

December 2023

# THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Monthly capsule**
- **Current Affairs**  
(हिन्दी)

Economy | Appointment | Awards | Ranking  
Government Scheme | Summit | Partnership | GDP  
Banking & Financial | Defence | Sports |  
Book and Author | Science and technology



# The Hindu Review (December 2023)

## Index

No. of Chapter	Topic Name
Chapter 1	Appointment (National, International)
Chapter 2	Awards (National, International)
Chapter 3	Government Scheme/ campaign
Chapter 4	Summit/ Conference
Chapter 5	Partnership/ Agreement
Chapter 6	Ranking Index
Chapter 7	Mergers and Acquisitions
Chapter 8	Loan
Chapter 9	App/Website/Portal
Chapter 10	Important MoU
Chapter 11	GDP Forecasting
Chapter 12	Current Affairs (National) In Short
Chapter 13	Current Affairs (International)
Chapter 14	Banking & Financial
Chapter 15	Committee
Chapter 16	Defence News
Chapter 17	Sports News
Chapter 18	Book and Author
Chapter 19	Important Day
Chapter 20	Science & Technology
Chapter 21	Obituary

## Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

### (National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
<b>Appointed as chairman of the India Debt Resolution Co Ltd (IDRCL)</b>	Narayan Seshadri (Updated 3 December)
<b>Appointed as director general of the Dehradun-based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)</b>	Kanchan Devi (Updated 5 December)
<b>Become the first woman medical officer in the Indian Army to be deployed at Siachen</b>	Captain Geetika Koul (Updated 7 December)
<b>The Government of India has appointed Dinesh K Tripathi as the new Vice Chief of Naval Staff</b>	Dinesh Tripathi (Updated 7 December)
<b>Took charge as Executive Director of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)</b>  <b>IBBI is a key institution in implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).</b>	Jithesh John (Updated 7 December)
<b>Max Life Insurance appoints as Chairman</b>	Rajiv Anand (Updated 8 December)
<b>Foodtech major and grocery delivery start-up Swiggy has appointed its board as an Independent Director and Chairman of its board.</b>	Anand Kripalu (Updated 8 December)
<b>Sworn in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram at Raj Bhawan in Aizawl.</b>  <b>About Mizoram</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation - 20 February 1987</li> </ul>	Lalduhoma (Updated 9 December)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b> - Aizawl</li> <li>• <b>Chief Minister</b> - Lalduhoma</li> <li>• <b>Governor</b> - Hari Babu Kambhampati</li> <li>• <b>High Court</b> - Gauhati High Court</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Becomes the new CM of Chhattisgarh</b></p> <p><b>About Chhattisgarh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b> – Raipur</li> <li>• <b>Chief Minister</b> – Vishnu Deo Sai (replace Bhupesh Baghel)</li> <li>• <b>Governor</b> – Biswabhusan Harichandan</li> </ul>	<p>Vishnu Deo Sai (Updated 10 December)</p>
<p><b>Become the new President of the industry association FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce &amp; Industry).</b></p>	<p>Anish Shah (Updated 12 December)</p>
<p><b>Elected as the new chief minister of Madhya Pradesh</b></p> <p><b>About Madhya Pradesh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b> – Bhopal</li> <li>• <b>Chief Minister</b> – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)</li> <li>• <b>Deputy CM</b> - Jagdish Devda &amp; Rajendra Shukla</li> <li>• <b>Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly</b> - Narendra Singh Tomar</li> <li>• <b>Governor</b> – Mangubhai C. Patel</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Mohan Yadav (Updated 12 December)</p>
<p><b>Becomes Chief Minister of Rajasthan</b></p> <p><b>About Rajasthan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b> – Jaipur</li> <li>• <b>Chief Minister</b> – Bhajan Lal Sharma (replace Ashok Gehlot)</li> <li>• <b>Deputy Chief Minister</b> - Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa</li> <li>• <b>Speaker of Rajasthan Assembly</b> - Vasudev Devnani</li> <li>• <b>Governor</b> – Kalraj Mishra</li> </ul>	<p>Bhajan Lal Sharma (Updated 13 December)</p>
<p><b>Tripura appoints as its tourism brand</b></p>	<p>Sourav Ganguly</p>

<b>ambassador</b>	(Updated 14 December)
<b>The Centre has appointed Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry, as a part-time member in Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)</b>	Parama Sen (Updated 15 December)
<b>Indifi Technologies hired as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</b> <b>About Indifi Technologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founded in 2015, Gurgaon-based Indifi provides debt financing to small businesses through term loans and credit lines. Its annual disbursements are around Rs 2,500 crore.</li> </ul>	Sangram Singh (Updated 15 December)
<b>Appointed as CEO and MD of Stellantis India</b>	Aditya Jairaj (Updated 15 December)
<b>Took charge as Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services</b>	Maheshwar Dayal (Updated 21 December)
<b>Becomes new president Wrestling Federation of India</b>	Sanjay Singh (Updated 24 December)
<b>Named as Health Ambassador for Salaam Bombay Foundation</b>	Amrita Raichand (Updated 24 December)
<b>Appointed as Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)</b>	Pramod Sharma (Updated 24 December)
<b>Assumed as Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India arm Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)</b>	Uday A Kaole (Updated 24 December)
<b>Reappointed as the executive director of ICICI Bank</b> <b>About Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank</b>	Sandeep Batra (Updated 24 December)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded - 1994</li> <li>• Headquarters – Mumbai</li> <li>• MD &amp; CEO - Sandeep Bakhshi</li> <li>• Tagline - Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka</li> </ul>	
<b>The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the appointment as the new Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)</b>	Pramod Agrawal (Updated 26 December)
<b>Merger-bound North East Small Finance Bank has appointed as interim MD and CEO</b>	Satish Kumar Kalra (Updated 26 December)
<b>Signed as Brand Ambassador for Football</b>	Kartik Aaryan (Updated 28 December)
<b>Bisleri signed as it's Global Brand Ambassador</b>	Deepika Padukone (Updated 28 December)
<p><b>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment Kotak Mahindra Bank as its part-time chairman</b></p> <p><b>About Kotak Mahindra Bank</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded - 2003</li> <li>• Founders - Uday Kotak</li> <li>• Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra</li> <li>• Chairman - CS Rajan (replace Prakash Apte)</li> <li>• MD &amp; CEO - Ashok Vaswani</li> </ul>	C S Rajan (Updated 28 December)
<b>Appoints as ambassador of Mumbai Marathon</b>	Katie Moon (Updated 29 December)
<b>Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed as the new Chief Risk Officer (CRO)</b>	S Sunder Krishnan (Updated 29 December)
<b>HDFC Bank approves re-appointed as chairman</b>	Atanu Chakraborty (Updated 31 December)

<b>Becomes first woman to be appointed as DG of CISF</b>	Nina Singh (Updated 31 December)
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## (International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
<b>Became the first person from the country to operate the Mars rover with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States.</b>	Akshata Krishnamurthy (Updated 7 December)
<b>Appoints head of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Board</b>	Samir Shah (Updated 8 December)
<b>United Arab Emirates' has been appointed Chairman of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC 23).</b>	Mohammed Al Ramsi (Updated 9 December)
<b>Elected as new Prime Minister of Poland</b> <b>About Poland</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital - Warsaw</li> <li>• Currency - Zloty</li> <li>• Official language – Polish</li> <li>• Prime Minister - Donald Tusk</li> </ul>	Donald Tusk (Updated 13 December)
<b>Elected for the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) held in Rome, Italy.</b> <b>About UNIDROIT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNIDROIT, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, functions as an independent intergovernmental organization headquartered in Rome, Italy.</li> </ul>	Ms. Uma Sekhar (Updated 16 December)
<b>Elected as president of Egypt</b> <b>About Egypt</b>	Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital- Cairo</li> <li>• Currency- Egyptian pound</li> <li>• President - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi</li> </ul>	(Updated 21 December)
<p><b>UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed as the senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza</b></p> <p><b>About United Nations (UN)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Founded</b> - 24 October 1945</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters</b> - New York, US</li> <li>• <b>Official languages</b> - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian &amp; Spanish</li> <li>• <b>Membership</b> - 193 member states</li> <li>• <b>1st Secretary General</b> - Trygve Halvdan Lie (Norway)</li> <li>• <b>9th Secretary-General</b> - António Guterres (Portugal)</li> <li>• <b>Deputy Secretary-General</b> - Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)</li> <li>• <b>United Nations Day</b> is celebrated on <b>October 24</b> every year</li> </ul>	<p>Sigrid Kaag</p> <p>(Updated 29 December)</p>

## Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

### (National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
<b>President's color</b>	The Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC)	Recognition for any military unit, and this event is part of <b>AFMC's</b> celebration of its <b>75th year of outstanding service to the nation.</b>
<b>National Award for empowering individual with disabilities</b>	Amazon India	For fostering an inclusive <b>environment for individuals with disabilities</b> awarded by Gol.
<b>The 33rd Vyas Samman 2023 (Selected)</b>	Pushpa Bharati's 2016 memoir, Yaadein, Yaadein	



	aur Yaadein	
<b>The Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.</b>	Javed Akhtar	
<b>Telangana Business Awards Best Girl Child Empowerment Program Initiative of the Year</b>	BBG Foundation	For its unwavering dedication to the cause, channeling both <b>life and business profits</b> toward the <b>single-minded purpose of empowering 2,000,000 girls</b> by the year <b>2040</b> .
<b>"Champions of Change Award (Karnataka)" by the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE)</b>	Esyasoft Technologies' visionary Founder and CEO, <b>Bipin Chandra</b>	For its <b>outstanding leadership</b> and <b>transformative impact</b> .
<b>Visionary Leader Icon Award 2023</b>	Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath	For his unwavering <b>dedication, remarkable achievements</b> , and commitment to excellence in both <b>business and social endeavors</b> .
<b>National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2023</b>	Reliance Nippon Life Insurance	In recognition of the company's efforts towards <b>institutionalizing climate-friendly operations and driving sustainable business growth</b> .
<b>The Vir Chakra medal</b>	INS Shivaji Awarded to <b>Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury</b>	

11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category.	NTPC Kanti	For playing a pivotal role in <b>acknowledging organizations across various</b> sectors for their exemplary <b>efforts in water conservation and management.</b>
"CMD of the Year" award under the Mini-Ratna category at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards	IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das	For his exceptional leadership that has <b>boosted the company's growth, pioneering energy transition initiatives,</b> and outstanding contributions for <b>IREDA and Renewable Energy sector development.</b>
National Energy Conservation Award 2023	Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL)	For its <b>storage water heater</b>
'Impact Fielder of the Series' medal	Sai Sudharsan	Commended for a <b>brilliant catch</b> during the <b>third ODI match,</b> contributing to <b>India's 78-run victory</b>
The sixth edition of the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize	Sukrita Paul Kumar	For her book, ' <b>Salt &amp; Pepper: Selected Poems</b> '
National Energy Conservation Awards – 2023 (NECA 2022) In the State Designated Agency (SDA Group-1) category	Karnataka	For the <b>state's achievement in energy conservation</b>

**(International)**

<b><u>Award</u></b>	<b><u>Person/Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose/ Field</u></b>
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<b>French Civilian Award Legion d'Honneur</b>	V R Lalithambika	She got this honor because of <b>her important work in strengthening space collaboration</b> between <b>France and India</b>
<b>Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French government, a prestigious honor</b>	Famous author and translator Arshia Sattar	She has made important contributions to <b>Indian literature and mythology</b> . She is well-known for <b>translating epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata</b>
<b>The 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate</b>	Somali refugee Abdullahi Mire	For <b>helping displaced kids get education</b>
<b>Sharon Stone at the Red Sea International Film Festival</b>	Ranveer Singh	For his <b>contributions towards cinema</b>
<b>Qatar WISE Prize 2023</b>	Safeena Hussain	For mobilizing <b>14 lakh out-of-school girls</b> in Indian villages to get back to <b>mainstream education</b>
<b>"ISSA Vision Zero 2023" Award</b>	The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)	<b>"Vision Zero"</b> is a transformational approach for the <b>prevention of accidents</b> at <b>workplaces</b> integrating the three <b>dimensions</b> of safety, health, and well-being at all levels of work.
<b>Singapore's Highest Arts Award</b>	Meira Chand	In recognition of their <b>artistic excellence and contribution</b> to <b>enriching the country's arts and culture scene</b> .
<b>Time magazine's Athlete of the Year</b>	Lionel Messi	<b>Messi</b> won the <b>Ballon d'Or</b> for a <b>record-breaking eighth time</b>

for 2023.		and, by moving to Inter <b>Miami</b> , raised <b>awareness</b> of the <b>sport in the US</b> .
<b>CEO of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine</b>	Sam Altman	<b>Sam Altman</b> marked '10-out-of-10 <b>crazy thing to live through</b> ' when he had to spend a rather strange <b>Thanksgiving</b> -losing a company he co-founded, only to be reinstated after <b>five frantic days</b> .
<b>Sahitya Akademi's Premchand Fellowship</b>	Bhutanese author Tshering Tashi	For his works in the <b>field of creative non-fiction</b> .
<b>"Bank of the Year (India)" by Financial Times owned The Banker</b>	Federal Bank	This recognition is a testament to the <b>Bank's unwavering commitment to innovation, customer-centric services</b> , and its outstanding contributions to the <b>banking industry</b> over the past year.
<b>The International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US State Department</b>	Nikhil Dey	For his dedicated efforts against <b>corruption in government welfare programs in India</b>
<b>"Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" (Merito della Repubblica Italiana)</b>	Kabir Bedi	For made outstanding contributions to <b>society, embodying the nation's values of merit and excellence</b> .
<b>International Gender Equality Prize 2023</b>	Afghanistan NGO	To promote and protect the <b>rights of women in Afghanistan</b>
<b>The Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023 Diwali</b>	Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon	Ban commended the work and " <b>forward-thinking vision</b> " of the

<b>Stamp by the Diwali Foundation USA</b>		Diwali Foundation USA <b>"for advancing vital light in a world of increasing darkness".</b>
<b>Karmaveer Chakra Medal and Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by ICONGO in collaboration with the United Nations</b>	Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar	For his exceptional contributions to <b>Research &amp; Development in Physical &amp; Bio-Science and Microbiological Studies.</b>
<b>The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023</b>	Jointly awarded to <b>Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad</b>	For their efforts in bringing together the <b>youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World</b> for a <b>non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.</b>
<b>Climate Assessment for Financial Institutions (CAFI) Awards</b>  <b>Top performer of the 2023</b>	Federal Bank	For <b>climate reporting through the CAFI tool.</b>
<b>Miss India USA 2023</b>	Rijul Maini	
<b>Mrs India USA</b>	Sneha Nambiar	
<b>Miss Teen India USA</b>	Saloni Rammohan	
<b>The Best Film award under International Competition in Innovation Moving Images at the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)</b>	Israeli film 'Children of Nobody'	
<b>An honorary</b>	Dr. Nitin Mohan Lal	In recognition of <b>Dr. Lal's exceptional</b>

<b>doctorate by a leading International University.</b>		<b>contributions</b> to the field of <b>healing, mentorship, and transformative personal development.</b>
<b>Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal</b>	Poonam Khetrapal Singh	For help <b>Bhutan excel in COVID-19 vaccination</b>
<b>Leif Erikson Lunar Prize.</b>	Chandrayaan 3, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)	It is for the first soft landing of a <b>spacecraft near the Lunar South Pole</b> and <b>ISRO's indomitable spirit</b> in advancing <b>lunar exploration.</b>
<b>'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles</b> <b>'World's Most Beautiful Airports'</b>	The Terminal-2 (T2) of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)	Recognised as one of the <b>'World's Most Beautiful Airports'</b>
<b>The SASTRA-Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023</b>	Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang	For <b>outstanding contributions in the field of mathematics</b>
<b>An honorary doctorate by Japan's Koyasan University</b>	Devendra Fadnavis	To recognise his efforts in <b>creating basic civic infrastructure</b> , implementing schemes such as the <b>Jalyukta Shivar Yojana</b> , and his contribution to the <b>industrial development</b> of the state.

