

THE HINDU REVIEW

APRIL 2023

- Monthly capsule
- Current Affairs

Economy | Appointment | Awards | Ranking
Government Scheme | Summit | Partnership | GDP
Banking & Financial | Defence | Sports |

OPERATION KAVERI TO BRING BACK INDIANS STUCK IN SUDAN



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**MOST IMPORTANT
CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF**

The Hindu Review (April 2023)

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Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

(National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
Appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the Hero MotoCorp Ltd.'s board	Niranjan Gupta (Updated 1 April)
Re-appointed as the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of Tata Power	Praveer Sinha (Updated 1 April)
Appointed as an expert member of the National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board by the union health ministry.	Dr. RG Patel (Updated 3 April)
Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Power Trading Corporation of India (PTC) Limited.	Rajib K Mishra (Updated 3 April)
Assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of Naval Staff	Sanjay Jasjit Singh (Updated 3 April)
Becomes the first woman President of the Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Rajasthan	Sheenu Jhawar (Updated 3 April)
The Reserve Bank of India has appointed as executive director (ED) who will look after four departments, including consumer education and protection.	Neeraj Nigam (Updated 4 April)
Appointed as the new Managing Director of Hitachi Payment Services.	Sumil Vikamsey (Updated 4 April)
Assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO)	Atul Anand (Updated 5 April)
Assumed the charge as the 40th president of the FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) at the 39th annual session.	Sudha Shivkumar (Updated 5 April)

Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the board of members of Suzlon Energy	J P Chalasani (Updated 7 April)
Appointed as the new Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd.	Kenichi Umeda (Updated 7 April)
Appointed as CEO and Executive Director of Welspun New Energy Ltd (WEL).	Kapil Maheshwari (Updated 8 April)
Assumed charge as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).	Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo (Updated 9 April)
Reappointed as Managing Director & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) for a period of three years.	Sanjay Agarwal (Updated 13 April)
Appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for a period of five years.	K Krithivasan (Updated 13 April)
Appointed as the new Chief Investment Officer of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).	Ratnakar Patnaik (Updated 14 April)
Appointment of as interim managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Karnataka Bank.	Sekhar Rao (Updated 17 April)
Appointed as the brand influencer of HSBC India	Virat Kohli (Updated 21 April)
Appointed as the CEO and managing director of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL)	Dr. Randhir Thakur (Updated 21 April)
Announced as Jio Cinema's brand ambassador of Jio Cinema	Rohit Sharma (Updated 22 April)
Appointed as Deputy Managing Director of the HDFC bank	Kaizad Bharucha (Updated 23 April)
Appointed as Executive Director of the HDFC bank	Bhavesh Zaveri (Updated 23 April)

Appointed as the new chairman of the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO)	Arun Sinha (Updated 23 April)
Appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited (Bharat Earth Movers Limited),	Shantanu Roy (Updated 24 April)
Star Sports signs as brand ambassador	Rishabh Pant (Updated 24 April)
Appointed as the new Senior Vice President of Technology at Zypp Electric.	Gajendra Arya (Updated 24 April)
Appointed as the Chairman of the MMA-1 Federation.	Mahavir Singh Phogat (Updated 24 April)
Appointed as the military adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)	Sandeep Singh (Updated 24 April)
Appointed as Chairman of MMA-1 Federation	Mahavir Phogat (Updated 24 April)
Assumed as the charges of secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).	Rajesh Kumar Singh (Updated 25 April)
Appointed as Chairperson of Nasscom for 2023-24	Anant Maheshwari (Updated 26 April)
Taken charge as the new chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB).	Shreekant Bhandiwad (Updated 27 April)
Elected as president of Indian Cycling Federation	Pankaj Singh (Updated 28 April)
Reappointed as Managing Director and CEO of City Union Bank.	N Kamakodi (Updated 28 April)
Taken charge as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies.	Hari Hara Mishra (Updated 28 April)

Appointed as Chief Operating Officer of SpiceJet	Arun Kashyap (Updated 28 April)
Appointed as chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India till June 2024.	Siddhartha Mohanty (Updated 30 April)
Appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Bank of Baroda (BoB)	Debadatta Chand (Updated 30 April)
Appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Bank of India (BoI)	Rajneesh Karnatak (Updated 30 April)

(International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
Appointed as the first head of NASA's Moon to Mars Programme, with immediate effect.	Amit Kshatriya (Updated 3 April)
US Senate confirms as Deputy Secretary of State	Richard Verma (Updated 3 April)
Appointed as the President, CEO & Managing Director of Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India.	Tsutsumu Otani (Updated 9 April)
Re-elected unopposed as UEFA president at the Ordinary Congress of European Soccer's governing body in Lisbon	Aleksander Ceferin (Updated 9 April)
Commissioned as a Warrant Officer in the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom	Subby Subramaniam (Updated 10 April)
Appointed as one of five co-chairs of an Association of American Universities (AAU) task force	Neeli Bendapudi (Updated 19 April)
Appointed as the new chief judge of the Court of Appeals, the New York's highest court.	Judge Rowan Wilson (Updated 20 April)

<p>Clinched a second five-year term in a parliamentary vote for which he was the sole candidate in the country</p> <p>About Cuba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital- Havana • Currency- Cuban Peso • President- Miguel Diaz-Canel • Prime Minister- Manuel Marrero Cruz 	<p>Miguel Diaz-Canel</p> <p>(Updated 21 April)</p>
<p>Elected as the new deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom.</p> <p>About United Kingdom (UK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital - London • Currency - Pound sterling • Prime Minister – Rishi Sunak 	<p>Oliver Dowden</p> <p>(Updated 26 April)</p>
<p>Sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh</p> <p>About Bangladesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital- Dhaka • Currency – Taka • President – Mohammed Shahabuddin Chappu 	<p>Mohammed Shahabuddin Chappu</p> <p>(Updated 27 April)</p>

Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

(National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
<p>"Maratha Udyog Ratna" award 2023</p> <p>"Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023"</p>	<p>Nilesh Bhagwan Sambare</p>	<p>Jijau Sanstha has been providing education, health, employment, and agriculture through self-earning for the past 14 years.</p>
<p>'Business Leader of the Decade' award at the All India Management Association's (AIMA) 13th Managing India Awards ceremony</p>	<p>Kumar Mangalam Birla</p>	

"Maharashtra Bhushan" for the year 2022	Appasaheb Dharmadhikari	The work of tree plantation was done by the Nanasaheb Dharmadhikari Foundation keeping in view the effect of climate change and temperature.
Femina Miss India 2023	Nandini Gupta	
Pravasi Bharatiya Samman.	Raj Subramaniam	He is the president and CEO of FedEx Corporation , one of the world's largest transportation companies.
Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023	Utsa Patnaik	She is a renowned economist of national and international repute
The national award for the best implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Karnataka	For the best implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award	Sonam Wangchuk	He is best known for his work on the Ice Stupa project , which aims to address water scarcity in the Himalayas.
The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award	Asha Bhosle	The award given every year to an individual who has made a path-breaking contribution towards the nation, its people and society.
Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)	Wing Commander Deepika Misra	For " extraordinary courage " displayed during a flood relief operation in Madhya Pradesh.
Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 (Innovation category)	The Union Health Ministry's National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	

GREEN4SEA Tanker Operator award	Synergy Group	For its 'leadership role in global tanker management.
68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2023 Best Film	Gangubai Kathiawadi	

(International)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
"Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour) France's highest civilian award	Kiran Nadar	Outstanding contribution in the field of art, her commitment to providing greater access to culture both nationally and internationally , and her leading role in fostering Indo-French cultural ties.
The Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest distinction	Volodymyr Zelensky	For his services to security, resilience and the defense of human rights.
International Prize 2023 in Statistics At the biennial International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress	Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao	Rao, in his research paper published in the Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society in 1945, had demonstrated three fundamental results that paved the way for the modern field of statistics and provided statistical tools heavily used in science today.
The Young Urologist of the Year Award by the American Urological Association (AUA)	Dr. Nitya Abraham	She has done remarkable work for countless students, residents, fellows and junior faculty in the New York area and at his institution.

World Vaccine Congress 2023 the 'Best Production /Process Development' award as part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards	Bharat Biotech	Its intramuscular vaccine, Covaxin , is part of India's public vaccination programme and was also exported.
Germany's highest Order of Merit	Angela Merkel	It is awarded by the President of Germany to individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation's cultural, economic, or political life , or have provided outstanding service to society.
Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2023	Shanti Lakra (Selected)	Who has made significant contributions to patient care .
Billboard's First Latin Woman of the Year Award	Colombian singer Shakira	For her outstanding tracks over the course of three decades in her career.
2023 Goldman Environmental Prize	Alessandra Korap	For her work fighting against illegal mining and large-scale projects aimed at facilitating soybean exports in the Tapajos River Basin
Immigrant Achievement Award 2023	Neeli Bendapudi	For her contributions to higher education in the US .
1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award	Dalai Lama	
Lifetime Achievement Award by the Telugu Association of London.	Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti	

Awards 2022: Complete winners list

Deepika Misra becomes 1st woman IAF officer to get Gallantry Award

- Wing Commander Deepika Misra has become the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to be presented a gallantry award.
- Wing Commander Mishra, a Rajasthan-based helicopter pilot, has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) for "extraordinary courage" displayed during a flood relief operation in Madhya Pradesh.

68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2023

- The 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2023 was held at the Jio Convention Centre, BKC.
- The award show was hosted by Salman Khan, Maniesh Paul, and Ayushmann Khurrana.

