

Samyak

An Institute For Civil Services

Bi-Monthly Current Affairs (March - April: 2023)

- ☑ International Event
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USEFUL FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

What Do Our Shining Stars Say !



MUKTA RAO, RAS (Rank - 1, RAS Exam 2018)

आज मुझे बहुत गर्व हो रहा है तथा इसका श्रेय मेरे माता-पिता, परिवार जन एवं सम्यक इंस्टिट्यूट को जाता है। सम्यक मेरे लिए दूसरा घर है तथा यहाँ से मिली सहायता व मार्गदर्शन के लिए मैं सम्यक टीम की शुक्रगुजार हूँ। सम्यक द्वारा दी गई नियमित कक्षाएँ, Mains की परिणामोन्मुख तैयारी तथा Test Series का मेरे Selection में विशेष योगदान रहा है।

Shivakshi Khandal, RAS (Rank - 3, RAS Exam 2018)

सबसे पहले सम्यक और सम्यक टीम को बहुत बहुत बधाई। ये जो मेरा Experience रहा है इसमें सम्यक का Guidance काफी अच्छा रहा और साथ ही मैं यहाँ की Test Series से मुझे बहुत Help मिली है। मेरे लिए सम्यक का Experience बहुत अच्छा रहा जिसका मेरी सफलता में अहम योगदान रहा। Thanks Samyak



RAVI KUMAR GOYAL, RAS (Rank - 7, RAS Exam 2018)

मुझे ये सफलता तीसरे प्रयास में मिली है। इस सफलता का श्रेय ईश्वर, माता-पिता और साथ ही सम्यक को जाता है जिन्होंने शुरू से लेकर Last तक मेरी हर तरीके की मदद की है चाहे वो Test Series हो Class Room Programme हो या Interview Class हो मुझे यहाँ से Proper Guidance एवं सही Direction मिला जिससे मैं अच्छा Score कर पाया। धन्यवाद सम्यक

NIHARIKA SHARMA, RAS (Rank - 15, RAS Exam 2018)

मेरी सफलता का श्रेय ईश्वर, माता-पिता और सम्यक को जाता है। मुझे यहाँ से Proper Guidance एवं सही Direction मिली और साथ ही मैं मुझे यहाँ पर Proper Study Material मिला जो मेरे लिए बहुत Helpful रहा। यहाँ पर मैंने Mock Interview दिया था। जिसके कारण मेरा Performance अच्छा रहा और Mains में एक अच्छा Score करने में मदद मिली। Thanks Samyak



ANIL KUMAR SINGHAL, RAS (Rank - 1, RAS Exam 2013)

वर्तमान परिदृश्य में सम्यक संस्थान द्वारा RAS परीक्षा हेतु किये जा रहे प्रसाय सराहनीय एवं श्रेष्ठ है। वर्तमान प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा हेतु संस्थान द्वारा बेहतर मार्गदर्शन, कक्षा कार्यक्रम एवं साक्षात्कार तैयारी पूर्ण मनोयोग से की जा रही है। आशा है संस्थान, भविष्य में और भी बेहतर वातावरण उपलब्ध करता रहेगा। मुझे भी संस्थान के मानद मार्गदर्शक श्री कौशल भारद्वाज जी से काफी लम्बे समय से सहयोग प्राप्त होता रहा है। भविष्य में अन्य विद्यार्थी संस्थान से जुड़कर सफलता प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। मैं सम्यक का हमेशा शुक्रगुजार रहूँगा।

SHAILESH KHAIRWA, RAS (Rank -2A, RAS Exam 2016)

The SAMYAK has played a significant role in my achievement. Extensive knowledge about the subject along with constant availability and guidance of teachers made SAMYAK a perfect match for me. Competitive and inspiring environment and good study material by the centre have helped me immensely the regular tests conducted here also proved beneficial. I would recommend SAMYAK to all Civil Service aspirants.



SANJAY KUMAR GORA, RAS (Rank - 6, RAS Exam 2016)

Right from the portrait in the entrance that welcomes us aspirants every day to the founding team that comprised of Civil Servants, the faculty who are all experts in their respective subjects to the personal guidance and unique mentoring programme - each and every aspect of the SAMYAK inspires and encourages us to be a Civil Servant.

MAHESH KUMAR, IRS (Civil Service Exam, 2015) **RPS** (RAS Exam 2012)

I owe my success to the SAMYAK team for guiding me throughout my journey. My dream is a reality today because of proficiency and expertise of the teachers at SAMYAK and their immense faith in their students. The dedication and commitment of the teachers at SAMYAK and their ability to make the classes so interesting is a superlative effort which is unmatched. I am deeply indebted to them for giving me knowledge which has helped me shape my dreams and in making me capable of achieving them.





INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Global intelligence chiefs conference

- India hosted the second conference of intelligence and security chiefs from 26 countries around the world on 1 March. The conference provided an opportunity to the participants to discuss the ongoing geopolitical tensions and exchange views on ways to overcome this crisis and other geo-political tensions. However, the meeting focused on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- **Read also:** - This security conference is organized by the country's external intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and the National Security Council Secretariat (NSC) as a part of the Raisina Dialogue. reports to.
- **Raisina Dialogue:-** Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics committed to address the most challenging issues facing the global community. The Government of India, the Observer Research Foundation and the Ministry of External Affairs jointly organize the conference. Its theme in the year 2023, Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest. aims to portray the current state of the world. The dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, with heads of state, cabinet ministers and local business representatives, media and academia participating as think tanks.

Merapi Volcano

- Merapi (Fire Mountain) is an active volcano in Indonesia. It has been in the news recently due to several explosions. The eruption of this volcano reaches up to 2,911 meters and its lower part has steep slopes with dense

vegetation. It is located near the center of Yogyakarta, the island of Java and the cultural capital of Indonesia. Its last major eruption in 2010 killed 347 people and displaced 20,000 villagers.

Global happiness report 2023

- The 'World Happiness Report 2023' has been released on 20 March, 2023 by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Finland has been given the top position for the sixth time in a row in the report released for 136 countries. While Denmark is second and Iceland is third. India ranked 125th. Afghanistan was the worst performer, followed by Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe respectively.
- **Read also:-** The World Happiness Report is published every year around 20 March as part of the International Day of Happiness celebration since 2012. The report ranks global well-being based on survey data of people in more than 150 countries. The ranking uses six key factors to measure well-being – social cooperation, income, health, freedom, generosity and absence of corruption.

Saudi Arabia became dialogue partner of SCO

- Saudi Arabia has been approved to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a dialogue partner. The SCO was formed in 2001 by Russia, China and the former Soviet states of Central Asia and has since expanded to include India and Pakistan. Iran also signed the document for full membership in the year 2022. The objectives of this organization included regional security, reducing the number of troops deployed in border areas, and working on the challenge of terrorism.

UN high sea treaty

- Members of the United Nations have signed the 'High Seas Treaty' on 4 March 2023 to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. It was agreed upon during UN-led negotiations on the sidelines of the Intergovernmental Convention (IGC) on Marine Biological diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) in New York, USA. It has yet to formally ratify the treaty as members have yet to ratify it. Once ratified, the treaty will be legally binding.
- **What is High Sea:** According to the 1958 Geneva Convention on High Sea, those parts of the sea which are not included in the territorial waters or internal waters of any country are known as High Sea. It is an area beyond a country's Exclusive Economic Zone (an area extending up to 200 nautical miles i.e. 370 km from the coast) where living and non-living resources are owned by a nation. No country is responsible for the management and protection of resources in the High Seas.

