

# Monthly G.K Capsule

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. Punjab government launched 'CM di Yogshala' programme in Punjab**

- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister (CM) Mr Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Mr Bhagwant Mann jointly launched the 'CM di Yogshala' programme. Its aim is to create a mass movement to carve out a healthy and prosperous Punjab. The initiative was initially launched for 4 cities of Punjab : Patiala, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Phagwara
- Under this initiative, people will be able to avail free yoga classes in these 4 cities. A 'CM di yogshala' portal was also launched on the occasion. The formation of these Yogshalas will be under a pilot project. Trained Yoga instructors will impart free Yoga training to people in open parks and other public places.

### **2. Bangladesh gets 450 MW power from Adani**

- The Bangladesh Power Development Board received 450 MW of electricity from Adani Power, a subsidiary of the Indian Adani Group, on a trial basis. Power is supplied from Adani's power plant in Godda, Jharkhand. Bangladesh has been importing electricity from India since 2013, and now receives 1,000MW daily from Baharampur in West Bengal and 160MW from Suryamoni in Tripura.
- Adani and BPDB completed the transmission line ahead of the test run, and the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh installed a substation at Bogra to transmit power from the Godda plant and a 134 km transmission line from the Chapainawabganj border.

### **3. PM inaugurates program 'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger' in Mysuru, Karnataka**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the program 'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger' at Mysuru University in Mysuru, Karnataka. The Prime Minister also launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA). He released the publications - 'Amrit Kaal Ka Vision For Tiger Conservation', a summary report of the 5th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves, declared tiger numbers and released the summary report of All India Tiger Estimation (5th cycle). He also released a commemorative coin on the completion of 50 years of Project Tiger.

### **4. Amit Shah will launch the 'Vibrant Village Programme' on his visit to Arunachal Pradesh**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a tour of Arunachal Pradesh adjacent to the China border. Be it North Bengal or Arunachal Pradesh, preparations to deal with China on the border should be firm. Beijing had recently released the Chinese names of some areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

India strongly rejected it and made it clear that such moves of the dragon are useless.

- Amit Shah will meet Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) jawans. At the same time, Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) Anil Chauhan examined the preparations in another part of the eastern sector.

### **5. World's First conservative breeding center to be Inaugrated in UP**

- Uttar Pradesh's Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC) in Maharajganj district, the world's first conservation and breeding centre built and designed exclusively for the conservation of Asian king vulture, is ready to be inaugurated. The Asian king vulture is critically endangered and protected under the Wildlife Protection Act.

### **6. India, Bangladesh, Japan to hold connectivity meet in Tripura**

- India-Japan-Bangladesh will organise a mega meet in Tripura on April 11-12 to put in place connectivity initiatives to harness commercial potential of the region. The meet will be attended by Deputy Foreign Ministers of India and Bangladesh besides Chief Minister of Tripura and Japanese envoy to India. Japan is investing in NE India and Bangladesh including deep sea port at Matarbari in Bangladesh that will connect the landlocked region with Bay of Bengal.

### **7. Ministry of Culture promotes Indian folk arts and culture abroad through Global Engagement Scheme**

- The Ministry of Culture in India is dedicated to promoting India Folk Arts and Culture abroad through various initiatives. The Global Engagement Scheme is one such initiative that organizes Festivals of India in other countries to showcase the country's rich culture, including folk art, exhibitions, dance, music, theatre, film, food festivals, and yoga events. This scheme also highlights the diverse culture of North-East India to the world. The ministry provides grant-in-aid to Indo-Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies to organize programs and activities that promote the country's culture across the world.

### **8. Mumbai ranks among world's tree-rich cities 2022, second time in a row**

- India's commercial capital Mumbai has been included in the World Tree City 2022 list, for the second consecutive year. The Arbor Day Foundation Chief Executive Dan Lambe has awarded the TCW certificate signed by Hiroto Mitsugi to the BMC authorities.
- The United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and ADF conduct the TCW programme and in the past 50 years, the ADF has planted more than 35 crore trees worldwide, with a target of 50 crore more trees by 2027.

### **9. Law Minister releases Dogri version of Indian Constitution**

- Union Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, released the first edition of Dogri version of the Constitution of India at University of Jammu here. Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justice Kotishwar Singh, Senior Judges of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Vice Chancellor, JU, Professor Umesh Rai, Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Avny Lavasa, faculty members of the University, senior functionaries from the Center and J&K government were present on the occasion. Speaking during the event, the Union Minister termed this translated document very significant in dispensation of justice to common people. He maintained that understanding law.

### **10.Aam Aadmi Party got the status of national party**

- The Election Commission of India has granted national party status to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on 10 April 2023. Along with this, the Election Commission of India has withdrawn the status of being a national party from many political parties. While many political parties were given the status of state level party.
- The Election Commission has withdrawn the national party status of Sharad Pawar's party NCP, CPI and Trinamool Congress (TMC). In Uttar Pradesh, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has also been withdrawn as a state party.

### **11.Nilesh Sambre conferred with 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023' by Maharashtra State**

- Nilesh Bhagwan Sambre, founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation, was recently awarded the "Maratha Udyog Ratna" at the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023" organised by the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Development and Guidance Institute Maharashtra State".
- The award was given to Nilesh Sambre for his impressive achievements in the industry sector and his tireless work in remote areas like Palghar. Nilesh Bhagwan Sambre is also known as Appa. The award was presented by eminent entrepreneurs from Maharashtra, including Suresh Haware, Purushottam Khedekar, Nirmalkumar Deshmukh, Dr. Sachin Bhadane and Vijay Ghogare.

### **12.Himachal Pradesh launches project Sanjeevani to empower dairy farmers**

- Himachal Pradesh's economy is largely banking on agriculture and animal husbandry. With a livestock population of about 4.41 million, their care is an essential part of every rural household.
- For them, the state government has launched a project named Sanjeevani that helps in empowering the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners. It will enhance the lives of farmers by providing them convenient and quality care for livestock at their doorsteps. Telemedicine and technology will help reducing the turnaround time of services and also arrest outbreaks to one extent.

### **13.PM Modi flags off Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train on 12 April. The inaugural train will run between Jaipur and Delhi Cantt Railway Station. Regular train service will start between Ajmer and Delhi Cantt with stops at Jaipur, Alwar and Gurgaon.
- New Vande Bharat Express will cover the distance between Delhi Cantt and Ajmer in 5 hrs 15 mins. The fastest train on the same route, Shatabdi Express takes 6 hrs 15 mins from Delhi Cantt to Ajmer.
- Thus the new Vande Bharat Express will be 60 minutes faster than the existing fastest train running on the same route.

### **14.W-20 International meeting begins in Rajasthan's Jaipur**

- The second Women 20 (W20) international meeting was held on 13 April in Jaipur, Rajasthan and the meeting was attended by 120 women leaders from 18 G20 countries.
- The purpose of this meeting is to address the issues of gender inequality and promote economic empowerment of women globally. The Women-20 is an official G20 engagement group, and the meeting focuses on the theme of "Women-led development: Leveraging the untapped potential of women to accelerate an inclusive and sustainable future".

### **15.Gond painting from Madhya Pradesh receives GI tag**

- The famed Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh has received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. A geographical Indication (GI) tag is a sign used on products which have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- It is used for industrial products, foodstuff, agriculture products, spirit drinks, and handicrafts. GI Tag ensures that no one other than the registered authorised user is allowed to use the name of the popular product.

### **16.UP's Suhelwa sanctuary records first photographic proof of tigers**

- The recently released report on the census of tigers in the country states that Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary is a new area where photographic evidence of tigers has been recorded for the first time.
- The sanctuary, located in Shravasti, Balrampur and Gonda districts of Uttar Pradesh, was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1988. It is spread over an area of 452 sq km. It is situated on the Indo-Nepal international border and is rich in natural resources. It is named after King Soheldev. Adjacent to the sanctuary area are the Shivalik ranges of the Himalayas.

### **17.Country's first 3D-printed post office coming up in Bengaluru**

- Bengaluru will soon have India's first post office constructed using 3D printing technology. The project at Cambridge Layout in Ulsoor is being implemented by Larsen & Toubro, which has experience in constructing 3D-printed buildings.



- The Ulsoor Bazaar post office is being relocated to Cambridge Layout with the aim to reduce the construction cost. The 1,100 sqft building is expected to cost 30-40 per cent less than conventional buildings because of the technological intervention. The post office is being built at a cost of Rs 23 lakh.