Filmfare Awards 2023 Winners List –

- Best Film -- **Gangubai Kathiawadi**
- Best Film (Critics') -- **Badhaai Do**
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) -- **Rajkummar Rao for Badhaai Do**
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) -- **Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawad**
- Best Actor (Critics') -- Sanjay Mishra for Vadh
- Best Actress (Critics') -- Tabu for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 and Bhumi Pednekar for Badhaai Do
- Best Director -- Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male) -- Anil Kapoor for JugJugg Jeeyo
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female) -- Sheeba Chaddha for Badhaai Do
- Best Debut (Male) -- Ankush Gedam for Jhund
- Best Debut (Female) -- Andrea Kevichüsa for Anek
- Best Debut Director -- Jaspal Singh Sandhu and Rajeev Barnwal for Vadh
- Best Story -- Akshat Ghildial and Suman Adhikary for Badhaai Do
- Lifetime Achievement Award -- Prem Chopra
- Best Music Album -- Pritam for Brahmastra -- Part One – Shiva
- Best Playback Singer (Male) -- Arijit Singh for Kesariya from Brahmastra -- Part One – Shiva
- Best Playback Singer (Female) -- Kavita Seth for Rangisari from JugJugg Jeeyo

Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from the North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) scheme (Manipur)	To strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States.

'Sangathan se Samridhhi' scheme	It will empower marginalized rural households by bringing all eligible rural women into the fold of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) .
Salokha Yojana (Maharashtra)	The aim of the scheme is to resolve disputes between farmers regarding land ownership and possession, promote harmony in society and increase peace and harmony among them. The scheme will be valid for the next two years.

Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
The second G20 Tourism Working Group (TWG) meeting	West Bengal's Siliguri and Darjeeling	This meeting will carry a message about the prospects and potential of the North Eastern part of India .
The second G20 Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting	Guwahati, Assam	The EWG Summit will focus on three key areas of global skill gaps; gig and platform economy and social protection and sustainable financing of social security .
The 5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023	Via a video message	Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023 via a video message.
Fourth B20 conference of the Northeast Region	Kohima	The conferences would aid the development of critical sectors of the economy in the North East and would facilitate economic growth .
The Youth20 (Y20) Consultation under the G20 Presidency of India	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	The Y20 Consultation is a platform that brings young people together to connect, share ideas and experiences, and deliberate on finding innovative solutions to pressing global concerns .
The second meeting of the G20 Development Working Group	Kumarakom, Kerala	The delegates emphasised the importance of digital technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda and bridge the digital divide .
The scientific convention on the occasion of World Homoeopathic	New Delhi	The theme is " One Health, One Family ." It aims to promote homoeopathic treatment among the people through the neighbourhood family physicians .
Food Conclave-2023	Telangana	The objective of the Food Conclave is to identify the main challenges and opportunities for the development of the Indian agri-food sector in the current decade .

		The main focus areas will be agriculture (green), edible oils (yellow), dairy (white), meat and poultry (pink), and aquaculture (blue).
The second Women 20 (W20) international meeting	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Women 20 is an official G20 engagement group, and the meeting will focus on the theme of "Women-Led Development: Leverage Women's Untapped Potential to Accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Future.
A three-day International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics	New Delhi	The conference aims to give a unique platform to government officials, policymakers and academicians to present their insights and experiences on Defence, Finance and Economics amid present evolving security challenges.
The 12th Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in G20	Varanasi	The theme of the 12th MACS conference is "sustainable agriculture and food systems for healthy people and the Planet"
The 2nd Health Working Group meeting under G20 India Presidency	Goa	The 2nd Health Working Group meeting of G20 will have discussions on the Priorities which include Health Emergencies Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Strengthening Cooperation in Pharmaceutical Sector with a focus on Access and Availability to safe, effective, quality, and Affordable Medical Countermeasures and Digital Health Innovations and Solutions to Aid Universal Health Coverage and Improve Healthcare Service Delivery.
Global Conference on Compressed Biogas	New Delhi	IFGE- CBG Producers Forum organize a two-day Global Conference on Compressed Biogas in New Delhi. The theme of the Conference is – Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth.
Digital Health Summit 2023	Panaji, Goa	Confederate of Indian Industry (CII) co-organizes Digital Health Summit 2023 with the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in Panaji, Goa. The theme of the event was 'Building One Health Together – Improving Health Equity'.
The Space Economy Leaders' Meet (SELM) of the G20 Summit	Shillong, Meghalaya	Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) of the Department of Space is organizing the precursor event of the fourth edition of Space Economy Leaders Meeting (SELM) with active support from Government of Meghalaya and India's Ministry of External Affairs.

The first Global Buddhist Summit	New Delhi	The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit is Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.
The Research and Innovation Initiative gathering conference of G-20	Himachal Pradesh	The main theme of the RIIG conference during India's G20 presidency in 2023 is Research and Innovation for Equitable Society' with its four priority areas being Materials for Sustainable Energy, Circular bioeconomy, Eco-Innovations for Energy Transition and Scientific Challenges and Opportunities towards Achieving a Sustainable Blue Economy.
The First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting	Bengaluru, Karnataka	The meeting will be deliberated on issues such as strengthening multilateral development banks.
The Y20 Pre-Summit under India's G20 Presidency	Leh, Ladakh	The meeting will focus on five Y20 themes, including climate change, peace-building, and health.
The Global Conference on Financial Resilience	Mumbai	The conference with the theme -- Financial Stability: Framework, Monitoring and Implementation -- is being organized by the College of Supervisors in collaboration with the Centre for Central Banking Studies (CCBS), Bank of England, London.
The third in-person Quad Summit	Sydney	Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that they will host the third in-person Quad Summit on May 24 in Sydney. The Quad is committed to supporting an open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific that is respectful of sovereignty and ensures security and growth for all.

Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
Fino Payments Bank has renewed its association with Rajasthan Royals (RR)	The Bank made its maiden foray with the mega sporting event last season by partnering with RR as the Digital Payments Partner.
Russia's largest oil producer Rosneft and India's top refiner Indian Oil Corp have signed a term agreement	To substantially increase oil supplies and diversify oil grades delivered to India.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance partnered with UCO Bank	This partnership will enable ABHICL to expand its national footprint by leveraging UCO Bank's widely distributed network of 3,164 branches and reach out to more than 40 million customers of the bank across India.
The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has signed a partnership with Amazon India	This partnership aims to leverage industry collaborations, develop global discoverability of Indian talent and produce and promote Indian content .
Drugmaker Cipla has signed a perpetual license agreement with Switzerland-based Novartis Pharma AG	To manufacture and market Galvus and Galvus combination brands which are used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes .
Citi Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have joined hands to provide a co-financing loan to IndusInd Bank Limited	This project will support the efforts of IndusInd Bank in strengthening its lending to the agricultural sector by leveraging its presence in rural areas. In this new collaborative agreement, Citi acted as the co-financing lender, arranger, coordinator, and facility agent .
Agri-tech company Fasal signed a partnership agreement with the State Bank of India (SBI)	To provide farmers with easy access to capital .
Vedanta Group has partnered with 20 South Korean firms	To establish an electronics manufacturing hub in India .
India has signed an Air Services Agreement (ASA) with Guyana	To facilitate easier travel between the two nations .
About Guyana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital - Georgetown • Currency - Guyanese Dollar • Prime Minister- Mark Phillips • President- Mohamed Irfaan Ali • Continent - South America 	
Canara Bank, in collaboration with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)	They have announced the launch of " Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H ".
NPCI International Payments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), entered into partnership with digital payments infrastructure provider PPRO	To facilitate global e-commerce payments through UPI .

Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
India Justice Report 2022	Initiated by Tata Trusts		Karnataka
World's busiest airports for 2022	Airports Council International (ACI)	9th Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport	The Atlanta airport in the United States
Best Cities for Public Transport	A survey published by London-based 'Time Out'	19th Mumbai	Germany's Berlin
The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22 report	Released during the RPM (Review, Planning and Monitoring) meeting of states and state utility companies in New Delhi.		Andhra Pradesh
Annual AI Index report 2023	Stanford University	5th	USA
World's Most Criminal Countries	World of Statistics	77th	Venezuela
India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23	According to the provisional data of the commerce ministry		US (increased by 7.65 % to USD 128.55)
Digital payment transactions in 2022	Payment services firm Worldline India		Chennai
World's wealthiest cities in 2023	London-based consultancy Henley & Partners	3rd Silicon Valley's Bay Area	New York City
World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023		38th	Singapore and Finland

World's Largest Military Spending in 2022	Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)	4th	The United States
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Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
The Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank	A USD 100 million	Odisha (India)	To robust its early forecasting systems for improved response to disasters and enhance its social protection coverage for poor and vulnerable households through digital platforms.
Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC),	Rs 633 crore	Gensol Engineering Ltd (GEL)	For the purchase of 5,000 passenger electric vehicles (EVs) and 1,000 cargo EVs.

Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
The App Version of National Logistics Portal (Marine) Sagar-Setu	Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal	The app has been envisaged with deliverables covering features like a Login Module, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee, Certification, and Track & Trace etc.
A mobile application, 'Digital Dukaan'	Axis Bank and VISA have jointly launched	To empower merchants to accept payments through various digital modes.
The unified portal of the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)	Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra	The unified portal is designed to create efficiency, transparency and accountability among the users of the department to promote the growth of drugs and pharma sector, boost economy for " Atma Nirbhar Bharat ", and meet the needs of pharma and chemical industries.