Global Terrorism Index 2023

- The 'Global Terrorism Index (GTI)' has recently been released by the think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) using data from the Terrorism Tracker and other sources. India ranks 13th in the index. According to the report, Afghanistan remains the most affected country by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year. Pakistan ranked second in terms of terrorism-related deaths worldwide in the year 2022.

Visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India

- Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is on a visit to India from 8-11 March 2023. During this, the guest PM informed about the following major announcements-
- Japan and India have finalized the 'Australia-India Education Qualifications Recognition Mechanism'. Under this, the degrees of both the countries will be valid at each other's place.

- Australia's Deakin University will set up its branch in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.
- In November, 2022 the The free trade agreements between the both countries have been approved by the Japanese Parliament.

Visit of Prime Minister of Japan to India

- Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida was on a visit to India on 20 March 2023. During this, discussions were held with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India's G-20 presidency and priorities for Japan's G-7 presidency along with several important issues.
- **Indo Pacific Initiative:-** During the visit Japanese PM Kishida made free and open Indo Pacific Initiative declare. The initiative includes maintaining peace, tackling new global issues in cooperation with Indo-Pacific countries, achieving global connectivity through various platforms, and ensuring the security of the open seas and skies. Its main objective is to balance China's growing influence and expansionist stance in the entire region.
- **Agreements:-** The following agreements were also signed between the two countries- Related to Ahmedabad High Speed Railway Project. Regarding the renewal of the Memorandum of Cooperation in Japanese language.

India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline

- The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP) was virtually inaugurated on 18 March 2023 by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina. The pipeline, the second cross-border energy pipeline between India and its neighboring countries, has the capacity to transport one million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of high-speed diesel. This pipeline will further strengthen the relations between the two countries and will be helpful in increasing connectivity and public relations between the two sides. This will give a boost to energy cooperation between the two countries as well as accelerate the pace of development in Bangladesh, especially in the agriculture sector.

United Nations statistical commission

- India has been elected to the United Nations Statistical Commission for a period of four years (starting from 1 January 2024). The commission functions under the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It is noteworthy that the Commission consists of 24 member states on the basis of geographical distribution (five members are from African countries, four from Asia-Pacific countries, four from Eastern European countries, four from Latin American and Caribbean countries and seven members from Western European and other nations).
- **Read Also :-** The United Nations Statistical Commission, established in 1947, is the apex body of the global statistical system that brings together the chief statisticians of member states around the world. It is the supreme decision-making body for international statistical activities, which is responsible for setting statistical standards and their implementation including development of concepts and methods at national and international levels.

Finland joins NATO

- Finland has officially gained NATO membership on 4th April, 2023. Finland is the 31st member country of NATO.
- **NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a political and military alliance. It was formed in the year 1949 with the objective of promoting mutual defense and collective security among the members. The 12 founding members of NATO were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. After this, the following 19 countries have joined the alliance: Greece and Turkey (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017), North Macedonia (2020) and Finland (2023). The headquarters of NATO is located in Brussels, Belgium.

India-Romania Defense Agreement

- India and Romania have signed a defense cooperation agreement in March 2023, which aims to establish and expand military cooperation between the two countries. The agreement will provide a legal framework for future cooperation in the defense sector through exchange of expertise and knowledge on subjects of mutual interest, including co-development and co-production of military equipment. This agreement will promote cooperation in the field of defense between and provide huge opportunities in areas like medical, science, cyber security, technology and R&D.

United Nations Water Conference 2023

- The United Nations has organized its first water conference on 22-24 March 22-24, in New York. The conference concluded with a mid-term review of the International Decade for Action. The United Nations believes that we are not committed enough to meet Sustainable Development Goal number 6, which aims to provide clean water and sanitation for all by the year 2030. As per the report 'Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028', this is emphasized in view of the urgent need for action. The theme of the conference was 'Our Watershed Moment: Uniting the World for Water'.

Visit of the King of Bhutan to India

- The King of Bhutan was on a visit to India in April, 2023. Here he discussed issues of bilateral cooperation and national and regional interests with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Bhutan's transformation initiatives and reform process and India's support for Bhutan's development ambitions, especially the 13th Five Year Plan beginning in 2024, were the main topics of discussion.

Talks on these issues:-

- Institutional Capacity Building and Apart from discussing financial assistance for reforms, India has also agreed to extend a third additional standby credit facility to Bhutan.

- The Indian government has agreed to Bhutan's long-pending demand for increasing the power tariff for the Chukha hydroelectric project, which began operations in 1986 with India's help. In addition, India has agreed to discuss buying power from the Austrian-backed Basochow hydroelectric project in 2008.
- The two countries agreed to expedite talks on the reservoir-based 2,500 MW Sankosh hydropower project, pending for decades due to environmental and cost concerns.

Senkaku Islands

- The Senkaku Islands are a group of eight uninhabited islands located in the East China Sea. Their total area is about 7 square kilometers. The archipelago is known as the Senkaku Archipelago in Japan, the Diaoyu Archipelago in China, and the Tianyutai Archipelago in Hong Kong. Both Japan and China claim ownership of these islands. Presently they are controlled by Japan.
- Why in discussion:- China and Japan have been set up Military hotlines have on the disputed these islands to manage maritime, air incidents.

Carbon free power generation

- The climate and energy ministers and envoys of the Group of Seven (G7) have committed to ensure carbon-free electricity generation by 2035 and accelerate the phase-out of coal. The agreement was signed in Sapporo, Japan ahead of the G-7 summit to be held in Hiroshima in May 2023. In the context of the G-20 presidency, India was also invited as a 'guest' at the summit.

Key points:-

- In view of the current global energy crisis and economic problems, the agreement calls for accelerating the adoption of clean energy for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- The G-7 countries stressed the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 43% by the year 2030 and 60% by the year 2035.
- According to the IPCC's AR6 report, which indicated the need to prevent global temperature rise by more than 1.5°C above

pre-industrial levels by the end of the century, participating countries have planned to install 1,000 GW of solar power from offshore platforms and Agreed to accelerate investment in solar and wind power sector to generate 150 GW of wind power.

- It affirms that fossil fuel subsidies are inconsistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement and commits to eliminating inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by 2025.
- **G-7:-** The Group of Seven countries (G-7) is an intergovernmental organization consisting of seven major advanced economies – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The G-7, originally the G-8 (when Russia was not invited to join), was established in 1975 as an informal forum of leaders of the world's most advanced economies. Its primary objective is to promote economic growth and stability among its member states. It serves as a forum to discuss issues of mutual concern including trade, economic policy and international security.

World population status report

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released the World Population Status Report 2023 in April, 2023, which states that India will become the world's most populous country by the middle of 2023 and India's population will exceed that of China. The World Population Status Report, published annually, covers and analyzes developmental trends in world population and demography, highlighting specific regions, countries and population groups and the specific challenges they face.

Major point:-

- According to the report, India's population is expected to reach 142.86 crore by July 2023 as compared to China's population of 142.57 crore.
- India has 25% population in the 0-14 years age group, 18% population in the 10-19 years age group, 26% population in the 10-24 years age group, 68% population in the 15-64 years age group and 7% population in the above 65 years aged group.

