- HQs of UPSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Manoj Soni

**248.** On May 16, Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma took over as the Chief of Staff of the Indian Army's Western Command, headquartered at Chandni Mandir, Haryana. On the occasion, Mr. Sharma laid a wreath at the 'Veer Smriti' war memorial. The 'Veer Smriti' memorial was built at Mokokchung, Nagaland by the Assam Rifles. The Lieutenant General is an alumnus of NDA. His meritorious service has been recognised with the award of Sena Medal for Gallantry, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service and also the United Nations Force Commander's Commendation. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma – took over as the Chief of Staff of Western Command of the Indian Army
- 'Veer Smriti' memorial – built at Mokokchung, Nagaland by the Assam Rifles
- HQs of Army's Western Command – Chandimandir, Haryana | Chief of Staff – Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma

**249.** On May 18, the President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, was pleased to direct that the Union Minister of State, S. P. Singh Baghel, has been moved from the Union Ministry of Law & Justice to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare where he will take charge as the Minister of State. Previously, Baghel served as Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- S. P. Singh Baghel – appointed as the MoS for Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar & S. P. Singh Baghel

**250.** On May 19, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju took charge as Minister of Earth Sciences. In a surprise move, Mr. Rijiju was replaced by Arjun Ram Meghwal as Law Minister and assigned the portfolio of Ministry of Earth Sciences. Mr Meghwal will now handle this charge as Minister of State (Independent), along with his portfolios as MoS, Parliamentary Affairs and Culture. Since his appointment as Law Minister as 2021, Mr. Rijiju's tenure has been marked by frequent criticism of the judiciary. This is the first time that the Earth Sciences Ministry will be led by a Minister who is also not leading the Ministry of Science and Technology. Dr. Jitendra Singh continues to be the Minister for Science and Technology with independent charge. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju – took charge as Minister of Earth Sciences
- Arjun Ram Meghwal – appointed as MoS I/C in Ministry of Law and Justice
- Arjun Ram Meghwal – also handles portfolios as MoS in Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs & Ministry of Culture
- Minister of Earth Sciences: Kiren Rijiju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Law & Justice: Arjun Ram Meghwal | Constituency – Bikaner, Rajasthan

**251.** On May 17, the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) appointed Pramod Bhasin as its new Chairman effective April 1, 2023. Bhasin succeeds Rajendra S. Pawar, the chairman and co-founder of NIIT Group, who had served as the Chairman of DSCI for 3 years. Bhasin is the founder of Genpact Ltd and currently serves as the Chairman of ICRIER (Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations). [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Pramod Bhasin – appointed as new Chairman of Data Security Council of India (DSCI) (succeeding - Rajendra S. Pawar)
- Pramod Bhasin – founder of Genpact Ltd & currently serves as the Chairman of ICRIER
- HQs of DSCI – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Pramod Bhasin | CEO – Vinayak Godse (setup by NASSCOM)

**252.** On May 19, Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and senior advocate Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan took oath as Supreme Court Judges. Justices Mishra and Viswanathan fill the two vacancies that arose from the retirement of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and M R Shah on May 14 and 15 respectively. The apex court would regain its full strength of 34 judges, including the CJI, for a brief period as three judges - Justice K M Joseph, Justice Ajay Rastogi and Justice V Ramasubramanian - are demitting office in June. Viswanathan, upon the retirement of Justice JB Pardiwala on August 11, 2030, will become the Chief Justice of India and remain in the post till May 25, 2031. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra + Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan = took oath as Supreme Court Judges
- The sanctioned judge strength of the Supreme Court is 34 (including Chief Justice of India)
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

**253.** On May 21, R. N. Jayaprakash and Monal D. Chokshi were re-elected as President and Secretary of the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) at its Annual General Body Meeting. According to the president of SFI, the target activities of SFI for the next 4 years will be to develop grassroots' participation by holding camps and coaches' clinics at the State-level. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- R. N. Jayaprakash – re-elected as President of Swimming Federation of India (SFI)
- Monal D. Chokshi – re-elected as Secretary of Swimming Federation of India (SFI)
- HQs of SFI – Ahmedabad | President – R. N. Jayaprakash | Secretary – Monal D. Chokshi

**254.** On May 20, in the presence of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Siddaramaiah took the oath of office as the 24<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Karnataka. Along with him, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President, D. K. Shivakumar, was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to both leaders at the swearing-in ceremony. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Siddaramaiah – took the oath of office as the 24<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Karnataka
- D. K. Shivakumar – sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Siddaramaiah | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**255.** On May 23, Sports broadcaster Sony Sports Network announced the appointment of Sania Mirza as the Tennis Ambassador for Sony Sports Network. As per the company, Mirza will be seen as an expert panelist on the network. Sony Sports Network has launched a campaign called “Home of Tennis”. The campaign showcases Sania Mirza. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sania Mirza – appointed as Tennis Ambassador for Sony Sports Network
- Sony Sports Network – launched a campaign called “Home of Tennis”

**256.** On May 24, Former India cricket captain and ex-BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly was roped in as the Brand Ambassador for Tripura Tourism. The collaboration aims to boost tourism in Tripura and leverage Ganguly’s popularity and influence to attract visitors to the state from across the country and the world. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sourav Ganguly – roped in as Brand Ambassador for Tripura Tourism
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**257.** On May 23, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma as part-time Chairman of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for a year. This marks Sharma’s 3<sup>rd</sup> term, starting from May 23, 2023. One97 holds a 49% stake in PPBL and Sharma holds the rest of 51% stake in the entity. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Vijay Shekhar Sharma – appointed as part-time Chairman of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for a year (3<sup>rd</sup> term)
- One97 holds a 49% stake in PPBL and Sharma holds the rest of 51% stake in the entity
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Surinder Chawla | Chairman (part time) – Vijay Shekhar Sharma

**258.** On May 24, Former Minister and 5-time MLA U. T. Khader was unanimously elected as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly. Pro-tem Speaker R.V. Deshpande conducted the proceedings relating to the election of the Speaker. He is the first Muslim to serve as Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- U. T. Khader – elected as 23<sup>rd</sup> Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly
- He is the first Muslim to serve as Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Siddaramaiah | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

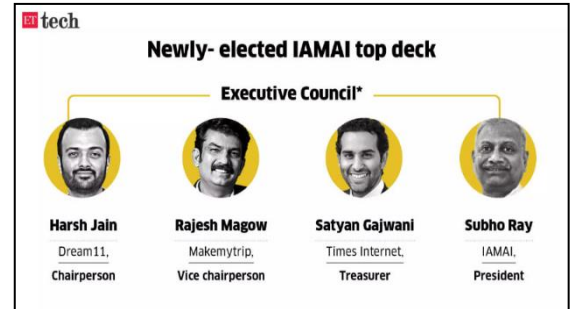
**259.** On May 23, Incumbent Namdev Sampat Shirgaonkar was re-elected unopposed as the President of India Taekwondo. India will be featured in the upcoming ‘Senior World Taekwondo Championship 2023’ to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan from May 25 to June 5, 2023. Amit Dhamal is the Secretary General of India Taekwondo. Shirgaonkar is also Secretary General of Maharashtra Olympic Association (MOA). Moreover, Dr K. Govindaraj has been elected as the President of International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Asia. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Namdev Shirgaonkar – re-elected unopposed as the President of India Taekwondo
- He is also Secretary General of Maharashtra Olympic Association
- ‘Senior World Taekwondo Championship 2023’ – to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan
- Dr K. Govindaraj – elected as the President of International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Asia
- [HQs of India Taekwondo – Mumbai](#) | [President – Namdev Shirgaonkar](#)

**260.** On May 26, Dream11 co-founder and chief executive Harsh Jain has been elected the Chairperson of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), with MakeMyTrip co-founder and group CEO Rajesh Magow becoming the vice-chairperson. While Times Internet’s Satyan Gajwani is elected as Treasurer. Jain, Magow and Gajwani, who have been elected for a term of two years, replace Google India country head and vice president Sanjay Gupta, WhatsApp’s India public policy director Shivnath Thukral, and Razorpay cofounder and CEO Harshil Mathur, respectively. Subho Ray is the President of IAMAI. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Harsh Jain (Dream11 co-founder & chief executive) – elected Chairperson of IAMAI (replacing - Sanjay Gupta)
- Rajesh Magow (MakeMyTrip co-founder & CEO) – appointed as Vice-Chairperson of IAMAI (replacing - Shivnath Thukral)
- Satyan Gajwani – elected as Treasurer of IMAI (replacing - Harshil Mathur)
- [HQs of IAMAI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [President – Subho Ray](#) | [Chairman – Harsh Jain](#)

**261.** On May 25, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Executive Vice Chairman R. Dinesh assumed office as the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2023-24, while ITC Managing Director Sanjiv Puri has been named President-designate of the CII. The CII National Council, which met in New Delhi to elect new office-bearers for 2023-24, also named EY Chairman India Region Rajiv Memani as Vice-President. Mr. Dinesh, a fourth-generation TVS family member, succeeds Sanjiv Bajaj, CMD of Bajaj Finserv Ltd. Mr. Dinesh has won many awards including ‘Icon of the Year’ from ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu for the year 2018, Entrepreneur of the Year Award for ‘Services’ category by Ernst & Young in 2017. He is also the recipient of TiECON’s ‘Next Gen Entrepreneur of the Year 2014’ award and ‘Emerging Entrepreneur’ award by CII in 2010. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- R. Dinesh – assumed office as President of CII for 2023-24 (succeeding - Sanjiv Bajaj)
- Sanjiv Puri (ITC MD) – named as President-designate of the CII
- Rajiv Memani (EY Chairman India Region) – named as Vice-President of CII
- Awards won by R. Dinesh:
  - ‘Icon of the Year’ (ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu for the year 2018)
  - Entrepreneur of the Year Award for ‘Services’ category by Ernst & Young in 2017
  - TiECON’s ‘Next Gen Entrepreneur of the Year 2014’ award
  - ‘Emerging Entrepreneur’ award by CII in 2010
- [HQs of CII – New Delhi](#) | [President – R. Dinesh](#) | [VP – Rajiv Memani](#) | [DG – Chandrajit Banerjee](#)

**262.** On May 27, the Central Government appointed chief justices to 5 high courts, including Justice R. D. Dhanuka who will have a four-day tenure as chief justice of the Bombay High Court. He is due to retire on May 30. The Centre appointed Justice Sanjay Vijaykumar (SV) Gangapurwala, currently the acting chief justice of the Bombay High Court, as the chief justice of the Madras High Court. The government appointed Justice M S R Ramachandra Rao, currently a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, as chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. The Centre also appointed Justice Sarasa Venkatanarayana (SV) Bhatti, currently a judge of the Kerala High Court, as the Chief Justice of the same court. While Justice Augustine George Masih, judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, is appointed as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Central Government appointed chief justices to 5 high courts:
  - Justice R. D. Dhanuka – appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay HC (due to retire on May 30)
  - Justice S. V. Gangapurwala – appointed as Chief Justice of Madras HC
  - Justice M. S. R. Ramachandra Rao – appointed as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh HC
  - Justice S. V. Bhatti – appointed as Chief Justice of Kerala HC
  - Justice Augustine George Masih – appointed as Chief Justice of Rajasthan HC

**263.** On May 27, Reliance Industries Ltd’s Chairman Mukesh Ambani was named as a member of the International Advisory Committee that will provide guidance and counsel to the presidency of the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) which will take place in Dubai, UAE in Nov-Dec 2023. The COP28 UAE Advisory Committee brings together the climate expertise of thought leaders from countries across 6 continents. The panel will inspire collaborative and transformative action across adaptation, mitigation, finance, loss and damage, food and agriculture, and nature-based solutions. Climate campaigner Sunita Narain is the only other person from India on the panel. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Mukesh Ambani – appointed as a member of the International Advisory Committee of Cop28
- Climate campaigner Sunita Narain is the only other person from India on the panel
- Cop28 will take place in Dubai, UAE in Nov-Dec 2023

