

## **JUNE Monthly Current Affairs 2023**

### **Table of Contents**

**01. INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**02. NATIONAL NEWS**

**03. SPORTS**

**04. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**05. OBITUARY**

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**06. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

**07. IMPORTANT DAYS**

**08. SUMMITS AND MOU'S**

**09. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

**10. RANKING**

**11. BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

**12. BANKING AND ECONOMY**

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### WHO and ICH collaborate to enhance global sharing of regulatory information on medical products

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) collaborate to enhance the registry and sharing of regulatory information on medical products worldwide.
- The collaboration will help establish a unified language that streamlines global regulatory decision-making involving the safety and efficacy of medical products while offering insights into the scope, causes and consequences of diseases and mortality worldwide, as per WHO.
- Dr Robert Jakob, WHO Team Lead, Classifications and Terminologies Unit, said, the collaboration paves the way for enhancing medical treatment and patient safety. Also, it aids in the overall improvement of health policies.
- MedDRA, the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities, is a highly specific standardised medical terminology developed by ICH to facilitate sharing of regulatory information internationally for medical products used by humans. It is used for registration, documentation and safety monitoring of medical products before and after a product has been authorised.

### India and UAE signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorized Economic Operators

- India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 23 June have signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorized Economic Operators. The agreement was formally signed during the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Customs Co-operation Council meeting held in Brussels.
- **Aim** - The Mutual Recognition Arrangement aims to promote trade facilitation and ease of doing business between the two countries. It establishes a framework for recognizing Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) from both India and the UAE.
- The recognition of AEO status will streamline customs procedures, reduce administrative burdens, and lower costs for authorized businesses.
- This agreement signifies an important milestone in the economic cooperation between India and the UAE and is expected to strengthen bilateral trade ties.
- By leveraging the benefits of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement, both countries aim to enhance trade facilitation, improve the ease of doing business, and encourage investments.

### Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 Silicon Valley tops the list, Bengaluru – Known as the Silicon valley of India ranked 20th.

- BENGALURU: Bengaluru has clinched the 20th spot, moving up two places, in Startup Genome's The Global Startup Ecosystems Report (GSER) 2023.

- While remained on top, New York City and were tied at No.2, With this, the top three ecosystems have all held on to their positions from 2020.
- Among the emerging ecosystems, Pune has moved into the 31 -40 range in 2023, from 51–60 in 2022.
- GSER is a comprehensive analysis of startup ecosystems around the world. The report, now in its 11th year, offers a detailed look into the world's top startup ecosystems, while tracking emerging trends and challenges faced by entrepreneurs.

#### **Vienna, the most liveable city' Economic Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index report**

- According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's - ETU report on global livability index 2023 Austria's capital city Vienna tops the index. Despite slipping in the rankings during the pandemic in 2021, Vienna bounced back and reclaimed the top spot in 2022, maintaining its position in 2023.
- The city's exceptional combination of stability, well-developed infrastructure, quality education and healthcare services, and rich cultural and entertainment offerings contributed to its continued success.
- Austria, has retained its position as the most liveable city in the world. Denmark's Copenhagen, secured the second spot, while Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, ranked third and fourth, respectively. While Canada's Vancouver occupied the fifth spot.

#### **India joins Artemis agreement**

- India joins NASA's Artemis agreement for collaborative lunar exploration. The focus is on returning humans to the Moon and expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond. Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed the agreement during his state visit to the United States.
- Grounded in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, the Artemis Accords is a non-binding international agreement, designed to guide civil space exploration and use. India has decided to join Artemis Accord, the United States-led international agreement on civil space exploration, the White House said Thursday. US space agency the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have also agreed for a joint mission to the International Space Station next year.

#### **India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) launched in Washington DC**

- India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) was launched at an event in Washington DC, USA on 21 June 2023. The INDUS X event was co-organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Ministry of Defence, and US Department of Defence (DoD) and hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC).

- Shri Anurag Bajpai, Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Promotion), MoD, led the Indian delegation in the two-day INDUS-X event on 20-21 June 2023. A reception for Indian and US Government representatives, defence start-ups, think tanks, incubators, investors, industries and other stakeholders was organised on 20 June 2023. Amb. Eric Garcetti, the US Ambassador to India, gave the keynote address. Mr. Frank Kendall, US Secretary of the Air Force, gave the opening keynote address on 21 June at the INDUS-X event.
- The Joint Secretary stressed on the co-development and co-production of advanced technologies by Indian and US start-ups. He further asked the participants to develop mechanisms for future collaboration across industries, academia, and investors. The Joint Secretary also gave an overview of the Make in India initiative, focussing on Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the philosophy of “Make in India, for the world”. The event also saw a first-of-its-kind joint showcasing of innovative technologies by Indian and US start-ups. 15 Indian start-ups and 10 US start-ups, from multiple domains of maritime, AI, autonomous systems, and space, showcased their technologies to Indian and US stakeholders

#### **Parliament elects conservative leader Petteri Orpo as PM**

- Petteri Orpo, the leader of the conservative party in Finland, has been elected as the country’s prime minister by the parliament. Orpo will lead a coalition government comprising four parties, including the far-right Finns Party, which intends to implement strict measures on immigration. With 107 members in favour, 81 opposed, and 11 absent, the parliament expressed its support for Orpo, who emerged victorious in the April elections. His victory initiated negotiations for a coalition government, which have been ongoing since then.
- President Sauli Niinisto is set to officially appoint Petteri Orpo as the new prime minister, replacing Sanna Marin, whose Social Democrats came in third place in the elections, behind Orpo’s National Coalition Party (NCP) and the Finns Party.
- Finland is a Nordic country located in Northern Europe. It is bordered by Sweden to the west, Norway to the north, Russia to the east, and the Gulf of Bothnia and the Gulf of Finland to the south. Finland covers an area of 338,455 square kilometers (130,678 square miles) and has a population of 5.5 million. The capital and largest city is Helsinki.

#### **United Nations adopt first-ever treaty to protect marine life in high seas**

- Representatives from all 193 UN member nations joyfully approved the first -ever treaty to safeguard marine life in the high seas. UN Secretary-General António Guterres lauded the historical agreement for giving the ocean a chance to fight against the numerous threats that menace it.
- With unanimous support, Guterres highlighted the significant timing, noting that the oceans are experiencing a critical and multifaceted threat.
- He emphasised the treaty’s significance in addressing these dangers and urged all nations to make an effort to sign and validate it as soon as possible.

- For over 20 years, the treaty explicitly designed to secure biodiversity in waters outside of the national borders-known as the high seas-covered almost half of the earth's surface, yet efforts to achieve consensus had repeatedly failed in the past.

### **Nusrat Chowdhury confirmed as first Muslim female federal judge in U.S. history**

- Nusrat Chowdhury, a civil rights lawyer, has been confirmed by the Senate as the first Muslim female federal judge in US history. She will assume her lifetime appointment in Brooklyn federal court in New York after a 50-49 vote on Thursday along party lines. The confirmation drew praise from the American Civil Liberties Union, where she is the legal director of the ACLU of Illinois. Prior to that post, she served from 2008 to 2020 at the national ACLU office, including seven years as deputy director of the ACLU Racial Justice Programme.
- She has served on the Presidential Task Force on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System. Her appointment was consistent with President Joe Biden's pledge to emphasise diversity in background, race and gender in his judicial nominations. Two years ago, the Senate confirmed the nation's first federal Muslim judge, Zahid Quraishi, to serve as a district court judge in New Jersey. Quraishi's first day on the job at a New York law firm was September 11, 2001. He would go on to join the Army's legal arm and served two deployments in Iraq.

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### **Ethiopia-Lebanon labour agreement contains little protection for domestic workers**

- Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopian workers in Lebanon could be left without legal protections and minimum wage requirements, as revealed by a recently signed bilateral labour agreement between the two countries.
- The undisclosed agreement, signed in April, was publicly promoted by officials from Ethiopia and Lebanon, but a leaked 12-page draft and eight-page worker contract seen by Middle East Eye has raised concerns regarding the rights of workers.
- The document does not include a minimum wage, relies on Lebanese laws that exclude protection for migrant workers, and may allow for passport confiscation.
- Human Rights Watch has reviewed the agreement and stated that it provides "weak and non-existent" privileges and protections for Ethiopian workers compared to other foreign nationals in Lebanon.

### **To Get More Funds From IMF, Bangladesh Floats Currency For First Time**

- In a historic move, Bangladesh's central bank has decided to allow its currency, the taka, to float freely for the first time. The decision comes in response to demands from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and aims to unlock additional funds from a \$4.7 billion loan program. While Bangladesh is not heavily indebted, the country joins a growing list of nations, including Pakistan, Egypt, and Lebanon, that have opted to loosen control over their local currencies to secure financing from the Washington-based lender.



- The new market-driven exchange rate regime is expected to bring greater transparency and efficiency to foreign exchange transactions, benefiting businesses, individuals, and the overall economy. Despite concerns of depreciation, the central bank does not anticipate a significant decline in the value of the taka, which has already experienced a slight 5% decrease this year.

#### **IREDA participates in “Intersolar Europe 2023” Exhibition**

- IREDA, a Mini Ratna (Category – I) enterprise under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, participated in the prestigious three-day “Intersolar Europe 2023” exhibition held in Munich, Germany.
- The inauguration of the pavilion was carried out by CMD, IREDA, Pradip Kumar Das, who expressed the firm’s dedication towards a greener future.
- During the exhibition, IREDA officials attended meetings with KfW Development Bank and Commerz Bank to review current progress and explore partnership opportunities.
- IREDA officials also visited RCT GmbH to discuss the technology, milestones, and costs related to the Indosol Solar Manufacturing project.
- IREDA’s participation highlights their ongoing dedication to the global Renewable Energy landscape and sustainable development practices, contributing towards India’s Renewable Energy goals and climate change challenges.

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#### **Japan Raises Age Of Consent From 13 To 16, Redefines Rape In Landmark Law Change**

- Japan’s parliament has raised the age of consent from 13 to 16, a limit which had remained unchanged for more than a century and was among the world’s lowest consent age.
- Lawmakers also broadened the definition of rape from “forcible sexual intercourse” to “non-consensual sexual intercourse”.
- The expanded definition includes acts committed using drugging and intoxication. It also criminalized the grooming of minors.
- Sexual intercourse with someone below age 16 will be considered as rape.
- Japan’s sexual consent age had been unchanged since 1907. Consent age is defined as the age below which sexual activity is considered as rape. Current consent age is 16 in Britain, 15 in France, 14 in Germany and China & 18 in India.

#### **The United States of America announces its intention to rejoin UNESCO in July**

- UNESCO has announced that the United States will rejoin the agency in July, four years after leaving due to allegations of bias against Israel. The move to rejoin will require a vote by member states, but is expected to pass easily. UNESCO promotes educational, scientific and cultural causes, and designates World Heritage Sites globally.
- The US stopped funding UNESCO, worth millions of dollars, in 2011 after Palestine became a member of the agency. This decision was made by then President Barack Obama, who halted the funding due to Palestine’s status as a

non-sovereign state, not recognized by the United Nations. Although Palestine was included as a non-member observer state in 2012, granting them participation in General Assembly proceedings, they lacked voting rights. Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, Nimrod Barkan, supported the US decision, objecting to the "politicisation of UNESCO" caused by Palestine's membership.

#### **UK Names Jane Marriott As First Woman Envoy To Pakistan**

- The United Kingdom has announced the appointment of senior diplomat Jane Marriott as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan, making her the first female British envoy to Islamabad. Prior to this appointment, Jane Marriott, 47, was the high commissioner to Kenya since September 2019. She would be replacing Dr Christian Turner, who left Pakistan in January after serving as the envoy since December 2019. Ms Marriott brings a wealth of thematic and regional experience to her new role having joined the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in 2001, following roles in the Cabinet Office and Home Office.
- The appointment of a female British High Commissioner to Pakistan is a significant milestone. It is a sign of the UK's commitment to gender equality and to strengthening its relationship with Pakistan.
- Marriott is a well-respected diplomat with a wealth of experience. She is a strong advocate for women's rights and has worked to promote gender equality in her previous roles.

#### **NATO Begins Largest Air Force Drills in Its History, Air Defender 23**

- After six years of careful planning, NATO officially launched its 2023 Air Defender military exercise in Germany, NATO countries—including newest member Finland—will participate, as will nonmember Sweden, whose bid to join the alliance has been stalled by Turkey and Hungary. Japan, which last month began talks to establish the bloc's first liaison base in Asia to counter China, is also participating as an observer.
- The 12-day training includes more than 250 aircraft and 10,000 personnel, making it the largest air deployment exercise in the bloc's history. Officers will test how well aircraft from various nations communicate with one another as well as the effectiveness of cargo and fuel flight crews, both of which are used extensively by Ukrainian troops in Kyiv's war against Russia. According to German Air Force Lt. Gen. Ingo Gerhartz, who is overseeing the exercise, Air Defender will also include an "evacuation from an airfield"—a direct response to the United States' chaotic evacuation at Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport in August 2021.

#### **World Bank launches its first road safety project in South Asia**

- The World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed in Dhaka with the government of Bangladesh. The project seeks to improve road safety and reduce

fatalities and injuries from road crashes in selected cities, high -risk highways, and district roads.

- Two national highways of Bangladesh, Gazipur-Elenga (N4) and Natore-Nawabganj (N6), will be taken up for the implementation of this project. The project will pilot comprehensive road safety measures, including improved engineering designs, signage and marking, pedestrian facilities, speed enforcement, and emergency care. These measures will help reduce road traffic deaths by more than 30 percent on these two highways.
- Road signs, dividers, footpaths, zebra crossings, speed breakers and bus bays will be constructed on the two highways passing through the five divisions of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Mymensingh to reduce accidents and fatalities.
- The project will pilot Ambulance services, including bike-ambulances, with a toll-free number to take road crash victims to the hospital quickly. Further, the project will upgrade trauma care facilities in selected district hospitals, and Upazila Health Complexes.
- To control speed, the project will Install CCTV on roads, and construct an electric messaging system. It will make provision for patrol vehicles and crash site cleaning equipment. It will also support the government to strengthen institutions to effectively manage road safety across the country.

#### **India and UAE Target \$100 Billion Non-Oil Trade by 2030**

- India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have set an ambitious target to increase their non-oil bilateral trade from the current USD 48 billion to USD 100 billion by 2030. The decision was reached during the first meeting of the Joint Committee of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Both countries aim to double their non-petroleum trade in the next seven years, emphasizing the need to enhance trade cooperation beyond the oil sector.
- However, India's petroleum exports globally are on a decline due to lack of consumer demand in western countries that have driven prices lower. Petroleum products exports, which was a key growth driver of overall Indian exports during the last financial year, registered a sharp 23% decline in April compared to the previous month.

#### **Indo-Maldives joint military exercise commences**

- The 12th edition of the joint military exercise "Ex Ekuverin" between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. The exercise, which started on 11 June, will continue until 24 June, 2023.
- Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives.



- The primary objective of the exercise is to enhance interoperability in counter insurgency/counter terrorism operations under the UN mandate. Additionally, it aims to facilitate joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations,
- A platoon strength contingent from the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force will be participating in the 14 -day exercise. The focus is to share best practices, enhance coordination and cooperation between both the forces at tactical level.
- The previous edition of the exercise, the 11th edition, was held in the Maldives in December 2021.

### **Rishi Sunak and Joe Biden signed the Atlantic Declaration, First of its kind US – UK economic partnership**

Despite a U.S.-U.K. trade deal remaining very much elusive, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and President Joe Biden signed a new “Atlantic Declaration” aiming to bolster economic security in the face of threats coming from Russia and China.

The agreement, was announced at a joint press conference in the East Room of the White House, is a series of mini deals looking artificial intelligence, critical minerals, clean energy and security.

Under this, both USA and UK aim to partner to build resilient, diversified, and secure supply chains and reduce strategic dependencies.

The declaration aims to increase US – UK trade in areas such as defence nuclear materials and the critical minerals used in electric-car batteries

### **India, France, UAE joint maritime exercise held at Gulf of Oman**

The first-ever India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise recently took place in the Gulf of Oman from 07 -08 Jun 23. This exercise marked a significant milestone in strengthening trilateral cooperation among the navies of India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). With the objective of improving joint strategies and ensuring maritime security, the exercise witnessed the participation of several naval assets and the execution of various operations.

During the maiden edition of the exercise, a wide spectrum of operations at sea such as surface Warfare involving tactical firing and drills for Missile engagements, close quarter manoeuvres, Advanced Air Defence Exercise with French Rafale and UAE Dash 8 MPA, Helicopter Cross Landing Operations, Drills for Replenishment at sea were undertaken by the participating units. The exercise also saw cross embarkation of personnel that facilitated exchange of best practices.

### **India & Serbia agree to set bilateral trade of 1 Billion Euros by end of this decade**

President Droupadi Murmu and her Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic agreed to set a target for bilateral trade from the present 320 million euros to one billion euros by the end of the decade,

President Droupadi Murmu was on a three-day State visit to Serbia from the 7th to the 9th of June. President Droupadi Murmu highlighted that the relations between both sides have a shared understanding of each other’s core interests.

Apart from the trade agreement, President of Serbia, Mr. Aleksandar Vucic also promised simplification of the issue of Visa to Indians. He hoped that direct flights between the two countries will begin soon. It will promote tourism and business between the two countries,

### **UAE to Host World's Largest Conservation Conference in 2025**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has won the bid to host the 2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The WCC is the world's largest and most important gathering of conservationists, and it is expected to draw more than 10,000 delegates from over 160 countries.

The UAE has a long history of environmental protection, and it is home to a number of important conservation initiatives, including the Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Center and the Al Ain Oasis.

The 2025 WCC will be held in Abu Dhabi from October 10-21, 2025. The event will be an opportunity for conservationists from around the world to come together and discuss the most pressing environmental challenges facing our planet.

### **Japan, US and South Korea agree to upgrade their security relationship**

Japan, the United States, and South Korea have agreed to upgrade their security relationship to enable real-time monitoring of missiles launched by North Korea.

The countries will activate the new data-sharing mechanism by the end of the year. The trilateral agreement came during a one-hour meeting in Singapore on Saturday attended by Japanese Defense Minister Hamada Yasukazu, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup. The Defense Chiefs met on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue.

A joint statement released after the talks said the three condemned North Korea's recent claimed space launch using ballistic missile technology, as it constitutes a serious violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Pyongyang announced after the failed launch that it will conduct another launch soon.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **AP CM Launches Jagananna Amma Vodi Scheme**

- Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will release financial assistance of ₹6,392.94 crore under Jagananna Amma Vodi scheme. He will formally launch the programme at Kurupam of Parvathipuram Manyam district on Wednesday with the click of a button. The amount will be deposited into the bank accounts of 42,61,965 mothers. The process of depositing the financial assistance will be completed in 10 days. As many as 83,15,341 students of classes 1 to Intermediate will be benefited from the programme.
- This fourth year in a row the State government is providing financial assistance under the programme. The total financial assistance provided so far under the Jagananna Amma Vodi is ₹26,067.28 crore. This includes ₹6,392 crore of financial assistance being extended now. The identified beneficiaries can reach

the Chief Minister via Jaganannaku Chebudam if they face any problems. They have to call a toll-free number 1902.

- The State government with an intention to reduce the dropout rate significantly in schools, has made 75% attendance mandatory for availing oneself of the benefits under “Jagananna Amma Vodi”. The mothers should take the responsibility of sending their children to school regularly to ensure at least 75% attendance.
- The Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2018 Primary Education was as low as 84.48 when compared to the national average of 99.21. Andhra Pradesh then was at the lowest place among 29 States. In the last 4 years, the State has witnessed a remarkable surge in GER from 84.48 to 100.8. The Government has decided to further improve the GER and to encourage the continuation of studies by the students who failed in Class 10th and Intermediate are readmitted to schools and colleges and are once again provided with Jagananna Amma Vodi benefit.

#### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in valedictory function of Delhi University's centenary celebrations**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the valedictory Ceremony of the centenary celebrations of Delhi University today. Prime Minister will address the gathering on the occasion. In a tweet, Prime Minister said that he is looking forward to joining the University of Delhi's centenary celebrations. Mr Modi said, as a premier centre of learning, Delhi University has been nurturing talent and fostering intellectual growth for a century. He congratulated the DU fraternity on this milestone.
- During the programme, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of the Delhi University Computer Centre and the building of the Faculty of Technology, and the Academic Block which will be built in the North Campus of the University.
- The University of Delhi was established on 1st May 1922. In the last hundred years, the University has grown and expanded immensely and now has 86 departments, and 90 Colleges. Over six lakh students have passed out from the University so far.

#### **CCI approves acquisition of TCNS Clothing by Aditya Birla Fashion**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday approved the acquisition of TCNS Clothing Co Limited by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited, The proposed combination involves the acquisition of 51 per cent of the “expanded share capital”.
- The acquirer Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited is a listed company and is part of the Aditya Birla conglomerate. It is engaged in retailing of branded products within the apparel, footwear and accessories segment, through its retail stores, online retail platforms and e-commerce marketplaces.

- The target company TCNS Clothing Co. Limited is a listed firm engaged in the business of manufacturing, distribution and sale of women's apparel, jewellery, footwear, and beauty products, currently undertaken under the brands — W, Aurelia, Wishful, Elleven and Folk Song.

#### **CJI Dr. Justice D Y Chandrachud to lay foundation stone of new complex of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court in Raika**

- The Chief Justice of India Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud will lay foundation stone of new complex of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court in Raika area in the outskirts of Jammu city, The complex equipped with modern facilities is estimated to cost over 800 crore rupees and will be completed in shortest possible time.
- Union Law Minister, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Supreme Court Judges Sanjay Kishan Koul and Pankaj Mithal, Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K, Manoj Sinha and Lieutenant Governor of UT of Ladakh B D Mishra and all the Judges of J&K and Ladakh High Court will attend the ceremony. Our Jammu Correspondent reports, the new campus has been conceptualized as a self-contained integrated complex with all multi-disciplinary facilities for an effective judicial eco-system. The new High Court complex will have 35 courtrooms and will also have chambers for 1000 lawyers with space for expansion in future.

#### **Yogi Adityanath launched "Operation Conviction" in Uttar Pradesh**

- The Uttar Pradesh Police has recently initiated a comprehensive program named 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and organized crime in the state. This strategic initiative aims to expedite the conviction process, particularly in cases related to heinous crimes such as rape, murder, cow slaughter, religious conversion, and those registered under the POCSO Act. By ensuring immediate arrests, robust evidence collection, meticulous investigations and effective representation in courts, the authorities seek to minimize the time taken for criminals to face justice.
- A web portal is currently under development to facilitate the weekly review of identified cases. This portal will enable senior police officials at the Directorate General of Police (DGP) office in the state capital to closely monitor the progress of these cases. The portal's real-time updates and comprehensive data will help identify any bottlenecks and enable prompt actions to maintain the momentum of the conviction process.

#### **IAF carries out Exercise Ranvijay with focus on integrated operations**

- The Indian Air Force carried out Exercise 'Ranvijay' with a focus on integration on Sunday (June 25). It was conducted from different air bases of the command headquarters of IAF in Prayagraj. The IAF conducted day and night operations with its various combat fleet including the Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircraft, a twin-engine multirole fighter aircraft developed by Russia's Sukhoi and built under license by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- About ; Exercise 'Ranvijay - The Indian Air Force conducted Exercise Ranvijay with a focus on integration and joint operations. The aircraft showed the capability of the Sukhoi and IAF to conduct night operations. It also displayed great coordination between man and machine as well as the IAF's capability to carry out operations under any circumstances.
- The exercise has proven that the IAF is capable of taking on challenges and protecting the nation's skies from India's adversaries with its technological capabilities. Moreover, the integration of the three tri-services will help thwart threats from India's adversaries along the Western and Northern Border.

### **1000-year-old pillars with Jain sculptures found near Hyderabad**

- Two 1000-year-old square pillars with sculptures of Jain Tirthankaras (a saviour and spiritual teacher of the dharma), were found on the outskirts of the city in Rangareddy district's Moinabad village.
- The information about the pillars was first shared by P Srinath Reddy, a young archaeologist and heritage activist, following which a senior archaeologist E Sivanagireddy inspected the spot , He said the two pillars, including one granite and another black basalt, were carved with four Jain Tirthankaras namely, Adinatha, Neminatha, Parshvanatha and Vardhamana Mahavira.
- The pillars bore inscriptions in Telugu-Kannada language, where the visible part of the inscription refers to a Jain Basadi (monastery) located close to Chilkur village. Sivanagireddy opined that the pillars might have been brought from a local dilapidated Jain temple and fitted to the sluice some 100 years ago.

### **Adani Group founder Gautam Adani launches "Jeetenge Hum" campaign**

1. The Adani Group celebrated its Foundation Day, honoring the Indian cricket team that won the 1983 World Cup. The event, dubbed "Adani Day," took place on the 61st birthday of the group's founder, Gautam Adani. The Adani Group launched the "Jeetenge Hum" campaign during the event, with the goal of rallying support for Team India and boosting morale ahead of the upcoming ICC ODI Cricket World Cup 2023.
2. **About: Jeetenge Hum" campaign** - The launch of the campaign commemorates the 40th anniversary of India's historic victory in 1983. While launching the campaign, Gautam Adani emphasised the importance of cricket as a unifying force in the country. The campaign encourages Indian cricket fans to unite as one, and rally behind Team India with #JeetengeHum on Twitter and Instagram, backing the team's quest for victory and boosting their morale.
3. This campaign draws inspiration from the Adani Group's ethos, "Kar ke dikhaya hai, Kar ke dikhayenge," symbolizing an indomitable spirit of achievement in both cricket and business. The "Jeetenge Hum" campaign champions the belief that winners, having tasted victory before, will inevitably relish it again—an inner conviction that precedes their satisfaction and pride in the public eye.