YUVA PORTAL	Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh	It will help in connecting and identifying potential young Start-Ups.
India's 1st Voice Biometric Authentication Banking App	City Union Bank	The service will prevent fraud based on PIN / OTP and the technology is fool-proof against recorded or mimicked voices.
The SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar	To deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.
eShram Portal	Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav	The new features added in eShram portal will enhance the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for unorganized workers.

Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
Signed a strategic MoU for various financial products and offerings.	State Bank of India (SBI) with Godrej Capital
Signed an MoU to develop a touchless biometric capture system for easier use, anytime and anywhere.	The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay).
Signed an MoU to facilitate seamless and efficient entry process for vehicles entering into the forest area.	National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve , spread across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
Signed an MoU aims to develop scientific and academic cooperation and scientific research to promote relations and mutual understanding between NCDR and the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management (CoEDMM) of IIT Roorkee	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) with the National Science and Technology Centre for Disaster Reduction (NCDR), Taiwan

Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

Organization	FY22 (2021-22)	FY23 (2022-23)
Fitch	8.4%	7% (7%, 2023-24)
HSBC Bank	11.2%	
RBI forecasted	9.5%	6.8% (6.5%, 2023-24)
Moody	8.8% for calendar year 2022	7%
Asian Development Bank (ADB)		7% (6.4%, 2023-24)
World Bank	8.3%	6.9% (6.3%,2023-24)
World Economic Outlook released by International Monetary Fund (IMF)	9%	6.1%(5.9%. 2023-24) (6.3% 2024-25)
FICCI	9.1%	7.4%
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	9.4%	6.6% for FY23 5.7% For FY24
UNCTAD		5.7%
Goldman Sachs	9.1%	6.9% (2022),5.9% (2023)
CRISIL	9.5%	7% (6% FY24)
UN (United Nation)	4.6%	6.4% (5.8%, 2023-24)
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	9.5%	
India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra)	8.6%	7-7.2%
Economy Survey	11%	8-8.5%
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)		
Standard & Poor's (S&P)	9.5%	7% (6.5%,2023-24)
ICRA	8.5%	7.2%
State Bank of India (SBI)		6.8%
Morgan Stanley	10.5%	7.2% (6.7%,2023-24)
CARE Ratings	8.8 to 9%	
Normura	10.8%	4.7%
Oxford Economics	10.2%	
Brickwork Ratings	8.3%	8-8.5% (1 Feb 2022)
UBS	9.1%	
National Statistical Office (NSO)	8.7%	7%
Barclays	7.7%	
BofA Securities	9%	

Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

France invited PM Modi for Bastille Day parade

- France has invited **PM Narendra Modi** to visit Paris as a guest at the **annual Bastille Day parade, which will be held in July 2023.**
- The PM and French President Emmanuel Macron are expected to discuss several major agreements including those on the Indo-Pacific region, nuclear power, and defense, as the two countries mark the 25th year of their strategic partnership.

Eravikulam National Park gets a fernarium

- **Eravikulam National Park (ENP) in Kerala**, the natural habitat of **Nilgiri tahr in Munnar**, has a new attraction — a **Fernarium set up inside the park.**
- This is the first time such a fern collection has been established in the hill station.

India become world's second-largest solar manufacturer by 2026

- According to the new joint report from the Institute for **Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)** and **JMK Research and Analytics**, **India could become the world's second-largest solar photovoltaic manufacturer by 2026**, after China.
- India's cumulative module manufacturing nameplate capacity more than doubled from 18GW in March 2022 to 38GW in March 2023.

Telangana govt launches 'cool roof' policy to beat the heat

- **Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K T Rama Rao** launched the **Telangana Cool Roof Policy 2023-28** to make the **state more thermally comfortable and heat-resilient by reducing the impact of the urban heat island effect** and heat stress and also to bring down energy consumption.

Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj rice variety gets GI tag

- The Geographical Indications Registry has granted **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** to **Nagari Dubraj, a fragrant rice from Chhattisgarh**, to give a unique identity to the brand.
- The **Morena and Rewa Mango (Madhya Pradesh)** have also been given the **GI Tag.**

Govt disburses incentives for PLI Scheme for Drones & Drone Components

- The **Government** has disbursed an amount of **30 crore rupees to beneficiaries during 2022-23 under the PLI Scheme for Drones and Drone Components.**
- As per Civil Aviation Ministry the Production Linked Incentive scheme for drones and drone components in September 2021 to promote the indigenous drone industry.

Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves 60% Coverage Milestone

- The **Jal Jeevan Mission** has reached **60% of its countrywide target, adding 23.4 million households in the fiscal year ended 2022-23,**
- At the start of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a baseline survey showed that less than 17% or 32.3 million households had a tap connection.

- Of India's total of 190.4 million rural households, 116 million now have a functioning water tap.
- The country crossed another milestone in the journey towards 'Har Ghar Jal' on 4th April 2023, with over 11.66 crore (60%) rural households provided with tap water supply in their homes.
- As on date, **Gujarat, Telangana, Goa, Haryana, Punjab and the Union territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli and Puducherry have achieved 100% coverage.**

India & Bhutan plan to set up first Integrated Check Post along border

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi.
- Both the countries reviewed their bilateral ties focusing on economic and development partnership, trade facilitation measures and cooperation in trade, connectivity, investment, energy and new sectors including space and startups.
- Both countries are examining and considering setting up **the first Integrated Check Post along the India-Bhutan border, which would be near Jaigaon.**

'Mircha' rice of Bihar's West Champaran gets GI tag

- **'Mircha' rice of Bihar's West Champaran** has been awarded **the GI tag.**
- The size and shape of the grain appear like that of black pepper, hence it is known as Mircha or Marcha Rice.

Punjab government launched Punjab's 'CM diYogshala' programme

- The **Punjab government** has launched the **'CM di Yogshala'** program and portal in Punjab.
- The initiative was initially launched for four cities -- Patiala, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Phagwara.
- Objective - To create a mass movement to carve out a healthy and prosperous Punjab

Apple Inc. To Open Its First India Store in Mumbai

- **Apple iPhone** maker's **first company-owned store** in the country will be opened in Mumbai. The store will be **named as Apple-BKC.**
- The barricade of its first retail store in India at Jio World Drive Mall, Mumbai officially marking the upcoming opening of Apple BKC.

Amit Shah unveils 54 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Gujarat

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti has unveiled a **54-feet-tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Sarangpur temple in Botad district, Gujarat.**
- The idol is located in the Sarangpur Temple, a popular pilgrimage site for devotees of Lord Hanuman.

Government gives approval for installation of 10 nuclear reactors

- In a significant development towards sustainable energy, the **Indian government** has approved the **installation of 10 nuclear reactors in the country.**

- The government has roped in public sector units (PSUs) to take up the installation of nuclear reactors or specialized government agencies exclusively.
- The government has also given administrative approval and financial sanction for ten indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors of 700 MW each in fleet mode.
- The nuclear reactors will be installed in four different states, namely, Karnataka, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

President Murmu inaugurate Gaj Utsav at Kaziranga in Assam

- **President Droupadi Murmu** has inaugurated a two-day 'Gaj Utsav-2023' at the **Kaziranga National Park** High School's playground field in Assam.
- The President also flagged off the 'Mount Kanchenjunga Expedition-2023'.

Sarbananda Sonowal flags off International Yoga Mahotsav in Dibrugarh.

- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** attended **Yoga Mahotsav 2023 at Dibrugarh University, Assam.**
- his event has been organized to commemorate the International Day of Yoga 2023, which is just 75 days away.

Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has received 450 MW of electricity from the Godda plant of Adani Power.

- It was further increased to 750 MW.
- **Adani Power plant in Godda, Jharkhand** had conducted a 14-day reliability test during which uninterrupted supply for **72 hours** at peak load was tested.
- **The Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB)** constructed **134 kilometres** of transmission line from the **Chapainawabganj** border to the Bogra substation for receiving electricity from the **Godda plant of Adani Power.**

In Jammu and Kashmir, the third edition of the Jammu Film Festival, sponsored by the J&K Tourism Department, began at Abhinav Theatre.

- The festival featured parallel screenings of **25 feature films, short films and documentaries** from countries including **Iran, India, France and the United States.**
- These included **Nahid, Kav Kav, Fatih the Conqueror, Sandhanam and Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles.**

Union Minister of Law, Kiren Rijju has released the first edition of the Dogri version of the Constitution of India.

- **The Ministry of External Affairs** had organized a seminar on "**Seven Decades of the Constitution of India**" in coordination with the **Parliamentary Research & Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE)** in March 2023
- The Consitution of India is amongst the **world's longest-written constitutions** and has guided India's nation-building process for over seven decades.

Jammu & Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has inaugurated a tulip garden at Sanasar in Ramban district.

- It is **Union Territory's second** and **Jammu division's first tulip garden**, it is spread over **40 lakh kanals (5 acres)** of land in the picturesque **Sanasar**, which is famous for its green Alpine meadows
- **2.75 lakh tulip bulbs of 25 varieties** have been planted. Pointing out that Tulip has a very short life.

Kerala tops GI tag list in FY 2022-23

- **Kerala** has topped the list of states in the country with **most number of products securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in financial year 2022-23**.
- Between April 2022 and March 2023, 12 products were selected for recognition with two of them from overseas.
- Besides the 6 products from Kerala, Mithila Makhana from Bihar was selected for GI recognition followed by Alibag white onion from Maharashtra.

