

# Samyak

An Institute For Civil Services

# Monthly Current Affairs

## November-2023

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- International
- Rajasthan
- Science & Tech
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**USEFUL FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**November : 2023**



Near Riddhi-Siddhi Circle, Gopalpura Bypass, Jaipur



# 1

# INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

## The new king of Malaysia:-

- The royal families of Malaysia have elected 'Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar' as the country's new king.
- He will succeed the current King Al-Sultan Abdullah on January 31, 2024 next year.
- Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy.



## Robert Fico becomes the new Prime Minister of Slovakia:-

- Robert Fico has been elected as the Prime Minister of Slovakia for the fourth time.
- His party SMER won the September 2023 elections with 22.94 percent votes and took office for the fourth time.



## Newly appointed regional directors of the WHO South-East Asian Office

- Bangladesh's Saima Wazed will be the regional director of the South-East Asian office of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Got six votes more than Shambhu Prasad Acharya of Nepal.
- Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the current Southeast Asia Regional Director of the World Health Organization, will hand over the charge to Wazed on February 01, 2024.

### World Health Organization

- Establishment – 7 April 1948
- Headquarters – Geneva (Switzerland)
- Director General – Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Ethiopia)

## Saima Wazed

- She is the daughter of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- She has done extensive work in the field of autism and mental illness, which has formed the basis of improvements in public health regulations in Sri Lanka.



**Britain's new Home Minister:-**

- British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has dismissed Home Minister Suella Braverman.
- Former Foreign Minister James Cleverly has been made the new Home Minister.
- Former Prime Minister David Cameron has been appointed as the new Foreign Minister.
- Braverman published a letter denouncing the police's double standards in dealing with Palestine supporters. Which was strongly opposed by the pro-Palestine public of Britain.

**The world's first humanoid robot -**

- Polish company Hanson Robotics and Dictador, a spirits brand based in Cartagena, Colombia, have unveiled the world's first humanoid robot named "Mika".
- This innovative project aims to blend advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning with the company's unique values.
- Mika uses advanced AI and machine learning algorithms to process data rapidly and accurately.
- In 2016, Hanson Robotics unveiled Sophia, Mika's sister.
- According to the Dictador, Mika has been given the title of Honorary Professor. awarded to the female humanoid robot at the inauguration of the 2023/24 Collegium Humanum University in Warsaw.

**List of creative cities released by UNESCO:-**

- UNESCO released its latest list of Creative Cities Network.
- Kozhikode in Kerala has been ranked as the 'Literary City' and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh has been ranked as the 'Music City'.
- On World City Day, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay nominated 55 cities for various creative sectors.
- The nominated cities have been selected based on their commitment to promoting culture and creativity in their development strategy.
- The newly nominated Creative Cities have been invited to participate in the Youth Summit in Braga, Portugal (July 1-5, 2024) under the theme "Bringing Youth to the Table for the Next Decade".

- The world bodies represent seven creative sectors: crafts and folk arts, design, film, gastronomy, literature, media arts and music.
- The Constitution of UNESCO was adopted in London on 16 November 1945, it came into force in 1946.
- Its headquarters is in Paris (France)

**United Nations Forum on Forests:-**

- Hosted by – Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Organizer – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.
- More than 80 representatives from 40 countries have participated, including 20 international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).
- It focuses on two thematic areas: best practices on forest fire and its prevention and restoration in fire-affected areas along with forest certification and sustainable forest management.

**Chanakya Raksha Samvad 2023:-**

- Event – Manekshaw Center (New Delhi)
- Organizers – Center for Land and Warfare Studies (CLWAS) and Indian Army
- Objective – To focus on addressing security challenges in South Asia and the Pacific region.
- During this period, the program organized in six different sessions and focused on the theme 'Service of India and the Indo-Pacific Region - Cooperation for Comprehensive Security'.

**33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific:-**

- Event – 13 to 17 November, 2023
- Organizer – World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)
- Venue – New Delhi
- Representatives from 36 countries including India, representatives of regional and international organizations and private sector veterinary organizations participated in this conference.

- Chaired by – Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan
- The recommendations to be adopted during the 33rd Conference will be presented to the World Assembly of Representatives of the UN in May 2024 for endorsement.

### World Organization for Animal Health

- It is an intergovernmental organization responsible for improving the health of animals around the world.
- Headquarters – Paris, France.

### International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions:-

- Event - 06-08 November, 2023
- Organizer - Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
- Venue – Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Topic-Torture and other abuses: Role of National Institutes of Human Rights (NHRIs)
- The objective is to develop and strengthen cooperation between the NHRI and to discuss relevant items on their agenda.
- Indian National Human Rights Commission Chairman Justice Arun Mishra addressed the 14th International Conference.
- Mishra stressed making the society more humane and civilized to eliminate the scourge of oppression.
- The International Conference for National Human Rights Institutions takes place every three years, with the last international conference being held in 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

### 5th India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:-

- Event - November 10, 2023
- Organizer – India
- Venue - New Delhi
- During the fifth ministerial 2 + 2 dialogue between India and the US, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held talks with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.
- The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement that in line with the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and US President Joe Biden in June and September this year, measures to advance the India-US partnership were discussed.

### ASEAN-India Millet Festival-2023

- Event - 22 November to 26 November, 2023
- Organizer – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, India
- Venue - Jakarta (Indonesia)
- A millet-focused exhibition has been organized as part of the festival, with participation from millet-based enterprises, start-ups and Indian chefs.
- Objective – In line with the International Year of Millets (IYM), to raise awareness and develop markets for millets and millet-based products among ASEAN member states.

#### What are millets?

- Millets are small-seeded grasses that have been used since ancient times. These are commonly known as 'coarse grains'.
- Millets are rich in nutrients as they contain protein, fibre, and Vitamin B in abundance.
- **Examples-** Bajra, Ragi, Maize, Kodo, Jowar and Kutki etc.
- International Millet Year - 2023

### World's first passenger flying taxi - EH216 - S

- Guangzhou, China-based company EHang has received the world's first airworthiness certificate for its two-passenger autonomous air taxi EH216 - S.
- EHang is first US listed company to receive this certificate.
- Earlier in June 2023, for the first time, the United States government had given official approval to fly the 'Model A' car of Alef Aeronautics.

### Visa-free entry for Indians

- Thailand is waiving the visa requirement for a large number of Indian tourists to strengthen its tourism sector.
- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin broke this news after it was decided in the cabinet meeting that from November 10, 2023 to May 10, 2024, Indian tourists will be able to enter Thailand without a visa.
- Thailand's tourism market has shown signs

of growth due to tourist arrivals from India and a large number of airlines and hotels have focused on it.

- Earlier on October 24, the Sri Lankan Cabinet had approved issuing free visas to other countries including India with immediate effect till March 31, 2024 as a pilot project.

## Costa Serena

### What is it?

- First international cruise liner.
- Costa Cruises, Italy is part of Carnival Corporation, one of the world's largest cruising groups with iconic cruise brands.
- Launch - November 03, 2023
- Inauguration - Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal
- **Launch venue** – Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- The Central Government has provided guaranteed berths for cruise ships, removal of ousting charges, concessional uniform single rate for all major ports, relaxation of up to 30% in cruise tariff for domestic cruise ships, and relaxation in cruise tariffs for foreign cruise ships. Exemption of cabotage for Customs includes the same SOP(s) as for Customs.
- The Government also plans to launch a coherent Cruise Tourism Policy in line with international standards and practices.
- Ousting Fee - An additional fee equal to 100 percent of the normal fare for reserving a seat is called an Ousting fee.
- Cabotage – This is the licensing fee for the permission given for the movement of ships.

## White Hydrogen Reserves: France

- The largest deposits of white hydrogen have been discovered by two scientists in France, scientists Jacques Pironon and Philippe de Donato. While they were searching for fossil fuel under the ground in north-eastern France they accidentally discovered a significant deposit of white hydrogen.
- They found a 20% higher concentration of hydrogen 1,250 meters below ground and estimated that there could be 6 million to 250 million metric tons of hydrogen in storage.

- It is named "white" because "production does not generate greenhouse gases." This gas will have a low cost and can be a replacement for conventional fuels.
- White hydrogen reserves have also been discovered in Russia, Oman, France, Mali and other places.



## White Hydrogen

- White hydrogen occurs naturally in the Earth's crust and is considered a potential clean energy.
- Unlike other forms of hydrogen, white hydrogen produces only water when burned, making it an exceptionally clean energy source with enormous potential.
- White hydrogen can be used as a clean alternative in various applications, such as fuel cells for vehicles or industrial processes.

## New administrative office of CBSE-

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for the Indian Overseas Community in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held a meeting with principals of schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in Dubai.
- One of the important announcements made during this meeting was that the long standing demand of CBSE Schools to set up a regional administrative office in the UAE was accepted.
- The new office is ready to come up in the Emirate of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- This decision is expected to streamline operations in these schools and enhance the educational experience for students and teachers.

### Chile becomes 95<sup>th</sup> member of ISA -

- Chile has become the 95th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- During the meeting of Chilean Ambassador Juan Angulo with Joint Secretary Abhishek Singh in the Ministry of External Affairs, in New Delhi on November 06, 2023 submitted the supporting documentation required.
- It was conceptualized through the joint efforts of India and France in 2015 during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP-21).
- It currently has 116 signatory countries, of which 94 are full members.
- The sixth session of the ISA was held on October 31, 2023, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and was chaired by RK Singh, Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.



### 3-D-Printed Temple: Telangana-

- Telangana has unveiled the world's first 3D-printed temple.
- **Where** – Burugupalle, Siddipet, Telangana
- **Manufacturer** -Hyderabad Apsuja Infratech in collaboration with additive manufacturing solutions provider SimpliForge Creations.
- This structure is not only the first 3D-printed temple of its kind in India but also in the world.
- The three-part structure, which is 35.5 feet high and spread over 4,000 square feet, has three sanctums - a modak dedicated to Lord Ganesha, a square pagoda dedicated to Lord Shankar and a lotus-shaped one for Goddess Parvati.

### SBI Branch in Sri Lanka-

- On November 02, 2023, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Trincomalee branch of State Bank of India (SBI) in eastern Sri Lanka.
- SBI, the largest Indian commercial bank, provided \$1 billion in assistance during the recent economic crisis in Sri Lanka.

### NAAM 200 :-

- The NAAM 200 event was held on 2 November 2023 at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium, Colombo.
- Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the chief guest of this program.
- 2 November marks the 200th year of the arrival of Tamils of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. The British brought Tamils to Sri Lanka mainly to work in the tea plantations.
- The theme of the India-Sri Lanka Business Summit was 'Enhancing Connectivity: Partnership for Prosperity'.

### Giant glacier: A23a-

- Reason for being in the news - The world's largest glacier is now moving forward after being stuck on the sea floor for more than 30 years.
- A23a was separated from the Antarctic coastline in 1986.
- It rapidly sank into the Weddell Sea of the Antarctic and became an ice island.
- Spread over an area of approximately 4,000 square kilometers (1,500 square miles), this glacier is more than twice the size of Greater London.





- According to the British Antarctic Survey, it became stable on the sea floor about 4 decades ago and it stirred it for the first time 3 years ago.
- It is expected to soon be swept into the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, colloquially known as the Iceberg Path, which will likely carry it toward the South Atlantic.

### 'Lamp of the East'

- To commemorate 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and South Korea, this art exhibition was organized by 'Jaipur Art Summit' at the Welcome Art Gallery of Hotel Rajputana Sheraton. 50 artefacts were displayed in it.

### Australia India Education and Skills Council (AIESC)

- First meeting 6 to 7 November, 2023 (Australia-India Education and Skill Council), IIT Gandhinagar.
- **Chairman:-**
  - Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship)
  - Jason Clare (Minister for Education, Government of Australia) Braden O'Connor (Minister for Skills and Training, Australia)
- It is a bi-national education, training and research partnership established in 2011.

### Sixth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to be held on October 31, 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

- **Chairman:-** R. K. Singh (Minister of New and Renewable Energy)
- **Participants :-** 116 members from 20 countries
- Inauguration of projects
- Beautification of the Parliament Building of the Republic of Malawi.
  - Solarization of two rural health care centers in the Republic of Fiji.

- Establishment of 1 solar powered cold storage of 5 MT capacity for the benefit of agricultural stakeholders at La Digue Island, Republic of Seychelles.
- Solarization of Nawai Junior Secondary School (JSS) in the Republic of Kiribati.
- A total of 6 billion people (80%) in the world are dependent on the import of fossil fuels and the energy they provide.
- Renewable energy sources have the potential to decarbonize the power sector by 65% by 2030 and 90% by 2050.

### International Solar Alliance

- Founder:- November 30, 2015
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi (India)
- François Hollande (France)
- Members – more than 120 countries (countries lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn)
- Headquarters – New Delhi, India
- Chairman- R. K. Singh
- Prime objective:-
  - Promotion of solar energy.
  - To add 1000 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030 and provide electricity to 100 crore people and attract investment of \$1 trillion.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and America.

- An "Innovation Handrock" Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and America.
- Under this agreement, there will be an emphasis on strengthening the START ecosystem through innovation ecosystem and startups.
- Its primary objective is to promote innovation and employment generation in critical and emerging technologies (iCET).





# 2

# NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

## 54th International Film Festival of India:-

- Venue – Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium (Goa)
- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has inaugurated the festival.
- IFFI - 2023 started with the British film 'Catching Dust'.
- IFFI – 2023 concluded with – American movie titled 'Featherweight'.
- Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit was honored with the 'Special Recognition for Contribution to Indian Cinema' award at the 2015 Awards.
- Famous Hollywood actor-producer and two-time Oscar winner Michael Douglas was honored with the IFFI Lifetime Achievement Award at the closing ceremony of the IFFI Awards.

## Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign:-

- Prime Minister Modi's presence on the birth anniversary of India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31, 2023, concluded the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh Abhiyan'.
- Under this, more than 20 thousand representatives from 7,000 blocks of 766 districts of 36 states and union territories reached Delhi carrying more than 8,000 Amrit Kalash.
- 'Amrit Kalash Yatra', taking soil from every corner of India and plants from different regions, envisions a grand 'Amrit Vatika' near the National War Memorial, symbolizing 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.
- Nodal Agency:- Ministry of Culture
- Slogan:- Salute to the soil, Salute to the heroes.

## Activities of Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign

- Erection of memorial plaques called 'Shilaphalakam' in village panchayats near Amrit Sarovars, in honor of the brave warriors.
- At the memorial site, people take a solemn pledge incorporating the Panch Pran of the Honorable Prime Minister, reaffirming their commitment to the country.
- **The five vows are as follows-**
  1. I will protect the soil of the country.
  2. I will increase the fertility of the country's soil.
  3. I will increase the productivity of the country's soil.
  4. I will increase the diversity of the country's soil.
  5. I will increase the sweetness of the soil of the country.
- As part of 'Vasudha Vandhan', planting of 75 native saplings by each village or gram panchayat to create an Amrit Vatika.
- To honor both living and dead families of freedom fighters.
- Hoisting the national flag, playing the national anthem along with hoisting the national flag.
- 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' is the collection of soil from panchayats/villages by youth volunteers and others from every corner of the country and bringing it to the block level.
- Similarly, collecting soil from smaller urban bodies and bringing it to larger municipalities/urban local bodies.

## Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign

- A progressive initiative 'Women for Water, Women for Water Campaign' has been launched under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Atal Mission for

Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM).

- Odisha Urban Academy is the knowledge partner of this scheme.
- "Jal Diwali" is celebrated during this campaign.
- This campaign was organized from 7-9 November, 2023.
- **Objective of the campaign** – To provide a platform to involve women in water governance.
- They will be given first-hand knowledge about water treatment processes through visits to water treatment plants in their respective cities.
- These visits will explain the important processes involved in providing clean and safe drinking water to households.