**264.** On May 25, senior bureaucrat Suman Sharma was sworn in as the member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Sharma is a 1990-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer. UPSC Chairman Manoj Soni administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly appointed member. Ms Sharma was working as Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Ltd. A UPSC member is appointed for a term of 6 years or until attaining 65 years of age. The Commission is headed by a chairman and it can have a maximum of 10 members. With her appointment, there exists a vacancy of 5 members. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Suman Sharma – appointed as the member of the UPSC (she was working as MD of SECI)
- A UPSC member is appointed for a term of 6 years or until attaining 65 years of age
- UPSC can have a maximum of 10 members | With Suman’s appointment, there exists a vacancy of 5 members
- [HQs of UPSC – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Manoj Soni](#)

**265.** On May 29, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won Turkey’s Presidential election, defeating opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu and stretching his rule into a third decade. Erdogan won the election with 52.14% votes. Mr Recep belongs to Justice and Development Party. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Recep Tayyip Erdogan – won Turkey’s Presidential election (defeating - Kemal Kilicdaroglu)
- He belongs to ‘Justice and Development Party’
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan

**266.** On May 31, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Ashwani Kumar (Executive Director, Indian Bank) as Managing Director and CEO of UCO Bank. Kumar replaces Soma Sankara Prasad, who superannuated on May 31. Ashwani Kumar will lead the public sector bank for period of 3 years from June 1, 2023. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- ACC approved the appointment of Ashwani Kumar as MD & CEO of UCO Bank (replacing - Soma Sankara Prasad)
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Ashwani Kumar | Tagline – “Honours your Trust”

**267.** On May 29, President of India Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to senior administrator Praveen Kumar Srivastava as the next Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC). Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar were present on the occasion. Praveen Kumar Srivastava, a 1988-batch IAS officer from Assam-Meghalaya Cadre, was already working in the capacity as acting CVC following the completion of tenure of incumbent CVC Suresh N Patel in December, 2022. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Praveen Kumar Srivastava – took oath as next Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) – administered by the President
- He was already working in the capacity as acting CVC
- Present Central Vigilance Commissioner – Suresh N. Patel | CVC is appointed by – President of India
- Tenure of CVC & Vigilance commissioner – 4 Years | Superannuation age – 65 Years

**268.** On May 31, Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar was named the ‘Smile Ambassador’ for Maharashtra’s Swachh Mukh Abhiyan, a campaign that promotes oral hygiene. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis signed an MoU with Tendulkar for this purpose. He will be the campaign's brand ambassador for the next 5 years. The Swachh Mukh Abhiyaan is a national campaign undertaken by the Indian Dental Association to improve oral health and hygiene and educate people about its importance. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Sachin Tendulkar – appointed as the ‘Smile Ambassador’ for Maharashtra’s ‘Swachh Mukh Abhiyan’
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**269.** In May 2023, Nigeria’s President-elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn into office as the 16<sup>th</sup> President of Nigeria, against the backdrop of a fractured nation, an ailing economy and spiraling insecurity. Tinubu is now commander-in-chief of the armed forces. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Bola Ahmed Tinubu – sworn in as 16<sup>th</sup> President of Nigeria
- He is now also commander-in-chief of the armed forces
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Bola Ahmed Tinubu



**270.** On May 30, Senior bureaucrat Angshumali Rastogi was appointed as India's representative to the council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada. Rastogi, a 1995 batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), has been appointed in place of Shefali Juneja for 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Angshumali Rastogi – appointed as India's representative to the council of the ICAO (replacing - Shefali Juneja)
- [HQs of ICAO – Montreal, Canada](#) | [Council President – Salvatore Sciacchitano](#) | [Members – 193](#)

**271.** On May 30, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India Girish Chandra Murmu was re-elected as External Auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027. He has been holding the position for a 4-year term from 2019 to 2023. The election was held at the 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. The CAG is also External Auditor of Food & Agriculture Organization (2020-2025), International Atomic Energy Agency (2022-2027), Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (2021-2023) and Inter Parliamentary Union (2020-2022). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in – Geneva, Switzerland
- Girish Chandra Murmu – re-elected as External Auditor of the WHO for a 4-year term (2024 to 2027)
- [CAG – G. C. Murmu](#) | [CGA – S. S. Dubey](#)

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**272.** On May 1, recognising his efforts as a socialist leader, former Lok Sabha MP Pandit Ramkishan was honoured with the title of Shatabdi Purush (Man of the Century) in New Delhi. Ramkishan is the senior-most socialist icon of the country and is adjudged as Socialist Shatabdi Purush. Ramkishan was arrested several times while fighting for tribals, Dalits and the poor. He was elected once to the Lok Sabha in 1977 and 4 times to Rajasthan Assembly in 1962, 1967, 1974 and 1990. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Pandit Ramkishan (Lok Sabha MP) – honoured with title of Shatabdi Purush for his efforts as a socialist leader
- He was elected once to Lok Sabha in 1977 & 4 times to Rajasthan Assembly in 1962, 1967, 1974 & 1990
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur](#) | [CM – Ashok Gehlot](#) | [Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

**273.** At the 30<sup>th</sup> Leipzig Book Fair in Germany, a Russian-Jewish author Maria Stepanova was awarded the prestigious “Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding 2023” for her volume of poetry titled “Mädchen ohne Kleider” (Girls Without Clothes). It is described as a sensitive and highly poetic study of often hidden violence against the female body and the power imbalance that drives this oppression. Besides, her novel “In Memory of Memory” was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2021. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Maria Stepanova (Russian-Jewish author) – awarded the “Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding 2023”
- She was awarded for her volume of poetry titled “Mädchen ohne Kleider” (Girls Without Clothes)

**274.** On May 1, Popular UK-based Indian-origin actor-writer Meera Syal has been conferred a “BAFTA Fellowship”, the highest accolade bestowed by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) upon an individual in recognition of an outstanding and exceptional contribution to film and/or television. The 61-year-old, who was born to Punjabi parents and grew up in the West Midlands region of England, was honoured with an MBE and then a CBE by the late Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to drama and literature. Some of her best-known novels include ‘Anita and Me’ and ‘Life Isn’t All Ha Ha Hee Hee’. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Meera Syal – (UK-based Indian-origin actor-writer) – has been conferred a “BAFTA Fellowship”
- Some of her best-known novels – ‘Anita and Me’ & ‘Life Isn’t All Ha Ha Hee Hee’
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Rishi Sunak \(57<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [New King – King Charles III](#)

**275.** On May 4, Hollywood star Michael Douglas is set to receive the Palme d’Or, the highest honorary award of the fest, at the 76<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival, to be held from May 16 to May 27, 2023 in Cannes, France. Oscar-winning American actor will be felicitated for his contribution to cinema. Douglas joins the likes of Forest Whitaker, Jodie Foster, Jean-Pierre Léaud and Agnès Varda - who were honoured with the Palme d’Or. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Michael Douglas – to receive the ‘Palme d’Or’ at 76<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival, to be held in Cannes, France
- It is the highest honorary award of the fest
- Other stars honoured with the ‘Palme d’Or’ – Forest Whitaker, Jodie Foster, Jean-Pierre Léaud & Agnès Varda
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Elisabeth Borne](#)

**276.** On May 8, Argentina football team captain and FIFA World Cup 2022 champion Lionel Messi was named the “World Sportsman of the Year” for 2023 at the ‘Laureus World Sports Awards’ ceremony in Paris, France. Argentina Men’s Football Team won the “World Team of the Year Award”. Messi also became the first ever athlete to win the award as an individual and as a part of the Best Team of the Year. Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce bagged the “World Sportswoman of the Year Award”. While Carlos Alcaraz won the “World Breakthrough of the Year Award”. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Winners of the ‘Laureus World Sports Awards 2023’:
  - World Sportsman of the Year Award: Lionel Messi (Argentina)
  - World Sportswoman of the Year Award: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jamaica)
  - World Team of the Year Award: Argentina Men’s Football Team
  - World Breakthrough of the Year Award: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
  - World Comeback of the Year Award: Christian Eriksen (Denmark)
  - World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award: Catherine Debrunner (Switzerland)
  - World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award: Eileen Gu (US)
  - Laureus Sport for Good Award: TeamUp

**277.** On May 3, three imprisoned Iranian female journalists have been named as the winners of the “U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization World Press Freedom Prize” for their commitment to truth and accountability. The three winners are, Niloufar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi. This prize is named after Guillermo Cano, a Colombian journalism who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper ‘El Espectador’ in Bogota in 1986. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Niloufar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, & Narges Mohammadi – winners of “UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize”
- The three winners are imprisoned Iranian female journalists
- The award is also known as – “Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize” (named after Guillermo Cano)
- Guillermo Cano – a Colombian journalism who was assassinated in Bogota in 1986 | His newspaper – ‘El Espectador’
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ebrahim Raisi | Supreme Leader – Ali Khamenei
- Colombia – Bogota – Peso | President – Gustavo Petro

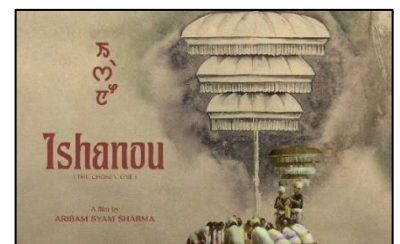
**278.** On May 6, Former President of India Ram Nath Kovind honoured Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award” for creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh. The award ceremony was organized at Shanmukhananda Auditorium in Mumbai where member of the UP legislative council Lalji Prasad Nirmal received the award on behalf of Yogi Adityanath. Buddhanjali Research Foundation organized the award ceremony. Popular film actors Prem Chopra, Udit Narayan and Rajpal Yadav including talents from other regions of the country were also honoured with the 13<sup>th</sup> Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Ram Nath Kovind – honoured Yogi Adityanath with 13<sup>th</sup> “Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award” for creating a fear-free UP
- Buddhanjali Research Foundation organized the Award Ceremony
- Other awardees: Popular film actors Prem Chopra, Udit Narayan & Rajpal Yadav

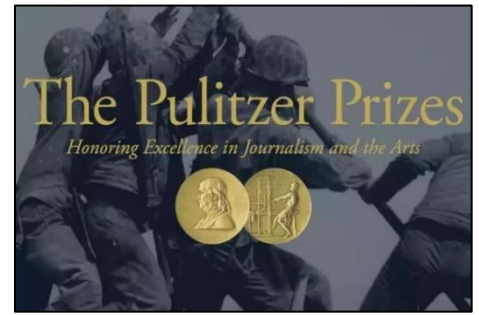
**279.** On May 6, ‘ISHANOU’, a Manipuri feature film by Aribam Syam Sharma, has been recognised as World Classic. The film that deals with the Maibi culture of Manipur has been officially selected in the Cannes Classic Section of the Festival de Cannes, France, being held from May 16-27, 2023. Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS) initiated the ambitious restoration project of Ishanou. It is the first film to have been restored. Produced in 1990, the 91 minutes’ feature was previously an official selection to the Un Certain Regard section of Festival de Cannes in 1991. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- ‘ISHANOU’, a Manipuri feature film by Aribam Syam Sharma – recognised as World Classic
- The film is officially selected in the Cannes Classic Section of the Festival de Cannes, France
- It is the first film to have been restored

**280.** On May 5, the “Pulitzer Prizes 2023” have been announced. The Pulitzer Prize are given to honor excellence in journalism and the arts since 1917. The annual award is given in 23 categories in journalism, books, drama and music. This year, the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction is shared by two authors - Barbara Kingsolver (for ‘Demon Copperhead’) and Hernan Diaz (for ‘Trust’). ‘His Name Is George Floyd: One Man’s Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice’ by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 in General Non-fiction category. Beverly Gage won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 in Biography category for the book ‘G-Man: J.



Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century’. Hua Hsu won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 in Memoir or Autobiography category for her memoir ‘Stay True’. Carl Phillips won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 for Poetry for the book ‘Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020’. Jefferson Cowie won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 for History for the book ‘Freedom’s Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power’. Sanaz Toossi’s play ‘English’ won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 for Drama. Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 for Music for their album ‘Omar’. [{Read more}](#)

#### Smart Points:

- “Pulitzer Prizes 2023” have been announced:
- Books:
  - Fiction – Barbara Kingsolver & Hernan Diaz
  - Non-fiction – Robert Samuels & Toluse Olorunnipa
  - Biography – Beverly Gage
  - Memoir or Autobiography – Hua Hsu
  - Poetry – Carl Phillips
  - History – Jefferson Cowie
- Drama: Sanaz Toossi (for her ‘English’)
- Music: Rhiannon Giddens & Michael Abels (for their album ‘Omar’)
- Journalism: Associated Press (in Public Service category)

**281.** Colombian singer Shakira was honoured with Billboard’s “Latin woman of the Year” award at the first-ever Latin Women in Music gala. Shakira has earned the title of ‘Queen of Latin Music’ for her outstanding tracks over three decades in her career. Shakira has also been honored with several prestigious awards, including three Grammys. [{Read more}](#)



#### Smart Points:

- Shakira (Colombia) – honoured with Billboard’s “Latin Woman of the Year” award at 1<sup>st</sup> ever Latin Women in Music gala
- Shakira – known as ‘Queen of Latin Music’ for her outstanding tracks

**282.** On May 12, Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), Andhra Pradesh, received the “Sagar Shrestha Samman Award 2023” from Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways. VPA’s new chairman M. Angamuthu received the award at New Delhi during the launch of ‘Harit Sagar - the Green Port Guidelines’. The guidelines, launched by Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ministry of AYUSH, aim at the vision of achieving zero carbon emission goal and envisage ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation, etc. Besides VPA, other ports were also awarded at the Sagar Shrestha Samman Awards 2023. Deendayal Port (Kandla, Gujarat) was awarded for the Best Absolute Performance for the year FY23 for handling the highest cargo of 137.56 MMT. While Paradip Port (Jagatsinghpur, Odisha) was awarded as Best Port for the year 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- MoPSW + Ministry of AYUSH = launched the 'Harit Sagar - the Green Port Guidelines'
- Visakhapatnam Port Authority – received the "Sagar Shrestha Samman Award 2023" from Sarbananda Sonowal
- Other recipients of Sagar Shreshtha Samman Awards 2023:
  - Deendayal Port (Kandla, Gujarat) – Best Absolute Performance for the year FY23 for handling the highest cargo
  - Paradip Port (Jagatsinghpur, Odisha) – Best Port for the year 2022-23
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur

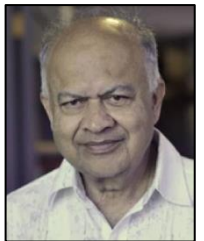
**283.** In May 2023, Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman is named the 'ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2023'. While Thailand's skipper Naruemol Chaiwai is named the 'ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2023'. Fakhar becomes the first Pakistani player to win the monthly accolade since Sidra Ameen in November 2022. Both batters were identified as April's outstanding performers following a vote conducted among a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and media representatives. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan) – named the 'ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2023'
- Naruemol Chaiwai (Thailand) – named the 'ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2023'
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 108 countries

**284.** On May 12, Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar received the first "Astronomical Society of India (ASI) Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award" in Pune. The President of the ASI, Dipankar Banerjee, personally handed over the award to Prof. Narlikar. The award was announced earlier this year at the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the ASI held at IIT Indore. Prof. Narlikar was amongst the first to initiate cosmology research in India. The award is named in honour of Prof. Govind Swarup (1929-2020) who is widely regarded to be the founder of Indian Radio Astronomy. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar – received first "ASI Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award"
- The 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the ASI – held at IIT Indore
- The award is named in honour of Prof. Govind Swarup (1929-2020)
- Prof. Govind Swarup – regarded to be the founder of Indian Radio Astronomy
- HQs of Astronomical Society of India – Bengaluru | President – Dipankar Banerjee | Founded – 1990

**285.** On May 16, "Gauri," a documentary based on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, directed by Kavitha Lankesh, has won the "Best Long Documentary Award" at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023. The documentary "All That Breathes", which was an Oscar nominee, was also in competition and won the runner-up prize. The documentary film "Gauri" has been commissioned by Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “Gauri” – a documentary based on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh
- Directed by – Kavitha Lankesh | Commissioned by – Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam
- “Gauri” – won “Best Long Documentary Award” at South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023

**286.** On May 11, the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the “India Business Leader Awards (IBLA)” was hosted by CNBC-TV18 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The awards recognised outstanding performers and leaders across fields, including the corporate world, entertainment industry, and sports fraternity. Among the winners, Infosys won the ‘Outstanding Company of the Year’ award. TV Narendran (MD of Tata Steel) was named ‘Outstanding Business Leader of the Year’. Azim Premji (Founder & former Chairman of Wipro) received ‘Hall of Fame’ at the award ceremony. While Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen was named ‘Sports Leader of the Year’. Alia Bhatt was named ‘Entertainment Leader of the Year’. Venu Srinivasan (Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor) received the ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’. Late Ela Ramesh Bhatt won the ‘Social Impact Icon’ award. Dove received ‘Brand Campaign of the Year’. While the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was awarded with ‘Game Changer of the Year’ award. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 18<sup>th</sup> “India Business Leader Awards (IBLA)” – hosted by CNBC-TV18 in Mumbai, MH
- The List of winners is given below:

Awards	Winners
‘Outstanding Company of the Year’	Infosys
‘Outstanding Business Leader of the Year’	TV Narendran (MD of Tata Steel)
‘Hall of Fame’	Azim Premji
‘Sports Leader of the Year’	Nikhat Zareen (Boxer)
‘Entertainment Leader of the Year’	Alia Bhatt
‘Lifetime Achievement Award’	Venu Srinivasan (Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor)
‘Social Impact Icon’	Ela Ramesh Bhatt
‘Brand Campaign of the Year’	Dove
‘Game Changer of the Year’ award	Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

**287.** On May 18, the Trichy International Airport’s new terminal project has been awarded the “International Safety Award” by the British Safety Council in the first-class merit category. ITD Cementation India Limited, the company which is building the new terminal in Trichy, received the award. The terminal building is being constructed as per the standards of ‘GRIHA’ (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), in which the design maximizes the use of natural light within the building and incorporates renewable energy measures. The award was given to the company for demonstrating a strong commitment to good health & safety management during 2022. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Trichy International Airport’s new terminal project (Tamil Nadu) – has been awarded “International Safety Award”
- It was awarded by – British Safety Council | The new terminal is being built by – ITD Cementation India Limited
- Terminal building is being constructed as per the standards of ‘GRIHA’ (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

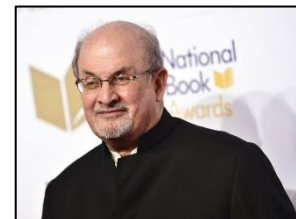
**288.** On May 17, Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran was awarded the “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur”, the highest civilian honour of France. The France government conferred him with the award for strengthening the trade relationship between both countries. Meanwhile, Chandrasekaran also met the world’s second richest man and Tesla CEO Elon Musk before a meeting during the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the ‘Choose France Summit’ at the Palace of Versailles in Paris, France. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- N. Chandrasekaran – was awarded the “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur”, the highest civilian honour of France
- 6<sup>th</sup> edition of ‘Choose France Summit’ – held at Palace of Versailles in Paris, France
- HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne

**289.** On May 16, Booker-winner Salman Rushdie was awarded the “British Book Award 2023” for Freedom to Publish in a ceremony in London. The Freedom to Publish award, which was established in 2022, is given to an author, publisher or bookseller who stand up against intolerance, even when threatened. As a former President of PEN America, as an advocate at the United Nations, he has been unceasing in his efforts on behalf of writers working under repressive governments, in China or Russia. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Salman Rushdie – was awarded “British Book Award 2023” for Freedom to Publish in a ceremony in London
- Freedom to Publish award – was established in 2022
- It is given to author, publisher, bookseller who stands up against intolerance, even when threatened
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57<sup>th</sup>) | New King – King Charles III

**290.** On May 18, two airports from Karnataka - Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) & Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) - have bagged Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific’s “Green Airports Recognition 2023” in Platinum category, for demonstrating outstanding accomplishments in their sustainability projects. They are among the twelve airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East to get the Green Airports Recognition 2023. The theme for the Green Airports Recognition 2023 is “Single Use Plastic Elimination”. The outstanding airports are awarded into three categories: Platinum, Gold or Silver recognition, according to various airport size categories and set criteria. KIA bagged the award in the segment of 15-35 million passengers per annum, while MIA was awarded in the less than 8 million passengers per annum. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ACI Asia-Pacific’s “Green Airports Recognition 2023” were announced with theme – “Single Use Plastic Elimination”
- Total 12 airports Asia-Pacific and the Middle East have got the recognition
- Two airports from Karnataka bagged awards in Platinum category
- The airports are:
  - Kempegowda International Airport (15-35 million passengers per annum)
  - Mangaluru International Airport (less than 8 million passengers per annum)
- HQs of ACI – Montreal, Canada | DG – Luis Felipe de Oliveira
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Siddaramaiah | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**291.** In May 2023, Rajeev Varshney, an Indian agricultural scientist who has contributed to decoding the genomes of legumes and developing new varieties of chickpeas, has been elected a “Fellow of the Royal Society”, the UK’s national academy of Sciences, for his work towards food and nutrition security. The Royal Society announced a list of 80 new fellows - researchers, innovators and communicators from around the world - elected this year. Varshney is currently at Murdoch University in Australia. He is the only Indian on the list and only the fourth Indian agricultural scientist to have been elected after B.P. Paul (1972), M.S. Swaminathan (1973), and Gurdev Khush (1995). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Rajeev Varshney (agricultural scientist) – elected “Fellow of Royal Society” for his work towards food & nutrition security
- He is the only Indian on the list and only the fourth Indian agricultural scientist to have been elected
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57<sup>th</sup>) | New King – King Charles III

**292.** In May 2023, 20 countries and territories were represented on this year’s “Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia” list (8<sup>th</sup> edition). India ranked first with 75 entries, followed by China (34) & Japan (32). The Indian winners include - Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra and Actor Siddhant Chaturvedi under ‘Entertainment & Sports’ category, Elwinder Singh (co-founder of Connect & Heal), Abhinav Warriar (co-founder of Rightbot Technologies) under ‘Industry, Manufacturing & Energy’ category, Akarsh Shroff Paridhi Goel (co-founder of Love Earth) under ‘Retail & Ecommerce’ category, Sharan B. Hegde (Founder of The 1% Club) under ‘Media, Marketing & Advertising’ category, etc. The ‘Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia Class of 2023’ featured 30 notable honorees selected for each of the 10 categories, including The Arts (Art & Style, Food & Drink); Entertainment & Sports; Finance & Venture Capital; Media, Marketing & Advertising; Retail & Ecommerce; Enterprise Technology; Industry, Manufacturing & Energy; Healthcare & Science; Social Impact and Consumer Technology. [Click here to see Full List of Winners](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 20 countries and territories were represented on this year’s “Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia” list (8<sup>th</sup> edition)
- India – ranked first with 75 entries | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China (34) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Japan (32)
- Some Indians in list – Neeraj Chopra, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Elwinder Singh, Akarsh Shroff Paridhi Goel, & Sharan B. Hegde