### **India's first hydrogen-powered train to run from Haryana's Jind district**

- Shobhan Choudhary, General Manager (GM) of Northern Railway, recently visited the country's first hydrogen plant, which is set up in Jind, Haryana. This will be the first hydrogen-powered train in the country and is expected to run from Haryana's Jind district by the end of this year.
- The officials claimed that hydrogen-powered trains are running only in Germany, and the whole world is watching the project to see how India will start such trains.
- India's first hydrogen plant is being set up near the railway junction in Jind district. Officials said that the development of the plant has reached the final stage and that hydrogen will be produced from water. The first prototype of the hydrogen train is expected to be introduced in the financial year 2023-2024 between Jind and Sonipat on the Northern Railway. The hydrogen fuel-based train of eight bogies will be environmentally friendly.

### **Assam's first underwater tunnel to be constructed between Numaligarh and Gohpur**

- The first underwater tunnel in Assam will be constructed between Numaligarh and Gohpur at an estimated cost of Rs 6,000 crore, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the tender for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) will open in the next month.
- The idea of an underwater tunnel arose from the many bridges built over the Brahmaputra River to facilitate the movement of both vehicles and railways. Discussions were held to determine the location and it was decided that the tunnel would be built between Numaligarh and Gohpur.
- The tender for the DPR will open on July 4 and Sarma expressed hope that work on the tunnel could begin during his tenure as chief minister. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the project, and once the tunnel is completed, it will bring the two banks, north and south, of the Brahmaputra river closer together.

### **DRDO and L&T Join Hands For AIP System For Navy's 'Kalvari' Class Submarines**

- Larsen and Toubro and DRDO have signed a contract for the realisation of two Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system modules for 'Kalvari' class submarines of the Indian Navy.
- The contract documents were exchanged between Arun T Ramchandani, Executive Vice President and Head-L&T Defence, and PT Rojarkar, Director of the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), L&T informed stock exchanges on Thursday.
- L&T is the recipient of the Transfer of Technology (ToT) for this Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)-developed system. On realisation and integration of these modules in the submarines, India will join an elite club of a handful of nations that have indigenously developed fuel cell-based submarine 'AIP' technology, which is critical for increasing the endurance of conventional submarines.
- The manufacturing, integration, and factory acceptance trials of the systems will be undertaken in L&T's AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex at Surat.

### **Telangana CM inaugurates Medha Rail Coach factory at Sangareddy**

- Telangana Chief Minister K.Chandrshekar Rao (KCR) inaugurated Medha Rail Coach Factory at Sangareddy district. In 2017, Medha signed an MOU with Government of Telangana for setting up Coach Factory in the state of Telangana.
- The government of Telangana through TSIIC has allotted 100 acres of land for manufacturing rail and metro coaches. This state-of-the-art facility at Kondakal village, Medha also signed a joint venture (JV) agreement with Swiss railway rolling stock manufacturer Stadler Rail for a new rail coach manufacturing factory in Telangana.
- The Joint Venture Telangana Unit to cater to its tenders from the Indian Market and exports from customers across the Asia Pacific region. Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd (Medha), an R&D focused company, which have been supplying various products to Railways since 1990, now is the largest Propulsion equipment (Electronics) supplier to Indian Railways.
- An annual turnover of Rs. 2500 Crores, the company has employed about 5000 people, predominantly from the local regions. The only Indian company that has in-house R&D facilities, Medha which is also currently manufacturing Bogies for the Indian Railways, will soon commence manufacturing of the complete Mumbai monorail trainsets.

### **Amit Shah lays foundation stone of 'Balidan Stambh' in Srinagar**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of 'Balidan Stambh' in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, shortly today, Saturday, June 24. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was also present at the park near the Lal Chowk city centre – the commercial hub of Srinagar city.
- The memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City, is a tribute to the martyrs' who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The minister also visited the Karan Mahal – the residence of the last Yuvraj of Jammu and Kashmir, Karan Singh. Shah also met some select people at the Police Golf Course overlooking the Dal Lake here, before going back to Delhi.

### **Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated Silica Reduction Plant at Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli Mines**

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia virtually inaugurated Silica Reduction Plant at Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli Mines from New Delhi,
- The iron ore reserves in the 60 -year-old mines of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli and Rajhara group are depleting rapidly. The study revealed the need to refine iron ore of size less than one mm to achieve the desired grade for effective usage in the Blast Furnace. The Silica Reduction Plant, with an investment of over 149 crore rupees, is aligned with the existing Crushing, Screening and Washing wet plant at Dalli. This plant is equipped with state-of-the-art beneficiation equipment and aims to enhance the iron ore supplied to Bhilai Steel Plant.
- Steel Ministry is focused on promoting de-carbonization in the Indian Steel Industry and formulating a long-term roadmap for green steel production in collaboration with the steel industry.

## **Rajnath Singh inaugurates integrated simulator complex 'Dhruv' at Southern Naval Command**

- Defence Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh inaugurated DHRUV, an Integrated Simulator Complex (ISC), at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.
- It hosts state-of-the-art indigenously built simulators, which will significantly enhance practical training in the Indian Navy. These simulators are envisaged to give real-time experience on navigation, fleet operations and naval tactics. These simulators will also be utilised for training personnel from friendly foreign countries.
- The ISC 'Dhruv' features a range of modern simulators aimed at enhancing practical training for naval personnel. These simulators will enable trainees to gain hands-on expertise in various aspects of naval operations. Among the simulators showcased during the inauguration were the Multi-Station Handling Simulator (MSSHS), Air Direction and Helicopter Control Simulator (ADHCS), and Astronavigation Dome.

## **Amit Shah to open public park built by Credai**

- On the auspicious occasion of the Jagannath Rath Yatra, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated various development works and performed Bhoomipujan in Ahmedabad. Among the inaugurated projects was the CREDAI Garden-People's Park, a beautiful park constructed by CREDAI with the aim of providing a comfortable and environmentally friendly space for people from all walks of life.
- Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the CREDAI Garden-People's Park, a sprawling park spread over 12,000 square meters. The park was constructed at a cost of approximately Rs 2.5 crore. In his address, Shri Shah emphasized that the park was designed to cater to the needs of the middle class, upper middle class, and underprivileged children. He lauded CREDAI for creating a beautiful and accessible space that would enhance the urban landscape while providing a comfortable retreat for the common citizen.

## **Estonia becomes first central European country to allow same-sex marriage**

- Estonia's parliament passed a law legalising same-sex marriage, making it the first central European nation to do so. While much of western Europe has already legalised same-sex marriage, it remains prohibited in many former communist central European countries that were once part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.
- The bill was passed with 55 votes in the 101-seat parliament, with support from the coalition of liberal and social democratic parties led by Prime Minister Kallas, who won the 2023 election.
- The new law will become effective in 2024. A recent poll by the Centre for Human Rights found that 53% of Estonians support same-sex marriage, compared to 34% a decade ago.

- However, many still consider homosexuality to be unacceptable, including a significant portion of the ethnic-Russian minority, which makes up one quarter of the country's population.

#### **17.88 lakh new workers added under ESI Scheme in the month of April, 2023**

- The latest provisional payroll data from the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for April 2023 reveals a remarkable increase in the number of employees and establishments registered under the ESI Scheme. The data highlights the significant impact of the scheme in generating employment opportunities for the youth while promoting inclusivity by extending benefits to transgender employees. This article delves into the key findings of the data, emphasizing the scheme's positive contributions to the workforce.
- Surge in Employee Registrations: In April 2023, a staggering 17.88 lakh new employees were added to the ESI Scheme, signifying substantial growth in employment opportunities. This increase reflects the expanding reach and effectiveness of the scheme in providing social security benefits to workers across various sectors.

#### **National Yoga Olympiad organised in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)**

- The National Yoga Olympiad, a prestigious event showcasing the best of yoga, is currently being organised in Madhya Pradesh leading up to the main event on the 9th International Yoga Day on June 21st in Jabalpur.
- The three-day Olympiad was ceremoniously inaugurated by Governor Mangu Bhai Patel in Bhopal on the previous day.
- Interestingly, this is the first time that the National Yoga Olympiad is being organised outside of New Delhi, the national capital.
- This event promises to be a wonderful display of the art and practice of yoga and is sure to captivate all those in attendance.
- International Yoga Day has been celebrated on June 21 every year since 2015. This day was declared as International Yoga Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, recognizing the importance of yoga in promoting healthy living and overall wellbeing.

#### **18 new courses for young professionals now on govt's iGOT platform**

- The Personnel Ministry announced that the central government has launched a new collection of courses called "Dakshta" (Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skill for Holistic Transformation in Administration) on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform.
- The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has established Karmayogi Bharat, a government-owned not-for-profit special purpose vehicle, to steer the mission's fundamental goals.
- It's charged with the ownership, management, maintenance, and enhancement of the iGOT Karmayogi platform.

- Mission Karmayogi (National programme for civil services capacity building), in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building a 'Viksit Bharat', plays an important role in nurturing a smart, citizen-friendly, and future-ready public workforce.

#### **Akashvani and Doordarshan emerge as most trusted electronic media organization in country as per Reuters Institute's Digital News Report 2023**

- DD India and All India Radio have been acknowledged as the most dependable electronic media entities in the nation in accordance with the 2023 issue of the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report. The report indicates that although overall news trust has decreased by 3 percentage points, public broadcasters and print brands have managed to preserve a comparatively higher level of credibility among the public.
- DD India and All India Radio are specifically highlighted as electronic media organizations with the greatest level of trust, which highlights their significance in the media ecosystem and their influence on shaping public opinion.
- This recognition reflects the trust that these public broadcasters have gained from their audiences and is a reflection of their long-standing reputation for providing precise and-unbiased news coverage.

#### **146th Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath starts in Ahmedabad**

- The 146th Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath commenced in the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, with tight security measures in place. A large number of devotees gathered along the 18-kilometer procession route to catch a glimpse of the deity. This year, the Gujarat Police employed advanced 3D mapping technology to monitor the entire route and utilized anti-drone technology to prevent the unauthorized use of drones during the event.
- In the morning, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel performed the 'Pahind Vidhi,' a symbolic ritual of cleaning the path for the chariots, using a golden broom. Subsequently, the chariots carrying Lord Jagannath, his brother Balbhadra, and sister Subhadra began the yatra from the 400-year-old Jagannath Temple located in Jamalpur. These preparations were made prior to the commencement of the annual event.

#### **Google Doodle honours Dr Kamala Sohonie, an Indian biochemist on her 112 birthday**

- Kamala Sohonie, born on June 18, 1911, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, was a trailblazing Indian scientist. She became the first Indian woman to earn a Ph.D. degree in a scientific discipline. Despite facing gender bias within the scientific community, including opposition from Nobel laureate CV Raman, Sohonie persevered and made significant contributions to the field of biochemistry.
- Kamala Sohonie's groundbreaking research on Neera, a palm extract with the potential to combat malnutrition among tribal communities in India, earned her the prestigious Rashtrapati Award.



- Kamala Sohoni's father, Narayanarao Bhagvat, and his brother Madhavrao Bhagvat, were both chemists who had studied at the Tata Institute of Sciences (now the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru). Inspired by their footsteps, Kamala graduated in 1933 with a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry (principal) and Physics (subsidiary) from Bombay University, where she topped the merit list. Her pursuit of higher education led her to apply for an M.Sc. degree at the Indian Institute of Science, which was then headed by CV Raman.

### **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society renamed Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society**

- Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society: At a special meeting presided over by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, who is Vice-President of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, it was resolved to change the society's name to Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society. The decision was influenced by the completion of the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, a museum dedicated to all the Prime Ministers of India.
- The Executive Council of the NMML had approved the construction of the museum in 2016, based on an idea proposed by Prime Minister Shri Modi.
- However, they later felt that the name of the institution should reflect its new form, which now includes a Sangrahalaya showcasing the journey of democracy in Independent India and the contribution of each Prime Minister to nation-building.
- The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) was established in 1964 in the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. It is located in the Teen Murti Bhavan in New Delhi, which was the official residence of Jawaharlal Nehru.

### **Yoga at Office Chair-Centre introduces for employee stress relief**

- The central government of India has recently taken a proactive step towards improving the well-being of its employees by introducing the "Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair" protocol. This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy), aims to help professionals relieve stress, rejuvenate their energy levels, and enhance concentration. The protocol includes a series of simple yoga practices, such as asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing techniques), and dhyana (meditation), all of which can be easily incorporated into a short break from work.
- Recognizing the importance of employee well-being in fostering a productive and harmonious work environment, the personnel ministry has directed all central government ministries and departments to embrace and encourage this innovative yoga practice. The "Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair" protocol offers a convenient solution for busy officials who may find it challenging to dedicate time to yoga outside of their office spaces. By practicing this short -duration yoga routine while sitting in their office chairs, employees can experience the benefits of relaxation, stress reduction, and improved focus.

- The “Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair” protocol has been carefully developed by eminent experts in the field of yoga. The Ministry of AYUSH has collaborated with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga to create this tested and effective protocol. The positive feedback received thus far from participants underscores its efficacy in combating workplace stress and enhancing overall well-being.

#### **UNGA adopts resolution introduced by India to honour fallen peacekeepers**

- The UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) has adopted by consensus a draft resolution piloted by India to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honour fallen peacekeepers.
- India’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled ‘Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers’ in the UN General Assembly Hall and it was adopted by consensus.
- The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda and the US. It received a record 190 co-sponsorships.

#### **Kari Ishad mango of Ankola in Uttara Karnataka gets GI tag**

- The Kari Ishad mango prominently grown in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada has bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry under the Union Government.
- It is said that the mango variety has been cultivated for the last 400 years.
- It has two variants — Kari Ishad, which has thin skin, more pulp and is sweeter, and Bili Ishad, which has thick skin and less pulp and sweetness. The Kari Ishad is accepted as one of the finest quality mangoes due to its unique aroma, luscious taste, high amount of pulp, shape, and size.

#### **GeM to organise District level Buyer-Seller workshops in Uttar Pradesh**

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM), India’s premier online procurement platform, is organizing Buyer-Seller Workshops in all the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh from 12 June to 31st August, 2023. These workshops aim to enhance the understanding of GeM’s functionalities among buyers and sellers in the state, as well as provide a platform to address any queries or concerns they may have.
- The Buyer-Seller Workshops are a significant step towards ensuring accessibility and participation from every corner of the state. GeM believes in empowering buyers and sellers in the remotest districts of Uttar Pradesh by providing them with the necessary knowledge and resources to leverage the benefits of the platform effectively. These workshops will serve as a platform to address queries, provide guidance, and discuss any issues faced by the users at the district level.
- During the workshops, participants will receive comprehensive training on GeM’s features, registration processes, and various aspects of online procurement.

GeM experts will be available to provide hands-on assistance and address specific concerns faced by buyers and sellers.

- The workshops will also facilitate networking opportunities, enabling participants to connect with potential partners and explore business collaborations.

### **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal lays Foundation Stone of Cochin Fisheries Harbour worth 169.17 crores**

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala laid the foundation stone of Modernisation and Upgradation Works of Cochin Fishing Harbour at Thoppumpady, Kerala.
- This project is being developed at an estimated cost of 169.17 crores. The overall project is funded through Grants from Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Scheme under the Department of Fisheries (Rs.50 Crores) and the Sagarmala Project scheme of MoPSW (Rs.50 Crores) and investment of PPP Operator is Rs.55.84 Crores.
- The first stage of the project includes construction of three air-conditioned Auction Halls, one non-air-conditioned hall, one fish dressing unit and other ancillary units. Under this project, internal roads will be constructed, loading and unloading platforms will be built, waste management area will be developed and there will be canteen facilities, drivers' waiting area, dredging work, areas machinery and equipment etc. The construction of four temperature-controlled auction halls of 60mx18m with mechanical retrieval and conveyance will increase the capacity of the fishing harbour by 415 tonnes of fish per day.

### **Uttar Pradesh Government launches Nand Baba Milk Mission scheme**

in a bid to make Uttar Pradesh a leading State in the field of milk development and milk production, the State Government has launched the Nand Baba Milk Mission scheme at a cost of ₹1,000 crore.

The Nand Baba Milk Mission scheme, which was launched on June 6, has been implemented to provide milk producers the facility of selling their milk at a reasonable price in villages through dairy co-operative societies.

Besides the opening of office of the Nand Baba Milk Mission at Kisan Gomtinagar, a 'Dairy Development Portal' and logo of Nand Baba Mission has also been unveiled.

Objective - The primary objective of the Nand Baba Milk Mission is to empower milk producers in Uttar Pradesh. By establishing dairy co-operative societies, the mission aims to provide producers with a fair and reasonable price for their milk, thereby ensuring their economic well-being.

### **Karnataka announces free bus travel 'Shakti' scheme for women**

The 'Shakti' scheme was a promise made by the Congress party in its manifesto during the Karnataka Assembly elections. It guarantees free bus travel for women in the state. After assuming office, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah gave in-principle approval for the

scheme, along with four other guarantees. The Karnataka cabinet officially announced the implementation of the 'Shakti' scheme starting June 11.

**Who is Eligible, and other conditions ?** - All women residents of Karnataka, including students, are eligible for the 'Shakti' scheme. Additionally, members of the transgender community can also benefit from this scheme using Shakti smart cards. The government has already issued a set of guidelines on the 'Shakti' scheme, which is one of the major poll promises by the Congress party in Karnataka. According to the transport department of Karnataka, women can apply for Shakti smart cards through [sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in](http://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in).

The Shakti scheme applies only on the ordinary state run bus services of Karnataka. Airavat, Airavat Club Class, Airavat Gold Class, Ambari, Ambari Dream Class, Ambari Utsav, Fly Bus, Vayu Vajra, Vajra, Non-AC Sleeper, Rajahamsa and EV Power Plus AC buses are excluded in this scheme.

### **Haryana CM launched integrated Water Resources Action Plan-2023-25**

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal will inaugurate the integrated Water Resources Action Plan-2023-25 under the Amrit Jal Kranti initiative. This plan, aimed at conserving water resources, represents a significant and proactive step in addressing water conservation in the state.

Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, a two-day water conservation seminar was conducted in Panchkula on April 26-27. The seminar witnessed the participation of various departments from Haryana, along with experts from India and abroad, who shared their research and insights on water conservation. Taking into account the suggestions and inputs received during the water conservation seminar, all the departments have collaborated to prepare an action plan for water conservation. This plan reflects the collective efforts and expertise of multiple departments in tackling the challenges related to water resources.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal in the past has taken several initiatives towards water conservation which have drawn significant results. Under his guidance, the concept of Mera Pani-Meri Virasat Yojana was effectively implemented which is being highly acknowledged by the other states.

### **AIIMS, Nagpur becomes the first NABH accredited hospital in the country**

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Nagpur has become the first hospital to receive National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) accreditation.

Accreditation by 'NABH' is an important recognition for the hospital and is a testament to the hospital's commitment to providing high quality patient care and safety. Accreditation by 'NABH' is a globally recognized accreditation for healthcare quality. Getting this recognition is considered a great honor for any hospital.

The accreditation process of 'NABH' is rigorous and comprehensive. It assesses the hospital's performance in various areas including patient care, safety and organizational efficiency. AIIMS Hospital, Nagpur has earned this recognition by demonstrating its commitment to excellence in all these parameters. AIIMS Hospital

has achieved an important milestone in the healthcare sector by getting NABH accreditation.

#### **Didi Cafe providing access to low-cost food, snacks, coming up in UP**

A strategy has been framed to introduce 'Didi Cafe' in 17 municipal corporation cities in Uttar Pradesh, including Mathura, Firozabad, and Vrindavan in the Agra division. This Didi Cafe will only be maintained by women's self-help groups, which will provide access to low-cost meals, snacks, and other facilities in areas where women are employed through these canteens,

The effort is part of the Centre's goal of empowering women who are connected to self-help groups established via the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).

Officials have said that many efforts by women's organisations from Chhattisgarh and other states will be involved in the cause. A pilot experiment is already ongoing in Varanasi,

The decision to begin the campaign is believed to have been made during a meeting also attended by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Amrit Abhijat, Principal Secretary of the Urban Development Department.

#### **MV Empress, India's first international cruise sets sail from Chennai to Sri Lanka**

India has launched its first international cruise ship from Chennai to Sri Lanka. The MV Empress, carrying 750 passengers, will visit three ports on the island country during its five-day cruise.

About: The MV Empress - The MV Empress will visit three ports in Sri Lanka before returning to Chennai: Hambantota, Trincomalee, and Kankesanthurai. The tour packages available here are for two nights, three nights, four nights, and five nights, with variable pricing starting at ₹86,383 - for two persons for three nights.

The MV Empress service was launched from Chennai's International Cruise Terminal which is at a cost of 17.21 crores. It is the outcome of an agreement struck between Chennai Port and M/S Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd during the first Incredible India International Cruise Conference in 2022.

#### **India's first carbon neutral village to be developed in Bhiwandi taluka of Thane district**

Union Minister of State Kapil Patil said, India's first carbon neutral Village is being developed in Bhiwandi Taluka of Thane district, This initiative aims to minimize carbon emissions and promote sustainable practices for a cleaner and greener environment. Along with the carbon-neutral village, 121 tribal villages are being developed as model villages. These model villages serve as examples for sustainable development, showcasing effective infrastructure, amenities, and improved living conditions.

In the Bhiwandi Lok Sabha Constituency, around 1,75,000 farmers are benefiting from the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana. This scheme provides financial support to farmers, enhancing their livelihoods and promoting agricultural growth.

Several significant development projects are also have been completed in the Bhiwandi Lok Sabha Constituency, including the Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan Metro, Kalyan-Murbad



Railway, Eight-Layer Majivada-Vadape Bypass, Shahapur-Khopoli Highway, among others. These projects have been instrumental in driving progress and enhancing connectivity in the region.

### **Tata Group to set up Rs 13,000-crore lithium-ion cell unit in Gujarat**

Tata Group will set up a lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility in Gujarat through its subsidiary with an initial capacity of 20 GWh at a cost of Rs 13,000 crore, Tata Group subsidiary Agratas Energy Storage Solutions Pvt Ltd has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Gujarat government under the new Electronics Policy (2022-28) in this regard.

In presence of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Tata Group and the Government of Gujarat.

During the signing ceremony, Patel conveyed the complete support of the state government in ensuring the success of this project. This factory will be solely dedicated to the manufacturing of lithium-ion cells, a crucial component in the production of EV batteries.

The plant is likely to reduce dependency on battery cell suppliers from countries like China and South Korea, Moreover, the establishment of this gigafactory aligns with the state's ambitious goals of achieving 50% carbon emission-free energy and 100% electric vehicle adoption by 2030.

[www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com)

### **Shalini Singh becomes the first female NCC cadet to complete mountaineering course**

Achieving another feat for the National Cadet Corps, under-officer Shalini Singh scripted history by becoming the first female NCC cadet in India to complete the advanced mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand. The Senior Wing NCC cadet, Shalini Singh, was enrolled in the 67 UP Battalion. She began the month-long mountaineering course on April 26. Before that, she had to complete her mandatory basic mountaineering course in 2022 at Pahalgam, Jammu, and Kashmir, reported HT. Shalini is pursuing her graduation from Bappa Shri Narayan Vocational PG College.

It is worth noting that she was the only female cadet in the team of 45 NCC cadets that was formed to complete the course.

### **Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates National Training Centre for FSSAI**

Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India – FSSAI.

“As we aim to become a developed nation in our Amrit Kaal, it is essential that our citizens are healthy. Swasth Nagrik creates a Swastha Rashtra, which leads to a Samruddha Rashtra.” This was stated by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya at the inauguration of the state-of-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State (HFW) and General (Dr.) V.K. Singh, Minister of State (Civil Aviation, MoRTH) were also present at the event.

Reiterating Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's focus on wellness and preventive healthcare, the Union Minister said that India's traditional food habits and way of life should be adopted as 'our kitchen is our hospital'. "Good quality nutritious food can go a long way in keeping diseases at bay", he emphasized.

#### **Cabinet approves to establish Regional Office of Universal Postal Union in New Delhi**

The Cabinet approved to establish Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union, UPU, in New Delhi. The aim is to undertake UPU's development cooperation and technical assistance activities in the region by entering into an agreement with UPU.

The approval enables India to play an active role in multilateral organizations in postal sector with an emphasis on South-South and Triangular cooperation. India will provide a Field Project Expert, staff, and office, set up for UPU's regional office.

Projects on capacity building and training, improving efficiency and quality of postal services, enhancement of Postal technology, e-commerce, and trade promotion etc will be prepared and implemented for the region by this office in coordination with UPU.

The initiative will help expanding India's diplomatic footprint and strengthen relations with other countries, especially in Asia-Pacific region and will enhance India's presence at the global postal forums.

#### **Assam University to collaborate academic research, studies with Bangladesh Universities**

Central University of Assam located at Silchar will be collaborating with four Universities of Bangladesh in academic research and studies.

A delegation of Assam University Silchar led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Rajive Mohan Pant has just come back yesterday after preliminary discussion with their Bangladeshi counterparts.

Vice Chancellor Rajive Mohan Pant talking to Akashvani correspondent said Assam University is taking these steps to implement the New Education Policy and Act East Policy of the Government of India.

#### **Defence ministry inks contract worth Rs 2,971 Cr with BDL to procure Astra missiles**

The defence ministry sealed a contract worth Rs 2,971 crore with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to procure several batches of the Astra MK-I beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missiles and associated equipment.

The missiles are being procured for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy, The Astra MK-I BVR AAM has been indigenously designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) based on the requirements issued by the IAF.