### Awards 2023: Complete winners list

#### Indian-American medical student Rijul Maini crowned Miss India USA 2023

- Rijul Maini, a medical student from Michigan, has been crowned **Miss India USA 2023** at the annual pageant held in New Jersey.

- While Sneha Nambiar from Massachusetts was declared as Mrs India USA and Saloni Rammohan from Pennsylvania won the title of Miss Teen India USA.
- Maini, a 24-year-old Indian-American, is a medical student and model. She aspires to be a surgeon and hopes to serve as a role model to women everywhere.
- Greeshma Bhat of Virginia was declared first runner-up and Ishita Pai Raikar of North Carolina was the second runner-up.
- 57 contestants from over 25 states participated in three different pageants - Miss India USA, Mrs India USA, and Miss Teen India USA.
- This year marks the 41th anniversary of the pageant which is the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India.

#### INS Shivaji received 'Vir Chakra' of late Vice Adm. Benoy Chowdhury

- INS Shivaji, Indian Navy's premier marine engineering training institute, has received the Vir Chakra medal awarded to Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury, the only technical officer of the Indian Navy to be awarded the honour.
- Vice Admiral Dinesh Prabhakar, Distinguished Chair Marine Engineering at INS Shivaji, received the Vir Chakra on behalf of the Indian Navy from Pradipta Bose and Gargi Bose, the family members of Vice Admiral Chowdhury
- The Vir Chakra is an Indian wartime military bravery award presented for acts of gallantry on the battlefield, on land or in air or at sea.
- Vice Admiral Chowdhury is the only technical officer of the Indian Navy, who has been decorated with this prestigious award.
- Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury's gallantry is firmly rooted during the 1971 Indo-Pak War wherein, he was the Engineer Officer onboard erstwhile INS Vikrant.

#### Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2023 announced

- Sahitya Akademi has announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 in 24 Languages.
- Sanjeev will get Sahitya Akademi Award for his Hindi novel Mujhe Pahachaano.
- Neelam Saran Gour will get the award for her English Novel Requiem in Raga Janki.
- Nine books of poetry, six novels, five short story collections, three essays and one literary study have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards this year.
- The awards recommended by distinguished jury members in 24 languages were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met under the Chairmanship of Madhav Kaushik, President of the Akademi.
- The awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of award, that is between January 2017 and December 31, 2021

- The award, in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and ₹1,00,000, will be presented at the award presentation function on March 12, 2024.
- The Sahitya Akademi, founded on March 12, 1954 is an autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry and is dedicated to the promotion of literature in Indian languages.

<b>Languages</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author Name</b>
Assamese	Dr. Pranavjyoti Deka Shrestha Galpa (Short Stories)	Pranavjyoti Deka
Bengali	Jabar Pari (Novel)	Swapnamoy Chakraborti
Bodo	Si-Ufari Sarni (Short Stories)	Vinod Sona Minj
Dogri	Daun Sadiyan Ek Seer (Poetry-Ghazal)	Vijay Verma
English	Requiem in Raga Janki (Novel)	Neelum Saran Gour
Gujarati	Sairandhree (Epic Novel)	Sandeep Joshi
Hindi	Mujhe Pahachano (Novel)	Sanjeev
Kannada	Mahabharata Anushandhana Bharata (Poetry)	Lakshmesh Tolpadi
Kashmiri	Yath Wavah Halis Toong Tsolay Zaley (Essay)	Manshoor Banhali
Konkani	Varsal (Short Stories)	Mahabaleshwar Sail
Maithili	Bodha Sanketan (Essays)	Basukinath Jha
Malayalam	Malayala Novelinete Deshakalungal (Literary Study)	E.V. Ramakrishnan
Manipuri	Yangkhoibagi Nanglo Helli (Poetry)	Sorokhaibam Gambhini
Marathi	Ringan (Novel)	Kusumkhatri Rana
Nepali	Nepali Lokshitya Ra Loksanskritiko Pariyocha (Essay)	Juddhar Rana
Odia	Aprastuta Prutyu (Poetry)	Ashutosh Parida
Punjabi	Mann Di Chip (Poetry)	Swarnjit Savi
Rajasthani	Manak Mati (Poetry)	Gaje Singh Rajpurohit
Sanskrit	Shunye Meghghanam (Poetry)	Arun Ranjan Mishra
Santali	Jaba Baha (Short Stories)	Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey)
Sindhi	Hathu Hikro Pahinjaro (Ghazal)	Vinod Asudani
Tamil	Neeraviyal (Poetry-Short-Stories)	Rajasekaran (Devibharathi)
Telugu	Rameshwaram Kaakulu Marikonni Kathalu (Short Stories)	T. Pattabhi Satyam
Urdu	Rajdev Ki Amrai (Novel)	Sadiqua Nawab Saher

### Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
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<p><b>'Maha Lakshmi scheme'</b> (Telangana)</p>	<p>It provides free travel for <b>women, girls, and transgender persons</b></p>
<p><b>"Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar" scheme</b> (Punjab)</p>	<p>The scheme is aimed to <b>deliver citizen-centric services at people's doorstep.</b></p>

## Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
<p><b>The 40th coast guard commander conference</b></p>	<p>New Delhi</p>	<p><b>Defense Minister Rajnath Singh</b> inaugurated the <b>40th coast guard commander conference</b>. He has urged the <b>Indian Coast Guard</b> to keep working hard to strengthen the <b>country's coastal defenses and maritime abilities</b>.</p>
<p><b>The first edition of high level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR</b></p>	<p>Virtual interaction</p>	<p>On <b>November 29, 2023</b>, the <b>Indian Navy</b> reached an important achievement by hosting the first <b>MAHASAGAR, Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region</b>, a virtual meeting to enhance <b>safety and development in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)</b>.</p>
<p><b>The United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting</b></p>	<p>Accra Ghana</p>	<p>The <b>UN Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting</b> plans to talk about the problems <b>UN peacekeepers</b> are dealing with.</p>
<p><b>The INTERPOL General Assembly started its 91st meeting</b></p>	<p>Vienna</p>	<p>They aim to address <b>the increasing transnational crime happening worldwide</b>.</p>
<p><b>The third edition of the India Internet Governance</b></p>	<p>New Delhi</p>	<p>Theme 2023- '<b>Moving Forward–Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda</b>' <b>Calibrating Bharat's</b></p>

Forum (IIGF)		Digital Agenda'
<b>A two-day National Conference on "Energy Transition in India - Road Travelled and Opportunities Ahead"</b>	Gandhinagar	The main objective of this conference is <b>to move forward</b> with an <b>ambitious vision</b> of promoting <b>clean energy and facilitating the energy transition</b> .
<b>The 37th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</b>	Sri Lanka	The conference will enable ministers of <b>agriculture and high officials</b> from <b>46 member</b> countries across the <b>Asia Pacific region</b> to discuss challenges and priorities related to food and <b>agriculture, promoting regional coherence</b> .
<b>The 27th edition of World Investment Conference</b>	New Delhi	<b>Invest India</b> will host the <b>27th edition of World Investment Conference</b> in New Delhi.  Theme- " <b>Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth.</b> "
<b>The 15th edition of the 'Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting' (CBSOM-2023)</b>	GIFT City in Gandhinagar	The meeting was held as per the <b>Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia</b> .

## Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
<b>Ujjivan Small Finance Bank</b> has partnered with <b>Water.org</b>	It helps people get access to <b>safe water and sanitation</b> through affordable <b>financing</b> , such as small loans.
<b>Kaspersky and IIT Delhi</b> partnered	To jointly work on <b>cybersecurity-related research and educational initiatives</b> at the institute.
<b>The Defense Ministry</b> has collaborated with the prestigious <b>Indian School of Business (ISB)</b>	The initiative focuses on providing <b>scholarships to military personnel transitioning to civilian life after retirement</b> .
<b>EKI Energy Services, a carbon credits developer and supplier, and</b>	To jointly promote <b>Surya Nutan, IndianOil's innovative indoor solar</b>

<b>Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (Indian Oil) have agreed</b>	<b>cooking system.</b>
<b>Union Bank of India has collaborated with Accenture</b>	To design and develop a <b>scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform to boost its operational efficiency.</b>
<b>U GRO Capital joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati</b>	To supporting and promoting <b>micro-enterprises) to empower India's micro-enterprises</b> with knowledge about <b>government schemes, and digital credit.</b>
<b>Intellect Design Arena Ltd has signed a ₹80 crore, five-year deal with Indian Bank</b>	To deploy <b>Intellect's eMACH.ai powered Cash Management System.</b>
<b>State-owned RITES Ltd has signed a pact with CFM Mozambique</b>	For the supply of <b>diesel locomotives and incidental services at a total cost of USD 37,680,080 (Rs 314.1 crore).</b>
<b>NHAI has signed an agreement with M/s DC Multi-Modal Park (Nagpur) Limited, an SPV of M/S DeltaBulk Shipping India Pvt Ltd</b>	To develop a <b>multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) in Nagpur</b> at a cost of <b>Rs 673 crore.</b>
<b>Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and DBS Bank India have collaborated</b>	To establish a financing <b>programme customized</b> to the requirements of the <b>compressed biogas project</b> initiated by <b>RIL.</b>
<b>ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (ICICI PruLife) and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) have entered into a bancassurance partnership</b>	For the <b>distribution of life insurance products.</b>
<b>Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with IIT Kanpur</b>	To launch of <b>Kotak School of Sustainability</b>
<b>Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance and IDFC First Bank have entered into a bancassurance partnership</b>	To offer <b>insurance solutions to the bank's customers</b>
<b>Private sector Karur Vysya Bank and HDFC Life have entered into a corporate agency agreement</b>	To offer <b>life insurance products to their respective customers</b>
<b>Navratna DPSU Bharat Electronics</b>	For a value of <b>Rs 445 Cr</b> for next generation <b>UP Dial 112 project.</b>

<b>Limited (BEL) has signed a contract with the UP Government</b>	
<b>India and Russia have signed some "very important" agreements</b>	Related to the construction of the <b>future power-generating units of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant.</b>
<b>India and Italy signed Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement</b>	To strengthen ties between both <b>cultures</b> and promote <b>mobility</b> among students, <b>skilled workers, business professionals, and young talent.</b>
<b>India and Russia have signed a Protocol on Consultations for the period of next four years (2024-28)</b>	To make progress in <b>economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity, military-technical cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.</b>
<b>The Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati has collaborated with the Government of Assam's flagship Arohan scheme</b>	To motivate <b>meritorious students</b> to pursue <b>STEM subjects</b> in their <b>higher education.</b>

## Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
<b>2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR)</b>	The International Institute for Management Development (IMD)	49th	US
<b>Safest city in India</b>	National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)		Kolkata
<b>Climate Change Performance Index 2023 (CCPI)</b>	Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute, and the Climate Action Network,	7th	--
<b>The first delta rankings of the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)</b>	NITI Aayog		Tiriyani Block of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana

<b>The top global large-scale solar developers</b>	The rankings by Mercom Capital	2 <sup>nd</sup> Adani Green Energy Ltd.	France-based Total Energies
<b>Quality of Living City Index 2023</b>	Mercer	Hyderabad- <b>153rd</b> Pune- <b>154th</b> Bengaluru- <b>156th</b>	Vienna (Austria),
<b>The world's largest source of opium in 2023</b>	UNODC's report		Myanmar
<b>Hurun India's list of 'Top 100 under 30</b>	Hurun India		<b>Kaivalya Vohra (21) and Aadit Palicha (22),</b> founders of the Quick Commerce app Zepto
<b>'Top 50 Asian Celebrities in the World'</b>	UK		Bollywood superstar <b>Shah Rukh Khan</b>
<b>Biggest wealth creator during the five-year period from 2018 to 2023</b>	Motilal Oswal Financial Services		Reliance Industries Ltd
<b>Food adulteration cases</b>	National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).		Hyderabad

## Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
<b>Test prep firm Allen Career Institute has acquired AI-led doubt solving platform Doubtnut.</b>	This strategic move reflects <b>Allen's commitment to building technology</b> led learning solution focused on <b>improving students' learning outcome.</b>
<b>The Indian government is planning to enter into exploration and development agreements with the Argentina government</b>	For <b>five lithium blocks</b> that have been identified by <b>Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL)</b> in <b>Catamarca province.</b>
<b>Reserve Bank of India has given its</b>	The scheme remains subject to other

<b>nod for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking subsidiary IDFC First Bank</b>	<b>statutory and regulatory approvals, including from the National Company Law Tribunal and the respective shareholders and creditors of the companies involved under the applicable laws.</b>
<b>Reliance Jio joins hands with IIT Bombay</b>	To launch ' <b>Bharat GPT</b> ', a large language model specifically tailor for <b>India's needs</b> .
<b>ICICI Pru Mutual Fund to acquire 9.95% stake in Federal, RBL Bank</b>	The approval granted by the <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b> is subject to compliance with the <b>relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949</b> , RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or <b>Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023.</b>

## Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
<b>India</b>	\$250 million Line of Credit	<b>Kenya</b>	For <b>modernization of agriculture</b> in Kenya.
<b>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	USD 175	<b>The central government of India</b>	To improve the <b>connectivity and resilience of roads in Madhya Pradesh.</b>
<b>The Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	\$200 million loan	<b>The central government of India</b>	To improve the <b>quality, efficiency, and reliability of power supply</b> in the State of <b>Uttarakhand</b>
<b>German Development Bank KfW</b>	<b>70-million-euro</b> (about Rs 630 crore) Line of Credit (LoC)	<b>State Bank of India (SBI)</b>	For promoting <b>solar projects in the country.</b>
<b>The Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	\$250 million policy-based loan	<b>The Government of India</b>	To <b>industrial corridor</b> development to make manufacturing more <b>competitive, strengthen national supply chains</b> and links with <b>regional and global value chains</b> , and create more and better jobs.
<b>The Asian</b>	37 billion	<b>The</b>	For the construction of the <b>82-kilometer</b>

<b>Development Bank (ADB)</b>	Japanese Yen (\$250 million)	<b>Government of India</b>	<b>Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor</b>
<b>World Bank</b>	\$300 million	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	For better access to <b>water and sewerage services in cities.</b>
<b>Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</b>	₹932 Crore	<b>India</b>	To support <b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b> initiatives in <b>India</b>

## Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
<b>Amplifi 2.0 portal</b>	The Union Ministry of Urban and Housing affairs	The <b>Amplifi portal</b> , which stands for <b>Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive, and Future-Ready Urban India</b> , wants to share <b>information about Indian cities.</b>
<b>The SATHEE (Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Examination) portal</b>	The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur	To provide quality education to every student who intend to participate in competitive Education such as <b>JEE, NEET, and various State level Engineering and other Examinations.</b>
<b>The introduction of the ERS (Emergency Response Support System) mobile application</b>	The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)	This technological advancement aims to <b>revolutionize emergency management on national highways across the country.</b>
<b>'Paat-Mitro' app</b>	The Jute Corporation of India	Aiding <b>jute cultivation</b> and <b>income generation</b>

## Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
<b>Signed a MoU (Memorandum of understanding) to provide job-oriented skill development</b>	<b>NLC India Limited</b> , with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation ( <b>TNSDC</b> ) and

<b>training to 540 young individuals from families affected by NLC India Limited's projects in Neyveli</b>	<b>Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF)</b>
<b>Signed an MoU for a powerful resolution to the devastating water crises</b>	<b>The Art of Living with the Govt of Maharashtra</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to install over 500 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country.</b>	<b>Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd (TPEVCSL) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)</b>
<b>Signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&amp;D.</b>	<b>Indian Navy with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur</b>
<b>Signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance the outreach of the products of self-help groups (SHGs) of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)</b>	<b>The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) with Reliance Retail's JioMart</b>
<b>Signed an MoU/Agreement to strengthen the cooperation in the field of broadcasting, exchange of news, and audio-visual programmes as well as significantly augment India's friendly relations with Malaysia.</b>	<b>India and Malaysia</b>
<b>Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on decarbonizing Flipkart's supply chain.</b>	<b>Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) and Flipkart</b>

## Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

### India's economy to grow at 6.8% in FY24, accelerate to 7% in FY25: CII

- Industry chamber CII expects the country's economy to grow at 6.8 percent in the current fiscal and accelerate to 7 percent in 2024-25, driven by the government's continued focus on infrastructure development and promotion of ease of doing business.
- The expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.8 percent will be more than the 6.5-6.7 percent estimated earlier by the industry body.
- India's economy recorded a growth of 7.7 percent in the first half of the current fiscal ended in September.