Amit Shah launched Vibrant Villages Programme in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** has launched the '**Vibrant Villages Programme**' in **Kibithoo**, a border village in the **Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- He has also inaugurated **nine Micro Hydel Projects of the AP government** constructed under the "Golden Jubilee Border Illumination Programme" in **Kibithoo**.

India's Tiger population increases to 3,167

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has released the latest **Tiger census data**, which shows the country's **big-cat count increased by 200 in four years to 3,167 from 2,967 in 2018**.
- Releasing a report on '**Status of Tigers, India 2022**' in **Mysuru, Karnataka**, PM Modi took pride in the phenomenal success of the **Project Tiger**, which has completed 50 years.

J&K govt to organize 3-day 'Baisakhi Mahotsav 2023'

- In Jammu and Kashmir, **Jammu is going to organize a three-day 'Baisakhi Mahotsav 2023'** from April 13 to 15 2023 to celebrate Dogra culture and heritage.
- The festival celebrations will be held at various locations across Jammu Division including **Gulabgarh-Paddar** in **Kishtwar**, **Devika** in **Udhampur**, **Mansar Lake** in **Samba**, **Dera Baba Banda Bahadur** in **Reasi**, **Jia Pota Ghat** in **Akhnoor** and **Nangali Sahib Gurudwara** in **Poonch** as well as **Mubarak Mandi Complex**, **Maharaja Hari Singh Park** and **Peer Kho** in **Jammu district**.

Aam Aadmi Party gets National Status

- **Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party or AAP**, was elevated to **national party status**. The party is currently in power in two states - Delhi and Punjab.
- AAP has been deemed a national party based on its electoral performance in four states - Delhi, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat.

Himachal Pradesh launched Sanjeevani Project

- **Himachal Pradesh Government** has launched new project, 'Sanjeevani' to ensure that livestock is provided quality treatment in a time-bound manner and the farmer is saved the additional expenses of traveling to the point of care for availing quality medicines.

Ministry of Electronics & IT organized 35th CISO Deep Dive Training Program

- **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**, under its Capacity Building scheme of MeitY, has organized the **35th Chief Information Security Officers (CISO)** Deep-Dive training programme with 22 participants from Central Ministries and States/UTs at the School of Planning & Architecture, Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.

Government organizes National Apprenticeship Mela in Udhampur under Skill India Mission

- **Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM)** was organized under the vision of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at **ITI College, Udhampur**.
- Several local business organizations joined the apprenticeship mela to provide jobs to local youth with relevant opportunities to shape their careers through apprenticeship training.

EAM S Jaishankar launches 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Uganda

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** launched the '**Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project**' of Varanasi, during his visit to **Uganda's Kampala**.
- Earlier he met Uganda's President Yoweri K Museveni at his farm in Rwakitura and congratulated the country on assuming the chairship of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

MP's Gond Painting of Acquires GI Tag

- The **famed Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh** has received the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- A geographical Indication (GI) tag is a sign used on products which have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

PM Modi flags off Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has flagged off **Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express** train via video conferencing.
- This is the sixth Vande Bharat Express in the last two months.

UP's Suhelwa sanctuary records first photographic proof of tigers

- **Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary** in Uttar Pradesh is a new area where photographic evidence of tigers has been **recorded for the first time**, according to the latest report on tiger census in the country, released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This time, Suhelwa and Sohagi Barwa wildlife sanctuaries were added to tiger-detected grids.

WhatsApp launches 'Stay Safe' campaign

- **WhatsApp** has launched a new **campaign** called “**Stay Safe with WhatsApp,**” which highlights the several safety features that are pre-built on the messaging app.
- The campaign will run for a total of three months with a focus on several safety-centric features like ‘Block and Report,’ ‘Two-Step Verification,’ and ‘Privacy and group settings.’

Maharashtra govt announces Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's birth anniversary as 'Swatantraveer Gaurav Din'

- **Maharashtra Government** has announced that **the birth anniversary of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**, which falls on May 28, will be **observed as 'Swatantraveer Gaurav Din'**.
- It aims to highlight Savarkar's contribution to India's independence movement, his ideology and his campaigns for social reforms and the eradication of untouchability.

Kolkata Metro becomes India's first metro train to run under river

- **Kolkata Metro** has become **the first metro rail** in the country to make an under-river journey as its **rakes passed through an underwater tunnel below the Hooghly River**.
- The Metro is expected to cover the 520-metre stretch under the river in 45 seconds. This tunnel under the river is 32 metres below the water level.

Uttarakhand government launched A HELP Program

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** has launched a program named **A-HELP (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production)**.
- Women have been chosen to strengthen livestock-related activities in remote rural areas, keeping in mind their important role under the A-HELP scheme, envisioned by Govt. of India.

Andhra Pradesh's CM Jagan Mohan Reddy wealthiest CM in India: Report

- According to poll affidavits analyzed by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, a total of 29 of the incumbent chief ministers are crorepatists in India with **Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy having the highest assets totaling ₹510 crores**.
- West Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee** has the **lowest total assets of about ₹15 lakh**.

Telangana CM KCR unveils 125-ft-tall Ambedkar statue in Hyderabad

- **Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao** has unveiled the **125-ft tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad**, to mark the **132nd birth anniversary** of the architect of the Indian Constitution.
- The statue in **Hyderabad** is **India's tallest statue of Ambedkar**.

MRF emerges as 'second strongest tyre brand in the world'

- **MRF Ltd** has emerged as **the second-strongest tyre brand** in the world according to the latest report by Brand Finance on the 'Most Valuable and Strongest Tyre Brands' in the world.
- MRF has scored high in almost all parameters and is also featured as the second fastest-growing tyre brand in the world.

Tamil Nadu govt formed a panel to assess the functioning of juvenile homes

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has formed a **one-man committee to recommend measures for the effective administration of the homes functioning as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015.**
- The committee will be headed by **Retired judge K. Chandru**

Purushottam Rupala launches Animal Epidemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)

- Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Parshottam Rupala** has launched the **Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative** to address animal pandemics in a holistic manner.
- This initiative aims at enhancing the country's preparedness and response to animal pandemics, with a focus on zoonotic diseases that pose a threat to both animal and human health.

Bharat Gaurav tourist train flagged off on the occasion of Dr. BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary

- Union Tourism Minister **G Krishan Reddy** and Social Justice and Empowerment **Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar** have **flagged off Bharat Gaurav Tourist train** to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station in New Delhi.
- During the 8-day tour, the train will cover cities including, New Delhi, Mhow, Nagpur, Varanasi and sacred Buddhist sites like Sanchi, Sarnath, Gaya, Rajgir and Nalanda.

Bihu performance in Guwahati creates Guinness World Record

- **The state of Assam** created history by entering the **Guinness World Records for "the largest Bihu performance"** at a single venue.
- The grand event of the traditional dance was held at the Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati.
- A total of 11,304 folk dancers presented Bihu Dance and over 2,500 drummers performed with the dancers in the presence of Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma at the event.

S Jaishankar inaugurates Buzi Bridge in Mozambique

- India's External Affairs Minister **Dr. Jaishankar** has inaugurated the **Buzi Bridge, constructed as part of 132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project.**
- The bridge has been built by India. The Buzi Bridge connects the towns of Chibabava and Mafambisse.

Arunachal Pradesh CM inaugurates Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang

- **Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu** has inaugurated the **Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa)** at Gyangkhar village, located in the **Tawang district of the state**.
- The Gonpa has great historical importance for the well-being and betterment of humans, particularly for the people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists in general.

Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates India Steel 2023 in Mumbai

- Union Minister of Steel **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has inaugurated **India Steel 2023** at the **Mumbai Exhibition Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai**.
- The event is being organized in association with Commerce Ministry and FICCI.
- It aims to bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in the Steel Industry.

IIT Indore and NASA-Caltech develop low-cost camera for flame imaging

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore** in collaboration with the **NASA-Caltech from the US and the Sweden's University of Gothenburg** has developed a **low-cost camera setup** which can provide multispectral imaging of four chemical species in a flame using single DSLR camera.

Solar Energy Corporation of India gets 'Miniratna Category-I' status

- **Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)** has been accorded the status of **Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**.
- SECI was incorporated in the year 2011 and is the primary implementing agency of the ministry for renewable energy schemes/ projects towards the fulfillment of India's international commitments.
- As of date, SECI has awarded RE project capacities of over 56 GW.

DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad

- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) has been inaugurated at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad**.
- This is the biggest such facility in the country. DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V Kamat inaugurated the facility at the campus of the IIT-Hyderabad at Sangareddy in Telangana.
- The DIA CoE IITH is the largest centre among all 15 CoEs in the country and DRDO team will work with IIT-H to identify the target projects in each of these domains and execute to complete in a period of 3-5 years.
- The DIA CoE IITH is the largest centre among all 15 CoEs in the country.

Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam begins in Gujarat

- The **Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam** began with great zeal and enthusiasm at **Somnath in Gujarat**.
- The ten-day-long cultural extravaganza was inaugurated by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

- The programme is being organised under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat to foster the age-old cultural bond between Gujarat and Tamilnadu

'Cumbum' Angoor' gets GI tag

- **Tamil Nadu's famous Cumbum Paneer Thratchai**, also known as **Cumbum grapes**, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The Cumbum Valley on the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu is known as the 'Grape City of South India', where Paneer Thirachai is cultivated.
- Theni district Paneer Thirachai is one of the highest grape-growing regions. However, the 'Paneer' variety is mainly associated with the Cumbum Valley, where the area under cultivation is spread over about 2,000 acres in 10 villages.