The air-to-air missile with BVR capability provides large stand-off ranges to the IAF's fighter jets. The Astra MK-I missile and all associated systems for its launch, ground handling and testing have been developed by the DRDO in coordination with the IAF. The missile, for which successful trials have already been undertaken by the IAF, is fully integrated on the Su 30 MK-I fighter aircraft and will be integrated with other fighter

jets in a phased manner, including the Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas). The navy will integrate the missile on the MiG 29K fighter aircraft.

## SPORTS

### **India beat Iran in final to win eighth title of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023**

- India emerged victorious in the final of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 held in Busan, Korea on 30th June defeating Iran with a score of 42-32.
- Kabaddi-Championship India emerged victorious in the final of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 held in Busan, Korea on 30th June defeating Iran with a score of 42-32. This victory marks India's eighth title out of nine editions of the championship, highlighting their dominance in the sport.
- Pawan Sehrawat, the captain of the Indian team, played a crucial role by securing a super 10, leading the team to success. In the earlier league stage of the tournament, India showcased their prowess by defeating Hong Kong with a comprehensive scoreline of 64-20.
- Six teams, including India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong, participated in the championship. India finished the league stage undefeated, winning all five matches and securing the top position in the points table. Iran, having only lost to India during the league stage, secured the second position and advanced to the final.
- The Indian kabaddi teams will now focus on the upcoming Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, scheduled from September 23 to October 8, where they will face a tough challenge from defending champions Iran, who defeated India in the semi-finals in Jakarta in 2018.

### **Cristiano Ronaldo sets Guinness World Record for 200 international caps**

- Cristiano Ronaldo has received a Guinness World Record after reaching 200 international caps for Portugal. The legendary forward is making his 200th appearance for A Selecao das Quinas in their Euro 2024 qualifier against Iceland. The 38-year-old has broken another record and is the most-capped player in international football.
- Cristiano Ronaldo's achievement has been recognized by the Guinness Book of Records. The Portugal captain was presented with a certificate for his accomplishment before his nation's clash against Iceland.
- It is yet another record to add to Ronaldo's long list of accomplishments in international football. The Al Nassr frontman is the all-time top goalscorer in international football with 122 goals in 200 games to date. The legendary forward is showing no signs of stopping and isn't intending on doing so anytime soon. The 38-year-old spoke this week about his future with the Portugal national team.
- **About International Caps** - A cap is awarded to players who make official appearances for their national team in international football, FIFA is the global governing body for world football, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo holds the current

record with 200 international caps. Badr Al-Mutawa of Kuwait previously held the record with 196 international caps.

### **India's historic win over Pakistan: 2023 SAFF Championship, and more**

- In SAFF Championship 2023, the Indian men's football team defeated arch-rival Pakistan 4-0 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru last night. For India, captain Sunil Chhetri scored a hat-trick while Udanta Singh Kumam scored the fourth goal in the 81st minute. Chhetri scored the first goal in the 10th minute, the second goal in the 16th minute and the third penalty goal in the 74th minute. With this, India has begun its tournament journey on a winning note.
- Earlier in the day, Kuwait defeated Nepal 3-1 in the tournament opener. The eight teams, which are taking part in the 14th edition of the SAFF Championship, have been divided into two groups. Group A comprises India, Kuwait, Nepal and Pakistan while Group B consists of Lebanon, Maldives, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Sunil Chhetri-led India are the highest-ranked team in Group A. They are 101st in the FIFA rankings. Kuwait are world No. 143 followed by Nepal at 174. Nepal were the runners-up in the last edition in 2021. Pakistan are ranked lowest at 195th.

### **Max Verstappen wins Canadian Grand Prix and gives Red Bull 100th victory**

- Max Verstappen, the reigning world champion, showcased an outstanding performance at the Canadian Grand Prix, securing a dominant victory and marking the 100th Formula One win for his Red Bull team. Fernando Alonso, driving for Aston Martin, claimed the second position, while Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes completed the podium in Montreal. Verstappen, who started from pole position, clinched his sixth win out of eight races this season, further extending his lead in the championship standings and reinforcing his pursuit of a third consecutive world title. Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, representing Ferrari, secured the fourth and fifth positions respectively.
- Fernando Alonso, currently positioned third in the championship, shared his thoughts on the challenging duel he had with his former rival, Lewis Hamilton, for the second-place position. Hamilton, representing Mercedes, expressed that their team is progressively making efforts to develop a competitive car that can contend for race victories. The seven-time champion made these remarks following his appearance on the podium alongside Max Verstappen and Fernando Alonso.

### **Egypt wins Squash World Cup title**

- Egypt have been crowned the SDAT (Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu) WSF(World Squash Federation) Squash World Cup Champions after beating Malaysia.
- The championship was held from 13 to 17 June in Express Avenue Mall in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- Eight countries including India participated in the tournament – Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa, Australia, and Colombia.
- Egypt beat Malaysia 2-1 in the final. Malaysia secured the silver medal in the championship. Third place was shared jointly by hosts India and Japan.
- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister awarded the winning team with the golden cup.

#### **Indonesia Open 2023: Satwik-Chirag script history, beat world champions for men's doubles title**

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty emerged as men's doubles champions in the Indonesia Open after beating Malaysian world champion duo of 'Aaron Chia' and 'Soh Wooi Yik' by 21-17 & 21-18 respectively.
- The 2023 Indonesia Open took place at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 13 to 18 June 2023.
- World's no. 6 pair 'Satwiksairaj Rankireddy' & 'Chirag Shetty' from India beat World's no. 3 pair 'Aaron Chia' and 'Soh Wooi Yik' from Malaysia. The final match was completed in 43 minutes.

#### **India beats Lebanon to win Intercontinental Cup title 2023**

- India lifted the Intercontinental Cup as it tamed a young Lebanon side by two second-half goals at the Kalinga Stadium. India beat Lebanon 2-0 in the Intercontinental Cup final at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar to win the title. Sunil Chhetri's 46th minute goal broke the deadlock before Lallianzuala Chhangte made it 2-0 in the 66th minute as India beat Lebanon for the first time since 1977.
- India made a strong start to the match, dominating 57% possession in the first half. It was in the first minute of second half that the deadlock was broken, with Lallianzuala Chhangte providing an assist for Sunil Chhetri. Chhangte turned scorer in the 66th minute as India increased their lead. This was also the Indian team's sixth consecutive clean sheet, equalling a record dating back to 1952. This is India's first win over Lebanon since 1977.
- There are two Intercontinental Cups in football. One was an annual competition between the winners of the European Cup/UEFA Champions League and the Copa Libertadores, from 1960 to 2004. The other is a four-nation tournament organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) in India, from 2018 to present.

#### **Goa launches 37th National Games mascot, Moga**

- Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched 'Moga' at a launch ceremony held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Taleigao, Goa. 37th edition of the national games of India will be held in various locations in the state of Goa.
- It will feature competitions in a total of 43 disciplines. It will also feature 'Gatka', a traditional martial art form associated with Punjab.



- National Games in India are organised by the Indian Olympic Association. The Indian sports ministry, has affirmed that the National Games will be held every two years, except in years where the Olympics and Asian Games are held.
- PT Usha is the president of Indian Olympic Association which is headquartered in New Delhi.

### **Pakistan's women cricketer Nahida Khan announces retirement from international cricket**

- Pakistan women's cricketer Nahida Khan has announced her retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a remarkable career that spanned over a decade. The 36-year-old opening batter made her debut for the national team in February 2009 against Sri Lanka and went on to represent Pakistan in over 100 matches across formats. With numerous records and achievements to her name, Nahida leaves behind a legacy that will be remembered in women's cricket in Pakistan.
- Nahida Khan's retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable journey that has left an indelible mark on the women's cricket scene in Pakistan. Over the course of her career, Nahida has represented her country with passion and dedication, earning her place as one of Pakistan's most respected cricketers.

### **Asia Cup 2023 jointly hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka**

- The highly anticipated Asia Cup 2023 is set to ignite the cricketing world as arch-rivals India and Pakistan resume their epic rivalry ahead of the ICC World Cup 2023. The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has accepted the hybrid model, and the tournament will be jointly hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka. With a total of 13 thrilling One Day International (ODI) matches scheduled, the Asia Cup promises to be a captivating cricketing spectacle.
- The Asia Cup 2023 is scheduled to take place from 31st August to 17th September, offering nearly three weeks of intense cricketing action. The tournament will feature a hybrid model, with matches being held in both Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Four matches of the Asia Cup will be hosted in Pakistan, while the remaining nine matches will be played in Sri Lanka. The distribution of matches showcases the collaborative effort between the two countries to provide an exciting tournament for cricket enthusiasts.

### **India win one Gold, 3 Silver & 3 Bronze medals in U-17 Asian Wrestling Championships**

- In wrestling, India wrapped up their campaign in the U-17 Asian Wrestling Championships with one gold, three silver and three bronze medals on the final day in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Ankush won India's only gold medal of the day in the freestyle 55kg weight category, defeating Iran's Amirreza Ali Teymorizad.

- Dhanraj Bharat Shirke lost to Iran's Ahora Farhad Khateri of Iran. Rupesh bagged the other silver after losing to Iran's Sam Reza Sayar in the freestyle 48kg final.
- With this, all 10 freestyle wrestlers won medals in the competition as India finished second in the freestyle team rankings behind Iran.

### **ICC Player of the Month for May 2023**

- Harry Tector has been voted the ICC Men's Player of the Month after a stunning month in May, Ireland's first Men's POTM award. He beat out tough competition from Pakistan superstar Babar Azam, and Bangladesh's young rising batter Najmul Hossain Shanto.
- On the other hand, the ICC Women's Player of the Month for May 2023 has been awarded to Thipatcha Putthawong (Thailand), a talented 19 -year-old player. She follows in the footsteps of her compatriot Naruemol Chaiwai, who won the award last month.

### **Uruguay Win FIFA U20 World Cup 2023, Beat Italy 1 –0 in Final to Clinch Title for First Time**

- Uruguay beat Italy 1-0 to win its first Under-20 World Cup title held in Argentina. The Celeste's victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament. Luciano Rodríguez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute in a header from close range. Meanwhile, Israel beat South Korea 3-1 to finish in third place, FIFA President Gianni Infantino was also present.

### **Asia Cup 2023: India clinches maiden Women's Junior title**

- The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team achieved a remarkable triumph in the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023, which took place in Kakamigahara, Gifu Prefecture, Japan. They secured the championship title by defeating Korea in a captivating final match on Sunday.
- For India, Annu and Neelam scored a goal each while Park Seoyeon breached the net once for Korea.
- At the end it was a combined efforts of the entire team that ultimately paved the way for their victorious outcome in this crucial encounter.
- In a remarkable feat, the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team has achieved their first-ever victory in the Women's Junior Asia Cup, marking a historic milestone.
- In acknowledgment of the team's exceptional performance and their undefeated streak in the tournament, leading them to secure a spot in the FIH Women's Junior World Cup 2023 in Chile, the Hockey India has declared a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh for each player, while the support staff will receive Rs 1 lakh each as a token of appreciation.

### **FIH Pro League 2023: India beat Argentina 2-1 in final**

- The Indian hockey team beat Argentina 2-1 in its final FIH Pro League 2022-23 match in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, on 11 June. Akashdeep Singh and Sukhjeet

Singh scored goals for India while Lucas Toscani netted the only goal for Argentina.

- With the win in this tie, India have further consolidated their top spot in the FIH Pro League 2022-23 points table with 30 points from 16 matches. While Argentina are fifth in the table with 13 points from 14 matches.
- India now lead second-placed Great Britain by four points in the FIH Pro League 2022-23 standings but the European team still has four games to play.
- The Indian men's hockey team finished fourth in their maiden FIH Pro League campaign in 2020-21. At the same time, in this competition, it achieved the third position in the 2021-22 season, performing best.

### **Australia wins the World Test Championship :2023**

- Australia won the title of World Test Champions 2023 in a commanding fashion, securing a resounding 209-run victory over India in the thrilling WTC Final at The Oval.
- Travis Head and Steve Smith's remarkable centuries in the first innings laid the foundation for Australia's early control of the Test. Despite India's valiant response, the match extended to a fifth day, but they fell short of an extraordinary record chase, ultimately being bowled out for 234. Australia scripted history on Sunday, June 11 as they became the first men's team in world cricket to win an International Cricket Council (ICC) world title in all three formats.
- **Player of the Match:** Travis Head (163 off 174 balls in 1st innings, 18 off 27 balls in 2nd innings). Australia won the ICC Test Championship for the first time, and were also awarded the cash prize of US\$1.6 million, while India won US\$800,000.

### **Paris Diamond League 2023: Murali Sreeshankar secures third spot in long jump**

- In yet another major sporting achievement for the country, India's Murali Sreeshankar finished third in the men's long jump event at the Paris Diamond League 2023 in France on Saturday.
- With his best finish of 8.09m, the 24-year-old Indian athlete bagged a coveted third position in the annual league behind only Olympic medallist Miltiadis Tentoglou (8.13m) and World Athletics Championships bronze medallist Simon Ehammer (8.11m).

### **French Open: Novak Djokovic reaches record 23 grand slam titles after French Open final win**

- Novak Djokovic scripted history on Sunday as he became the first man to win 23 Grand Slam titles in Open Era, following his triumph over Norwegian Casper Ruud in the French Open men's singles final. He outclassed the fourth-seed Ruud 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, 7-5 in just over three hours at Court Philippe-Chatrier. Djokovic's triumph took him past Nadal's tally of 22 to set a new record in men's singles

tennis. Overall, he is at par with Serena Williams for most majors won in Open Era.

#### **French Open: Iga Swiatek of Poland wins Women's Singles title**

- In French Open tennis, World No 1 and top seed Iga Swiatek of Poland has won the Women's Singles crown. She defended her title against unseeded Czech Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-4. This is her third French title in just 5 years. She also became the first woman since 2007 to win back-to-back French Open titles.
- The 22-year-old Swiatek is just the third woman in the Open era to win each of her first four Grand Slam finals. Monica Seles and Naomi Osaka are the only other players to achieve this feat.

#### **India finishes on top at International Shooting Sport Federation Junior World Cup 2023**

India finished on top of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup with an overhaul haul of 15 medals, including six gold, six silver and three bronze medals in Suhl on Thursday, June 8. In a commendable achievement, India have now finished on top of all the ISSF Junior World Cups and World Championships held since 2019

In men's Trap, Bakhtyaruddin Malek was the best Indian on show with a five-round score of 111 out of 125 to finish 23rd, while Tavrez Singh Sandhu was 48th with a score of 105. Kabir Sharma was 53rd with 104 and Arya Vansh Tyagi was 57th with an effort of 102. Finally, Shardul Vihan finished 68th with 97 against his name.

In women's Trap, Bhavya Tripathi shot 110 to finish ninth, while Ashima Ahlawat was 15th with a score of 106. Both Sabeera Haris and Nilaa Rajaa Baalu shot identical scores of exactly 100 to finish 22nd and 23rd and the fifth Indian in women's trap Darshna Rathore, shot 96 for a 27th place finish.

#### **Sunil Kumar wins decathlon gold at Asian U20 Athletics Championship, and more**

India's Sunil Kumar scored 7003 points and clinched gold in men's decathlon at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Yecheon, South Korea .

Apart from Sunil's heroics, Pooja clinched women's high jump silver after finishing with a 1.82m jump while Bushra Khan, secured silver in women's 3000m race. In the women's 4x100m relay, India secured bronze with a time of 45.36s.

Earlier on Monday, Siddharth Choudhary bagged gold medal in the men's Shot Put with a throw of 19.52m while Shivam Lohakare won silver in Javelin throw with a throw of 72.34m. Sharuk Khan clocked 8:51.74 in men's 3000m steeplechase to add another silver to India's medal tally.

India is placed third in the overall rankings with 12 medals - Three each of gold, silver and bronze. Japan tops the chart with 10 golds and 17 medals overall while China is placed second with 14 medals.

### **Serbia and USA win FIBA 3x3 World Cup 2023**

Serbia's men defended their title to win their sixth crown in eight editions of the FIBA 3x3 World Cup after defeating USA (21-19) in the final, in Vienna, Austria.

The "Maestro" Dejan Majstorovic had a game-high 7 points in the thriller against the US. Latvia defeated Brazil 22-12 to claim the bronze medal. The duo of Karlis Lasmanis and Nauris Miezis combined for 13 points in the game before Agnis Čavars scored the two to hand Latvia the victory.

In the women's category, USA took home gold for the third time with a 16-12 win against last year's champions France. Stars Hailey Van Lith and Cierra Burdick combined for 14 points to carry their side to victory. Cameron Brink was the centerpiece of their offense, finishing the tournament with 39 points, which earned her the title of World Cup MVP. Laetitia Guapo (France) and Marena Whittle (Australia) also featured in the Team of the Tournament.

### **Top Indian sprinter Amlan Borgohain bags two gold medals at Flanders Cup 2023**

Top Indian sprinter Amlan Borgohain bagged two gold medals, one each in the men's 100 and 200-meter races at the Flanders Cup 2023 athletics meet, known as the International Antwerp Athletics Gala, in Merksem, Belgium.

Borgohain clocked 10.70 seconds to emerge as the fastest man of the meet. He holds the 100-meter national record of 10.25 seconds.

In the 200 meter, the 25-year-old Borgohain clocked 20.96 seconds to emerge winner ahead of Hofman 21.42 and Jamaica's Samuel Rowe 21.88.

Meanwhile, Sapna Kumari finished behind Belgium's Amber Vanden Bosch in the women's 100m hurdles after clocking 14.10, in what was a two-woman field.

### **Max Verstappen wins Spanish Grand Prix 2023; Lewis Hamilton second, George Russell third**

Max Verstappen emerged victorious at the Spanish Grand Prix, clinching the pole position and extending his lead in the Formula One championship by 53 points. Red Bull's dominance continued as they celebrated their seventh consecutive triumph of the season.

Lewis Hamilton, a seven-time world champion, secured the second spot for Mercedes but trailed a substantial 24.090 seconds behind Verstappen. Hamilton's teammate, George Russell, completed the podium, marking a successful outing for the Mercedes team at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya, despite the cloudy yet dry conditions.

Sergio Perez of Red Bull, Verstappen's closest contender in what seems to be a season destined to crown the Dutch prodigy for the third time, fought back from an 11th-place start to finish fourth.

### **India's Esow Alben wins bronze medal in keirin at Finale Bahnen-Tournee 2023 cycling**

Indian cyclist Esow Alben won the bronze medal in the elite men's keirin event at a UCI Class 1 Event-Finale Bahnen-Tournee 2023 cycling competition in Dudenhofen, Germany. The 22-year-old also listed himself in being the first cyclist from India to



participate in the UCI Champions League. Alben was also the first Indian who won a medal in a cycling world championship.

He clinched a silver medal in the year 2018 after finishing behind world championships medallist Germany's Marc Jurczyk and France's Sebastien Vigier.

### **India lift Men's Junior Asia Cup : Hockey for fourth time, defeating Pakistan**

In Hockey, the Indian hockey team defeated arch-rivals Pakistan in the final of the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 2-1 at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex Stadium in Salalah, Oman.

With this title win, India become the most successful country in the history of the Men's Junior Asia Cup.

Angad Bir Singh and Araijeet Hundal Singh scored for the champions before Pakistan got one goal through Basharat Ali's strike. This was India's fourth title at Men's Junior Asia Cup, having won it previously in 2004, 2008 and 2015. Pakistan are the second-most successful team in the tournament with three titles but their last win came 27 years ago in 1996.

Earlier, India and Pakistan, pitted in the same pool, remained undefeated in the group stage after India vs Pakistan hockey match ended in a 1-1 draw. India, however, managed to top the group as they had a better goal difference over second -placed Pakistan. In the semi-finals, India trounced the Republic of Korea 9-1 while Pakistan defeated Malaysia 6-2.

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## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Narayan Rane launches 'CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal', 'Mobile App**

- Shri Narayan Rane launches 'CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal', 'Mobile App for Geo-tagging of Cluster Projects, Technology Centers' and 'MSME Idea Hackathon 3.0' for women entrepreneurs
- On the occasion of International MSME Day, The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, MSME celebrated 'Udyami Bharat-MSME Day'. The Union Minister for Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane graced the occasion as Chief Guest of the programme along with the Union Minister of State for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma as Guest of Honor.
- The event showcased the launch of various initiatives of the Ministry of MSME, dedicated towards growth and development of MSMEs such as 'CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal' and 'Mobile App for Geo-tagging of Cluster Projects and Technology Centers' by the Chief Guest and Guest of Honor. Further, results for 'MSME Idea Hackathon 2.0' were declared and 'MSME Idea Hackathon 3.0' for women entrepreneurs was launched.

### **Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala launched NANDI Portal**

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala launched NANDI - NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System portal at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. With this portal, DAHD will facilitate the

regulatory approval process with transparency to assess and examine veterinary product proposals will be more streamlined through seamless integration with the SUGAM portal of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization.

- Shri Rupala expressed appreciation for the outstanding work of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and highlighted the initiative as a significant step towards advancing Digital India and promoting the well-being of livestock and the livestock industry. The launch of the NANDI portal is another notable undertaking following the animal vaccination coverage initiative and Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs).
- This initiative would also provide valuable support to researchers and industries from a commercial perspective. By raising awareness among livestock rearers and improving logistical facilities, there would be an increase in the consumption of drugs. Union Minister stressed the importance of closely monitoring the portal's activities for a few months to establish a robust system. Shri Rupala expressed appreciation for the contributions of all stakeholders, including CDAC, in the development of the NANDI portal.

#### **Covid Booster Vaccine – GEMCOVAC-OM is the first booster COVID-19 vaccine developed in India against the Omicron variant**

- Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today launched mRNA-based Covid Booster Vaccine – GEMCOVAC-OM in New Delhi. The vaccine is the first booster COVID-19 vaccine developed in India against the highly transmissible Omicron variant. The vaccine will be rolled out from this Monday and it will cost two thousand 292 rupees per dose. The booster vaccine can be administered to individuals who have received two doses of either Covaxin or Covishield.
- The booster vaccine can be administered to individuals who have received two doses of either Covaxin or Covishield. The vaccine can be stored at 2 to 8 degrees Centigrade. It has demonstrated robust immune responses in phase – 3 clinical trials conducted at 20 centres across 13 cities in India. GEMCOVAC-OM is a needle-free, thermostable vaccine, which does not require ultra-cold chain infrastructure used for other approved mRNA-based vaccines, making it easy for deployment pan India.

#### **Rajasthan govt brings PCTS mobile app to ensure better healthcare for mothers, infants**

- Rajasthan Medical & Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena launched the PCTS mobile app for online tracking, reporting and monitoring of health services being provided to pregnant women, mothers & infants in the state where he also released a poster related to it.
- Through the PCTS mobile app, more than 53 thousand ASHAs of the state will be able to do day-to-day reporting of health services related to women & children of their area on mobile and effective monitoring of this work can also be done.
- The Health Minister said that through this app, ASHA workers of the state will be fully updated with the health services provided to children & women. They will

know on which day children and women are to be vaccinated or given the benefit of any other service.

- This will further strengthen the health services for women and children and consequently improve the health indices. Through this app, the officials of the department can get the progress report by talking directly to any ASHA and ANM of the state. Online entry of other services including vaccination of women and children can be done through this.

### **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches PM Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature**

- The PM-Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature was launched by Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar under the central government's ambitious and popular scheme for income support to farmers "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi".
- With this unique mobile app, farmers can now complete the e -KYC, sitting at home by scanning the face without OTP or fingerprint. The mobile app was launched to register farmers under the Central government's ambitious scheme for income support to farmers - 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi'.
- Under the scheme, eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three instalments of Rs 2,000 each (every four months). The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, However, a few farmer unions claimed that it was a step to devoid farmers of the Union government's benefits by introducing high-end technology to register themselves through this mobile application.

### **Scientists from Gujarat institute develop biodegradable paper supercapacitor from seaweed**

- Scientists at Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) have developed the thinnest, lightweight and biodegradable paper-based supercapacitor. A supercapacitor is an electrochemical charge storage device with a fast charging/discharging cycle, high power density and a longer lifecycle.
- This supercapacitor which can fully charge a device within 10 seconds, has been developed from seaweed (marine macroalgae). The device is of high tensile strength and performance, as well as cost-effective, according to the researchers. The product can be used in electronics, memory backup systems, airbags, heavy machines, electric vehicles, etc.; hence, it holds a huge business prospect.
- Scientists Priyank Bhutiya and Syed Zaheer Hasan extracted cellulose nanofibers from seaweed and reduced them into graphene oxide and zinc oxide. Nanowires were grown over the extracted seaweed cellulose nanofibers using hydrothermal methods to get the anodic paper supercapacitor.

### **New flying gecko species found in Mizoram; named after state**

- A new species of flying gecko, named Gekko mizoramensis after the northeastern Indian state, has been discovered by researchers from Mizoram University and the Max Planck Institute for Biology in Tübingen, Germany. It is a subgenus called Ptychozoon of the Gekko genus and is arboreal, nocturnal and glides from one tree to another.
- Researchers of Mizoram University and Max Planck Institute for Biology , Tübingen, Germany have discovered a new species of flying gecko in Mizoram.
- The new species has been named Gekko mizoramensis after the northeastern state.

### **World's most powerful Hypersonic wind tunnel opens in Beijing, China**

China has recently completed the construction of the most powerful wind tunnel in the world, located in the mountainous Huairou district of northern Beijing. The wind tunnel, called JF-22, has a diameter of 4 metres (13 feet) and can generate incredibly high airflow speeds of up to 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) per second. This makes it capable of simulating hypersonic flight conditions up to Mach 30, which is 30 times the speed of sound.