### ADB raises India FY24 growth forecast to 6.7%



- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised India's growth forecast from 6.3 % to 6.7% for the Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24).
- ADB's growth forecast for FY25 is unchanged at 6.7 percent.
- Fixed investments – driven by increased capital spending by the central and state governments – will compensate for lower growth in private consumption expenditure and weaker-than-expected exports in FY24.
- ADB kept its earlier forecasts on Indian inflation unchanged 5.5 percent in FY24.

#### **ICRA revises India's FY24 GDP growth projection to 6.5% from 6.2%**

- ICRA has revised its forecast for India's FY2024 GDP growth to 6.5 percent from 6.2 percent.
- Despite the upward revision, ICRA's GDP growth projection remains lower than the monetary policy committee's revised forecast of 7 percent for FY24.

#### **Indian economy to grow 6.3% in FY24 and FY25: IMF**

- India's economy is projected to grow at 6.3 percent in the current fiscal year and the next, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The country's digital public infrastructure and a strong government infrastructure program will continue to sustain growth.
- India has potential for even higher growth, with greater contributions from labour and human capital, if comprehensive reforms are implemented," the IMF said.
- The IMF's growth projection for the current financial year, ending March 31, 2024, is lower than the 7 percent forecast by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

#### **Fitch expects India to be among fastest-growing nations in 2024-25**

- Fitch Ratings expects India to be among the world's fastest-growing countries, with resilient GDP growth of 6.5% in 2024-25. For the current financial year 2023-24, it pegs GDP growth at 6.9%.
- Demand will remain strong for cement, electricity and petroleum products, with high-frequency data in 2023 sustained at well above pre-Covid-19 pandemic levels.
- In December 2023, Goldman Sachs Research projected India's growth rate to be the highest among 13 large economies in 2024, at 6.2%. China is projected to be second at 4.8%.
- S&P also projected India's GDP to grow 6-7.1% annually in fiscal years 2024-2026.
- The Reserve Bank of India, while maintaining status quo in key policy rates, recently raised India's GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2023-24 by 50 basis points to 7%. In its October meeting, RBI had forecast 2023-24 growth at 6.5%.

## **Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)**

### Jal Itihas Utsav is organized by the ministry of JAL Shakti in Delhi.

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti will host 'Jal Itihas Utsav'** on December 1st at Shamsi Talab, **Jahaz Mahal in Mehrauli, Delhi.**
- The main aim is to make people more aware of protecting water heritage sites, instill a sense of ownership and encourage tourism and restoration of these historical structures.
- The Jal Shakti Ministry said that Lt. Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena and Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are expected to be present at the event.

### Bengaluru To Get India's Largest Circular Railway, Spanning 287 Kilometers.

- **A new circular railway expanding 287 kilometers around Bengaluru and connecting major nearby towns**, is set to become India's largest network, as mentioned by **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.**
- The goal of this project is to reduce traffic congestion and enhance connectivity in the region.
- The government has allocated Rs 7 crore for alignment study of this circular railway, aiming to improve local train services alleviating congestion on existing rail networks, and complement the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project and Namma Metro initiatives.

### The 5th Global Ayurveda Festival is going to be held in Thiruvananthapuram.

- **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate the 5th Global Ayurveda Festival in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.** This event, taking place from December 1 to 5 ,2023, focuses on the theme '**Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda**'.
- GAF 2023, the biggest Ayurveda meeting ever, will bring together practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders from around the world to discuss the influence of Ayurveda in healthcare.

### Cyclone Michaung is going to landfall on coastal Andhra.

- **Cyclone 'Michaung'** is expected to strike the eastern coast of the country. The IMD has given an update on the current situation of the cyclone. **The name Michaung is given by Myanmar.**
- According to MD Sunanda from the Visakhapatnam Cyclone Warning Centre, It is expected to get stronger, turning into a deep depression and eventually a cyclonic storm within the next 48 hours.
- The Cyclone Warning Centre also forecasts increased winds and rainfall along the North Tamil Nadu coast and South Andhra coast starting from December 3.

### Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated Sahitya Akademi Book Fair

- Union Minister of State for Culture, **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has inaugurated the **Sahitya Akademi Book Fair in New Delhi**.
- The Sahitya Akademi Book Fair will continue till 9th of this month and feature a host of cultural programs and rendezvous with prominent writers.
- The Minister said that books played an important role in nation-building and the constitution makers were all voracious readers. He added that the decision to put equality before liberty as a fundamental right in the constitution was due to a greater understanding of the society achieved from reading various constitutions and important books.

#### **Bihar government launched "Mission Daksh" to minimize school dropout**

- **Bihar government** has launched its **ambitious scheme to minimize school dropout**.
- The scheme, called **Mission Daksh (Dynamic Approach for Knowledge and Skill)** aims at offering special Hindi, Mathematics, and English classes to weak students of classes 3-8 across the state.
- A teacher will teach only five students, who cannot read and write Hindi and English fluently and are not good at basic Mathematics.
- Daksh classes were run successfully between 3.30 pm and 4.15 pm in over 60,000-plus schools across the state. An estimated five lakh teachers taught over 25 lakh students.

#### **World's first portable hospital 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' unveiled in Gurugram**

- The **World's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube'** was unveiled in Gurugram.
- Designed indigenously under the Project 'BHISHM', the modular trauma management and aid system is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes, each being a specialized station for emergency response and humanitarian efforts.
- It can handle bullet injuries, burns, head, spinal and chest injuries, minor surgeries, fractures and major bleeding.

#### **PM Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has unveiled the **statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district**.
- Mr. Modi paid homage to the rich maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who constructed several coastal and sea forts, including the Sindhudurg Fort.

#### **UP Municipality passed proposal to rename Firozabad as Chandra Nagar**

- **Firozabad Municipal Corporation in Uttar Pradesh** has approved the proposal to rename **Firozabad as Chandra Nagar**.
- Firozabad is famous for the construction of bangles. It is located 40 kilometres from Agra and 250 km from the capital city on the east side. Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow is about 250 km east from here. Two towns come under Tundla and Shikohabad under the Firozabad district.

#### **Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched "Gram Manchitra"**

- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** has launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "**Gram Manchitra**" (<https://grammanchitra.gov.in>).
- This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology.
- It provides a single/ unified Geo Spatial platform to better visualize the various developmental works to be taken up across the different sectors and provide a decision support system for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

#### **Garba of Gujarat makes it to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list**

- **Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba'** has been included in the list of **Intangible Cultural Heritage** by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list. Kolkata's Durga Puja was the last one added two years ago.
- The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed 'Garba of Gujarat' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 18th session, taking place in Kasane, Botswana.

#### **59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi**

- **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** addresses the inaugural session of the **59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi**.
- India is the first nation to introduce Nano fertilizers such as Nano DAP and Nano Urea through the Indian Research ecosystem.
- The government has set up two lakh Model Retail outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras.

#### **Wax statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar installed in Jaipur Wax Museum**

- A wax statue of Constitution architect **Baba Saheb Ambedkar** was installed in **Jaipur Wax Museum, Nahargarh Fort** on the occasion of Mahaparinirvan Day.
- The wax statue has been placed in the set of Rashtrapati Bhavan along with the statue of India's second great personality, 'missile man' and Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The height of the statue is **5 feet 11 inches**, while the weight is about **38 kg**.

#### **PM Modi approves India's first project to tackle urban floods**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has sanctioned an **ambitious urban flood mitigation project for Chennai**, with a **budget allocation of Rs. 561.29 crore** under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).
- This announcement arrives as Chennai grapples with the devastating aftermath of Cyclone Michaung. Torrential rains have left the city submerged in water, highlighting the critical need for improved flood prevention measures.

#### **PM Modi addressed financial technology event "Infinity Forum 2.0"**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has addressed the **2nd Edition of the flagship Financial Technology event - Infinity Forum 2.0**.

- The event is hosted by the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, GIFT City**, under the aegis of the Union Government.
- Organized as a pre-cursor event to **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024**, the 2nd edition of the **Infinity Forum 2.0**, was held in hybrid mode, with an invite-only in-person event scheduled in GIFT City and for virtual participation from participants across the globe.

#### **New branch of CAT, Mumbai Bench inaugurated by CJI Chandrachud**

- The new office premises of **Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Bench** at Nishtha Bhawan, New Marine Lines, near Churchgate Station, Mumbai-400020; has been **inaugurated by Chief Justice of India Dr DY Chandrachud**.
- He commended the Central Government's support in establishing judicial infrastructure.

#### **UNICEF in collaboration with India to launch "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 Summit in Dubai**

- **UNICEF's Generation Unlimited**, in collaboration with **India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** will unveil the **"Green Rising" initiative at COP28 in Dubai**.
- The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited, and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners.
- The main goal is to mobilize millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities.

#### **Loans worth Rs 9,790 crore disbursed under PM SVANidhi scheme: Govt**

- **A total of Rs 9,790 crore worth of loans** have been disbursed so far to beneficiaries of the **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, according to government data**.
- The scheme was launched during the COVID-19 outbreak as a micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors that aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans up to Rs 50,000. This scheme is available pan-India in all urban local bodies.
- All street vendors in urban areas are eligible for benefits under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, irrespective of the date on which they started vending.
- Loans disbursed to PM SVANidhi beneficiaries stood at Rs 2,039 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal, Rs 1,248 crore in 2021-22, Rs 1,866 crore in 2022-23, and Rs 4,637 crore up to December 5 of the current 2023-24 fiscal, taking the total to Rs 9,790 crore.

#### **PM launched 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' Workshop**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has launched the **'Viksit Bharat@2047 - Voice of Youth'** and also addressed the Vice Chancellors and Heads of other Higher Education Institutes including students across the nation virtually.

- Governor of Assam Gulab Chand Kataria hosted the programme at IIT Guwahati where around 1000 students, Vice Chancellors and the Heads of Institutions from about 61 Higher Educational Institutions of Assam attended physically. About 45 Higher Educational Institutions and about 600 colleges also participated in the virtual mode.

#### **Rays Power Infra to build 500 MW solar park in Uttarakhand**

- **Rays Power Infra** has inked an **initial pact with the Uttarakhand government** to build a 500 MW solar park in the state.
- The collaboration underscores the company's dedication to advancing sustainable energy initiatives and aligning with the Uttarakhand government's vision for an environmentally responsible future.

#### **Udaiti Foundation launched "Close the Gender Gap" initiative**

- **The Udaiti Foundation** launches "**Close the Gender Gap (CGG)**" Initiative to Lead a Shift in Gender Equality and Promote Inclusive Workplace Policies.
- Objective - To drive transformative changes in gender representation and policies within the formal sector.
- The CGG platform marks a historic milestone by compiling longitudinal company-wise data from 2000 companies based on market capitalization, offering an unparalleled perspective on gender representation and policies.
- The platform sheds light on gender dynamics within private sector organizations. Larger organizations have more women, but they hit the glass ceiling. Smaller firms however have more women in leadership.

#### **Madhya Pradesh govt to set up PM College of Excellence in all districts of the state**

- **Madhya Pradesh government** will set up **PM College of Excellence in all districts of the state**.
- The decision to this effect was taken at the first Cabinet meeting chaired by new Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in Bhopal.
- In Madhya Pradesh, the government will upgrade one college in every district out of total 570 government colleges as "PM College of Excellence". More than Rs 460 crore will be spent on the development of these colleges.

#### **India's e-retail market estimated to reach over \$160 bn by 2028: Report**

- **E-retail in India** is expected to **scale beyond \$160 billion in value by 2028**.
- The market has experienced strong growth post-pandemic, with an estimated value of \$57-\$60 billion in 2023, according to the findings from the fourth (2023) edition of 'How India Shops Online', a report released by Bain & Company in collaboration with Flipkart.
- This represents an annual addition of \$8-\$12 billion since 2020. The e-retail market is poised to grow in the coming years, with online spending currently only 5-6 per cent of total retail spending in India vs 23-24 per cent in the US and over 35 per cent in China, indicating massive headroom for growth.

#### **India's plan for 50,000 e-buses on its roads gets US support**

- India is aiming to get 50,000 electric buses on its streets by 2027 with help from a joint finance mechanism with the US.
- The \$390 million fund will act as a guarantee for manufacturers seeking loans to expand production. India currently only has 12,000 e-buses in operation.
- The payment security mechanism, established with \$150 million from the US government and philanthropic groups, and \$240 million from the Indian government, is the bedrock of risk management for building out the financial system for electric mobility at scale in India.

#### Surat joins the list of international airports

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- Surat Airport will not only become a gateway for international travellers but will also facilitate seamless export-import operations for the thriving diamond and textile industries.
- The airport's international status is paramount for enhancing economic growth, attracting foreign investment, and providing impetus for regional development.

#### Central Tribal University to be set up in Telangana

- The Parliament passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 bill to establish a central tribal university in Telangana.
- The university will be built at a cost of ₹900 crore. The university is expected to be set up in Mulugu and is named after tribal goddesses Sammakka and Sarakka.
- As per the state and objects of the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University aims to fulfil regional aspirations by enhancing access and quality of higher education in Telangana.