### **18.Two-day SCO Young Writers' Conference concludes in New Delhi**

- A two-day (April 12-13) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Young Writers' Conference on the theme "Civilizational Dialogue among SCO Member States" with representatives of SCO member states concluded on April 13, 2023 at The Leela Palace, New Delhi.
- Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, presided as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the SCO Young Writers' Conference on 13 April. It was organized by the Ministry of Education at The Leela Palace, New Delhi with National Book Trust as the implementing agency.
- Theme: **"Civilizational Dialogue among SCO Member States"**

### **19.India to host maiden Global Buddhist meet next week**

- India will host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference next week, taking forward the agenda it had outlined at the SCO international meet on shared Buddhist heritage last month.
- Participants will come to New Delhi from Central, East, and South Asia, and the Middle East for the two-day program, which has been organized by India's Ministry of Culture, Ministry of External Affairs, and the International Buddhist Confederation.

### **20.Union Minister Parshottam Rupala to launch 'Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)**

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD), Parshottam Rupala will launch the 'Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)' as well as the World Bank-funded 'Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH)' project under the aegis of National One Health Mission tomorrow in New Delhi.
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has inked a collaborative project on the Animal Health System Support for One Health with the World Bank aiming to create an ecosystem for a better animal health management system using the One Health approach.

### **21.Haryana becomes first state in India to have 100% electrified railway network**

- Indian Railways has successfully completed 100% electrification of railway network in the state of Haryana in March 2023 and with this achievement, Haryana has become the first state in India to have 100% electrified railway network.
- The electrification project covers the existing broad gauge network of 1,701 route kilometres in Haryana. The completion of this project will reduce the

dependence of Indian Railways on imported crude oil and also save foreign exchange.

## **22.Himachal Pradesh's Kangra tea gets European GI tag**

- The European Commission (EC) has recently granted Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status to Kangra tea, a unique variety of tea grown in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh in India.
- This is a significant achievement for Kangra tea, as it joins the list of other Indian products such as Darjeeling tea, Basmati rice and Pashmina shawls, which have been accorded the same status in the European Union.

## **23.PM Modi inaugurated CBI's diamond jubilee celebrations**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 3rd April at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. An investiture ceremony was also held for the recipients of the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the Gold Medal for Best Investigating Officers of the CBI.
- During the ceremony, PM Modi presented medals to all the awardees. The PM also inaugurated the newly constructed office complexes of the CBI in Shillong, Pune and Nagpur. He released a postage stamp and a commemorative coin marking the diamond jubilee celebration year of the CBI.

## **24.Second G20 Sherpa meet under India's G20 Presidency kick off in Kerala**

- The Second G20 Sherpas meeting under India's G20 Presidency is scheduled to take place from March 30 to April 2, 2023, in Kumarakom, Kerala. The four-day meeting will be chaired by India's G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant. 120 delegates from G20 member countries, 9 invitee countries, and various international and regional organisations are taking part in this meeting.
- The second Sherpa meeting will work on many important issues of global concern and will cover the work being done under the 13 working groups within the Sherpa Track.

## **25.New small savings scheme for women, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, launched**

- The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme has been announced in the Budget with a deposit facility up to two lakh rupees in the name of women or girls for a tenure of two years at a fixed interest of 7.5 per cent.
- This will offer deposit facility up to Rs.2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of 2 years at fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option. Limit – The maximum deposit amount for the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate is Rs 2 lakh

## **26.MOIL Limited records 2nd highest Production since inception in FY'23**

- MOIL Limited has registered its second highest production since inception with production of 13.02 lakh tonnes of manganese (Mn) ore in the financial year 2022-23, registering a growth of 6% over the previous year.
- The company has also achieved a capital expenditure of Rs 245 crore in FY23, which is 14% higher than FY2021-22. MOIL has achieved the best ever exploratory core drilling of 41,762 meters in FY23, which is 2.7 times the average exploration achieved in the last 5 years. The sales turnover of electrolytic manganese dioxide (EMD) reached a new high, more than 2 times that of the previous year.

## **27.Tiwa Community's Yangli Festival Concludes in Morigaon, Assam**

- The Yangli Festival of Tiwa people which is also known as 'Lakshmi Puja', concluded with traditional rituals at Guva, Jagiroad in Morigaon district which commenced from March 29.
- The Yangli Festival is one of the most important festival of the Tiwa as it is related with agriculture which is the mainstay of their economy. The Tiwa people pray for a bountiful harvest during this festival and to protect their crops from pest and other natural calamities. The festival is celebrated once in every five years. Sowing of paddy starts immediately after celebration of this festival. This time the Yangli Festival was celebrated with funfare in presence of Guva king Deep Singh Deuraja.

## **28.Bandipur completes 50 years as a Project Tiger Reserve**

- Bandipur completed 50 years as a Project Tiger Reserve 1 April 2023. This reserve is located in the state of Karnataka and is spread over an area of 912.04 sq km. It is located in two districts of Karnataka, Mysore and Chamarajanagar.
- It is considered one of the world's premier tiger habitats and is an important component of the country's first biosphere reserve - the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It was launched by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1973 with the aim of arresting the decline in the tiger population.

## **29.China's renminbi replaces US dollar as most traded currency in Russia**

- China's renminbi has replaced the US dollar as the most traded currency in Russia, a year after the invasion of Ukraine led to a slew of Western sanctions against Moscow. The renminbi surpassed the dollar in monthly trading volume in February for the first time, and the difference became more pronounced in March, according to data compiled by Bloomberg based on daily transaction reports from the Moscow Exchange. Before the invasion, the renminbi's trading volume on the Russian market was negligible.

## **30.Saudi Arabia launches new national airline Riyadh Air**

- Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has announced the creation of a new national airline called Riyadh Air. Riyadh Air will serve



more than 100 destinations around the world by 2030. Riyadh Air will be Saudi Arabia's second national carrier alongside Saudi.

- Riyadh Air is wholly owned by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), which has more than \$600 billion in assets. It will be chaired by PIF Governor Yasser bin Othman al-Rumayyan, while Tony Douglas, who brings more than 40 years of experience in the aviation, transportation and logistics industries, is appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

### **31.PM inaugurates Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Central Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The Central Bureau of Investigation was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India dated 1st April 1963.
- During the programme, an Investiture Ceremony for recipients of the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Gold Medal for Best Investigating Officers of CBI was also held wherein the Prime Minister conferred medals to the awardees.



### **32.Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches Sagar Setu Mobile App of National Logistics Portal Marine**

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched the App Version of National Logistics Portal (Marine) 'Sagar-Setu' in the presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, MoS, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Shri Sudhansh Pant, Secretary and other senior officials.
- The app has been envisaged with deliverables covering features like Login Module, Service Catalogue, Common Application Format, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee, Certification, and Track & Trace etc. It will provide real-time information of activities that are generally not in reach of the importer, exporter, and customs broker including vessel-related information, gate, container freight stations and transactions on fingertips.

### **33.Mukesh Ambani becomes richest sports owner in Forbes Billionaire 2023 list**

- Mukesh Ambani was named the richest sports owner in the Forbes Billionaires 2023 list and according to the list, he has a net worth of \$83.4

billion, surpassing Los Angeles Clippers owner Steve Ballmer who has a net worth of \$80.7 billion.

- Despite a 3% decline in Reliance Industries' share price over the past year, Ambani's net worth has still grown, reflecting the strength and diversity of his business interests. Mukesh Ambani is the world's richest sports owner as of 10 March 2023. Ambani-owned Reliance Industries has been expanding its presence in the sports industry in recent years. The company bought a franchise in the inaugural Women's Premier League and owns cricket teams in South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

### **34. India could become world's second-largest solar manufacturer by 2026**

- India is set to reach 110 GW of solar PV module capacity by FY 2026 with 72 GW of new manufacturing capacity coming online in the next three years. The significant jump will make the nation self-sufficient and the second-largest PV manufacturing country after China, finds a new joint report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research & Analytics.
- The report notes India will also have a notable presence in all upstream components of PV manufacturing. Cells capacity will reach 59 GW, ingots/wafers 56 GW, and polysilicon 38 GW by FY 2026.