Centre approves Rs 638 cr under Namami Gange programme

- **Eight projects** worth approximately **₹638 crore** were approved in the **48th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.
- In an attempt to clean River Hindon, which is a tributary of River Yamuna, four projects worth Rs. 407.39 crore were approved for pollution abatement in the Shamli district. These projects are part of the comprehensive Hindon Rejuvenation Plan.
- Hindon River is identified as a Priority I polluted river stretch. The projects which were sanctioned are to prevent the flow of polluted water into Krishna River.
- The four projects in Shamli district include the construction of 5 Million Litres per Day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (Nirmal Jal Kendra), 5 KLD Septage Co-treatment Facility, Interception & Diversion (I&D) and other works in Babri and Bantikhera villages.

Centre approves over Rs 123 crore Oil Jetty development project at Deendayal Port

- **The Centre** has approved the project of development of an **Oil Jetty at Deendayal Port, Kandla in Gujarat for over 123 crore rupees**.
- The proposed project is designed to increase the cargo handling capacity of the port, which will attribute to a reduction in the turn-around time of liquid vessels.
- This project will increase Deendayal Port's income through the collection of Royalty from the Concessionaire.

Kerala adopts Water Budget to tackle summer water shortage

- **Kerala** has become the **first state to adopt a water budget** in a bid to come up with a solution to water scarcity in certain regions.
- The first phase would cover 94 gram panchayats and 15-block panchayats.
- The Public Water Budget was released by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan along with the launch of the third phase of the Ini Njan Ozhukatte (Let me flow now) project, for the rehabilitation of irrigation networks in the Western Ghats.

- The idea of a water budget was first mooted by the state in 2019. The current Budget was prepared based on the availability and consumption of water in the state.
- The state has recovered hundreds of water bodies and will be using satellite data to assess the status of water bodies in 230 gram panchayats in its third phase.

J&K Agriculture Production Department launches Kisan Sampark Abhiyan

- The **Agriculture Production Department of Jammu and Kashmir** launched the **Kisan Sampark Abhiyan** programme.
- The Abhiyan has launched across 3565 panchayats in J&K.
- The programme aims to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions in the scheme and celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav as part of the programme
- The programme will be launched across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir and will focus on providing farmers with information, training, and guidance on various aspects of agriculture and allied activities.

Manipur CM inaugurates Hun Thadou cultural festival

- The **5th edition of HUN- a Thadou Cultural Festival 2023** kicked off at Thomas Ground in Kangpokpi district of **Manipur**.
- HUN festival is an annual cultural festival and a civilizing act of the Thadous community of Manipur and it is celebrated at the arrival of the new year according to the community.
- The festival celebrates the culture and traditions of the Hun Thadou tribe, one of the major ethnic groups in the state.
- The festival features traditional dance performances, music, food, and handicrafts.

Pune to get the biggest international school in Maharashtra

- **Wellington College**, one of the top UK schools with a 170-year-old heritage, has set up a **K-12 School in Pune** with its academic year beginning in September 2023.
- Wellington College International Pune, with its extensive academic facilities totalling more than 4,00,000 sq. ft.,

NMC approves Nagaland to set up its first medical college

- The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** approved the setting up of the **Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research** which will become the **first medical college in the northeastern state of Nagaland**.
- The first medical college will be set up in the northeastern state since it got statehood 60 years ago in 1963.

Kerala launches One Panchayat, One Playground project

- The **Kerala government** has launched a **project for reviving the sports culture** in the **State by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat of the southern state**.

- The 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project was inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Kallikkad here where he said that a good sports culture was essential for building a healthy and happy society.

IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania

- The **first Indian Institute of Technology** to be set up in **Africa will come up in October in Tanzania.**
- IIT Madras will set up its first international campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, with plans to start the classes by October 2023.

India proposed to develop G-20 park in New Delhi

- **India** has proposed to develop a **G20 park in New Delhi** to symbolize 'togetherness on the path of development' as part of its year-long presidency of the organization.
- It will showcase sculptures depicting national animals and birds of the G20 countries made with the Waste to wonder concept.

NHAI to develop 10,000 kms of 'Digital Highways' in India by 2025

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** is set to develop around **10,000 kilometres of Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) infrastructure across India by the fiscal year 2025.**
- NHAI's special purpose vehicle National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) will be handling the project of implementing the network of "digital highways" by developing integrated utility corridors along the national highways to develop Optic Fibre Cables infrastructure.

PM Modi flagged off India's first water metro project in Kochi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has flagged off the **country's first water metro** that connects **ten small islands surrounding the port city of Kochi in Kerala.**
- Water Metro is a unique urban mass transit system with the same experience and ease of travel as that of the conventional metro system. It is very useful in cities like Kochi.

PM Modi laid foundation stone for first Digital Science Park in Thiruvananthapuram

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has laid the foundation stone for **India's first Digital Science Park** coming up at the **Technocity campus in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**
- Located adjacent to the Kerala University of Digital Sciences Innovation and Technology in around 14 acres of land, the ₹1,500 crore Digital Science Park project has been conceived as a multidisciplinary cluster-based interactive innovation zone focused on digital technologies.

Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated National Technology Centre in Chennai.

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Sarbananda Sonowal** has inaugurated the **Discovery Campus of the National Technology Centre** for Ports, Waterways and Coasts at IITM, **Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**

- This centre aims at enabling Research & development for the marine sector enabling solutions towards achieving the ultimate goal of building a robust marine industry in the country.

Bhupender Yadav launches new features in eShram Portal

- Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav** has launched new features in **eShram Portal**.
- The new features added in eShram portal will enhance the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for unorganized workers.

Sharjah stadium stand named after Sachin Tendulkar

- The **West Stand at the Sharjah cricket stadium** has been renamed **after Indian former cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar** in a special ceremony in the UAE, honouring the Indian cricket legend on his 50th birthday.
- Sharjah Cricket Stadium holds the Guinness record for most One-Day internationals played (244).

Manamadurai pottery receives GI tag

- **Manamadurai pottery**, a traditional form of pottery from Tamil Nadu, has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- Manamadurai in Sivagangai district in Tamil Nadu is known for pottery making.

Bengaluru experiences Zero Shadow Day as shadows disappear

- **People in Bengaluru** experienced a **unique astronomical phenomenon** as their shadows disappeared from the surface.
- The city experienced **Zero Shadow Day** at 12:17 pm as the Sun was overhead on 25 April.

IIT Guwahati Researchers Develop Time-Bomb Liquid Marbles

- **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati** have developed **liquid marbles using nano clay** that can be pre-programmed for drug delivery and cascade chemical reactions.
- Liquid marbles are small droplets of liquid that are coated with hydrophobic particles.

Xypex Announces Launch of First Production Plant in India

- Canadian concrete waterproofing solutions provider, **Xypex** has announced the **launch of its first production plant in India**.
- The plant will be opened at **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The 40,000 sq-ft facility will house chemical manufacturing, and distribution capabilities to serve upstream, midstream, downstream, and adjacent industries in the region. The production facility has 30,000 sq-ft additional space for storage.

Rashki launches India's First-ever range of Handbags made from Banana

- An Indian fashion brand, **Rashki** has launched the **country's first-ever range of handbags made from banana leather**, in an effort to promote sustainable and eco-friendly fashion.

- Banana leather is an innovative and sustainable alternative to traditional leather, which is environmentally damaging and often sourced through unethical practices.

IIT Bombay secures second place in 'Solar Decathlon' Build Challenge

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay's SHUNYA** (Sustainable Housing for Urbanizing Nation by its Young Aspirants) team secured second place in **Solar Decathlon Build Challenge in the United States** for their innovative zero-energy house designed to address air quality challenges in Mumbai's hot and humid climate.

Agriculture Minister launches 'Millets Experience Centre' at Dilli Haat

- Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched the **first of its kind 'Millets Experience Centre (MEC)'** at Dilli Haat in New Delhi.
- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has established the Millets Experience Centre in collaboration with the Agriculture Ministry.
- It aims to raise awareness of Millets and encourage its adoption among the general public.

PM Modi inaugurates NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute in Silvassa

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute in Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.**
- Notably, the foundation stone of NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute was **also laid by the Prime Minister himself in January 2019.**

Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

Finland became the 31st member of NATO

- **Finland** has become the **31st member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** and Turkey's unanimous vote played a key role in Finland's acceptance as a NATO member.
- Finland shares a long border of over 1,340 kilometers with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- **Founded** - 1949
- **Headquarters** - Brussels, Belgium
- **Secretary General**- Jens Stoltenberg
- **Founding Members** - United States, Canada, and ten European countries, including Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.
- NATO is a military alliance between North American and European countries.

Georgia became first American state to pass resolution condemning Hinduphobia

- The **Georgia Assembly** has passed a **resolution condemning Hinduphobia**, making it the **first American State** to take such a legislative measure.
- The resolution condemns Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu bigotry and states that 'Hinduism is the world's largest and oldest religion' and 1.2 billion people in more than 100 countries of the world follow this religion.

What is Hinduphobia?

- Hinduphobia is a set of hostile, destructive and derogatory attitudes towards Hinduism and Hindus that may manifest as prejudice, fear or hatred.
- It is true that Hindu Americans have faced discrimination across America.

Italian government seeks to ban English in official communication

- **Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy party** has introduced **new legislation which proposes a fine of up to Euro 100,000 (Rs 82,46,550) for using any foreign language, especially English, in official communication.**
- The bill was introduced by Fabio Rampelli, a member of the lower chamber of deputies and is supported by the Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Paris to ban e-scooters

- **Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo pledged to ban rented e-scooters from the French capital** after a huge majority of residents backed the move.
- In a non-binding referendum, 89.03% of 103,084 votes cast were opposed to the freestanding scooters, which are booked on a short-term basis through apps. There were only two options, "for" or "against."