#### **AGNI - Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative:-**

- Organizer – Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH ( Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy )
- **Venue** – New Delhi
- **Objective** – To promote research to mainstream practical Ayurveda practices through scientific validation and evidence-based evaluation
- The CCRAS will document and publish reported medical practices and therapeutic regimens for educational and educational purposes.
- This initiative will provide a platform to Ayurvedic practitioners to disseminate their experience and innovative methods for diagnosis of various types of diseases.
- To promote scientific research through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals, CCRAS has—
  - Started Scholarship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) for graduate scholars,
  - Scheme for Training in Ayurveda Research (PG-STAR) for PG scholars, (SMART) program for teachers has been started.

#### **Gujarat's first heritage train**

- **Inauguration** – Gujarat

- Inaugurated by - Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on National Unity Day

#### **Features –**

- It will be hauled by an electric engine, which is designed like a steam locomotive.
- There will be no stoppage of the train during the 182 km journey between Ekta Nagar and Ahmedabad.
- This three-coach train will connect Ekta Nagar or Kevadiya station, (where the Statue of Unity and the memorial of Sardar Vallabhai Patel are located) to Ahmedabad.
- It includes foggers to produce exhaust smoke and sound systems to produce the sound of steam locomotives.
- Railway Ministry renamed Kevadiya Railway Station as Ekta Nagar Railway Station in 2022, which falls under Vadodara division of Gujarat.

#### **India's first vertical wind tunnel**

- **Where** – Special Forces Training School (SFTS), Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh)
- **By whom** – Indian Army
- **Inaugural** – Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pandey

#### **Fact -**

- This advanced wind tunnel is the first of its kind in the Indian Army and aims to revolutionize military training methods.
- The vertical wind tunnel acts as a free fall simulator, creating a column of air at specific speeds to simulate various combat free fall situations.

#### **Hallmarking Centre, Idukki:-**

- With the inauguration of the hallmarking center in Idukki, Kerala became the first state in India to have hallmarking centers in all its 14 districts.
- According to 2022 data, the gold business in Kerala is worth more than ₹1 lakh crore with annual sales of about 250 tonnes.
- There are around 12,000 gold traders in the state, most of whom have BIS registration.
- However, stamp hallmarking is applicable only to pieces weighing more than 2 grams.
- Hallmarking concerning gold - It is the process of certifying the purity and fineness of gold by stamping.

### BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards)

- It is the national standards body of India.
- It was established under the BIS Act, 2016.
- Function – Standardization, Marking and Quality certification of goods.

### ATMAN Center of Excellence

- Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT – K) has established a Center of Excellence named 'ATMAN' (Advance Technologies for Monitoring Air-Quality Indicators)
- It focuses on indigenous and low-cost sensor manufacturing and building Artificial Intelligence (AI) /Machine Learning (ML) capabilities to enhance air quality in India.

### Eat Right Station

- Rangiya and Mariani railway stations of North East Frontier Railway in Assam were awarded 'Right Station' certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
- This certification is awarded by FSSAI to those railway stations that set standards in providing safe and nutritious food to the passengers.
- Earlier, Guwahati, Harishchandrapur and Lumding railway stations of NF (Northeast Frontier) Railway stations have been awarded "Eat Right Station" certification by FSSAI

### Why certification?

- "Eat Right Station" certification is awarded by FSSAI to railway stations that follow standard food storage and sanitation practices.

### GI Tag

#### Uttarakhand

- The Geographical Indications Registry of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has awarded the prestigious GI tag to Bering Tea
- Other products which have received GI Tag - Items like Himalayan millet, Malta fruits, litchis of Ramnagar Nainital, peaches of Ramgarh Nainital, Almora Lari chillies are included.

### Ladakh

- The Geographical Indications of Goods and Services Registry, functioning under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has officially granted the Geographical Indications Tag for 'Ladakh Sea Buckthorn' to the Department of Industries and Commerce of Ladakh.
- Sea buckthorn is also known as 'wonder plant', 'Ladakh gold', 'golden bush' or 'gold mine of cold deserts'.
- This is the fourth GI Tag of the Union Territory. Earlier, Ladakh Pashmina shawls, Khubani (Ladakh Raktsey Karpo Apricot) and Ladakh wooden carvings have also received the GI tag.

### Kerala

- The Indian Institute of Spice Research (IISR) in Kozhikode, Kerala has achieved a significant achievement in the field of agriculture with the successful development of an unprecedented variety of black pepper called 'IISR Chandra'.
- This innovative approach has given rise to a high-yielding pepper variety with unique potential in both quality and yield.
- 'IISR Chandra' will prove to be a game changer for the economy in India.

### Ghol Fish

- In the Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 organized during November 21, 2023 (World Fisheries Day), Gujarat declared Ghol Fish as the state fish.
- Scientific name – *protonibea diacanthus*

### Speciality -

- Golden brown colored Ghol fish is also called gold fish.
- It is one of the most expensive fish species in the world.
- This fish is also called the fish with a heart of gold.
- Apart from the coasts of Gujarat, this fish is also found in Maharashtra.

- Rich in nutrients like iodine, omega-3, DHA EPA, iron, taurine, magnesium, fluoride and selenium, this fish is considered a powerhouse of nutrition.
- Ghol fish is found mainly in the Indo-Pacific region, but Ghol fish is now one of the most expensive marine fish globally.

### World's largest single-site solar power plant:-

- The United Arab Emirates has inaugurated the world's largest single-site solar power plant.
- This plant will help in reducing carbon emissions by 2.4 million tonnes per year.
- This plant is spread over an area of more than 20 square kilometers of desert.
- The 2 GW capacity 'Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic Power Project' is 35 km away from Abu Dhabi and will generate electricity for approximately 2 lakh homes.

### Centralized Wildlife Crime Management System – HAWK :-

- Karnataka Forest Department in collaboration with Wildlife Trust of India has launched a centralized wildlife crime management system called 'Hostile Activity Watch Kernel' (HAWK) to monitor all aspects of forest and wildlife crime.
- Function - Supported by digital services company NTT Data, the system will help the department keep an eye on activities like wildlife deaths, suspected criminal activities and movement of suspicious vehicles.
- It was started in Kerala in the year 2019.

### Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)

- Formation-1998
- Headquarters – Noida, Uttar Pradesh

### In-house software of Election Commission (ENCORE)

- **ENCORE:** Enabling Communication On Real-Time Environment
- **ENCORE Counting Application:-**
  - This platform helps the Returning Officers to digitise the votes received, tabulate round-wise data and generate various statutory reports for counting.

- **ENCORE Scrutiny Application:-** It is a tool which enables the Returning Officers to scrutinise the nominations submitted online by the candidates.
- **ENCORE Nodal App:-** Under this, political rallies, road shows and meetings cannot be allowed without obtaining 'No Objection Certificate' from various departments.

### ● Election Commission in India (Constitutional Institution)

- **Established:-** January 25, 1950
- **Scope:-** Under Article 324 the Election Commission of India has been given the responsibility of supervising, directing and managing the entire electoral process for the Parliament and the Legislature of each State as well as for the President and Vice President of India.
- **Composition:-** Initially only one Chief Election Commissioner, presently one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners
- **Tenure:-** 6 years or 65 years of age.
- **Selection:-** Appointment of the Chief Election and Election Commissioner by the President.
- **Salary:-** Entitled to the same salary and benefits as the judges of the Supreme Court.
- **Other Apps:-** ECI has election process related app, Saksham App, C-Vigil, Candidate App, Booth's App, BLO App and Observer App.

### UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- Recently, Kozhikode in Kerala and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh have been added to the prestigious creative cities list of UNESCO for contributions in the fields of literature and music, respectively along with 55 other cities (currently 8 Indian cities).
- Kozhikode was given the status of India's 'City of Literature'.
- Gwalior got the status of 'City of Music'.
- UCCN currently lists 350 cities from over 100 countries in seven different fields: craft, folk art, media arts, film design, gastronomy, literature, and music.

- Newly recognized cities will join UCCN's July 1-5, 2024 celebration in Braga, Portugal
- Theme: "Bringing Youth to the Table"
  - Other Indian cities in UCCN
  - **Srinagar** - Crafts and Folk Arts (2021)
  - **Mumbai** - Films (2019)
  - **Hyderabad** - Gastronomy (2019) (Food)
  - **Chennai** - Creative City of Music (2017)
  - **Jaipur** - Crafts and Folk Arts (2015)
  - **Varanasi** – Creative City of Music (2015)

### **National Cooperative Organics Limited**

- National Seminar on Promotion of Organic Produce through Cooperatives was organised by National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) in New Delhi.

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah launched the logo, website and brochure and launched the website of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Soil Limited and organic manure produced from Varanasi Biogas Plant.
- Through NCOL, 'Organic under one roof' i.e. a network of retail outlets for all organic products is being started.

### **NCOL: (National Co-operative Organics Ltd.)**

- **Establishment** :- January 11, 2023
- **Function**:-It covers the entire supply chain of organic products via activities ranging from aggregation, certification, production, testing, procurement, storage, processing, branding, packaging, labeling, marketing, etc for the ultimate benefit of farmer members.





# 3

# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## 4th Virtual Trade Fair

- It was virtually organised by the Rubber Board of India.
- This is the first effort by the Commodity Board to promote domestically produced and manufactured goods.
- Objective:- To establish the products as a brand by presenting them in the domestic and international market.

## Indian Rubber Board :-

- Establishment - 1947
- Formation – Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Government of India)
- Headquarters – Kottayam (Kerala)

## Extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

- Recently, the Central Government announced the expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and extension of the free ration scheme for 5 years.

## Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY):-

- Launched - 2020
- Objective – To provide free food grains to eligible ration card holders under the National Security Act, 2013.
- In the year 2023, an integrated system was developed by merging this scheme with the National Food Security Act.

## Pradhan Mantri Kisan Bhai Yojana :-

- Objective – This scheme was started by the Central Government to help small farmers.
- **Key points**
  - To empower the farmers, to enable them to preserve the crop for 3 months after harvesting.
  - To reduce commercial monopoly on crop prices.
  - Assistance to farmers in choosing the time of crop marketing.

## One Nation, One Student ID Initiative: APAAR ID

- Full name of APAAR – Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry
- Why in news:- Recently, several state governments requested schools to seek parental consent for the creation of a new student identity card known as the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR).

## What is APAAR?

- It is a unique childhood ID system for Indian children that simplifies the transfer of educational records between schools and states.
- **Advantages of APAAR:-**
  - Lack of reliance on physical documents.
  - Development of a simplified educational process.
  - Controlling forgery in educational certificates.
  - Digitization of records.

## Approval for direct listing of some Indian companies in international stock exchanges:-

- The notification was issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Approval was given under Section 1 (2) of Section 29 of the Companies (Amendment) Act - 2020.
- Till now, companies were listed through American Depository Receipts (ADR) and Global Depository Receipts (GDR).

## International Stock Exchange

- Established - December 20, 2013
- Headquarters – St. Peter Port, Guernsey
- Founder – Royal Court of Guernsey



# 4

# RAJASTHAN LANDSCAPE

## EV's first Centre of Excellence :-

- The first 'Centre of Excellence' of EV in the state is being built at Government Engineering College, Jaipur at a cost of Rs 5 crore.
- The work of imparting training on electric vehicles to those having diploma and degree in engineering has been started.
- Rajasthan has its first government-level EV training center at the Government Engineering College in Jaipur.
- In this, training will be given to students holding diplomas and degrees in Electrical, Electronics, Mechanical, and Computer Science.

## Rajasthan International Expo-2024

- Event - 4 to 6 March, 2024
- Venue – Udyog Bhawan Jodhpur
- Organizer - Rajasthan Export Promotion Council (REPC)
- Objective - The success of the industrial policies, export promotion programs and campaigns of the state government should give impetus to exporters and exports.
- Presided over by REPC and RAJSICO Chairman Rajeev Arora.
- Current status of exports - Exports from Rajasthan were Rs 46,476 crore in the year 2017-18, which increased to Rs 77,771 crore in the year 2022-23.

## Rajasthan Export Promotion Council (REPC)-

- Formation – 3 September 2022
- Objective – Monitoring of export-related issues of industries and removing problems related to them.
- RAJSICO -
- Established - 3 June 1961
- Headquarters – Jaipur
- Public company status - 1 February 1975

- Objectives of RAJSICO – Assistance, encouragement to small industrial units and handicraftsmen of the state and proper marketing of the goods produced by them.

## Raj APICON (Annual Conference of the Association of Physicians of India)

- Event – 28-29 October, 2023
- Venue – Kota
- Inauguration – Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla
- 90 renowned experts and 800 physicians from across the country participated.
- This is an annual conference of physicians.
- **Objective**-To gather all the physicians across the country and create new policies by removing the obstacles related to physicians.

## Hadoti's first fortified rice plant

- Hadoti's first plant to prepare fortified rice will be set up in Bundi district of Rajasthan.
- Meaning of fortified rice - Nutritional rice.
- Benefits - Compared to common rice, it has more iron, vitamin B-12 and folic acid.
- According to the Food Safety Regulator, FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India), consuming them increases the amount of nutrients in the food and maintains good health.

## Fortified Rice -

- According to FSSAI, fortified rice is made by adding micronutrients in the right quantity to rice.

## 5G Testing Laboratory-

- **Where** – IIT, Jodhpur, MNIT Jaipur, MBM University Jodhpur, BITS Pilani, Vanasthali Vidyapeeth Niwai (Tonk).
- **By whom** - Central Department of Telecommunications
- **Project** - Opening of mobile's 5th generation technology testing lab (5G testing lab) in 100 higher educational institutions of the country.

**Objective of the project -**

- Through the 5G Testing Lab, students will be able to develop applications of 5G technology in social and economic fields so that 5G data can be used to further improve the lives of the common man.

**Postal stamp issued on Meera Bai:-**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a postal stamp and a coin of Rs 525 to commemorate the 525th birth anniversary of Meera Bai.
- She was born in Kudki, Pali.
- Father – Ratan Singh (Kudki, Pali).
- Husband – Raja Bhoj (Maharaja of Chittor)
- A postage stamp was issued on her in the year 1952 also.

**Elections on 199 out of 200 seats in Rajasthan:-**

- Due to the death of the Congress candidate from Srikanpur, Sriganganagar assembly constituency of Rajasthan, the assembly elections were held not on the total 200 seats but on 199 seats.
- Under Section 52 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA, 1951), if a candidate

of a recognized party dies before the voting process, then the election for that seat is postponed and voting is held later.

**When were the elections postponed?**

- **2023:** Voting was not conducted in Karanpur assembly constituency of Sri Ganganagar on 25 November.
- **2018:** Voting was postponed due to the death of BSP's Laxman Singh in Ramgarh, Alwar.
- **2013:** Elections were postponed due to the death of BSP candidate in Churu region.
- **1993:** Elections were postponed due to the death of a BJP candidate in an accident in Rajakhera of Dholpur district.
- **1985:** Voting was held only on 198 seats due to the death of Mansingh of the former royal family of Bharatpur and another candidate from Deeg in Bharatpur district.
- **1977:** Due to the death of one candidate, voting was held on only 199 seats.

**Gurmeet Singh Kooner:**

- He was the current MLA of Congress Party and the next election candidate.



## RAJASTHAN NEWS

**Jaipur Municipal Corporation Greater penalized by National Green Tribunal:-****Reason:-**

- The National Green Tribunal has ordered to penalize Jaipur Municipal Corporation Greater for non-disposal of garbage.
- This penalty will be calculated by the State Pollution Control Board under petition number - 606/2018.