### **35. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi inaugurates Sericulture Fair in Gorakhpur**

- Sericulture Fair was organized at Yogiraj Baba Gambhirnath Auditorium. UP CM also laid foundation stone of 18 Chaki rearing buildings, 9 threading machine sheds and 36 community buildings.
- In addition to this, the grant amount was distributed to the beneficiaries for the silkworm rearing house. CM Yogi said UP is also the largest producer of food grains. He remarked UP constitutes 11% of India's total cultivable land. It contributes 20% to the country's total foodgrain production.

### **36. Kerala Leads in GI Tags for Unique Local Products in FY 2022-23**

- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23). Several products from Kerala have been recognized with the GI tag, including Attappadi Attucombu avara (beans), Attappadi thuvara (red gram), Onattukara elu (sesame), Kanthalloor vattavada veluthulli (garlic), and Kodungallur pottuvellari (snap melon).

### **37. Govt plans to borrow Rs 8.88 lakh crore in first half of FY24**

- Govt has planned to borrow ₹8.88 Lakh Crore for the first half of the financial year 2023-24. The Government of India has finalized its borrowing program for the first half (H1) of the financial year 2023-24 in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Union Budget plans to borrow Rs 8.88 lakh crore (57.55%) in the first half (H1) of the estimated Rs 15.43 lakh crore gross market borrowing for FY 2023-24. The borrowing will be spread under 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 30, and 40 years securities. The share of borrowing under different maturities will be: 3 year

(6.31%), 5 year (11.71%), 7 year (10.25%), 10 year (20.50%), 14 year (17.57%), 30 year (16.10%) and 40 year (17.57%).

### **38.Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj rice variety gets geographical indication tag**

- The Geographical Indication Registry earlier this week granted Chhattisgarh's aromatic rice, Nagri Dubraj, a geographical indication (GI) tag facilitating the brand to get a unique identity and a wide market.
- The authorities in Chhattisgarh have been making efforts to get the GI tag for Nagri Dubraj for a long time. The Indira Gandhi Agricultural University played a crucial role in getting the rights as it has been in constant correspondence with the authorities concerned.

### **39.Shah inaugurates 54-feet tall Lord Hanuman statue in Gujarat**

- On the auspicious day of Hanuman Jayanti, Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a grand 54-feet tall statue of the Lord at Sarangpur temple in Botad district of Gujarat.
- In a series of tweets, the Home Minister said that the magnificent statue, made up of Panchadhatu, is a wonderful example of Indian sculpture and craftsmanship. The statue will become a centre of reverence for the devotees visiting the place in the coming days.

### **40.G20 meeting of chief agricultural scientists begins in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**

- The G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) began on 17 April in Varanasi. The three-day meet is being organized by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The theme of the meeting is "Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems for Healthy People and the Planet."
- Around 80 foreign delegates from G20 member states are participating in the event. Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research Dr. Himanshu Pathak told that this is the 100th event related to G20.

### **41.Bangladesh's capital Dhaka recorded the highest temperature in 58 years**

- Bangladesh's capital city Dhaka had its hottest day on 15 April in 58 years with the temperature rising to 40.4 degrees Celsius.
- This is the highest temperature since 1965 when the highest temperature was recorded at 42 degree Celsius. The mid-western city of Chuadanga recorded a maximum temperature of 42.2 degrees on 15th April. Bangladesh experienced its highest temperature of 44.5 degrees at Jashore in 1964.

### **42.UP bags 3rd position in providing tap water connections in country, beats Rajasthan**

- Uttar Pradesh superseded Rajasthan and became the third state of the country in terms of number of connections tap water connections under 'Har Ghar Nal Yojana'. According to the available statistics, UP has provided 97,11,717 tap

connections, which are benefitting more than 5,82,70,302 villagers of UP, against 39,33,140 in Rajasthan.

- With this, more than five crore villagers have started drinking pure water under the Har Ghar Jal Yojana of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Yogi government is taking the Government of India's Jal Jeevan Mission scheme towards the target at the fastest pace and is set to claim the number one position in the country soon.

#### **43.Assam Enters Guinness Book Of World Records With Largest Bihu Performance**

- In a historical moment, Assam etched its name in the record books with "The largest Bihu performance in a single venue". Over 11,000 Bihuwotis and dhuliyas were a part of the grand effort to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.
- The aim of the mega Bihu performance was to set a new Guinness World Record for the largest Bihu dance performance at a single venue. The Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government had decided to make the Rongali Bihu of 2023 a grand occasion with this spectacular initiative.

#### **44.India opens its 16th Visa application center in Bangladesh's Kushtia**

- The High Commission of India opened its 16th Visa application center in Kushtia town of Southwestern Bangladesh on 16th April. The new Indian Visa Application Center (IVAC) was inaugurated by High Commissioner Pranya Verma.
- This will provide greater ease and convenience to residents of Kushtia and its surrounding areas seeking visa services to visit India. Continuous efforts are being made to improve visa facilities for the people of Bangladesh. The new center will further strengthen people-to-people contact.

#### **45.India ranks 5th in countries with most AI investments**

- India is ranked 5th in the list of countries with the most AI investment as per Stanford University's annual AI Index report. The total amount of investments in AI startups in India was \$3.24 billion in 2022.
- US, China, UK and Israel are placed ahead of India. India is placed ahead of South Korea, Germany, Canada and Australia. India is ranked 6th in the list of countries with the most AI investments during 2013-2022. As per the Stanford report, 54% of researchers working on large language models were from American institutions.

#### **46.EAM Dr S Jaishankar inaugurates Buzi Bridge in Mozambique built by India**

- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar began his engagements in Maputo, Mozambique by meeting with President of Assembly Esperança Bias. They discussed the historic cooperation between the two countries and reiterated India's support for Mozambique's sustainable development. The conversation focused on counter terrorism, disaster resilience and green growth.



- Dr Jaishankar also virtually inaugurated the Buzi Bridge, constructed as part of 132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project. The bridge has been built by India. He said, the bridge is a practical example of India Mozambique solidarity and friendship. The Indian High Commission in Mozambique said in a tweet, it will make a difference to so many in Mozambique.

#### **47.PM Modi Lauds Inauguration Of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa) At Gyangkhar In Arunachal Pradesh**

- The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, inaugurated the newly renovated Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa) at Gyangkhar, his native village in Tawang district. The Gonpa has great historical significance for the well-being of humans, particularly for the people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists in general. The 11-12th century Gonpa was on the verge of collapse, but it has now been renovated, and all the necessary rituals and blessings have been performed to restore it to its former glory.

#### **48.India-born academic named in task force to expand US-India univ partnerships**

- Indian-origin academic Neeli Bendapudi has been appointed as one of five co-chairs of an Association of American Universities (AAU) task force focused on the expansion of research and academic partnerships among higher education institutions in the US and India.
- In collaboration with the Biden administration's US-India initiative on critical and emerging technology, AAU has established a national task force that aims to expand technological and industrial cooperation between the United States and India.

#### **49.Tribal Affairs Minister launched Marketing, Logistics Development for PTP-NER scheme**

- Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda on 18th April launched a new scheme "Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)" for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of Northeastern Region.
- The scheme has been introduced for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of the North-Eastern Region.
- The objective of the scheme is to strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through enhanced efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States.

#### **50.Andhra Pradesh Govt renamed Bhavanapadu Port as Mulapeta greenfield Port**

- The Andhra Pradesh (AP) government has renamed the proposed Bhavanapadu port in the Srikakulam district as Mulapeta greenfield port at the request of the locals. Chief Minister (CM) Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will lay a foundation stone for this nearly Rs 4,000 crore project on April 19, 2023.



- The state government took this decision as farmers from Mulapeta and Vishnuchakram villages requested for the name change since Bhavanapadu village has no scope in the proposed port area, considering all the lands of Mulpetta and some from Vishnuchakram have been earmarked for acquisition

### **51.Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches SATHI Portal & Mobile App**

- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on 19th April launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.
- It has been created by NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the theme of 'Best Seeds - Prosperous Farmer'. The Government of India is constantly trying to overcome the challenges and difficulties faced by agriculture through various schemes and programmes.

### **52.Uttarakhand Chief Minister launched A HELP Program**

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand, Mr. Pushkar Singh Dhami launched 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme at Survey of India Auditorium Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- Under this program trained A-HELPS will give their vital contribution in preventing various infectious diseases of animals, artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), tagging of animals and animal insurance.