China's hypersonic ambitions - The Institute of Mechanics, which owns the facility, stated that the JF-22 wind tunnel will play a crucial role in advancing China's hypersonic ambitions. The tunnel will support research and development efforts for China's space transport system and hypersonic aircraft, as well as for military purposes. The Chinese government has set ambitious goals to deploy a fleet of hypersonic aircraft by 2035, capable of carrying passengers into space and reaching any point on Earth within an hour.

### **Tata Elxsi partners with ISRO to develop crew recovery models for Gaganyaan Mission**

Tata Elxsi has partnered with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for the upcoming Gaganyaan Mission. The leading global engineering company has designed and developed the crew module recovery models (CMRM) for the recovery team training of the space mission.

ISRO's Gaganyaan project envisions a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching the crew into a 400-kilometre orbit for a three-day mission and safely bringing them to Earth by landing in Indian sea waters.

One of the key requirements of this project is the safe recovery of the crew, which must be carried out with minimum lapse of time. This is where the CRRMs come into use.

## **OBITUARY**

### **Goodenough, Nobel laureate who gave the world Li-ion batteries, passes away**

- Renowned American scientist John Bannister Goodenough, the co-inventor of Lithium-ion batteries and a co-winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, has sadly passed away. Goodenough was just a month shy of his 101st birthday. His British-American counterpart, Stan Whittingham, shared the Nobel prize with

Goodenough for their groundbreaking work. Whittingham initially discovered that lithium could be stored in titanium sulphide sheets, and Goodenough perfected the concept by incorporating a cobalt-based cathode, resulting in a product that has become an integral part of people's lives today.

- In addition to his groundbreaking work on Lithium-ion batteries, John Goodenough played a significant role in the development of Random Access Memory (RAM) for computers. His contributions to the field of computer technology further solidified his legacy as a pioneering scientist.
- Autobiography and the Intersection of Science and Spirituality - In 2008, John Goodenough penned his autobiography, titled "Witness to Grace," which delved into his personal history. The book offered insights into his scientific pursuits as well as his spiritual beliefs. Goodenough explored the intersection between science and spirituality, providing readers with a glimpse into his unique perspective.

#### **BJP Rajya Sabha MP Hardwar Dubey Passes Away**

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader and Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh Hardwar Dubey breathed his last on Monday morning in New Delhi. He was a sitting MP elected to the Rajya Sabha in November 2020.
- The late Dubey, 74, was also elected as a member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from Agra Cantonment assembly segment in 1990s and served as a minister in the Kalyan Singh ministry in 1991. The late Dubey, who was closely associated with the Sangh parivaar and its affiliate Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) was made state spokesperson and vice-president of the BJP in 2011 and 2013 respectively, before being elevated as a Rajya Sabha member.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the demise of the BJP MP and described him a hardworking leader. "Deeply saddened by the demise of hardworking BJP MP Hardwar Dubey ji. He was such a grassroots leader, who will always be remembered for his important contribution in the development journey of Uttar Pradesh. May God give strength to his family and supporters in this hour of grief. om Shanti,"

#### **Telugu choreographer Rakesh Master passes away at 53 in Hyderabad**

- Renowned Tollywood choreographer S. Rama Rao, widely known as Rakesh Master, has sadly passed away. With an impressive portfolio of choreographing around 1,500 movies and creating numerous popular songs, Rakesh Master initially started his career in dance reality shows. Born as S. Rama Rao in Tirupati, he gained experience working with Master Mukku Raju in Hyderabad before embarking on his journey as a dance master. He was 53 years old at the time of his demise.
- Master was born in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, in 1961. He started his career as a dancer in the early 1980s, and soon became one of the most sought-after choreographers in Telugu cinema. He worked on over 500 films, and his work was known for its energy, creativity, and technical precision.



### **Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked 'Pentagon Papers,' dies at 92**

- Daniel Ellsberg, a U.S. military analyst, passed away at the age of 92. He became known for leaking the “Pentagon Papers,” which exposed how the U.S. government deceived the public about the Vietnam War. This revelation sparked a significant fight for freedom of the press. Ellsberg’s actions, predating figures like Edward Snowden and Wikileaks, revealed that the government could mislead and lie to its citizens. Later in life, he became an advocate for whistleblowers and his story was depicted in the movie “The Post” released in 2017.
- Ellsberg took a secret action in 1971 to share important information with the media, hoping to help bring an end to the Vietnam War more quickly. However, this made him a target of attacks by the Nixon White House, which tried to harm his reputation. Henry Kissinger, who was an important advisor to the president at the time, even called him “the most dangerous man in America” and wanted to stop him at any cost.

### **Silvio Berlusconi, former Italian PM passes away at 86**

- Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has passed away at the age of 86 after battling serious health issues that led to his hospitalisation in recent months. He was first hospitalised in 2020 for a lung infection after contracting COVID-19. Having held significant political power in Rome, Berlusconi's health had deteriorated significantly in the later stages of his life. Earlier this year, he was diagnosed with chronic leukemia and was admitted to Milan's San Raffaele Hospital, where he ultimately passed away.
- About: Silvio Berlusconi - Born in 1936 to a middle-class family, Berlusconi's journey to power is a tale that could inspire many, despite his unconventional choices in life. As the owner of the broadcasting company Mediaset, he entered the media industry in 1973 by establishing TeleMilano, a small cable television company. Over time, this venture grew, leading to the creation of Canale 5 and eventually positioning him as a media mogul with Mediaset, which also fueled his political aspirations.

### **Award-Winning DD Anchor Gitanjali Aiyar Passes Away**

Gitanjali Aiyar, one of India's first English female news presenters on national broadcaster Doordarshan, passed away. She was in her mid-70s. Aiyar is survived by a son and daughter Pallavi Aiyar, who is also an award-winning journalist. After completing graduation from Kolkata's Loreto College, she had joined Doordarshan in 1971 and was awarded the best anchor four times. She also won the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for Outstanding Women in 1989. She was also a diploma holder from the National School of Drama (NSD) Apart from presenting news programmes, she had also been a popular face in several print advertisements and even acted in Sridhar Kshirsagar's TV drama 'Khandaan'. In her decades-long illustrious career, she was also associated with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

**Renowned theater actor and director Aamir Raza Hussain passes away at 66**

Aamir Raza Husain, a noted theatre actor and director known for his large outdoor stage productions such as "The Fifty Day War" based on the Kargil War and "The Legend of Ram," has passed away at 66. He was also the Creative Director of the Stagedoor Theatre company, established in 1974, which has presented over 91 productions and more than 1,100 performances. The actor was known for his unforgettable stage plays like 'The Fifty Day War' (2000) and 'The Legend of Ram'. He is survived by his wife, muse, and creative partner, Virat Talwar.

About: Aamir Raza Husain - He was born to an aristocratic family in Lucknow on January 6, 1957, and made his stage debut at the prestigious Mayo College in Ajmer playing the craftsman Tom Snout in William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. His interest grew in the rich cultural landscape of St Stephen's College in Delhi, where Husain graduated in history in 1977. He liked to talk about being directed by Shashi Tharoor and watching the Kerala MP playing Antony in Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra.

**Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar passes away at 94**

Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar, known for her iconic roles in over 250 Hindi and 50 - odd Marathi films, and revered as the screen mother to many top stars, passed away here at the age of 94. She breathed her last at a private hospital on Sunday evening – June 4.

Her condition had worsened back in March as well. She was hospitalised and was discharged after three weeks. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had promised to bear all the expenses of her treatment and also gave Rs 3 lakh to the hospital for immediate treatment from the Chief Minister's fund back then.

**About: Sulochana Latkar** - Sulochana Latkar has been a part of 300 films, including Hindi and Marathi. She had played the mother to most Bollywood actors. Sulochana was awarded the Padma Shri Award in 1999 and the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award in 2009 from the Government of Maharashtra. Some of her popular films include Ab Dilli Dur Nahin, Sujata, Aaye Din Bahar Ke, Dil Deke Dekho, Aasha, and Majboor, Nai Roshni, Aayi Milan Ki Bela, Gora Aur Kala, Devar, Bandini amongst others.

**Malayalam actor and mimicry artist Kollam Sudhi passes away at 39**

Kollam Sudhi was an actor and mimic artist in Malayalam who died in a car accident. He was 39 years old and involved in an accident on Monday morning around 4:30 a.m. when his car collided with a goods carrier. Alongside him, injuries also occurred to Binu Adimali, Ullas, and Mahesh, three other mimicry artists who were travelling with him. Sudhi and the mimicry specialists were making a trip back to their homes after ending an event in Vatakara. The accident resulted in Sudhi suffering a severe head injury. He died of his injuries after being rushed to a private hospital in Kodungallur. In Kodungallur, a private hospital is caring for the injured.

About: Kollam Sudhi - Kollam Sudhi was known for his mimicry abilities, he won hearts, particularly by impersonating actor Jagadeesh. He reportedly gained popularity as a

result of his participation in the Star Magic show. He also showed up as a guest performer in numerous comedy shows in Malayalam too

#### **Kannada Actor Nithin Gopi passes away at 39**

Actor Nithin Gopi from the Kannada film and television industry, passed away at the age of 39 due to a heart attack. According to reports, Nithin suffered from chest pains at his house in Ittamadu, Bengaluru, and while being urgently taken to the hospital, he succumbed.

Nithin Gopi Professional Life - Nithin Gopi had made a mark for himself in the Kannada industry and gained recognition for his performances in films and television shows. His breakthrough role came in the movie Hello Daddy, where he played a flute player alongside Dr. Vishnuvardhan. He also starred in movies like Keralida Kesari, Mutthinantha Hendati, Nishabdha and Chirabandhavva.

That apart, Nithin also played a pivotal role in the popular serial Punar Vivaha, produced by Shruthi Naidu, which received good TRPs. He also made cameos in a few episodes of the devotional serial Hara Hara Mahadev and acted in several Tamil serials. Of late, the actor had been preparing to direct a new serial and had been engaged in discussions with a prominent Kannada channel for the same.

#### **Ghanaian writer and feminist Ama Ata Aidoo passes away at 81**

Ama Ata Aidoo, the iconic Ghanaian writer whose classics The Dilemma of a Ghost and Changes were taught to children in West African schools for decades, passes away at the age 81. The cause of death was an undisclosed illness.

About: Ama Ata Aidoo - Born in 1942 in a village in central Ghana, Aidoo began writing at 15. She ended up studying literature at the University of Ghana, where she lectured for years.

Her first work, The Dilemma of a Ghost, a play, was published in 1965, making her the first African woman to publish a play. She went on to become one of the continent's best-known writers, inspiring a generation of younger authors, artists and feminists. Aidoo, who was Ghana's education minister from 1982 to 1983, won the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book for Changes, a story about an educated woman navigating the complexities of a polygamous marriage.

#### **Padma Shri awardee Vellayani Arjunan passes away**

Eminent scholar, linguist, academician and writer Vellayani Arjunan passes away at a hospital here following a brief illness. He was 90.

A Padma Shri awardee, Arjunan had been a prominent figure in the academic, cultural and literary sphere of Kerala for decades and a recipient of three D-Litt degrees.

An author of over 40 books of different genres, including poetry, short stories, children's fiction, essays, literary criticism, research articles and so on, Arjunan had the credit of having post graduations in Malayalam, English and Hindi and PG diplomas in Telugu, Kannada and Tamil.

### **Singer KK passes away at 53**

Singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, who made people groove to his melodious songs, like 'Pal', 'Yaaron Dosti', 'Tadap Tadap' and 'Aankhon Mein Teri', passes away due to a suspected cardiac arrest shortly after performing to a packed audience at a college fest in south Kolkata's Nazrul Mancha. He was just 54 years old. About: Krishnakumar Kunnath / KK - Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, was an Indian playback singer. He recorded songs in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Bengali, Assamese and Gujarati. KK began his career by singing advertising jingles and made his film debut in 1996 on an A. R. Rahman soundtrack.

### **Prof Ved Kumari Ghai passes away**

Veteran Sanskrit Scholar and Padma Shri awardee, Ved Kumari Ghai passed away at the age of 91 after a brief illness.

She was born on December 16, 1931, in Pratap Garh Mohallah, Jammu and after completion of her school education in Jammu, she did her MA in Sanskrit from Punjab University in 1953 and PhD in Sanskrit from Banaras Hindu University in 1960. She married to Dr Ram Pratap, also a Sanskrit scholar.

She was head of Sanskrit Department in Jammu University until her retirement on December 31, 1991.

She was also involved in social work and Government of India awarded her Padma Shri in 2014. She was also awarded Gold Medal by Jammu and Kashmir Government for social work, President's Award for Sanskrit and Dogra Ratan award etc

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

### **IPS officer Ajay Bhatnagar appointed Special Director in CBI**

- Senior IPS officer Ajay Bhatnagar has been appointed as Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- Bhatnagar, a 1989 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Jharkhand cadre, is currently Additional Director in the federal probe agency. He has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation on November 20, 2024
- Anurag, who was previously Joint Director in the CBI, has been promoted to the role of Additional Director in the agency for a period until July 24, 2023, which completes his seven-year tenure.
- Manoj Sashidhar, a 1994 batch IPS officer from Gujarat cadre, has been appointed as Additional Director in the CBI for a three-year term. He is currently serving as Joint Director in the agency.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has granted an extension in the deputation tenure of Sharad Agarwal, Joint Director of the CBI, for one year beyond May 31, 2023.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation plays a crucial role in tackling high-profile cases, maintaining national security, and upholding the rule of law in India.

- The appointments and extensions in the CBI are part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the agency's capabilities and ensure its effectiveness in serving the nation's interests.

### **Indian-origin satellite expert Aarti Holla-Maini appointed as UN Outer Space Affairs director**

- Indian-origin satellite industry expert Aarti Holla-Maini has been appointed as the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Aarti Holla-Maini will succeed Simonetta Di Pippo of Italy.
- The primary objective of UNOOSA is to foster global collaboration in the peaceful utilization and exploration of outer space, as well as the effective application of space science and technology to achieve sustainable economic and social progress.
- Aarti Holla-Maini has over 25 years of professional experience in the space sector including managerial and advocacy functions.
- Before she was appointed as the Director of United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, she was Executive Vice-President Sustainability, Policy & Impact at NorthStar Earth & Space.

### **Federal Bank gets RBI approval on appointment of A P Hota as part time Chairman**

- The Federal Bank announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval for the appointment of AP Hota as part time chairman of the private sector bank. "We wish to inform that RBI had vide its letter dated June 26, 2023 accorded its approval for the appointment of A P Hota, independent director, as part time chairman of the Bank with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026," it said in a regulatory filing.
- AP Hota has banking experience of over 27 years in Reserve Bank, mostly in technology and payment systems, from 1982- 2009. While at Reserve Bank of India, he served as nominee director to the Board of Vijaya Bank and subsequently Andhra Bank. "He was the architect of NPCI and served as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer between 2009- 2017," the company said in the filing.

### **Rohit Jawa took over as MD and CEO of HUL as Sanjiv Mehta retires**

- Rohit Jawa is all set to take over the corner office at Hindustan Unilever tomorrow 30 June - a day after Sanjiv Mehta retires as managing director and chief executive officer.
- Known for transforming the consumer goods major's China and Philippine business, Jawa serves as the chief of transformation in his London-based role. The 56-year-old Unilever veteran's career has spanned over 35 years since he joined as a management trainee in 1988.
- In his new role as the MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever, Jawa is likely to get an annual remuneration of Rs 21.43 crore, according to the company's annual



report. He will also receive a sum of Rs 4.83 crore as mobility-linked allowances in FY24.

- According to the annual report, Mehta's salary was 164 times higher than that of an average HUL employee. Now, Jawa's pay package will exceed what Mehta had received in FY23. He took home Rs 22.36 crore in annual remuneration last fiscal.

#### **DBS Bank India appoints Rajat Verma as head of institutional banking**

- DBS Bank India on Monday said it has appointed Rajat Verma as managing director and head of institutional banking in India.
- The current head of institutional banking Niraj Mittal has recently moved to a new role as country head of DBS Bank in Australia. The bank said Mittal will focus on growing the DBS franchise there, including improving linkages with South-East Asia and South Asia.
- Verma was, till recently, with HSBC India where he was managing director and country head of commercial banking in India. The statement said Verma brings a wealth of knowledge and deep industry expertise to DBS. He holds an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, and a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering.

#### **Conservative leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis wins second term as Greek's PM**

- Greece's conservative New Democracy party chief Kyriakos Mitsotakis secured a clear parliamentary majority, winning a second four-year term as Prime Minister of Greece on Sunday, CNN reported. The 55-year-old leader emerged victorious with more power as his party achieved a resounding victory in the elections.
- Mitsotakis, in his victory speech, said that "We have high targets that will transform Greece...Today we will celebrate our victory, tomorrow we will roll up our sleeves," according to CNN.
- Mitsotakis' New Democracy party received over 40 percent of the vote, securing at least 158 seats in the 300-seat parliament with around 96 percent of the votes counted. The main leftist opposition party, Syriza, was far behind in the early results, receiving over 17 percent of the vote.

#### **Mastercard's Michael Miebach joins USISPF Board of Directors**

1. Mastercard CEO Michael Miebach has joined the board of directors of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF). Observing that USISPF is a critical forum for business and government leaders to come together and drive the next phase of growth in the US-India partnership, Miebach said he believes the relationship between the two countries will define the future of the global economy and shape their ability to tackle the most pressing global challenges together.
2. This strategic alliance aims to foster collaborations in various sectors and promote the growth and development of both economies.

3. By joining forces, both countries aim to drive innovation, promote digital transformation, and address global challenges. With Mastercard's exemplary work in advancing the global digital economy and its alignment with India's digital vision, this strategic partnership holds great promise for shaping the future of both nations.

#### **Kamal Kishore Chatiwal appointed managing director IGL**

- Kamal Kishore Chatiwal has been appointed the new managing director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd – IGL, Chatiwal, a Chemical Engineer from IIT Delhi, has over 32 years of Oil & Gas Sector experience, particularly in Project Execution and Commissioning of Mega Petrochemical Projects, Operation & Maintenance of Gas Processing units, Natural Gas Compressor Station and cross-country LPG Pipeline. Chatiwal worked as Executive Director (O&M-JLPL) & Head of Zonal Marketing of GAIL in Jaipur previous to joining IGL.
- About: Indraprastha Gas Ltd - Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) is one of the leading natural gas distribution companies in India. Established in 1998, IGL is a joint venture between GAIL India, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and the Government of Delhi.

#### **Ruby Sinha appointed as President of BRICS CCI WE Women's Vertical**

- The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) has appointed Ruby Sinha as the President of BRICS CCI WE, the women's vertical of the BRICS CCI for a period of three years. Sinha, the founder of SheAtWork and Kommune Brand Communications, will assume the role. BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is dedicated to fostering trade, commerce, and entrepreneurship among the BRICS nations and other friendly countries. Sinha succeeds Shabana Nasim, who has transitioned to the position of Executive Director of BRICS CCI and Chief Patron of BRICS CCI WE.
- About the BRICS CCI - The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a parent organization which promotes commerce and industry in the BRICS nations. The Chamber, founded in 2012 with the efforts of eminent professionals and entrepreneur, is a not-for-profit and non-governmental organization. BRICS CCI is a registered body under Societies Registration Act 1860, Government of India and empaneled with NITI Aayog (highest policy-making body of Govt of India) and recognized by United Nations.
- The Women Vertical of BRICS CCI has been created with a prime focus on women empowerment initiatives and policies across geographies. The objective of the women's wing is to create an enabling support system for women entrepreneurs and professionals across geographies.

#### **Hasmukh Adhia appointed as Chairman, GIFT City**

- Senior retired bureaucrat and former Union Finance Secretary & Revenue Secretary, Hasmukh Adhia, has been appointed Chairman of GIFT City Ltd, the entity responsible for developing India's first smart city Gujarat International Finance-Tec City in Gandhinagar. As GIFT City Chairman, Adhia replaces Sudhir Mankad, former chief secretary of Gujarat.

- Besides GIFT City, Adhia has also been appointed Director and Chairman of the boards of State public sector undertakings Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC) with immediate effect, the regulatory filings said. The appointments are as non-executive chairman.
- Adhia, a Gujarat cadre IAS officer of the 1981 batch, currently serves as an advisor to the Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. He was part of the panel appointed by the Gujarat government to recommend measures for the post-Covid economic revival of the State. The panel had recommended divestment of state PSUs, except the ones in the strategic sectors.
- At present Adhia is a non-executive Chairman of Bank of Baroda, and also the Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat. He serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. He also serves as Vice-President in Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) and Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar.

#### **NEC Corporation's Aalok Kumar Joins Asian Development Bank's High-Level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development in Asian Countries**

- Aalok Kumar, the Corporate Officer and Senior Vice President, Head of Global Smart City Business at NEC Corporation, and President and CEO of NEC Corporation India, has been appointed as a member of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) High-level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development, effective May 1, 2023.
- The group is composed of eight members, including renowned industry leaders and academics, and is dedicated to increasing the utilisation of ICT technology in ADB activities for developing countries.
- Kumar takes on this role from former NEC Corporation Fellow and one of the founding members of the group, Katsumi Emura.
- Kumar brings his years of experience and broad knowledge to provide strategic suggestions for the optimal adoption of digital technologies for ADB to carry out its developmental work.
- Kumar expressed his humility and excitement to contribute to this esteemed group of industry luminaries and help develop robust strategies for ADB's developmental work in Asian countries.

#### **Kamal Kishore Chatiwal takes over as IGL Managing Director**

- Kamal Kishore Chatiwal began his role as Managing Director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL), the country's largest CNG distribution company with City Gas Distribution networks operating across 30 districts in four states, including NCT of Delhi.
- Chatiwal, a Chemical Engineer from IIT Delhi, has over 32 years of Oil & Gas Sector experience, particularly in Project Execution and Commissioning of Mega Petrochemical Projects, Operation & Maintenance of Gas Processing units, Natural Gas Compressor Station and cross-country LPG Pipeline. Chatiwal worked

as Executive Director (O&M-JLPL) & Head of Zonal Marketing of GAIL in Jaipur previous to joining IGL.

- Chatiwal also has experience in Corporate planning and strategy, Project Development and Corporate training. Sanjay Kumar previously held the role of Managing Director and has taken on the role of Director (Marketing) in GAIL (India) Ltd. IGL is a collaboration between GAIL (India) Ltd. and BPCL, while the Govt. of NCT of Delhi owns a 5% equity stake.

#### **IPS officer Ravi Sinha appointed as new RAW chief**

- Ravi Sinha, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new chief of India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). Sinha will take over from Samant Kumar Goel, who is completing his four-year term on June 30. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Sinha's appointment as Secretary of RAW for a period of two years.
- Ravi Sinha, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1988 batch of the Chhattisgarh cadre, is presently serving as the Special Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat. With over two decades of experience, Sinha has been associated with the intelligence agency for a significant period. Prior to his promotion, he held the position of heading the operational wing of RAW. Sinha has gained extensive experience through his work in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast of India, as well as other countries.

#### **Gopichand Hinduja takes over as chairman of \$34.5 billion-worth group**

- Gopichand Hinduja, 83, has taken over as the Chairman of the Hinduja Group after the recent demise of his brother Srichand P Hinduja. Earlier, Gopichand Hinduja was the co-chairman and was overseeing the diverse global business empire that straddles across sectors such as automotive, IT, media and entertainment, infrastructure, oil and speciality chemicals, power and real estate. Gopichand Hinduja is a strong leader with a wealth of experience. He is well-positioned to lead the Hinduja Group into the future and to continue to build on the group's success.
- Gopichand Hinduja is a well-respected businessman and philanthropist. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Trade and Competitiveness and is a trustee of the Hinduja Foundation, which supports a number of charitable causes in India and around the world. Gopichand Hinduja has been associated with the Hinduja Group since its inception in 1914. He has held a number of senior positions within the group, including Co-Chairman and Chairman of the Hinduja Automotive Limited.

#### **ACC appoints Sudhansh Pant, as the new health secretary and others**

- Sudhansh Pant, a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed as the new health secretary, replacing Rajesh Bhushan who retires on 31 July.

- Meanwhile, TK Ramachandran, chairman of VO Chidambaranar Port Trust in Tuticorin, has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, succeeding Pant in his previous role.
- Chanchal Kumar, managing director of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd, has been named as the new civil aviation secretary.
- Pankaj Agrawal, additional secretary and director general (acquisition) in the Ministry of Defence, has been chosen as the new power secretary. Agrawal will take over as secretary of the Ministry of Power upon the retirement of Alok Kumar at the end of this month.
- Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, a retired 1987-batch Gujarat-cadre IAS officer, has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. on a contract basis for two years.

#### **Uttam Lal takes charge as Director (Personnel) at NHPC**

- Shri Uttam Lal has taken over as Director (Personnel) at NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company.
- Prior to his appointment at NHPC, Shri Lal was serving as Chief General Manager (HR-CSR/R&R/LA) at NTPC Limited. He has over 35 years of vast and rich experience in the area of Personnel Management, Industrial Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility. Known for his expertise and long experience in the power sector, he is a core HR professional seeking to amalgamate human resource potential in the service of the organization's goal and vision.

#### **Bihar Minister Santosh Kumar Suman resigns from Nitish Kumar's Cabinet**

- In Bihar, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Welfare Minister Santosh Kumar Suman resigned from Nitish Kumar Cabinet, Mr Suman is son of former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and also the president of Hindustani Awam Morcha (Democratic) party.
- The senior party leader of Morcha, Prafulla Manjhi said there was enormous pressure from JD(U) for merger of HAM with it. Talks were held between top leaders of the two parties but it could not materialize.
- Following this, the HAM president resigned from the state government. The development is considered a big blow to the ruling Grand Alliance led by chief minister Nitish Kumar, ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

#### **Epson India signs Rashmika Mandanna as brand ambassador**

- Printer company Epson India has signed actor Rashmika Mandanna as its brand ambassador. The actress will collaborate with the company to promote its products in a multi-media campaign for its 'EcoTank' printers this month. In collaborating with the actress known for her performances across Kannada, Telugu, Hindi and Tamil cinema, the company said in a statement that it hopes to leverage her popularity to reach a wider audience across the country, particularly the younger generation.