- India will have 29 lakh more people than its Asian neighbour China. The United States of America is the third most populous country, with a population of 340 million.
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):-** It is a subsidiary of the United Nations General Assembly which works as its sexual and reproductive health agency. UNFPA's mandate is established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It was established in the year 1967 as a trust fund, it started operations in the year 1969. It was officially named the United Nations Population Fund in the year 1987, but it was also retained as UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities) was also retained. UNFPA Works directly to address the Sustainable Development Goals on health (SDG3), education (SDG4) and gender equality (SDG5).

Popular Person

Ales Bialiatski

- Belarusian human rights activist Ales Bialiatski has been sentenced to 10 years in prison by a local court. He has been given this sentence in the case of creating situations disturbing public order, financing and smuggling. It is noteworthy that Bialiatski was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2022.

Vladimir Putin

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and another Russian official for war crimes. This is the first time that the ICC has issued an arrest warrant against one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The ICC issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin for the alleged war crime of illegally deporting and transferring children from territories under the control of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.
- **International Criminal Court (ICC):-** The Rome Statute was adopted by 120 countries on 17 July, 1998, towards building a more just world. The Rome Statute entered into force on 1st July, 2002, and after ratification by 60 states, the ICC was officially established.

At present there are 123 countries that are parties to the Rome Statute. Although India, America and China are not parties to the Rome Statute. The Rome Statute grants jurisdiction to the ICC over four main crimes: 1- the crime of genocide, 2- crimes against humanity, 3- war crimes, 4- the crime of aggression. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) deals with national and inter-state disputes, while the ICC prosecutes individuals.

Appointment

Ramchandra Paudel

- Ram Chandra Paudel assumed office as the new President of Nepal on 13 March, 2023. He has replaced Vidyadevi Bhandari on this post. In the election held for this post, he defeated his rival Subhash Chandra Nembwang.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

- Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria's ruling All Progressives Congress has been elected as the country's new President. He assumed office on 29 May, 2023. He defeated his rival Atiku Abubakar Ho in the election for the post.

Mohd Shahabuddin

- Mohammad Shahabuddin was sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh on 24 April 2023. He has succeeded Mohammad Abdul Hamid on this post.

Prize

Abel prize

- The Abel Prize for the year 2023 has been awarded to Luis Caffarelli. The prize is awarded for his contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations, including free-boundary problems and the Monge–Ampere equation.
- **Also Read:** The Abel Prize is a prestigious award in the field of mathematics that recognizes pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics. It is named after the Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel. The Norwegian Parliament established the prize in the year 2002. It is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Education.

Oscar award

- The Oscar Awards for the films released in the year 2022 were distributed on 12 March, 2023 in Los Angeles, USA. The film 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scharnert of America received awards in seven categories.

Awards received by:-

- **Best Film** - Everything Everywhere All at Once
- **Best Direction** - Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scharnert (for the film Everything Everywhere All at Once)
- **Best Actor** - Brendan Fraser (Film-The Whale)
- **Best Actress** - Michelle Mioh (for the film Everything Everywhere All at Once)
- **Best Original Song** - Naatu Naatu (ffilm -RRR)
- **Best International Feature Film** - All Cute on the Western Front (Germany)
- **Best Documentary Short Subject** - The Elephant Whippers (Indian Short Film)
- **Also read:** Academy Awards or Oscars are awarded annually by the California-based 'Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences'. This award is given to honor all the achievements in the film industry. The Academy Awards were first presented in the year 1929 and the winners were presented with a gold statuette, commonly known as an 'Oscar'.

Pritzker architecture prize

- The 2023 Pritzker Architecture Prize in the field of architecture has been announced to be awarded to Sir David Alan Chipperfield on 9 March, 2023. It is to be known that this award for the year 2022 was given to Francis Kéré. This award is the world's largest award given in the field of architecture. It is noteworthy that this award for the year 2018 was given to Balkrishna Doshi of India.

Fifa annual awards 2022

- The annual awards for the year 2022 were distributed by FIFA in Paris on 27 February, 2023. The award for the best footballer in the men's category was given to Lionel Messi of Argentina and the award for the best footballer in the women's category was given to Spain's Alexia Putelas.

Award winner:-

- Best Male Footballer - Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- Best Female Footballer - Alexia Putellas (Spain)
- Best Men's Coach - Lionel Scoloni (Argentina)
- Best Women's Coach - Sarina Wigan (England)
- Best Male Goalkeeper - Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)
- Best Women's Goalkeeper - Maryearps (England)
- Puskás Award for Best Goal - Markin Oleksi (Poland)
- Best FIFA Special Award - Pele (Brazil)

International Prize in Statistics

- Indian-American mathematician and statistician Kalyampudi Radhakrishna Rao will be awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics. This award is considered similar to the Nobel Prize in the field of statistics. The prize is awarded every two years in collaboration with five major international statistical organizations. The prize recognizes a major achievement by an individual or team in the field of statistics, especially the achievement of powerful and original ideas that have led to practical applications and breakthroughs in other disciplines.

Femina Miss India-2023

- The Femina Miss India Competition was organized on 15 April 2023 in Imphal, Manipur. During this, Nandini Gupta of Kota was selected as 'Miss India-2023'. She was crowned by defending champion Sini Shetty of Karnataka. Nandini will now represent India at Miss World 2024.

Popular books

- Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity - Dr. Karan Singh
- War and Woman - Dr. M. A. Hasan
- As Good As My Word - K.M. Chandrashekhar
- The Great Bank Robbery: NPS, Scams and the Future of Regulation - V. Pattabhi Ram and Sabyasachi Dash

Major day/week/year**March**

- March 1 - Zero Discrimination Day, World Civil Defense Day
- March 3 - World Wildlife Day
- March 4 - National Security Day
- March 1-7 - Jan Aushadhi Week
- March 8 - World Women's Day
- March 15 - World Consumer Rights Day
- March 20 - International Day of Happiness
- March 21 - International racial discrimination eradication day, international forest day
- March 22 - World Water Day
- March 23 - World Meteorological Day / Martyr's Day
- March 24 - World Tuberculosis Eradication Day
- March 27 - International Theater Day
- March 30 - Earth Hour, Rajasthan Day

April

- April 3 - Hindi Theater Day
- 4 April - International Mine Awareness Day
- 5 April - National Shipping Day
- April 7 - World Health Day
- April 11 - National Safe Motherhood Day
- 14 April - Fire Service Day
- April 17 - World Hemophilia Day
- 18 April - World Heritage Day
- April 22 - World Earth Day
- 23 April - World Book Day
- 24 April - National Panchayat Raj Day
- 25 April - World Malaria Day
- 26 April - World Intellectual Property Day



New India Literacy Programme

- The Central Government has launched the 'New India Literacy Programme' for implementation over five years from the financial year 2022-23 to 2026-27 with a financial outlay of Rs.1037-90 crore. The scheme is mainly based on volunteering for teaching and learning and volunteers can register through mobile app. All illiterates above the age of 15 years are eligible to get the benefits of this scheme.

The scheme has the following five components:-

- Foundational literacy and numeracy
- Important Life Skills
- Vocational skill development
- Basic education
- Continuing education

PM Swanidhi

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs released data related to the 'PM SVANidhi Yojana' in April 2023, which aims to provide micro-credit support to street vendors to ease the economic stress induced by the pandemic. As per the data, out of the total 42.7 lakh loans disbursed under the scheme, only Rs 5,152.37 crore was disbursed to street vendors belonging to minority communities. Additionally, the share of loans given to minority street vendors has declined from 10.23% in 2020-21 to an all-time low of 7.76% in 2022-23. Uttar Pradesh has disbursed the maximum number of loans and Sikkim has disbursed only one loan.