### **53.India overtakes China to become the world's most populous country**

- India has overtaken China as the world's most populous country, according to United Nations data released on April 19. According to UN data India's population is 142.86 crore while China's population is 142.57 crores.
- According to a new report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 25 per cent of India's population is between the age group of 0-14 years. The population between the age group of 10-19 years is 18 percent The population in the age group of 10-24 years is 26 percent.

### **54.Chennai ranks among top 5 in digital payment transactions**

- Chennai has emerged as one of the top digital payment transaction cities in the country in 2022, according to a report by payment services firm Worldline India. In terms of volume, according to Worldline India, Chennai has done 14.3 million transactions with a value of USD 35.5 billion. It is at number five.
- Bengaluru tops with 29 million transactions worth USD 65 billion, followed by New Delhi 19.6 million transactions worth USD 50 billion, Mumbai(18.7 million transactions worth USD 49.5 billion), Pune (15 million transactions worth USD 32.8 billion).

### **55.Kerala becomes the first state to adopt "Water Budget"**

- Kerala has adopted a water budget, the first of its kind in the country, to deal with the problem of water scarcity in summer. Despite the abundance of rivers, streams, backwaters and rainfall, many parts of Kerala face severe water scarcity during summer.
- The water budget will help the state to ascertain the demand and supply of water resources and apportion it accordingly. The first phase of the water budget covers 94 gram panchayats in 15 block panchayats, and the details were unveiled by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

#### **56.Rajasthan tops in persondays generation for 4th year in a row**

- For the fourth year in a row, Rajasthan topped the country in terms of persondays generation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme .
- In 2022-23, Rajasthan generated 35.61 crore persondays at a total cost of Rs 10,175 crore under the scheme. Rajasthan is followed by Tamil Nadu (33.45 crore), Uttar Pradesh (31.18 crore), Andhra Pradesh (23.96 crore) and Bihar (23.69 crore) in terms of persondays generation, according to MGNREGA MIS report.

#### **57.Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Global Buddhist Summit**

- On 20 April, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi. Summit was hosted by the Ministry of Culture in association with the International Buddhist Confederation.
- The summit is a two-day event that brought together eminent scholars, union leaders and religious practitioners from around the world. The summit was attended by delegates from around 30 countries, including 171 delegates from foreign countries and 150 delegates from Indian Buddhist organisations.
- Theme: "**Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis**"

#### **58.Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister lays foundation stone for Mulapeta Port in Srikakulam**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has laid the foundation stone for Rs 4362 crore Mulapeta Port in Srikakulam district that is expected to provide 25,000 jobs and play a key role in handling exports, imports from states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.
- The CM has also attended the ground-breaking ceremonies for construction of Rs 360 crore fishing harbour at Budagatlapalem in Etcherla mandal, Rs 176 crore Vamsadhara Lift Irrigation Project that would take water to Hiramandalam reservoir from Gotta Barrage and the Rs 300 crore Mahendratana offshore Reservoir Project works.

#### **59.Assam and Arunachal Pradesh sign agreement to settle boundary dispute**

- The governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have signed an agreement for the settlement of an inter-state boundary dispute between the two States on 21 April. This agreement was signed by the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu in

presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. The agreement between the two states will end the dispute over 123 villages along the border.

- The settlement has been done keeping in mind the historical perspective, demographic profile, administrative convenience, proximity to the border and aspirations of the residents. Both the state governments have agreed that this settlement will be final in respect of these disputed villages and in future neither state will make any new claim related to any area or village.

#### **60.Uttar Pradesh on track to be first Indian state with 100% EVs in govt depts**

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addresses the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing programme for the establishment of Textile Park in the Lucknow and Hardoi districts, at Textile Park, in Lucknow.
- In a major push to promote sales and usage of electric vehicles (EVs) in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government has set a target and has flung into action to convert vehicles used in all government departments into EVs in a phased manner by 2030.

#### **61.L Murugan becomes 1st Union Minister to visit India's first village**

- Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry L Murugan on 22nd April became the first central minister to visit India's first village Avangkhu, a village along the India-Myanmar border in Nagaland's Phek district.
- The Union Minister visited the International Trade Center at Awangkhu, Phek. He recalled the Centre's commitment towards developing the north-east, including the border areas of the region. Highlighting India's seriousness towards the Act East Policy, the Minister announced that the two lane road upto Avangkhu border has already been sanctioned and work will start soon.

#### **62.NHAI to develop 10,000 kms of 'Digital Highways' in India by 2025**

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is preparing to develop around 10,000 km of optic fiber cable (OFC) infrastructure across India by the financial year 2025. This move is aimed at providing internet connectivity to remote locations and expediting the roll-out of new-age telecom technologies like 5G & 6G.
- The NHAI's fully-owned special purpose vehicle, the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), will be implementing the network of digital highways by developing integrated utility corridors along the national highways to develop OFC infrastructure. The pilot routes for the 'digital highway' development have been identified as 1,367 kilometres on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and 512 km on the Hyderabad-Bangalore corridor.

#### **63.Kerala launches One Panchayat, One Playground project**

- The Kerala government has launched a project for reviving the sports culture in the State by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat of the southern state. The 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project was inaugurated by

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Kallikkad here where he said that a good sports culture was essential for building a healthy and happy society.

- The playgrounds would serve as a hub of local gatherings and social interactions. The project will address the lack of quality playgrounds in around 450 local bodies in the State.

#### **64.Bengal tops the list of States with the most ponds and reservoirs**

- The First Census of Water Bodies has been conducted in association with the 6th Minor Irrigation (MI) Census under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Irrigation Census”.
- In this census, 24,24,540 water bodies have been recorded out of which 97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9% (69,485) are in urban areas. 5% (14,42,993) of water bodies are ponds while 15.7% (3,81,805) of water bodies are tanks. West Bengal has the highest number of ponds & reservoirs while Andhra Pradesh has the highest number of tanks.
- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of lakes and Maharashtra is the leading state in the water conservation scheme. Maximum Water bodies are used in pisciculture, followed by irrigation, groundwater recharge and domestic/drinking purpose.

#### **65.Himachal becomes India’s ‘1st state’ to create DNA database of unidentified bodies**

- Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first Indian state to develop a DNA database for unidentified bodies. The process of creating this database had started in April 2022. So far, the database holds records of 150 DNA samples of unidentified bodies.
- The Directorate of Forensics Services, Junga had procured DNA profile databasing and matching technology (Smallpond TM software from USA) at a price of Rs. 55 lakh in 2022. The State forensic science laboratory, Junga was the first lab to acquire this technology and the facility is at par with the international standards. It has a capacity of about 20,000 DNA profiles which can be scaled further.

#### **66.Gujarat celebrates 20 years of PM Modi's Swagat Initiative**

- Gujarat is observing the last week of April as Swagat week to celebrate 20 years of State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (Swagat) -- an initiative launched by the then chief minister Narendra Modi on April 24, 2003, to promote ease of living and to resolve issues faced by citizens.
- As part of the celebrations, the sarpanches of village panchayats, talatis, newly-appointed mamlatdars and taluka development officers were trained by the chief minister's office. On April 27, the final day of the celebrations, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel will hold an online Swagat which will be attended by Narendra Modi virtually.

#### **67.Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches new features in eShram Portal**

- Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, launched new features in eShram Portal on 24th April. The new features added in eShram portal will enhance the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for unorganised workers.
- The eShram registered workers can now connect with Employment opportunities, Skilling, Apprenticeship, Pension Scheme, Digital Skilling and States' schemes through eShram portal. The Union Minister also formally launched the Data Sharing Portal (DSP) for sharing of eShram data with the State/ UT Governments.

#### **68. Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary will be developed as a second home for cheetahs**

- Recently the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has announced that the Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary will be developed as a new home for cheetahs in the next six months. According to wildlife experts, after the increase in the number of cheetahs in Kuno National Park, there will not be enough area for them, so it is necessary to relocate them to another place. Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary has vast open spaces and grasslands surrounded by shrubs, which is an ideal landscape for cheetah.

#### **69. PM Modi to launch nine campaigns under Inclusive Development in Madhya Pradesh**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch nine campaigns under Inclusive Development (Samaveshi Vikaas) theme on the 24th of April during the National Panchayati Raj Day in Madhya Pradesh.
- He will also launch the Website and Mobile App "Samaveshi Vikaas" at the event. The mobile app is designed with the objective to ensure the documentation of public participation and the website is expected to provide real-time progress of various activities under Samaveshi Vikaas campaigns.