#### 58 Airports covered under "Krishi Udan" Scheme: Govt

- The Government has said that 58 Airports in the country have been covered under the Krishi Udan Scheme.
- The Scheme was launched in 2020 on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products to help improve their value realization.
- Minister of State for Civil Aviation Dr V K Singh said this in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

#### PM Modi inaugurated Surat Diamond Exchange

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Surat diamond exchange, a complex that has overtaken Pentagon as the world's largest office.
- It covers a constructed area of 6.7 million square feet and was completed in July at a cost of ₹ 32 billion. The US landmark, which opened in 1943, has an area of 6.5 million square feet.
- The bourse comprises a state-of-the-art 'Customs Clearance House' for Import-Export; a jewellery mall for retail jewellery businesses; and a facility for international banking and safe vaults.

- While Mumbai has long been the center of exports for diamonds in India, Surat, also known as “Diamond City,” dominates in processing of the precious gems, with about 90% of the world's rough diamonds cut and polished there before they are sold to buyers in places like the US and China.

### 67th National School Games started at New Delhi

- **Delhi Education Minister Atishi** has inaugurated the **67th National School Games at Chhatrasal Stadium in New Delhi**.
- At the inauguration of the National School Games, Atishi stressed the need for integrating sports with education for nation-building.
- Students from 44 units, including states, union territories and other boards, are participating to showcase their sporting skills and talent.

### PM Modi inaugurates Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2.0 in Varanasi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **second edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam at Namoo Ghat in Varanasi**. He also flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express between Varanasi and Kanyakumari.
- The second edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) will be held between December 17 to 30, 2023 and is part of the government's 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Yuva Sangam programme.'
- The overarching objective of this people-to-people connect programme is to revive the living bonds between Kashi and Tamil Nadu – two important centres of learning and culture in ancient India.

### Piyush Goyal released Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, **Piyush Goyal** has released the “**Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023**” report in New Delhi.
- The 5th edition of the LEADS annual exercise - LEADS 2023 report, provides insights into improvement of logistics performance at State/UT level.
- This report, signalling a positive shift in States’ performance across the key pillars – Logistics Infrastructure, Logistics Services and Operating and Regulatory Environment, empowers the State/UT Governments by providing region-specific insights for informed decision-making and comprehensive growth.
- This report is based on a pan-India primary survey, conducted between May and July 2023, covering over 7,300 responses across 36 States/UTs.

### Performance highlights from LEADS 2023

#### Coastal Group

- Achievers- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
- Fast Movers- Kerala, Maharashtra
- Aspirers- Goa, Odisha, West Bengal

#### Landlocked Group

- Achievers- Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh
- Fast Movers- Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand



- Aspirers- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand

#### North-East Group

- Achievers- Assam, Sikkim, Tripura
- Fast Movers- Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland
- Aspirers- Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram

#### Union Territories

- Achievers- Chandigarh, Delhi
- Fast Movers- Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Puducherry
- Aspirers- Daman & Diu/ Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh
- The latest edition builds strengthening objectivity and precision in assessment by considering a wider spectrum of state initiatives, including the adoption of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for project planning, aligning State Logistics Policies with National Logistics Policy, besides developing City Logistics plans, etc.

- **Tamil Nadu**

#### PM Modi inaugurates second Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Express

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the second Vande Bharat Express on the Delhi-Varanasi route.
- The train will depart from Varanasi at 6 am, reaching New Delhi at 2:05 pm every Wednesday to Monday. For its return journey to Varanasi, it will start from New Delhi at 3 pm and reach its destination at 11:05 pm on all days except Tuesday.
- Enhancing passenger comfort with innovative features the Vande Bharat Express offers superior passenger amenities, including onboard Wi-Fi infotainment, a GPS-based passenger information system, plush interiors, bio-vacuum toilets with touch-free conveniences, diffused LED lighting, charging points beneath every seat, individual touch-based reading lights, and concealed roller blinds.

#### VP Dhankhar inaugurated Atal Health Fair in Lucknow

- **Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar** has inaugurated the two-day-long Atal Health Fair in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the PNT Ground in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Lucknow and the country for a long time.
- Dhankhar advised youth to prioritize health for performance and success, emphasizing a nation-first approach.
- The fair is hosting medical camps, conducted by 48 govt and private hospitals.

#### IndiGo becomes first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a year

- **Indian airline IndiGo** had made history by “becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year.”
- With this achievement, it has joined a select club of global carriers to operate on such scale. This development further cements IndiGo’s standing among the 10 largest airlines in the world by passenger traffic.

- In the past half-year, IndiGo has expanded its global presence by incorporating over 20 additional international routes into its network. Simultaneously, the airline has worked to enhance its domestic connectivity.

#### **Accenture opened genAI studio in Bengaluru**

- Multinational professional services company **Accenture** has launched a **generative AI studio in India's tech capital Bengaluru.**
- The studio will develop a full stack of genAI capabilities for enterprises to leverage to optimize their business processes.
- Accenture's data and AI team and clients will co-create solutions with a modern data and AI foundation, LLM (large language model) architecture, ecosystems partnerships, talent, and responsible AI frameworks.

#### **Kuno Forest Festival celebrated in Madhya Pradesh**

- A five-day **Kuno Van Mahotsav** was celebrated in **Ranipura village on the outskirts of Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh.**
- The event aims to highlight the diverse flora and fauna, and the jungle of Kuno, while also advocating for cheetah conservation. It included local art, craft, folk music, dance forms, and adventure sports.
- The main attraction of the forest festival was adventure games, jungle safari, hot air ballooning, parasailing, paragliding, cave excursion, folk music, village tour, etc.

#### **Govt to boost nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW by 2032**

- The **Government** has initiated steps to **increase the nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW by 2031-32.**
- The annual electricity generation from nuclear power plants has increased from 35334 Million Units (including infirm) in 2013-14 to 46982 Million Units (including infirm) in 2022-23.
- The installed nuclear power capacity in 2013-14 has also increased from 4780 MW to 7480 MW at present.
- At present 23 nuclear power reactors are installed. The total electricity generated from nuclear power plants during the last ten years (2013-14 to 2022-23) was about 411 BUs averting release of about 353 Million Tons of CO2 equivalent to the environment.

#### **Dalai Lama inaugurates first International Sangha Forum in Bodh Gaya**

- **Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama** has inaugurated the **three-day International Sangha Forum 2023 in Bodh Gaya, Bihar,** Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.
- Organized jointly by the Office of the Dalai Lama and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), the forum will be held at the International Convention Centre in Bodha Gaya, Bihar.
- The event will see discussions among monks, nuns, and Bhikkhu scholars, that delve into the profound teachings of Buddhism.

#### **Manipur Initiates "SAANS" Campaign to Counteract Pneumonia**

- In Manipur, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister **Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh** has launched **the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) Campaign 2023-24** at Imphal.
- The Minister also inaugurated the State Newborn Resource Centre at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) in Imphal.

### **French President Invited to India's Republic Day 2024**

- India has invited **France President Emmanuel Macron** as chief guest for the **January 26 Republic Day** celebrations.
- Notably, this is the 6th time a French leader will be the Chief guest at Republic Day celebrations in the national capital.
- Prior to Macron, former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was the Chief guest on India's Republic Day celebrations in 1976 and 1998, and former Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Francois Hollande in the years 1980, 2008, and 2016 respectively.

### **Angola to quit OPEC**

- Angola is leaving the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with effect from 1 January 2024, after exits from Ecuador in 2020 and Qatar in 2019.
- Angola, which joined OPEC in 2007, produces about 1.1 million barrels per day, compared with 28 million bpd for the whole group.
- OPEC was founded in 1960 by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Iran and Iraq. Angola joined the group in 2007.

### **NIIF Plans To Invest Up To Rs 675 Crore Bhogapuram airport**

- **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** is planning to invest up to **Rs 675 crore** on the upcoming greenfield international airport at Bhogapuram in **Andhra Pradesh, which is being developed by the GMR group.**
- This marks NIIF's second airport investment, after the GMR Goa International Airport Ltd, which operates Manohar International Airport in Goa.
- GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) -- a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd (GAIL) -- and NIIF have entered into binding agreements for the NIIF to invest up to Rs 6.75 billion (Rs 675 crore) in GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd (GVIAL).
- GVIAL -- a special purpose vehicle to develop and operate the Bhogapuram International Airport -- was in 2020 awarded the concession to develop and operate the Bhogapuram International Airport (BIA) to the north of Visakhapatnam under a 40-year design-build-finance-operate-and-transfer model.

### **Digi Yatra, facial recognition tech, implemented at 13 Indian airports**

- To save time of passengers during security check at airports, **Government** is continuously making **efforts by increasing security equipment, security manpower and using advance technologies.**

- Digi Yatra, which provides for seamless and hassle-free experience for passengers at airports through biometric-based travel using **Facial Recognition Technology** has also been **implemented at 13 airports and other airports will be covered in phased manner.**
- This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd) in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

#### **UP to build India's first AI city in Lucknow**

- **Uttar Pradesh** is set to establish the **country's first AI city in Lucknow.**
- This initiative aims to create a thriving hub for artificial intelligence, integrating cutting-edge technology, research centers, and educational institutions to foster innovation and nurture the workforce of the future.
- A report by Grand View Research pegged the global AI market size at \$137 billion in 2022 and is projected to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 37.3 percent from 2023 to 2030.
- Lucknow houses Centres of Excellence in areas like AI and MedTech (with extensive AI integration). The AI COE (centre in IIIT Lucknow) alone supports more than 15 AI/ML start-ups, nurturing a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship.

#### **UP CM inaugurated state's first intra-district chopper service**

- Marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has **inaugurated UP's first intra-district helicopter service from Bateshwar in Agra to Goverdhan in Mathura.**
- Based on the private-public partnership (PPP), the helicopter service is to be run by a private player from Utrakhand. A helicopter service will cover a distance of 65 km between Agra city and Mathura.
- CM Yogi Adityanath also unveiled a statue of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary in his native village Bateshwar in Agra district.

#### **Telangana introduced Rs 5 lakh accident insurance for Gig Workers**

- **Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy** has announced, government will **provide Rs 5 lakh for accident insurance to gig workers such as those involved in food delivery, and driving cabs and autorickshaws.**
- The government would also provide Rs 10 lakh health cover under the 'Rajiv Arogyasri' scheme.
- The state government will provide social security to workers in the unorganized sectors and will make a policy decision in this direction.

#### **Health Minister launched 'MedTech Mitra' to advance health Solution.**

- Union Health Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** has virtually launched **MedTech Mitra - a strategic initiative to empower MedTech innovators and advance healthcare solutions.**
- It will be a game-changer for Indian MedTech industry and facilitate indigenous development of affordable, quality MedTech devices and diagnostics.

### **Bihar Police to launch 'Mission Investigation@75 days'**

- **Bihar Police** will launch a new initiative, "**Mission Investigation@75 days**", making it **mandatory for investigators to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of FIR registration** starting from January 1 next year.
- The Bihar government is preparing to take several measures from January 1, 2024 to make the state police more people-friendly and accountable. Our main focus is to improve the quality of investigation.

### **TCIL pays Rs 14.20 crore dividend to the Government for FY 2022-23**

- **Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL)** has paid a dividend of **Rs 14.20 crore to the government for Financial Year 2022-23**.
- Since its inception, the TCIL has been a consistently profit-making Company. It has so far paid dividend of Rs 294.19 crore to the Government till FY 2022-23.
- The dividend is on Government's initial investment in equity of Rs 0.3 Crore. Rs16 crore was further infused during 2015-16. The group and standalone net worth of the company are Rs 1,712.00 crore and Rs 618.56 crore respectively as on 31st March 2023.
- In FY 2022-23, the TCIL achieved a revenue growth of 25 per cent over previous year with total Standalone revenue and profit after tax of Rs 2,001.7 crore and Rs 35.50 crore respectively.
- Established in August, 1978, TCIL is a Mini Ratna Category – I Status Company under the Department of Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications. Government of India holds 100 per cent of its share capital.

### **PM Narendra Modi becomes first world leader to have 20 million YouTube subscribers**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's YouTube channel** has achieved a **significant milestone by surpassing 20 million subscriptions**, making it the most subscribed channel among top global leaders.
- The second-ranking leader is former Brazilian President Jair Bolsanora, whose subscriber count stands at a modest 6.4 million, merely a fraction of Modi's.
- The third most-subscribed channel among world leaders is the Ukraine President is far behind at 1.1 million. Whereas fourth on the list, United States President Joe Biden has a subscriber count of only 794,000 on his YouTube channel.

### **KSRTC Unveils 'Namma Cargo' Logistics In Karnataka**

- The **Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** has entered into **logistics business under the brand name "Namma Cargo"** to carry parcels in KSRTC route buses.
- The deployment of 20 cargo trucks to kickstart the 'Namma Cargo' services in various districts across the state.
- The Namma Cargo trucks have GPS for goods transportation.
- Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with KMS Coach Builders Private Limited for lending its cargo trucks services on a rental basis for two months.

### Ayodhya Train Station Renamed As Ayodhya Dham

- The Ayodhya railway junction in Uttar Pradesh has been officially renamed as Ayodhya Dham junction.
- The redeveloped station is set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi on December 30 in Ayodhya, before the highly anticipated consecration ceremony at the Ram temple on January 22.
- The Ayodhya Dham Railway Station is undergoing development in three phases. The first phase has been successfully completed.
- The station, with a total cost of ₹430 crore, is designed to accommodate up to 100,000 passengers. Its architecture blends modern solutions with the aesthetics of traditional Indian temple architecture.

### Cabinet approves opening of Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to open a Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand.
- Opening of Consulate General of India in Auckland would help in increasing India's diplomatic footprint and strengthen India's diplomatic representation in view of India's increasing global engagement.
- This will also help promote India's strategic and commercial interests and better serve the welfare of the Indian community in Auckland.

### Union cabinet approves increase in copra MSP for upcoming 2024 season

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2024 season.
- The MSP for fair average quality of milling copra and ball copra has been fixed at Rs 11,160 per quintal and Rs 12,000 per quintal for the 2024 season, respectively.
- The MSP for the 2024 season had been hiked by Rs 300 per quintal for milling copra and Rs 250 per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the MSPs for copra for the 2024 season.
- The central government had announced in the Union Budget of 2018-19, that MSPs of all the mandated crops will be fixed at a level of at least 1.5 times of all India weighted cost of production.

### Kerala CM launched new board for transparent Public Sector Recruitment

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated an autonomous board established by the state government to recruit efficient and skilled candidates for Public Sector Units (PSUs) through a transparent selection process.
- The board aims to enhance the efficiency of public sector institutions in the state, he said during the inauguration of the Kerala Public Enterprises (Selection and Recruitment) Board, and its office at Vellayambalam.
- The recruitment of public sector undertakings under the Department of Industries and Commerce will be under the board's purview in the first phase.

### Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai host over 20% of India's crypto investments

- A report by **crypto trading platform Coin Switch** showed **Delhi maintained its lead in India's crypto adoption**, followed by Bangalore and Mumbai. The parameter for this was in terms of value invested.
- According to the report, more than 20 percent of India's total crypto investments are concentrated in the three major metropolitan areas: Delhi (9 percent), Bangalore (8 percent) and Mumbai (5 percent).
- Ghaziabad claimed the 10th position in the list of the top invested cities, replacing Patna.
- Around 75% of crypto investors are under 35 years old, while women make up 9% of India's crypto investor base.