**293.** The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, will organize the Award Distribution Ceremony for the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of “National Water Awards” on June 17, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar, has been requested to be the Chief Guest at the Ceremony. 41 winners, including joint winners, have been selected for the 4th National Water Awards 2022, covering 11 categories including - ‘Best State’, ‘Best District’, ‘Best Village Panchayat’, ‘Best Urban Local Body’, ‘Best School’, ‘Best Media’, ‘Best Institution for campus usage’, ‘Best water user association’, ‘Best Industry’, ‘Best Industry for CSR activities’, and ‘Best NGO’. The first edition of the National Water Awards was introduced in 2018. Among some important winners, Chandigarh has won the first rank in the ‘Best Urban Local Body’ category, Madhya Pradesh won the first rank in the ‘Best State’ category, while Ganjam district of Odisha won the first rank in the ‘Best District’ category. [{Read more}](#)





### Smart Points:

- Department of Water Resources – to announce the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of “National Water Awards”
- Jagdeep Dhankhar – will be the Chief Guest
- 41 winners, including joint winners, have been selected for the 4th National Water Awards 2022 covering 11 categories
- The first edition of the National Water Awards was introduced in 2018
- Some important winners of “National Water Awards”:
  - ‘Best Urban Local Body’ category – Chandigarh
  - ‘Best State’ category – Madhya Pradesh
  - ‘Best District’ category – Ganjam district, Odisha
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel

**294.** In May 2023, National Sports Awardees who could not receive their awards from the President of India earlier received the same along with citations from Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur. Indian Shooter Anjum Moudgil (Arjuna Award 2019), Hockey coach Sarpal Singh (Dronacharya Award 2021) and family members of late Tennis coach Naresh Kumar (Dronacharya Award 2020) collected the awards. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- National Sports Awardees (who could not receive their awards from the President) received their awards
- Anjum Moudgil (Shooter) – Arjuna Award 2019
- Sarpal Singh (Hockey Coach) – Dronacharya Award 2021
- Family members of Late Naresh Kumar (Tennis coach) – Dronacharya Award 2020

**295.** On May 25, three Indian U.N. peacekeepers were honoured posthumously with the “Dag Hammarskjold Medal” of the United Nations for their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, received awards in their behalf at the UN headquarters. The three Indians include - Border Security Force (BSF) personnel Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Samwali Ram Vishnoi, who served with the Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Shaber Taher Ali, who was employed in a civilian capacity with the U.N. Assistance Mission for Iraq. The medal is the highest honour awarded to U.N. Peacekeepers who have distinguished themselves by exceptional courage, devotion to duty, and sacrifice in the cause of peace. Moreover, Ghana’s peacekeeper Captain Cecilia Erzuah, who served with the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei, received the “Military Gender Advocate of the Year” award in the award ceremony. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

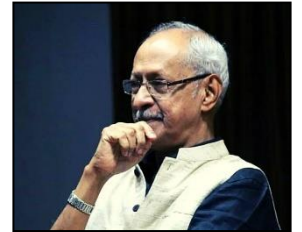
- 3 Indian U.N. peacekeepers – honoured posthumously with “Dag Hammarskjold Medal” of UN
- Name of those 3 Indians:
  - BSF Head Constables Shishupal Singh & Samwali Ram Vishnoi (Democratic Republic of Congo)
  - Shaber Taher Ali (Iraq)
- Ruchira Kamboj – Permanent Representative of India to UN
- Captain Cecilia Erzuah (Ghana’s peacekeeper) – received the “Military Gender Advocate of the Year” award

**296.** On May 24, Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov, considered as one of the most important writers of contemporary European literature, won the “International Booker Prize 2023” for his book ‘Time Shelter’, which is translated into English by Angela Rodel. ‘Time Shelter’ tells the story of Gaustine, who starts a clinic for Alzheimer patients and those suffering with dementia to help them recover their memory. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Georgi Gospodinov (Bulgaria) – has won “International Booker Prize 2023” for his book ‘Time Shelter’
- ‘Time Shelter’ book – translated into English by Angela Rodel
- [Bulgaria – Sofia – Lev](#) | [President – Rumen Radev](#) | [Acting PM – Galab Donev](#)

**297.** On May 28, Writer Damodar Mauzo, who is often termed the ‘Doyen of Konkani Literature’, was presented the prestigious 57<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith Award. He received the award from Goa’s Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai, and is the second from Goa to receive the award. Renowned poet Gulzar was present during the function. Mauzo’s 25 books have been published in Konkani and one in English. His famous novel ‘Karmelin’ received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983. Moreover, Goa’s Governor unveiled 5 books published by Raj Bhavan in Goa under ‘Nai Pahal’ scheme of Goa. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Damodar Mauzo (Goa) – received the prestigious 57<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith Award – from Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai
- Damodar is often termed the ‘Doyen of Konkani Literature’
- Goa’s Governor – unveiled 5 books published by Raj Bhavan in Goa under ‘Nai Pahal’ scheme of Goa

**298.** In May 2023, the 76<sup>th</sup> annual ‘Cannes International Film Festival’ was held in Cannes, France. French director Justine Triet won the festival’s top prize, ‘Palme d’Or’, for French courtroom thriller ‘Anatomy of a Fall’. Japan’s Koji Yakusho won Best Actor award at Cannes for ‘Perfect Days’. Turkey’s Merve Dizdar won Best Actress award for ‘About Dry Grasses’ film. Jonathan Glazer won the Runner-Up prize for his Holocaust drama ‘The Zone of Interest’. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 76<sup>th</sup> annual ‘Cannes International Film Festival’ – held in Cannes, France
- ‘Palme d’Or’ (festival’s top prize) – won by Justine Triet (French director) for ‘Anatomy of a Fall’
- Best Actor award – won by Koji Yakusho (Japan) for ‘Perfect Days’
- Best Actress award – won by Merve Dizdar (Turkey) for ‘About Dry Grasses’ film
- Runner-Up prize – won by Jonathan Glazer for his Holocaust drama ‘The Zone of Interest’
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Elisabeth Borne](#)

**299.** On May 28, Hrithik Roshan won the award for ‘Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)’ for her role in the movie ‘Vikram Vedha’ at the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of “International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA 2023)” held in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Alia Bhatt also won the award for ‘Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)’ for her role in the movie ‘Gangubai Kathiawadi’. Meanwhile, ‘Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva’ was adjudged ‘Best Film of the Year’ award. R. Madhavan won the award for ‘Best Director’ for his film ‘Rocketry: The Nambi Effect’. Kamal Haasan won award for ‘Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema’. While Gangubai Kathiawadi movie won the award for ‘Best Cinematography’. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of “International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA 2023)” – held in Abu Dhabi, UAE

Awards	Winners
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Hrithik Roshan (Vikram Vedha)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
Best Film of the Year	‘Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva’
Best Director	R. Madhavan (Rocketry: The Nambi Effect)
Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema	Kamal Haasan
Best Cinematography	Gangubai Kathiawadi



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# Schemes & Initiatives

**300.** On May 2, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao launched a special scheme, the “Geeta Karmikula Bima”, extending an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to toddy tappers on the lines of the existing ‘Rythu Bima’ scheme for farmers. He also assured farmers hit by unseasonal rains that the state government would purchase the entire crop, including paddy stocks exposed to rainwater at the same price. The Government has so far been paying ex gratia in case of fatal accidents involving toddy tappers, but the process involved delays. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- K. Chandrashekhara Rao (Telangana) – launched a special scheme named “Geeta Karmikula Bima”
- The scheme extends an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to ‘Toddy Tappers’ on the lines of the ‘Rythu Bima’ scheme
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

INSURANCE FOR TODDY TAPPERS	
• State govt to introduce insurance scheme for toddy tappers akin to Rythu Bima	• KCR held a meeting with excise & finance department officials on Tuesday
• If toddy tapper dies in an accident, family to get ₹5 lakh from scheme	• V Srinivas Goud, T Harish Rao tasked to prepare guidelines
• Families will get the payout within a week after death	• CM says toddy tappers' job is risky & govt wants to help their families



**301.** On May 5, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy announced to launch the “Jaganannaku Chebudam”, a public outreach programme. As a part of the initiative, citizens can voice their problems with the Chief Minister’s Office directly through a grievance redressal helpline - 1902. The citizens can also visit the Spandana portal and register their grievances. It is an upgraded version of the ‘Spandana’ initiative that aims at reaching out to citizens and addressing their grievances in a mission mode. A fund of Rs 3 Crore has been provided to each district and the Collectors can make use it for implementation of the initiative. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – to launch “Jaganannaku Chebudam”, a public outreach programme for grievance redressal
- The state’s citizens can voice their problems with ‘Grievance Redressal Helpline - 1902’ or ‘Spandana portal’
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati](#) | [CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – Syed Abdul Nazeer](#)

**302.** On May 10, during a national event organized on strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) at Vigyan Bhava in New Delhi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development (WCD), Smriti Zubin Irani, launched the flagship programme “Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi”. Under this campaign, children in the age group of 3 to 6 years in Anganwadis across India will be provided nutrition & quality education. The event also hosted a panel discussion titled “How can your State grow in ECCE: Learning from Precedent” that spotlighted ECCE best practices from the States of Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Sanjay Kaul is the Chairperson of the ECCE Task Force of the MoWCD. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Smriti Zubin Irani – launched the flagship programme “Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi”
- Under this campaign, children aged 3-6 years in Anganwadis across India will be provided nutrition & quality education
- Sanjay Kaul – Chairperson of the ECCE Task Force of the MoWCD
- [Ministry of Women & Child Development: Smriti Irani](#) | [Constituency – Amethi, Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Women and Child Development: Munjapara Mahendrabhai](#)

**303.** On May 7, Uttarakhand Police launched a special campaign named “Operation Maryada” to maintain cleanliness at the pilgrimage and tourist places. Under the campaign, 67 people were arrested while challans were issued to 2,703 people. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Uttarakhand Police – launched “Operation Maryada” to maintain cleanliness at the pilgrimage & tourist places
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**304.** On May 7, the Urban Development Department in Uttar Pradesh and Lucknow Smart City launched the “School Health Program” at 3 schools in Lucknow. A digital health report card for the overall physical and mental well-being of 1765 municipal school students is also being prepared under the project. Along with this, the benefit of health insurance worth Rs 25,000 is also being given to these children. With this, UP becomes the first Indian state to make digital health cards for children. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – launched the “School Health Program” at 3 schools in Lucknow
- A Digital Health Report Card is being prepared for the overall physical & mental well-being
- The benefit of health insurance worth Rs 25,000 is also being given to these children
- With this, UP becomes the first Indian state to make digital health cards for children
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**305.** On May 15, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, launched the “Himcare scheme” for jail inmates. The CM distributed Himcare cards to the prisoners at Model Central Jail Kanda in Shimla. He also launched the integrated campaign against STI, HIV, TB and Hepatitis (ISHTH) in prisons. Besides, the CM awarded the winners of the ‘AIDS Awareness Competition’ organized for jail inmates on occasion. Himachal Pradesh government is moving forward to achieve the target of eliminating AIDS by the year 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- HP – launched the “Himcare scheme” for jail inmates
- HP – also launched the integrated campaign against STI, HIV, TB and Hepatitis (ISHTH) in prisons
- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu – awarded the winners of the ‘AIDS Awareness Competition’ organized for jail inmates
- HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu | Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla

**306.** On May 18, the Madhya Pradesh government announced to start the implementation of the “Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana” (CM Learn and Earn Scheme) for unemployed youth. The local residents of Madhya Pradesh, in the age group of 18 to 29 years, whose educational qualification is 12<sup>th</sup> or ITI or higher, will be eligible for the scheme. After registration of the youth in the scheme, they will get a stipend of Rs 8,000 to 10,000 per month, as financial assistance during the period of skill learning in various establishments. After the training, the State Council for Vocational Training (SCVT) certificate will be given by the Madhya Pradesh State Skill Development and Employment Generation Board (MPSSDEGB). [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- MP – to implement “Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana” (CM Learn and Earn Scheme) for unemployed youth
- Beneficiaries – age group of 18 to 29 years having educational qualification 12<sup>th</sup> or ITI or higher
- After registration in the scheme, they will get a stipend of Rs 8,000 to 10,000 per month
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**307.** On May 16, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy released ₹123.52 Crore under the “YSR Matsyakara Bharosa” scheme. As a part of the scheme, financial assistance of ₹10,000 is given to each fisherman family for the annual ban period on marine fishing from April 15 to June 14. The amount was directly credited into the bank accounts of 1,23,519 beneficiaries across the State. With this, the total assistance provided under the scheme has gone up to ₹538 Crore. And each fisherman’s family has received a benefit of ₹50,000 under the scheme so far. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh CM – released ₹123.52 Crore under the “YSR Matsyakara Bharosa” scheme
- Assistance of ₹10,000 is given to each fisherman family for annual ban period on marine fishing from April 15 to June 14
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati | CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Syed Abdul Nazeer

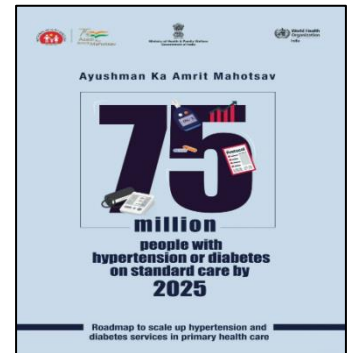
**308.** On May 20, Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Minister for Home, Prisons and Fire services, Government of Telangana, inaugurated “Sahas”, a Telangana police initiative, to make workplaces free from harassment for women. SAHAS, which means ‘Courage’, is a programme that aims at strengthening the support ecosystem for women who face workplace sexual harassment. Director General of Police Anjani Kumar said that there are over 3 lakh employers in the state and the Sahas team hoped to connect and sensitise them through awareness and training activities. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Telangana – inaugurated a police initiative named “Sahas” to make workplaces free from harassment for women
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**309.** On May 17, to mark World Hypertension Day, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched an ambitious “75/25” initiative of screening and putting 75 million people with hypertension and diabetes on Standard Care by 2025. This was announced at the G20 co-branded event “Accelerating the Prevention and Management of Hypertension and Diabetes”, organized by the Union Health Ministry. This will be the largest expansion of NCDs in primary healthcare programme in the world with a community-based approach starting at the primary healthcare level. In addition to the 75/25 initiative, the Shashakt Portal was launched for the training of 40,000 Primary Health Care Medical Officers on Standard Treatment Workflow for NCDs initiated to realize healthcare services closer to the community. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- May 17 – World Hypertension Day
- MoHFW – launched “75/25” initiative
- Aim – screening & putting 75 million people with hypertension & diabetes on Standard Care by 2025
- MoHFW – organised “Accelerating the Prevention and Management of Hypertension and Diabetes”
- Shashakt Portal – launched for training of 40,000 Primary Health Care Medical Officers on Standard Treatment Workflow
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar & S. P. Singh Baghel

**310.** On May 19, Assam Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah officially launched the first “Jal Shala” initiative, under the Jal Doot programme, covering topics such as Water conservation, WASH and Water Quality, Water Supply Schemes, and Community Participation. The ‘Jal Shala’ initiative serves as a community-level volunteer system that evaluates the effectiveness and impacts of water supply schemes and educates the local population about their sustainability. More than 2 lakh students will receive training to become Jal Doots who will serve as change agents in their local communities. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Assam – launched the first “Jal Shala” initiative, under the Jal Doot programme
- It covers topics Water conservation, WASH and Water Quality, Water Supply Schemes, & Community Participation
- More than 2 lakh students will receive training to become Jal Doots & serve as change agents in their local communities
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

**311.** On May 21, the Centre announced a new initiative, called the “Assistance to Medical Device Clusters for Common Facilities” scheme, aimed at fortifying the medical device sector. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the new scheme during the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the international conference on “India Pharma & India Medical Device 2023” held from May 26-27 in New Delhi. The scheme plans the establishment of additional quality testing labs, the development of shared infrastructure facilities, and the provision of financial aid to manufacturers, underpinning the Centre’s commitment to bolstering this critical industry. Indian medical device industry is currently the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Asian medical devices market after Japan, China and South Korea. It is currently estimated at \$11 billion and has the potential to reach \$50 billion by 2030. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Mansukh Mandaviya – launched “Assistance to Medical Device Clusters for Common Facilities” scheme
- 8<sup>th</sup> international conference on “India Pharma & India Medical Device 2023” – held in New Delhi
- Indian medical device industry – 4<sup>th</sup> largest Asian medical devices market after Japan, China & South Korea
- Indian medical device industry – currently estimated at \$11 billion & can reach \$50 billion by 2030
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar & S. P. Singh Baghel

**312.** On May 22, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd has launched the “GAINS 2023” (GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme) to leverage the vast start-up ecosystem in India to identify and encourage the development of innovative solutions as part of the shipyard’s technology development efforts. GAINS aims to address present and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry, while also achieving the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The thematic areas would be artificial intelligence, renewable or green energy, and energy efficiency and efficiency enhancement. Under this scheme, the selected entities would be given a sum of a maximum ₹5 lakh each. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- GRSE – launched the “GAINS 2023” (GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme)
- Thematic areas – AI, renewable or green energy, & energy efficiency and efficiency enhancement
- Aim – to address present and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry
- The selected entities would be given a sum of a maximum ₹5 lakh each

**313.** On May 25, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh, launched “SAMARTH” campaign to promote Digital Transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats. The campaign started from February 1, 2023 and will continue till August 15, 2023 under the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. Around 1000 BC Sakhis participated in the event at Lucknow with over 8000 BC Sakhis participating virtually. The event witnessed unveiling of a compendium of 75 Inspirational Tales of BC Sakhis along with live testimonies of transformations in the lives of BC Sakhis. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Giriraj Singh – launched “SAMARTH” campaign to promote Digital Transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats
- The campaign started from February 1, 2023 & will continue till August 15, 2023
- [Minister of Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Kapil Moreshwar Patil](#)

**314.** On May 24, Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the “Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) 5.1” to further enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters. For the first time under RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes. Under the new scheme, airfare caps have been reduced by as much as 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers. With Udan 5.1, the ministry has also substantially increased Viability Gap Funding (VGF) caps for the operators both single and twin-engine helicopters. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Civil Aviation – launched “Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) 5.1” designed specifically for helicopter routes
- Airfare caps have been reduced by 25% to make flying in helicopters
- Ministry of Civil Aviation – increased Viability Gap Funding (VGF) caps for the operators
- [Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh](#)

**315.** In May 2023, the Maharashtra government launched a new initiative, named “Shasan Aplya Dari (Government at Your Doorstep)”, aimed at providing citizens the necessary information and full benefits of various schemes. The programme was flagged off by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government had a similar initiative called ‘Janata Darbar’. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Maharashtra – launched a new initiative, named “Shasan Aplya Dari (Government at Your Doorstep)”
- Maha Vikas Aghadi government – had a similar initiative called ‘Janata Darbar’
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)

**316.** On May 25, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy released Rs 703 Crore under the ‘Jagananna Vidya Deevena’ scheme to the mothers of 9.95 lakh students. The amount for the January-March quarter, 2023 is transferred directly to the bank accounts of the mothers of the beneficiaries. This scheme reimburses the total fees for students pursuing ITI, polytechnic, degrees, engineering, medicine, and other courses. Under the ‘Jagananna Vasathi Deevena’ and ‘Jagananna Vidya Deevena’ schemes alone, the Government has so far spent Rs 14,912 Crore. [{Read more}](#)





### Smart Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – released Rs 703 Cr under ‘Jagananna Vidya Deevena’ for January-March quarter, 2023
- The scheme reimburses total fees for students pursuing ITI, polytechnic, degree, engineering, medicine etc.
- Andhra Pradesh – has spent Rs 14,912 Crore so far under ‘Jagananna Vasathi Deevena’ & ‘Jagananna Vidya Deevena’
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati | CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Syed Abdul Nazeer](#)

**317.** The Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), India’s central sector water conservation scheme, will continue for an additional 2 years up to 2027, beyond its original 2025 end date, according to a decision made by the National Level Steering Committee (NLSC). The extension aims to make up for implementation delays due to covid-19 and to further community behaviour change initiatives. Initially launched in 2020, Atal Jal is active across 8,220 water-stressed Gram Panchayats within 80 districts of 7 Indian states - Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh. It has focused on driving community behavioural change towards conservation and smart water management. Atal Bhujal Yojana is a Central Sector Scheme for facilitating sustainable ground water management with an outlay of Rs 6,000 Crore. Out of this, Rs 3,000 Cr will be as loan from World Bank & Rs 3,000 Cr as matching contribution from Govt of India. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Atal Bhujal Yojana will continue for an additional 2 years beyond its original 2025 end date (initially launched in 2020)
- It is implemented in 7 states – Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh
- Outlay of the scheme – Rs 6,000 Cr (Rs 3,000 Cr from World Bank + Rs 3,000 Cr from GoI)

**318.** On May 31, Maharashtra government launched a new financial scheme called "Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana" under which more than 1 Crore farmers in the state will be paid Rs 6,000 annually. The scheme was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Mr Shinde said this amount is in addition to Rs 6,000 paid to farmers in instalments per year by the Centre under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana’. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Maharashtra – launched a new financial scheme called “Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana”
- Under the scheme, more than 1 Crore farmers in the state will be paid Rs 6,000 annually
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)

**319.** In May 2023, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the “Hamar Sughar Laika Abhiyan” (Our Healthy Child Campaign) at the “Bharose Ka Sammelan” held in Durg district. The objective of the “Hamar Sughar Laika Abhiyan” is to promptly bring 1800 malnourished children identified in the district survey into the well-nourished category. The campaign focuses on managing children’s growth through appetite tests. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Chhattisgarh – launched the “Hamar Sughar Laika Abhiyan” (Our Healthy Child Campaign)
- It aims to bring 1800 malnourished children identified in the district survey into the well-nourished category
- [Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Biswa Bhusan Harichandan](#)

**320.** On May 29, in a major relief to economically and socially weaker households, the Odisha government announced the launch of “Mo Ghara” (My House) to provide credit-linked financial assistance to beneficiaries who face fund crunch to complete or upgrade their houses. Under the scheme, a beneficiary can avail housing loan up to Rs 3 lakh which can be repaid in 10 years, excluding 1 year moratorium period in easy installments. The family which is staying in kutchha (thatched) house or one pucca room with concrete roof would be eligible for the loan. Those having monthly income below ₹25,000 and who have availed housing assistance of ₹70,000 or below in the past would be considered for loan under ‘Mo Ghara’ scheme. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Odisha – launched “Mo Ghara” (My House) housing scheme to provide credit-linked financial assistance
- Under the scheme, a beneficiary can avail housing loan up to Rs 3 lakh which can be repaid in 10 years
- Income criteria for beneficiary – ₹25,000/m
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**321.** From May 2-5, FM Sitharaman attended the 56<sup>th</sup> “Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)” along with investor/bilateral and other associated meetings, in Incheon, South Korea. Sitharaman was received by the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea, Amit Kumar. Official ADB member delegations, observers, non-governmental and civil society organisations, journalists, financial institutions, banks, and other private sector enterprises also participated in the meetings. On the sidelines of the 56<sup>th</sup> ADB’s annual meeting, she met Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)’s Governor Hayashi Nobumitsu. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – attended 56<sup>th</sup> “Annual General Meeting of Board of Governors of ADB” in Incheon, South Korea
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyog, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