- Through this campaign we hope to reach a wider audience to spread awareness about the printers and their benefits. This association will help us communicate how our products deliver purposeful value that enriches lives and helps create a better world.

#### **IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers appointed as Chair-elect of IATA's Board of Governors**

- IndiGo on Sunday announced that its CEO, Pieter Elbers, has been elected as the chair-elect of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors. He will succeed present Chair, Yvonne Manzi Makolo, the CEO of Rwandair with effect from June 2024.
- Pieter Elbers' appointment comes at a significant time for the Indian aviation industry, which is experiencing unprecedented growth and development. As the chair-elect of the IATA BoG, Elbers will play a pivotal role in further shaping the global aviation landscape, advocating for the industry's interests, and driving innovation and sustainability initiatives, IndiGo said.
- Pieter Elbers with his visionary approach and deep industry expertise has not only propelled IndiGo's growth in international markets but is also playing a crucial role in the overall advancement of the Indian aviation landscape.

#### **Amit Agrawal appointed UIDAI CEO, Subodh Kumar Singh named DG NTA**

- Senior IAS officers Amit Agrawal and Subodh Kumar Singh have been appointed as CEO Unique Identification Authority of India and director general of the National Testing Agency, respectively, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Both Agrawal (1993 batch) and Singh (1997 batch) are Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre.
- Agrawal, additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority in the rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India,
- Singh, who is currently additional secretary in the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has been named as the NTA's director general,

#### **Nitin Agarwal Kerala cadre IPS officer appointed as new DG of BSF**

- Nitin Agarwal, an IPS officer of the 1989 Kerala cadre, has been appointed as the new director general of the Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday night. This appointment comes after a vacancy of over five months in the position, Presently serving as the Additional DG of operations at the headquarters of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi, Agarwal will now assume the role of leading the BSF.
- About: BSF - Border Security Force is India's leading security agency responsible for safeguarding the 4,096-kilometer-long international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. In addition, it carries out various responsibilities in the realm of

internal security. The BSF comprises a workforce of over 2.65 lakh personnel serving in diverse roles.

#### **Supriya Sule and Praful Patel Appointed NCP Working Presidents**

- Supriya Sule and Praful Patel will now operate as the working presidents of the party. This is the first time that the NCP will have the post of 'working president,
- As the working presidents, Sule was given the responsibility of Maharashtra, Haryana and Punjab whereas Patel got Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Both leaders represent the NCP in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and also have contacts across parties.
- Considering his age, Pawar is of the opinion that he should delegate some responsibilities to other leaders. This decision to appoint two working presidents is a big step for Pawar but it indicates that he has started working on a plan of succession.
- The first step of this plan was to delegate responsibilities that are with him to other leaders. So, by appointing two working presidents, Pawar has given them responsibilities of different states. The next step was to mentor a leader, so that after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, they run the show when Pawar steps down.

#### **TransUnion CIBIL Appoints V Anantharaman as Chairman**

V Anantharaman, a seasoned banker with extensive experience in the banking industry, has been appointed as the non-executive chairman of credit bureau TransUnion CIBIL. Anantharaman has held leadership positions in corporate and investment banking teams at renowned international firms such as Standard Chartered Bank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, and Bank of America.

Anantharaman holds a post-graduate diploma in business management from XLRI and a bachelor's degree in engineering from Jadavpur University. He has also served as a senior advisor to British International Investment (formerly CDC), which is the UK's Development Finance Institution.

About: TransUnion CIBIL - TransUnion CIBIL Limited is a credit information company operating in India. It maintains credit files on over 600 million individuals and 32 million businesses. TransUnion is one of four credit bureaus operating in India and is part of TransUnion, an American multinational group. It was founded in 2000 and is headquartered in Mumbai, India. The company's mission is to "provide accurate and comprehensive information to help businesses make informed decisions and consumers build their financial future."

#### **Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar Anand takes over as Air Officer-in-Charge Administration**

Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar Anand, Vishisht Seva Medal took over as Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA) on 01 Jun 2023. An alumnus of National Defence Academy, the Air Marshal was commissioned in Administrative Branch of the Indian Air Force as an Air Traffic Controller on 13 Jun 1987. He has undergone the Higher Air

Command Course from College of Air Warfare and Area Control Course from the Singapore Aviation Academy.

In a career spanning over 36 years, the Air Marshal has held various field and staff appointments. Prior to his present appointment, he was Director General (Administration) at Air Headquarters, New Delhi.

For his distinguished service, he was awarded Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2022 by the President of India.

### **Nirmala Lakshman, The New Chairperson Of The Hindu Group Publishing**

The Hindu, one of India's leading and most esteemed newspapers, has appointed Nirmala Lakshman as its new Chairperson. The decision came after Malini Parthasarathy resigned from the position of chairperson as well as the Board of Directors of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL).

**About:** Nirmala Lakshman - With a Ph.D. in post-modern literature and over four decades of experience as an editor, writer, and strategist for various publications of The Hindu, Lakshman brings an impressive set of qualifications and accomplishments to her new role.

During her tenure as Joint Editor of The Hindu, Lakshman played a pivotal role in revitalizing the newspaper's feature sections and introducing new ones. She spearheaded the re-launch of several prominent sections, including 'The Hindu Literary Review,' 'Young World,' and 'The Hindu in School.' These initiatives aimed to engage readers of all ages and provide them with insightful content tailored to their interests and needs.

### **Wrangler signs Smriti Mandhana as brand ambassador**

Ace Turtle Omni Pvt Ltd., a retail company, has appointed Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana as the brand ambassador of its Wrangler brand. The company is the exclusive licensee of the denim brand in India.

Nitin Chhabra, CEO, Ace Turtle Services Ltd. said, that We are thrilled to welcome Smriti as the brand ambassador for the denim brand in India as we gear up for a major expansion in FY24.

And said that that Mandhana had carved her niche in international women's cricket and has captivated fans worldwide with her exceptional talent and fearless approach. Her performances on the cricket field have earned her accolades like ICC Women's cricketer of the year two times.

**About: Smriti Mandhana** - Smriti Shriniwas Mandhana is an Indian cricketer who represents the Indian women's national team. She plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Women's Premier League. In domestic cricket, she represents the Maharashtra cricket team

### **Celeste Saulo of Argentina appointed first female Secretary-General of WMO**

Prof. Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), taking the helm of an

organization at the fore of international efforts to monitor and tackle climate change and increasingly extreme weather

Prof. Saulo, has been Director of the National Meteorological Service of Argentina since 2014 and is currently the First Vice-President of WMO. She will take office on 1 January 2024 and succeeds Prof Petteri Taalas, who has completed his two-term mandate.

Prof. Saulo was appointed after receiving the requisite two thirds majority of votes from delegates at the quadrennial World Meteorological Congress, the top decision - making body of the 193-Member WMO.

### **Mrutyunjay Mohapatra elected as vice-president of World Meteorological Organisation**

The Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Mrutyunjay Mohapatra is elected as one of the three vice-presidents of the World Meteorological Organisation. Along with Mohapatra, the UN agency for climate change, we ather and water elected two other vice-presidents as well.

Apart from Mohapatra, two other vice presidents were appointed at the WMO elections held in Geneva.

Director of meteorology of Cote d'Ivoire, Daouda Konate was elected as the first vice-president and Eoin Moran, director of Met Éireann, was elected the second vice-president.

Mohapatra hails from Odisha and is often referred to as the 'cyclone man of India'. He has been heading the IMD since 2019. The IMD took to Twitter to congratulate Mohapatra for his new role.

### **Janardan Prasad appointed new DG of Geological Survey of India**

Janardan Prasad has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Geological Survey Of India (GSI), one of the country's oldest institutions.

Prasad takes the charge from Dr S Raju, who held the post since May 2020. Known for his extensive mineral exploration work in Saurashtra and other areas of Gujarat, Prasad joined the 174-year-old scientific institution in 1988 at GSI Gandhinagar as a geologist. Prasad is also experienced in Metallogeny and Mineral Exploration studies. He has carried out extensive mineral exploration work in Saurashtra and other areas of Gujarat in commodities like limestone, gold, base metal, PGE and bauxite. He has also been actively involved in the exploration of limestone, which was critical for the cement industry, said the institute.

The appointment comes at a time when the government is preparing to auction the lithium block discovered by GSI in February. The institute had established 5.9 million tonnes of inferred lithium resources in Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir. A critical metal, lithium is a key component used for electric vehicle batteries and holds the power to start EV revolution in the country.

### **K Krithivasan takes charge as full time MD & CEO of TCS**

Krithivasan assumes full-time charge as the chief executive officer of the company. India's largest information technology (IT) services company, TCS had named

Krithivasan as CEO-designate on March 16 after Rajesh Gopinathan stepped down from the position he assumed in 2017.

Krithivasan is only the fifth CEO of the company in its 55-year history, reflecting the stable management and strong leadership. Krithivasan has been at TCS for over 34 years now and was Global Head of the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) Business Group at TCS.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) share price rose over a percent on Thursday after K. Krithivasan assumed full-time charge as the chief executive officer of the company.

#### **Amarendu Prakash takes charge as SAIL chairman**

Amarendu Prakash has taken charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) from May 31. He was previously the Director (In - charge) of SAIL's Bokaro steel plant.

Prakash was previously involved in driving business transformation and financial turnaround of SAIL, which resulted in bringing back the company from a three year streak of losses, from FY16 to FY18, to being back in the black in FY19.

He has been leading the Bokaro Steel Plant as Director In -charge since September 2020 and briefly took on additional charge as Director In -Charge of the Rourkela Steel Plant, IISCO and Durgapur Steel Plant.

Under his able leadership, the Bokaro Steel Plant has seen remarkable results, with the plant continuing to break production records, year after year in FY22 and FY23.

#### **Government appoints Ashwani Kumar as UCO Bank MD & CEO**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Ashwani Kumar, Executive Director, Indian Bank as Managing Director and CEO of UCO Bank.

Kumar will replace Soma Sankara Prasad, who is due to superannuate on May 31. It may be recalled that Centre had in December 2021 appointed Prasad as MD & CEO of UCO Bank.

Ashwani Kumar will lead the public sector bank for period of three years, from June 1. Kumar will also be eligible for extension of the term of office, after a review of his performance, by two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, according to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

#### **Retired SBI senior executive Natarajan Sundar appointed as MD and CEO of NARCL**

Former State Bank of India (SBI) executive Natarajan Sundar has been appointed MD & CEO of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) with effect from May 30. Another former SBI employee, Karnam Sekar, who also headed Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) till June 30, 2020, has been appointed non-executive chairman of the bad bank. Sundar retired on April 30 as deputy managing director and chief credit officer at the bank, after having worked there for over 37 years.

Malvika Sinha, who retired as executive director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), also joined the NARCL board as an independent director last week. In addition to the three



new appointees, the board has five nominee directors from shareholder banks and another independent director is expected to join the board shortly.

About: NARCL - NARCL, a special purpose vehicle set up as a joint initiative of Public and Private Sector Banks, is expected to take over bad loans from banks and focus on resolution and recoveries.

### **Ajay Yadav takes charge as the MD of SECI**

Ajay Yadav, a seasoned IAS officer from the 2005 batch of the Bihar cadre, has assumed the charge of Managing Director at Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), effective immediately.

**About: SECI** - SECI, a Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) established in 2011, serves as the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes and projects under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.

With over 58 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) project capacities awarded to date, SECI has played a pivotal role in driving the growth of India's renewable energy sector. The corporation has been instrumental in promoting solar energy projects and facilitating investments, contributing significantly to the nation's sustainable energy goals.

SECI's remarkable achievements include trading over 35 billion units (BU) of renewable energy (RE) power during the FY 2022-23, representing a substantial 59 percent increase compared to the previous year. This surge in trading volume propelled SECI's revenue from power trading to surpass the Rs. 10,000 crore mark for the first time since its inception.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Parliamentarism**

- Today, June 30, marks the annual celebration of the International Day of Parliamentarism, commemorating the founding of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 1889. This special day, established by a United Nations General Assembly Resolution in 2018, serves as an opportunity to reflect on the progress made by parliaments worldwide in achieving predetermined goals.
- History - The inaugural UN International Day of Parliamentarism was celebrated in 1899 upon the establishment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Subsequently, the day was officially designated in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.
- Theme - The United Nations has designated the theme for this year as 'Parliaments for the Planet.' The theme emphasises that climate action starts at home, urging parliaments and parliamentarians to:
  - Promote the reduction of carbon footprints.
  - Adopt greener policies.
  - Embrace a sustainable future.
- By taking decisive action on climate change, parliaments and parliamentarians can contribute to controlling the climate crisis.

### World Asteroid Day

- World Asteroid Day is an annual global event which is held on June 30, the anniversary of the Tunguska event in 1908 when a meteor air burst decimated about 2,000 square km (500,000 acres) of pine forest in central Siberia, Russia. The Tunguska asteroid event was the Earth's largest asteroid impact in recorded history.
- History - The Asteroid Day was cofounded in 2014 (the year after the 2013 Chelyabinsk meteor air burst) by renowned cosmologist Stephen Hawking, Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart, astrophysicist Brian May and some others. On 15 February 2013, an extraordinarily large fireball, travelling at a speed of 18.6 kms per second, entered the atmosphere and disintegrated in the skies over Chelyabinsk, Russia. According to NASA, the diameter of the asteroid was estimated at 18 meters and it's mass at 11,000 tons. The total impact energy of the Chelyabinsk Fireball was 440 kilotons.
- Significance - This day serves as a reminder of the devastating impact asteroids can have on Earth and highlights the incident of the 1908 Tunguska event and the Chelyabinsk event of 2013 in recorded history. The catastrophic impact of an asteroid on earth can understand from the fact that around 65 million years ago a chain reaction started by an asteroid impact led to the extinction of the dinosaurs and affected all life on Earth. It is also an ideal day to think of measures to save the planet from the hazardous effects of asteroids.

### National Statistics Day

- National Statistics Day is celebrated on June 29 every year to recognize the contributions of PC Mahalanobis. It is not to be confused with World Statistics Day, which is a UN-designated day and is celebrated on October 20 every 5 years.
- History - Indian government designated 29th June as National Statistics Day in recognition of the contributions made by Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics and economic planning on June 5, 2007. The first National Statistics Day was celebrated on June 29, 2007 and it has been celebrated on the same day since then.
- Theme - The theme of this year's Statistics Day is Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals.
- The significance of Statistics Day is to create public awareness in the young generation about the role and importance of statistics in strategizing, economic planning and policy formulation. The occasion is celebrated as a reminder to learn from the achievements of Professor Mahalanobis in the field of statistics.

### International Day of the Tropics

- Every Year, International Day of the Tropics is observed on June 29. Tropics are the areas encircling the Earth's equator, situated between the Tropic of Cancer in the Northern Hemisphere and the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere. This day is observed to recognize the remarkable diversity of

tropical regions and draw attention to the unique challenges and opportunities they encounter.

- The day serves as a platform to highlight the immense variety found in the tropics, share stories and expertise, evaluate advancements in these regions, and celebrate the diverse cultures and potential within tropical nations. Scroll down to know more about the history and significance of this day:
- History - James Cook University of Australia, alongside 11 other research institutions, released an inaugural State of the Tropics Report on June 29, 2014. The report specifically mentioned that the population present in the Tropical region is expected to rise from 40 percent to 50 percent by the year 2050. It looked into various environmental, social, and economic factors to acknowledge the quality of life in tropical regions.
- Considering the significance of the report, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/70/267 in 2016, designating June 29 as an official annual observance of International Day of the Tropics, celebrating the anniversary of the report's release.

#### **World MSME Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Day**

- The United Nations designated June 27 as Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day. When in 2017, the United Nations designated June 27 as Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day, was not only an acknowledgement to the significant contribution made by MSMEs to the global economy but was also an honour to their role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They promote innovation, creativity and decent work for all.
- History - The United Nations General Assembly on 6 April 2017 designated 27 June as "Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day" (A/RES/71/279) to raise awareness of the tremendous contributions of MSMEs to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Theme - The theme MSME Day 2023 in India is "Future-ready MSMEs for India@100." The Global Council for the Promotion of International Trade is also celebrating the day with "Building a Stronger Future Together" theme of this year. The global body is also launching #Brand10000MSMEs Network, a dynamic platform where MSMEs from around the world can connect, learn, and grow together.

#### **World Drug Day or International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

- The World Drug Day or International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed on June 26 every year to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse.
- The aim of this year's World Drug Day campaign is to raise awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs with respect and empathy; providing evidence-based, voluntary services for all; offering alternatives to

punishment; prioritizing prevention; and leading with compassion, said the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

- **History** - At the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Vienna on June 26, 1987, it was recommended that a day be observed annually to commemorate the struggle against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The United Nations General Assembly on December 7, 1987, decided to observe June 26 as International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- **Theme** - This year World Drug Day's theme is "People first: Stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention". The world drug problem is a complex issue that affects millions of people worldwide. Many people who use drugs face stigma and discrimination, which can further harm their physical and mental health and prevent them from accessing the help they need.

### Day of the Seafarer

- Every year on June 25th, the Day of the Seafarer recognizes the valuable contribution seafarers make to international trade and the world economy.
- The Day of the Seafarer is a special day dedicated to all those who work closely with salt water, including Coast Guards, Navies, fishermen, marine biologists, and cruise ship captains. It commemorates the first recorded sea voyage around 3200 BCE, which was sponsored by the Egyptian Pharaoh Snefru, known for building several pyramids.
- **History** – The Day of the Seafarer was established through a resolution passed during the 2010 Diplomatic Conference in Manila, where the revised STCW Convention was adopted. This day, observed on June 25th, aims to acknowledge and appreciate the exceptional contribution made by seafarers worldwide to international maritime trade.
- **Theme** - This year's Day of the Seafarer reflects the 2023 World Maritime theme: "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on". The 2023 campaign hashtag is #OceansWorthProtecting.

### International Widows Day

- International Widows Day (IWD) is observed annually on 23 June. The day is recognised to create awareness among people about the difficulties and challenges faced by widows worldwide,
- **History** - International Widows Day was first recognised and established by the United Nations on June 23, 2011. The day was officially recognized through a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly, acknowledging the hardships faced by widows globally and the need to address their rights and welfare.
- The establishment of International Widows Day was driven by the efforts of various organizations, including the Loomba Foundation, an international charity that advocates for the rights of widows. The foundation, led by Raj Loomba, worked tirelessly to bring attention to the challenges faced by widows and campaigned for a designated day to raise awareness and promote action.

### International Olympic Day

- World Olympic Day or International Olympic Day is observed globally on June 23 and this day commemorates the founding of the International Olympic Committee in the year 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
- **History** - World Olympic Day was created in 1948 as a tribute to June 23, 1894, when the inception of the modern Olympic Games took place at the Sorbonne in Paris. The aim of Olympic Day is to foster global engagement in sports, irrespective of age, gender, or athletic aptitude.
- **Theme** – The theme of this year's Olympic Day is 'Let's Move' which aims to inspire people around the world to make time for daily physical activity. While the world is moving faster than ever, people are moving less with research showing over 80 per cent of young people fail to reach the daily activity level recommended for optimum mental and physical health. This 23 June is the start of a new global movement to make time to move.

### United Nations Public Service Day

- Every year, the United Nations celebrates the tremendous importance and noble nature of public service on June 23. This particular anniversary, strives to highlight the contribution of public officials and reflect on how they contribute to development and progress. It also aims to recognise their outstanding efforts and inspire the next generation to pursue professions in the public sector.
- **History** - On 20 December 2002, the General Assembly designated 23 June as Public Service Day by adopting a resolution, To boost the recognition of this day, the United Nations established the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) programme in 2003, which was reviewed in 2016 to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Theme** - There is no specific theme chosen for United Nations Public Service Day 2023. The day revolves around the value and virtue of public service to the community.
- **Significance** - This day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. Since the first Awards Ceremony in 2003, the United Nations has received an increasing number of submissions from all around the world.

### International Women in Engineering Day

- On June 23rd each year, International Women in Engineering Day highlights a profession that keeps on building. And when it comes to engineering, the profession fills roles across many sectors.
- **History** - The United Kingdom officially dedicated June 23 to lead a national campaign for women in the engineering field in 2014. Just two years later the day received UNESCO patronage thereby making awareness on a global scale. Finally, in 2017, the day was celebrated on an international level for the first



time giving rise to the day that celebrates the vigilant efforts of women in the engineering society.

- **Theme** - Every year the day is attributed to different themes and this year will mark the 10th celebration of International Women in Engineering Day. The theme of the special day this year is reported to be 'Make Safety Seen'.
- **Significance** - The primary objective of the day is to raise awareness and encourage the participation of women in the engineering sector. International Women in Engineering Day recognizes the great contribution of female engineering pioneers who often go unnoticed. The awareness campaigns are to equip young girls with boundless opportunities to help them carve a niche for themselves.

### World Rainforest Day

- June 22nd is celebrated as, World Rainforest Day. This global observance reminds us of the immense value and significance of rainforests, which are not only breathtakingly beautiful but also vital for the health of our planet. Today, we come together to celebrate these lush green ecosystems and raise awareness about the urgent need to protect and preserve them. Join us on this journey as we explore the wonders of rainforests, their essential role in maintaining biodiversity, and the collective responsibility we hold to ensure their survival.
- **History** - The roots of World Rainforest Day can be traced back to 2017 when the Rainforest Partnership, a non-profit environmental organization based in Austin, Texas, launched the global event. This initiative was aimed at raising awareness about the importance of rainforests and their invaluable contributions to the planet.
- **Theme** - The theme for this year's World Rainforest Day is "Conserve. Restore. Regenerate." It encapsulates the collective efforts required to ensure the long-term thriving existence of rainforests. The theme emphasizes the need for everyone to participate in the conservation and restoration of rainforests to guarantee their survival for centuries to come.

### World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2023: 19<sup>th</sup> June

- World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed annually on June 19th to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) and its profound impact on individuals, families, and communities worldwide. Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder characterized by abnormal red blood cells that assume a crescent or sickle shape. These irregularly shaped cells can cause blockages in blood vessels, leading to a range of health complications.
- During World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, various activities are organized to promote understanding and solidarity. These include educational campaigns, community events, fundraisers, and blood drives. The focus is on highlighting the significance of regular screenings, access to high-quality healthcare, and ongoing research aimed at improving the lives of individuals affected by sickle cell disease. The day serves as a platform to advocate for greater support, resources,

and awareness to combat the challenges faced by those living with sickle cell disease.

- The primary objective of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is to educate the general public about the unique challenges faced by individuals living with sickle cell disease. It aims to promote improved healthcare services, early diagnosis, and effective treatment options for those affected by the condition. By doing so, it seeks to dispel misconceptions and reduce the stigma associated with the disease, fostering empathy, support, and inclusivity towards individuals with sickle cell disease.

#### **International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

- Each year on June 21, the International Day of Celebration for the Solstice is observed. This holiday was established by the United Nations in order to raise awareness about various solstice celebrations across religions and cultures. Many cultures and religions have their own unique way of celebrating the solstice.
- While the significance, interpretations, and meanings behind the solstice (which occurs when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon, resulting in the longest and shortest days) may differ based on culture, the International Day of the Solstice is a universally celebrated occasion that takes place during the summer solstice, between June 20 and 22.

#### **International Yoga Day 2023: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

- International Yoga Day 2023 is celebrated every year on June 21st to promote the numerous benefits of practicing yoga. The chosen date coincides with the summer solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. This day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the holistic approach to well-being that yoga offers. It highlights the importance of finding balance in our fast-paced, modern lives and encourages physical, mental, and spiritual harmony. Yoga fosters mindfulness, stress reduction, and overall health and vitality.
- In its 9th edition, this year's International Day of Yoga will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Headquarters on June 21st. This marks the first time a yoga session will be conducted by the Prime Minister at this location.
- The theme selected for this year's International Day of Yoga 2023 is "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which represents our shared desire for "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

#### **National Reading Day 2023: 19<sup>th</sup> June**

- The National Reading day commemorates the death anniversary of PN Panicker, widely recognized as the 'Father of the Library Movement' in the state of Kerala. The day is observed on 19th June every year. Through his leadership in the Kerala Grandhashala Sangham, he spearheaded various initiatives that sparked a cultural revolution in Kerala, leading to the achievement of universal literacy in the state during the 1990s. This day serves as a tribute to PN Panicker's tireless

efforts in transforming society through his literacy movement in India. PN Panicker, revered as the Father of Reading, passed away on June 19, 1995. He was the founder of the Sanadana Dharma Library, which played a pivotal role as the epicenter of the library movement in Kerala.

- Reading is a crucial activity that offers numerous benefits, including relaxation, learning, concentration, and the improvement of communication skills. In an era before the dominance of the internet and television, reading served as a primary medium of communication. National Reading Day, observed on the anniversary of P.N. Panicker's death, pays homage to his visionary ideals, immense passion, and unwavering dedication to promoting reading as a catalyst for personal and societal development. The day encourages individuals to embrace the pleasures of reading, delve into the vast knowledge contained within books, and acknowledge the transformative impact of reading on individuals and communities alike.

#### **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: 19th June 2023**

- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is a United Nations observance on June 19 to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence.
- The theme of this year is "Bridging the gender digital divide to prevent, address and respond to conflict-related sexual violence".
- This day is commemorated every year to mark the date of adoption of first UN Security Council resolution to recognize conflict-related sexual violence as a threat to international peace and security.
- It highlights the issue of conflict related to sexual violence and inspire efforts to prevent it.
- According to the United Nations, 'conflict-related sexual violence' includes sexual slavery, forced prostitution, rape, forced pregnancy, forced marriage, enforced sterilization, forced abortion and other forms of sexual violence that are carried out against men, women, girls or boys.