Fossil fuel capacity target

- The Government of India has announced plans to invite bids for renewable energy capacity, committed to install 50 GW annually for the next five years starting from the financial year 2023-24. It will include setting up at least 10

GW of wind power capacity every year. The plan aims to achieve a target of 500 GW of installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, including nuclear, by the year 2030. It is noteworthy that India currently has a total renewable energy capacity of 168.96 GW, of which about 82 GW is under various stages of implementation and about 41 GW is in the tender stage.

Assembly elections in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland

- The counting of votes was completed on 2nd March after the voting for the assembly elections in the three northeastern states in February 2023. In all the three states, the Bharatiya Janata Party formed the government in alliance.

Tripura:-

- Total Seats - 60
- Result - BJP 32, TMP 13, CPM 11, IPFT 01, Congress- 3
- Dr. Manik Saha of the Bharatiya Janata Party has become the Chief Minister again. Governor Satyadev Narayan administered him the oath of office and secrecy on 8 March.

Meghalaya:-

- Total Seats - 60 (Polling on 59, postponed due to death of candidate on 01)
- Result - NPEP 26, UDP 11, Trinamool Congress 05, Congress 05, BJP 02, Others 10
- Konrad Sangma of the National People's Party has become the chief minister.

Nagaland:-

- Total Seats - 60 (Voted on 59, Unopposed on 01)
- Result - NDPP 25, BJP 12, NCP 7, NPEP 5, Others 11
- Nefru Rio of NDPP (Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party) has become the Chief Minister.

Stand-up India Scheme

- Stand Up India scheme was launched by the Ministry of Finance on 5 April 2016 to promote grassroots entrepreneurship with a focus on economic empowerment and employment generation. The scheme has been extended till the year 2025.

Objectives of the scheme:-

- To promote entrepreneurship in women, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe category.
- To provide loans to greenfield enterprises in manufacturing, services or trading sector and allied activities in agriculture.
- To provide bank loan facility between Rs.10 lakh to Rs.100 lakh to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch of scheduled commercial banks.
- **Achievements:** Rs 40,710 crore has been sanctioned in 180,636 accounts in the last 7 years under the Stand-up India scheme. Under this scheme more than 80% loans have been given to women.

Presidential flight in Sukhoi-30 MKI

- President Draupadi Murmu took a 30-minute flight on 8 April, 2023, in a Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft from Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam. She is the third President and the second woman President (the first being former President Pratibha Patil) to make such a flight.
- The Sukhoi-30 MKI is a multirole fighter aircraft developed by Sukhoi of Russia and licensed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited of India. It is one of the most advanced fighter jets in the Indian Air Force, it is used for air superiority, air-to-ground attack and air-to-air refueling.

National party status to AAP

- The Election Commission of India has recognized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a national party. This decision of the Election Commission was taken on the basis of review of the performance of the party in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and 21 state assembly elections held after 2014.

- Total 6 national parties:- Bharatiya Janata Party, Indian National Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party, Communist Party of India-Marxist, National People's Party and Aam Aadmi Party.
- National party status was snatched from - Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and Communist Party of India.

State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22

- The 'State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22' has been released by the Minister of New and Renewable Energy in April 2023. The index has been developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (a statutory body under the Ministry of Power) in association with the Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE). Through this, the annual progress of states and union territories in energy efficiency is assessed. States have been classified into four categories based on their progress and achievements in energy efficiency implementation: Front Runner, Achiever, Contender and Aspirant.
- **Front runner category (above 60 marks):-** Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Chandigarh.
- **Achiever Category (50-60 Marks):-** Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra and Punjab.

National Mission for Natural Farming

- The Government of India has launched the National Mission for Natural Farming (NMNF) to promote chemical-free and climate-smart agriculture. NMNF will cover an area of 7.5 lakh hectares by developing 15,000 clusters. Farmers willing to start natural farming in their farm will be registered as cluster members, each cluster will consist of 50 or more farmers with 50 hectares of land. In addition, each cluster may be a single village or may include 2-3 neighboring villages under the same Gram Panchayat.
- **Natural Farming:-** Natural farming is a chemical free farming method based on locally available resources. It encourages traditional indigenous methods that free producers from dependence on external inputs. The major

focus of Natural Farming is on-farm biomass recycling with biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung and urine, pest management through diversity, on-farm vegetative mixing and the use of all synthetic chemical inputs directly or indirectly.

The Language Friendship Bridge: ICCR

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has conceptualized a project called 'The Language Friendship Bridge', aimed at expanding the cultural footprint in the neighborhood with which India has historical ties. The project aims to enable India to translate its epics and classical as well as contemporary literature into these languages so that people of both the countries can read them.
- The project will create a pool of experts in the languages spoken in countries such as Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and Indonesia to facilitate better people-to-people exchanges. It will train five to 10 people in the official languages of each of these countries. So far ICCR has focused on 10 languages, including Kazakh, Uzbek, Bhutanese, Ghoti (spoken in Tibet), Burmese, Khmer (spoken in Cambodia), Thai, Sinhalese and Bahasa (in both Indonesia and Malaysia) spoken languages. This project is important for India's foreign policy and cultural diplomacy, as it will help in strengthening India's cultural and economic ties with these countries.

Assam and Arunachal border dispute resolved

- Permanent settlement of border dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh since 1972 has been solved in April 2023. It may be noted that Assam and Arunachal Pradesh share an 804 km long border.

Key points of the agreement:-

- The settlement has taken into account the historical perspective, demographic profile, administrative convenience, proximity to the border and aspirations of the residents. Keeping this in mind, the dispute related to 123 villages covering more than 700 kilometers of border between the two states is expected to be resolved.

- This will be the final agreement under which no state will make any new claim related to any area or village in future.
- After the settlement, a detailed survey will be carried out by the Survey of India in the presence of representatives of both the state governments to determine the boundaries.

National Quantum Mission

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) in April 2023 to support scientific and industrial research and development in quantum technology. It will be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science and Technology. The mission planned for the years 2023-2031 aims to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant and innovative ecosystem in quantum technology. With the launch of this mission, India will become the seventh country after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada and China to have a dedicated quantum mission.

Main features of NQM :-

- It will aim to develop quantum computers of intermediate scale with 50-100 physical qubits in 5 years and 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years.
- The 'qubits' or 'quantum bits' of quantum computers Bits (1 and 0) are the basic units by which computers process information.
- The mission will help in developing high sensitivity magnetometers for accurate timing (atomic clocks), communication and navigation.

Operation Kaveri

- India launched 'Operation Kaveri' in Sudan to bring back Indian citizens stranded there due to violence between the army and rival paramilitary forces.

Evacuation operations conducted by India:-

- **Operation Ganga (2022):-** To bring back Indian citizens stranded in Ukraine.
- **Operation Devi Shakti (2021):-** To evacuate civilians and Afghan partners during the Taliban occupation of Kabul.

- **Vande Bharat (2020):-** To bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad due to global travel restrictions due to Corona virus.
- **Operation Samudra Setu (2020):-** Naval operation to bring Indian citizens back home from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Operation Rahat (2015):-** India evacuated around 5,600 people from Yemen during the conflict between Yemen government and Houthi rebels.
- **Operation Safe Homecoming (2011):-** To bring back Indian nationals stranded in conflict-torn Libya.
- **Operation Sukoon (2006):-** To bring Indian citizens during the military conflict in Israel and Lebanon.
- **Kuwait Airlift (1990):-** More than 1,70,000 Indians stranded in Kuwait were airlifted during the Iraq-Kuwait conflict.