**Other facts:-**

- This decision was given under the case

Ashok Malik vs Commissioner Municipal Corporation Greater Jaipur.

**Penalty calculation:-**

- Population more than 10 lakh - Rs 10 lakh per month
- Population from 5 lakh to 10 lakh - Rs 5 lakh per month
- Other bodies – Rs 1 lakh per month

**National Green Tribunal**

- National Green Tribunal has been established in India by the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

**Work:-**

- Environmental protection.
- Forest conservation.
- Enforcement of any legal rights relating to the environment including other natural resources.
- To provide relief and compensation to the injured person or property and to dispose of the cases related thereto effectively and expeditiously.

**Three new judges in Rajasthan High Court:-**

- Three judges transferred to the Rajasthan High Court from other high courts were administered the oath by Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Augustine George Masih.

**The judges are -**

1. Avnish Jhingan (Punjab and Haryana High Court)
2. Arun Moga (Punjab and Haryana High Court)
3. Mannuri Lakshmana (Telangana High Court)

**Rajasthan High Court**

- Established – 29 August 1949
- Headquarters – Jodhpur

**Palace on Wheels train got the title of second best luxury train:-**

- Palace on Wheels train operated in the state by Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) got second place after Kyushu Train (Japan).
- Received this award in the Luxury Tourist Train category under Conde' Nast Readers' Choice Award - 2023.

**Other luxury trains of the country are as follows-**

- Golden Chariot - 9th place
- Maharaja Express - 12th place

**Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC):-**

- Establishment – 01 April 1979
- Work -
  - Manages many restaurants, cafeterias, hotels and bars in Rajasthan.
  - It also organizes package tours, fairs, festivals, entertainment, shopping and transportation services.

**Other facts -**

- The headquarters of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation is located in Jaipur.
- Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Limited is registered under the Rajasthan Companies Act, 1956.

**Kartik Festival:-**

- Kartik Mahotsav was organized from 13 November to 27 November at Uttar Totadri (Galta Ji, Jaipur) which is called the main seat of Vaishnav sect of North India.

**Major events of the fair:-**

1. **Dala Chhath Mahotsav** - It was organized in Galta Ji on Kartik Shukla Shashthi (6<sup>th</sup>).
- In this festival, the devotees offer Argh (water) to the Sun in the Galata Kund in the evening and then stand in the Kund for the whole night and offer Argh (water) to the Sun on the morning of Saptami (7<sup>th</sup>).
2. **Gopashtami** – It was organized on Kartik Shukla Ashtami. Cow worship is considered to have special significance on this day.
3. **Bhishma Panchak** - The five-day festival from Kartik Shukla Ekadashi to Purnima is called Bhishma Panchak. These days the virtue of charity has special importance.

**Rajasthan State School Standards Authority:-**

- Under the National Education Policy 2020 in Rajasthan, Rajasthan State School Standards Authority will be formed with the aim of increasing the quality of school education.
- After Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan will be 4<sup>th</sup> state to establish it.
- It will function as an independent institution.

**Tijara Nursing College got recognition from Indian Nursing Council (INC)-**

- Government Nursing College, Tijara, Alwar was recognized by the Indian Nursing Council (INC), considering it suitable for 60 seats.
- With this recognition, the students here will be eligible for registration in government recruitments in the country and abroad.

**Indian Nursing Council -**

- Established – 1947, New Delhi
- There is a regulatory body for nurses and their education in India.

**Women Voters Conference:-**

- To make women voters aware about 100% voting, a Women Voters Conference was organized at Siam Auditorium, Kota.

**Two day workshop on Nano Technology:-**

- A two-day workshop on nanotechnology was organized by the Department of Zoology of Rajasthan University at Ramaswamy Auditorium, Jaipur.
- Scientists, research scholars and students from across the country participated in it.

**Swayamsevak Handicraft Exhibition 2023:-**

- Event - Entertainment Paradise (EP) Lawn, Jawahar Circle, Jaipur.
- Organizer - Laghu Udyog Bharti, Jaipur.
- Attractive exhibition of products of famous craftsmen, cottage and women industries of the state.
- Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Lok Sabha member from Jaipur Rural participated in it as the chief guest.
- It was organized from 3 November to 5 November.

**High Rise MEMU Train:-**

- The state's first Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train will be operated.

**Features -**

1. 8 coaches
  2. Maximum speed of 110 km/hour.
  3. Sliding doors on both sides.
  4. CCTV and GPS in each coach.
  5. Like the metro, station information and sound system is also installed on the display board.
  6. Will be run over a distance of 150 km.
- Its coaches are manufactured in the coach factory Chennai.

**Operations will be up to the following places-**

- Jaipur - Sawai Madhopur - Bayana
- Jaipur - Ajmer - Marwar

**Electric Multiple Unit (EMU)**

- Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) is a multiple-unit train.
- It includes self-propelled vehicles that use electricity as motive power.

**Establishment of modern medical research lab:-**

- An MoU was signed between Rajasthan University and Banaras Hindu University to set up a national level modern lab in the National Institute of Ayurveda Deemed University.
- Through this, apart from rats and rabbits, pre-clinical research of Ayurvedic medicines can be done on *Drosophila melanogaster* and zebrafish.

**Drosophila Melanogaster -**

- *Drosophila melanogaster* is a species of fly in the Drosophilidae family, an insect of the Diptera order.
- This species is often known as the fruit fly or lesser fruit fly, or "vinegar fly", "pomato fly", or "banana fly".

**14 schools of Sikar included under PM-SHRI scheme:-**

- Under the PM-SHRI (Schools for Rising India) scheme, the Central Government is upgrading 14500 schools across the country, out of which 716 schools are to be selected from Rajasthan. On this basis, the Central Government has included 14 government schools of Sikar district under this scheme.
- In Rajasthan, 402 schools are to be selected in the first phase, all these 14 schools are included in it.

**'Dharti Dhora Ri' Folk Culture Festival:-**

- Event-16 November to 22 November 2023
- Venue—Maharana Pratap Auditorium, Jaipur.
- **Organizers**— Infosys Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
- Duration - 7 days
- In "Dharti Dhora Ri" folk culture festival Nagada playing, dance, Poongi playing, Dhrupad singing, folk dance and folk dramas are organized.



**Voter Awareness Song:- “O Bhayo Vote Nak-wa Jano”:-**

- “25 November Bhoor Nahi Jaano Re Lok-tantra Re Parv Ro Thane Farz Nibhaon Hai.” With this song, voter awareness program started in all of Udaipur district.
- This song was composed by Bhairulal Kalal, Principal of Mahatma Gandhi School, Girwa Tehsil, Udaipur.

**ST – 2 became the oldest tigress of the country:-**

- Tigress ST-2 of Sariska holds the record of being the oldest tigress of the country.
- She was born in 2004 and is now 19 years and 4 months old.
- ST - 2 broke the record of its mother, Tigress Fish, who had lived for 19 years.
- The average age of a tiger-tigress is 12 to 15 years.

**The country’s biggest awareness scroll painting:-**

- Issuer – Election Department
- Reason – To spread the message of voting in the Assembly elections 2023.
- Demonstration - at Barmer district headquarters
- Special -The country’s largest voting awareness Scroll Painting , approximately 101 meters long.
- Various instructions of the Election Department, information related to voting, awareness slogans and various information related to the Election Commission were depicted in it.

**Major actions keeping an eye on the assembly elections -**

**Operation Nakashi:-**

- Under Operation Nakashi, the blockade is being tightened and seizure of illegal cash and other goods is being carried out intensively.

**Operation Jackpot:-**

- Under this, all the District Superintendents of Police of the state have been instructed to strengthen their intelligence system and conduct raids on illegal goods and places to seize them.

**Touch the target-20 (T-to-T-T)**

- Under this, all the districts were given a target of seizure of Rs 20 crores. Jodhpur district first touched this figure followed by Jaipur.

**Rama Ekadashi/Rambha Ekadashi:-**

- This festival is celebrated on the day of Kartik Krishna Ekadashi. On this day, grand tableaux are organized in the Govind Dev Ji temple.

**Appointment of Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court in the Supreme Court:-**

- Recently, on the advice of the Collegium, the Chief Justices of three High Courts were appointed to the Supreme Court.
- It also includes Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court George Augustine Masih.
- George Masih was sworn in by the Governor on 30 May 2023 as the 41st Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.

**What is collegium?**

- Collegium in India is a system by which judges of the Supreme Court and High Court are appointed and transferred.
- This system has developed not through the provisions of the Constitution but through the decisions of the Supreme Court.

**Organization of Heritage Show:-**

- Event-18-20 November 2023
- Venue – Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur.
- Three-day heritage show was organised.
- This is the second season of the show.

**Satrangee Week:-**

- Event- 16 November to 22 November 2023
- Venue – Jaipur.
- Objective – To increase the voting percentage and focus more on the areas which had low voting percentage in the previous elections.
- During the 7-day week, voting awareness work was done every day through different methods like tricycle, vote tree, lamp donation, rally etc.

### State's third bird century

- It is being constructed in Nevata Dam (Jaipur).
- It is being developed on the lines of Kailadevi Sanctuary.
- This sanctuary will be divided into 7 blocks, out of which 3 blocks will have clean water and 4 blocks will have water taken from Nevata Dam.
- Other bird sanctuaries – Kailadevi Sanctuary and Talchhapar.
- It has three parts
  - Wetland – for provision of food for birds.
  - Grassland – for migration of birds.
  - Woodland - plants with fruits so that all kinds of birds can migrate.

### SINCONF International Conference - 2023

- The two-day 16th edition of SINCONF (Security of Information and Networks) was organized at Manipal University (Jaipur) in collaboration with Hasan Kalyoncu University (Turkey).

### Iconic Amer

- 'Amer Development Authority' recently passed a proposal to spend a sum of Rs. 14 crores to make Amer a tourist destination.
  - Beautification and Conservation – Rs 6.24 crore
  - Three Heritage Pathways - Rs. 2.70 crore
  - Parking facility – Rs 1.25 crore
  - Dynamic lighting and musical fountains will be installed in Dil-e-Aaram Bagh. Colorful fountains around Shahi Ram Bagh Palace - Rs 4 crore
- All the funds will be provided from the Tourism Development Fund.

### Manufacturing of silicosis detection device by MNIT Jaipur

- MNIT, Jaipur has prepared an Artificial Intelligence based device for testing silicosis in mine, construction and factory workers.
- MNIT had received a fund of Rs 15 crores under the "Silicosis Prevention and Research Project", under which this device was manufactured.

### Silicosis

- Silicosis is a chronic lung disease usually caused by exposure to unsafe levels of silica dust over a period of several years.
- There are 3 common types of silicosis:
  - Chronic silicosis – exposure to silica dust for more than 10 years
  - Accelerated silicosis – exposure to silica dust for 3 to 10 years
  - Acute silicosis – develops within a few weeks or months of exposure to silica dust.

### Harit Bima Yojana

- Anupgarh's Harit Bima Yojana got first place in The Urban Leonathan Platform.
- Rajasthan's only scheme among 51 schemes.

### Harit Bima Yojana:

- To conserve the environment and protect birds by making waste to the best in the municipal city.
- In this scheme, unused plastic bottles are collected by unskilled workers of Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme from the disposal of solid waste management, Swachh Bharat Mission, urban areas, all government, private schools, colleges, marriage palaces, public places for environmental protection.

### Rajasthan won gold and silver medal in roll ball in National Games

- In the men's category, Rajasthan defeated Maharashtra by the score of 7-5 and won the gold.
- In the women's category, Rajasthan was defeated 4-3 by Maharashtra and as a result, the women's category won the silver medal.

### Rajasthan Wushu team won 8 medals including four gold

- **Gold**
  - Nitika Bansal (65kg.)
  - Mukesh Chaudhary (75 kg)
  - Tausif Hasan (85 kg.)
  - Neelam Chaudhary (Gunshu Event)
- **Gold - 4**
- **Silver - 1**
- **Bronze - 3**

## Momasar Utsav 2023



- Location:- Momasar Village, Bikaner
- Haveli of Shri Jaichand Lal Patwari, Haveli of Shri Kaniram Budhmal Patwari
- It is a 3 day festival of folk music, art and culture. (3 to 5 November 11th edition)

## Rajasthan State Roller Skating Championship, 2023

- When – 2nd to 5th November
- Where – Bikaner
- Organiser – Roller Skating Federation of India (RSFI) by Rajasthan Skate Association.

- **Medal Table -**
  - Jaipur (1st) (74 medals 30 gold, 24 silver, 20 bronze)
  - Bikaner (Second)
  - Jodhpur - Udaipur (3rd)
- Star :- Disha Singh – 2 Silver, 2 Bronze

## 37th National Games in Goa

- In the 37th National Games held in Goa, Jaipur's international archer Priya Gurjar got double success: -
  - Silver in individual event
  - Gold in Women's Team Competition

## Squash team won bronze medal in the national games

- The Rajasthan team won the bronze medal by defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-1 in the semi-finals.
- Players – Yashi Jain, Riya Sisodia, Ritvika Singh and Chhavi Saran

## Rajasthan Golf Team won bronze medal:-

- 37th National Games, 2023
- Team – Girraj Singh Khadka and Sawai H S Bhati (Rambagh Golf Club)



# 5

# DEFENSE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## First 100% FDI defense company in India

- India has allowed Sweden's SAAB to set up a new facility for rocket manufacturing, the first example of 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defense sector.
- This FDI proposal, worth less than Rs 500 crore, was approved last month.
- Carl Gustaf has set up a new company called SAAB FFV to manufacture the latest generation of M4 system (shoulder-fired rocket).
- Technology – Sighting technology and carbon fiber winding
- India currently allows 74% FDI in the defense sector through the automatic route, permission for more is available on a case-by-case basis.
- Although the rules for FDI approval were relaxed in 2015, till now no foreign company was able to get 100 percent FDI permission in the defense sector.

## First satellite-based gigabit broadband service-

- Who - Reliance Jio
- Benefits -
  - Nationwide coverage
  - Expanding high-speed Internet access to remote areas of India
  - India's first satellite-based gigabit broadband service
- Official unveiling - at India Mobile Congress.
- For this project, Jio has partnered with Luxembourg-based satellite telecommunications network provider SES.
- With the help of state-of-the-art Medium Earth Orbit (MED) satellite technology, Jio will be able to provide gigabit speed internet services from space.
- Other companies providing satellite broadband services – Hughes Net, Viasat, Project Kailper, One web, telestat.

## Hydrogen producing bacteria

- '*Sporanaerobium hydrogeniformans*', a new genus of anaerobic '*lignocellulose-degrading bacteria*' found in the hot springs of Aravali in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra,
- It can produce hydrogen gas as a by-product of metabolism.
- According to a recently published paper in the journal Archives of Microbiology, the Bioenergy group at the Agarkar Research Institute (ARI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, has been studying anaerobic bacteria in the breakdown of *lignocellulosic* waste for the last ten years.
- The structural elements of lignocellulosic agricultural wastes, cellulose and xylem can be broken down by this bacterium.

## New mushroom species in Kerala:-

- Scientific name – *Candolleomyces albosquamosus*
- Discoverer - Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute in Kerala.

## Mig-21 Bison fighter aircraft retired:-

- MiG-21 Bison aircraft at Uttarlai Air Force Station in Barmer district in Rajasthan on October 31, 2023 took off for the first time.
- These old aircraft, which have been in service for six decades, will be replaced by "Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark-1A".
- Air Chief Marshal VR Choudhary plans to retire all MiG-21s by 2024.

## LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) Mark – 1 A

- This is a fighter aircraft and an advanced version of Tejas aircraft.
- It is being manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

### Mig – 21

- It is a supersonic fighter jet aircraft.
- Manufacturer – Mikoyan – Gurevich Design Bureau Soviet Union
- HAL manufactures MiG-21 aircraft in India.

### Project Kusha -

- What is it ? – It is India's air defense system.
- Goal – To develop strong air defense system
- To protect at various levels and provide strategic and tactical coverage.
- Manufactured by Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in India under Public Private Partnership (PPP)
- The project will not only outperform Israel's Iron Dome system, but will also rival the effectiveness of Russia's S-400 system and the United States' Patriot system.
- The system comprises indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Defense (LRSAM) systems, long-range surveillance and fire control radars as well as interceptor missiles, which Can detect enemy targets at ranges of 150 km, 200 km and 350 km.
- The surveillance (Surveillance and Fire Control) radar will enable the Indian Air Force (IAF) to effectively monitor the airspace and defend against enemy attacks.

### Prachanda helicopter-

- Indian Army successfully conducted the inaugural firing of 70 mm rocket and 20 mm turret gun of Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' both during day and night.
- Prachanda is India's first indigenous Multi-role Combat Helicopter (MCA), developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- This helicopter is fitted with the Shakti engine, which has been jointly developed by HAL and Safran of France.
- The helicopter received operational approval in the year 2017.
- The helicopter will be armed with Helina missiles, the Air Force version of which is called Dhruvastra. The Army had inducted its first LCH on September 29, 2022.

### 'IL38 SD' of Indian Navy retired:-

- It is a long-range maritime patrol aircraft of the Indian Navy.
- It is being retired after 46 years of glorious service.
- The decommissioning ceremony was held at INS Hansa, Dabolim (Goa) on 31 October 2023.

### Project Dolphin:-

- **Launch** – 06 November 2023 (Bay of Man-nar Biosphere Reserve)
- **By:** Government of Tamil Nadu under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat Program of Government of India
- **Objective** – To strengthen marine ecology and the overall health of the marine environment.
- Under this, many activities will be started including dolphin population estimation, protection, monitoring and spreading awareness.



### Mebella Vaccine:-

- Indian immunologists created MR vaccine to protect children from Measles and Rubella.
- Mebella vaccine is a two-dose vaccine, where the first dose is to be given at the age of 9 months, while the second dose is to be given at the age of 16-24 months.
- **Manufacturer** – Indian Immunologicals Limited in partnership with Polyvac Institute of Vietnam
- Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) was established in 1982 by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- **Measles** -This is caused by Virus named Rubella.
- **Rubella**-This is called German measles infection.





### MiG-21 Bison retired

- Bison aircraft of Uttarlai Air Force Base MiG-21 fleet was retired.
- It played an important role in the 1971 India-Pakistan war and the 1999 Kargil war.
- The Indian Air Force will phase out all MiG-21 aircraft by 2025.

### 15B frigate 'Surat' unveiled

- The Indian Navy's latest indigenous, guided missile destroyer 'Surat' was unveiled by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Surat.
- This warship was launched on 17 March 2022 in Mumbai by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.

### First INDUS-X Investors Meet

- The objective of the first 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and the US is to enhance defence excellence innovations under the aegis of Department of Defence Production and US Department of Defence. INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul) was also launched during the event.

#### INDUS-X

- Full name - India- United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem
- This project was launched in June 2023 during the US visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It was established to expand strategic technology partnerships and defence industrial cooperation between the governments, businesses, and academic institutions of India and the United States.

### Exercise CORPAT and Bongosagar

- Between the navies of India and Bangladesh
- 4th Bongosagar -23 and 5th CORPAT Exercises were conducted in North Bay of Bengal.
- In this exercise, ships Kuthar, Kiltan and patrol aircraft Dornier from the Indian side and ships Abu Bakr, Abu Ubaida and

patrol aircraft from the Sri Lankan side participated.

### Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2023)

- Indian Navy's three-day top level regional strategic dialogue
- "Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2023" was launched on 15 November in New Delhi.
- Its chief guest was Honorable Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- Under this, a book titled "Building Partnerships India and International Corporation for Maritime Security" was released by the Vice President.

### 9th Mitra Shakti Exercise - 2023

- Joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka
- The 9th edition was held in Aundh (Pune).
- In this, soldiers of Maratha Light Infantry Regiment from the Indian side and 53 Infantry Division from the Sri Lankan side participated.
- The objective of this exercise is to jointly rehearse sub-conventional operations under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter.
- The previous edition was held in Sri Lanka in October 2021.

### Exercise Vajra Prahar

- Special joint armed forces exercise between India and America
- The 14th edition was organized in Umrai (Meghalaya).
- It aims to share best practices and excellent experiences in areas such as joint program planning and operational strategy.
- The first edition of this exercise was held in 2010.
- This exercise aims to exchange ideas and share best practices between the special forces of both the countries.
- To achieve this, a mechanism has been developed to increase interoperability between the two armies and strengthen defense cooperation.

**Austra-Hind Exercise 2023**

- Between India and Australia
- The second edition of this exercise was held in Perth (Australia) from 22 November to 06 December.
- This exercise started from 2022, which was organized at Mahajan Field Firing Range (Rajasthan) and it was decided that this annual exercise will be organized alternatively in both the countries.

**Surya Kiran Exercise XVII**

- Between the armies of India and Nepal
- 17th edition was organized in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand)
- This is an annual exercise, which is organized alternately in both the countries.
- Its first edition was organized in 2011.

**9th National Pollution Response Exercise**

- Organizer – Indian Coast Guard
- Venue – Vadinar (Gujarat)
- Various departments, ministries, ports, oil management, agencies etc. of Central and Coastal State Governments participated in this exercise.
- More than 31 foreign observers and 80 delegates participated in it.
- Its objective is to be ready to deal with all pollution related emergencies.

**Unveiling of the third frigate 12706 'Imphal' of 15B Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer**

- Inaugurated by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi.
- Builder – Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MLD)

**Characteristics-**

- Weighing 7400 tonnes and 164 meters long, this ship is equipped with modern weapons, surface-to-air missiles, antiship missiles and torpedoes.
- Its speed is 30 nautical miles/hour.

**It was designed by the Indian Navy Warship Design Bureau.****Imphal**

- Its foundation was laid on 19 May 2017
- Trial Start – 28 April 2013
- It was handed over to the Army on 20 October 2023.

**INFUSE Mission :-**

- NASA has launched the Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Experiment mission from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on a sounding rocket.
- **Target** : - The Cygnus Loop, a 20,000-year-old supernova remnant located 2,600 light years from Earth (the remains of a star that is 20 times more massive than our Sun).



# 6

## INDEX AND REPORTS

### Road Accident Report in India-2022

- According to the Central Government's 'Road Accidents in India-2022' report, India is facing a serious road safety crisis in 2022.
- The number of road accidents increased from 28.2% in the year 2012 to 36.5% in the year 2022.
- Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accidents in the year 2022 with 64,105 accidents (13.9 percent), followed by Madhya Pradesh (54,432 i.e., 11.8 percent).
- The number of road accidents in India increased from 4.12 lakh to 4.6 lakh, with the number of deaths increasing from 1.53 lakh to 1.68 lakh.
- According to data released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in the year 2022, there were 1,264 accidents and 42 deaths every day in the country.

### States with highest death rate-

- Uttar Pradesh (13.4%)
- Tamil Nadu (10.6%)
- Maharashtra (9%)

Among the states, Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accidents on national highways in the year 2022.

### Main causes of accidents

- Speeding was identified as the leading cause, accounting for a staggering 72.3% of accidents and 71.2% of deaths.
- A large proportion of the victims are in the 18-45 age group, accounting for 66.5% of the total deaths.
- Among the vehicle categories involved in road accidents, two-wheelers had the highest share (44.5 percent) in the total accidents and fatalities during 2022 for the second consecutive year.

### Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List-2023

- HCL TECH Founder Shiv Nadar and his family have topped the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023.
- For the financial year 2022-23, he donated Rs 2,042 crore, making it the fifth consecutive year that Nadar has claimed this distinguished rank.
- Wipro's founding chairman Azim Premji and his family took the second position with a donation of Rs 1,774 crore.
- There was a significant increase of 267% in Premji's charitable contribution compared to the previous year.
- The youngest philanthropist in this list is Nihil Kamath, he donated ₹110 crore during the financial year 2022-23.
- Rohini Nilekani tops among women with donations of Rs 170 crore.
- Mumbai is the philanthropy capital of India with 39 individuals, followed by New Delhi and Bengaluru.
- A total of 14 people from India demonstrated their extraordinary generosity by contributing more than ₹100 crore.

### World Intellectual Property Indicators Report-2022

- Issuer—World Intellectual Property Organization
- 1<sup>st</sup> place – China (1-58 million patents)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – America (505,539 patents)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Japan (405,361 patents)
- According to the report, despite a decline in global filings for trademarks and designs, the world's innovators filed 3.46 million patent applications in 2022, an increase for the third consecutive year.
- Patent applications by residents of India increased by 31.6% in 2022. In 2022, Asia accounted for 67.9% of global patent filings, 67.8% of trademark applications, and 70.3% of industrial design filings.

### World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPO)

- Director General- Daren Tang (Singapore)
- Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland
- Formation-1967
- **Function**–To encourage creative activities and promote intellectual property protection.

### 100 Most Inspirational and Influential Women List-2023

- Issuer–BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)
- 28 women working on climate protection have been included in the Top 100 Women.

### BBC Top 100 Women 2023 includes four Indian women-

- Actress – Dia Mirza,
- Cricketer – Harmanpreet Kaur,
- **Photographer**-Aarti Kumar Rao (Book 'Margin Land: India's Landscapes on the Brink')
- Tibetan Buddhist nun–Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo
- Actress Dia Mirza has been promoting messages related to issues like climate change, clean air and wildlife conservation as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Programme.
- This year, Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman cricketer to be included in Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year.
- Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo, born in England in the 1940s, converted to Buddhism as a teenager. At the age of 20, she travelled to India and became one of the first women in the West to become a Tibetan Buddhist nun.
- Freelance photographer, writer, and National Geographic Explorer Aarti Kumar Rao works across South Asia to document climate change.

### ADR report on Rajasthan Assembly Elections- 2023

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released the details of candidates contesting elections in 2023. According to the detail, following are the millionaire candidates:

Seats	Party	Percentage	Number
200	BJP	88%	176 candidates
199	Congress	84%	167 candidates
185	BSP	20%	36 candidates
78	RLP	46%	36 candidates

86	AAP	29%	29 candidates
18	CPI(M)	28%	5 candidates
17	BTP	6%	1 candidate

### Total Candidates – 1875

- Criminal cases - 326
- Serious Criminal Cases – 236

### Criminal cases

CPI(M)	67%
RLP	31%
BJP	21%
Congress	17%
AAP	17%
BTP	6%
BSP	4%

- Cases of Women Atrocities–136 Candidates
- Cases of Attempt to Murder - 34 Candidates
- Cases of Murder– 4 Candidates
- Cases of Rape – 1 Candidate
- Sensitive Assemblies - (45) In these, more than 3 candidates have criminal cases.
- Sawai Madhopur, the assembly with highest number of criminal cases, has criminal cases against 7 candidates.

### Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

- **Established in 1999** by a group of professors from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad.
- **Objective:** To increase transparency and accountability in the political and electoral system of the country.
- **Functions:**
  - To improve governance and strengthen democracy by continuing work in the area of electoral and political reforms.
  - Preventing corruption and criminalization in the political process.
  - Empowering voters through greater dissemination of information related to candidates and parties for better and informed choices.
  - Ensuring greater accountability of political parties.
  - Ensuring internal democracy and transparency in the functioning of the Party.

## INTERNATIONAL

### WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2023

- According to the report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2023, India has the highest number of TB cases (27% in the world).
- 2.8 million (28.2 lakh) TB cases reported in India in 2022 (12 percent mortality rate)
- According to the data of 192 countries, 7.5 million people were found to be suffering from TB in the year 2022.
- The 2022 figures include 55% males, 33% females and 12% children aged 0–14 years.
- Top countries with TB incidences:
  - India (27 percent)
  - Indonesia (10 percent)
  - China (7.1 percent)
  - Philippines (7.0 percent)
  - Pakistan (5.7 percent)





# 7

## PLACE IN NEWS (RAJASTHAN)

### Pindwara (Sirohi)

- The stones carved for the construction of Ram Mandir, Ayodhya are being sent from here. 35600 tonnes of 1016 cubic feet of stones are being sent.

### Tourist Destination, Udaipur

- Udaipur city, famous for its hospitality, remains a hub of tourists. Famous places here are-
  - Butterfly Park (Amberi, Udaipur):- This is the first butterfly park of the state.
  - Mewar Biodiversity Park (Amberi, Udaipur)
  - Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Forest Park (Chirwa Ghata, Udaipur)
  - Love kush vatika (Rampole, Udaipur)
  - Bahubali Hills (Badi Gaon, Udaipur)

### Pushkar (Ajmer)

- A cattle fair was organized in Pushkar from November 14 to 27, which was attended by many cattle farmers from India and abroad.

### Kotri (Bhilwara)

- This place, famous for Lord Charbhuj Nath temple, made to the news as the temple was offered a dress made of 128 US dollars.

### Galta Ji (Jaipur)

- Due to Kartik Amavasya falling on Monday, it is being celebrated as Somvati Amavasya. On this occasion, devotees performed rituals at Galta Tirtha by donating, doing charity and taking bath in the presence of Mahant Swami Awadheshacharya.

### Sarai Chhatri (Ajmer)

- The dilapidated multi-storey Mughal era

Sarai located in Chhatri village (Ajmer) is being renovated and given a new look by the Department of Archaeological Survey. According to historians, Mughal Emperor Akbar stayed in this inn during his visit to Ajmer.

### Khatushyam ji (Neem ka Thana)

- A huge birth anniversary ceremony of Khatu Shyam ji was organized on Kartik Shukla Ekadashi which is also known as Devuthani Ekadashi.
- The administration banned fireworks and DJ on 22nd November and 23rd November (on his birth anniversary).

### Anasagar Lake

- In the series of cleanliness awareness drives organized across the country, a message to maintain cleanliness was given by NCC cadets in Anasagar Lake (Ajmer) on completion of 75 years of NCC.

### Banswara

- 45-year-old Vishal Gupta from Banswara was appointed the CEO of PhonePe.
- The first stop of the 9500 km air journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, organized as part of the silver jubilee celebrations of the Kargil war, was made at Baswara.

### Jhalrapatan

- State level Chandrabhaga Animal Fair was inaugurated in Jhalrapatan under the auspices of the Tourism Department.
- The three-day adventure sports here thrilled people.



# 8

# PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

## Sheetal Mahajan: Famous Indian skydiver

### Why in news?

- Sheetal Mahajan has achieved a new feat by becoming the first woman in the world to jump from a helicopter from a height of 21,500 feet in front of Mount Everest.
- She became the first Indian woman to skydive off the face of Mount Everest at Kala Patthar and was the highest altitude skydiving landing by a woman.
- Sheetal Mahajan – a renowned Indian skydiver, was awarded the country's fourth highest civilian award, the Padam Shri, in 2001.

### Divyakriti Singh:-

- Reason for being in the news - Divyakriti Singh has been made the state election icon by the Election Commission of India for the Assembly Elections 2023.
- Reason - To motivate the voters to vote in maximum numbers by the State Election Department.

### About –

- Hails from Peeh village, Nagaur.
- Presently she resides in Jaipur.
- Asian Championships gold medal winner in horse riding.