#### **70. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren inaugurates 5th edition of Hun-Thadou cultural festival at Kangpokpi**

- Manipur Chief Minister (CM) Shri N Biren Singh inaugurated the 5th edition of the state-level HUN Thadou Cultural Festival, at Thomas Ground in Kangpokpi district of Manipur.
- HUN festival is an annual cultural festival and a civilising act of the Thadous community of Manipur. It is celebrated at the arrival of the new year according to the community.

#### **71. Atal pension Yojana enrollments cross 5.2 crore**

- Enrolments under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have crossed the 5.20 crore mark as of March 31, 2023, marking a significant milestone for the scheme. The APY enrolled over 1.19 crore new subscribers in the financial year 2022-23, reflecting a more than 20% growth compared to the previous financial year.
- The total assets under management (AUM) in APY, which was launched in 2015, are now over Rs. 27,200 crores, and the scheme has generated an



investment return of 8.69% since its inception. Under the scheme, members have to contribute between Rs 42 to Rs 1,454 a month to receive a guaranteed monthly pension between Rs 1000 to Rs 5000.

## **72.Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launches 'Mehangai Rahat Camp' in Jaipur**

- Rajasthan Chief Minister (CM) Shri Ashok Gehlot inaugurated 'Mehangai Rahat Camp' at the Mahapura village of Sanganer in Jaipur district, Rajasthan. This initiative has been taken with the aim to provide the people of the State relief from inflation.
- The State government aims to connect common people in the State with information on public welfare schemes of the state government. These camps will be organised in the state from April 24 to June 30, 2023. These camps are being organised at the gram panchayat and ward levels.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **1.EAM Jaishankar launches 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Uganda**

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on April 10 launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' of Varanasi, during his visit to Uganda's Kampala. He commended the Overseas Friends of BJP-Uganda for their efforts to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the oldest inhabited city in the world. Uganda has been selected to chair the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the period of 2022 to 2025 on behalf of Africa.
- The chairmanship of the movement rotates every three years during summit conferences and is assisted by both the previous and incoming chairs, representing the movement's past, present, and future.

### **2.India grants \$2 million to African Union Transition Mission in Somalia**

- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mr Ruchira Kamboj handed over the contribution of USD 2 million to the United Nations Trust Fund in support of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).
- With this, the Government of India (GoI) reiterates New Delhi's commitment to peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa. Earlier, India had contributed USD 4 million to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

### **3.China records world's first human death from H3N8 bird flu**

- A Chinese woman has become the first person to die from a type of bird flu that is rare in humans, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said, but the strain does not appear to spread between people.
- All of the cases have been in China, with the first two cases reported last year. The Guangdong Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention reported the third infection late last month but did not provide details of the woman's death.

#### **4. Ghana first to approve Oxford's malaria vaccine**

- Ghana has become the first country in the world to approve a new malaria vaccine from Oxford University, a potential step forward in fighting a disease that kills hundreds of thousands of children each year.
- The approval is unusual as it comes before the publication of final-stage trial data. It is unclear when the vaccine may be rolled out in Ghana as other regulatory bodies, including the World Health Organization (WHO), are still assessing its safety and effectiveness.

#### **5. New York City Appoints First-Ever 'Rat Czar' To Get Rid Of 'Menace Of Rats'**

- New York City has named its first-ever "rat czar" to tackle the Big Apple's growing rat population, which has become a "major quality-of-life and health issue."
- She has been designated as the city's inaugural "rat czar" and given the responsibility of minimizing the rat population and creating a cleaner and more hospitable environment for residents. In addition, the Adams administration is dedicating \$3.5 million to the Harlem Rat Mitigation Zone, a new initiative to expedite rat control measures throughout Harlem.

#### **6. Georgia became first American state to pass resolution condemning Hinduphobia**

- The Assembly of the US state of Georgia has passed a resolution condemning Hinduphobia (Prejudice towards Hinduism). Georgia has become the first US state to implement such a legal measure.
- The resolution condemns Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu bigotry and states that 'Hinduism is the world's largest and oldest religion' and 1.2 billion people in more than 100 countries of the world follow this religion. The resolution said that this religion incorporates diverse traditions and faith with values of acceptance, mutual respect and peace.

#### **7. China announces renaming of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh**

- China has renamed 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh, which it claims as South Tibet, in a move that's set to further deepen mistrust between New Delhi and Beijing at a time when the two are in the middle of their worst bilateral chill in decades. The changed names include that of mountain peaks, rivers and residential areas.

#### **8. Syria becomes world's largest 'narco-state'**

- Syria has become the biggest narco-state in the world, as the horribly addictive amphetamine it produces, which is known as Captagon or "poor man's coke", has turned out to be the country's economic lifeline and its biggest export product, earning more than 90 per cent of the country's foreign currency.
- Notably, Collins Dictionary defines a "narco-state" as a country in which the illegal trade in narcotic drugs forms a substantial part of the economy.

Captagon is a synthetic stimulant composed of amphetamine and caffeine, and it is an internationally-recognized illegal drug (UNODC, 2021).

### **9. Russia conducts test launch of ‘advanced’ intercontinental ballistic missile**

- The Russian defence ministry has conducted the successful test launch of an “advanced” intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The missile was launched from the Kapustin Yar test site in Russia’s southern Astrakhan region. To test advanced combat equipment of intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- This launch made it possible to confirm the correctness of the circuit design and technical solutions used in the development of new strategic missile systems. The missile hit the target at the Sary-Shagan training ground in Kazakhstan.

### **10. Kenya successfully launches first operational satellite Taifa-1 into space onboard SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket**

- Kenya successfully launched its first operational earth observation satellite, ‘Taifa-1 satellite,’ into orbit. The launch took place on a SpaceX rocket Falcon-9 from the Vandenberg Base in California, United States (US).
- A team of 9 Kenyan engineers from SayariLabs, designed and constructed Taifa-1 in collaboration with Bulgarian aerospace manufacturer Endurosat AD, which helped offset the design cost. The satellite will collect agricultural and environmental data, including on floods, drought and wildfires, to be used for disaster management and to combat food insecurity.

### **11. India, Iran and Armenia form trilateral grouping to deepen ties and co-operation**

- In a move aimed at strengthening regional co-operation, India, Iran and Armenia have formed a trilateral grouping. The first trilateral political consultation between the ministries of foreign affairs of the three countries was held in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.
- The delegations were led by Mnatsakan Safaryan, the deputy foreign minister of Armenia, Seyed Rasoul Mousavi, the assistant of the foreign minister of Iran, and JP Singh, the joint secretary of the ministry of external affairs of India according to Armenia's foreign ministry.

### **12. India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan**

- India launched Operation Kaveri to evacuate its nationals from unrest-hit Sudan and it is the latest evacuation operation launched by India to rescue its citizens and those of friendly nations from war zones.
- Sudan is currently experiencing a violent power struggle between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Force (RSF) across the country. The conflict arose due to a dispute over an internationally supported plan to establish a new civilian government, four years after the overthrow of authoritarian leader Omar al-Bashir and two years after a military coup.

- Both sides have been accusing each other of obstructing the transition, resulting in widespread violence and instability.

### 13. Zimbabwe to Introduce Gold-Backed Digital Currency

- To combat the falling value of the Zimbabwean currency, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has announced plans to introduce a gold-backed digital currency. The digital gold tokens will be a form of electronic money, backed by gold held at the RBZ.
- This will enable holders of small amounts of Zimbabwean dollars to exchange their money for tokens and protect themselves against exchange rate fluctuations.

### 14. China launches Fengyun-3G, first satellite dedicated to monitoring heavy rainfalls

- China successfully launched Fengyun-3G into space, its first satellite dedicated to measuring precipitation, especially heavy rainfalls during catastrophic weather in global regions of low- and mid-latitude, which could provide a powerful tool for monitoring and forecasting of global meteorological disasters.
- It was launched by China's Long March 4B rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China's Gansu Province.



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### 15. Japan's Health Ministry approves the country's first abortion pill Mefeego

- In a significant boost to reproductive rights, Japan's Health Ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill-Mefeego pill pack. The approval came from the Health Ministry's Pharmaceutical Board after it approved the MeFeego Pack abortion pill manufactured by British pharmaceutical Linepharma.
- While abortion pills are widely available in many countries across the globe, the medication was not approved by Japan's Health Ministry. Japan's abortion laws also allow women to have abortions only with the consent of their partners which denies women the right to make decisions over their own bodies.