Popular Places

Siddharudh Swamiji Hubli Railway Station

- On 12 March, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's longest station 'Siddharudh Swami Ji Hubli Railway Station'. The length of one platform of this station is 1507 meters. It has been recorded in the Guinness Book of Records as the longest station in the world.

Popular Person

Group Captain Shalija Dhama

- Group Captain Shalija Dhama has been selected to command a frontline combat unit in the western sector (facing Pakistan). She will be the first woman officer of the Indian Air Force to command a missile squadron in the Western Sector.

Appointments

S.S. Dubey

- SS Dubey, an Indian Civil Accounts Service officer, took over as the Auditor General (CGA) on 6 March, 2023. Dubey is the 28th CGA under the Finance Ministry.

Arun Sinha

- The Central Government has appointed IPS Arun Sinha as the chairman of the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO). Till now he was working as the acting president

of this institute.

- **NTRO:** It is a technical intelligence agency that works under the National Security Advisor and reports to the PMO. It was established in the year 2004 and its headquarter is in New Delhi.

Prize

Saraswati Samman

- Saraswati Samman for the year 2022 will be given to Tamil language writer Sivashankari. K.K. Birla Foundation has given this highest award in the field of literature. The announcement was made in March 2023. Sivashankari will be given this award for his work 'Suryavansham'.
- **Read also:-** Instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in the year 1991, under this award, the outstanding literary work published in any Indian language in the last 10 years is honored. Under this, the winner is given a cash amount of Rs 10 lakh and a citation. Two other awards instituted by the Foundation include the Vyas Samman for Hindi writers and the Bihari Samman for writers from Rajasthan.

Vyas Samman

- Vyas Samman for the year 2022 will be given to Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi, a renowned writer of Hindi literature. The award, given by the K.K. Birla Foundation, was announced in March 2023. Dr. Chaturvedi will be given this award for his novel 'Pagalkhana'.
- **Also know:-** This award is given by K.K. Birla Foundation to the best Hindi literary work published in a period of 10 years. The award was instituted in the year 1991 and carries a cash prize of Rs 4 lakh, a citation and a memento.

Porter award

- The Porter Prize 2023 has been given to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It recognized the government's strategy, approach and involvement of various stakeholders, especially Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), in the management of COVID-19. The country's contribution in the development and manufacturing of the vaccine was also appreciated. Over 2.5 billion doses of the vaccine have been distributed by India.



Rajasthan Events

Rajasthan Literature Festival

- To showcase a variety of literary, heritage and cultural activities, a three-day Rajasthan Literature Festival was organized in Jodhpur from 25-27 March, 2023. During this, various awards were given to the following seven litterateurs-

By Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy, Jaipur -

- All India Magh Award - Associate Prof. Pramod Kumar Sharma
- Ambikadatta Vyas Award - Prof. Vaidya Banwari Lal Gaur

By Rajasthan Urdu Academy, Jaipur -

- Prof. Mehmood Shirani Award - Dr. Ashard Abdul Hameed (Tonk)
- Akhtar Shinani Award - Adil Raza Mansoori (Jaipur)

By Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Bal Sahitya Academi, Jaipur -

- Children's Literature Manishi Award - Dr. Divik Ramesh (Delhi)
- Dr. Prabodh Kumar Govil (Jaipur)
- Chand Mohammad Ghosi (Merta)

Rajasthan International Expo

- Rajasthan International Expo was organized on 20-22 March, 2023 at Boranada, Jodhpur. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot made the following announcements after inaugurating the expo-
- @ This expo will be organized every year in Jodhpur. For this, a permanent structure will be constructed at Boranada.
- Directorate of Handicrafts will be opened in Jodhpur.
- Primary Health Center will be opened to provide medical facilities to the employees working in the area.

Rajiv Gandhi Knowledge Service and Innovation Hub

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot virtually laid the foundation stone of 'Rajiv Gandhi Knowledge Service and Innovation Hub' to be built at a cost of Rs 200 crore in Jodhpur on the occasion of IT Day on 20 March. The institute will provide world-class facilities to startups and service professionals as well as provide infrastructure to take innovative ideas to the ground.
- **Mukhya Mantri Ashrit Seva Yojana** :- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Ashrit Seva Yojana' on this occasion. Under this scheme Beneficiaries who are unable to move, will be identified and service provider will be sent to them for providing the benefit of government services.

Rajasthan tops in milk and wool production

- Union Animal Husbandry Minister Purushottam Rupala released 'Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2022' on 15 March 2023. According to this, Rajasthan ranks first in the country in milk and wool production. Rajasthan produces 15.5 percent of the total milk production and 45.91 percent of the wool production of the country.
- **Top five milk producing states** - Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh
- **Top five wool producing states** - Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh

Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchal Yojana

- The second phase of 'Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana' was launched in the state on 22 March, 2023. In this phase of the scheme, two lakh works of water harvesting and conservation will be done in 4600 villages in 349 Panchayat Samitis of 33 districts of the state with a cost of Rs 2600 crore.

Announcement to create 19 new districts and 3 new divisions

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the formation of 19 new districts and 3 new divisional headquarters in Rajasthan on 17 March 2023. After this, the number of districts will increase to 50 and the number of divisions to 10.
- **Declared new districts** - Anupgarh, Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Dudu, Gangapur City, Jaipur North, Jaipur South, Jodhpur East, Jodhpur West, Kekdi, Kotputli-Behror, Khairthal, Neem Ka Thana, Phalodi, Salumber, Sanchore and Shahpura.
- **New divisions** - Banswara, Pali and Sikar.
- **Read also** : A committee was formed under the chairmanship of retired IAS Ram Lubhaya on 21 March, 2022, to give suggestions on the possibilities of new districts. On 11 March, 2023, the tenure of this committee has been extended for six months.

Increase in social security pension amount

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the proposal to increase the monthly pension amount given under social security in March 2023. Eligible applicants for old age, single women, specially abled, small and marginal farmers pension will now get minimum one thousand rupees monthly pension from May, 2023 instead of Rs 500-750 per month.

Baba Amte Divyang University

- Baba Amte Divyang University will be established at Jamdoli, Jaipur for higher education and research for Divyangjan. On 20 March, 2023, the 'Baba Amte Divyang Vishwavidyalaya, Jaipur Bill-2023' was passed in the state assembly.

Dr. Savita Ben Ambedkar Scheme

- In the sequence of the budget announcement for the financial year 2023-24, the Chief Minister has approved the proposal to increase the incentive amount given on inter-caste marriages under the 'Dr. Savita Ben Ambedkar Yojana'. Under this scheme, instead of Rs 5 lakh, an amount of Rs 10 lakh will be given, out of which Rs 5 lakh will be deposited in a joint bank account and Rs 5 lakh will be

an FD for 8 years.

Chief Minister Minority Language Efficiency and Communication Skills Development Scheme

- On 20 March, 2023, the state government launched the 'Chief Minister's Minority Language Proficiency and Communication Skills Development Scheme' for the development of language proficiency and communication skills among the youth of the minority community. The aim is to provide assistance to the youth of the minority community in getting employment by developing the skills of reading and speaking French, German, Arabic, Spanish, Farsi and other foreign languages along with English.