**322.** The 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change or Petersberg Climate Dialogue (PCD) was held in Berlin from May 2-3, 2023. It was hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirate (UAE). Ministers from 40 countries attended the conference to discuss the way forward towards CoP28 which will take place in Dubai, UAE in Nov-Dec 2023. 2023 is the year for the Global Stocktak, a periodic review of global climate action. This is the first Global Stocktake year since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Germany + UAE = hosted 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change or Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin
- It was to discuss the way forward towards CoP28 which will take place in Dubai, UAE in Nov-Dec 2023
- 2023 – year for the Global Stocktak, a periodic review of global climate action
- This is the first Global Stocktake year since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier | Chancellor – Olaf Scholz
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**323.** On May 10, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit formally kicked off in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. This year, the Summit under Indonesia’s ASEAN chairmanship is themed “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth”. The summit is expected to produce a roadmap for Timor-Leste’s full membership. Indonesia has scheduled the 43<sup>rd</sup> Summit & East Asia Summit to be held on September 6-7 in capital Jakarta. ASEAN Summit is held twice a year. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit – formally kicked off in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia
- Theme – “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth”
- 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit – to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia
- ASEAN Summit is held twice a year
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2022 – Cambodia](#) | [Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia](#) | [Members – 10](#)
- [Indonesia – Jakarta \(Nusantara in future\) – Rupiah](#) | [President – Joko Widodo](#)

**324.** On May 10, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the National MSME Council at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The National MSME Council has been set up to work as an administrative and functional body to oversee inter-Central Ministerial/ Departmental co-ordination, Centre State synergies and advise/ monitor progress on the reforms mandated in the MSME sector including the RAMP programme. The event was organised under the aegis of the Central Sector Scheme “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)” which was launched by PM Narendra Modi in June 2022. The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Narayan Rane – chaired the 1<sup>st</sup> “Meeting of the National MSME Council” in New Delhi (organised by Ministry of MSME)
- It was organised under the aegis of Central Sector Scheme “**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)**”
- [Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane](#) | [Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma](#)

**325.** On May 5, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar attended the majestic Coronation ceremony of the UK’s monarch at Westminster Abbey, London, UK. The Coronation Service of King Charles III and Queen Camilla was attended by a congregation of more than 2,200 people. British Indian chef Manju Malhi was invited among 450 British Empire Medal (BEM) winners for her work with an old age charity. From Canada, Indian-origin Jay Patel was also among the invitees for completing the Prince’s Trust Canada’s Youth Employment programme in May 2022. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Coronation ceremony of UK’s monarch King Charles III & Queen Camilla – held at Westminster Abbey, London, UK
- Jagdeep Dhankhar – attended the ceremony from India
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Rishi Sunak \(57<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [New King – King Charles III](#) | [Queen – Camilla](#)

**326.** On May 12-13, Bangladesh hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> “Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)” in Dhaka. High-level government delegations and think tanks from about 25 countries took part in the IOC. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the conference. Minister for External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India at the IOC. The theme for the conference was “Peace, Prosperity & Partnership for a Resilient Future”. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Conference was organised by India Foundation in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. The Conference endeavored to bring critical states and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Bangladesh – hosted 6<sup>th</sup> “Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)” in Dhaka
- Theme – “Peace, Prosperity & Partnership for a Resilient Future”
- Dr. S. Jaishankar – represented India at the IOC
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Mohammed Shahabuddin

**327.** Kerala will host the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023)” in Thiruvananthapuram from December 1-5, 2023. The event, which will be held at the Greenfield International Stadium in Karyavattom, will focus on projecting Ayurveda’s huge potential in addressing the health challenges of the present world. The focal theme of GAF 2023 is “Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda”. The biennial event is being organised by the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) in association with the Ministry of AYUSH. CISSA is a Non-governmental organization in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Nearly 7,500 delegates representing 75 countries are expected to attend the five-day conclave. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Kerala – to host the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023)” in Thiruvananthapuram (in Dec’23)
- Focal Theme of GAF 2023 – “Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda”
- The biennial event is being organised by = CISSA (Thiruvananthapuram) + Ministry of AYUSH
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

**328.** On May 19, Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) organized a curtain raiser ahead of “Wings India 2024” in New Delhi. Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, unveiled the event and promo video and released the Wings India 2024 brochure. The “Wings India 2024” is scheduled to take place from January 18-21, 2024 in Hyderabad, Telangana. It is expected to be Asia’s largest event on Civil Aviation on Commercial, General and Business Aviation. It will bring together various stakeholders and participants from all over the world from the aviation industry to promote collaboration, showcase innovations and explore business opportunities. The theme of the Wings India 2024 is “Connecting the World: Setting the Stage for India @2047” (100 Years of India’s Independence). [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

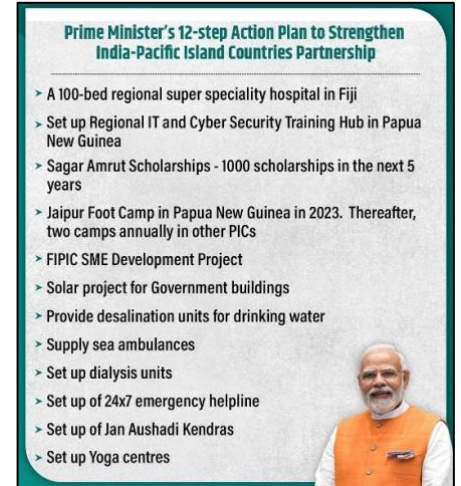
- Ministry of Civil Aviation + FICCI = organized a curtain raiser ahead of “Wings India 2024”
- Jyotiraditya Scindia – unveiled the event and promo video and released the Wings India 2024 brochure
- “Wings India 2024” – will take place from January 18-21, 2024 in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Theme – “Connecting the World: Setting the Stage for India @2047”
- HQs of FICCI – Delhi | DG – Arun Chawla | President – Subhrakant Panda | SG – Shailesh Pathak | Founded in – 1927
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh

**329.** On May 19, Syrian President Bashar Assad, for the first time in more than a decade, attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> “Arab League Summit” held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. All 22 Arab states gathered for the meet. League of Arab States (LAS) is an intergovernmental pan-Arab organization of all Arab states in the Middle East and North Africa. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 32<sup>nd</sup> “Arab League Summit” – held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia where all 22 Arab states gathered for the meet
- Bashar Assad (Syria's President) – attended the Summit for the first time in more than a decade
- League of Arab States – an intergovernmental pan-Arab organization of all Arab states in Middle East & North Africa
- Syria – Damascus – Syrian pound | President – Bashar al-Assad | Prime Minister – Hussein Arnous

**330.** On May 22, while co-chairing the 3<sup>rd</sup> “India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit” in Papua New Guinea with the country’s Prime Minister James Marape, India’s PM Narendra Modi announced a 12-point Action Plan to strengthen India’s partnership with Pacific Island nations. Prime Minister Modi is the first Indian PM to visit the island nation. The two leaders also launched a translation of the Tamil classic book “Thirukkural”. The translated book is co-authored by linguist Subha Sasindran and Sasindran Muthuvel. The book has a foreword by Prime Minister Marape. The 12-steps included opening up a new 100-bed regional super speciality hospital in Fiji and setting up a Regional IT and Cyber Security Training Hub in Papua New Guinea; Sagar Amrut Scholarships - 1000 scholarships in the next 5 years; and Jaipur Foot Camp in Papua New Guinea in 2023. Pacific Island nations include the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Moreover, PM Narendra Modi was honoured with the “Companion of the Order of Logohu”, the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> “India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit” – held in Papua New Guinea
- The summit was co-chaired by = PM Narendra Modi (India) + James Marape (Papua New Guinea)
- PM Modi – first Indian PM to visit Papua New Guinea
- PM Modi announced a 12-point Action Plan to strengthen India’s partnership with Pacific Island nations
- A translation of Tamil classic book “Thirukkural” was also launched
- The book is co-authored by = linguist Subha Sasindran + Sasindran Muthuvel
- Papua New Guinea – Port Moresby – Kina | PM – James Marape

**331.** On May 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a three-day visit to Japan to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of G7 Summit in Hiroshima, held a bilateral meeting with his British counterpart Rishi Sunak. After wrapping up the G7 Summit in Japan, PM Narendra Modi landed in Papua New Guinea for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). Besides, Modi visited Sydney in Australia from May 22 to 24 to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quad Leaders’ Summit. India will host the Quad Summit in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Narendra Modi – attended the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan
- Narendra Modi – attended 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Papua New Guinea
- Narendra Modi – visited Sydney, Australia to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quad Leaders’ Summit (which was later cancelled)
- India – to host the Quad Summit in 2024
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975

**332.** India hosted the 44<sup>th</sup> edition of the coveted annual “ISO COPOLCO Plenary” from 23-26 May 2023 in New Delhi. Union Minister of Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, inaugurated the event. ISO COPOLCO or Committee on Consumer Policy is a committee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) responsible for promoting consumer interests in the standardization process and for ensuring that standards are developed with the needs of consumers in mind. The ISO, an international body with 168 countries as members, develops standards for the world impacting a diverse range of business and social sectors. The four-day event marked the distinguished presence of the leaders from Government and business sectors and international delegation of eminent global stakeholders. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – hosted 44<sup>th</sup> edition of coveted annual “ISO COPOLCO Plenary” in New Delhi | Inaugurated by – Piyush Goyal
- ISO COPOLCO – Committee on Consumer Policy of International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- ISO – develops standards for the world impacting a diverse range of business and social sectors
- HQs of ISO – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Ulrika Francke | Member countries – 168

## **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**333.** On May 3, the “National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22” was released by the Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The report carried out its survey across over 8,000 firms in 28 states and 6 UTs. Only 25.01% of the 8,074 firms surveyed were considered innovative. Among states, the DST ranked Karnataka, followed by Telangana & Tamil Nadu as high innovation states. Uttarakhand has the highest score among the hill states, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has the highest score among the UTs. As per the survey, Karnataka has topped the Indian Manufacturing Innovation Index (IMII) Ranking 2022 with an IMII score of 33.41. Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18%, 39.10% and 31.90%, respectively, among the total manufacturing firms surveyed from the respective states. Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reported the least share of innovative firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively. The Indian government first conducted the National Innovation Survey in 2011. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- DST + UNIDO = released “National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22”
- Only 25.01% of 8,074 firms surveyed were considered innovative (National Innovation Survey first conducted in 2011)
- High innovation states – Karnataka, followed by Telangana & Tamil Nadu
- Highest score among Hill states – Uttarakhand | Highest score among UTs – Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
- Highest share of innovative firms: Telangana (46.18%), Karnataka (39.10%) & Tamil Nadu (31.90%)
- Least share of innovative firms: Odisha (12.78%), Bihar (13.47%) & Jharkhand (13.71%)
- Karnataka – also topped IMII Ranking 2022 with an IMII score of 33.41
- HQs of UNIDO – Vienna, Austria | DG – Gerd Muller | Member States – 171
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udampur, J&K
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Siddaramaiah | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu: Capital – Daman | Administrator – Praful Khoda Patel