## Dr. Poonamchand Joshi -

- Selection for Atmanirbhar Bharat Nirman Ratna Award-2023.
- Educationist from Laxmangarh town of Sikar district
- In 2018, he was honored with the prestigious award of Asia i.e., 'Pride of Asia International Award' for his remarkable and excellent services in the field of education in the Asian continent.

## Shweta Mehta Modi -

- Shweta Mehta Modi from Rajasthan has been included in the list of 100 influential women of India.
- She belongs to Jaipur.
- She has won the title of Mrs. India.
- It is working for girls and children suffering from autism.

## Personalities in news

## Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

- Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- Book- Nilavu Kudicha Simhangaal' (Autobiography), (Malayalam)
- Translation - Lions that drank the moonlight



# 9

# SPORTS

## Hall of Fame

- The ICC has included Arvind D'Silva (Sri Lanka), Diana Edulji (India) and Virender Sehwag (India) at 110th, 111th and 112th positions in the Hall of Fame, considering their long history in cricket.
- They were inducted into the Hall of Fame at a special ceremony during the first semi-final of the Cricket World Cup at the Vanguard Stadium in Mumbai on November 15, 2023.

## Time out in international cricket:-

- On November 06, 2023, in a match of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium, New Delhi.
- Sri Lankan batsman Angelo Mathews became the first player in international cricket to be timed out against Bangladesh.
- Angelo Mathews was the next batsman after the dismissal of Sri Lankan batsman Sadira Samarawickrama, but there was some problem with the strap of his helmet and he was late in taking the strike.
- After the appeal by Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan, he was eventually called time out.

## Time-out:-

- This method was added to the laws in the code of the year 1980.
- Originally it was 2 minutes but in 2000, it was revised to 3 minutes.
- However, in this World Cup, according to the fielding conditions, the incoming batsman got only 2 minutes.

## ICC Cricket World Cup-2023-

- Event date- 05 October to 19 November, 2023
- Organizing country- India
- Edition 13th

- Total team- 10
- Mascot – Crictoverse ( 'Blaze' is the female mascot who bowls fast while 'Tonk' is the male mascot and is calm
- Global Ambassador – Sachin Tendulkar
- Winner-Australia (Captain Pat Cummins)
- Runner-up-India (Captain Rohit Sharma, Coach Rahul Dravid)
- Australia, which was playing the final for the 8th time on November 19, 2023, has won the Cricket World Cup title for the sixth time.
- Australia defeated host India by six wickets in the final match held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

## Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

- Event - 16 October to 06 November 2023
- Venue – Bindra Stadium in Mohali, Punjab.
- Winner – Punjab.
- Runner up – Baroda
- Best player of the final match - Anmolpreet Singh
- Best batsman of the series - Abhishek Sharma (485 runs and 2 wickets)
- The previous edition was won by Mumbai.

## ICC suspended Sri Lanka Cricket Board-

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended the membership of Sri Lanka Cricket with immediate effect due to government interference.
- The ICC Board met and decided that Sri Lanka Cricket was in serious breach of its obligations as a member.
- Following the country's poor performance at this year's World Cup, Sri Lanka's Sports Ministry dismissed the Sri Lanka Cricket Board and replaced it with an interim committee, but Sri Lanka's Court of Appeal blocked the dismissal.

**7<sup>th</sup> Women's Asian Champions Trophy-2023**

- Event - 27 October to 05 November, 2023
- Venue – Ranchi, Jharkhand
- Winner – Indian Women's Hockey Team
- Runner up – Japan
- Mascot – 'Juhi' (Inspired by the cute elephant from Betla National Park)
- In the final match held at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astro Turf Hockey Stadium Ranchi in Jharkhand, host India defeated the former champion 4-0.
- Jharkhand's Salima Tete was adjudged Player of the Tournament.
- The previous edition was held in Donghae Si, South Korea in 2021.

**Asian Para Games 2023:-**

- Venue – Hangzhou, China
- Event - 22 to 28 October, 2023
- Flag bearers - Parul Parmar (Para Shuttler), Amit Saroha (Para-Club Thrower)
- Rank – India secured the 5<sup>th</sup> position
- India won 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze medals.
- Previous edition – Indonesia (2018)
- Upcoming edition – 18 to 26 October 2026 (Nagoya, Japan)
- First place – China (214 gold, 167 silver and 140 bronze medals)
- Second place – Iran (44 gold, 46 silver and 41 bronze medals)
- Third place – Japan (total 150 medals including 42 gold)

**37th National Games -**

- Event - November 09, 2023
- Venue - Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Goa
- Upcoming edition - Uttarakhand.  
Motto – Get Set Goa
- Mascot – 'Moga' (Indian Bison)

**Medal Table -**

- First place – Maharashtra (80 gold, 69 silver and 79 bronze)
- Second place - Services Sports Control Board (total 126 medals including 66 gold)
- Third place – Haryana (total 192 medals including 62 gold)
- National Games were first organized in Lahore, undivided India in 1924.
- Till 1938 these were known as the Indian Olympic Games.
- Best Male Athlete Award – Shrihari Nataraj – Swimmer (Karnataka)
- Best Female Athlete Award – Prasen Kale and Pranati Nayak – Gymnasts (Orissa).
- New disciplines were added to the 37th National Championships, including Beach Football, Roll Ball, Golf, Sepak takraw, Sqay Martial Arts, Kalaripayattu and Pencak Silat.

**26th World Billiards Championship:-**

- Event - 05-24 November, 2023
- Venue – Doha, Qatar.
- Winner – Pankaj Advani, Bengaluru
- Runner up – Saurav Kothari
- On November 21, 2023, Bengaluru's prolific player Pankaj Advani won this title by defeating compatriot Saurav Kothari with a score of 1000-416 in Doha, Qatar.
- Pankaj Advani, who won his first world title in 2003, won the long format championship for the ninth time and the point format championship for the eighth time.
- He became the first player to achieve Grand Double.
- Pankaj got gold medal in Asian Games 2010.
- Before this, he had also won gold in 2006 Asian Games.
- He is the only player globally to win world titles in both billiards and snooker formats.



# AWARDS/BOOKS/APPOINTMENS

## **New Executive Director of RBI appointed:-**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Manoranjan Mishra as Executive Director (ED) effective November 01, 2023.
- Earlier, Mishra worked as Chief General Manager in the Regulation Department.
- As Executive Director, Mishra will look after three departments – enforcement, risk monitoring, external investment, and operations.

## **Heeralal Samaria appointed as Chief Information Commissioner of India:-**

- On November 06, 2023, Hiralal Samaria took oath as Chief Information Commissioner.
- President Draupadi Murmu administered him the oath of office.
- Samaria was currently holding the charge of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.
- The post was vacant after the tenure of Y. K. Sinha ended.

## **Central Information Commission (CIC)**

- CIC was established by the Central Government in the year 2005 under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).
- It is not a constitutional body.
- This commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and a maximum of ten Information Commissioners.
- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee and the committee consists of the Prime Minister as Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- They are not eligible for reappointment.

## **New director of SPG appointed:-**

- Senior IPS officer Alok Sharma was appointed director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), which is tasked with providing security to the Prime Minister.

- Alok Sharma, a 1991 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, is currently the Additional Director General of Police.
- This post became vacant after the death of Chief Minister Arun Kumar Sinha on 06 September.

## **Special Protection Group (SPG)**

- Formation:- 2 June 1988
- Headquarters:- New Delhi
- It is responsible for the security of the Prime Minister of India and his family and former Prime Ministers and their families and works under the Union Home Ministry.

## **New President of FICCI appointed:-**

- FICCI has appointed Anish Shah as its president.
- Anish Shah will replace Subhrakant Panda as the President of FICCI.
- Currently serving as Senior Vice President of FICCI, Anish Shah is the Group CEO of Mahindra Group and Managing Director of the group's parent company M&M.

## **What is FICCI?**

- FICCI stands for Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry.
- It is the largest and oldest industry association in India.
- It was established in 1927 by Shri Ghanshyamdas Birla and Purushottamdas Thakurdas on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi.

## **Global Teacher Award- 2023**

- Reason – Passion and dedication towards education.
- This prestigious award is organized annually by the UK-based Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and Dubai Cares.
- Pakistani teacher Sister Jeff has been honoured with the prestigious Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Award 2023.



### Varkey Foundation

- Established – 2013 (UK)
- Chairman – Sunny Varkey
- Global Teacher Awards is to honor teachers who are actively teaching children in compulsory schooling or the age group of 05 to 18 years.

### Vihaan Talya Vikas Wins Wildlife Photographer of the year -

- This award is known as the ‘Oscar of Photography’.
- 10-year-old talented Vihaan Talya Vikas from Bengaluru, Karnataka has won the top prize in the renowned Wildlife Photographer of the Year (WPY) competition held in London in the ‘10 years and below’ category.
- Vihaan’s winning photo shows a spider posing interestingly with a statue of Lord Krishna on the outskirts of his city. This image is not only attractive but also thought-provoking.

### Wildlife Photographer of the Year

- It is an annual global wildlife photography competition held at the Natural History Museum in London, England.



- Young photographers aged 17 years and below are given the prestigious title of ‘Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year’ and young photographers above 17 years of age are given the prestigious title of ‘Wildlife Photographer of the Year’.

### Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Award:-

- Narendra Modi presented the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Awards to the top-performing States or Union Territories as well as Ministries or Departments under the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ and ‘Meri Maati Mera Desh’ schemes.

### Top 3 performing states or union territories-

- First place – Jammu and Kashmir
- Second place-Gujarat
- Third place – Haryana and Rajasthan

### Top 3 performing ministries:-

- First place - Ministry of External Affairs
- Second place – Ministry of Defense
- Third place – Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Education

Launching the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on March 12, 2021, which was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s Dandi March, the Prime Minister celebrated the conclusion of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on October 31, 2023, the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.

### Champions of the Earth Awards-2023:-

- Provider – United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- The United Nations has announced 5 winners of the 2023 Champions of the Earth Awards, it is United Nation’s highest environmental honor.
- Champions of the Earth honors innovations, solutions, actions and initiatives for sustainable development.

### Major Winner- 2023

- Josefina Belmonte – Quezon City Mayor, Philippines
- Fundaco Ellen Macarthur- Portugal
- Blue Circle – Chinese company
- Jose Manuel Moller- Spain
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

### About Champions of the Earth Award

- Since 2005, such heroes have been recognized who inspire others through their environment-related work and encourage them to join them.
- Champions of the Earth are celebrated in four categories: Policy Leadership, Inspiration & Action, Entrepreneurial Vision, and Science & Innovation.

### Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2022:-

- On November 19, 2023, the prestigious Indira Gandhi Award for the year 2022 was jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Indian Trained Nurses Association.

- This award is given for peace, disarmament and development.
- At the award ceremony, former Vice President Hamid Ansari presented this honor to Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal, President of IMA and Professor (Dr.) Roy K. George, President of Indian Trained Nurses Association.
- The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is being awarded every year since 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, which is a non-governmental organization but is funded by the government.
- It carries a monetary award of Rs 25 lakh along with a citation.

### 72nd Miss Universe 2023:-

- **Where**—Jose Adolfo Pineda Arena, El Salvador
- Awarded – Sheynnis Alondra Palacios Cornejo (Nicaragua)
- 23-year-old TV host and model Sheynnis Palacios has made history by becoming the first Nicaraguan woman to wear the crown.
- Earlier, Sheynnis had won Miss Teen Nicaragua 2016 and Miss World Nicaragua 2020.
- Antonia Porsild of Thailand earned the honorable first runner-up spot, while Moraya Wilson of Australia was crowned second runner-up.
- To date, three Indian women have won the Miss Universe crown, including Sushmita Sen in 1994, Lara Dutta in 2000 and Harnaaz Sandhu in 2022.
- Rikki Cole, 22, Miss Netherlands marked the historic inclusion as the first transwoman contestant at the 72nd Miss Universe.
- Dipika Garrett of Nepal became the first plus-size model to participate in the Miss Universe pageant.



### International Emmy Awards 2023:-

- Venue – New York Hilton Midtown
- Winner Best Comedy Category – Comedian Veer Das (Veer Das: Landing)
- Veer Das is the first Indian to win the award and he shared the award with the British series Derry Girls Season 3.
- Producer, filmmaker and co-founder of Balaji Telefilms Ekta Kapoor received the director award.
- The International Emmy Awards are separate from the Primetime Emmy Awards – one of the most popular awards shows and commonly referred to as the “Emmys”.
- The Emmy Awards are the most famous awards given to television and emerging media performances.
- Unlike the Oscar and Golden Globe awards, these are not given for films.
- The Emmy Awards were conceived in 1948.
- Emmys are also given in the following categories:- Rail, news and documentaries, technology and engineering.
- These awards are given by three US-based partner organizations -the Television Academy, the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

### National Gopal Ratna Award-2023:-

- Venue – Veterinary College Ground, Guwahati (Assam)
- On November 26, 2023, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala presented the National Gopal Ratna Award-2023.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has organized the National Gopal Ratna Award 2023 as a part of the National Milk Day Celebration 2023.
- Rashtriya Gopal Ratna Award is one of the highest national awards in the livestock and dairy sector, which aims to recognize and encourage all individuals like farmers rearing indigenous animals, artificial insemination technicians and dairy cooperative societies/milk producing companies/dairy farmer producer organizations. Is.

**Categories and names of winners**

- Best Dairy Farmer Rearing Indigenous Cow/ Buffalo Breed
- First - Shri Ram Singh, Karnal, Haryana
- Best Dairy Cooperative Society/Milk Producer Company/Dairy Farmer

**Producer organization**

- First- Pulpally Ksheerolpadaka Sahakarana Sangam delimited, Wayanad, Kerala
- Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)
- First- Shri Suman Kumar Sah, Araria, Bihar

**Miss Universal Grand India-2023:-**

- Vipra Mehta of Udaipur has won the title of 'Miss Universal Grand India-2023'.
- The competition was organized in Bengaluru.
- Miss Universal Grand India is one of the top 10 beauty pageants in the world.

**Dhirendra Chaudhary**

- Dhirendra Chaudhary has been made the president of Rajasthan Boxing Association.

**"Amol Majumdar" Head Coach of Indian Women's Cricket Team:-**

- BCCI has appointed former domestic cricketer and captain Amol Majumdar as the head coach of the Indian women's cricket team.
- He replaces Ramesh Powar, who stepped down from the post in December 2022.

**Anuvrat Writer Award:-**

- Recipient – Ikram Rajasthani
- Provider – Anuvrata Visva Bharati Society
- Qualification - Lyricist, poet who has made a unique contribution in the national interest and who has set an example of communal harmony.
- He was presented with a congratulatory note, memento and an honorarium of Rs 51 thousand.

**Ikram Rajasthani -**

- President of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Bal Sahitya Academy.
- Senior litterateur Ikram Rajasthani was honored with the Anuvrat Writer Award.

**Dr. Madhukar Gupta:-**

- Honored with "Election Commissioner of the Year" award.

- Awarded at the 19th International Conference on Electoral Affairs and Awards Ceremony held in Lisbon, Port

**Colonel Sunita**

- Officer of army medical corps
- Became the first woman Commanding Officer of the Armed Forces Transfusion Centre (Delhi Cantt).
- Before this she was Commanding Officer in the Field Hospital in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Kaka Hathrasi Award**

- Poet Shailesh Lodha was honoured with the 48th Kaka Hathrasi Hasya Ratna Award at a ceremony held at Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts.
- Start- 1976
- Prize- Shawl, one lakh cash and Shreefala.

**Hiralal Samaria**

- Bharatpur, 1985 IAS officer
- Chief Information Commissioner appointed in Central Information Commission
- Oath – by the President
- He has become the first Dalit Chief Information Commissioner of the country.