Shri Guru Nanak Dev Sikh Welfare Board

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the formation of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Sikh Welfare Board in the state on 14 April 2023. This board will propose schemes for the social, economic and cultural upliftment of the Sikh community and give suggestions on promoting employment. There will be a total of seven nominated members in this board, including the President, Vice President and 5 members.

Award to the state in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- Rajasthan has received two awards at the national level for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Rajasthan has been given the first prize in the country for the excellent work of claim distribution through DG Claims and the second prize for speedy disposal of pending cases.

Inflation Relief Camp

- Inflation relief camps are being organized across the state from 24 April, 2023. These camps will run till June 30. In these camps, the benefits of the following 10 big schemes of the state government are being made available to the general public-
- 1- Chief Minister Gas Cylinder Scheme
 - 2- Free electricity scheme (100 units per month to domestic consumer)

- 3- Free electricity scheme (2000 units per month to agricultural consumer)
- 4- Annapurna Food Packet Scheme
- 5- MGNREGA
- 6- Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Scheme
- 7- Social Security Pension Scheme
- 8- Chief Minister Kamdhenu Yojana
- 9- Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme
- 10- Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Accidental Insurance Scheme

Prize

SKOCH award

- The schemes being run by Social Justice and Empowerment Department in Rajasthan have been awarded the SKOCH Award at the national level.

Award Schemes:-

- Palanhar Yojana - Gold Award
- Post Matric Scholarship Scheme - Silver Award
- Chief Minister Kanyadan Yojana - Silver Award

Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi Award

- The annual awards were announced on 24 March 2023 by the Rajasthan Sahitya Academy, Udaipur.

Awards announced in various categories:-

- **Meera Award** - Rati Saxena (Thiruvananthapuram), native of Jaipur for her work 'Hansi Ek Prarthana'
- Janardan Rai Nagar Award - Dr. Chandra Prakash Deval (Ajmer)
- Rangeya Raghav Award - Bharat Chandra Sharma (Banswara)
- Sudhindra Award - Poet Mayamrig (Jaipur)
- Devilal Samar Award - Ajay Anuragi (Jaipur)
- Devraj Upadhyay Award - Rajaram Bhadu (Bharatpur)
- Kanhaiyalal Sahal Award - Yash Goyal (Jaipur)
- Shambhudayal Saxen Award - Kusum Agarwal (Kankroli)
- Sumnesh Joshi Award - Tarana Parveen (Udaipur)



Rajasthan Sujas Summary

(March-April)

Public works being done on mission mode

Inflation Relief Camps:-

- Inflation relief camps are being organized by the state government from 24 April to 30 June 2023 across the state. In these, the general public and the deprived sections are being linked to the schemes according to their eligibility by giving information about public utility announcements. On 24 April, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated a price rise relief camp at Mahapura Gram Panchayat of Sanganer, Jaipur. These camps are being organized at 2000 different places in the state. operated by the state government to join the 10 public welfare schemes, registration has been made mandatory in the camps.

Major schemes included in the relief camp:-

- Chief Minister Gas Cylinder Scheme, Free Electricity Scheme (100 units per month to domestic consumer), Free Electricity Scheme (2000 units per month to agricultural consumer), Annapurna Food Packet Scheme, MGNREGA, Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Scheme, Social Security Pension Yojana, Chief Minister Kamdhenu Yojana, Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme, Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Accident Insurance Scheme.

Mukhya Mantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme:-

- The state government has implemented 'Mukhya Mantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme' this year for the families connected with the National Food Security Act in the budget of the year 2023-24. These families will be given this packet along with the ration for the month. The packet will contain 1 kg pulses, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg salt, 100 grams chilli powder, 100 grams coriander

powder, 50 grams turmeric powder and 1 liter edible oil. The start date of the scheme is 25 May 2023 and the date of start of benefits is 25 May 2023.

Chief Minister Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:-

- Under the scheme, 25 days of permanent employment is being provided by the state government to all the beneficiaries who have completed 100 days of work in MGNREGA and 100 days additional employment is being provided to Sahariya, Kathodi and specially abled people. .

Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme:-

- 'Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme' was launched on 9 September, 2022, to provide financial support to the families living in the urban limits of the state, especially the economically weak, helpless and unemployed families. In which 100 days of employment is being provided to the beneficiaries. From 1st April, 2023, instead of 100 days, 125 days of guaranteed employment will be given.

Social Security Pension Scheme:-

- Chief Minister Old Age Samman Pension Scheme, Chief Minister Ekal Nari Samman Pension Scheme, Chief Minister Special Yogjan Samman Pension Scheme and Chief Minister Small and Marginal Farmers Samman Pension Scheme are being run by the state government. The total number of beneficiaries of these schemes is 93.90 lakh. In the budget 2023-24, the state government has increased the pension of all pensioners up to the age of 75 years to at least one thousand rupees. received in pension plans The pension amount will increase by 15 percent every year.

Chief Minister Free Agricultural Electricity Scheme:-

- The state government has started Chief Minister Free Agricultural Electricity Scheme for agricultural consumers. In this, 2000 units of electricity will be given free of cost to the farmers on consumption up to per month. With this scheme, the electricity bill of about 11 lakh farmers will become zero. The start date of the scheme is May 1, 2023 and the benefit start date is June 1, 2023.

Chief Minister Free Electricity Scheme:

- In April, 2022, the state government started the Chief Minister's Domestic Electricity Grant Scheme. Under this, 50 units were being given free of cost. Now in the budget of the year 2023-24, the Chief Minister has made electricity free for the domestic consumers on consuming up to 100 units. The start date of the scheme is 1st May, 2023 and the benefit start date is 1st June, 2023.

Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Bima Yojana:-

- In the budget 2023-24, 'Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Bima Yojana' was announced to provide protection to the cattle herders from possible loss due to premature death of milch cattle livestock. In this scheme maximum two milch bovine animals will be insured for Rs 40 thousand per animal.

Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Accidental Insurance Scheme:-

- The amount of assistance given to the beneficiary families of Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Accidental Insurance Scheme has been increased from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh.

Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme:-

- The state government had started the Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme from 1st May, 2021. Insurance coverage has been increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh with effect from 1st May 2022. Now in the budget 2023-24 it has been increased to Rs 25 lakh.

Chief Minister Gas Cylinder Scheme:

- Under the Chief Minister Gas Cylinder Scheme announced in budget year 2023-24, about

76 lakh registered and BPL consumers of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will be provided domestic gas cylinders for Rs. 500. The scheme was launched from 1st April 2023.

Rajasthan International Center

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the Rajasthan International Center on 17 April 2023 in Jhalana, Jaipur. National and international level cultural, business, academic programs and meetings and conferences can be organized in this center.

Rajiv Gandhi Rural and Urban Olympics

- Rajiv Gandhi Rural and Urban Olympic Games will be organized in the state from 23rd June, 2023. About 130 crore rupees will be spent on organizing these games.

Five lakh rupees on marriage with specially abled person

- To encourage marriages with specially abled people in the state, assistance of Rs 5 lakh will be provided under the Sukhad Dampatya Jeevan Yojana. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has recently increased this amount from Rs 50 thousand to Rs five lakh.

Information commission bench will be in Jodhpur

- Information commission bench will be set up in Jodhpur. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the establishment of the bench. 12 new posts have also been created for the commission's bench.

Pipalkhant High Level Canal

- Pipalkhant High Level Canal is in Pratapgarh district, for the construction of which the Chief Minister has recently approved a financial proposal of Rs 2000 crore. With this scheme, 5000 hectare area of the district can be irrigated. This canal will be constructed from the surplus water of Mahi basin.