### Gujarat emerged as India's 'Petro Capital'

- With the world's largest grassroot oil refinery in Jamnagar and OPaL petrochemical complex at Dahej in Bharuch district, **Gujarat is now recognized as the 'petro capital' of India.**
- Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) Jamnagar refinery is the largest and most complex single-site refinery in the world with 1.4 million barrels per day (MMBPD) crude processing capacity.
- The Jamnagar refinery complex houses some of the world's largest units, such as the fluidized catalytic cracker, coker, alkylation, paraxylene, polypropylene, refinery off-gas cracker, and petcoke gasification plants.

### RK Singh inaugurated power grid's Vishram Sadan in Bengaluru

- Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy **RK Singh** has inaugurated **POWERGRID Vishram Sadan in Bengaluru.**
- Built at a cost of about Rs 23 crore, this 2-storey Vishram Sadan has 270 beds.
- The 55 rooms of this Sadan are equipped with all necessary facilities and are capable of providing the maximum possible comfort to the attendants of the patients.
- POWERGRID as a responsible corporate citizen has built similar Vishram Sadans at AIIMS, New Delhi, IGIMS, Patna, DMCH Darbhanga, KGMU, Lucknow, Guwahati and Vsadodara for the benefit of the masses. Such Vishram Sadans are also being constructed by POWERGRID at Ranchi and Jhansi.

### President Murmu to attend Karbi Youth Festival-2024 in Assam

- **President Droupadi Murmu** will be the Chief Guest at the celebration of the **Karbi Youth Festival on 17 January 2024.**
- The festival will be held at Taralango, Diphu.
- The celebration, from January 12-19, will feature traditional art, folk dance, music, and indigenous tribal foods.
- Other dignitaries attending include Assam Governor Gulab Chand, Meghalaya Governor Phagu Chauhan, and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma.

## Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

### Nepal is the first country in South Asia to register same sex marriage.

- **Nepal has witnessed its initial same-sex marriage, as a trans-woman and a gay man** legally tied the knot in the Lamjung district.
- **Nepal has officially documented its first same-sex marriage**, and this comes five months after the Supreme Court legalized it.
- According to PTI, a 35-year-old trans-woman named Maya Gurung and a 27-year-old gay man, Surendra Pandey, got legally married in Dordi Rural Municipality in the Lamjung district of Western Nepal. This was confirmed by Sanjib Gurung, the president of Blue Diamond Society.

### ALTERRA Fund for climate investment is launched by the UAE.

- **The United Arab Emirates announced its commitment to contribute \$30 billion to a new fund focused on addressing climate issues.** This fund, called Alterra, has influential partners like BlackRock, Brookfield, and TPG joining in as initial supporters.
- **Alterra aims to attract \$250 billion in investments by 2030. Its main focus is to enhance access to funding**, particularly for developing nations in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, collectively known as the Global South.

### Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia becomes 8th wonder of the world

- **Angkor Wat temple**, located in the northern province of Siem Reap in Cambodia has become the **eighth Wonder of the World**.
- The unofficial title Eighth Wonder of the World is sometimes given to buildings, structures, projects, designs, or even people who are thought to be comparable to the seven Wonders of the World.

#### About Angkor Wat temple

- Lakhs of devotees from across the globe visit Angkor Wat temple every year. It is the largest religious monument in the world, comprising some 1,200 square metres of intricately carved bas reliefs.
- The Angkor Wat was built in the 12th century as a Hindu temple by the Khmer Emperor Suryavarman II. The temple was dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

### India re-elected to International Maritime Organization

- India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council with the highest tally and the term of council will be for the biennium 2024-25.
- India's re-election falls under the category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade", alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

### The word "Rizz" chosen as the Oxford Word of the Year 2023

- Often associated with celebrities and other famous figures, "Rizz" has been chosen by the **Oxford University Press as its word of the year 2023**.



- It's a term Gen Z has mainly embraced, and it beat out words such as "prompt," "situationship" and "Swiftie" that were considered by Oxford University Press, which publishes the Oxford English Dictionary.
- While Merriam-Webster's word of the year was "authentic," rizz was also under consideration. Collins Dictionary selected "artificial intelligence" as their word of the year in November

### World's biggest experimental nuclear fusion reactor JT-60SA inaugurated in Japan

- The world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor 'JT-60SA' started its official operations in Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture.
- JT-60SA is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan
- The experimental nuclear fusion reactor is quite a new technology. However, some say that it is the answer to humanity's future energy needs by establishing nuclear fusion as a clean energy source.
- Notably, fusion differs from fission, the technique currently used in nuclear power plants. The process includes fusing two atomic nuclei instead of splitting one.

### Nirmala Sitharaman & 3 other Indians among Forbes list of 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' of 2023

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, HCL Corporation Chairperson **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Steel Authority of India Chairperson **Soma Mondal** and Biocon Executive Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** are the four Indians among the 100 named in Forbes' annual list of 'The World's Most Powerful Women of 2023.'
- Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fifth year in a row, ranking at number 32. This is the 64-year-old BJP leader's best ranking so far — in 2022, she had ranked at 36, while she was 37 in 2021, 41 in 2020 and 34 in 2019.
- While Malhotra was ranked 60th, Mondal took the 70th spot and Mazumdar-Shaw the 76th. They had made it to the prestigious list last year also at 53rd, 67th and 72nd spots respectively.
- Politicians topped the list, occupying the first four spots, with **Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, at the number 1 position. She is followed by European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, US Vice President Kamala Harris and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.**

### Indonesia's Ibu volcano erupts, ash up to 1,200m

- The Ibu volcano on Halmahera Island in the eastern Indonesian province of North Maluku erupted.
- Local time for about 90 seconds, throwing ash up to 1,200 metre above its peak, according to the country's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG).
- Standing as high as around 1,300 metre above sea level, Ibu volcano is classified in the second danger level, below the highest level of IV.

### SBI Card joins Bharat BillPay in the credit card category

- **NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), **has successfully integrated SBI Card**, one of India's leading credit card issuers, **into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay**.
- This integration marks a significant advancement, streamlining the credit card bill payment process for millions of customers.
- Noteworthy credit card issuers already present in this category include Kotak Mahindra Bank, BoB Financial, Federal Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Canara Bank.
- SBI Card has an extensive customer base, totaling around 1.68 crores. Through the utilization of Bharat BillPay, SBI Card customers gain the advantage of seamlessly handling their credit card bill payments across various Bharat BillPay-supported payment channels.
- This includes online platforms through banks or payment apps, as well as the extensive network of physical outlets enabled by Bharat BillPay.

#### **LIC fourth largest insurer in the world based on reserves: S&P Global study**

- Insurance behemoth **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** is **the fourth largest insurer in the world**, according to a ranking based on life and accident & health reserves of companies in 2022 by S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- The state-owned insurer is ranked after Allianz SE, China Life Insurance Company, and Nippon Life Insurance Company.
- According to the report, LIC's reserves stood at \$503.7 billion. Germany's Allianz SE (\$750.20 billion), China Life Insurance Company (\$616.90 billion), and Nippon Life Insurance Company (\$536.80 billion) are the top three insurance companies in the world.
- The S&P list of the top 50 global life insurance companies was dominated by European firms, taking 21 spots. On an individual country basis, the US has the highest number of life insurers on the list, with eight companies headquartered in the region, followed by the UK with seven companies.

#### **UPI transaction limit for medical, educational services to be hiked to ₹5 lakh**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed **enhancing the limit of UPI transactions** undertaken for medical or healthcare and educational services **from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh per transaction**.
- Currently, the transaction limit for UPI is capped at ₹1 lakh, except in a few categories like capital markets (AMC, broking, mutual funds, etc.), collections (credit card payments, loan re-payments, EMI), Insurance, etc. where the transaction limit is ₹2 lakh.

#### **Russia unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines**

- **President of Russia, Vladimir Putin** has unveiled **two new nuclear-powered submarines "Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander"**.

- The Emperor Alexander III is the seventh Borei-class atomic-powered submarine to enter the service. Each of them is armed with 16 nuclear-tipped Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles.

### China launched the deepest lab on Earth

- **The world's deepest and largest underground laboratory** became operational in China.
- The 2,400-metre-deep physics laboratory is located in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- The Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility for Frontier Physics Experiments (DURF) is located beneath Jinping Mountain in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture.
- The DURF has a total room capacity of 330,000 cubic metres.

### Germany to give €500 mn for Bengaluru Metro expansion

- The **payment security mechanism**, established with **\$150 million from the US government** and philanthropic groups, and \$240 million from the Indian government, is the bedrock of risk management for building out the financial system for electric mobility at scale in India.
- **KfW, Germany's state-owned investment and development bank**, is set to sign an agreement to provide **€500 million (around ₹4,500 crore) in financial assistance for the expansion of the Bengaluru Metro**.
- The funding, which includes loan and grants, will help the metro's expansion plans as well as provide technical expertise to the metro project.
- KfW, which is looking to expand its funding for green energy and sustainable mobility projects in India, is also financing metro projects in Mumbai and Nagpur among other cities.

### Denmark introduces green tax on air passengers from 2025

- **Denmark** has agreed to **impose a tax on air passengers to help finance** the airline industry's transition to greener practices, which will be gradually phased in from 2025.
- The government in November proposed imposing an average tax of 100 Danish crowns (\$14.35) on air travel to help finance the industry's green transition, which aims to enable all domestic flights to use 100% sustainable fuels by 2030.
- Under the agreement, the tax by 2030 will reach around 50 Danish crowns (\$7.35) per passenger for intra-European flights, 310 crowns for medium-distance flights, and 410 for long-distance.
- According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a study has found that aviation contributes to 3.5% of climate change.
- The research indicates that two-thirds of this impact result from various factors, including contrails, nitrogen oxides, water vapor, sulfate aerosol, soot, and other aerosols.

### World Bank sets up task force to act on MDB reform plan

- The **World Bank** has set up a **task force to study the recommendations** made by the Independent Experts Group, formed under India's G20 Presidency, **for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs)**.
- The World Bank, which other MDBs looked up to, must take the lead in carrying forward the reform roadmap for MDBs so as to make these global institutions bigger, better, and bolder.
- Both Ajay Banga and Nirmala Sitharaman discussed outcomes of the G20India Presidency, evolution of the World Bank and its engagement with India in various sectors, besides issues of mutual interest.

#### **UN announces 2024 as International Year of Camelids**

- The **United Nations** has declared **2024 the International Year Of Camelids**.
- The decision has been taken to highlight the significant importance of camelids in the lives of people across the world.
- According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), camelids influence the lives of millions of households in more than 90 countries. As a group Camelids include alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, vicuñas which together help in ensuring food security, nutrition and economic growth especially for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Camelids play an important role in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) envisaged by the United Nations.

#### **UK to introduce carbon import levy on certain products by 2027**

- **United Kingdom** will implement a **new carbon import levy on some products from 2027** to help to protect businesses against cheaper imports from countries with less strict climate policies.
- The planned carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) will apply to carbon-intensive products in the iron, steel, aluminium, fertiliser, hydrogen, ceramics, glass and cement sectors.
- The charge applied will depend on the amount of carbon emitted in the production of the imported good and any gap between the carbon price applied in the country of origin and the carbon price faced by UK producers.

#### **PPP nominated first Hindu woman for elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

- **Pakistan People's Party** nominates **Dr Saveera Parkash**, to contest from **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district in the General Elections**.
- The decision comes following the Pakistan Electoral Commission's mandate of having at least 5% women candidates on general seats.
- **Prakash**, a member of the PPP women's wing, will run for the PK-25 seat in the February 8 elections.

## **Chapter 14: Banking & Financial**

### The total GST revenue 1.68 lakh crore in the month of November 2023.

- As of December 1, the Ministry of Finance reported a 15% increase in the government's **Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for November, totaling Rs 1.68 lakh crore.**
- However, this figure shows a 2% drop from October's GST collection of Rs 1.72 lakh crore. Despite the slight decrease the monthly GST collection has remained above Rs 1.5 lakh crore for nine months in a row.
- Although November's total GST collections decreased slightly from October, the year-on-year growth exceeded 15%, making it the highest in 2023 to 2024.

### SEBI is announced to extend the timeline of implementation for SCORES platforms.

- **SEBI, the market regulator, has extended the deadline for linking the SEBI Complaint Redressal (SCORES) platform** with the online dispute resolution platform. Initially set for December 4, the new deadline is now April 1, 2024.
- **The deadline for applying for SCORES authentication has now been extended to April 1, 2024.**

### LIC introduces new whole life insurance policy Jeevan Utsav

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav.**
- LIC's Jeevan Utsav is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, whole life insurance plan based on the selected Premium Paying Term (Regular Income to Flexi Income), 10% of the Sum Assured is paid back annually after the specified years.
- The fact that this plan offers life insurance coverage for the duration of the policyholder's life is a plus point.
- This plan is available for age starting from 90 days to 65 years. It gives guaranteed lifelong income and lifelong risk cover.

### SBI to acquire 20 percent stake in SBI Pension Funds for Rs 230 crore

- The Executive Committee of the Central Board (ECCB) of **the State Bank of India (SBI) has accorded final approval to the Bank for acquiring 20 percent stake held by SBICAPS (SBI Capital Markets Ltd) in SBIPFPL (SBI Pension Funds Private Ltd).**
- The acquisition, which will be completed by December 15, 2023, is for a cash consideration of ₹229.52 crore, as per SBI's regulatory filing.
- Post-acquisition, SBI will have 80 percent stake in SBIPFPL, with the balance being held by SBI Funds Management Ltd. The latter is a joint venture of SBI (62.53 percent) and Amundi (36.73 percent).

### RBI keeps policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent in latest MPC meet

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent** in its monetary review meeting.
- This is for the fifth time in a row that the MPC has maintained the status quo.

- The Monetary Policy Committee, MPC's has unanimously decided to keep key rates unchanged. The **Standing Deposit Facility rate remains at 6.25 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 percent.**
- Attributing the declining inflation as reason behind maintain status quo the policy stance, the RBI Governor informed that, real GDP growth projection for the current year 2023-24 has been revised from earlier 6.5 per cent to 7 percent.

#### **RBI has canceled the license of Sitapur-based Urban Co-operative Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license of Sitapur-based Urban Co-operative Bank in Uttar Pradesh.
- The bank's license was canceled due to lack of adequate capital and prospects of earning.
- The RBI has prohibited the bank from any banking, including depositing money and repaying its customers.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

#### **IDFC FIRST Bank launches "FIRST SWYP" credit card**

- IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced a youth-centric "FIRST SWYP" credit card in partnership with Mastercard.
- This card can be used as a no-interest charge card and has curated features -- flexible bill repayments through EMIs, a benefit-laden referral program, and exclusive and relevant merchant partnerships.
- The card will address demands of new-age customers, blending benefits across their favorite categories of spends and lifestyle-related offers and innovative propositions, it added.

#### **Bank of India Unveils Nari Shakti Savings Account**

- Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.
- The savings account has features such as personal accident insurance cover of up to ₹1 crore, discounted health insurance and wellness products, and rebates on locker facilities for gold and diamond SB A/C holders, among others.
- Additionally, the account offers a concessional rate of interest on retail loans and waiver of processing charges on these loans, free issuance of credit cards and a higher usage limit of up to ₹5 lakh on POS.