#### **International Father's Day 2023: Third Sunday of June**

- Father's Day is a celebration of fathers and fatherhood. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of June in many countries around the world, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The day is a time to honour fathers, grandfathers, and other male role models who have made a significant impact in the lives of their children. This year Father's Day held on 18th June.
- Father's Day is a time to honour and celebrate fathers and fatherhood. Whether you are a father, grandfather, or someone who has been influenced by a special father figure, take a moment to reflect on the importance of this holiday. Let's use this day to express our gratitude to the fathers in our lives and to acknowledge the important role that they play in our families and communities.
- Father's Day is a day to honor fathers and father figures for their love, support, and guidance. It is a time to celebrate the special role that fathers play in our

lives. There are many ways to celebrate Father's Day. Some people like to go out to eat, while others prefer to have a cookout at home. Some people give their fathers gifts, while others simply spend time with them doing something they enjoy.

#### **International Day for Countering Hate Speech: 18<sup>th</sup> June**

- The annual observance of the International Day for Countering Hate Speech on June 18 serves as a crucial reminder to address the pressing global problem of hate speech. In an era where communication technologies have magnified its influence, hate speech remains a catalyst for violence, intolerance, and fragmentation. This significant day emphasizes the need for united efforts to combat the dissemination of divisive language and foster mutual understanding, respect, and inclusivity.
- The International Day for Countering Hate Speech is a significant global initiative designed to address the alarming surge of hate speech worldwide. In July 2021, the United Nations General Assembly underscored the urgent necessity to combat hate speech and adopted a resolution emphasizing the importance of fostering inter-religious and intercultural dialogue as a means to counter this phenomenon.
- The resolution acknowledges that discrimination and hate speech present substantial threats to human rights and social cohesion. It urges all relevant parties, including governments, to enhance their efforts in countering hate speech while upholding international human rights law.

#### **Sustainable Gastronomy Day: 18<sup>th</sup> June**

- Sustainable Gastronomy Day which takes place on June 18 every year, highlights the important role that food plays in promoting sustainable development and the crucial choices about what we eat. According to the United Nations, gastronomy is sometimes called the art of food. It also refers to a style of cooking from a particular region.
- Sustainability is the concept that ensures particular activity, like fishing or food preparation is carried out in a manner that reduces the waste of natural resources and can be maintained in the long term without impacting the environment or our well-being. By accepting sustainable practices, we can contribute to a greener future.
- The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Local Flavours, Preserving Global Heritage.'
- Sustainable gastronomy promotes practices that reduce the environmental impact of food production. By using organic farming methods, diminishing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving water, and protecting biodiversity, sustainable gastronomy helps to conserve ecosystems and reduce climate change. It also encourages the consumption of nutritious, fresh, and locally sourced ingredients.

### **World Day To Combat Desertification and Drought 2023:17th June**

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is an annual observance held on June 17th. It is a global initiative aimed at raising awareness about the threats posed by desertification and drought and promoting efforts to combat these challenges.
- Desertification refers to the process of land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas, often caused by various factors such as climate change, deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and overexploitation of natural resources. Drought, on the other hand, is a prolonged period of inadequate rainfall, resulting in water scarcity, crop failure, and ecosystem disruption.
- This year, the theme of the International Day Against Desertification, and Drought "Her land. Her rights", emphasizes that investing in women's equal access to land and associated assets is a direct investment in their future and the future of humanity. It's time for women and girls to be at the forefront of global land restoration and drought resilience efforts.

### **International Day of Family Remittances 2023: 16th June**

- The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is a universally -recognized observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and celebrated every year on 16 June. The Day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children. Half of these flows go to rural areas, where poverty and hunger are concentrated, and where remittances count the most.
- According to the United Nations, the theme of International Day of Family Remittances 2023 is "Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction."
- International Day of Family Remittances advocates policies and measures to increase financial inclusions and creates an environment to enhance the remittance benefits for both the migrant workers and their families.

### **World Blood Donor Day**

- The World Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year on June 14 to thank the altruistic acts of selflessness of voluntary blood donors and celebrate life and humanity. Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person – the gift of life. A decision to donate blood can save a life, or even several lives, if the blood is separated into its components – red cells, platelets and plasma – which can be used individually for patients with specific conditions.
- **History** - In 2004 World Blood Donor Day was first distinguished by the WHO. In the 58th World Health Assembly, 2005 it was declared as an annual global event to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation.
- **Theme** - The slogan or theme of the World Blood Donor Day 2023 is "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often." The theme highlights the importance of



giving blood or blood plasma regularly to create a safe and sustainable supply of blood and blood products that can be always available, all over the world, so that all patients in need can receive timely life saving treatment.

### International Albinism Awareness Day

- International Albinism Awareness Day is observed annually on 13th June to create awareness about a genetic skin condition called Albinism,
- Albinism is an inherited genetic condition which leads to the absence of melanin production in the body. Melanin is a pigment that gives colour to our hair, skin and eyes. Absence of it makes our skin, hair and eyes look white or yellowish and makes us vulnerable to the sun and any bright sources of light. Albino people suffer from visual impairments and have a tendency to get skin cancer. They face a lot of ostracism from society due to various misconceptions about albinism, as well. Below, we look at the day's theme, its history and significance.
- Theme - The theme of this year's celebration of International Albinism Awareness Day is "Inclusion is strength." The theme is an extension of 2022's theme, "United in making our voice heard," which emphasised on creating greater awareness of the albinism. 2023's theme focuses on the importance of inclusion of not only people of all races and ethnicities affected by albinism, but also young people, women, children, elderly persons, and LGBTQ+ communities.

[www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com)

### World Day Against Child Labour

- The World Day against Child Labour has been observed annually on 12 June since 2002. This significant day was established by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and all United Nations member countries have since been commemorating it.
- World Day against Child Labour serves as a call to action, urging individuals, organizations, and governments to take decisive steps in combating child labour and promoting awareness about its detrimental effects. It is a reminder for collective efforts to be made towards eradicating child labour and creating a better future for children worldwide.
- **Theme** - This year, the theme for World Day Against Child Labour is 'Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!'. It emphasized the link between social justice and child labour.
- **Significance** - This day holds significance because it serves as a platform to amplify the message of ending child labour. By supporting and observing this day, individuals and organizations can contribute to the global movement against child labour, advocating for the rights and well-being of children.

### World Oceans Day

World Oceans Day is celebrated every year on 8 June to create awareness among people regarding the significance of oceans, and the importance of preserving and conserving oceanic resources.

World Oceans Day is a necessary reminder to realise and appreciate the contribution of oceans in our lives, from providing food to regulating and supporting biodiversity and the climate.

**History** - World Ocean Day was officially established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 to be celebrated worldwide, annually on June 8 to resolve the problems of Oceans and also to save Ocean water.

**Theme** - The theme for 2023's World Ocean Day is 'Planet Ocean: tides are Changing' which presents the paradox of hope and concern for oceans. Although more individuals are becoming aware of the harm that humans have done to the oceans, the degradation of the ocean ecosystems is still happening one by one as a result of the effects of our activities.

World Ocean Day is an occasion to nurture public interest to protect the oceans and to engage various key international stakeholders to help implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to conserve and manage ocean resources in a balanced manner.

### World Food Safety Day

World Food Safety Day is marked annually on June 7, to raise awareness about the importance of safe food practices and to highlight the global need for safe food. This international day is a collaborative effort between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

**History** - World Food Safety Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 through a resolution. The resolution was proposed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and was co-sponsored by a total of 44 countries. The day was officially designated to be observed annually on June 7th. The establishment of World Food Safety Day highlights the increasing global concern regarding food safety and the need for collective action to address this issue. It recognizes that ensuring safe food practices is not only crucial for public health but also for sustainable development, food security, and international trade.

**Theme** - The theme of this year's World Food Safety Day 2023 is "Food standards save lives." Most people depend on the information in the packaging of consumable items to know whether their food is safe. These food safety standards guide farmers and those who process food.

### Russian Language Day

Every year on June 6, Russian Language Day is celebrated worldwide. This day aligns with the birthday of Alexander Pushkin, a renowned Russian poet known as the founder of modern Russian language.

It was initiated by the UN in order to support and promote multilingualism and cultural diversity.

The initiative of the UN Language Days was launched in February 2010 in order to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity and to promote equal use of all six of the UN's official working languages throughout the organization. Russian is one of the

six official languages of the UN, along with Arabic, Chinese, English, French, and Spanish.

The Russian language is one of the world's most widespread languages. It is currently spoken by 254 million people, 1.3 of which are in the Middle East and North Africa and 100 thousand in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### **World Environment Day**

Every year on June 5, people, communities, and organisations from all over the world come together to celebrate World Environment Day to raise awareness of and take action on urgent environmental challenges. The United Nations created this important day to raise awareness of the pressing need to safeguard and conserve our planet's natural resources.

History - The United Nations General Assembly founded World Environment Day in 1972 to increase public awareness of environmental challenges and encourage action. It has since grown to be the largest global venue for environmental advocacy and is observed every year on June 5.

Theme - Theme for the World Environment Day 2023 is under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, 'Ecosystem Restoration'. It is a reminder that people's action on plastic matters as the material is slowly seeping into our oceans, soil and forest and causing irreparable damage. The day is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the Netherlands.

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### **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is celebrated on June 4 each year in a bid to lay emphasis on the rights of children and protect children around the world from incidents of violence, sexual abuse and terror.

Innocent children throughout the world fall prey to acts of terror, violence, maiming and abduction each day. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression emphasizes the commitment of the United Nations towards protecting the rights of children.

History - The idea of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression emerged from the UN General Assembly's emergency special session held on August 19, 1982. During the session, the assembly focused on protecting Palestinian and Lebanese children from Israeli aggression during the Lebanon war.

In a bid to protect the rights of children in Lebanon, UN General Assembly decided to organize the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression on June 4 every year.

### **World Bicycle Day**

Each year on June 3, World Bicycle Day is observed to spread awareness about sustainable transportation that also ensures fostering sustainability, health and well-being. The day reminds us of the age-old tradition prevalent in the world.

History - The world celebrated this affordable, reliable, and sustainable means of transportation for the first time in 2018 when the United Nations General Assembly

declared June 3 as International World Bicycle Day, The day is a result of Leszek Sibilski's campaign and the support of Turkmenistan and 56 other countries to recognise World Bicycle Day. The assembly also took into consideration the versatility and longevity of the bicycle which has served as a sustainable means of transportation for two centuries.

Theme - The theme for World Bicycle Day 2023 is "Riding Together for a Sustainable Future".

### **Telangana Formation Day**

Telangana, the 29th state of India, celebrate its formation day on June 2. The state was officially formed on June 2, 2014, and since then, the day is celebrated as Telangana Day or Telangana Formation Day. According to Telangana government, the day marks significance in the state's history for the sustained Telangana movement through the years. All 33 districts in the state honour the day by honouring the people of Telangana for remarkable achievements in science, art and literature.

History: On July 1, 2013, the Congress Working Committee passed a resolution to form Telangana as a separate state. After various stages, the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014 bill was passed in the Parliament in February 2014 for the formation of the Telangana state. The bill was then passed by the President of India on March 1, 2014, and the state of Telangana was finally formed on June 2.

After leading the Telangana movement to its desired end, Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao, popularly known as KCR, became the first Chief Minister of the state.

### **World Milk Day**

Every year, World Milk Day is observed on June 1. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the value of milk as a food on a worldwide scale and to highlight the contribution of the dairy industry to boosting nutrition and sustaining livelihoods.

**History** - In 2001, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation established World Milk Day on June 1st to recognise the importance of milk as a global food and also to celebrate the dairy sector and its constant efforts towards the same.

For 2023, the theme for World Milk Day will focus on the importance of dairy in the reduction of carbon footprints as well as providing nutritious foods and livelihoods

**Fact** - In 2022, India consumed the most milk worldwide, which was 85 million metric tons of milk followed by the European Union at 23.8 million metric tons and the United States at 20.975 million metric tons. This data shows the importance of milk in life.

## **SUMMITS AND MOU'S**

### **MoU signed between Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank for disbursal of financial assistance to veteran artists**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank on 28.06.2023 for disbursal of financial assistance to veteran artists under the "Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists".
- Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme namely "Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists" under which financial assistance of Rs. 6000/- per month is

provided to artists and scholars above the age of 60 years who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture in their active age or are still contributing, but due to old age they are facing difficulty and are in penury condition. Currently, under the scheme, disbursal of financial assistance in respect of artists selected before 2017 is made through LIC while for the artists approved post 2017, it is made directly by the Ministry. It has been noted that the receipt of documents from the beneficiaries often get delayed resulting in disbursal of amount as lump sum instead of being released on a regular basis. With the signing of the MoU with Canara Bank, in a period of approximately two months post streamlining of the process, disbursal of financial assistance to the veteran artists would commence on monthly basis, also ensuring redressal of long pending grievances of beneficiaries.

## **2nd meeting of India-Tanzania Joint Defence Cooperation Committee held in Arusha**

- The second edition of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Tanzania was held in Arusha on June 28 & 29, 2023. The Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary Shri Amitabh Prasad, included senior officials from Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The High Commissioner of India to Tanzania Shri Binay S Pradhan also attended the meeting.
- During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of opportunities for collaboration with a view to enhancing security in the Indian Ocean Region. The Indian delegation highlighted the growing prowess of the Indian Defence manufacturing to export to friendly countries. A five-year roadmap for defence cooperation was also agreed to between the two sides, which covers initiatives ranging from customised training & capacity building to maritime cooperation, infrastructure building and collaboration in defence equipment and technology.
- Representatives from Defence PSUs also accompanied the Indian delegation. They held extensive meetings with the stakeholders from the Tanzanian Forces on the sidelines of the JDCC meeting.

## **Fame and TM and SIDBI signed MoU, at attract investment worth Rs,1510 cr**

- On International MSME Day (June 27), several memoranda of understanding (MoU) are set to be signed to attract investments to the tune of over ₹1,723 crore in the presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.
- In an event scheduled in Chennai on Tuesday morning, an MoU between FaMe TN (Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu) and the SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) for investments of ₹1,510 crore is likely to be signed, an official release said. It is likely to create over 7,400 jobs.
- The Chief Minister would also inaugurate three new industrial estates at Kodur in Chengalpattu district, Manapparai in Tiruchi district and Sakkimangalam in Madurai district. He would also inaugurate the cashew processing cluster at Kadampuliyur in Cuddalore district under the MSME cluster development scheme.



- Stalin would also hand over awards to entrepreneurs in the MSME sector. Subsidies to the tune of over ₹18.94 crore to 100 beneficiaries under the Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme would be given.

#### **Assam signs MoU with Caspian Impact Investment to boost rural infrastructure and agribusiness**

- The Government of Assam, through the Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Caspian Impact Investment Adviser (Caspian Equity) to establish an investment fund aimed at enhancing agricultural growth and employment opportunities in the state.
- The collaboration between the government body and the venture capital institution marks a significant step towards strengthening rural infrastructure and fostering agricultural productivity.
- The partnership entails the establishment and implementation of the Assam Agribusiness Investment Fund (AAIF), a contributory and determinate investment trust. ARIAS will act as the nodal agency for the fund, while Caspian Equity will serve as the fund manager.
- The AAIF, with an initial corpus of INR 250 crore, will primarily focus on investing in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within the agribusiness and allied sectors, aiming to achieve accelerated growth.
- The World Bank, through the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), will provide anchor funding for the AAIF. As a Category II Alternative Investment Fund registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the AAIF represents a unique sector-specific fund initiated by a state government in India, with the objective of boosting agricultural productivity and generating employment opportunities.

#### **L&T Tech partners with Mavenir for 5G automation services**

- IT company L&T Technology Services on Monday said it has partnered with state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the deployment of private 5G network for enterprise customers.
- According to the agreement framework signed by both companies, the spectrum will be provided by BSNL using both PLMN (public land mobile network) and isolated allotment.
- L&T Technology Services (LTTS) will anchor the private network requirements by deploying equipment, applications, servers, technology and software, and core for the integration of devices and sensors within the customer's ecosystem, the IT firm said in a statement.

#### **International Conference on Green Hydrogen to be held in New Delhi from July 5 – 7, 2023**

- The Government of India is organizing an International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023) during 5th – 7th July 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi,

to bring together the global scientific and industrial community to discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain. The conference will enable the sector stakeholders to explore the evolving green hydrogen landscape and innovation-driven solutions in the sector.

- The conference is being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India.
- Aim - The fundamental aim of the Conference is to explore how we can establish a Green Hydrogen ecosystem and foster a systemic approach for meeting the global goals for decarbonization through Green Hydrogen. Apart from domain-specific research interactions on hydrogen production, storage, distribution and downstream applications, the conference will also discuss green financing, human resource upskilling and startup initiatives in this area. The conference will enable to share and learn from international best practices in the sector.

#### **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare signed a MOU with Pixxel Space India Pvt. Limited**

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare signed a MOU with Pixxel Space India Pvt. Limited in the presence of the Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, DA&FW, Pramod Kumar Meherda, Additional Secretary, DA&FW and other senior officers of the Ministry at New Delhi.
- Shri C. S. Murthy, Director, MNCFC signed the MOU on behalf of Government of India, where as Shri Abhishek Krishnan, Chief of Staff represented M/s Pixxel Space India Pvt. Limited. It aims to develop various geospatial solutions on pro bono basis for the Indian Agriculture Ecosystem using Pixxel's hyperspectral dataset.
- The project focuses on leveraging sample hyper-spectral data from Pixxel's path finder satellites to develop analytics models focused on crop mapping, crop stage discrimination, crop health monitoring, and soil organic carbon assessments. This will enable the Government to develop use cases with hyperspectral data provided by PIXXEL. MNCFC on behalf of the DA&FW will associate with Pixel team for developing and implementing the suitable methodologies.

#### **Third Infrastructure Working Group Meeting under India's G20 Presidency to take place in Rishikesh from June 26-28**

- The three-day meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group under the G20 Summit in Uttarakhand will begin at Narendranagar -Rishikesh today – 26 June.
- A total of 63 delegates from G20 member states, invitees and international organizations have arrived in Narendranagar to participate in the meeting.
- During the three-day event, various official meetings and cultural programs have been planned for the delegates.

- Apart from formal discussions, the delegates will experience the rich culture and beautiful landscapes of Rishikesh. The Presidency has also arranged an excursion for the delegates on the afternoon of 28 June and has planned a "Yoga Retreat" on 26 June.

#### **GE Aerospace signs MoU with HAL, to produce fighter jet engines for Tejas Mk2**

- US-based GE Aerospace has signed a memorandum of understanding with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force. As per the new agreement, Aerospace's F414 engines will be co-produced in India to power the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft Mk2. The development comes amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US.
- The agreement "includes the potential joint production of GE Aerospace's F414 engines in India". The US company said that it was still working with the government "to receive the necessary export authorization" for the same.
- The announcement will also advance GE Aerospace's earlier commitment to build 99 engines for the Indian Air Force as part of the LCA Mk2 program.

#### **IOB Signed MoU With the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission**

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), a leading financial institution, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) on Tuesday (20.06.2023). The primary objective of this collaboration is to foster the growth of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the state and provide them with vital financial support.
- The collaboration is expected to catalyze the growth of SHGs targeting Rs.1875 Crores and increase the disbursement under DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission) during the current Financial Year, effectively doubling the impact of financial assistance.
- The MoU signing ceremony witnessed the participation of esteemed representatives, including the Managing Director and CEO of Tamilnadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) and the General Manager of Indian Overseas Bank.
- Under the terms of the MoU, TNSRLM will facilitate eligible SHGs for credit linkage with Indian Overseas Bank. This strategic collaboration aims to streamline access to financial resources for SHGs, enabling them to undertake entrepreneurial activities, expand their ventures, and contribute to the economic development of the state.

#### **8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2023 held in Mumbai**

- The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) on 23 June successfully concluded the 8th edition of the Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit at Mumbai, The theme for the Summit was, 'Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality.

- The two-day Summit brought together industry leaders, global regulators, quality experts, and stakeholders to foster knowledge exchange and deliberate on areas of importance in shaping the pharmaceutical landscape in India.
- The event was inaugurated by Samir Mehta, Chairman, Torrent Pharmaceuticals and President, IPA.
- Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare addressed the summit.
- India played a vital role as the "Pharmacy to the World" during the COVID -19 pandemic by ensuring a steady supply of quality medicines and vaccines across the globe, The Indian pharmaceutical industry has demonstrated its potential both in terms of quality and quantity.
- About the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) - IPA was established in the year 1999 in Mumbai, IPA represents 24 research-based national pharmaceutical companies.
- Collectively, the IPA companies contribute to over 85 percent of the private sector investment in pharmaceutical research and development in India, IPA companies are responsible for more than 80 percent of the country's exports of drugs and pharmaceuticals, They also serve over 60 percent of the domestic market in India.

#### **Paytm inks MoU with Arunachal Pradesh for creating startup ecosystem**

- PAYTM PAYMENT SERVICES Limited (PPSL) has signed an MoU with Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP) to create a start-up ecosystem for the youth in the northeastern state, According to the MoU, Paytm Incubation Centre will provide its product to early-stage start-ups at a discounted price and offer free credits through the Paytm Startup toolkit to aid the business ventures of youths in their early stage of growth.
- This will nurture the start-up ecosystem in the state and motivate the young entrepreneurs, an official communiqué informed here. The MoU was signed at the Arunachal Pradesh Innovation & Investment Park, the first state-owned marquee incubator here in the presence of its CEO Tabe Haidar.
- It enables commerce for small merchants and distributes various financial services offerings to its consumers and merchants in partnership with financial institutions,

#### **NHPC signs MoU with GRIDCO Odisha, for developing 2 GW Pumped Storage Projects and 1 GW Solar Energy Projects**

- NHPC Limited, the largest hydropower development organization in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GRIDCO Odisha, Government of Odisha, for "Development of Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) and Renewable Energy in the State of Odisha". The MoU envisages setting up Self-identified Pumped Storage Projects of at least 2,000 MW and Renewable Energy Projects (Ground-Mounted Solar Projects / Floating Solar Projects) of at least 1,000 MW in the state.
- The MoU was signed on 23rd June, 2023, by Executive Director (Strategy Business Development and Consultancy), NHPC, Rajat Gupta and Managing Director, GRIDCO Limited, Trilochan Panda; in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary, Department of

Energy, Govt. of Odisha cum Chairperson, GRIDCO, Nikunja B. Dhal; Director (Projects), NHPC Limited, Biswajit Basu; and other senior officers of both organizations.

### **GE Aerospace signs MoU with HAL for production of fighter jet engines for IAF**

- US-based GE Aerospace on Thursday (June 22) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force. The announcement is a major milestone amidst Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official state visit to the US and a key element in strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries.
- GE Aerospace stated the agreement includes the potential joint production of its F414 engines in India, and GE Aerospace continues to work with the US government to receive the necessary export authorisation for this. The effort is part of the Indian Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk2 programme. For the unversed, US-based GE Aerospace is a world-leading provider of jet engines, components and systems for commercial and military aircraft.

### **Indian Railways signs MoU with USAID/India**

- Indian Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India). The memorandum of understanding (MoU), signed on 14 June, envisages collaboration in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Aim - It aims to incorporate clean energy sources into Indian Railways' operations. The parties involved will work together to develop an energy efficiency policy and action plan specifically tailored for Indian Railways' buildings.
- The collaboration also seeks to facilitate the procurement of clean energy solutions that align with Indian Railways' ambitious vision of achieving net-zero carbon emissions. To overcome potential regulatory and implementation barriers, technical support will be provided through the partnership.
- The expertise of USAID will assist in designing and managing bids for large-scale renewable energy procurement projects, ensuring a system-friendly approach. Additionally, the agency will extend its support to Indian Railways in promoting e-mobility, enabling the adoption of electric vehicles within the railway system.

### **A two-day G20 Labour Engagement Group meeting begin today ( 22 June ) in Patna, Bihar**

- The two-day meeting of the G-20 Labour Engagement Group begins today at Patna in Bihar. Around 150 delegates from G-20 members and eight guest countries are going to participate in the meeting. Governor of Bihar Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar inaugurated the function organised at Ashoka Convention Centre in Patna.
- Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bhupendra Yadav and State Labour Resource Minister Surendra Ram also addressed the Inaugural session. The



Chairman of L-20 Group, Hiranmaya Pandya told media persons that besides several issues the main agenda of discussion will be the universalisation of social security and enhancement of women's participation in the workforce which is around 32 per cent globally.

**India and the (UNWTO) have signed MoU to enhance cooperation and identify areas of mutual interest**

- India and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) have signed an agreement / MoU to enhance cooperation and identify areas of mutual interest, on the sidelines of the two key events of the influential bloc being hosted in Goa. Besides, nearly 15 bilateral meetings in total are planned to be held between India and various G20 member countries and international organisations on the sidelines of these key events being held from June 19-22,
- A bilateral meeting was held with Oman and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a senior official said.
- The Ministry of Tourism on Tuesday tweeted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of India and the UNWTO.
- "Government of India and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) signed a MoU to enhance cooperation and identify.