**Central Information Commission**

- Established by the Central Government on October 12, 2005 under the 'Right to Information Act, 2005'.
- It is a statutory body.
- Composition:- 1 Chief Information Commissioner and maximum 10 Information Commissioners
- Appointment:- By the President on the recommendation of a committee:
  - Prime Minister
  - Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
  - A cabinet minister nominated by the Prime Minister
- Tenure and service conditions-
  - 65 years age or the period prescribed by the Central Government, whichever is earlier (2019 amendment)
- No reappointment
- Resignation - to the President

The President can remove him from office before the completion of term (similar to CVC)

**PERSONS DIED**

**Salim-ul-Haq**

- Leading climate scientist of Bangladesh
- Died in Bangladesh at the age of 71.
- Salim-ul-Haq was born on October 02, 1952 in Karachi, Pakistan.
- Renowned as the “Climate Titan” for inspiring the world’s poorest countries to understand, pay for, and adapt to the effects of rising temperatures.
- He was a professor at the universities of England and Bangladesh.
- For his efforts, Queen Elizabeth II awarded him the Order of the British Empire in the year 2022.
- He shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former US Vice President Al Gore for their work on raising awareness about man-made global warming.

**Meera Sahib Fatima Bibi**

- On November 23, 2023, Former Justice Meera Sahib Fathima Bibi, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court of India and former Governor of Tamil Nadu, passed away at the age of 96 at a private hospital in Kerala.
- Justice Biwi created history by becoming the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court in 1989.
- She was also the first Muslim woman to be appointed to the higher judiciary of the country.
- Became the first woman to become a Supreme Court judge in an Asian country.

**Nirmala Didi:**

- On October 27, 2023, Dr. Nirmala Didi, joint chief administrator of the Brahma Kumaris organization has passed away.
- Dr. Nirmala Didi, born in the year 1935 in a famous business family of Mumbai, was spiritually oriented since childhood.

**IMPORTANT DATES/DAYS**

Day	Name
01 November	Karnataka Rajyotsava/ Karnataka State Day
05 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day
07 November	National Cancer Awareness Day
07 November	C.V. Raman Jayanti
08 November	Gurunanak Jayanti
09 November	National Legal Services Day
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
11 November	National Education Day
12 November	World Pneumonia Day
14 November	Children’s Day (Jawahar Lal Nehru Jayanti)
16 November	International Day for Tolerance
17 November	International Students’ Day
19 November	World Toilet Day
20 November	World Children’s Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
26 November	Constitution Day

**Tribal Pride Day**

- November 15, 2023 – Birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda
- November 15, 2023 - 23rd Foundation Day of Jharkhand.
- Birsa Munda Birth Place – Ulihatu, Khunti (Jharkhand)

**Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Mission (PVTGS) :-**

- 175 Groups, 220 Districts, 22544 Villages, 28 lakh population
- 24,000 crore scheme, PM- JAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana), Sickle Cell eradication, TB eradication, 100% vaccination, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, PM - POSHAN, PM Jan-Dhan.



## GIST - KURUKSHETRA (NOVEMBER 2023)

### PM Vishwakarma Yojana: Empowerment of artisans

- Launched as a symbol of a promising era and a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity, the scheme aims to improve the socio-economic condition of Indian rural families.

### Meaning of Vishwakarma

- Vishwakarma ji is known as the “Manas Putra” of Brahma ji and is the pioneer of craftsmanship. In the present context, traditional artisans and craftsmen are called ‘Vishwakarmas’, who are considered to be part of the informal and unorganized sector.

### Objectives of the scheme

- Launched by the Prime Minister from Delhi on 17 September 2023 (Vishwakarma Jayanti) for the empowerment of Indian artisans and craftsmen (budget provision of Rs 13000 crore was made).

### Benefit

- Giving handicraft artisans a conducive and safe environment.
- Easy access to modern equipment, technology and markets.
- Institutional digitalization of traditional craftsmen.
- Its benefits are available through:
  - Recognition – In this, ID and certificate are given.
  - Skill upgradation – 5 to 7 days of basic training and 15 days or more of advanced training.
  - Toolkit incentive up to Rs 15000 is made available through e-voucher.
  - Loan assistance – A loan of Rs 3 lakh in two installments at 5% concessional interest rate without collateral is provided.
  - Incentives for digital transactions
  - Marketing assistance

### Registration

- Registration is done through PM Vishwakarma portal.
- There are three stages of verification – Panchayat/ULB, District and State level.
- After verification, certificate and ID are provided, and the beneficiary starts reaping the benefits.

### Eligibility

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Maximum one member from each household.
- Engage in any one of the “18 Family Based Handicraft Traditional Occupations”.
- The beneficiary should not have to any other related schemes related to this (either Central or State Government).

### Conclusion

- PM Vishwakarma Yojana is developing entrepreneurship among craftsmen and artisans by providing encouragement and support and by enabling them to bring their art to the global stage, which will play an important role in their and the nation’s social and economic upliftment.

### Incorporation of Technology and Innovation in Education

- Incorporating technology and innovation is crucial to realize the dream of Viksit Bharat @2047 and to technologically upgrade education for the development of the national economy. The most important step in this direction is the National Education Policy - 2020 which emphasizes on the golden combination of innovation and technology.

### Integration of technology in education

- **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR):-** It was launched in July 2021 to digitize school education infrastructure to achieve the goals of National Education Policy-2020. Under this, provisions of live classes, digital courses, chatbot etc. are included.



- **Diksha Portal:-** This portal was launched by the Ministry of Education to increase the access of online course materials to teachers.
- **Vidya Samiksha Kendra:-** These have been established at both the Central and State levels to monitor student enrolment, increase in learning levels, mainstreaming, textbook distribution and assistance to teachers and schools etc.
- **SWAYAM:-** It is a national online learning platform, which provides free courses for teachers. It is the country's MOOC platform, which provides credit transfer to universities for higher education courses. It is the national coordinator for NIOS and NCERT curriculum.
- **National Digital Library (NDL):** - It is a digital repository of educational materials and resources of the Ministry of Education. It is a free open platform, which helps teachers to provide digital education.

### Future Efforts

- Expanding internet connectivity to rural areas.
- Implementing digital literacy programs.
- Encouraging investment in the institutional framework of education through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Promoting digital education.
- Organizing teacher training programmes.
- Proper monitoring and evaluation of all elements.

### Conclusion

- It will realize the dream of achieving the Viksit Bharat @2047 by increasing the base of knowledge creation and innovation in education and increasing its reach to the lower level, improving the national economy and socio-economic welfare of the nation.

## Promotion Of Micro Entrepreneurship

### Micro Enterprises

- Those enterprises whose investment does not exceed Rs 1 crore and annual turnover does not exceed Rs 5 crore are called micro enterprises.

### Need for Micro Enterprises in Indian Scenario

- If the rate of establishment of micro industries increases, then it will prove to be important in bridging the economic and social gap between rural and urban areas by eliminating most of the problems of rural India like unemployment, low household income, migration rate, entrepreneurship etc.

### Barriers to establishing micro enterprises

- Lack of resources
- Lack of capital
- Lack of entrepreneurship
- Low Risk Tolerance

### Benefits of promotion of micro enterprise

- Increase in employment generation
- Supply as per market demand through innovations.
- Economic development of local area
- Increase in self-reliance

### Major efforts made by the government

The government has started several schemes for establishing micro enterprises which are as follows:

- **Aspire Scheme:-** This program was started to create a network of technology centres and incubation centres across the country to promote innovation for unmet social needs in the agricultural sector. Through this, 100% subsidy is given on the cost of equipment and machinery.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana:-** Mudra means Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Limited. Through this, refinance assistance is provided to micro units to meet the loan requirement of up to Rs 10 lakh by banks or micro finance organizations.
- **Support for International Patent Protection in Electronics and Information Technology (SIP-EIT):-** This program was launched by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeiTY) with the objective of providing government assistance to Indian MSMEs and technology start-ups for filing foreign patent applications. Through this, a maximum of Rs 15

lakh or 50% of the cost, whichever is less, is reimbursed for a new patent.

- **Multiplier Grant Scheme (MGS):-** MGS was started by DeITY to provide government support to companies in product and package manufacturing. Under this, a maximum of Rs 2 crore is given for a period of 2 years and Rs 4 crore is given for a period of 3 years for a group of industries.
- **Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme:-** To implement this scheme, Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) was established by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India and SIDBI. Through this, an attempt was made to strengthen the credit distribution system by providing loans to micro enterprises at concessional rates. Through this, each eligible person is provided fund and non-fund based credit facility up to Rs 200 lakh.
- **Design Clinic Scheme:-** This scheme was started by the MSME Ministry to create a sustainable design eco system to provide continuous skill development and training to small companies to encourage them to use new and innovative designs in their products. Under this program, the government provides Rs 60,000 for participating in the seminar and if the seminar is organized by MSME, the government will pay Rs 3.75 lakh or 75% of the expense.
- **Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme:-** Its objective is to encourage MSMEs to manufacture defect free, reliable and high quality goods by using modern technology. Apart from these, 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission', Make in India programme, 'Start up India' etc. also aim to encourage micro industries.
- **Impact of the above efforts on Indian economy:-** In the current scenario, India has emerged as the third largest startup ecosystem in the world. Out of 60 thousand companies in the country, more than 100 are unicorns. New India, full of entrepreneurial energy, is rapidly moving forward on its path and is moving towards establishing new dimensions.

## Yojana (November 2023)

### Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Public Participation: India and G-20

- 'Digital Public Infrastructure' (DPI) is an important step towards transforming India, streamlining service provision and enhancing innovations.

#### DPI in India

- A plan is under construction to create and maintain a Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository (GDPIR) for fair and inclusive economic growth based on the central theme of G-20 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which is the digital store of DPI. Its basic foundation is JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile) which is the basic basis of increasing financial inclusion.

### Government-to-Person Program and Unified Payment Interface

- India has established one of the world's largest digital 'Government-to-Person' (G2P) infrastructure using DPI.
- Similarly, India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) stands as a fast and instantaneous payment network.
- UPI Paynow connects India to 11 countries (France, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, US, Saudi Arabia, UAE and UK) which is an indicator of global financial inclusion.

### India Stack and Account Aggregator (AA) System

- India Stack is a key player in using India's DPI to spur innovation, expand market access, address financial inclusion disparities, increase government revenue and enhance public expenditure efficiency.
- Indian Account Aggregator (AA) systems allow people to take control of their financial information.

#### Key initiatives

- In line with the G-20 Leaders' Declaration on Technological Transformation and Digital Public Infrastructure, India tried to strengthen digital infrastructure through some schemes, those schemes are-

### 1. Digital India Initiative and BharatNet Project

- The Digital India initiative was launched in 2010 in line with the commitment of the G-20 to bridge the digital divide. This scheme focuses on creating digital infrastructure and increasing digital literacy. Under the BharatNet project, gram panchayats are connected through optical fibre. At present, till 11 September 2023, 6,58,685 KM optical fibre connectivity has been provided to the Gram Panchayats.

### 2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

- Under this, important steps were taken in financial inclusion and adoption of digital technology. Under this, the aim is to increase the number of beneficiaries in public sector banks, regional rural banks, private sector banks and rural cooperative banks. As of 13 September 2023, the total number of beneficiaries was 50.41 crore.

### 3. Make in India

- This initiative, launched to make India self-reliant in technology and reduce import dependence, is in line with the plan of the G-20 conference to transfer technology and create a secure digital environment.

### 4. Startup India

- It is an initiative of financial inclusion through entrepreneurship and innovation that focuses on inclusive use of digital technology.

### 5. Umang and DigiLocker

- In line with the goals of the G-20 Declaration, the Umang App is useful in expanding the digital public infrastructure and increasing its reach to the people. Also, the aim of DigiLocker is to store digitally certified copies of essential documents of citizens.

### 6. Smart City Mission

- An urban development initiative that integrates urban infrastructure components in line with G-20 goals. Under this, 100 cities and 7934 projects are included. These are important in enhancing both the physical and digital aspects of urban life in India.

### 7. Aadhar

- The scheme plays an important role in enabling digital services and identity verification in line with the G-20 declarations on data security, privacy and secure digital infrastructure.

### 8. Central Bank Digital Currency

- Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) launched by RBI under e-Rupee is a digital token representing legal tender in line with the G-20 declarations which plays an important role in the adoption, development and implementation of modern digital currency solutions.

### 9. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- MeiT Y launched various schemes and programs to accelerate the implementation and development of India AI to enhance professional skill development, enhance research and achieve SDG goals quickly and efficiently.

### Conclusion

- The G-20 declarations have set a benchmark for India's commitment to target sustainable and inclusive development with increased digitalization. It reflects India's leadership image on a large scale and reflects India's reputation as a leader in financial technology innovations.

### Energy development in India

- The journey of energy development in India refers to the transition from conventional energy sources to renewable energy sources. Renewable energy is an essential effort for the future, towards which the government is also strongly striving to increase the availability of green energy by starting innovative policies and initiatives.

### Need for energy development journey

- The Government of India has increased the rate of economic growth through conventional energy sources, but there have also been social and environmental side effects from them, and due to international conferences and pressure,

India was ready to focus on green energy development. Signing of Paris Agreement, increasing carbon emissions, impact of greenhouse gases, air pollution etc. were such initiatives which turned India's power generation plants towards green energy.

### What is the Paris Agreement?

- The agreement is a multilateral climate agreement that was adopted at the 21st UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France in 2015. The agreement provides a global plan to deal with the effects of climate change.

### Major Government Initiatives and Achievements for Green Energy Development

- The Government of India should make the following efforts to promote the use of renewable energy sources by adopting comprehensive policies and initiatives:
  1. National Action Plan for Climate Change (2008)
  2. National Solar Mission-2010 :-
- Its objective is to reduce the cost of solar energy production by using technology and innovations. The production target of 20GW in 2010 has been increased to 100GW in 2022. The total target for renewable energy was increased to 175 GW which was further revised to 500 GW green energy production target by 2030.
- Following were the achievements of India under the above programs:
  - India ranks fourth in the world in renewable energy installed capacity.
  - India ranks fifth after Germany in terms of solar energy capacity.
  - From 2017-22, there was an increase of 63GW in renewable energy capacity in India and India stood third in the world in this aspect.

### Major schemes and announcements for promotion of solar energy

#### 1. Solar garden scheme

- Under this, a target of 40GW production was set, under which
- 30.8GW – PM – KUSUM Scheme
- 4 GW - Roof Top Solar - 2.0
- 8.2 GW CPSU Scheme (Phase 1&2)

#### 2. National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) – 2023

- Under this, the production target has been kept at 5 MMTPA by 2030.

#### 3. More than 32000 people were given training under the 'Surya Mitra' programme.

#### 4. 'Vayu Mitra' scheme was started for wind energy project and 'Jal Urja Mitra' scheme was started for hydropower project.

### Challenges in implementing renewable energy schemes and programmes

- **Availability of land** is not easy.
- **Regulation Issues:-** The following conscientious actions of the state are necessary for the establishment of renewable energy:
  - Renewal Purchase Obligation (RPO) Compliance
  - Timely approval of tariff rates by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SPRC).
  - Avoiding imposition of additional levies by the states.
- **Dispatch Infrastructure:-** Actual dispatch, project planning and regular monitoring and remediation measures are necessary to achieve the target.

### Economic and environmental impacts

#### 1. Economic Impact:-

The following economic impacts are seen from the growth in renewable energy sector-

- Increase in employment generation
- Increase in Foreign Investment
- Reduction in fossil fuel imports
- Less impact of fluctuations in the global economy

#### 2. Environmental impact:-

- Reduction in carbon emissions
- Reduction in air pollution
- Increase in public health protection
- Achievement of Pancharit target announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in COP-26.