### 16. Pennsylvania Recognizes Diwali as an Official State Holiday

- The United States state of Pennsylvania officially recognized the Hindu festival of Diwali as a state holiday. State Senators Greg Rothman and Nikil Saval introduced legislation to make Diwali a state holiday in February this year.
- The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate. According to My Twin Tears, there are approximately 200,000 South Asian residents in Pennsylvania, many of whom celebrate Diwali as a time to gather and reflect.

### **17. Pakistan becomes largest recipient of ADB funded programmes in 2022**

- Owing to the economic crisis led by political and geopolitical uncertainties, Pakistan has become the largest recipient of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded programmes/projects in the year 2022
- According to the ADB Annual Report 2022, released , out of total disbursement of over \$31.8 billion to 40 countries, Pakistan received loans of \$5.58 billion, Geo News reported. It should be noted that out of the total lending of \$5.58 billion, Pakistan received concessional funding of \$2.67 billion from the bank in last year. In Pakistan, extreme floods damaged over one-third of the Kharif (summer) seasonal cropping area, curtailing food supply and driving up prices.

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS**

### **1. Iran appoints UAE ambassador for first time since 2016**

- Iran had appointed an ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the first time since 2016, amid a realignment of relations between Gulf states and Iran. Iran appointed Reza Ameri as its ambassador to the UAE. He has served as the Director General of the Iranian expatriates' office in the Foreign Ministry. Prior to being appointed to his current role, Ameri's posts included ambassador Islamic Republic of Iran to Algeria, Sudan and Eritrea.

### **2. Anshuman Singhania new chairman of tyre makers body ATMA**

- Anshuman Singhania, Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd has been elected as the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), the national industry body for the automotive tyre sector in India. Arnab Banerjee, Managing Director & CEO of CEAT Ltd, takes over as Vice-Chairman of ATMA.
- Singhania, the new ATMA Chairman, is a graduate from Oxford Brookes University, UK and an alumnus of London Business School. He has held several positions in Planning, Production, Product Development, Quality Control, Stores and Purchase, Finance as well as Sales and Marketing. Being a tech-savvy person, he has played a key role in implementing the latest technologies in the manufacturing process at JK Tyre.

### **3. Aleksander Ceferin re-elected UEFA president**

- Aleksander Ceferin was re-elected unopposed as UEFA president at the Ordinary Congress of European Soccer's governing body in Lisbon. The Slovenian has been re-elected to a four-year term that will last until 2027.



- Ceferin was elected as UEFA's seventh president in 2016 to replace Michel Platini, who was barred from football administration in 2015 for ethics violations and was forced to resign from UEFA in 2016 after losing an appeal against his ban.

#### **4. Rajib K Mishra takes over as Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India**

- Power trading company PTC India has appointed Rajib Kumar Mishra as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). Mishra was holding the additional charge of CMD of the company. He joined the PTC Board in February 2015 as Director (Marketing and Business Development).
- He has been appointed CMD with effect from March 29, the company said in a statement. Prior to this, Mishra worked as Executive Director of PTC since October 2011 and was responsible for Operations, Business Development, Retail & Advisory Services.

#### **5. Vice Admiral S. J. Singh appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Navy**

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh has taken over as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff in the Indian Navy on 1 April 2023. He is a distinguished Naval Officer and a graduate of the National Defense Academy, Pune.
- Vice Admiral Singh was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy in 1986, and has since served in various leadership roles. His contribution to the Indian Navy has been recognized with Nao Sena Medal in 2009 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2020.

#### **6. Sheenu Jhawar became the first woman president of TiE Rajasthan**

- TiE Rajasthan has announced Dr. Sheenu Jhawar as its new President for a two-year term from 2023-2025. She is the first woman to hold this responsibility in the 21 year history of TiE Rajasthan. Dr. Jhawar takes over from Dr. Ravi Modani who was successfully leading the chapter since 2021.
- During the biennial leadership changeover ceremony, Dr Jhawar pointed out that India has the 3rd largest number of unicorns in the world, and Jaipur stands out as the first Tier 2 city within India – 7th overall as per the Startup Blink report. It is a matter of great pride for all of us. TiE Rajasthan has been contributing to this ecosystem since last 21 years.

#### **7. Sudha Shivkumar takes over as FICCI Ladies Organisation president**

- Chennai-based Sudha Shivkumar took over as the 40th president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia, at the 39th annual session.
- She is a lawyer and investment banker by profession. At present, she is a director at her family run business focused on auto ancillaries. Ms. Shivkumar was the Chairperson of FLO Chennai Chapter in 2016-17.

#### **8. Kaizad Bharucha is HDFC Bank deputy managing director**

- HDFC Bank has appointed Kaizad Bharucha as deputy managing director and Bhavesh Zaveri as executive director for three years. These appointments have been made after clearance from the RBI, the bank said in a regulatory filing.
- The RBI, in its communication dated April 19, has approved the appointment of Bharucha as deputy MD of the bank for three years with effect from April 19. It had also approved the appointment of Zaveri as executive director for a similar term with effect from April 19. A meeting of the board of directors will be convened in due course to give effect to the appointments.

### **9. Sekhar Rao appointed as interim MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank**

- Karnataka Bank has appointed Sekhar Rao as interim managing director and CEO following the completion of the term of the incumbent CEO. Mahabaleshwara M S, the incumbent managing director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Karnataka Bank, demitted the office on April 14, after successful completion of his second term of three years, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

### **10. Arun Sinha is appointed as chairman of National Technical Research Organisation**

- Arun Sinha has been an advisor in NTRO for two years. He is 1984 batch Kerala cadre. The post had been lying vacant for over three to four months and with this, the government is also now likely to clear appointments for the heads of the border security force and the Indian Coast Guard too.

### **11. Shantanu Roy to become new CMD of BEML Limited**

- Shantanu Roy is set to be next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited, a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel. Presently, he is serving as Director (Mining & Construction Business) in the same organisation.
- Roy has been recommended for the post of CMD of BEML Limited from a list of three candidates, who were interviewed by the PESB panel in its selection meeting held on April 18. All the candidates, who were on the list, were from BEML Limited.

### **12. Air Marshal Sandeep Singh appointed Military Advisor to National Security Council**

- Former Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Sandeep Singh (Retd) has been appointed as the new Military Advisor to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). He will assume charge on April 24.
- He will replace General Anil Chauhan, who was appointed Chief of Defense Staff in October last year.
- Sandeep Singh retired as the Vice Chief of the Air Force on January 31, 2023, after a military career of four decades.
- Sandeep Singh, an alumnus of the National Defense Academy, who was appointed as the new military advisor in the National Security Council

Secretariat, was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in December 1983 as a fighter pilot.

### **13.Tata Electronics appoints Randhir Thakur as CEO & MD**

- Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL) on 18 April appointed Dr Randhir Thakur as CEO and Managing Director to strengthen its semiconductor manufacturing capabilities. Dr. Thakur is a veteran in the manufacturing sector with significant contributions in the development of advanced semiconductor technologies.
- He has expertise in ecosystem leadership, process technology tools, driving mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, product development, while working closely with ecosystem partners and customers. Prior to joining TEPL, Dr. Thakur was associated with global electronic chip and circuit manufacturing giant Intel, serving as President of Intel Foundry Services.

### **14.Shahabuddin Chuppu takes oath as Bangladesh's 22nd president**

- Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu was sworn in as the new president of Bangladesh ahead of the country's general elections in 2024. Shahabuddin Chuppu, 74, took office as the 22nd president at a ceremony in the Bangabhaban, the official residence and principal workplace of the president, where National Parliament Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath.
- Shahabuddin was declared as the next president-elect unopposed of Bangladesh by the country's Election Commission in February as the commission did not get any other nominations.

### **15.Mahavir Singh Phogat appointed as President of MMA-1 Federation**

- Renowned wrestler and coach Mahavir Singh Phogat was appointed as the President of MMA-1 Federation. Phogat's appointment as the President of the MMA-1 Federation is aimed at developing and promoting MMA in India. Phogat's role as president will primarily involve identifying and nurturing young talent in the sport of MMA in India.
- It is a full-contact combat sport involving striking, grappling and ground fighting. It incorporates techniques from various combat sports around the world. The term "mixed martial arts" was first used in 1993 by a television critic reviewing UFC 1.