Behavioral Lab in Jaipur

- Behavioral Lab will be established at Harishchandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration, Jaipur. For this, the Chief Minister has given financial approval of Rs 1.22 crore. This will be the first behavioral lab in the country to be built with modern technology.

Regional Millet Research Station at Gudamalani

- Regional Millets Research Station of Indian Millet Research Institute, Hyderabad will be established in Gudhamalani district of Barmer.

Extended grant in mass wedding scheme

- The state government has increased the grant amount to encourage mass wedding conventions. Now 25 thousand rupees will be given per couple under the Mass Wedding Scheme. In this, 21 thousand rupees will be given to the newlyweds and 4 thousand rupees to the organization. This amount will be payable to mass wedding ceremonies held from 1st April, 2023.

Increase in the amount of 'Palanhar scheme'

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the proposal to increase the amount of assistance given to beneficiaries other than the orphan category under the Palanhar Yojana. More than 65 lakh children will be benefited from this scheme.
- According to the proposal, in addition to the orphan category, children in the age group up to 6 years will be given Rs 750 per month instead of Rs 500, Rs 1500 instead of Rs 1000 to the age group of 06 to 18 years. This increase in the assistance amount will be start from 1st July 2023.

DEFENCE /SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Cutlass Express

- The International Maritime Exercise - Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX-CE-23) was conducted from 26 February to 16 March 2023. The exercise was conducted with participants from over 50 countries and international maritime agencies with the common objective of enhancing maritime security, securing sea lanes in the region for maritime commerce. India's INS trikanth participated in the exercise.

Practice la perouse

- The 3rd edition of multilateral exercise La Perouse was conducted in the Indian Ocean region from 13-14 March, 2023. The exercise saw participation of personnel, ships and helicopters from the Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, Royal Navy and United States Navy. This biennial exercise 'La Pérouse' organized by French Navy. It aims to enhance maritime domain awareness and maximize maritime coordination among participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region.

Sea dragon

- Maritime exercise 'Sea Dragon' was conducted by India, United States, Canada, Japan and South Korea from 14-30 March, 2023. Its purpose is to strengthen the alliance between these countries to deal with the threats of China and North Korea. It also establishes a high level of synergy and coordination between friendly navies based on shared values and a commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

President color to INS Dronacharya

- The President of India presented the "President's color" to INS Dronacharya in March 2023. It is the highest award given to a military unit in India for its exceptional

services to the nation. It is also known as 'Nishan' which is an insignia worn by all unit officers on the left arm sleeve of their uniform. Of the three defense forces, the Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Forces to be awarded the President's Color by Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the year 1951. In India as well as in many Commonwealth countries, the tradition of the color is derived from the British Army. Indian Navy's INS Dronacharya is a prestigious gunnery school located in Kochi, Kerala. It is responsible for training officers and ratings in various areas such as small arms, naval missiles, artillery, radar and defensive measures.

Bold Kurukshetra Exercise

- The Singapore Army and the Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of bilateral military exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' from 6-13 March 2023 at Jodhpur Military Station. The exercise was hosted by the Indian Army. Exercise BOLD Kurukshetra is conducted within the framework of the bilateral arrangement for joint military training and exercises between the Singapore Army and the Indian Army. This exercise was first conducted in the year 2005. Other exercises between India and Singapore include joint military training (Air Force), trilateral maritime exercise SIMTEX (with Thailand) and Agni Yodha (Army).

INS Androth

- Androth, the second ship in the series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) was launched on 21 March 2023 at Kolkata. INS Androth is named on the largest and longest island in the Lakshadweep Islands known as Androth Island. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata.

- While Androth is powered by three diesel powered water jets, the ship can attain a maximum speed of 25 nautical miles. The primary task of the Androth is to conduct anti-submarine operations, low intensity maritime operations and mine laying operations in coastal waters. These ships are smaller in size, but are capable and also carry light torpedoes, ASW rockets and mines, close-in weapon systems (with a 30 mm gun) and 16.7 mm stabilized remote-controlled guns.

Konkan Exercise

- The annual military exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain has been organized at the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea from March 20 to 22, 2023. The exercise demonstrated preparedness, increased inter-operability and joint operations were conducted. This exercise started in the year 2004.

Megha Tropiques-1 Satellite

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully completed a controlled re-entry test of the recently decommissioned Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT-1) satellite. It is an Indo-French Earth observation satellite, launched in October 2011 to study tropical weather and climate. The main objective of this mission is to understand the life cycle of convection systems that influence tropical weather and climate and help understand their role in the energy and moisture budgets in the atmosphere of tropical regions.

AFINDEX-2023

- The 2nd edition of joint military exercise "Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023)" was held in Maharashtra from 16-26 March, 2023. Indian soldiers from Sikh, Maratha and Mahar regiments participated in the multinational exercise with a total of 124 participants from 25 countries of the African continent. The aim of the exercise is to establish an 'Africa-India Force for Regional Militaries for Regional Unity-AMRUT with the current dynamics of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force (UNPKF) through practical and in-depth discussions and tactical exercises.

Cope India Exercise

- The 'Cope India' exercise was conducted between the air forces of India and the US from 10 to 21st April, 2023, at the Kalaikunda airbase in West Bengal. Japan participated in the exercise as an observer.
- Also Read: Exercise Cope India is a bilateral joint training exercise involving the Indian Air Force and the US Air Force. It started as a combat-training exercise in the year 2004. The most recent iteration of the exercise took place in the year 2019. The exercise has evolved to include combat-training exercises, subject matter expert exchanges, air mobility training, airdrop training and larger military exercises.

Slinex-2023

- 10th edition of bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23 between Indian and Sri Lankan navies has been held at Colombo from 3-to 8th April, 2023. The exercise was conducted in two phases - Harbor Phase and Sea Phase. It aims to enhance interoperability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices between the two navies. The previous edition of the summit was to be held in Visakhapatnam in March 2022.

Cellular agriculture

- Cellular agriculture is a relatively new concept as a sustainable and ethical alternative to conventional animal agriculture. This involves obtaining animal-based products such as meat, milk and seafood with the help of a cellular method, rather than with the help of animals directly. There are two different approaches to this technology, namely cellular agriculture and precision fermentation. In cell culture, animal stem cells are obtained through a painless process and then cultured in large containers, where they grow. On the other hand, precise-fermentation methods use microorganisms such as yeasts to produce products such as milk and egg white proteins.

Sea based ballistic missile defense interceptor

- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and the Indian Navy on 21 April 2023 successfully conducted

the maiden flight test of the sea-based Inter-Atmospheric Interceptor Missile off the coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal. The test was aimed at countering and neutralizing a hostile ballistic missile threat, which would add India to the ranks of nations with Naval Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capability. With this successful test, India has achieved self-reliance in developing highly complex network-centric anti-ballistic missile systems, which is a significant step towards India's strategic defense capabilities. This successful test also highlights India's commitment towards ensuring national security through indigenously developed technologies.



India is the second largest sugar exporting country

- India has reached the second position in terms of sugar exports in the world. The first place belongs to Brazil. India's sugar exports are set to increase from US\$ 810.9 million to US\$ 4.6 billion between 2017-18 and 2021-22. In the financial year 2022-23, the export of sugar can cross \$ 5.5 billion.
- Read also:- Sugar industry is an important agro-based industry which is the basis of rural livelihood of about 50 million sugarcane farmers and about 5 lakh workers are directly employed in sugar mills.