### Conclusion

- Various efforts, plans and policies by India in its development journey of moving from conventional sources to renewable energy

sources, various problems, economic environmental impact and positive upliftment of infrastructure and demonstration of India's strong position on the global stage have made India one of the top ranked countries of the world.

### What is PM Kusum Yojana?

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha and Utthan Maha Abhiyan (PM- KUSUM) is a scheme launched by the Government of India in 2019, which provides farmers to increase their income by using solar energy and provides source of irrigation to the agricultural sector.

### What is Vayu Mitra?

- Vayu Mitra is a core course which is a training program on wind technology being conducted from August 2020 by the National Institute of Wind Energy, under the Ministry of Renewable Energy, Central Government.

### What is Jal Urja Mitra?

- Urja Mitra is a skill development program which is an initiative by the Ministry of Renewable Energy to train hydro power plant technicians for maintenance of small hydro power projects, which aims to produce 1680 skilled technicians over a period of 5 years. This program started from 2022 and IIT Roorkee along with the Central Government has taken the responsibility of organizing it till 2022-2026.

### What is Surya Mitra Scheme?

- National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) is an autonomous institute of the Ministry of Renewable Energy, which is one of the apex national R&D institutes in the field of solar energy.

- NISE organizes the Surya Mitra Development Program in collaboration with State Nodal Agencies at different locations across the country.
- The objective of this program is to provide employment opportunities to people in the installation, operation and maintenance of the growing solar energy projects in India and abroad.

### What is the National Green Hydrogen Mission 2023?

- The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched on 15 August 2021 with the aim of reducing carbon emissions and increasing the use of renewable sources of energy.
- The Ministry of Renewable Energy will prepare a plan for its implementation.
- The Mission aims to promote the development of at least 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen production capacity per annum with approximately 125 GW of renewable energy capacity addition in the country, and aims to achieve these targets by 2030.

### What is green hydrogen?

- When electric current is passed through water, it splits it into molecular oxygen and hydrogen through electrolysis.
- If the electricity used for this process comes from renewable sources like wind or solar energy, the hydrogen thus produced is called green hydrogen.





## ARTICLES/EDITORIAL

### 1. States in Court against their Governors

- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) of India has stated when the Governor chooses to withhold assent to a Bill, it is mandatory for them to follow a specific course of action outlined in Article 200 of the Constitution.
- The key aspect of Article 200 is that it mandates the Governor to communicate their reasons for withholding assent and prompt the Legislature to reconsider the Bill.

### Recent ruling of the Supreme Court

- The SC has held that if a Governor decides to withhold assent to a Bill, then he has to return the bill to the legislature for reconsideration.
- The Governor's withholding of assent violates constitutional principles.
- The elected Legislature has the final say on the Bill, and the Governor's message doesn't force them to agree.
- Once the House re-passes the returned Bill, with or without amendments, the Governor has no choice but to grant consent.
- The ultimate authority to accept or reject a Bill lies with the elected Legislature, and the Governor's message does not bind the legislative body.

### Governor's Powers over Bills

- **Article 200:** It outlines the process for a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State to be presented to the Governor for assent, who may either assent, withhold assent or reserve the Bill for consideration by the President. He may also return the Bill with a message requesting reconsideration by the House or Houses.
- **Article 201:** It states that when a Bill is reserved for the consideration of the President, the President may assent to or withhold assent from the Bill. He may also direct the Governor to return the Bill to the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State for reconsideration.
- **Options Available with the Governor:**
  - May give assent
  - May send it back to the Assembly requesting it to reconsider some provisions of the Bill, or the Bill itself.

- May reserve the bill for the consideration of the president. It is obligatory where the bill passed by the state legislature endangers the position of the state high court. However, the governor can also reserve the bill if:
  - » It is against the provisions of the Constitution
  - » It is opposed to the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
  - » It is against the larger interest of the country
  - » It is of grave national importance
  - » It deals with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A.
- May withhold the assent- Not usually done by any Governor.

### Issues with Pending Bills

- **Delay in legislation:** The Governor's failure to take a decision on the Bills passed by the legislature leads to a delay in decision-making. It affects the effective functioning of the state government.
- **Undermines Democratic Process:** The Governor (appointed by the Centre) can use his powers to delay or reject Bills for political reasons, which undermines the democratic process.
- **Public view:** The public often views pending Bills with the Governor as a sign of inefficiency or even corruption in the state government, which can damage the government's reputation.
- **Lack of Accountability:** When the Governor withholds assent, he does not provide any reason for his decision. This lack of accountability undermines the principles of transparency and accountability in governance.

### Way Forward

- **Adhering to Article 200:** Governors should adhere to Article 200 and should communicate their concerns about Bills and send them back to the State Legislature for reconsideration in time.
- **Transparency:** Governors should provide transparent reasoning when withholding assent to a Bill, ensuring accountability for their decisions.

- **Continuous discussions and legal clarity on the role of Governors:** It might further streamline the procedures and avoid potential conflicts.

## 2. South Lhonak Lake - glacial lake out burst flood (GLOF)

- Recently, the South Lhonak (glacial) Lake located at an altitude of 17,000 feet in the state's northwest experienced a rupture due to continuous rainfall.

**Waiting to Happen! What was the Trigger?**

**Map:** Shows South Lhonak Lake in Sikkim, India. Labels include: Cloudburst over South Lhonak Lake, CHINA, Sikkim, Lhonak River, Lachen, Water released from Chungthang Dam, Army personnel missing from Bardang, Teesta River, Gangtok, BHUTAN, INDIA, West Bengal, KBK, and Area enlarged.

**As South Lhonak glacier continued to retreat amid global warming by another 400 m between 2008 and 2019, lakes only grew**

**Glacial lake outburst flood (Glof) like disaster was waiting to happen**

**Trigger could be anything from cloudburst to landslide, avalanche or earthquake**

**Mitigation Steps**  
First field expedition of glacial lake conducted in August 2014, followed by another in 2016 which resulted in a project to start siphoning off lake water

**Three pipelines were installed**  
to siphon off 150 litres of water per second at that time

**Early warning system was set in place**  
in some locations by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

**Central Water Commission**  
initiated an advisory to evaluate the South Lhonak glacier

**Himalayan Problem**  
Problem of receding glaciers and the spectre of Glof devastation faces the entire Himalayan region as global warming provides new triggers in the young mountain ranges

**Add to that the build-up of infrastructure, habitation, road networks and hydropower plants**

**A 2021 study warned that 'both the existing and planned hydropower plants are exposed to potential outburst floods from glacial lakes'**

- Due to this, the Teesta River flooded and impacted four districts of Sikkim: Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi.
- It also caused the Chungthang Hydro-Dam in Sikkim (on Teesta river) to breach, worsening the overall situation.

### Glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)

- **About:** Large bodies of water that sit in front of, on top of, or beneath a melting glacier.
- **Vulnerability:** As they grow larger, they become more dangerous because glacial lakes are mostly dammed by unstable ice or sediment composed of loose rock and debris.
- **Boundary breakage:** Huge amounts of water rush down the side of the mountains, which could cause flooding in the downstream areas.

### Impact

- **Catastrophic downstream flooding:** GLOFs have the potential to release millions of cubic metres of water in a short period of time.
- **Peak flows during GLOFs:** As high as 15,000 cubic metres per second (as per National Disaster Management Authority).

### Susceptibility of South Lhonak Lake to GLOFs

- **South Lhonak lake:** Located in northern Sikkim and is situated about 5,200 metres above sea level.
- **Recent Warnings:** The lake had been expanding over years, possibly from the melting of the ice at its head.
- **Seismic activities:** Especially the 2011 magnitude 6.9 earthquake, escalated the GLOF risk in the area.
- **Recent tragedy:** It is believed to be caused by an avalanche originating from the ice-capped feature surrounding the lake.

### Other GLOFs Incidents in India

- **June 2013:** Uttarakhand received an unusual amount of rainfall leading to the melting of the Chorabari glacier and the eruption of the Mandakini river.

- **August 2014:** A Glacial lake outburst flood hit the village of Gya in Ladakh
- **February 2021:** Chamoli district in Uttarakhand witnessed flash floods which are suspected to have been caused by GLOFs.

### Actions that need to be taken to reduce the risk of GLOFs

- **Glacial Lake Monitoring:** Establishing a comprehensive monitoring system to track the growth and stability of glacial lakes in vulnerable regions.
- **Use of technology:** Satellite imagery, remote sensing technology, and field surveys through drones can be used to regularly assess changes in glacial lakes and their associated moraine dams.
- **Early Warning Systems:** They can provide timely alerts to downstream communities in the event of a GLOFs.
- **Flood protection measures:** Constructing protective barriers, levees, or diversion channels to redirect floodwaters away from populated areas.
- **Public Awareness and Education:** Raising public awareness about the risks of GLOFs and educating communities living downstream.
- **International Cooperation:** India can collaborate with neighbouring countries in the Himalayan region, as GLOFs can have trans-boundary impacts.

### 3. Govt. directive on deepfakes

- Recently, the Indian government instructed “social media intermediaries” to remove morphed videos or deep fakes from their platforms within 24 hours of a complaint being filed, in accordance with a requirement outlined in the IT Rules 2021.
- The instructions came as deep fake videos of some actresses surfaced online within the span of one week.

#### Deepfake

- **Meaning:** A term that refers to synthetic media that is digitally manipulated to replace one person’s likeness convincingly with that of another.
- **Creation:** They are created using techniques from machine learning and AI, such as deep learning and Generative Adversari-

al Networks (GANs).

- **Ethical and social challenges:** Creating fake news, spreading misinformation, violating privacy, and harming reputation.
- **Generation of fake videos:** It can also be used to impersonate friends or loved ones to trick individuals into sending money to scammers.

#### Applications of Deepfake Technology

- **Film Dubbing:** It can be used to create realistic lip-syncing for actors who speak different languages, making the film more accessible to audiences.
- **Education:** It can help teachers deliver engaging lessons by bringing historical figures to life in the classroom.
- **Art:** It can be used as a creative tool for artists to express themselves, experiment with different styles, or collaborate with other artists.
- **Autonomy and Expression:** It can empower people to control their own digital identity, protect their privacy, or express their identity in different ways.
- **Amplification of the Message and its Reach:** It can help amplify the voice and impact of people who have important messages to share, especially those who face discrimination, censorship, or violence.
- **Digital Reconstruction and Public Safety:** It can help reconstruct missing or damaged digital data, such as restoring old photos or videos, or enhancing low-quality footage.
- **Improving public safety:** It can also help improve public safety by creating realistic training materials for emergency responders, law enforcement, or military personnel.
- **Innovation:** It can spur innovation in various fields and industries, such as entertainment, gaming, or marketing. It can enable new forms of storytelling, interaction, diagnosis, or persuasion.

#### Challenges

- **Spreading False information:** They can be used to spread misinformation, which can create confusion about important issues.
- **Harassment and Intimidation:** Deepfakes can be designed to harass, intimidate, demean, and undermine people.

- **Morphing:** Deepfake porn can also violate the privacy and consent of the victims, and cause psychological distress and trauma.
- **Illicit activities:** They can be used to create blackmail or ransom materials, such as fake videos of someone committing a crime, having an affair, or being in danger.
- **Fabricating Evidence:** They can be used to defraud the public or harm state security & to manipulate legal proceedings or investigations.
- **Defamation:** They can be used to create an image of a person that does not exist, creating a video of someone saying or doing something they have never done, or synthesising a person's voice in an audio file.
- **Financial Frauds:** They can be used to impersonate executives, employees, or customers, and manipulate them into revealing sensitive information, transferring money, or making false decisions.

#### Government measures to Curb Deepfakes

- **IT Act, 2000 and IT Rules, 2021:** They have instructions which place the onus on social media intermediaries to ensure such deepfake videos or photos are taken down as soon as possible. Penal provisions for imprisonment of up to three years or fine of up to Rs 1 lakh.
- **Section 66D of IT Act:** It states that anyone who cheats by impersonating using a communication device or computer resource can be punished with Imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to one lakh rupees.
- **Rule 3(1)(b)(vii):** Social media intermediaries must ensure that the users of their platform do not host any content which impersonates another person.
- **Rule 3(2)(b):** It requires such content to be taken down within 24 hours of receipt of a complaint against such content.

#### Addressing the menace of Deepfakes

- **Lessons from Other Countries:**
  - **China:** It has a regulation to require providers of deepfake technologies

to obtain consent of those in their videos, verify the identities of users, and offer recourse to them.

- **Canada:** Mass public awareness campaigns and legislation that makes deepfakes with malicious intent illegal.
- **Adding Watermarks to all AI-generated Videos:** Watermarks reveal the content's origin and ownership & act as a deterrent against unauthorised use, making it clear that the content can be traced back to its source.
- **Role of online platforms:** They should take steps to educate and inform users about their content policies, and perhaps implement measures to deter the upload of inappropriate content.
- **Sophistication of Deepfake Detection Technologies:** Using more sophisticated algorithms & developing new methods that can identify deepfakes based on their context, metadata, or other factors.
- **Strengthening Digital Legislation:** Creating clear and consistent laws and policies that define and prohibit the malicious use of deepfakes.
- **Enhancing media Literacy and Awareness:** Educating the public and the media about the existence and potential impact of deepfakes.
- **Promoting Ethical and Responsible use of Deepfake Technology:** Establishing and enforcing codes of conduct and standards for the creators and users of deepfake technology.

#### 4. Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023

- The recently passed Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 brings substantial legislative changes to the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980, a crucial environmental law in India governing forest conservation.
- However, it has received limited attention and little discussion about its impact on forests and their inhabitants.