### **16.Pankaj Singh elected president of Indian Cycling Federation**

- BJP MLA from Noida and son of Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Pankaj Singh was elected as the President of the Cycling Federation of India (CFI). The election was held during the Annual General Body meeting in Nainital, and Pankaj Singh was elected unopposed.
- Maninder Pal Singh was elected general secretary for the second time in a row. Sudesh Kumar from Kerala was elected as the treasurer. Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Kerala and Telangana elected two members each to the Executive Council.

## **17.Nasscom appoints Anant Maheshwari as Chairperson for FY24**

- Information technology (IT) industry body the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has appointed President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Microsoft India Anant Maheshwari as its chairperson for 2023-24.
- He takes on the new role from his previous role as Vice Chairperson succeeding Krishnan Ramanujam, President, Business and Technology Services, Tata Consultancy Services, who served as Chairperson for 2022-23. NASSCOM also announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Cognizant India, as its Vice Chairperson for 2023-24.

## **BANKING**

### **1.FM Nirmala Sitharaman to attend Spring Meetings of IMF-World Bank**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be embarking on an official visit to the USA, beginning April 10, 2023 for attending the annual spring meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), along with G20 meetings.
- These meetings are scheduled to take place from April 10 to April 16, 2023, in the WBG and IMF Headquarters in Washington DC. The spring meetings will be attended by finance ministers and central bankers from across the world.

### **2.SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits**

- The State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to launch new variants of current account (with balances of ₹50,000 and ₹50 lakh) and “Parivar” (family) savings account in FY24 to minimise the gap between deposit growth and credit growth. The new plans come in the wake of deposit growth lagging credit growth over the last few quarters.

### **3.IndusInd Bank signs co-financing loan agreement with Citibank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

- IndusInd Bank signed a co-financing loan agreement with Citibank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for a funding line of \$125 million. The funding line will be used by IndusInd Bank to provide credit to the agriculture sector. The co-financing includes JPY 13 billion (about \$97.45 million) from JICA and a \$30 million loan from Citibank to IndusInd Bank.
- The collaboration between the three entities aims to support the development of the agriculture sector in India by providing financial support to farmers and other related businesses. IndusInd Bank is a leading private sector bank in India with a strong presence in retail banking, corporate banking and treasury operations.

### **4.Asian Development Bank Commits Rs 150 Crore To Tata Power Delhi Distribution**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced its plans to invest in non-convertible debentures valued at Rs 150 crore in Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL). The investment aims to improve Delhi's power distribution through grid enhancements.
- Additionally, ADB has also approved a grant of USD 2 million to assist in the acquisition and integration of a pilot battery energy storage system (BESS). The Manila-based funding institution issued a statement confirming the developments.

### **5.Retail inflation moderates to 16-month low of 5.66% in March**

- CPI-based retail inflation in India eased further to a 16-month low of 5.66 per cent in March as food prices moderated on account of lower vegetable costs, offset in part by surging cereal prices. Inflation stood at 6.95 per cent in March 2022.
- The consumer food price index (CFPI) moderated to 4.79 per cent, down from 5.95 per cent in February 2023 and 7.68 per cent in March 2022. Rural inflation stood at 5.51 per cent while urban inflation stood at 5.89 per cent.

### **6.India's forex reserves rise \$5.98 billion to \$578.78 billion**

- India's foreign exchange reserves rose \$5.98 billion to \$578.78 billion as on March 24, 2023, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed. Data for the previous week showed that India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$572.8 billion, the highest level since early February.
- India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the biggest component of the forex reserves, saw a rise of \$4.38 billion to \$509.72 billion. India's gold reserves rose by \$1.37 billion to \$45.48 billion while SDRs and India's reserve position in the IMFs saw an increase of \$18.41 million and \$5.15 million each.

### **7.India's unemployment rate rises to 3-month high of 7.8% in March**

- India's unemployment rate climbed to a three-month high of 7.8% in March amid concerns a global slowdown will hurt Asia's third-largest economy.
- Urban joblessness remained elevated at 8.4%, compared with about 7.5% in rural areas, according to data from the Mumbai-based Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. In February, the overall rate was 7.5%.

### **8.SBI launches its Coffee Table Book – The Banker to Every Indian**

- The State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest financial institution, announced the launch of its coffee table book 'The Banker to Every Indian,' which celebrates 75 years of India's independence and SBI's glorious 200-year history.
- The book is a tribute to the spirit of India's independence and the Bank's contribution to nation-building. It showcases ethics, technological advancements, and transformation with the important initiatives undertaken by the Bank.

### **9.GST revenue collection increases 13% to 1.60 lakh crore in March 2023**



- India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection for the month of March 2023 stood at 1.6 lakh crore rupees, which is 13 percent higher than the GST revenues in the same month of last year.
- As per the statement of Finance Ministry today, it is for the fourth time, in the current financial year that the gross GST collection has crossed 1.5 lakh crore rupees, since the implementation of GST.
- Out of the total collection, CGST is 29,546 crore rupees, SGST is 37,314 crore rupees and IGST is 82,907 crore rupees, including 42,503 crores collected on import of goods. While cess contributed 10,355 crore rupees, including 960 crore rupees collected on import of goods.

### **10.India's GDP growth likely to moderate to 6.3% in FY24**

- The World Bank has revised its FY23/24 GDP forecast to 6.3 per cent from 6.6 per cent (December 2022). Growth is expected to be constrained by slower consumption growth and challenging external conditions. Rising borrowing costs and slower income growth will weigh on private consumption growth, and government consumption is projected to grow at a slower pace due to the withdrawal of pandemic-related fiscal support measures.

### **11.Fino Payments Bank teams up with Rajasthan Royals as Digital Banking Partner**

- Fino Payments Bank announced that it has renewed its association with Rajasthan Royals (RR) for season 16 of India's biggest premier cricket competition. Fino Bank will be RR's official Digital Banking Partner.
- The Bank made its maiden foray with the mega sporting event last season by partnering with RR as the Digital Payments Partner. The new season's engagement is expected to be a notch higher as the Bank aims to connect with RR's large fan base across social media platforms to increase its digital footprint. Importantly, the newly launched FinoPay digital savings account is expected to get more traction through this engagement.

### **12.Bank of Maharashtra inaugurates its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups at Pune**

- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), a premier public sector bank in the country, has inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for start-ups at Pune. A S Rajeev, MD & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra and Prashant Girbane, Director General, Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) inaugurated the Start-up Branch at FC Road, Yashomangal, Pune City Zonal Office.

### **13.HDFC Bank launches Regalia Gold Credit Card**

- HDFC Bank has launched Regalia Gold Credit Card, a super-premium credit card in its Regalia range of credit cards. A Regalia Gold credit card will be available to high-income individuals. HDFC bank is targeting a wide range of potential customers such as travellers and lifestyle enthusiasts.
- Regalia Gold provides a one-stop solution with a host of exclusive offers and benefits as well as access to global travel facilitators, airport lounges, and

curated benefits on lifestyle brands. The card offers a privileged travel experience with Club Vistara Silver Tier Membership and MMT Black Elite Membership.

#### **14. Union Bank of India becomes first Indian bank to open special vostro account for India-Malaysia trade settlement in rupee**

- Public sector lender Union Bank of India (UBI) becomes the first bank in the country to open a Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA) through its corresponding bank in Malaysia i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM).
- This means that trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in the Indian rupee, in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies. To facilitate the growth of global trade and to support the interests of the global trading community in Indian Rupee.

#### **15. SEBI Unveils its New Logo on the 35th Foundation Day**

- SEBI has unveiled its new logo on the occasion of the 35th Foundation Day. The new logo was unveiled at a function held at SEBI Head Office, Mumbai in the presence of the former Chairmen, former and present Whole Time Members of SEBI.
- SEBI Chairperson, Ms Madhabi Puri Buch said “the new logo of SEBI reflects the continuing commitment of SEBI to being a facilitator in the growth of the economy through capital formation and retaining its rich tradition of a consultative approach in policy making while adopting the power of data and technology.