PM Mitra Mega Textile Park

- The Central Government has approved PM Mitra Mega Textile Park in seven states of the country (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat) with the aim of promoting the textile industry. These will be established by the year 2026-27. The country's first PM Mitra Park will be set up in the aspirational district of Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu.

India is the world's largest arms importer

- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Trends in International Arms Transfer 2022 report, India remained the world's largest arms importer from 2018 to 2022, followed by Saudi Arabia and Ukraine. India was the world's largest importer of arms in 2018-22, accounting for 11% of total global imports.
- The US share of global arms exports increased from 33% to 40%, while Russia's share fell from 22% to 16%. Russia was India's largest arms supplier between 2013-17 and 2018-22,

but its share in India's arms imports fell from 64% to 45%, while France was the second largest supplier to India between 2018-22. emerged as the leading arms supplier (29%), followed by the United States (11%).

India's economic growth forecast

- The World Bank has released a report titled 'South Asia Economic Focus: Expanding Opportunities: Toward Inclusive Growth', which provides economic forecasts for India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The report decreased India's growth forecast to 6.3% for fiscal year 2023-24 and cited high borrowing costs and slow income growth as the primary reasons for the downgrade. India's growth rate in FY 2024-25 is expected to increase to 6.4%, which shows an upgrade of 0.3% points from the previous forecast.
- **World Bank:-** It was established in the year 1944 in Brettonwoods, USA as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) together with the IMF. Later on the bank was renamed as the World Bank. The World Bank is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Presently the number of its member countries is 189. Its headquarter is in Washington DC.

Navratna company status to Rail Vikas Nigam

- The Union Finance Ministry has approved the upgradation of Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL) from Mini Ratna Category-I to Navratna. With this, now RVNL has become the 13th Navratna in the Central Public Sector Enterprises.

Criteria for Navratna Company:-

- A company gets Navratna status only when the company has four independent directors and it has got the category-1 status of Mini Ratna company.

- Should have obtained rating as Excellent or Very Good for three years under MoU system in the company in the last five years.
- The company has to calculate the net worth, net profit, total production cost, manpower cost, service cost and capital employed. Must have scored 60 or more out of 100 in all parameters.

Foreign trade policy 2023

- The new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 has been implemented by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution from 1st April, 2023. FTP 2023 is a policy document based on the continuation of time-tested schemes that have facilitated exports, while also being a document that is responsive to urgent business needs.
- **Also read:** The government aims to increase India's overall exports to US\$ 2 trillion by 2030, with an equal contribution from the goods and services sectors. The government also aims to encourage the use of the Indian currency in cross-border trade, aided by a new payment settlement framework introduced by the RBI in July 2022.

Green Deposit Framework of RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a new framework for offering green deposits to customers with the objective of developing a Green Finance Ecosystem (GFS) in India. This framework will come into effect from 1st June , 2023. Green deposit refers to an interest-bearing deposit received by a Regulated Entity (RE) for a fixed period, with earmarked income for allocation to green finance.

- **Green Finance Ecosystem-GFS :-** Refers to the financial system that supports and enables investment in environmentally sustainable projects and activities. This includes a variety of financial products, such as green bonds, green loans, green insurance and green funds, that are designed to promote environmentally friendly methods and projects. The green finance ecosystem aims to create a financial system that supports transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and sustainable economy, while also incorporating the risks and opportunities associated with environmental issues such as climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

Logistics Performance Index-2023

- In April 2023, the 'Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023' was released by the World Bank. India ranks 38th in the index released for 139 countries.
- **Also Know:-** LPI is an interactive benchmarking tool developed by the World Bank Group. It helps countries identify challenges and opportunities in the performance of trade logistics. It assesses the ease of establishing reliable supply chain links and the fundamental components that enable it. The effectiveness of logistics is assessed on the basis of 6 factors:- Customs performance, quality of infrastructure, smooth arrangement of shipments, quality of logistic services, tracking and tracing of consignments and timeliness of shipments.



Cricket

India - Australia series

- Australia's cricket team toured India in March 2023, where the 'Border-Gavaskar Trophy' and 3 one-day match series and four Test matches were played between the two countries.
- **Border-Gavaskar Trophy:** India won the Test series by defeating the Australia team by 2-1. One match ended in a draw. India's R-Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were jointly chosen as the 'Player of the Series'. The captain of the Indian team was Rohit Sharma and the Australian captain was Pat Cummins.
- **One Day Series:** Australia won the series of three one-day matches played between the two countries by defeating India 2-1. Australia's Mitchell Marsh was chosen as the 'Player of the Series'.

Harmanpreet Kaur among Wisden's five cricketers

- India's female cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur has been included in Wisden's five named cricketers of the year 2022. She is the first woman in the country to win the Cricketer of the Year Award.
- **Also included:-** Tom Blundell (New Zealand), Daniel Mitchell (New Zealand), Ben Foakes (England) and Matthew Potts (England) are the other four players to win the Wisden Cricketer of the Year Award.

Tennis

Miami open

- The Miyani Open Tennis Tournament was organized in Florida in April 2023.

Here are the winners:-

- **Men's Singles:- Winner-** Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
- **Runner-up** - Janick Sinner (Italy)
- **Women's Singles:- Winner-** Petr Kvitova (Czech Republic)
- **Runner-up** - Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)

Wrestling

- Asian Wrestling Championship
- The Asian Wrestling Championship was organized from 9-14 April 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan. In the competition, Kazakhstan stood first with a total of 20 medals including 7 gold and Japan finished second by winning a total of 20 medals including 6 gold medals. India secured 7th position by winning a total of 14 medals (1 gold, 3 silver and 10 bronze).

India's medal winners:-

- **Gold** - Aman Sehrawat
- **Silver** - Rupin Panghal, Antim Panghal, Nisha Dahiya
- **Bronze** - Deepak Mirka, Anirudh Gulia, Neeraj Chhikara, Vikas Dalal, Sunil Kumar, Anshu Malik, Sonam Malik, Manisha Bhanwala, Ritika Hooda, Priya Malik.

Athletics

Men's long jump record

- Jesvin Aldrin of Tamil Nadu set a new record in the men's long jump event at the 2nd AFI National Jumping Championships on 2 March 2023. He jumped 8.92m to break M Sreesankar's record of 8-36m.

Hockey

- Hero Santosh Trophy
- Karnataka defeated Meghalaya to lift the Santosh Trophy, the men's senior national

championship, for the fifth time. Karnataka defeated Meghalaya 3-2 in the match played on 4 March 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Robin Yadav of Karnataka was adjudged man of the match. .

Shooting

- ISSF shooting world cup
- ISSF World Cup was organized in Bhopal from 20-27 March 2023 under the aegis of International Shooting Sports Federation. India secured the second position by winning a total of 7 medals (1 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze) in the competition. China stood first with 9 medals (5 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze).

India's medal winners:-

- Gold - Sarabjot Singh
- Silver - Varun Tomar/Rhythm Sangwan
- Bronze - Varun Tomar, Rudraksh Balasaheb Patil, Rudraksh Balasaheb Patil/Narmada Raju, Manu Bhaker, Sifrat Kaur Samra

Boxing

- IBA Women's World Boxing Championship
- The IBA Women's World Boxing Championship is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 15-26 March, 2023. In the competition, Indian boxers topped the table by winning 4 gold medals. Second place China won 3 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals.
- **Medal winners from India:-** Neetu Ghanghas, Sweety Boora, Nikhat Zareen, Lovlina Borgohain.

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