India elected to UN Statistical Commission for 4-year term

- **India** has been elected to the **UN Statistical Commission for a four-year term.**
- India, along with South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, and China, was in the fray for two seats in the Asia Pacific states category.
- In the second round, China and South Korea got 25 votes each. South Korea was elected for the second seat through a draw of lots after two inconclusive rounds of secret balloting.

Ghana becomes first country to approve Oxford malaria vaccine for children

- **Ghana** has become the **first country** in the world to approve a new **malaria vaccine** from Oxford University, with children under the age of three in line to benefit.
- The mosquito-borne disease kills more than 600,000 people each year, most of them children in Africa, and scientists have been trying for years to develop vaccines.

Syria becomes world's largest 'Narco-state'

- **Syria** has become the **world's foremost narco-state** as its economic survival now depends heavily on the production and export of **Captagon also known as the "poor man's coke"**.
- Captagon is a banned illicit drug recognized by the UNODC (2021) and is a synthetic stimulant that combines amphetamine and caffeine.

India overtakes China as world's most populous country

- **India** has become **the world's most populous country, overtaking China**, according to the **United Nations**.
- According to UN estimates, **India's population is 142.86 crore against China's 142.57 crore**.
- This is the first time that India has topped the UN list of most populous countries since it started collecting population data in 1950.

UK tests emergency alert system on millions of phones

- The **UK conducted** its first test of a **new emergency alert service with millions of mobile phones** set to emit a **loud alarm and vibrate** at 3:00 pm (1400 GMT).
- A message will say: "This is a test of Emergency Alerts, a new U.K. government service that will warn you if there's a life-threatening emergency nearby."

India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate stranded citizens from Sudan

- **India** has launched a **rescue operation named Operation Kaveri** to evacuate its stranded **citizens from Sudan**.
- The rescue operation is currently underway and around 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan.
- Two C-130s aircraft and the navy ship INS Sumedha is on standby to evacuate Indians.

Mongolia refinery to be built by India by 2025

- **Mongolia Ambassador** to India Dambajav Ganbold has informed that the **first oil refinery of Mongolia**, which is built and funded with Indian assistance, will be **completed by 2025**.
- The first stage of the Mongol Oil Refinery will be built with a \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan this year.

India Pavilion at Global Education & Training Exhibition Inaugurated at Dubai

- The '**Study in India Pavilion**' at the **Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) in Dubai** has been inaugurated by the Consul General of India in Dubai, Dr. Aman Puri.
- It was organized by the Services Export Promotion Council with the support of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Dubai's airline Emirates unveils world's first robotic check-in assistant

- **Dubai-based airline Emirates** has unveiled the **world's first robotic** check-in assistant named '**Sara**'.
- The system is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store that is set to launch in Dubai's financial district.

Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

India Post Payments Bank launched WhatsApp Banking Services

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** in collaboration with **Airtel** has launched **WhatsApp Banking Services** to provide **easy and convenient banking services to its customers**.
- Airtel has been working with IPPB to deliver as many as 250 million messages per month to the bank's customers many of whom are located in mofussil towns and Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

GST revenue collection increases 13% to Rs 1.60 lakh crore in March 2023

- **India's GST revenue collection for March 2023** stood at **1.6 lakh crore rupees**, which is 13% higher than the GST revenues in March 2022.
- It is for the fourth time, in the current financial year that the gross GST collection has crossed 1.5 lakh crore rupees, since the implementation of GST.
- Out of the total collection, CGST is 29,546 crore rupees, SGST is 37,314 crore rupees and IGST is 82,907 crore rupees, including ₹42,503 crores collected on import of goods.

Government hikes interest rates of small savings schemes

- The **government has raised interest rates** on most **post office saving schemes by up to 0.7 percent for the April-June 2023 quarter**.
- The highest increase was in the interest rate of the **National Savings Certificate (NSC), which will now attract 7.5 percent, up from 7 percent**, for the April 1 to June 30, 2023 period.
- The new rate for the girl child savings scheme **Sukanya Samridhi** has been increased to **8 percent from 7.6 percent**.
- The interest rate on **the senior citizen savings scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is 8.2 percent (up from 8 percent) and 7.5 percent (up from 7.2 percent)**, respectively.
- **KVP will now mature in 115 months as against 120 months earlier**.

BoM inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups in Pune

- **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has inaugurated its **first dedicated Branch for start-ups in Pune, Maharashtra**.
- The dedicated branch will provide all kinds of support to a startup during its growth journey.

Public sector banks transfer Rs 35,012 crore unclaimed deposits to RBI

- The **Public sector banks (PSBs)** have transferred **unclaimed deposits of Rs 35,012 crore** as of February 2023 to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- These deposits have not been operated for **10 years or more**.
- **SBI** tops the list with an unclaimed amount of Rs 8,086 crore, while **Punjab National Bank** has **Rs 5,340 crore** and **Canara Bank** has **Rs 4,558 crore**.

Canara Bank launches Premium Payroll Account

- **Canara Bank** has introduced a "**Premium Payroll Package**" for Salary account holders with competitive features.
- This product has been designed to meet all Banking requirements of Salaried Customers.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that there will be **no change in repo rate, which is to remain at 6.5%**.
- The RBI monetary policy committee (MPC) announced the first bi-monthly policy for FY24 concluding a three-day meeting.
- Many experts anticipated the RBI will increase key interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.75% to tackle persistently high inflation, which has remained above the RBI's comfort zone of 6% for most of the time
- The GDP is expected to jump 6.5% in the current financial year.
- Retail inflation is expected to moderate to 5.2% in FY2023-24.
- The standing deposit facility (SDF) would remain unchanged at 6.25%, and the MSF rate and the bank rate at 6.75%.
- In Q1FY24, CPI-based inflation is expected to be 5.1%.
- The real GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7%.

Policy	Rates
Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%
Standing Deposit Facility Rate	6.25%

SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** is planning to launch **new variants of current account** (with balances of ₹50,000 and ₹50 lakh) and "**Parivar**" (family) **savings account** in FY24 to minimize the gap between deposit growth and credit growth.
- Domestic deposits of India's largest bank grew 8.86 percent year-on-year (y-o-y) by the end of 2022, while domestic advances were up 16.91 percent y-o-y.

Retail inflation drops to 5.66% in March 2023

- According to **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, India's annual **retail inflation for March 2023 eased to 5.66% from 6.44% in February 2023**.
- The inflation numbers have seen a decline from 6.44% in February and 6.95% in the year-ago period.
- The food inflation, which accounts for nearly half of the overall consumer price basket, moderated to 4.79%. It was 5.95% in February and 7.68% in the year-ago period.

HDFC Bank signs with Export-Import Bank of Korea for \$300 million

- **HDFC Bank** has signed a "Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement" with **Export-Import Bank of Korea for a USD 300 million line of credit**.
- The pact was signed by the two entities at GIFT City in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar.
- This agreement will help HDFC Bank raise foreign currency funds which it would extend to Korea-related businesses.

SBI reintroduces 400 days 'Amrit Kalash' retail term deposit scheme

- The country's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has extended the validity of **Amrit Kalash special fixed deposit (FD) scheme**.
- The bank previously introduced this retail term deposit programme, and it was valid from February 15, 2023, through March 31, 2023. But on April 12, 2023, SBI stated that its Amrit Kalash FD retail term deposit programme has been extended till 30th June 2023.

WPI inflation eases to a 29-month low of 1.34% in March 2023

- India's annual **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation** declined to a **29-month low of 1.34 percent in March 2023** as input prices continued to moderate, according to the government data.
- This is the 10th straight month of decline in WPI-based inflation.
- The WPI inflation data was 3.85 percent in February, 4.73 percent in January 2023, and 14.63 percent in March 2022.

Karnataka Bank launches home loan campaign

- **Karnataka Bank** has launched a special home loan campaign -- '**KBL Centenary Mahotsav**' from **April 17 to July 17**.
- Karnataka Bank has developed digital loan products for home loans allowing customers to enjoy seamless digital processing and immediate in-principle approvals at their convenience and comfort.

AIIB to open its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi

- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have signed a host member agreement to **officially open the bank's first overseas office, an Interim Operational Hub (the Hub), in Abu Dhabi**.
- The new foreign office in Abu Dhabi will support the AIIB's development agenda by funding sustainable economic development projects, primarily in areas where it is most needed.

IndusInd Bank to launch digital bank 'Indie'

- **IndusInd Bank** will launch its **digital bank Indie** this quarter.
- The bank is also planning to enter the mutual funds, insurance, and broking sector.
- Bank is expecting 8 million clients in the next three years with Rs 50,000 crore of balance sheet.

Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set up a committee	NGT Chairman Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel	To investigate the disappearance of 1095 ponds in Kanpur Dehat

Chapter 16: Defence News

Ministry of Defence Rs 1700 crore deal with BrahMos Aerospace

- **Ministry of Defence** has inked a **Rs 1,700 crore contract with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL)** for procurement of next-generation maritime mobile coastal batteries and BrahMos missiles.
- These systems will be equipped with supersonic BrahMos missiles and will significantly enhance the multi-directional maritime strike capability of the Indian Navy.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
The 10th Edition of the annual Indian - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise, SLINEX-2023	Indian and Sri Lanka	SLINEX-2023 will aim to enhance inter-operability , improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures in multi-faceted Maritime operations between both Navies.
The Cope India exercise	The Air Forces of India and the U.S.	The ' Cope India ' exercise will " further enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two air forces ".
joint military exercise 'Ex Kavach'	The large-scale joint exercise saw the involvement of the ' Shatrueet Brigade ' of the Army, Armed Forces	Exercise KAVACH was structured to enhance the joint warfare capabilities and the Standard Operating Procedures

	Special Operations Division (AFSOD), Special Forces of the Navy and Amphibious troops of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.	(SOPs) of the Armed Forces.
Exercise INIOCHOS-23	The Indian Air Force (IAF)	The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-23 , a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force , the air force of Greece .
"Locked Shields" cyber-defense exercise 2023	More than 3000 participants from 38 countries including NATO allies and partners took part in the exercise .	The 2023 edition of the annual exercise " Locked Shields " hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn (Estonia) .
7th edition of bilateral training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior 2023	India and the United Kingdom	The exercise is being conducted at Salisbury Plains, UK , from 27 April to 11 May.

Chapter 17: Sports News

Aravindh Chithambaram wins Delhi International Open chess title

- **Aravindh Chithambaram** has won the **Delhi International Open chess title**.
- Aravindh, who aggregated a massive 9.5 points from 10 rounds, collected Rs 6 lakh and the winner's trophy from an event that offered Rs 45 lakh in prize money.

Max Verstappen wins Australian GP

- **Red Bull's driver Max Verstappen** has claimed his **first Australian Grand Prix 2023**.
- Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton finished second, while Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso filled third spot on the podium.

Daniil Medvedev Wins Maiden Miami Opens Title 2023

- **Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev** claimed his fourth title of the year by **defeating Jannik Sinner in a closely-contested final match in Miami Opens 2023**.
- Medvedev has now won 24 out of his last 25 matches, including his latest victory at the prestigious Miami Open.

Gregoria Tunjung won Spain Masters women's title 2023

- Indonesia's **Gregoria Mariska Tunjung** has clinched the **Women's title in the Spain Masters 2023** held in Madrid, Spain.
- **Gregoria Mariska Tunjung** defeated Indian **Badminton player PV Sindhu**.
- While Japanese badminton player, Kenta Nishimoto won the men's title.
- Men's doubles - He Jiting & Zhou Haodong (China)
- Women's doubles - Liu Shengshu & Tan Ning (China)
- Mixed doubles - Mathias Christiansen & Alexandra Boje (Denmark)

Weightlifter Sanjita Chanu banned for four years for failing dope test

- Two-time Commonwealth Games Champion Indian weightlifter **Sanjita Chanu** has been handed a **four-year ban by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for failing a dope test**.
- Sanjita had tested positive for an anabolic steroid -- Drostanolone Metabolite -- that features in the World Anti-doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list.

Dhoni, Yuvraj inducted with the MCC honorary life membership

- Former Indian cricket team captain, **MS Dhoni** was named among the five Indians to have been inducted with the **Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) honorary life membership**.
- Other four Indian Cricketers: **Yuvraj Singh, Maithali Raj, Suresh Raina, and Jhulan Goswami**

Kim Cotton becomes 1st female to umpire in ICC Men's T201 cricket

- New Zealand's **Kim Cotton** has become the **1st woman on-field umpire in a full-member men's T201 during New Zealand's second match against Sri Lanka in Dunedin, New Zealand**.
- Cotton has previously officiated in 54 women's T20Is, both as an on-field and TV umpire, besides 24 women's ODIs since 2018.

Priyanshu defeated World No. 49 Magnus Johannesen in a battle of 21-year-olds in the men's singles final.

- This is the **first Badminton World Federation (BWF) Super 300** title for **Rajawat** who was also the **youngest team member** of the **Indian badminton team** that won the historic **2022 Thomas Cup** in **Bangkok**.

Saudi Arabia receives flag to host FEI World Cup Finals 2024

- The **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** has received the **flag of the FEI World Cup Finals that Riyadh will host in April 2024**.
- The Kingdom received the flag during the FEI World Cup Finals 2023 held in Omaha, Nebraska, USA, according to Saudi News Agency (SPA).

D Gukesh wins title in World Chess Armageddon Asia and Oceania event

- **Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh** has emerged winner of the **World Chess Armageddon Asia and Oceania tournament** after defeating former **World Rapid Champion Nodirbek Abdusatarov of Uzbekistan in the final**.
- The 16-year-old Indian won in a field that included former world classical champion Vladimir Kramnik, Daniil Dubov, Yangyi Yu (China), Vidit Gujrathi and

Karthikeyan Murali (both India) and Param Maghsoodloo (Iran), apart from Abdusattorov.

Nisha Dahiya wins Silver in Asian Wrestling Championship

- **India wrestler, Nisha Dahiya** has secured the **silver medal in the women's 68kg category** at the **Asian wrestling championships 2023, held in Astana, Kazakhstan.**
- She reached the final but fell to Japan's Ami Ishii 10-0 and finished as a runner-up. She had defeated China's Feng Zhou 7-6 in the semi-finals.

Shakib al Hasan wins ICC Player of the Month award for March 2023

- **Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan** and **Rwandan female cricketer Henriette Ishimwe** clinched the **ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards for March 2023.**
- Shakib won the award for the second time after July 2021 for his vital role in Bangladesh's 3-0 T20I series win against England.

India's Antim Panghal wins silver medal at Asian Wrestling Championships

- **India's Antim Panghal** won **silver** at the **Asian Wrestling Championships 2023** after losing to Japan's Akari Fujinami in the 53-kg category in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Fujinami, the reigning world champion, successfully defended her Asian crown in a comfortable fashion.

Aman Sehrawat won gold medal in Asian Wrestling Championship 2023

- Indian wrestler Aman **Sehrawat** won the **gold medal in the men's 57 kg freestyle category** at the **Asian Wrestling Championships 2023** held in **Astana, Kazakhstan.**
- Sehrawat won the gold medal by defeating Almaz Samanbekov of Kyrgyzstan with a score of 9-4.

Shaili Singh qualifies for Asian Games; logging 2nd longest jump in India's history

- At the **Indian Grand Prix-4** in Bengaluru, **Shaili Singh** won in the **women's long jump.**
- With a personal best of 6.76 meters, she is now the holder of the **2nd longest jump in India's history and has qualified for the Asian Games.**

Suryakumar Yadav & Harmanpreet Kaur named Wisden's leading T20I cricketer

- **Wisden Cricketers Almanack** has released the list of **top-5 cricketers of the year 2022.**
- **Suryakumar** won the honour of Wisden Almanack's leading T20I cricketer while **Harmanpreet Kaur** became the first Indian woman to win the Cricketer of the Year award.
- Apart from Kaur, the list also includes the names of Tom Blundell (New Zealand), Ben Foakes (England), Daryl Mitchell (New Zealand) and Matthew Potts (England).

Chennai to host 2023 Men's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy

- The **Men's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy 2023** will be hosted in **Chennai, India**.
- The seventh edition of the prestigious continental event, which was inaugurated in 2011, will serve as a precursor to the Asian Games hockey competition in Hangzhou, China in September.

Gary Ballance announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- **Former England cricketer Gary Ballance** has announced his **retirement from all forms of the game**.
- Ballance played 1 Test, 1 ODI and 5 T20 Internationals for Zimbabwe and also scored a Test ton (137*) during his stint with the team.

Argentina to replace Indonesia as under-20 FIFA World Cup host

- **Argentina** will host the **under-20 soccer World Cup**.
- **Argentina has replaced Indonesia**, which was supposed to host it earlier.
- FIFA announced the decision to remove Indonesia as host after the country's FA canceled the draw to be held in Bali as its governor refused to host Israel's team.

Odisha's Bhubaneswar to host 2023 Intercontinental Cup in June

- A four-team **Intercontinental Cup** will be held in **Bhubaneswar from June 9 to 18**.
- This will be the third edition of the tournament with the previous two being held in Mumbai (2018) and Ahmedabad (2019).

Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinches two gold medals at Archery World Cup

- **India** won two **gold medals**, one each in the mixed team event and women's individual Compound, at the **Archery World Cup 2023 Stage 1 in Antalya, Turkey**.
- **Indian mixed team** of **Jyothi Surekha Vennam** and **Ojas Pravin Deotale** outclassed Chen Yi Hsuan and Chen Chieh Lun of Chinese Taipei 159-154 to win the mixed team gold.

Chapter 18: Book and Author

Book	Author
"Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories"	Authored by Amitav Ghosh
'Reflections'	Authored by Narayanan Vaghul Launched by Nirmala Sitharaman

Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
31 March	International Drug Checking Day	To promote harm reduction initiatives to reduce the risks associated with drug use and educate people about drugs and their effects.
1 April	Odisha Day or Utkal Day	This day is significant for the people of Odisha as it marks the formation of the state on 1st April, 1936 .
1 April	Foundation Day of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	RBI was established on 1 April 1935 as per the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 . It started functioning from 1 April 1935 .
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme 2023 - Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking
1-7 April	Prevention of Blindness Week 2023	Objective - To support individuals with visual impairments, and to promote access to eye care services.
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Theme 2023 - Mine Action Cannot Wait
5 April	National Maritime Day	National Maritime Day is meant to appreciate the contribution of maritime trade to the growth of the Indian economy and the significance of India's strategic location in international trade .
5 April	International Day of Conscience	Theme 2023 - Building a Culture of Peace
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDS DP)	Theme 2023 - Scoring for People and the Planet
7 April	World Health Day	Theme 2023 - Health For All
10 April	World Homeopathy Day	Theme 2023 - One Health, One Family
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day	Objective - To raise awareness of good healthcare and safety of all mothers or expecting mothers.