### Key Provisions of the Amendment

<b>Insertion of Preamble</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Amendment Act introduces a Preamble to the Forest (Conservation) Act.</li> <li>● It acknowledges India’s commitment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ achieving Net Zero Emission by 2070</li> <li>○ meeting the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets by 2030</li> <li>○ expanding India’s forest and tree cover to one-third of its land area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The forest law will now apply exclusively to areas categorised under the Forest Act, 1927 and those designated as such on or after October 25, 1980.</li> <li>● Not applicable to forests that were converted for non-forest use on or after December 12, 1996.</li> <li>● It streamlines the application of the Act to recorded forest lands, private forest lands, plantations, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Exempted Categories of Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strategic projects related to national security within 100 km of the International Borders, Line of Actual Control (LAC), Line of Control (LoC), etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Leasing of Forest Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A state government requires prior approval of the central government to assign forest land to any entity not owned or controlled by the government.</li> <li>● This condition is extended to all entities, including those owned and controlled by the government.</li> <li>● It also requires that prior approval be subject to terms and conditions prescribed by the central government.</li> </ul>
<b>Permitted Activities in Forest Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Restriction on the de-reservation of forests or the use of forest land for non-forest purposes. But, they may be lifted with the prior approval of the central government.</li> <li>● Activities that will be excluded from non-forest purposes: Works related to the conservation, management, and development of forests and wildlife such as establishing check posts, fire lines, fencing, and wireless communication.</li> </ul>
<b>Expansion of Central Government’s Power of Delegated Legislation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Before the amendment, the power of Central Government to make delegated legislation was limited to making Rules only.</li> <li>● Now, the delegated legislation-making power of the Central Government has been expanded and it is given power to issue “directions” to any central government authority, State Governments, Union territories, or to any organisation, entity or body recognized by them.</li> </ul>
<b>Clarity on the Definition of ‘Forest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Amendment clarifies the definition of Forest which addresses ambiguity around “deemed forests” and diverse interpretations.</li> <li>● The Amendment clarifies FCA application to notified and recorded forests only, resolving ambiguity.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It aims to achieve the country’s national as well as international commitments of NDCs, and carbon neutrality, eliminating the ambiguities.</li> <li>● It also brings clarity about the applicability of the Act in various lands, promoting the plantation in non-forest land.</li> </ul>
<b>Provisions for Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This act will facilitate economic exploitation by removing certain forest areas from legal jurisdiction, allowing for diverse uses, including linear projects and security infrastructure.</li> </ul>



<b>National Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Act exempts certain infrastructure projects, such as roads and highways, from seeking forest clearance permissions if they are located within 100 km of the national border.</li> <li>● It is expected to facilitate the development of infrastructure in border areas, which is important for national security.</li> </ul>
<b>Compensatory Afforestation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It promotes compensatory afforestation, allowing private entities to undertake afforestation or reforestation projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Empowering Local Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It encourages activities like the establishment of zoos, safaris, and ecotourism.</li> <li>● These activities raise awareness about forest conservation and wildlife protection.</li> <li>● They also create livelihood opportunities for local communities, integrating them with the overall development</li> </ul>

### Key Issues with the Amendment

<b>Redefining Forests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The SC in 1996 held that any patches of trees recorded as forest in any government records, irrespective of ownership, recognition, and classification, would automatically become a deemed forest. The act contradicts it.</li> <li>● About 20-25% of India's forests have lost their legal safeguard due to the modification of the definition under this amendment in the existing Act.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure Encroachment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exempting land near border areas for national security projects may adversely impact the environment in northeastern states.</li> <li>● Exemption for projects like zoos, eco-tourism facilities, and reconnaissance surveys may adversely affect forest land and wildlife.</li> </ul>
<b>Neglect of Tribal Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The amendment removes the requirement for prior consent from tribal grama sabhas for alterations to forests for non-forest purposes.</li> <li>● Permission for private companies to use forest land for ecotourism may promote corporate interests at the expense of tribal communities' livelihoods.</li> <li>● Potential negative impacts on local cultures and traditions due to mass tourism.</li> </ul>
<b>Top-Down Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The amendments raised concerns about potential forest exploitation by private companies and neglect of state governments' concerns by consolidating more power in the hands of the central government.</li> </ul>
<b>Human-Animal Conflicts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Man-animal conflicts will increase if infrastructure development is allowed on forest land</li> <li>● The amendment does not address growing human-animal conflicts in tribal hamlets, posing threats to both livelihoods and wildlife.</li> </ul>

### 5- Electoral Bonds

- After a three-day hearing, the Supreme Court recently reserved its judgement on the challenge to the central government's Electoral Bonds Scheme.
- Before the controversial Electoral Bonds (EB) Scheme was introduced in 2018, there was something called an Electoral Trusts (ET) Scheme, which was introduced by the UPA government in 2013.

## Electoral Bonds

- **Introduction:** In 2018.
- **Importance:** They are a means for individuals and entities to make donations to registered political parties while maintaining donor anonymity.
- **Features:**
  - Authorised Issuer: Issued only by State Bank of India (SBI)
  - Issued in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.
  - Payable to the bearer on demand and interest-free.
  - Purchased by Indian citizens or entities established in India.
  - Can be bought individually or jointly with other individuals.
  - Valid for 15 calendar days from the date of issue.
- **Eligibility of Political Parties:** Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, are eligible to receive electoral bonds.
- **Purchase and Encashment:** Digitally or through cheques only through an authorised bank account of the political party.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Parties must disclose their bank account with the Election Commission of India (ECI). Donations are made through banking channels, ensuring transparency.
- **Benefits:**
  - Enhanced transparency in political party funding.
  - Accountability in disclosing donation utilisation.
  - Discouragement of cash transactions.
  - Preservation of donor anonymity.

## Concerns Related to the Electoral Bond Scheme

- **Opacity:** The electoral bonds scheme does the exact opposite of what it was meant to do i.e. to bring transparency to election funding.
- **Possibility of Extortion:** Being sold via a

government-owned bank (SBI) leaves the door open for the government to know exactly who is funding its opponents. This allows the government to either extort money or victimise them for not funding the ruling party.

- **A Blow to Democracy:** Through an amendment to the Finance Act 2017, the Union government has exempted political parties from disclosing donations received through electoral bonds. This means the voters will not know who has funded which party, and to what extent.
- **Favouritism towards Rich Corporates:** Donations made under this scheme by corporate and even foreign entities enjoyed a 100% tax exemption, benefiting wealthy corporations.
- **Supports Crony Capitalism:** The electoral bonds scheme removes all pre-existing limits on political donations and allows well-resourced corporations to fund elections paving the way for crony capitalism.

## 6. Dollarisation of an economy

- Recently Argentina, plagued by severe inflation and widespread poverty, faces a pivotal moment.
- The recently elected President of Argentina promises to replace the Argentine Peso with the dollar.
- However, the immediate implementation of dollarisation seems unlikely due to the scarcity of dollar reserves in Argentina.

### Dollarisation

- **Meaning:** A term for when the U.S. dollar is used in addition to or instead of the domestic currency of another country. It is an example of currency substitution.
- **Mechanism:** Dollarization usually happens when a country's own currency loses its usefulness as a medium of exchange, due to hyperinflation or instability.

### Benefits of Dollarisation

- **Stabilising Inflation:** Dollarisation can potentially curb hyperinflation by introducing a stable currency, breaking the cycle of rising prices fueled by uncontrolled money supply.

- **Enhanced Trade Opportunities:** With a stable currency, foreign investors are more inclined to engage, fostering foreign trade. This orientation towards exports can bolster economic growth and stability.
- **Long-Term Planning:** A stable dollar value allows businesses, both local and international, to make more accurate forecasts and investments without being hindered by the volatility of domestic currency.
- **Reduced Speculative Risks:** Dollarised stability can attract foreign investors, as they perceive reduced risks, ultimately promoting capital inflow and economic growth.
- **Financial Discipline:** By relinquishing control of monetary policy, dollarisation forces governments to rely on fiscal policies for economic stability.
- **Economic Shock Vulnerability:** Dollarized economies lack the flexibility of adjusting exchange rates to counterbalance sudden changes in the global economic environment.
- **Limited Export Competitiveness:** Loss of control over the exchange rate can restrict a country's ability to use currency devaluation as a tool to enhance export competitiveness.
- **Inability to Address Internal Imbalances:** Dependency on a foreign currency might overshadow the need for internal reforms, crucial for sustained economic development.

#### Issues with Dollarisation

- **Policy Constraints:** Loss of control over money supply and interest rates can hamper the government to respond to economic downturns.

#### De-dollarisation

- A term that refers to the process whereby countries tend to reduce their reliance on the US dollar as a reserve currency, medium of exchange, and also a unit of account.

## MODEL QUESTION PAPER

- Who was recently appointed as the Regional Director of South East Asian Office of WHO?**
  - Dr. Carissa Atiel
  - Dr. Hans Kluge
  - Saima Wajid
  - Antonio Guterres
- Who took oath as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India?**
  - Y. K Sinha
  - Suresh Chandra
  - Hiralal Samaria
  - Saroj Punhani
- Who was appointed as the world's first humanoid robot CEO?**
  - Mika
  - Sousa
  - Jack
  - Maddy
- Which city was recently chosen as the 'Music City' by UNESCO?**
  - Kozhikode
  - Gwalior
  - Indore
  - Jaipur
- Who released the World Intellectual Property Indicators report?**
  - World Health Organization (WHO)
  - World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - UNESCO
  - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- Recently, teacher 'Sister Zeph' was honored with 'Global Teacher Award-2023', which country does she belong to?**
  - India
  - Pakistan
  - Nepal
  - Bangladesh
- Which Indian player was recently inducted into the 'Hall of Fame' by ICC?**
  - Virat Kohli
  - Lokesh Rahul
  - Rohit Sharma
  - Virender Sehwag
- Where was the 54th Indian International Film Festival held?**
  - Goa
  - Mumbai
  - Indore
  - Bangalore
- The recently talked about AGNI initiative is related to which ministry?**
  - Finance Ministry
  - Ministry of Science and Technology
  - Ministry of AYUSH
  - Ministry of Home Affairs
- The headquarters of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) is located at—**
  - The Hague (Netherlands)
  - Geneva (Switzerland)
  - Paris (France)
  - Moscow (Russia)
- With which countries is 'INDUS-X' related?**
  - India - America
  - India - Australia
  - India-Israel
  - Indonesia - Australia
- ASEAN-India Millet Festival- 2023 was organized in-**
  - Jakarta (Indonesia)
  - Paris (France)
  - Nagoya (Japan)
  - Hanoi (Vietnam)
- Who recently became the first player to be timed out in international cricket?**
  - Bharat Sharma (India)
  - Angelo Mathews (Sri Lanka)
  - Babar Azam (Pakistan)
  - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- Recently the first female Justice of the Supreme Court passed away, she is-**
  - Meera Fatima Bibi
  - Anna Chandi
  - V.Nagaratna
  - Ruma Pal
- Who was recently made the 'State Election Icon' for the assembly elections?**
  - Meera Devi
  - Gawri Devi
  - Aakriti Singh
  - Divyakriti Singh
- Dr. Poonam Chand, honored with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Nirman Ratna Award-2023, is related to which district of Rajasthan?**
  - Jaipur
  - Sikar
  - Jhunjhunu
  - Alwar
- Where was the Rajasthan International Expo-2024 organized?**
  - Jaipur
  - Udaipur
  - Kota
  - Jodhpur
- Where was Hadauti's first plant for fortified rice established?**

- A. Bundi  
B. Kota  
C. Jhalawar  
D. Baran
19. **Recently, elections for which seat were canceled in the Assembly Elections-2023?**  
A. Rajkheda (Dholpur)  
B. Deeg (Bharatpur)  
C. Ramgarh (Alwar)  
D. Sri Karanpur (Sri Ganganagar)
20. **Who was recently appointed the President of Rajasthan Boxing Association?**  
A. Ramkesh Chaudhary  
B. Dharendra Chaudhary  
C. Vaibhav Gehlot  
D. Sachin Meena
21. **What is 'EH 216-S'?**  
A. Battleship  
B. Drone  
C. Missile  
D. Flying taxi
22. **Which country recently allowed visa free entry to Indians?**  
A. Indonesia  
B. Vietnam  
C. Bangladesh  
D. Thailand
23. **In which country were the reserves of white hydrogen discovered?**  
A. Italy  
B. France  
C. Japan  
D. Russia
24. **Recently in which country the demand for opening regional administrative offices of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) was accepted?**  
A. UAE  
B. Oman  
C. Iran  
D. West Indies
25. **Where was India's first vertical wind tunnel established?**  
A. Rajasthan  
B. Gujarat  
C. Maharashtra  
D. Himachal Pradesh
26. **SAFAR system is associated with which ministry?**  
A. Ministry of Defence  
B. Ministry of Earth Sciences  
C. Ministry of Information and Technology  
D. Ministry of Home Affairs
27. **Which country joined the International Solar Organization (ISA) as its 95th member?**  
A. Bolivia  
B. Peru  
C. Timor-Leste  
D. Chile
28. **Two railway stations in Assam have been awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), they are-**  
A. Rangia  
B. Mariani  
C. Only (a)  
D. Both (a) and (b)
29. **Which Indian state gave the status of 'State Fish' to gold fish?**  
A. Gujarat  
B. Maharashtra  
C. Kerala  
D. Tamil Nadu
30. **In which country was the world's largest single site solar power plant inaugurated?**  
A. America  
B. UAE  
C. Israel  
D. France
31. **In which Indian state was the world's first 3D printed temple unveiled?**  
A. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Karnataka  
D. Telangana
32. **Which became the first defense company with 100% foreign direct investment in India?**  
A. Andro  
B. Saab  
C. Carl  
D. Bendo
33. **Recently, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited signed an agreement with which French company for manufacturing aircraft engines?**  
A. Jafran  
B. Rafale  
C. Mossad  
D. Safran
34. **HAWK system is concerned with-**  
A. Defense Research  
B. Water purification  
C. Road safety  
D. Wildlife Crime
35. **Which telecom company recently unveiled the first nationwide satellite-based gigabit broadband service?**  
A. Airtel  
B. Reliance Jio  
C. Vodafone-Idea  
D. All of the above
36. **What is Project Kusha related to?**  
A. Air Defense System  
B. Air Monitoring System  
C. Submarine construction  
D. Warplane manufacturing
37. **Which project was launched by the Tamil Nadu government to strengthen marine ecology and**



- marine environment?  
A. Project Bird  
B. Project Dolphin  
C. Project Sagar  
D. Project Jal
38. **What is 'A23a'?**  
A. Satellite  
B. Defense aircraft  
C. Massive iceberg  
D. None of the above
39. **Who has been made the global brand ambassador of ICC Cricket World Cup-2023?**  
A. Sachin Tendulkar  
B. Kapil Dev  
C. Ross Taylor  
D. Ricky Ponting
40. **Which country did India defeat to win the trophy in the 7th Women's Asian Champions Trophy-2023?**  
A. Singapore  
B. Japan  
C. Indonesia  
D. Vietnam
41. **The winners of the 26th World Billiards Championship-2023 were-**  
A. Efren Manalang Reyes  
B. Pankaj Advani  
C. Alexander Kazakis  
D. Saurav Kohari
42. **The mascot of the 37th National Games is-**  
A. Juhi  
B. Cricaverse  
C. Tonk  
D. Moga
43. **Where was Kartik Mahotsav organized?**  
A. Ajmer  
B. Nathdwara (Rajsamand)  
C. Galta Ji (Jaipur)  
D. Mount Abu
44. **Where was the Swayam Siddha Handicraft Exhibition organized?**  
A. Jaipur  
B. Jodhpur  
C. Kota  
D. Jhalawar
45. **In which district of the state, 14 government schools were selected under PM Shri Yojana?**  
A. Jhunjhunu  
B. Jaipur  
C. Tonk  
D. Sikar
46. **Recently, a tigress named ST-2 has become the oldest tigress in the country, which tiger reserve does she belong to?**  
A. Ranthambore  
B. Sariska  
C. Ramgarh Vishdhari  
D. Mukundra Hills
47. **Rama Ekadashi is organized on-**  
A. Chaitra Krishna Ekadashi  
B. Bhadrapada Shukla Ekadashi  
C. Kartik Krishna Ekadashi  
D. Shraavan Shukla Ekadashi
48. **Who was recently honored with the 'Anuvrat Writer Award'?**  
A. Dr. Madhukar Gupta  
B. Ikram Rajasthani  
C. Dr. Suresh Kumar  
D. Ramesh Ustan
49. **According to ADR Report-2023, which is the assembly constituency of Rajasthan with the highest number of criminal cases?**  
A. Sawai madhopur  
B. Dholpur  
C. Bharatpur  
D. Tijara
50. **Where was the state level Chandrabhaga Animal Fair organized under the aegis of Tourism Department?**  
A. Nanta (Kota)  
B. Anta (Baran)  
C. Keshoraipatan (Bundi)  
D. Jhalrapatan (Jhalawar)

Answer Key									
1	C	2	C	3	A	4	B	5	D
6	B	7	D	8	A	9	C	10	C
11	A	12	A	13	B	14	A	15	D
16	B	17	D	18	A	19	D	20	B
26	B	27	D	28	D	29	A	30	B
21	D	22	D	23	B	24	A	25	D
31	D	32	B	33	D	34	D	35	B
36	A	37	B	38	C	39	A	40	B
41	B	42	D	43	C	44	A	45	D
46	B	47	C	48	B	49	A	50	D

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
**RANK**



**VIKRANT SHARMA**

**सम्यक् मार्गदर्शन=सर्वश्रेष्ठ परिणाम**  
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