**334.** India's rank slipped 11 places to 161<sup>st</sup> rank in the "World Press Freedom Index 2023" (21<sup>st</sup> edition). Global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF), which publishes report on press freedom in countries across the world, had last year ranked India at 150<sup>th</sup> position in a survey of 180 countries. As per the report, the situation has gone from 'problematic' to 'very bad' in three other countries - Tajikistan (down 1 at 153<sup>rd</sup>), India (down 11 at 161<sup>st</sup>) and Turkey (down 16 at 165<sup>th</sup>). Norway topped the Index for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, followed by Ireland and Denmark. North Korea ranked the lowest at 180<sup>th</sup> rank. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- "World Press Freedom Index 2023" (21<sup>st</sup> edition) – released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- India's rank slipped 11 places to 161<sup>st</sup> | Top – Norway (7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year) | Lowest – North Korea (180<sup>th</sup>)

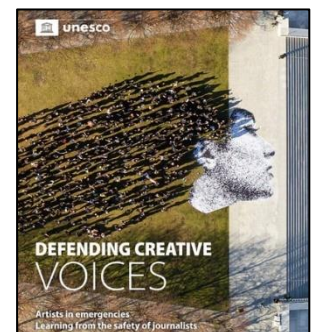
**335.** In May 2023, Kerala's Wayanad district has topped the "ODF Plus Rankings of the Swachh Bharat Mission" in 3-star category with 100 points, followed by Mancheriyal district (90.45 points) in Telangana and Anupur district (88.79 points) in Madya Pradesh. The ODF Plus scores of panchayats and districts were calculated on the basis of the ODF Plus progress report submitted by the villages till October 1, 2022. Wayanad has become the first district in the country to be declared ODF (open defecation-free) Plus. Earlier, Wayanad had won two national awards in the sanitation and waste management sectors. Among states, Telangana has become the first state in India to attain 100% ODF villages under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G)'. Telangana was followed by Karnataka (99.5) & Tamil Nadu (97.8). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Wayanad district (Kerala) – topped "ODF Plus Rankings of the Swachh Bharat Mission" in 3-star category with 100 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mancheriyal district, Telangana (90.45 points) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Anupur district, MP (88.79 points)
- Wayanad – became first 1<sup>st</sup> district in India to be declared ODF (open defecation-free) Plus
- Telangana – became 1<sup>st</sup> state in India to attain 100% ODF villages under 'SBM-G'
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Karnataka (99.5) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tamil Nadu (97.8)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**336.** On May 5, the UN Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) published a new report titled "Defending Creative Voices". As per the report, the international community must provide greater protection to artists caught up in armed conflict, political instability, and natural disasters. In 2021, a record 39 artists were reportedly killed in 12 countries, and 119 were imprisoned in 24 countries. The UN agency also announced a new investment of \$1 million to finance projects supporting artistic freedom in more than 25 countries. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- "Defending Creative Voices" report – by UNESCO
- In 2021, a record 39 artists were reportedly killed in 12 countries, and 119 were imprisoned in 24 countries
- UNESCO announced a new investment of \$1 million to finance projects supporting artistic freedom in over 25 countries
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries

**337.** The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> position among 66 ministries in the highly influential “Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) Assessment for Q3 FY 2022-23”. The ministry has achieved an impressive score of 4.7 out of 5, further highlighting its commitment to excellence in data governance. The DGQI survey, conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog, aims to measure the maturity level of administrative data systems and their use in the decision-making of various ministries and departments in the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). The DGQI Assessment encompasses 6 pivotal themes including - Data Generation, Data Quality, Use of Technology, Data Analysis, Use and Dissemination, Data Security and HR Capacity, and Case Studies. MoPSW said its success in the DGQI assessment is assisted by the efforts of the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways, and Coasts at IIT Madras. The NTCPCW is developed under Sagarmala by MoPSW. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- “DGQI Assessment for Q3 FY 2022-23” – conducted by DMEO of NITI Aayog
- DGQI – **D**ata **G**overnance **Q**uality **I**ndex | DMEO – **D**evelopment **M**onitoring and **E**valuation **O**ffice
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – secured 2<sup>nd</sup> position among 66 ministries
- NTCPCW – is developed under Sagarmala by MoPSW
- **HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – BVR Subrahmanyam | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman K. Bery**

**338.** The Netherlands has emerged as India’s 3<sup>rd</sup> largest export destination after the US and UAE during 2022-23, as per the data of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This can be attributed to a surge in the shipment of goods such as petroleum products, electronic items, chemicals, and aluminum goods. India’s exports to the Netherlands rose by about 48% to \$18.52 billion during 2022-23. India’s trade surplus with the Netherlands also increased from \$8 billion in 2021-22 to \$13 billion in 2022-23. In 2022-23, the bilateral trade between the two countries increased to USD 24 billion as against USD 17 billion in 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Netherlands – emerged as India’s 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exports destination after the US and UAE during 2022-23
- India’s exports to Netherlands – rose by 48% to \$18.52 billion during 2022-23
- India’s trade surplus with Netherlands – increased from \$8 billion in 2021-22 to \$13 billion in 2022-23
- **Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte**

**339.** India’s AI supercomputer ‘AIRAWAT’, installed at C-DAC in Pune, has been ranked 75<sup>th</sup> in the world, in the 61<sup>st</sup> edition of “Top 500 Global Supercomputing List” released during the ‘International Supercomputing Conference 2023’ in Germany. The recognition puts India on top of AI supercomputing nations globally. The system is installed under ‘National Program on AI (NPAI)’ by Government of India. AI Research Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform (AIRAWAT) of 200 AI petaflops mixed precision peak compute capacity is currently funded by MeitY and implemented by C-DAC, Pune. Airawat PSAI, stands as India’s largest and fastest AI supercomputing system, with a remarkable speed of 13,170 teraflops (Rpeak). ‘Frontier’ supercomputer of the US tops the list with a performance exceeding 1 Exaflop. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- 61<sup>st</sup> “Top 500 Global Supercomputing List” – released at ‘International Supercomputing Conference 2023’ in Germany
- India’s AI supercomputer ‘AIRAWAT’ (installed at C-DAC in Pune) is ranked 75<sup>th</sup> in the world (with 200 AI petaflops)
- ‘Frontier’ supercomputer of the US topped the list (with performance exceeding 1 Exaflop)





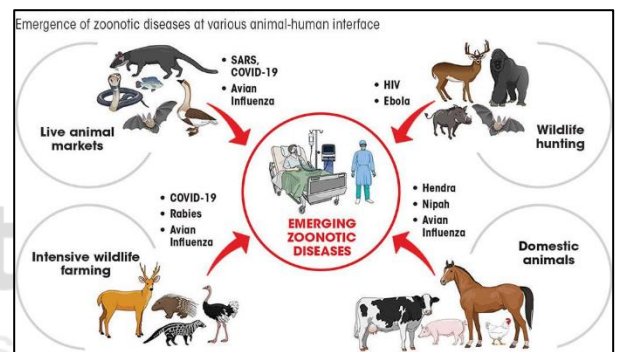
**340.** The three southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana emerged as the top performers among the 'larger states' in the NITI Aayog's annual "Health Index for 2020-21" (5<sup>th</sup> edition). While Bihar ranked at the bottom among larger states. Tripura was the best among the 'smaller states', while Manipur ranked at the bottom. And among the UTs, Lakshadweep is ranked as the top performer, while Delhi ranked at the bottom. The annual health index, which measures the performance of states and UTs on a 'weighted composite score incorporating 24 health performance indicators', was launched by the NITI Aayog in 2017. NITI Aayog brings out the index in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry and World Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- "Health Index for 2020-21" (5<sup>th</sup> edition) – released by NITI Aayog (in collaboration with Health Ministry + World Bank)
- Larger states: Top – Kerala | Bottom – Bihar
- Smaller states: Top – Tripura | Bottom – Manipur
- UTs: Top – Lakshadweep | Bottom – Delhi

## Amount & Agreements

**341.** On May 11, the World Bank approved an \$82 million loan towards the adoption of global best practices for animal health management and to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic Zoonotic diseases in India. The loan has a maturity of 11.5 years with a grace period of 4.5 years. An infection or disease that is transmissible from animals to humans under natural conditions is called zoonotic. With India having the largest livestock population in the world, these risks are particularly high. The new program will help reduce the risks of animal disease outbreaks by improving disease surveillance and veterinary services in the livestock and wildlife sectors. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- World Bank – approved \$82 million loan towards adoption of global best practices for animal health management
- It will also prevent, detect, and respond to endemic Zoonotic diseases in India
- Maturity – 11.5 years | Grace period – 4.5 years
- India – has the largest livestock population in the world

**342.** On May 14, World Bank approved a grant of Rs 51 Crore to Himachal Pradesh to set up an 'Integrated Road Safety Enforcement System' in Shimla and Nurpur police districts and develop the Palampur-Sheela chowk in Kangra as a 'Safe Corridor'. The project envisages the establishment of a traffic enforcement control room in Shimla and the allocation of funds for interceptors and patrol vehicles, an intelligent traffic management system, artificial intelligence (AI) cameras and rescue equipment. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- World Bank – approved a grant of Rs 51 Crore to Himachal Pradesh
- 'Integrated Road Safety Enforcement System' – will be set up in Shimla & Nurpur police districts
- Palampur-Sheela Chowk will also be developed in Kangra as a 'Safe Corridor'
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – Ajay Banga | MD/CFO – Anshula Kant
- HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu | Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla

**343.** On May 26, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Indian government signed a \$141.12 million loan agreement to support the development of high-quality infrastructure such as roads, water supply systems and electricity distribution network in three industrial clusters in Andhra Pradesh. This financing is the second tranche of the \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility for the program approved by the ADB in 2016. For long-term sustainability, the program will formulate a plan to improve the operation and maintenance of start-up industrial clusters. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ADB + GoI = \$141.12 million loan agreement for three industrial clusters in Andhra Pradesh
- It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility for program approved by the ADB in 2016.
- Purpose – development of high-quality infrastructure such as roads, water supply systems & electricity distribution
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati | CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Syed Abdul Nazeer

**344.** Ministry of Minority Affairs has supported Central Council of Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) and National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) Bengaluru, under the Ministry of AYUSH, for the promotion and upgradation of Unani Medicine facilities in India. On May 25, Ministry of Minority Affairs approved a grant of Rs 45.34 Crore under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). This will support the upgradation of Unani Medicine facilities at Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Silchar and Bengaluru. Rs 35.52 Crore is sanctioned to CCRUM and Rs 9.81 Crore to NIUM. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Minority Affairs – sanctioned Rs 35.52 Crore to CCRUM & Rs 9.81 Crore to NIUM, Bengaluru
- It is for the promotion and upgradation of Unani Medicine facilities in India
- Ministry of Minority Affairs – approved a grant of Rs 45.34 Crore under PMJVK, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- The grant will support upgradation of Unani Medicine facilities at Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Silchar & Bengaluru
- Ministry of Minority Affairs: Smriti Irani | Constituency – Amethi, UP
- MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

**345.** On May 9, India Post signed an MoU with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Tripta Technologies for operationalisation of a portal called 'Bharat EMart', which will provide the facility of pick-up of consignments from the premises of traders and will ensure delivery at the doorsteps of the consignees across the country. It will benefit 8 Crore traders associated with traders body CAIT. India Post will onboard itself on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, being developed by Ministry of Commerce as a logistics service provider. [{Read more}](#)



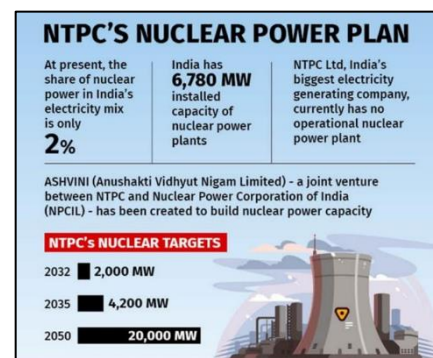
**Smart Points:**

- India Post – signed an MoU with CAIT & Tripta Technologies for operationalisation of a portal called 'Bharat EMart'
- India Post will onboard itself on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform
- HQs of India Post – New Delhi | Works under – Department of Post | Minister responsible – MoS for Communications
- HQs of CAIT – New Delhi