#### **Retail inflation surged to 5.5% in November amid rising food prices**

- India's retail inflation surged sharply to 5.55 percent in November after falling to a four-month low of 4.8 percent in October, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- The uptick in retail inflation has been attributed to a sharp rise in food prices. Notably, the food inflation for November registered at 8.70 percent.
- Despite the surge, the inflation figure remains within the Reserve Bank of India's acceptable range of 2-6 percent. In sequential terms, the inflation rate recorded a

0.54 percent increase, as per the released data. It may be noted that this marks the third consecutive month when retail inflation has stayed below 6 percent.

- In its most recent policy review, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the key rates unchanged, but warned that it would remain "highly alert" to undertake appropriate policy actions if the need arises.

### **Poonawalla Housing Finance rebrands as Grihum Housing Finance**

- **Poonawalla Housing Finance** has been rebranded as **Grihum Housing Finance** with global private equity firm **TPG** now holding 99.02 percent stake in the housing finance company.
- Before being promoted by Poonawalla Fincorp, the housing financier was a part of the Magma Group.
- US-based alternative asset management firm **TPG** has committed total capital of ₹1,000 crore of which it infused ₹538 crore in Q2 FY24 under the first tranche.

### **IDFC First Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard to co-launch Credit card**

- **IDFC First Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard** have partnered to launch an exclusive co-branded credit card to meet the dynamic financial needs of the country.
- Available in two variants -- LIC Classic and LIC Select -- the credit cards will let more than 27 crore policyholders across the country save in the form of reward points on every LIC insurance premium payment.
- It will also come with other benefits, including up to Rs 50,000 cover for lost card liability and a personal accident insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh.
- The new partnership will create synergy by collaborating Brand LIC which signifies 'Trust' and IDFC First Bank which represents new age "Customer Centricity"

### **WPI inflation in Nov at 0.26%, returns to positive territory after 7 months**

- India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation came in at 0.26 percent, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It has returned to positive territory after seven months. Earlier in March, the WPI-based inflation was 1.34 percent.
- In October, the WPI inflation was -0.52 percent, the lowest in three months. In September, it was -0.07 percent.

### **Canara HSBC Life Insurance launches 'Alpha Wealth' plan with option to alter premiums**

- **Canara HSBC Life Insurance** has launched 'Alpha Wealth' plan with comprehensive features to ensure financial security for the insured and their family.
- It also encourages long-term savings with loyalty additions and wealth boosters. The product offers an array of options by investing in a wide variety of funds - debt/equity/liquid available in the market.

- The insurance plan is flexible in terms of providing to choose from three plan options based on the life stages: 'Alpha Invest Plus,' 'Alpha Premium Plus,' or 'Alpha Life Plus.'

### **RBI authorizes Bandhan Bank to disburse pensions to railway employees**

- **Bandhan Bank** has been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the **disbursement of pensions through e-PPOs on behalf of the Ministry of Railways.**
- This authorization enables Bandhan Bank to disburse pensions to all employees of the Ministry of Railways who have retired from their service.
- This mandate also provides the Bank access to around 50,000 average Indian Railways retirees every year across all offices including 17 zonal railways and 8 production units of Indian Railways.
- Authorization to disburse pensions to retired employees of railways provides an opportunity to serve them with the best products and services of the bank. It also allows retired employees to enjoy the most competitive rates provided by Bandhan Bank.

### **IndusInd Bank introduces 'Indus Solitaire Program' for the Diamond Industry**

- **IndusInd Bank** has introduced its '**Indus Solitaire Program,**' a community banking initiative meticulously crafted for the diamond industry. This curated banking program will be offered through the bank's flagship branches in prime locations across various cities with a concentration in Mumbai and Surat.
- It will also provide a range of exclusive benefits along with distinct features and enriched offerings to customers in the diamond industry.

### **Reliance General Insurance unveils 'Reliance Health Global'**

- **Reliance General Insurance Company (RGICL)** has introduced "**Reliance Health Global,**" a **healthcare policy** designed to bring global healthcare within reach for Indians.
- The policy extends coverage not only within India but worldwide, providing a seamless experience for individuals accustomed to a global lifestyle and seeking access to top-notch healthcare services and infrastructure.
- Reliance Health Global boasts a range of unparalleled features, reshaping the health insurance landscape. Beyond its comprehensive coverage for overseas treatment, including critical illnesses like Cancer and Bypass Surgery, the policy stands out for its exceptional domestic coverage.

### **UPI transactions rose by 147 percent in 5 years: Govt to Lok Sabha**

- The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions** have grown from **92 crore in FY 2017-18 to 8,375 crore in FY 2022-23 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 147 percent in terms of volume.**
- Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad, in a written reply to Lok Sabha.
- The UPI transactions have achieved 8,572 crore transactions during the current financial year till December 11.
- The value of UPI transactions has grown from Rs 1 lakh crore in FY 2017-18 to Rs 139 lakh crore in FY 2022-23 at a CAGR of 168 percent.



### SBI invests ₹49.99 crore in Canpac Trends

- State Bank of India has executed transaction documents to purchase 3,70,644 shares (6.35 percent) of Ahmedabad-based Canpac Trends Private Limited at ₹1,349 per share, aggregating ₹49.99 crore.
- The investment in Canpac Trends, which is in the paper packaging industry, is being made with the objective of capital appreciation.
- The indicative period for completion of the acquisition is three months from the date of the transaction documents execution.

### India is contributing more than 16% of global growth: IMF report

- India is expected to contribute over 16 percent of global growth as economic reforms in key sectors like infrastructure and digitalization have made India a "star performer" among countries, as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- It's one of the fastest-growing large emerging markets and it's contributing, in our current projections, more than 16 percent of global growth this year.
- A "strong push" by the government in logistics and infrastructure could navigate the economy through global headwinds.

### Razorpay, Cashfree secured RBI nod for payment aggregator business

- Digital payment companies Razorpay and Cashfree Payments have received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as payment aggregators, enabling the fintechs to onboard new merchants after a nearly one-year-old regulatory ban.
- The company has received the Payment Aggregator (PA) license from the RBI. It will now onboard new merchants on its payment gateway.
- In December last year, the RBI had asked Razorpay and Cashfree to stop onboarding new merchants.
- Razorpay has received the final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007.

### Government launched Sovereign Gold Bonds 2023-24 with Digital Discount

- The Government of India has launched the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24 (Series III).
- Stemming from the inaugural scheme in November 2015 under the Gold Monetization Scheme, this initiative aims to reduce the demand for physical gold.
- Open for subscription from December 18 to December 22, the scheme introduces a digital discount for online applications, enhancing the accessibility and attractiveness of secure gold investments to a diverse investor base.
- Investors opting for online applications and utilizing digital payment modes will benefit from a ₹50 discount per gram, reducing the issue price to ₹6,149 per gram during the subscription period.

### U Gro Capital raises ₹250 crore from Dutch Development Bank

- DataTech NBFC, U GRO Capital has raised ₹250 crore from the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank FMO through rupee-denominated non-convertible debentures (NCDs).
- The association will help strengthen the fund's commitment towards greater financial inclusion in India.
- The MSME-lending-focused NBFC has provided credit to more than 80,000 small businesses. Prior to this, it had raised ₹240 crore from Denmark's Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU) in May 2023.
- Founder and MD of U Gro - Shachindra Nath.

### Unclaimed deposits in Indian banks rose by 28% at Rs 42k crore in 2023

- The rate of unclaimed deposits in Indian banks has risen by 28% annual increase in unclaimed deposits with the banks to Rs 42,272 crore as on March 2023.
- At the end of March 2023, the amount of unclaimed deposits in Indian banks was recorded at Rs 42,272 crore, while the previous year, there was Rs32,934 crore.
- As much as Rs 36,185 crore unclaimed deposits were with public sector banks while Rs 6,087 crore were with private sector banks at the end of March 2023.
- Banks send unclaimed deposits of account holders lying in their accounts for 10 or more years to RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund.

### RBL Bank Introduces Electronic Bank Guarantee on NeSL Platform

- RBL Bank has launched the Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG), signalling a significant step forward in trade finance digital transformation.
- The e-BG product builds on the framework enabled by NeSL, incorporating their expertise in e-Stamping and e-Sign.
- This integration eliminates the traditional physical signing and stamping processes, seamlessly transitioning into a secure and efficient digital format.

### Thakur sets to unveil Khelo India Youth Games logo and mascot

- Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting, Sh. Anurag Singh Thakur has launched the official logo, jersey, mascot, torch, and theme song for the Khelo India Youth Games Tamil Nadu in Chennai.
- The 6th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games is scheduled from January 19 to 31, 2024.
- The previous 5 editions of the Youth Games have been held in Delhi, Pune, Guwahati, Panchkula, and Bhopal.

### SEBI proposes two-phase transition to instant settlement in Indian stock market

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a phase-wise transition to instant settlement of trades in the equity cash market.
- An optional T+0 settlement cycle for trades till 1:30 pm may be introduced in the first phase, with settlement of funds and securities to be completed on the same day by 4:30 p.m.
- To begin with, a T+0 settlement will be made available in the top 500 listed equity shares in three tranches, from the lowest to the highest market capitalization.

- In the second phase, an optional immediate trade-by-trade settlement will be carried out for trades till 3.30 p.m.
- An API-based interface will be built between depositories and clearing corporations to facilitate real-time intimation of early pay-in. To begin with, all securities under Phase 1 will be available under Phase 2.

### **SBI to sign \$165 million LoC with World Bank for rooftop solar projects**

- The country's biggest lender, **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a **\$165 million Line of Credit (LoC)** from the **World Bank in Delhi** to support **grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic projects in residential and institutional sectors**.
- In September, SBI said that it plans to make home loans with rooftop solar installations mandatory for residential projects funded from the bank's long-term climate action funds drawn down from multilateral agencies.
- The lender has outstanding forex loans of \$2.3 billion from multilateral agencies, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and KfW of Germany.

### **NABARD and ADB jointly launch climate action initiative**

- Agri-lender **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have launched an initiative to facilitate climate action in **India's agriculture, natural resources, and rural development sector**.
- Under this initiative, a Technical Support Unit has been set up in Nabard with the partnership of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to enable the agri lender to address the challenges posed by climate change, particularly in the areas of agriculture and rural livelihood sectors in India.

### **Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance introduces the unveiling of T.U.L.I.P.**

- **Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company** has introduced a **new insurance product known as T.U.L.I.P – Term with Unit Linked Insurance Plan**.
- This is a unit-linked term insurance plan designed to provide life coverage up to 100 times the annual premium, allowing customers to potentially earn returns similar to a unit-linked insurance plan (ULIP).
- TULIP offers our customers comprehensive protection like a term plan and also the opportunity to grow their wealth like a ULIP. It is aimed at taking care of our customer's core financial needs.

### **SoftBank sells shares worth \$310 mn in FirstCry**

- **Japanese conglomerate SoftBank** has sold shares **worth \$310 million in omnichannel retailer FirstCry**, which is likely to file a draft paper for IPO this week.
- SoftBank recently sold shares worth Rs 630 crore in FirstCry. It was picked up by a few high-net-worth individuals.
- SoftBank had invested \$400 million in FirstCry at an enterprise valuation of \$900 million and SoftBank is still left with shares valued in the range of \$800-900 million which it will sell later.

### **Education Loans Experience 20.6% Spike From April To October**

- **Education loans** registered a record **year-on-year growth of 20.6 percent** at **₹1,10,715 crore in the current financial year** till October compared with ₹96,853 crore in the year-ago period.
- According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the spurt in education loans was the highest in the last five years.
- The growth registered in the comparable period was 12.3 percent FY23 and (-) 3.1 percent in FY22.
- For the last one-year, foreign education loans with an average ticket size of ₹40 lakh-60 lakh accounted for nearly 65 percent of loans disbursed.

#### **IndusInd Bank launches 'eSvarna' credit card**

- **IndusInd Bank** has launched the '**IndusInd Bank eSvarna**', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.
- This launch positions IndusInd Bank as the first in the country to integrate UPI functionality with a Corporate Credit Card.
- The card facilitates transactions at merchant outlets and allows users the flexibility to make UPI payments by linking the card with UPI-enabled apps.

#### **Ola Electric files IPO papers with Sebi; first by auto company in 20 years**

- **Electric two-wheeler company Ola Electric** has filed preliminary papers with **capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO)**– the first issue by an automaker in the country in more than 20 years.
- The proposed IPO is a fresh issue of equity shares up to Rs 5,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 9.52 crore equity shares by promoters and investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

#### **World Bank Approves \$100 Mn For Skill Development In Sikkim**

- **The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors** has approved a **new project to support the state of Sikkim's efforts to train, upskill, and provide jobs** for 300,500 women and youth in high-growth and priority sectors.
- Sikkim has been one of the fastest-growing states in India. While over 40 percent of youth are currently engaged in agriculture, the state has a growing manufacturing and services industry.
- The \$100 million Sikkim: Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Reviving Economies (INSPIRES) Operation will establish an Employment and Entrepreneurship Promotion Facility, which will promote partnerships with private-sector firms, central agencies, and business associations.

#### **Muthoot FinCorp raises ₹200 crore from SBI via NCDs**

- **Muthoot FinCorp**, the flagship company of the 136-year-old Muthoot Pappachan Group (Muthoot Blue), has **raised ₹200 crore from State Bank of India, via the private placement of non-convertible debentures (NCDs)**.
- The debt securities have a five-year maturity and half-yearly frequency for interest payment. They are rated 'AA' by Crisil with a 'stable' outlook.
- Proceeds of this will be utilised for onward lending, business operations and further expansion and growth plan.

- The NBFC has over 3,600 branches across India and offers gold loans, Vyapar Mitra business loans, two-wheeler loans, used car loans, home Loans, loan against property, domestic and international money transfer, foreign exchange, Insurance, and wealth management services.
- CEO of Muthoot FinCorp - Shaji Varghese

### Current account gap narrows to 1% of GDP at \$8.3 bn in Q2FY24: RBI

- India's current account deficit declined sharply to 1 percent of the GDP or \$8.3 billion in the second quarter of this financial year, mainly due to lower merchandise trade deficit and growth in services exports, according to RBI data.
- The current account deficit (CAD) was 3.8 percent of GDP or \$30.9 billion in the July-September quarter in 2022-23.
- CAD was \$9.2 billion or 1.1 percent of GDP in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year 2023-24.

## Chapter 15: Committee

## Chapter 16: Defence News

### Amritsar To Host Military Literature Festival Next Year.

- **The Military Literature Festival is coming back for its second district-level edition in Amritsar.** This event is organized by the Military Literature Festival Association and led by Lt. Gen TS Shergill (retd.).It aims to raise awareness about the important role of the armed forces and inspire the youth.
- **The festival is planned for early 2024, considering student's exam schedules and other logistical factors.** The next edition, set to start in Chandigarh on December 2 with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann inaugurating.
- This edition focuses a lot on Punjab and its history. It looks at the military history of the region discussing Maharaja Ranjit Singh's strategy and how he added places like Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Baltistan, and Ladakh to India through conquest.