**Intel to build \$33-billion chip plant in Germany after government pledges to cover 1/3rd of cost**

- Intel has committed to invest \$32.8 billion in Magdeburg, a city in Germany for the establishment of two cutting-edge semiconductor facilities. This collaboration, with financial support from Berlin, represents the largest foreign investment ever made in Germany. The German government, recognizing the strategic importance of the semiconductor industry, has pledged to provide approximately 10 billion euros in financial support toward Intel's overall investment in the country. The deal is poised to bolster the country's semiconductor industry and solidify Intel's position as a leading player in the market.
- Intel acquired the land for two semiconductor facilities in Magdeburg in eastern Germany in November, and the company says the first of them is expected to start production in four or five years. The investment in Germany means a significant expansion of Intel's production capacity in Europe and is the biggest investment ever made by a foreign company in Germany. If all investment plans currently being considered are implemented, and we are working on this, including today, Germany will become one of the big global semiconductor production sites.

### **Centre sets up panel led by former Law Secy T K Vishwanathan to recommend reforms in arbitration law**

- The Indian government, through the Department of Legal Affairs, has taken a significant step towards improving the arbitration process by forming an expert committee. Led by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan, the committee aims to recommend reforms to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996. With a focus on reducing court intervention, enhancing cost-effectiveness, and ensuring timely resolution, the committee is expected to submit its recommendations within 30 days.
- One of the primary objectives of the expert committee is to thoroughly examine the functioning of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. By assessing its strengths, weaknesses, and challenges in comparison to foreign jurisdictions, the committee seeks to identify areas for improvement. This critical analysis will serve as a foundation for drafting proposed amendments and making other recommendations to the government.
- To make arbitration a truly party-driven process, the committee aims to propose solutions that limit the requirement for parties to seek judicial intervention. By addressing this issue, the committee aims to streamline the arbitration process and minimize delays caused by court involvement. The objective is to create a more efficient and time-bound framework for resolving disputes through arbitration.

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### **SEACEN-FSI 25<sup>th</sup> Conference of Asia-Pacific Supervision Directors in Mumbai(Maharashtra)**

- SEACEN-FSI 25th Conference of Asia-Pacific Supervision Directors: Banking supervisors are being urged by the Reserve Bank to keep up to date with technological advances in order to regulate and monitor the fast-evolving world of financial technology.
- The Reserve Bank's deputy governor, Mukesh Jain, stated that as banks continue to adopt new technologies, it is essential that supervisors have access to the knowledge and resources needed to effectively supervise them.
- Jain also warned that the recent failure of banks abroad has added to the challenges faced by supervisors, who must maintain stability and minimise risks.
- He commented that supervisors must find a balance that ensures financial stability and minimises moral hazard risks.
- Both banks and banking supervisors must develop their capabilities to handle technological advancements and navigate uncertain waters, as there are inherent risks associated with handling data, including data breaches and privacy concerns, said Jain. Investment in technology with a long-term vision and upgrading knowledge and skills will be necessary.

### **Tata Steel signs MoU with Germany's SMS group to cut carbon emissions**

- In a bid to cut carbon emission and achieve net zero carbon emission by 2045, Tata Steel signed an agreement with SMS Group. Indian steel major has signed

this deal with the German company to collaborate on a technology that may cut carbon emission by more than 50 per cent during steel making process,

- As part of the agreement, the two companies will hold technical discussions and demonstrate a decarbonisation technology developed by the SMS group at a blast furnace in Tata's Jamshedpur plant,
- Tata Steel went on to add that major goal of this deal is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 50% from the blast furnace's baseline operation,
- Steel production generates up to 9% of global carbon emissions, according to the World Steel Association, and producers across the globe are investing in technology that can help reduce their share of pollution.

### **G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting begin in Hyderabad**

- The G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting is set to begin in Hyderabad. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of state for Agriculture and Farmers welfare Kailash Choudhary and senior officials of concerned departments will be present during the three-day event.
- About 200 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries and International Organizations will be attending the meeting. The Agriculture Ministers from various countries and the Director Generals from International Organizations will take part in the meeting.
- There will be multiple side events in which in-depth and focussed deliberations will be held on topics like Managing Agribusiness for Profit, People and Planet and Connecting the Digitally Disconnected: Harnessing the Power of Digital Technologies in Agriculture.
- Top Indian agriculture-based companies, start-ups and state and central government agencies relating to agri-business companies are likely to take part in these deliberations.

### **Second summit of Supreme Audit Institutions of G20 countries began in Goa**

- The second summit of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the G20 countries began on 12 June in Panaji, the capital city of Goa, The inaugural address at the summit was delivered by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu. Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant also attended the meeting.
- SAIs from Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Spain, UAE, Morocco and Poland participated in the summit.
- Apart from the proceedings of the summit, the CAG is expected to sign MoUs with SAIs of Indonesia and Turkey to strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing.
- Apart from SAI, over 80 national and international delegates as well as representatives from Think20 and Youth20 Engagement Groups are participating in the three-day summit.

- The two primary areas of focus at the summit are Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence, with Girish Chandra Murmu discussing these topics.

#### **PM Modi Inaugurates First-Ever National Training Conclave For Civil Services In Delhi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday – 11 June. inaugurated the first-ever National Training Conclave at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Over 1,500 representatives from training institutes, including Central Training Institutes, State Administrative Training Institutes, Regional and Zonal Training Institutes, and Research institutes are participating in the conclave.
- Civil servants from central government departments, state governments, local governments, along with experts from the private sector will also participate in the discussions.
- The conclave will have eight panel discussions with each focusing on key concerns pertinent to Civil services training institutes such as faculty development, training impact assessment and content digitisation, among others.
- The conclave will focus on the exchange of ideas, identifying the challenges being faced and opportunities available, and generating actionable solutions and comprehensive strategies for capacity building.

#### **India to host G-20 development ministers' meeting in Varanasi from June 11-13**

- The holy city of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is all set to host the G20 group countries development ministers meeting starting from 11 June, which will continue till 13th June. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will chair the Meeting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver a special video address at the beginning of the meeting, under the G20 Indian Presidency.
- The Varanasi Development Ministers' Meeting is taking place amidst mounting developmental challenges. The G20 Development Ministerial meeting will be an opportunity to collectively agree on actions for accelerating achievement of the SDGs and foster synergies between the development, environment and climate agendas while avoiding costly trade-offs that hold back progress for the developing countries.

#### **53<sup>rd</sup> Director General Level Border Co-ordination Conference between BSF & BGB begins in Delhi**

- The 53rd Director General Level Border Co-ordination Conference between India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB) being held in Delhi from 11 -14 June. During the four-day conference, BSF delegation of India led by Director General, BSF, Dr. Sujoy Lal Thakur, will meet BGB delegation headed by Maj Gen A K M Nazmul Hasan.
- The conference is being organized to discuss the border-related issues and better coordination between both border guarding forces. During the course of conference, discussions will also be held on how to jointly curb the various

trans-border crimes and timely sharing of information between both the border guarding forces. There will also be deliberation on developmental and infrastructural works, joint efforts for effective implementation of Co-ordinated Border Management Plan and Confidence Building Measures. The last BSF -BGB Co-ordination Conference was held at Dhaka in 2022.

### **ICAR signs MoU with Amazon Kisan to guide farmers on scientific cultivation**

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Amazon Kisan to combine strengths and create synergy between the two organizations for guiding the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income.

ICAR will provide technological backstopping to the farmers through Amazon's network. It will improve farmers' livelihood and boost crop yield. This MoU in farmer's partnership with Amazon Kisan program will help ensure access to high-quality fresh produce for consumers across India, including through Amazon Fresh, Harsh Goyal, Director and Head of Fresh and Everyday Essentials, Amazon India emphasized the company's commitment to supporting Indian farmers

As per the MoU. ICAR and Amazon will collaborate to extend the latest and most precise agriculture practices that have been developed by ICAR's extensive research to bridge the technical knowledge gaps in integrated cultivation by leveraging ICAR's Krishi Vigyan Kendra Knowledge (KVK) network.

[www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com)

### **IICA and RRU sign MoU for academic and research collaboration**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) , The objective of the MoU is to synergize the professional capabilities of IICA and RRU towards capacity building, education, research and consultancy in the areas of internal security, financial crime, law enforcement, corporate fraud and other subjects.

The MoU also provides for exchange of knowledge and resources between IICA and RRU for conducting research, training and consultancy.

The MoU was signed by Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi from IICA who also shared the purpose statement of the collaboration. Dr Dimpal T Raval, Director School of National Security and Law from RRU proposed vote of thanks along with articulating action plan

**About: IICA** - IICA is an institution established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India as an autonomous body to act as a think-tank and a centre of excellence to support the growth of the corporate sector in India through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach.

### **Microsoft and AirJaldi Sign MoU To Provide Internet For Underserved Communities In 12 States**

Microsoft, in collaboration with AirJaldi Networks, a leading provider of internet connectivity solutions for rural areas, has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) titled 'Contentful Connectivity'. The objective of this program is



to expand access to high-speed internet and meaningful connectivity in rural regions of India by partnering with private, public, and non-profit sectors.

**Over the next three years, the program will:**

1. Expand AirJaldi Networks into three new states namely, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha, with an increase in the number of network locations from 40 to 62 in 12 states.
2. Strengthen AirJaldi Networks in nine states by extending the wireless and wired infrastructure and supporting extension of reach and connectivity provision for underserved users.
3. Enhance skilling, education and entrepreneurship training programs by strengthening the courses for women entrepreneurship and rural connectivity and integrating Microsoft modules on digital productivity, employability skills, and AI fluency skills for 15,000 underserved community members, in particular women, youth and high school children in 12 states.
4. Build Internet of Things (IoT) based connectivity-related solutions in the rural regions on networking, e-learning, skilling, telemedicine, agriculture, accessibility, and environment to transform livelihoods and well-being of enterprises and communities
5. Build partnerships with government and corporate organizations for sustenance in three states where the networks are getting created in the areas of education, diverse skills for jobs, or women entrepreneurship

**Firms of India and Germany sign MoU for cooperation in Submarine Production**

India's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and Germany-based Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems (TKMS) has signed an MoU for cooperation in submarine production, as a precursor to join a bid for an estimated Rs. 42,000 crore project to build six diesel-electric submarines for the Indian navy.

The MoU which is "non-binding and non-financial" in nature was signed in the presence of visiting Defence minister of Germany Boris Pistorious.

According to the MoU, TKMS will engage in the engineering and design aspects of the submarines as well as the consultancy support for this joint venture, whereas Mazagon Dock will be responsible for constructing and delivering the submarines.

**NHPC inks MoU with Department of Energy, - Government of Maharashtra**

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Private Limited'- NHPC and Department of Energy, Government of Maharashtra for the development of Pumped Storage schemes and other Renewable Energy Source projects in the state of Maharashtra.

The MoU envisages development of four Pumped Storage Projects aggregating to a total capacity of 7,350 MW, namely Kalu – 1,150 MW, Savitri – 2,250 MW, Jalond – 2,400 MW and Kengadi -1,550 MW. Other Renewable Energy Source Projects too will be developed in the state under the agreement.

The MoU entails harnessing the Pump Storage Projects as Energy Storage Solutions to help achieve the national objective of Energy Transition, i.e., installed capacity of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and Net Zero by 2070.

### **Indian Navy Signs MoU With QNu Labs For Quantum Encryption Systems**

Indian Navy partners with QNu Labs to leverage quantum-based techniques for secure communication,

Indian Navy will now deploy large-scale quantum-based encryption systems to enhance data and communication security. Indian Navy has chosen quantum cybersecurity provider QNu Labs as the partner to procure and deploy quantum key distribution-based systems. QKD is a secure communication technique using principles of quantum mechanics. The QNu Labs will be providing QKD-based Hub & Spokes systems to the Indian Navy,

The procurement order for the same was signed by Indian Navy in May. As per QNu Labs, this deal will secure the communications network against potential threats and position Indian Navy as a 'pioneer in the field of quantum secure communication within the country'.

### **Bihar govt and AAI signs MOUs to construct new Civil Enclaves**

In Bihar, new Civil Enclaves will be constructed at Darbhanga and Purnea Airport. The Government of Bihar and Airports Authority of India (AAI) have signed MOUs in this regard. Under the MOU construction will take place on 78 acres of land in Darbhanga and 52.18 acres of land in Purnea. Presently the air services are functional at Darbhanga airport from a makeshift Civil Enclave.

Under the agreement, the Government of Bihar will provide undisputed land free of cost to AAI for both airports. It will lead to the construction of well-equipped terminal buildings and passenger-centric facilities at the airports of Darbhanga and Purnea. The construction of the new Civil Enclave at Purnea Airports will also pave the way for the commencement of air services there, eliminating the existing hurdles.

### **India and Namibia co-chair the 1st Joint Commission of cooperation**

India and Namibia co-chaired the inaugural session of the Joint Commission of Cooperation, with the Indian side led by External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar and the Namibian side by DPM and FM Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah,

Aimed at strengthening the cooperation between the two countries, the inaugural Session of the JCC, will enhance and consolidate the cordial and fraternal relations between the two countries.

Further, shedding light on the India-Namibia ties, the EAM said Namibia occupies a very special place in the hearts of Indians.

He said India supported Namibia's independence and Indians were very pleased to see Namibia take its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Meanwhile, in Namibia on his first official visit, EAM Dr. S Jaishankar also held meeting with Namibian President Dr Hage G. Geingob and conveyed the personal greetings of PM Narendra Modi. During the visit, EAM Dr. S Jaishankar also participated

in inauguration of India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (INCEIT) in Windhoek.

**India and Maldives sign ten key pacts – MoU's , Adding new dimensions to historic ties**

Giving major impetus to their development partnership, India and the Maldives today inked ten new agreements.

The MOUs were exchanged during a ceremony held at the Maldivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday, attended by Minister of State for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan and Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid.

**About the MoUs** - Significantly launched under India's grant assistance, the MoUs will seek implementation of high-impact projects in 11 atolls in the Maldives while covering diverse sectors including arts, sports, education, and health.

**MoU signed between the Indian Navy and the Indian Maritime University**

The Indian Navy and Indian Maritime University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical collaboration. The MoU outlines the procedure for collaboration in various areas, including training, joint research and development, collaborative courses, and resolution of field level issues.

The collaboration will involve teams from the Centre of Excellence (Marine Engineering) at INS Shivaji, Lonavala, and the Indian Maritime University.

The Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel, and Dr. Malini V Shankar, IAS (Retd), Vice Chancellor of Indian Maritime University, signed the MoU. The agreement aims to enhance cooperation between the Indian Navy and Indian Maritime University in areas related to maritime education, research, and resolving practical challenges faced in the field. Through this collaboration, the Indian Navy and Indian Maritime University will work together to develop and implement training programs, conduct joint research projects, and address issues specific to the maritime sector.

**About: Indian Maritime University (IMU)** - It is a central university in India dedicated to maritime education, training, and research. It was established through an Act of Parliament in 2008 as a teaching-cum-affiliating university. The university has its headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and operates through its various campuses and affiliated institutes located across the country. It aims to provide quality education and training to students aspiring to pursue careers in the maritime industry, including shipping, logistics, ports, offshore sectors, and related fields.

**The third meeting of the Startup20 Engagement Group held in Goa**

The third meeting of the Startup20 Engagement Group, part of India's G20 presidency, took place in Goa on June 3-4. Startup20 serves as a prime opportunity to foster collaboration, exchange ideas, and shape the future of start ups and entrepreneurship on a global scale. The previous two meetings were held in Hyderabad and Gangtok, respectively.

The focal point of the meeting was to build consensus on the draft policy communique, which Startup20 recently published asking the public for feedback. The meeting will

feature a startup showcase, exciting talks as part of the 'Startup20x' series, cultural experiences, and discussions on the implementation and benefits of the ideas outlined in the document.

**2nd day** - The program commenced with closed-door meetings between national and international delegations and Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Chair of Startup20, focusing on key agendas and strategic partnerships.

The second day of the Startup20 Engagement Group meeting in Goa witnessed crucial discussions and meetings aimed at strengthening collaboration and aligning efforts towards the growth and support of startups globally.

### **Third G20 Health Working Group meeting begins in Hyderabad**

The 3rd G20 Health Working Group meeting was formally opened this morning – June 4, in Hyderabad. Minister of State for Health Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar behalf of Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, is taking forward the agenda of the G20 Health Track under India's Presidency. She emphasised leveraging the existing global health systems and regional health practices in a synergic manner to achieve universal health services accessible to all.

The Health Track under India's Presidency is focused on three priorities namely, Health Emergencies Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (One Health & AMR), Access and Availability to Affordable Medical countermeasures (Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics), and Digital Health.

Separate sessions will focus on the initiatives on Health Emergencies Prevention, Preparedness and Response and Strengthening Cooperation in Pharmaceutical Sector with Focus on Access and Availability to Safe, Effective, Quality, and Affordable Medical Countermeasures will be discussed besides bilateral meetings. In addition, the meeting will focus on Research and Development and Innovation in its side events.

### **NTPC Green Energy Ltd. NGEL and UPRVUNL signed MoU for development of Renewable Energy Parks**

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Lucknow yesterday with an aim to collaborate in the development of Renewable Energy Parks and Projects and to facilitate in Government of India's efforts towards energy transition.

The MoU was signed by Shri Mohit Bhargava, CEO (NGEL) and Shri Nidhi Kumar Narang, Director (Finance), UPRVUNL in the presence of Shri P. Guruprasad, MD (UPRVUNL), Shri Praveen Saxena, Regional Executive Director (NR) of NTPC. Shri V V Sivakumar, GM (NGEL) and other senior officials of NTPC, NGEL and UPRVUNL were present during the occasion.

The MoU envisages the two organizations to collaborate through setting up of floating and ground mounted Solar Projects in the Rihand reservoir, other water bodies and any available vacant land, development of solar PV Project dedicated for solarization of Ayodhya city and setting up of Renewable energy Parks and Projects wherever land is made available.

### **Two-Day National Education Ministers' Conference Begins In Gujarat Today – June 1**

The National Education Ministers' Conference started in Gujarat from today, June 1, with the focus on implementation of the new National Education Policy (NEP), Education Ministers of states and Union Territories will be participating in this two-day conference.

The conference is expected to witness deliberations on strengthening the education ecosystem in the country with focus on implementation of National Education Policy 2020, skilling in schools and digital initiatives like NDEAR, NETF, The ministers will also be visiting Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), National Forensic Science University (NFSU) and International Automobile Centre of Excellence (IACE) on June 1, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State (MoS) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology; MoS for Education Annapurna Devi and Subhash Sarkar and senior officials of the education ministry participate in the meeting.

### **India-EU Connectivity Conference begin in Meghalaya - June 1**

The Ministry of External Affairs, EU Delegation to India and the Asian Confluence have jointly organized the India-EU Connectivity Conference in Meghalaya from starting June 1.

The objective of the two-day conference is to explore possibilities of boosting connectivity investments in India's North Eastern States and with India's neighbours - Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The Conference is an outcome of the India-EU Connectivity partnership which was launched during the India-EU Leaders' Meeting in May 2021. It's inaugurated by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, and Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh. Senior officials of the Government, EU Commission, North Eastern states, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh and stakeholders from the private sector are expected to participate and provide their insights and views on the subject.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

### **Priya A.S. gets Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for children's literature**

- Priya A S, a talented writer, has been honored with the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023 in the Malayalam language for her novel "Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal" (The Children Who Never Withered). This recognition adds to her previous achievement of winning the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature in 2020 for the same novel.
- About: Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar - The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar, awarded by the Sahitya Akademi, carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and an engraved copper plaque. The winners in each language are selected by panels of three members. Dr. Paul Manalil, B S Rajeev, and Mundoor Sethumadhavan



served as the jury members for Malayalam. Priya's novel emerged as the winner among the ten recommended books considered for the award.

- Priya A S's literary prowess has earned her previous accolades as well. In 2014, she was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize for her Malayalam translation of Arundhati Roy's Booker Prize-winning novel, "The God of Small Things." This recognition further highlighted her talent and contribution to the literary world.

#### **PM Modi becomes first Indian to receive the highest civilian award of Egypt**

- The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, conferred Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the 'Order of the Nile', the highest civilian award of Egypt. PM Modi is the first Indian to have received this honour in Egypt.
- PM Modi also visited Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo during his State Visit to Egypt. PM Modi also met the leaders of Bohra community, who are actively involved in the upkeep of this Fatimid era Shi'a Mosque and highlighted the strong people to people ties between India and Egypt.
- Both leaders discussed ways to further deepen the partnership between the two countries, particularly in areas like trade and investment, information technology, defence and security,

#### **Shankar Mahadevan receives honorary doctorate in UK**

- Singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan received an honorary doctorate from Birmingham City University (BCU) in England, Shankar Mahadevan's honorary doctorate is in recognition of his significant contribution to the field of music and the arts.
- Shankar Mahadevan is 56 years old and a prominent member of the music composition trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Professor Philip Plowden, Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham City University.
- About: United Kingdom: - It is an island nation located in northwestern Europe. It consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Capital city of UK is London, Current Prime Minister - Rishi Sunak and Emperor - Charles III

#### **Arundhati Roy wins the 2023 European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement**

- Writer and activist Arundhati Roy has been awarded the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement on the occasion of the French translation of her latest essay, 'Azadi'. The French translation 'Liberte, fascisme, fiction' appeared in Gallimard, a leading French publishing group. At a function to be held on September 11 at the European Essay Prize 2023 Round Table, in partnership with the University of Lausanne (Unil), Theatre de Vidy, Lausanne, Arundhati Roy will discuss citizenship and identity, environment and globalisation, caste and language.

- The award ceremony will take place the next day (September 12) at the Lausanne Palace, where she will give a lecture. In this series of electrifying essays, Arundhati Roy challenges us to reflect on the meaning of freedom in a world of growing authoritarianism, it noted. The essays include meditations on language, public as well as private, and on the role of fiction and alternative imaginations in these disturbing times.

#### **Gandhi Peace Prize 2021 to be conferred on Gita Press: Govt**

- The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 will be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur, in recognition of its “outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods”, the ministry of culture announced. The decision to confer the award on Gita Press was taken by a jury headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by Government of India in 1995, on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item. The past awardees include organisations such as ISRO and Ramakrishna Mission.
- The past awardees include organisations such as ISRO, Ramakrishna Mission, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Akshaya Patra, Bengaluru, Ekal Abhiyan Trust, India and Sulabh International, New Delhi among others.

#### **Mp Bags Top Award For Water Conservation**

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the fourth National Water Awards in New Delhi on Saturday, recognizing and encouraging the commendable efforts made by individuals, organizations, districts, and states in water conservation. The awards, announced by the Jal Shakti Ministry, aim to create awareness about the significance of water and inspire the adoption of best water use practices. Madhya Pradesh emerged as the top-performing state in the Best State category, demonstrating its commitment to water conservation.
- Madhya Pradesh was honored with the first prize in the Best State category at the National Water Awards 2022. This recognition underscores the state’s exceptional dedication and innovative measures toward water conservation. The government, along with various stakeholders, has implemented strategies to ensure efficient water management and promote sustainable practices across the state. Madhya Pradesh’s achievement serves as an inspiration for other states to prioritize and enhance their efforts in conserving this vital resource.

### **Historian Ramachandra Guha's book wins Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023**

- Historian and writer Ramchandra Guha's book *Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom* has won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023. Guha has been awarded £5,000 (₹5 lakhs approximately) and a bound copy of Elizabeth Longford's memoir. The jury was chaired by Roy Foster. The judging committee also included Antonia Fraser and Flora Fraser (daughter and granddaughter of Longford respectively), Richard Davenport-Hines and Rana Mitter.
- *Rebels Against the Raj* shows how historical biography can illuminate the temper of the times through immersion in individual lives. As Guha points out, oppression does not disappear with the ending of colonial rule, and the ideas and priorities incisively drawn out in this book deserve urgent attention in today's India. The book has been published by Penguin Random House in India, William Collins in the U.K., and Alfred Knopf in the USA.

### **Ktr Lauds 5 Green Apple Awards To Telangana**

- In the Urban and Real Estate Sector category, Telangana has been awarded with the International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings. For the first time any building or structure in India has received these prestigious awards. The awards are presented annually by The Green Organization, an independent non-profit organisation based in London, to recognize and promote global environmental best practices.

#### **The five selected buildings and structures:-**

1. Mozzam-Jahi Market (Heritage category)
2. Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge (Bridge category)
3. B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat Building falls under the aesthetically designed office and workspace category
4. Integrated Command Control Center of Telangana Police is a distinctive type of office.
5. Yadadri Temple (Excellent religious structures category)

### **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor Of The Year' at Central Banking Awards 2023 ?**

- The chief of the Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das was honoured with the title of 'Governor of the Year' for 2023 by Central Banking in London. Central Banking is an international economic research journal. The award recognised his role as the RBI chief in managing inflation and skilfully handling India's banking system during crises like COVID pandemic and global turmoils.
- The RBI governor is behind critical reforms, and has ensured smooth management of world-leading payments innovation and led India through difficult times,
- Das has also received honorary doctorates from several universities, including Utkal University, the University of Madras, and the University of Mysore.

#### **Guwahati railway station awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI**

- The Guwahati Railway Station of N F Railway has been awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) in recognition of providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- The station has been able to qualify the guidelines established by FSSAI and becomes the first railway station in N F Railway to get this status. This certification has been awarded for the period of June 2, 2023 to June 2, 2025. Further, in its endeavour to ensure safe and hygienic food to passengers, N F Railway has planned to take up more stations in future like Rangiya, Lumding, Tinsukia, Alipurduar Jn. and Katihar to qualify as 'Eat Right Station'.

#### **Jagdish Sudhakar Bakan , first Indian to receive UNESCO's Michel Batisse Award**

Having made a laudable contribution in the field of conservation, Bakan Jagdish Sudhakar, an Indian Forest Officer who is the Wildlife Warden and Director of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu, has made the country proud. He has been selected as the first Indian for the prestigious UNESCO's Michel Batisse Award for effective biosphere reserve management.