11 April	World Parkinson's Day	Objective - To raise awareness of this chronic, progressive disease that affects over 10 million people worldwide.
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight	The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution on April 7, 2011 , okayed April 12 as the International Day of Human Space Flight.
13 April	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day	On 13 April 1919 , a large crowd gathered peacefully at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab to protest the arrest of Dr. Satyapal & Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew.
13 April	39th Siachen Day	This year marks the 39th anniversary of Operation Meghdoot , launched by the Indian Army on April 13, 1984 , to secure the Siachen Glacier , which was important from a strategic point of view since the glacier shares boundaries with Pakistan and China.
14 April	World Chagas Disease Day	Objective - To raise awareness about a life-threatening disease that can cause serious heart and digestive issues.
14 April	132nd Ambedkar Jayanti	Ambedkar Jayanti is celebrated on April 14 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.
15 April	World Art Day	Objective - To commemorate Leonardo da Vinci's birthday, recognizing the importance of art in promoting creativity, cultural diversity, and information exchange.
16 April	World Voice Day	Objective - To promote the proper care and training of the human voice, particularly among those who use their voice for professional or recreational purposes
16 April	Save The Elephant Day	Theme 2023 - Protecting Elephant Habitats for a Sustainable Tomorrow

17 April	World Hemophilia Day	Theme 2023 - Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds as the Global Standard of Care
18 April	World Heritage Day	Theme 2023 - Heritage and Climate
19 April	World Liver Day	Theme 2023 - Be vigilant, do a regular liver check-up, fatty liver can affect anyone.
20 April	Chinese Language Day	Theme 2023 - Chinese Wisdom for a Green World
21 April	National Civil Services Day	Objective- To recognize and appreciate the vital role played by civil servants in the advancement and betterment of the nation.
21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Objective - To raise awareness about the role of innovation and creativity in each aspect of human development.
22 April	Earth Day	Theme 2023 - Invest in our Planet
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	Theme 2023 - Indigenous Languages
23 April	National Panchayati Raj Diwas	The Panchayati Raj Day commemorates the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 of the Constitution coming into effect in the year 1993.
23 April	Khongjom Day	The observance of Khongjom Day commemorates the sacrifices made by the people of Manipur in the fight for freedom and independence.
24 to 30 April	World Immunization Week	Theme 2023 - The Big Catch-Up
25 April	World Malaria Day	Theme 2023 - Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement
25 April	World English Day	Theme 2023 - English as a Global Language
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Theme 2023 - Accelerating Innovation and Creativity: Women and IP
27 April	International Girls in ICT Day	Theme 2023- "Digital Skills for Life"

28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Theme 2023 - A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work
29 April	World Dance Day	Objective - To promote the art of dance and raise awareness of its importance in the world
29 April	World Veterinary Day	Theme 2023 - Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession
30 April	International Jazz Day	Objective - To raise awareness about the virtues of jazz as an educational tool, and a force for empathy, dialogue, and enhanced cooperation among people.

Chapter 20: Science & Technology

ISRO successfully conducts landing experiment of the Reusable Launch Vehicle

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully conducted the **Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX)** from the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in **Karnataka's Chitradurga**.
- A Chinook Helicopter of the Indian Air Force carried the launch vehicle to a height of 4.5 kms and released it in mid-air.

Israel launches new Ofek-13 spy satellite into orbit

- **Israel** has successfully launched the "**Ofek-13**" spy satellite into space by the Shavit launch vehicle, **from Palmachim Airbase spaceport**.
- This satellite was manufactured by state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- The 'Ofek 13' is the most advanced of its kind with unique radar observation capabilities and will enable intelligence collection in any weather and conditions of visibility.

NASA astronaut Christina Koch becomes the first woman to go around the moon

- The **American Space Agency, NASA** has selected the **first woman astronaut, Christina Koch** for its **Artemis II mission**.
- Other crew members: Victor Glover (First Black Astronaut) and Reid Wiseman of NASA, and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- The team of four astronauts will fly around the moon for a 10-day mission next year.

Skyroot Aerospace successfully test-fires 3D-printed cryogenic engine

- India's top private aerospace company, **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully fired an advanced **fully 3D-printed cryogenic engine, Dhawan-II**.

- The engine roared to life for 200 seconds as the endurance test demonstrated the agility of the 3D-printed structure est to power the company's Vikram-II rocket.

South Korea to conduct first launch of commercial-grade satellite

- **South Korea** plans to conduct its **first launch of a commercial-grade satellite** aboard a domestically built rocket next month as part of its space development program.
- It will blast off from the space launch center on a southern island in May 2023. It will carry one main satellite 'Next Generation Small Satellite 2' and seven other smaller cube-shaped satellites.

ISRO to launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite on April 22

- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** will launch a **Singaporean Earth Observation satellite** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on April 22.**
- The satellite named TeLEOS-2 will be launched aboard ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which will take off on its 55th mission.
- The TeLEOS-2 is an Earth Observation Satellite, designed to capture round-the-clock, all-weather satellite imagery of the Earth and it will provide a host of data to help with various operations.
- The ISRO will use the XL variant of PSLV in the upcoming C-55 mission.

Cabinet approved 6003 crore for Quantum Technology Mission

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the **National Quantum Mission (NQM) at a total cost of Rs.6003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31.**
- This will accelerate QT-led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country and make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies & Applications (QTA).

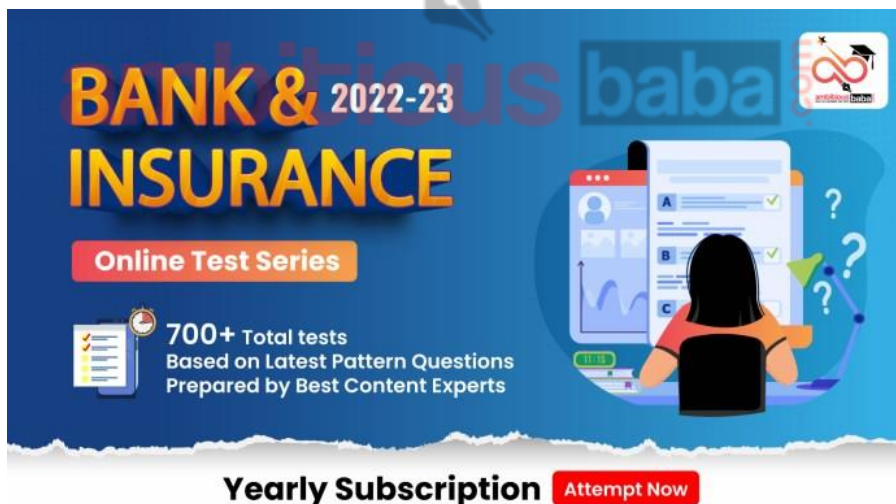
Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Former Indian Cricketer Salim Durani	Former India all-rounder Salim Durani passed away at the age of 88 in Jamnagar, Gujarat. He made a significant contribution in the series against England in 1961-62. In the last two Tests, Salim led India to victory.
Sahitya Akademi winner Sarah Thomas	The first novel was ' Jeevitham Enna Nathi '. Sarah Thomas's novel ' Muripadukal ' was made into a movie by PA Bakker called ' Manimuzhakkam '. Her novels Asthamayam, Pavizhamuthu,

	and Archana have also been adapted into films.
Legendary theatre actor Jalabala Vaidya	She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Tagore Award , the Delhi Natya Sangh Award , the Andhra Pradesh Natya Akademi Honour , Honorary Citizenship of the City of Baltimore, USA .
Former Mahindra Group chairman, Keshub Mahindra	Former Mahindra Group chairman and industrialist Keshub Mahindra passed away at the age of 99 . He served as chairman of the conglomerate from 1963 to 2012 .
National Award-winning actress Uttara Baokar	In 1984 , she won the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award , India's National Academy for Acting .
Former Ranji opener Abdul Azeem	In a career spanning 73 first-class games between 1980-95 , the dashing opener scored 12 centuries and 18 fifties .
Co-founder of Webchutne Sidharth Rao	Rao started Webchutney in 1999 when he was just 19 years old . In 2013, Webchutney was acquired by Dentsu Aegis Network but Rao stayed on to steer it as its CEO , going on to become head of the India unit of dentsuMB , the global creative network of the Japanese multinational media network in 2021 .
Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah	Fatah was recognized for his critiques of Islamic extremism and the Pakistani establishment , as well as his support for queer rights .
Former Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal	Parkash Singh Badal was the youngest Chief Minister to ever hold office in the state of Punjab . He was 43 . Badal served as the Chief Minister of Punjab five times . He was the chief minister from 1970-1971, from 1977-1980, from 1997-2002, and from 2007-2017 (two consecutive terms).

<p>Malayalam actor Mamukkoya</p>	<p>Mamukkoya made his acting debut in the theatre in 1979. Before that, he worked in a timber mill in Kozhikode.</p> <p>In his four-decade-long career, Mamukkoya acted in over 450 Malayalam films. He also appeared in a French film titled Flammens of Paradise.</p>
<p>Renowned scientist Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan</p>	<p>Dr. N Gopalakrishnan was the founder of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage.</p> <p>His lectures on Indian philosophies and spirituality attracted audiences from within and outside the country. He was often criticized for propagating "pseudoscience".</p>

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