### Gen. Anil Chauhan inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Avionics Expo

- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan** has inaugurated the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Avionics Expo 2023 in New Delhi.**
- Chauhan said the aviation sector needs to keep up with a rapidly changing world and new technological innovations.
- He added that military affairs are headed to convergence warfare where different technologies converge to make battles more automated and autonomous.

### Defence Ministry signs deal for 6 next-gen OPVs for Coast Guard

- The Defence Ministry has signed a ₹1,614.89 crore contract with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai for the procurement of six next-generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Out of the six vessels being procured, four would replace the existing ageing OPVs and the other two would augment the ICG fleet.
- These modern and high-tech ships will play a critical role in enhancing surveillance, law enforcement, search and rescue, maritime pollution response, and other important capabilities including humanitarian assistance by the ICG.
- These multirole state-of-the-art vessels will be indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured by MDL, and will be delivered in a total period of 66 months (5.5 years).

#### **Iran's navy adds sophisticated cruise missiles 'Talaieih and Nasir' to its armoury**

- Iran's navy has added domestically produced sophisticated cruise missiles to its arsenal.
- Both Talaieih and Nasir cruise missiles have arrived at a naval base near the Indian Ocean in the southern Iranian port of Konarak, some 1,400 kilometers (850 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran.
- The Talaieih has a range of more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) and called it "fully smart". The cruise missile is capable of changing targets during travel.
- The Nasir has a range of 100 kilometers (62 miles) and can be installed on warships.

#### **INS Imphal, India's first warship named after a northeastern state, commissioned**

- INS Imphal (Pennant D68), the third of four warships of Project 15B that together form the Visakhapatnam class stealth-guided missile destroyers, is set to be commissioned into the Indian Navy in Mumbai.
- The move aimed at boosting its maritime capability amid China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean region.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest at the event.
- It is the first warship to have been named after a city from the Northeastern region, the approval for which was accorded by the President in April 2019.
- The naming of the ship after the capital city of Manipur underlines the importance of the Northeastern region for national security and prosperity.
- A guided missile destroyer with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and overall length of 164 meters, Imphal is a potent and versatile platform equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship missiles and torpedoes.
- Powered by Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) propulsion, the ship is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots (56 km/hour).
- The ship boasts of a high indigenous content of approximately 75 per cent that includes BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers and 76mm super rapid gun mount.

### Pakistan successfully tests Fatah-II guided multi-launch rocket system

- Pakistan has conducted a **successful flight test of indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II'**, which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres.
- The 'Fatah-II' is "equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, sophisticated navigation system and unique flight trajectory," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military.
- The weapon system is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres.

<b>Defence Exercise</b>	<b>Between</b>	<b>About</b>
<b>The Mitra Shakti 2023 joint military exercise</b>	The <b>Indian</b> and <b>Sri Lankan Armies</b>	The 12-day exercise aimed to help both <b>armies understand each other's strategies and tactics better.</b>
<b>Indian Army conducted a Table-Top Exercise (TTX)</b>	<b>Indian Army</b> conducted for the Women Officers of Association of South-East Asian Nations ( <b>ASEAN</b> )	The Exercise is part of <b>ongoing efforts of Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK)</b> to strengthen international cooperation and <b>capacity-building in peacekeeping missions</b> , with specific focus on <b>empowering women</b> in the field.
<b>A two-phased exercise 'Prasthan'</b>	<b>The Indian Navy</b> , along with other <b>defence state</b> and <b>civil agencies</b>	The ' <b>Prasthan</b> ' is conducted to <b>validate measures and procedures</b> to address various contingencies that may <b>arise in the oil production platforms.</b>
<b>4th edition of the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023</b>	India and Vietnam	A <b>contingent of 45 personnel</b> from the <b>Indian Armed Forces</b> has arrived in <b>Hanoi, Vietnam</b> , to participate in the <b>fourth edition of the Joint Military Exercise</b>

VINBAX-2023.

## Chapter 17: Sports News

### West Indies' Dowrich announces retirement from cricket

- Former West Indies wicketkeeper-batsman **Shane Dowrich (32-year)** has **retired from international cricket**.
- He played in 35 tests, scoring 1570 runs with a high score of 125 not out against Sri Lanka in 2018.
- Dowrich made his Test debut against Australia in 2015 and went on to play 35 Tests. His only ODI came against Bangladesh in 2019, and he was set to add to it in the upcoming ODI series against England.

### Ruturaj Gaikwad becomes the fastest Indian to 4,000 T20 runs

- **Ruturaj Gaikwad** has become the **fastest Indian to accomplish 4,000 runs in men's T20 cricket**. He accomplished this remarkable feat in **only 116 innings**.
- He achieved the feat in the fourth T20I against Australia at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.
- The fastest to achieve this landmark is the legendary Chris Gayle, who accomplished it in just 107 innings.

### Vaishali Rameshbabu becomes India's 84th grandmaster

- **Vaishali Rameshbabu** has become **India's 84th grandmaster** after surpassing 2500 rating during the 2023 IV Ellobregat Open.
- Vaishali is now the third female grandmaster from India after Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.
- **Vaishali and her younger brother R. Praggnanandhaa is now the first sister-brother pair to be grandmasters**.
- She is now the current world number 11 in women's ranking with a live rating of 2501.5 and India's number two.

### Amazon acquires ICC cricket rights for Australia till 2027

- **E-commerce giant Amazon's streaming service Prime Video** has signed a **four-year deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC)** to provide **exclusive live broadcast rights in Australia for ICC cricket**, which will be available on Prime Video Australia.
- The partnership will see Prime Video Australia exclusively stream all men's and women's events, including the Men's and Women's Cricket World Cups, T20 World Cups, Champions Trophy, U19s, and the World Test Championship Final.
- The deal includes streaming rights in Australia for 448 live games from 2024 to 2027.

### India bags 3 gold, 5 silver, and 1 bronze medals in IBA Junior World Boxing

- **India bagged three gold, five silver, and one bronze medals at the IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023** in Yerevan, Armenia.



- Akansha won gold in 70 kg category, Pari clinched gold medal in 48 kg weight category, while Nisha won gold in 52 kg category.
- In 52 kg weight category, Vini won silver medal, while Srishti Sathe won silver medal in 63 kg weight category.

### China's Ningbo to host World Weightlifting Championships 2026

- The **Chinese city of Ningbo** will host the **2026 World Weightlifting championships**, following the 2024 edition in Manama (Bahrain) and the 2025 edition in Forde (Norway).
- The International Weightlifting Federation announced in a statement after a vote by the IWF Executive Board, meeting in Doha, Qatar, that Ningbo has experience in successfully staging international sports events.
- Ningbo, located in China's eastern coastal province of Zhejiang, is not far from the cities of Shanghai and Hangzhou.

### ICC launches new vibrant logo for Men's and Women's T20 World Cup 2024

- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has unveiled the logo for the **upcoming T20 World Cup in Men's and Women's cricket next year**.
- While the **men's event** is set to take place from June 4 to June 30, 2024 in the **West Indies and USA**.
- While, **Women's T20 World Cup will happen in Bangladesh**.

### Italy won Admiral's Cup 2023 held at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala

- The **12th edition of 'Admiral's Cup' Sailing Regatta** concluded with a glittering closing ceremony at **Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala**.
- Team Italy represented by Midshipman Avallone Antonio & Midshipman Creati Carlo Leonardo won the Admiral's Cup 23.
- Team India represented by Midshipman PPK Reddy and Cadet GY Reddy was the Runners-Up and Team United Kingdom & Germany represented by Officer Cadet Lucy Bell and Midshipman Aaron Middleton from United Kingdom and Cadet Beckman Carl & Cadet Hinz Anton from Germany shared the third position.

### Kashvi Gautam became most expensive uncapped star of all time in WPL auction

- **India's young player Kashvee Gautam** has bagged a huge profit in the **star auction ahead of the 2024** season of Women's Premier League (WPL 2024).
- Kashvi became the **most valuable uncapped player of all time in the Women's Premier League**. The young star, who had a base price of Rs 10 lakh, was **acquired by Gujarat Giants for Rs 2 crore**.
- The Chandigarh star was snapped up by Gujarat after a fierce bidding war with UP Warriors. Within minutes Gautham owns Vrinda Dinesh's record of fetching Rs 1.3 crore in this auction itself.

### Ashwini-Tanisha duo clinches women's doubles title in Guwahati Masters 2023

- **Indian women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa** have secured their second **Super 100 title** with a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui **at the Guwahati Masters 2023**.

- The second-seeded Indian combination, which finished runners-up at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow, beat the world no. 81 combination 21-13 21-19 in a 40-minute final.

### **Asad Shafiq announces retirement from all forms of cricket**

- **Pakistan Test batter Asad Shafiq** has announced his **retirement from all forms of cricket** after experiencing a dip in his passion for the game.
- Asad formed the backbone of the Pakistan Test batting line-up from 2010 to 2020 scoring 4660 runs in 77 games at a healthy average of 38.19 including 12 hundreds and 27 fifties.

### **Travis Head, Nahida Akter won ICC Player of the Month awards for November**

- **Australian batter Travis Head** and **Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Nahida Akter** have won the **ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month, respectively for November 2023**.
- Nahida is the first Bangladesh women's player to win the award.

### **Leander and Vijay Amritraj make it to the Tennis Hall of Fame**

- Olympic medallist and multiple Grand Slam champion **Leander Paes**, along with two-time Davis Cup finalist **Vijay Amritraj**, has made it into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame**.
- Leander makes it in the player category and Vijay in the contributor category for his multi-faceted role in the game.
- They are the first two Indians to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.
- Leander has won eight Grand Slam doubles titles and 10 mixed doubles titles. He is only one of three men in tennis history to complete a career Grand Slam in both doubles and mixed doubles.

### **Sourav Kothari clinched maiden Senior National Snooker title**

- **Sourav Kothari** of Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) won his **maiden Senior National 15-Red snooker title, beating Paras Gupta of Uttar Pradesh 6-2 in the final**.
- Kothari beat Md Hussain Khan (RSPB) 5-0 in the semifinals and prevailed over Gupta 58-46, 72-34, 0-64, 59-25, 61-54, 21-57, 64-8, 64-25 in the final.
- He had defeated his PSPB colleague Advani in the round of 32.
- Kothari is a former national billiards champion, and last month finished runner-up to Advani in the IBSF world billiards final in Doha.

### **Haryana emerges best as Khelo India Para Games end with a bang**

- The **first edition of the Khelo India Para Games concluded at New Delhi**.
- **Haryana bagged top honours with a total of 105 medals** including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze medals.
- Finishing second was Uttar Pradesh, with a total of 62 medals, including 25 gold, 23 silver and 14 bronze.
- Tamil Nadu finished third with 20 gold, eight silver and 14 bronze medals.

### **Bangladesh won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2023**

- Bangladesh won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2023 after defeating the UAE by 195 runs in Dubai.
- Wicketkeeper-batter Ashiqur Rahman Shibli continued his splendid run with a second century in five matches.
- Opening the batting, Ashiqur smashed 12 fours and one six in his knock of 129 (149 balls) as Bangladesh posted 282/8 after hosts UAE opted to field.
- In reply, UAE surrendered meekly to fold up for 87 in 24.5 overs as Bangladesh clinched the eight-nation tournament with five wins from as many games.

#### **Haryana beats Rajasthan to win Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023**

- Haryana has emerged victorious in the 2023 Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot, securing their first-ever title with a 30-run triumph over Rajasthan.
- Haryana, posting a total of 287/8 in 50 overs, faced a formidable challenge from Rajasthan.
- Haryana's skipper, Ashok Menaria, showcased excellent leadership skills both with the bat and in managing his resources.
- Opting to bat first, Ankit Kumar (88 off 91 balls) and Menaria (70 off 96 balls) set the stage with a crucial partnership of 124 runs for the third wicket.

#### **Sandeep Kumar claimed MRF Formula 2000 crown**

- Sandeep Kumar won the MRF Formula 2000 title in the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2023 at the Madras International Circuit.
- While Chetan Surnineni won the MRF Formula 1600 title
- Also picking up the National titles in their respective categories were Gurunath Meiyappan (Race Concepts, Indian Touring Cars), Deepak Ravikumar (Performance Racing, Indian Junior Touring Cars) and T.S. Diljith (DTS Racing, Super Stock and Formula LGB 1300).

#### **Mitchell Starc becomes most expensive player in IPL Auction 2024**

- Mitchell Starc of Australia has emerged as the most expensive player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the auction in Dubai.
- He was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for ₹24.75 crore.
- He broke the record of Pat Cummins who was picked up for ₹20.5 crore by Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- Ten teams, 332 players, and only 77 available slots are in IPL 2024 auction.

#### **FIFA's 32-team World Cup for clubs could change the face of football**

- FIFA announced that its revamped Club World Cup, to be held for the first time in 2025, will feature 32 teams and will be played from mid-June to mid-July.
- The United States will host the 2025 edition of the expanded event, which will be held every four years thereafter.
- The tournament will have eight groups of four with the top two teams from each group going through to the knockout stages -- the same format as the World Cup.

- The current version of the FIFA Club World Cup -- an annual competition with seven teams -- will be discontinued after the tournament now being hosted by Saudi Arabia.
- Europe will have 12 teams in the new competition and South America will have six, while Africa, Asia and North America will have four each.

### India's Hardik and Savita win accolades in FIH Annual awards

- Indian men's hockey team **midfielder Hardik Singh** and **women's side captain Savita** have won the **FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year (women) awards respectively**.
- The awards were declared following a vote by an expert panel, National Associations -- represented by their respective national teams' captains and coaches, fans, and media.
- This is Hardik's second big award this year as he was also conferred the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of the Year 2022.

### Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy to get Khel Ratna Award

- The Government of India has announced the National Sports Awards 2023.
- Badminton players **Chirag C Shetty and Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy** will be honoured with the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**.
- Twenty-six sportspersons will receive the Arjuna Awards. They are Archers Ojas Pravin Deotale and Aditi Gopichand Swami, Para Archer Sheetal Devi, Athletes Sreeshankar M and Parul Chaudhary, Boxer Mohameed Hussamuddin, Chess player R Vaishali, Cricketer Mohammed Shami, Blind Cricketer Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy, Equestrian players Anush Agarwalla and Divyakriti Singh, Golfer Diksha Dagar, Hockey players Krishan Bahadur Pathak and P Sushila Chanu, Kabaddi players Pawan Kumar and Ritu Negi, Kho-Kho player Nasreen, Lawn Bowls player Pinki, Shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh and Esha Singh, Squash player Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu, Table Tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee, Wrestler Sunil Kumar and Antim, Wushu player N Roshibina Devi and Para Canoeing player Prachi Yadav.

### Natasha Chethan won sub-junior snooker title

- **Karnataka's Natasha Chethan** won the **sub-junior girls' snooker title** to record a double in the ongoing 90th National Billiards & Snooker Championships at the Nehru Indoor Stadium.
- The Bengaluru teenager rallied to beat Gujarat's Aanya Patel 3-1 (35-57, 57-43, 55-42, 41-29) in the snooker final after defeating her for the sub-junior girls' billiards crown last week.

### Former South Africa captain Dean Elgar announces retirement from international cricket

- **Former South Africa captain Dean Elgar** has announced **his retirement from international cricket** after a test series against India concludes early next month.
- Elgar, who has scored more than 5,000 runs with 13 centuries in his 84 tests, will play his final test at Newlands in Cape Town starting January 3.