On June 14 Sudhakar will receive the \$12,000 award and deliver a lecture on his case study in Paris. The award which is bestowed once in two years in memory of Dr Michel Batisse was instituted in 2004 by the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO.

The IFS official's name was recommended for his case study titled "Development of Sustainable Livelihood and Community Based Biodiversity Conservation and Environment Protection".

#### **Indian origin Joyeeta Gupta awarded 'Dutch Nobel Prize'**

Indian-origin professor Joyeeta Gupta has been awarded the Spinoza Prize, the highest distinction in Dutch science, for her scientific work focusing on a "just and sustainable world".

Gupta, Professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam since 2013, was chosen by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) selection committee for her "incredibly broad and interdisciplinary" research.

Also referred sometimes as the '**Dutch Nobel Prize**', the award will give Gupta 1.5 million euros to spend on scientific research and activities related to knowledge utilisation.

Gupta's research involves solution to issues arising from climate change through good governance. At the core of her research is an attempt to unravel the connections between the climate crisis, global water challenges, possible solutions and justice,

#### **Former PM Jacinda Ardern receives New Zealand's second-highest honour**

Former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern received one of New Zealand's highest honours for her service leading the country through a mass shooting and coronavirus pandemic.

Ardern received the Dame Grand Companionship, New Zealand's second -highest honour, as part of the King Charles Birthday Honours.

In New Zealand, royal honorees are typically chosen twice a year by the Prime Minister and signed off by Charles, the British king who is also recognised as New Zealand's king. In a statement, Prime Minister of New Zealand, said that she was being recognised for her service during some of the greatest challenges our country has faced in modern times.

### **President Droupadi Murmu conferred with highest civilian honour of Suriname**

President Droupadi Murmu has been decorated with the highest civilian honour of Suriname – The Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star, in Paramaribo, the capital city of Suriname. She received the honor from the President of the Republic of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi. President Murmu is the first Indian to receive this award. President Murmu is on a 3-day state visit to Suriname. Yesterday, President Murmu held delegation level talks with her Surinamese counterpart. During the discussions, the President noted that like India, Suriname is also a diverse country where people of different castes, languages, and religions live in peace and harmony. She said that deep historical and cultural ties provide the foundation for the India-Suriname multifaceted and modern partnership. She was happy to note that Hindi is widely spoken in Suriname which reminds her of her motherland.

The President also noted that bilateral trade between the two countries is well below potential. She said that there is a need to work together to expand bilateral trade for mutual benefit.

### **RANKING**

#### **India ranks 67th on WEF's Energy Transition Index, Sweden tops**

- With significant improvement in key parameters of energy equity & security, and environmental sustainability, India jumped 20 places to the 67th position among 120 countries in the 'Energy Transition Index' (ETI), according to a report released by the World Economic Forum Wednesday. ETI benchmarks the countries on the performance of their energy systems, and also their readiness to secure sustainable energy systems.
- India's energy transition has garnered international recognition for its accelerated progress across all dimensions. The report emphasizes India's commitment to building a secure and sustainable energy future despite continued economic growth. One of India's notable achievements is the achievement of universal access to electricity. By replacing solid fuels with cleaner cooking options, India has improved the quality of life for its citizens while reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption.
- Reduction in Energy Intensity and Carbon Intensity - India's energy transition journey highlights significant strides in reducing energy intensity and carbon intensity. Through the implementation of energy-efficient measures and the adoption of cleaner technologies, India has successfully decoupled its economic growth from energy consumption and reduced its carbon footprint.



### **IIT Bombay ranked 1st in India and 149th in world in QS World University Rankings**

- IIT Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 149th in world in QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings. It has moved significantly up from 172nd rank last year to 149th rank this year. For the first time ever, IITB has been ranked within top 150 and top 10% in QS rankings.
- IITB has a score of 81.9 in employer reputation, 73.1 in citation per faculty, 55.5 in academic reputation, 47.4 in employment outcome, 54.9 in sustainability. Among the various 9 parameters employer reputation indicated the strongest one for IIT Bombay with a rank of 69 globally. Director of IIT Bombay Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri said, excellence in teaching is the key driving point for IIT Bombay. He said, efforts lie in providing an ambience and infrastructure that is conducive to achieving excellence by students and faculties.

### **India ranked 40th spot in 2023. Global Competitiveness Index, Denmark shines again**

- India has dropped three spots to the 40th position on the latest Global Competitiveness Index released by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), a Moneycontrol report said. While this represents a decline from last year, it is an improvement from the 43rd rank secured in 2019-2021.
- The IMD's World Competitiveness Centre (WCC) report highlighted India's progress in government efficiency but pointed out lagging performance in business efficiency, infrastructure, and economic performance. Key factors contributing to India's score were exchange rate stability, compensation levels, and advancements in pollution control.
- The report cited by Moneycontrol also identified several challenges India is expected to face in 2023. These include sustaining high GDP growth, managing financial market volatility, controlling inflation and fiscal deficit, accelerating digital transformation, and mobilizing resources for infrastructure development.

### **Hurun India list: Reliance most valuable private company in India; Adani firms' combined value falls by 52**

- The recently released Hurun India's '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500' list highlights the changes in the valuation of India's top 500 companies. According to the report, Reliance Industries Limited, led by Mukesh Ambani, has claimed the title of the most valuable private sector company in India. Meanwhile, the Adani Group has witnessed a significant decline in its combined value. Let's delve into the details and explore the key findings of the report.
- In the latest Hurun India rankings, Reliance Industries Limited has emerged as India's most valuable company among the top 500. With a valuation of Rs 16.3 lakh crore, Reliance Industries has surpassed other industry giants. This showcases the consistent growth and strong market position of the company led by Mukesh Ambani.

### **Mumbai ranked number 1 in most expensive city for expats in India, Hong Kong tops globally**

A report by Mercer's Cost of Living has positioned Mumbai as the most expensive city in India for expatriates. According to the report, after Mumbai, cities like New Delhi and Bengaluru fall on the second and third place in the most expensive list for expats list in India.

The Mercer's Cost of Living survey was conducted across 227 cities from across five continents.

In Mercer's 2023 Cost of Living survey, Mumbai has been positioned at 147 in the global ranking, New Delhi at 169, Chennai (184), Bengaluru (189), Hyderabad (202), Kolkata (211), and Pune (213).

Globally, Hong Kong, Singapore and Zurich are the most expensive cities for international employees this year, the report shows.

The survey measures the comparative cost of more than 200 items in each location, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment.

### **J&K maintains first rank in UT category in Food Safety Index 2022-23**

In a significant achievement, Jammu and Kashmir has maintained its first rank in the Union Territory (UT) category in Food Safety Index 2022 -23. The Department of Food and Drugs Administration J&K has received the award third time in a row for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

The index is released annually by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to measure the performance of states and UTs on various parameters of food safety.

The award was received by Food Safety Commissioner Shakeel-ul-Rehman from Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, in the presence of Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar and Professor Satya Pal Singh Baghel, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Chairman FSSAI, Rajesh Bhushan and CEO FSSAI, G. Kamala Vardhana Rao.

Jammu and Kashmir also won first prize for having the maximum number of Eat Right Mela districts in the country. These districts have implemented various initiatives of FSSAI to promote healthy and safe food habits among consumers.

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

### **Rupa Pai wrote a new book called - The Yoga Sutras for Children**

- A new book titled "The Yoga Sutras for Children" by Indian author Roopa Pai was published by Hachette India on 27 June. Roopa Pai's book, "The Gita for Children" was an award-winning bestseller. Now the book "Yoga Sutras for Children" focuses on uncovering the secrets of Patanjali's 2,000-year-old treatise on yoga.
- The book shares Maharishi Patanjali's techniques to "nurture energies and attitudes, enabling them to do small and big things in a focused and balanced way". Featuring black-and-white artwork by illustrator Sayan Mukherjee, the book helps young readers to approach their increasingly complex lives with positivity and confidence. According to the publishers, Pai, in this "surprising"

and “sparkling” book, unravels the secrets of Patanjali’s compact 2,000-year-old text in ways both fun and accessible.

**“A Life Well Spent — Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service” by Satish Chandra**

- Ambassador Satish Chandra, an Indian diplomat, has penned a book titled ‘A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service,’ chronicling his extensive career in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) from 1965 to 2005. The book delves into his journey from being an IFS probationer to assuming the role of Deputy National Security Advisor, providing valuable perspectives on Indian diplomacy and tracing the development of the National Security Council (NSC) framework. Published in May 2023 by Rupa Publications, this insightful work offers readers a deeper understanding of Ambassador Satish Chandra’s experiences and the evolution of Indian foreign policy.
- Satish Chandra is currently being the Vice Chairman of the New Delhi i-based think tank, influential brains trust, Vivekananda International Foundation. Satish Chandra who joined the IFS in 1965 was posted in Indian missions till 1989. He served as India’s ambassador to the Philippines, its permanent representative to the UN Offices in Geneva, (Switzerland) and its High Commissioner to Pakistan. He was the chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee and, was the deputy national security advisor.

**BANKING AND ECONOMY**

**ICICI Lombard and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance jointly launch ‘iShield’**

- CICI Lombard General Insurance and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance have jointly launched an insurance solution, “iShield”, which will provide customers with both, health and life insurance. The plan will enable customers to take care of expenses required for medical treatments. Besides, it will also provide a lump sum amount to the family in case of the unfortunate demise of the policyholder.
- iShield, with its two-in-one benefit, will provide customers with the convenience of managing their health and life insurance needs through a single proposition instead of purchasing separate products for each of them. Customers can easily purchase this solution by filling in a single application and undergoing a medical check-up. Besides the vast agent network, multiple easy-to-use touchpoints such as the company website or the mobile app will provide customers with a hassle-free purchase and premium payment experience.

**World Bank approves \$700 million for crisis-hit Sri Lanka**

- The World Bank has approved a substantial funding package of 700 million dollars for Sri Lanka, providing a significant boost to the country's financial situation. Out of the approved funds, approximately 500 million dollars will be allocated for budgetary support, aimed at stabilizing the country's economy. The remaining 200 million dollars will be dedicated to welfare support, with the objective of assisting those most affected by the ongoing crisis.

- Sri Lanka's financial crisis - Sri Lanka has been facing its most severe financial crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. The country experienced record lows in Foreign Exchange reserves last year, prompting India to provide humanitarian assistance totaling approximately 4 billion dollars through grants and lines of credit.
- The World Bank's assistance represents the largest amount of financial support received by the crisis-stricken nation since the approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement in March. The IMF agreement provided Sri Lanka with an extended fund facility of close to 3 billion dollars, which will be available over a 48-month period.

#### **RBI imposes 30 Lakh penalty on Standard Chartered Bank and others**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties on Standard Chartered Bank, four credit bureaus, and seven cooperative banks for various violations. Standard Chartered Bank was fined ₹30 lakh for non-compliance with KYC directions. The credit bureaus, including Experian, TransUnion CIBIL, Equifax, and CRIF High Mark, faced penalties totaling ₹1 crore for inadequate maintenance of accurate credit information. Additionally, the RBI penalized seven cooperative banks, including UP Co-operative Bank, for violating certain provisions.
- Deficiencies in Regulatory Compliance The penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and does not question the validity of any transactions or agreements between the bank and its customers.

#### **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Launches Nishchit Pension Plan**

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Limited (ABSLI), a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has recently launched a new retirement solution called ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan. This plan is specifically designed to help individuals plan for their retirement by providing a 100% guaranteed corpus, ensuring a secure and uninterrupted income during their golden years.
- The ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan offers several key features. Firstly, it allows policyholders to accumulate a guaranteed corpus by providing accrued guaranteed additions throughout the policy term. Additionally, a loyalty addition is provided at the end of the policy term, as long as the policy remains active and all premiums have been paid. These features ensure that policyholders can accumulate a fully guaranteed corpus by their desired retirement age, guaranteeing a steady income after retirement.
- Another notable aspect of the plan is its flexibility, as it allows policyholders to defer the Vesting Benefit for up to 10 years. This flexibility ensures that individuals can align their retirement planning with their specific life goals.

#### **Infosys signs \$454 million deal with Danske Bank for digital transformation**

- Infosys has announced a long-term collaboration with Danske Bank to drive the bank's digital transformation ambitions with speed and scale. The projected

agreement worth is \$454 million for a 5-year term with the possibility to renew for an extra year up to three times.

- This agreement, according to the company's exchange filing, shall help Danske Bank accomplish its strategic priorities of enhanced client experiences, operational excellence, and a modernised technological environment powered by next-generation technologies. As part of this agreement, Infosys will also buy Danske Bank's IT centre in India, which employs over 1,400 people.

#### **Manipal Technologies partners with Indian Bank to offer customized banking solution**

- Manipal Technologies Limited has stated that it has partnered with state-owned Indian Bank to drive financial inclusion by offering customised banking products.
- The partnership aims to build a sustainable network of corporate business correspondents (CBCs) that will enhance the availability, affordability, and accessibility of financial services, particularly in underserved markets and rural areas, it said in a release.
- As part of this association, Manipal Technologies Limited (MTL) will work closely with Indian Bank to offer tailor-made banking products in rural locations. The initial focus will be serving more than 600 locations and gradually expanding the presence in newer regions in states such as Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Punjab,

#### **REC to provide ₹3,045 cr finance to Bangalore Metro**

- REC Limited, a Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power, has announced its decision to provide financial assistance of Rs 3,045 crore to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for the Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro.
- The assistance was approved by the REC Board during a meeting. The Ministry of Power released a statement confirming the extension of financial support to BMRCL.
- About: Phase-II project of Namma Metro - The Phase-II project of Namma Metro includes the extension of the existing East-West Corridor and North-South Corridor of Phase-I, as well as the addition of two new lines: RV Road to Bommasandra and Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara.
- These new metro lines will help alleviate traffic congestion in high-traffic areas of Bangalore. Upon completion of Phase-II, the Namma Metro network will cover a total distance of 114.39 km and have 101 stations.

#### **ADB approves USD 295mn loan to improve transport connectivity in Bihar**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$295 million loan to widen and upgrade around 265 kilometers of state highways, improving transport connectivity and safety in the state of Bihar in India. The highways will be upgraded with climate- and disaster-resilient design, road safety elements, and other features that will respond to the needs of the elderly, women, children, and people with disabilities.



- The project will also encourage women's participation by providing employment to female workers in construction works. Trainings in livelihood as well as awareness on road safety, health and hygiene, and abuse and harassment will be offered to women from communities in the project areas.
- Initiatives to strengthen transport planning, safety, and sustainability within Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited will be implemented. These include developing a road asset management system which includes climate change and disaster risk information, establishing research laboratories with training equipment in the Bihar Road Research Institute, conducting studies on congestion management and climate adaptation, and creating guidelines for gender-inclusive practices in road safety measures.

### **RBI imposes ₹2.5 crore penalty on Jammu & Kashmir Bank; Axis Bank, Bank of Maharashtra also penalized**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty on three private and public sector lenders on Friday. The central bank charged Jammu & Kashmir Bank with ₹2.5 crore penalty, while the BSE-S0003537" data-name="Bank of Maharashtra">Bank of Maharashtra faced a fine of ₹1.45 crore. Axis Bank received the least amount of penalty among them to the tune of ₹30 lakh.
- Jammu & Kashmir Bank - RBI imposed a ₹2.5 crore penalty on J&K Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures-Across Banks', read with 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) – Revision in Reporting', 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and other Restrictions' and 'Time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls'.
- Bank of Maharashtra - This government-owned bank was imposed with ₹1.45 crore penalty for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions' and Advisory on 'Man in the Middle (MiTM) Attacks in ATMs' (the Advisory).
- Axis Bank - Axis Bank, one of the leading private sector lenders, was penalised with ₹30 lakh due to its non-compliance with certain provisions of the RBI directions on 'Prudential Norms on
- Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning pertaining to Advances – Credit Card Accounts'.

### **Google to invest 10 billion dollars in India's digitisation fund; Amazon to infuse another 15 billion dollar**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today 24 June, separately met Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy, and Boeing CEO David Calhoun in Washington DC. After meeting Mr. Modi, Google CEO Sundar Pichai said, he shared with the Prime Minister that Google is investing 10 billion dollars in India's digitisation fund. He also announced the opening of Google's global fintech operation centre in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- Mr. Pichai said, Prime Minister's vision for Digital India was way ahead of his time and he now sees it as a blueprint that other countries are looking to do. Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy said, his company is one of the biggest investors in India. He said, they have already

invested 11 billion dollars and with an intention to invest another 15 billion dollars bringing the total to 26 billion dollars.

#### **World Bank approves \$150-million loan for Resilient Kerala programme**

- The World Bank's Board of Directors has approved a \$150-million loan to support the Resilient Kerala programme designed to strengthen Kerala's preparedness for natural disasters, climate change impact, and disease outbreaks.
- "This additional financing will further deepen Kerala's resilience in the critical areas of coastal erosion and water resource management," the World Bank said in a statement.
- The loan, from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a final maturity of 14 years, including a grace period of six years. It complements the World Bank's earlier investment of \$125 million and the overall support is expected to protect nearly 50 lakh people from the impact of floods, the bank said.
- "Through this additional financing, the World Bank will continue supporting Kerala in increasing its resilience to climate change," Auguste Tano Kouame, the bank's Country Director for India said. "The project will focus on addressing coastal erosion along vulnerable areas of the State – impacting millions of lives.

#### **Axis Bank launches new feature to manage multiple accounts on one platform**

- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts, including non-Axis accounts.
- The feature has been launched using the open banking principle leveraging the account aggregator (AA) ecosystem-an industry-first initiative, the private sector bank said.
- AA or data aggregator platforms provide secure sharing of information while maintaining customer consent and data privacy.
- Customers can link their non-Axis Bank accounts and get a comprehensive view of their balance, transactions and statements on a real-time basis, thus simplifying the process of managing finances and providing access to multiple bank accounts on one platform.
- The feature will eliminate the need for multiple mobile banking applications and also allow customers to download and e-mail transaction details from their linked accounts, the bank said.

#### **Union Bank launches four new deposit schemes targeted at women, pensioners and co-operative societies**

- Union Bank of India has debuted four specialised bank accounts catering to different segments of the population, namely women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners, and cooperative housing societies.
- The first account, called Union Unnati, is a current account designed specifically for women entrepreneurs and professionals, providing free cancer care

coverage, personal accident cover, discounts in loan interest rates, retail loan processing charges, and minimal service fees.

- Another account that targets women is the Union Samriddhi, which empowers women through a safe and convenient savings and financial management outlet, offering the same benefits as Union Unnati.
- The Union Samman, on the other hand, is a savings account intended for pensioners, with door-step banking, personal accident coverage, discounts in loan interest rates and processing fees, and free health check-ups.
- Lastly, Union SBCHS recognises the importance of cooperative housing societies, providing discounts in loan processing fees for purchasing solar lights, elevators, and other machinery, as well as concessional rates for home, vehicle, and education loans for society and flat owners.

#### **Finance Minister Sitharaman Receives Dividend Cheque Of Rs 5,740 Crore From SBI**

- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector bank, has presented a dividend cheque of Rs 5,740 crore to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the financial year 2022-23. The dividend payment was made by SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, in the presence of Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi. This dividend amount marks the highest-ever dividend given by SBI to the Government of India for a financial year.
- The finance minister's office tweeted about the event, stating that Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman received the dividend cheque from SBI Chairman Shri Dinesh Kumar Khara. Also present at the ceremony was Secretary of Financial Services, Shri Vivek Joshi. The ceremony highlighted the significant contribution made by SBI to the government's revenue and emphasized the bank's strong financial performance.

#### **SBI Mutual Fund gets IRDAI nod to acquire up to 10% stake in ICICI Lombard**

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has given its approval to SBI Mutual Fund, along with its group entities or body corporate under the same management, for acquiring up to 10% of the total paid up equity share capital of ICICI Lombard General Insurance through market purchase.
- IrdaI advised SBI Mutual Fund to ensure that the total shareholding of SBI Mutual fund along with its group entities or body corporate under the same management should not exceed 10% of the total paid-up equity share capital of ICICI Lombard. "Further, the approval of IrdaI is valid for a period of one year from the date of IrdaI approval letter," according to the stock exchange filing.
- This approval is subject to compliance with applicable provisions of IRDAI (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2022, Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015, Insurance Act/Rules/Regulations, Orders, Circulars etc.

### **ADB Approves \$130 Million Loan for Horticulture in Himachal Pradesh**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$130 million loan to increase agricultural productivity and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh, India.
- The project interventions will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least 15,000 farm households across seven districts of the state namely Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una,
- The project will improve on-farm irrigation and water management in about 6,000 hectares of farmland by rehabilitating or building new irrigation schemes and strengthening the capacity of WUAs for micro-irrigation management through joint efforts from the state's Jal Shakti Vibhag. The project will also help create an ecosystem to enhance farmers' access to markets of subtropical horticulture.

### **In a first, IOB launches 'My Account My Name' for SB account holders**

- In a first of its kind initiative in the banking industry, the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) Introduced "My Account My Name" for SB account customers,
- According to this the account holder can choose any easy to remember 7 digit / character account name for their savings account number with IOB.
- The schemes were launched from Central Office, Chennai, virtually by IOB MD and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava with all the 49 Regional Offices spread over India.
- The account name can be a combination of 7 letters only, or 7 numbers only or 7 alpha numeric only like, AJIT007, PRADHAN or 2424707 etc. So the Customers will not be required to remember their 15 digits account numbers, To begin with, this facility of "My Account My Name" is available for IOB SB HNI and IOB SB salary account customers.

### **SIDBI launches mission EVOLVE to finance MSMEs in the EV sector**

SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) launched mission EVOLVE (Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem) in association with World Bank, NITI Aayog, Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) and Korean-World Bank to finance MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) in the EV space.

Under the initiative, SIDBI will give MSMEs access to affordable commercial financing for EV loans including hosting of telematics that could help reduce financing costs and provide data for other financial services.

The programme comes in the backdrop of SIDBI's aim to support India's target for 30 per cent EV penetration by 2030 or EV30@30. "Addressing the challenges of high - interest rates and limited availability of financing to the EV sector, EVOLVE unlocks access to affordable commercial financing for EV Loans, S Ramann, CMD, SIDBI also emphasized creating a database of the EV ecosystem to understand and extend the life of the EVs. "The data would be available for policymakers to assess the gaps and further strengthen the EV ecosystem.

### **SIDBI signs pact with HDFC Bank to offer financial solutions to MSMEs**

State-owned Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank for providing financial solutions to MSMEs.

Under the MoU, SIDBI and HDFC Bank will work together to provide complete financial product and services to the customers under Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The MoU will facilitate providing complete financial solutions to MSMEs in a seamless manner.

This arrangement will enable MSMEs to avail financial products and services of both the banks.

Both banks will endeavour to bring more MSMEs in financial ecosystems through the arrangement.

**About: SIDBI** - Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the apex regulatory body for overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India headquartered at Lucknow. It is active in the development of Micro Finance Institutions through the SIDBI Foundation for Micro Credit and assists in extending microfinance through the Micro Finance Institution (MFI) route.

### **HSBC India unveils new campaign “My Account Starts Today” featuring ace cricketer Virat Kohli**

HSBC India unveiled its latest advertising campaign featuring their new brand influencer, ace cricketer Virat Kohli. The campaign highlights HSBC's purpose of “Opening up a world of opportunity” as it works to support the goals of an aspirational India going global and features Virat in a never-before-seen avatar. Virat was recently announced as the brand influencer for HSBC India, in an association that aimed at leveraging the ace cricketer's appeal to help illustrate the benefits of banking, with HSBC. The campaign will run across print, television, outdoor, OTT platforms and digital media to connect with the target audience.

Virat is seen telling millions of viewers in the final moments of the advertisement to forget about all his accomplishments and his cricketing past and instead to concentrate on the new opportunities and the persona he is about to assume. He finally walks out of the dressing room, and through open doors into an energetic stadium. The symbolic open doors change into the HSBC logo with the powerful tagline “My Account Starts Today” as Virat moves away from the camera.

### **RBI imposes Rs 2.20 cr penalty on Indian Overseas Bank for rule violations**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.20 crore on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for violating various rules and regulations.

The penalty was imposed due to the bank's failure to make a minimum mandatory transfer of a sum equivalent to 25 percent of its disclosed profit and a significant



divergence between the non-performing assets (NPAs) reported by the bank and those assessed during inspection.

As per regulatory requirements, banks are mandated to transfer a certain portion of their profits to their reserve funds to ensure financial stability and cushion against unforeseen losses. IOB's non-compliance with this rule has resulted in the imposition of a penalty.

Further, the bank offered interest on deposits of non-individual constituents at rates applicable to senior / super senior citizens, in certain instances, and it failed to implement control measures for ATMs relating to end-to-end encryption of communication between the ATM terminal/PC and the ATM Switch, within the timelines prescribed, according to the release.

The RBI in this regard sent two notices to the bank, advising the lender to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed.

### **RBL Bank launches ACE Fixed Deposit Scheme with 8.5% interest**

To provide better saving options for customers, RBL bank introduced its ACE Fixed Deposit scheme with an interest of up to 8.50 per cent. The new saving scheme can be taken for a tenure of 12 months to 20 years. The new scheme will provide more options for customers in terms of banks and rewards.

Under the scheme, the bank is offering 20 bps higher rate of interest, over and above the regular callable deposits (Fixed Deposit with premature withdrawal). Moreover, senior citizens and super senior citizens getting 50 bps and 75 bps higher interest rate respectively. The minimum deposit value of the FD scheme is ₹50 lakh and maximum deposit value is ₹2 crore. Investment of large amount for 1-20 years will help people in aligning their investment strategy with their long-term financial goals.

The RBL FD scheme is available for residents as well as non-residents of India. It is available for senior citizens and super senior citizens with 50 bps and 75 bps higher interest rate respectively.