**346.** On May 2, NTPC Ltd signed a supplementary joint venture agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) in New Delhi for development of Nuclear Power Projects. The Chutka and Mahi Banswara nuclear projects will be implemented through a joint venture between NTPC and NPCIL called 'ASHVINI' (Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam). Initially, the JV company will develop two Pressurized Heavy-Water Reactor (PHWR) projects, Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project 2x700 MW and Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 4x700 MW. This Nuclear Power projects is expected to help the country in meeting its clean energy commitments to achieve net zero emission target by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- NTPC Ltd + NPCIL = a JV agreement for development of Nuclear Power Projects
- The JV company will develop 2 Pressurized Heavy-Water Reactor (PHWR) projects:
  - 1400 MW Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project (2x700 MW)
  - 2800 MW Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (4x700 MW)
- The two projects will be implemented through a joint venture between NTPC & NPCIL called 'ASHVINI'
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of NPCIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CMD – Bhuwan Chandra Pathak



**347.** On May 8, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail' (Project-SMART). Project-SMART envisages developing surrounding areas of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High-Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters & other stakeholders and to promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas. The MoU was inked for four High Speed Rail Stations- Sabarmati, Surat in Gujarat and Virar and Thane in Maharashtra; out of 12 stations in-route. Surat, Virar and Thane are Green field while Sabarmati is a Brown field development. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- MoHUA + Ministry of Railways + JICA = an MoU for Project-SMART
- Project-SMART – 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail'
- Project-SMART – envisages developing surrounding areas of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High-Speed Railway
- The MoU was inked for four High Speed Rail Stations (Sabarmati, Surat, Virar & Thane)
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

**348.** On May 17, the Government of Israel signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with India to establish an "India - Israel Center of Water Technology (CoWT)" in Water Resources Management and Water Technologies at IIT Madras. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will collaborate with MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, to establish this new centre. A key objective of this new centre would be to ensure the implementation of Israel's best technologies being practised in a tailor-made context for the Indian requirements and work on sustainable management solutions for the Indian water sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Israel + India = a Letter of Intent (LoI) to establish an “India - Israel Center of Water Technology (CoWT)” at IIT Madras
- MoHUA will collaborate with MASHAV (Israel) to establish this new centre
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

**349.** On May 24, Goa and Uttarakhand signed an MoU to promote tourism between the states as part of the Centre’s ‘Dekho Apna Desh’ (Explore Your Own Country) initiative. Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said the move will connect “The Arabian Sea with river Ganga”. Goa and Uttarakhand have become the first Indian states to carry forward the Dekho Apna Desh programme, which aims to encourage citizens to witness and experience the rich heritage and diverse culture of the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Goa + Uttarakhand = an MoU to promote tourism between states as part of ‘Dekho Apna Desh’ initiative
- Goa and Uttarakhand – first Indian states to carry forward the Dekho Apna Desh programme
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**350.** On May 26, the Central Government has signed an agreement with 6 states - Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh - to initiate the Digital Crop Survey. The agreement was signed at a workshop organised by the Union Agriculture Ministry to discuss with state governments the implementation plan of the digital crop survey. Digital crop survey is part of the government’s Agristack or India Digital Ecosystem for Agriculture (IDEA) that has been under development since 2020. Agristack and Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS) will solve the issues and challenges faced in the agriculture sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- GoI – signed an agreement with 6 states to initiate the ‘Digital Crop Survey’
- The 6 states are – Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- Digital crop survey – is a part of government’s Agristack or India Digital Ecosystem for Agriculture (IDEA)

## ❖ Some Important Obituaries:

- **Arun Gandhi** (Mahatma Gandhi's grandson) — an Author & Socio-political Activist
- **Ranjit Guha** — a Renowned Historian
- **Tori Bowie** — an American sprinter & long jumper (3 Olympic medals at '2016 Rio de Janeiro Games')
- **A. R. Khaleel** — a former Football Player
- **Samreash Majumdar** — a Bengali Writer (Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Kalbela')
- **Padma Desai** — an Indian-American development economist (Padma Bhushan in 2009)
- **Kalyani Kazi** — a singer & youngest daughter-in-law of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam (Sangeet Mahasamman Award-2015)
- **Martin Amis** (UK) — a British Writer & Fellow of Royal Society of Literature (James Tait Black Memorial Prize)
- **Kethu Viswanath Reddy** — a Telugu writer, novelist, essayist & Central Sahitya Akademi (Telugu) winner (Sahitya Akademi Award (1996) & YSR Lifetime Achievement Award (2021))
- **Tina Turner** — an iconic singer (12 Grammy awards, including a lifetime achievement trophy in 2018)
- **Govindaray H. Nayak** — a Writer & Literary Critic (Sahitya Akademi Award)

Important Books & Authors	
"RBI Governors. The Czars of Monetary Policy (1935-2021)"	Gokul Rathi
"Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration"	Manoj Kumar
"Partitioned Freedom" (Released by - Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Assam)	Ram Madhav
"Guts Amidst Bloodbath" (story of Aunshuman Gaekwad)	Aditya Bhushan
"Analysis on Judicial Approach on Forensic Evidence"	J. M. Vyas
"RINGSIDE - Up, Close, and Personal on India and Beyond" (Released by - Shashi Tharoor)	Vijay Darda
"Magadh"	Shrikant Verma
"NTR-A Political Biography"	Ramachandra Murthy Kondubhatla
"Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise"	Amitabh Kant
"Sachin@50 - Celebrating a Maestro"	Boria Majumdar
"8 Years of Modi Sarkar - A Compilation of Achievements" (the 1 <sup>st</sup> copy was presented to Ram Nath Kovind)	presented by Sandeep Marwah
"Cyber Encounter: Cops' Adventures With Online Criminals" (Co-authored by - OP Manocha)	Ashok Kumar
"My Life As A Comrade" (Co-authored by - Manju Sara Rajan)	K. K. Shailaja
"Just Aspire: Notes on Technology, Entrepreneurship and the Future"	Ajai Chowdhry
"Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills"	Kasturi Ray
"The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces"	Feroze Varun Gandhi
"First Lithuanian Travelers in India"	launched by Diana Mickeviciene
"The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life"	Ruskin Bond

Important Days	
May 1	63 <sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day of Maharashtra & Gujarat
May 1	International Labour Day or International Workers' Day (May Day)
May 2	UN's World Tuna Day (since 2017)   (Tuna is a type of Fish) (Theme - "Yes We Can")
May 2	World Asthma Day (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of May) - by GINA (Global Initiative for Asthma) (Theme - "Asthma care for All")
May 2	60 <sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (under MoC&I)
May 3	UN's 30 <sup>th</sup> World Press Freedom Day (Theme - "Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights")
May 3	International Leopard Day
May 4	Coal Miners Day
May 4	International Firefighter's Day (Theme - "Honoring the Heroes Who Protect Us")
May 5	World Cartoonist's Day
May 5	UN's African World Heritage Day - by UNESCO + AWHF
May 5	UN's World Portuguese Language Day
May 5	World Hand Hygiene Day - by WHO (Campaign slogan - "Accelerate Action Together. Save Lives - Clean Your Hands.")
May 5	International Day of the Midwife (Theme - "Together Again: From Evidence to Reality")
May 5	Buddha Purnima 2023
May 5	World Pulmonary Hypertension Day (Theme - "Together We Are Stronger")
May 6	International No Diet Day (symbol - light blue ribbon)
May 7	64 <sup>th</sup> Raising Day of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
May 7	World Athletics Day - by IAAF (Theme - "Athletics for All - A New Beginning")
May 8	International Thalassaemia Day (Theme - "Be Aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap")
May 8	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (Theme - "Everything we do comes #fromtheheart")
May 9	8 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY (All 3 social security schemes were launched by PM Modi in 2015)
May 10	3 <sup>rd</sup> International Day of Argania - by UN (Argan is a Tree) (Theme - "Socio-economic development & sustainability of the Argan ecosystem")
May 11	25 <sup>th</sup> National Technology Day (anniversary of Pokhran nuclear test, code-named 'Operation Shakti') (Theme - "School to Startups- Igniting Young Minds to Innovate")
May 12	International Nurses Day (birth anniversary of British Nurse Florence Nightingale) (Theme - "Our Nurses. Our Future")
May 12	International Day of Plant Health (Theme - "Plant Health for Environmental Protection")
May 13	UN's World Migratory Bird Day (2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May & in October) (Global Theme - "Water: Sustaining Bird Life") (India's Theme - "Water & its Importance for Migratory Bird")
May 11-14	National Technology Week 2023

	(Theme - "School to Startup - Igniting Young Minds to Innovate")
May 15	International Day of Families (Theme - "Demographic Trends and Families")
May 15-21	7 <sup>th</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week (Theme - "Sustainable Transport"   Slogan - "#RethinkMobility")
May 16	6 <sup>th</sup> edition of International Day of Light - by UN
May 16	International Day of Living Together in Peace (since 2018)
May 16	National Dengue Day - by MoHFW (Theme - "Fight Dengue, Save Lives")
May 16	Statehood Day of Sikkim
May 17	World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (Theme - "Empowering the least developed Countries through Info. & Communication Technologies")
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (Theme - "Together Always: United in Diversity")
May 17	World Hypertension Day (since 2005) (Theme - "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer")
May 18	International Museum Day (Theme - "Museums, Sustainability and Well Being")
May 18	World AIDS Vaccine Day (since 1998)   Symbol - Red ribbon
May 18	Global Accessibility Awareness Day (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of May)
May 19	Endangered Species Day (Theme - "Celebrating the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act!")
May 20	World Bee Day (since 2018) (Theme - "Bee engaged in Pollinator-friendly Agricultural Production")
May 20	World Metrology Day (Theme - "Measurements Supporting the Global Food System")
May 21	Anti-Terrorism Day (32 <sup>nd</sup> death anniversary of former Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi)
May 21	UN World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development (since 2003)
May 21	UN International Tea Day - by FAO (since 2005)
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity (Theme - "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity")
May 23	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (Theme - "20 years on: Progress but not enough. Act now to end fistula by 2030!")
May 23	World Turtle Day (Theme - "I Love Turtles")
May 24	Commonwealth Day (Theme - "Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future")
May 24	World Schizophrenia Awareness Day (Theme - "Celebrating the Power of Community Kindness")
May 25	World Thyroid Day
May 25	International Missing Children's Day (since 2001)
May 25-31	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
May 28	Swatantryaveer Gaurav Day (birth anniversary of Vinayak D. Savarkar)
May 28	Menstrual Hygiene Day (Theme - "Making Menstruation a Normal Fact of Life by 2030")
May 28	World Hunger Day (since 2011) (Theme - "Celebrating Sustainable Solutions to Hunger and Poverty")

May 28	International Women's Health Day (Theme - "Our Voices, Our Actions, Our Demand: Uphold Women's Health and Rights Now")
May 29	International Day of UN Peacekeepers (since 2003) (Theme - "Peace begins with Me")
May 29	World Digestive Health Day (since 2004) (Theme - "Your Digestive Health: A Healthy Gut From the Start")
May 29	International Everest Day (It commemorates first-ever summit of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary & Tenzing Norgay Sherpa)
May 30	World Vape Day
May 30	Goa's Statehood Day
May 30	World Multiple Sclerosis (Theme - "Connections")
May 31	World No Tobacco Day (Theme - "We Need Food, Not Tobacco")







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