- **Elgar** said, The Cape Town Test will be my last. My favourite stadium in the world. A place I scored my first Test run against New Zealand and hopefully my last too.
- Elgar made his debut against Australia in Perth in 2011, making a duck in each innings in an inauspicious start to his 12-year test career, which has yielded 5,146 runs, including a high score of 199 against Bangladesh in 2017.

### Indian women records maiden historic Test win over Australia

- **India** recorded their **maiden victory against Australia in a women's test match** at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai with their comprehensive eight-wicket win in the one-off contest.
- India had taken control of the match with a commanding 187-run lead in the first innings. They needed just 75 runs to win the match after bowling Australia out for 261 in the second innings. India reached the target just after lunch losing two wickets.

### Coca-Cola extends partnership with ICC till 2031

- **Beverage major Coca-Cola** has extended its **partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC) for eight years**, encompassing ICC World events across all three formats, **up until the end of 2031**.
- This eight-year partnership as a Global Partner of the ICC confirmed the collaboration as one of the longest-ever associations formed by the ICC with a single brand, spanning a total timeline of 13 years (2019-2031).

### Sharvaanica becomes champion in two formats at Asian Youth Chess

- **Eight-year-old A.S. Sharvaanica** has become the champion in two formats of the **Asian Youth Chess Championships at Al Ain in the UAE**.
- She secured gold in the U-8 rapid and blitz categories, and silver in the U-8 classical category.
- The 25th Asian Youth Chess Championships witnessed the participation across age groups of 42 players from 21 countries.

### Indian Olympic Association forms three-member ad hoc committee to run affairs of suspended WFI

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has constituted a **three-member ad hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of the WFI** after the Sports Ministry suspended the wrestling national body for not following the provisions of its own constitution while taking decisions.
- Wushu Association of India president **Bhupinder Singh Bajwa will be the chairman of the panel** with hockey Olympian M. M. Somaya and former international shuttler Manjusha Kanwar being the other two members.
- The Sports Ministry suspended the WFI, three days after it elected new office bearers with Brij Bhushan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as president, and also asked IOA to constitute an ad-hoc panel to manage the affairs of the sports body.

### Wrestler Pooja Dhanda handed one-year ban by NADA

- **Indian wrestler Pooja Dhanda**, who won the bronze medal at the 2018 World Championships in the 57kg, was handed a **one-year ban by India's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) due to three whereabouts failures.**
- NADA, formed in 2005, is India's central anti-doping agency and authorized to conduct 'in competition' and 'out of competition' testing of Indian athletes. It operates under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regulations.
- Each year, several Indian athletes who compete at elite levels in their respective sports are chosen to be part of the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) by NADA.
- Pooja Dhanda was among those included in the RTP for the year 2022. NADA recorded two filing failures and one missed test against Pooja.
- The NADA issued the first filing failure letter to Pooja Dhanda in July 2022 and the second one in October.

### **Suriya acquired ownership of Chennai in Indian Street Premier League**

- **National Award winner Suriya** has joined **the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) as the owner of team Chennai.**
- The ISPL is India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament that will be played inside a stadium.
- The tournament will feature 19 high-intensity matches, boasting a line-up of six teams – Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Srinagar.
- Recently, Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Hrithik Roshan, and Ram Charan were announced as the team owners of Mumbai, Srinagar, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, respectively.

### **PV Sindhu makes it into Forbes list of highest-paid women athletes in 2023**

- **Badminton star PV Sindhu** has made it into the list of **2023's highest-paid women athletes by Forbes** where she **finished at the 16th spot alongside gymnast Simone Biles with her \$7.1 million earnings.**
- Last year Sindhu was placed 12th with her \$7.1 million earnings in a list which was led by Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka. Sindhu had broken into the top 10 in the 2018 list with \$8.5 million which placed her at 7th.
- **Polish tennis star Iga Swiatek who is valued at \$23.9 million at first spot.** She won the French Open and ended the year as the No.1 ranked player in the world.
- **She is followed by freestyle skiing star Eileen Gu from China** whose value is \$22.1 million.
- Tennis player Coco Gauff comes in at 3rd with \$21.7 million while the same sports' UK's Emma Raducanu (\$15.2 million) Japan's Naomi Osaka (\$15 million), Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka (\$14.7 million), US's Jessica Pegula (\$12.5 million), US's Venus Williams (\$12.2 million), Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina (\$9.5 million) and Canada's Leylah Fernandez (\$8.8 million) close out the top 10.

## **Chapter 18: Book and Author**

<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>
"Welcome to Paradise" book	Written and launched by Twinkle Khanna
'Zeba: An Accidental Superhero'	Written by Huma Qureshi
"Naye Bharat ka Samveda"	Launched by Former President Ram Nath Kovind

## Chapter 19: Important Day

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Theme/Importance</b>
<b>1 December</b>	World's AIDS day	Theme 2023- " <b>Let communities lead</b> "
<b>1 December</b>	Nagaland statehood day	<b>Nagaland</b> as it celebrates its <b>61st Statehood Day</b> . Back on <b>December 1, 1963</b> , Nagaland became the <b>16th state of India</b> .
<b>1 December</b>	Border Security Force raising day	This day marks the creation of <b>BSF</b> , which is India's main border- <b>guarding organization established on December 1, 1965</b> .
<b>2 December</b>	World Computer Literacy Day	The theme for 2023 is believed to be: <b>Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies</b> .
<b>2 December</b>	National Pollution Control Day	The theme for National Pollution Control Day 2023 is " <b>Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet</b> "
<b>2 December</b>	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Theme 2023 - <b>Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism through Transformative Education</b>
<b>4 December</b>	Indian Navy Day	The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day on December 4, in memory of " <b>Operation Trident</b> " launched by the

		<b>Indian Navy against Karachi Harbour</b> during the <b>India-Pakistan war in 1971</b> .
<b>5 December</b>	World Soil Day	Theme for 2023 - <b>Soil and water, a source of life</b>
<b>5 December</b>	International Volunteer Day	Theme 2023 - <b>The Power of Collective</b>
<b>7 December</b>	International Civil Aviation Day	Theme 2023 - <b>Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development</b>
<b>9 December</b>	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme 2023 - <b>UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption</b>
<b>9 December</b>	International Day of Commemoration of the Victims of Crime of Genocide	Theme 2023 - <b>A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.</b>
<b>10 December</b>	Human Rights Day	Theme 2023 - <b>Freedom, Equality and Justice for All</b>
<b>11 December</b>	International Mountain Day	Theme 2023 - <b>Restoring Mountain Ecosystems</b>
<b>11 December</b>	UNICEF Day	UNICEF aims to “ <b>protect the rights of every child, everywhere</b> ”.
<b>12 December</b>	Universal Health Coverage Day	Theme for 2023 - <b>Health For All: Time for Action</b>
<b>12 December</b>	International Day of Neutrality	Objective - To raise awareness regarding the importance of <b>neutrality in intergovernmental relations</b> and to <b>strengthen peace and security</b> at the global level.
<b>14 December</b>	National Energy Conservation Day	Objective - <b>To raise public awareness about the value of energy efficiency and conservation.</b>
<b>17 December</b>	Goa Liberation Day	The 'Goa Liberation Day' is celebrated every year to commemorate the liberation of the coastal state from Portuguese rule in the year 1961.



<b>18 December</b>	Minorities Rights Day	Theme for 2023 - <b>Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion</b>
<b>18 December</b>	International Migrants Day	Theme 2023 - <b>Act Today for a Better Tomorrow for All: Improving the Health of migrants to Unleash the Power of Migration</b>
<b>20 December</b>	International Human Solidarity Day	Objective - <b>To raise public awareness regarding the importance of solidarity.</b>
<b>21 December</b>	World Basketball Day	Objective - <b>To honour the development of a sport that has inspired millions of people worldwide with its athleticism, joy, and companionship.</b>
<b>22 December</b>	National Mathematics Day	National Mathematics Day is celebrated annually on <b>December 22</b> to honour the birth anniversary of the renowned <b>Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan.</b>
<b>23 December</b>	National Farmers Day	Theme 2023 - <b>Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience</b>
<b>24 December</b>	National Consumer Rights Day	It is also referred to as <b>Bhartiya Grahak Diwas</b> . While the market runs on certain <b>ethics and values</b> , sometimes people can exploit us if we do not know our rights well enough.
<b>25 December</b>	Good Governance Day	The day is celebrated to create awareness about <b>government accountability and administration among the people.</b>
<b>27 December</b>	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	It emphasizes how crucial it is to prevent, <b>prepare for and work together against outbreaks like diseases.</b>

## Chapter 20: Science & Technology

### ISRO to launch 'XPoSat' Satellite

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is all set to launch its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat); the mission aims to explore the polarization of powerful X-ray sources.
- The primary payload Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX) developed by Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru (RRI).
- According to ISRO, while space-based X-Ray astronomy has been established in India, focusing predominantly on imaging, time-domain studies, and spectroscopy, the upcoming XPoSat mission marks a major value addition.
- This research, supplementing traditional time and frequency domain studies, introduces a novel dimension to X-Ray astronomy, generating anticipation and excitement within the scientific community.

### Meta and IBM launched 'AI Alliance' to promote open-source AI development

- Facebook's parent company, Meta, and IBM have launched a new group called the AI Alliance advocating for an "open-science" approach to AI development that puts them at odds with rivals Google, Microsoft and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI.
- These two diverging camps – the open and the closed – disagree about whether to build AI in a way that makes the underlying technology widely accessible.

### Google launches its largest and 'most capable' AI model, Gemini

- Google has introduced to the world its newest language model (LLM) called Gemini.
- This new LLM can seamlessly understand, operate across, and combine different types of information, including text, code, audio, images, and video.
- Google claims that Gemini is their most capable and general-purpose AI model to date. However, there's more to it than meets the eye.
- Gemini isn't just one model; it's actually a family of AI models that come in three sizes: Gemini Ultra, Gemini Pro and Gemini Nano

### China launched the world's first Methane powered rocket "Zhuque 2"

- A Chinese company LandSpace Technology became the first in the world to launch satellites with rockets fuelled by methane and liquid oxygen.
- The Zhuque 2 Y-3 blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- The rocket was 49.5 metres in length, had a diameter of 3.35m, and had a lift-off mass of 220 tonnes, excluding the payloads.
- Zhuque-2 Y-3 carried two 50kg test satellites developed by Chinese startup Spacety, one of which has adopted technologies from a company named Hongqing.

### First Indian astronaut on moon by 2040: ISRO

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.

- Four test pilots from the Indian Air Force have been selected as astronaut designates for the mission.
- ISRO aims to take the next step in space exploration with the Gaganyaan programme, planning to launch a crew of 2 to 3 Indian astronauts into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) for up to three days before safely returning them to a predefined site in Indian waters.
- Currently, the astronaut designates are undergoing mission-specific training at the Astronaut Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru.
- The inaugural manned space mission Gaganyaan involves developing critical technologies, including a human-rated (capable of safely transporting humans) launch vehicle (HLVM3), an Orbital Module comprising a Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM), and life support systems.
- Two identical un-crewed missions (G1 and G2) besides Integrated Air Drop Test, Pad Abort Test, and Test Vehicle flights will precede the Gaganyaan mission.

### China launches a Long March-11 carrier rocket into space

- **China** has successfully launched a **Long March-11 carrier rocket** into space, sending three satellites into planned orbit.
- The Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center launched the rocket from waters off the coast of Yangjiang, south China's Guangdong Province.
- The satellites will be mainly used for space science and technology experiments. It was the 503rd mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

### ISRO launched FEAST software and book to guide faculty and students

- The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of the **Indian space agency ISRO**, has developed an **analysis software that is used to perform Finite Element Analysis (FEA) of various types of structures** including rockets, aircraft, satellites, buildings, etc.
- FEA is a computerised method for predicting how a component or a structure reacts to real-world forces- like various types of structural loads, thermal conditions and other physical effects that a structure experiences while in operation.
- During the design and development phase of a product, FEA is carried out to evaluate how well and safely the structure/component can withstand the various loads, and perform its intended function without any failure.
- With their latest offering—an FEA software known as FEAST (Finite Element Analysis of Structures)— Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) hopes to take this indigenous and customisable FEA software to the Indian user base.
- A free trial of the FEAST software is also available at the ISRO/VSSC website: <https://feast.vssc.gov.in/Software.php>
- Operable in both Windows and Linux operating systems, the software is capable of running on systems with minimal hardware configurations.

## Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Henry Kissinger, Nobel Peace Prize Winner	He played an important role in <b>improving relations with China</b> , making <b>arms control agreements</b> with the <b>Soviet Union</b> , and <b>concluding the Vietnam War</b> .
Former IAS officer Christy Fernandez	A <b>Gujarat cadre IAS officer</b> , <b>Dr. Fernandez</b> , served as the <b>Principal Secretary of Urban Development</b> , at the <b>Government of Gujarat</b> , <b>Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Secretary, of the Ministry of Tourism</b> .
Former Mr. Universe Shaun Davis	In his <b>bodybuilding career</b> , he won a string of titles including <b>Mr. Britain</b> and <b>Mr. Europe</b> before being named Mr. Universe in 1996.
Naeem Sayyed aka Junior Mehmood	He also known as <b>Junior Mahmood</b> by fans, had a <b>prolific career</b> that included many <b>critically acclaimed films</b> .
Former West Indies batter Joe Solomon	<b>Solomon</b> played <b>27 Tests for West Indies</b> between <b>1958 and 1965</b> , scoring <b>1326</b> runs at an average of <b>34</b> .
Exposed AIDS epidemic, Dr. Gao Yaojie	<b>Yaojie</b> was a <b>gynecologist</b> by training and was one of the first doctors who <b>spearheaded the campaign against the AIDS epidemic in China</b> .
Singham actor Ravindra Berde	He was the brother of <b>late actor Laxmikant Berde</b> , who was a popular face in both <b>Hindi and Marathi cinema</b> , and appeared in films such as <b>Maine Pyar Kiya and Hum Aapke Hain Koun</b> .
Kuwait Emir, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah	<b>Kuwait's crown prince, Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah</b> , was named the <b>oil-rich country's new emir</b> .
Padma Bhushan awardee Mohini Giri	She started the War Widows Association in <b>1972</b> , after the <b>Indo-Pak war of</b>


	<p><b>1971.</b> An institution builder, her life was dedicated to <b>women's rights, human rights and particularly the rights of widows.</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Giri</b> was awarded the <b>Padma Bhushan</b> for <b>her work</b> in <b>2007.</b></p>
<b>Sculptor Dr. Uttam Pacharne</b>	<p>He bagged the <b>National Lalit Kala Akademi Award and Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar (1985), Junior National Award in memory of the late PM Indira Gandhi (1986),</b> medals, honours and other accolades during his career of over four decades.</p>
<b>Former EU Commission President Jacques Delors</b>	<p><b>Delors, a Socialist,</b> had a high-profile political career in <b>France,</b> where he served as <b>finance minister under president Francois Mitterrand</b> from <b>1981 to 1984.</b></p>
<b>Actor-turned-politician Vijayakanth</b>	<p>He was a successful actor earning <b>the 'Captain' title after his 100th film 'Captain Prabhakaran'</b> became a hit.</p>


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