#### **16. SBI Reintroduces 400 Days ‘Amrit Kalash’ Fixed Deposit Scheme With 7.1% Interest**

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has reintroduced its special fixed deposit scheme, ‘Amrit Kalash’, for retail customers. This 400 days term deposit offers a rate of 7.1 per cent for the general customer and a 50 basis point (bps) higher (7.6 per cent) for senior citizens, according to the SBI website. In the 400-day tenure, the interest rate would fetch the customer an effective yield of 7.29 per cent if the interest is not withdrawn, and compounded quarterly, says the website.
- For senior citizens, the annualised yield would come to 7.82 per cent. Foot Notes: About SBI: Founded: 1 July 1955 Headquarters: Mumbai Chairman: Shri Dinesh Kumar Khara

#### **17. WPI inflation eases to 29-month low of 1.34% in March**

- Wholesale price inflation fell to a 29-month low of 1.34% in March aided by a sustained decline in commodity prices and a favourable base effect, according to official data released.
- WPI inflation was 3.85% in the previous month and it was 14.63% in March 2022. Overall, the wholesale inflation at the quarterly level dwindled to a nine-quarter low of 3.3% in Q4FY23, easing the input cost pressures on the corporates amidst weakening global and domestic demand. For FY23, the

wholesale inflation averaged 9.4%, moderating from a 30-year high of 13% in FY22.

### **18.Small Industries Development Bank of India Launches Pilot Scheme ‘Mission 50K-EV4ECO’ for Enhanced Financing in Electric Vehicle Space**

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the pilot financing scheme Called the Mission 50K-EV4ECO for better financing terms in the electric vehicle space (EVS) and strengthening the whole ecosystem.
- It's aim is to strengthen the EV ecosystem, including uptake for two, three and four-wheelers through direct and indirect lending. The pilot scheme, which is the precursor to EVOLVE scheme by SIDBI-World Bank, has two components –direct lending and indirect lending.

### **19.AIIB to establish first overseas office at Abu Dhabi Global Market**

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has signed an agreement to establish its first Interim Operational Hub at Abu Dhabi Global Market, which will become its first overseas office.
- AIIB is a multilateral development bank whose mission is financing infrastructure with sustainability at its core. With UAE hosting the COP28 later this year, the issue of climate finance remains a key concern for countries who are being asked to accelerate and raise ambition on climate action. The Host Member agreement was signed by Dr Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and UAE Governor of the AIIB, and Jin Lique, President of AIIB.

### **20.RBI Allows AU Small Finance To Deal In Foreign Exchange**

- AU Small Finance Bank said that it has received the permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an authorised dealer to deal in foreign exchange. The SFB in its SEBI Filing said that the Reserve Bank of India has granted license to act as Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange. From now, the company will be allowed to deal in foreign exchange subject to compliance with applicable regulations.

### **21.Rural housing under flagship scheme rises 25% in FY23**

- India built 5.28 million houses under the flagship rural housing scheme in FY23, up 25% from a year earlier.The country proposes to build 5.73 million houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), which will enable it to realise the overall target of building 29.5 million houses under the scheme to ensure "housing for all" by FY24, a rural development ministry official told ET.
- Cumulatively, Madhya Pradesh remains the biggest beneficiary of the scheme with 3.42 million houses constructed so far in the state, followed by Uttar Pradesh (3.21 million) and Jharkhand (1.52 million).

### **22.India ranks at 38<sup>th</sup> on World Bank's Logistic Performance Index**

- India has climbed six places on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023, now ranking 38th in the 139 countries index, as a result of significant investments in both soft and hard infrastructure as well as technology.
- India was ranked 44th on the index in 2018 and has now climbed to 38th in the 2023 listing. India's performance has drastically improved from 2014, when it was ranked 54th on the LPI.

### **23.Canara Bank has partnered with Reserve Bank of India innovation hub**

- Canara Bank, in collaboration with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), has announced the launch of "Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H" as one of customer friendly services adding to our pursuit of "Customer Delight".
- Form 15G (Individual and HUF) and Form 15H (Individual-Senior Citizen) are self-declaration forms that an individual submits to the bank requesting not to deduct TDS on interest income as their income is below the basic exemption limit. For this, providing PAN is compulsory.

### **24.RBI Imposes Rs 44 Lakh Penalty On Four Cooperative Banks**

- The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling Rs 44 lakh on four cooperative banks, including a Rs 16 lakh penalty on Chennai-based The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, for contravention of various norms.
- A penalty of Rs 13 lakh has been imposed on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank as it failed to transfer eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) within the prescribed period and transferred the same with delay.

### **25.HDFC Bank & Axis Bank to acquire a 9.94% stake each in Go Digit's life insurance business**

- Two of India's largest private lenders, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank, have signed definitive agreements to acquire a 9.94% equity stake each in the Go Digit Life, the life insurance business of insurtech unicorn Go Digit, which is set to go public.
- In two installments, the formal agreements for HDFC Bank's investment in Go Digit-Life total 69.90 crore Indian Rupees (INR).The banks will make an initial subscription of INR 10.93 Cr in the first tranche to acquire a stake in the company, with the option to invest the remaining INR 58.97 Cr later.

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1.KSINC Launches India's First Solar-Powered Tourist Boat**

- Kerala State Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) has launched Sooryamshu, India's first solar-powered tourist boat that can produce 27 KW of energy. Along with generators, the boat comes equipped with solar panels that will provide about 75% of its energy needs. The boat was built in Sri Lanka at a cost of Rs. 3.95 crores.

- KSINC plans to offer two tour packages, including kayaking and sightseeing, with the Sooryamshu. However, the Kadamakkudy package's launch will be delayed due to low-lying cables from the Kerala State Electricity Board, hindering the boat's smooth passage on some parts of the route.

## **2.Indian Rafale fighter jets to participate in French Military exercise with NATO allies**

- Indian Rafale combat aircraft are likely to participate in a multinational wargame codenamed Orion which is being hosted by France involving many of its NATO and other important allies. The aircraft likely to take part in the exercise are likely to be from the Western Air Command of the force which has the Golden Arrows squadron as part of it.
- The exercise is taking place in France with the Russia-Ukraine war in the backdrop where NATO led by US is opposing the Russian moves against Ukraine.

## **3.President of India takes a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft**

- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu took a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam on April 8, 2023. The President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, flew for about 30 minutes. The aircraft was flown by Group Captain Naveen Kumar, Commanding Officer of 106 Squadron. The President's flight in the Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft is a part of his efforts to engage with the armed forces as the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.

## **4.Adani Ports & APSEZ acquires Karaikal Port for Rs 1,485 Cr**

- The National Company Law Tribunal has approved the acquisition of Karaikal Port (KPPL) by the Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), the largest transport utility in India. Earlier, APSEZ was declared as the successful resolution applicant under the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of KPPL. The amount considered for the acquisition is ₹1,485 crore (\$181.2 million). Karaikal Port is an all-weather deep-water port on India's eastern coast that was developed on the build, operate and transfer format under the public-private partnership by the government of Puducherry.

## **5.INS Vikrant gets back its 'original' 1961 bell**

- The bell installed on the first INS Vikrant which was part of the Indian Navy from 1961 for 36 years, has now been returned to the country's latest and first 'Made-in-India' aircraft carrier of the same name commissioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year. The bell was on the first INS Vikrant in 1961 after India bought a British-origin aircraft carrier HMS Hercules and gave it an Indian name.

## **6.Indian Navy conducts offshore security exercise 'Prashthan'**

- Indian Navy conducted the offshore biannual security exercise 'Prashthan' in the offshore development area (ODA) off Mumbai, Maharashtra. The current



exercise was conducted on the Greatdrill Chaaya platform about 30 nm South West of Mumbai harbour. To validate measures and procedures to address contingencies that may occur in oil production platforms.

- The exercise is held every six months under the aegis of the Indian Navy and involves the participation of all stakeholders in the maritime domain. This exercise is an important element of ensuring offshore security and aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence.

## **7. Greek-Indian Air Forces To Conduct Massive Joint Exercise Over Mediterranean Sea**

- The Greek and Indian Air Forces will collaborate on a joint training exercise with Su-30, F-16, and Rafale fighter jets for ten days over Greece and the Mediterranean Sea.
- According to Bulgarian Military, the exercise is being conducted under the leadership of the Greek Air Force and the Greek Air Tactics Center of the Ministry of Defense. Training starts on April 18th and ends on April 28th.
- India and Greece continue to develop their good defense cooperation. The Indian Air Force will send five Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets to take part in the exercise.

## **8. IIT Kanpur ties knot with defense PSU to nurture startups**

- IIT Kanpur's Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) has signed a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AW&EIL). This partnership aims to provide financial support to the ever-dynamic start-up ecosystem in India, and to foster budding entrepreneurs with new technology and knowledge.
- The agreement was signed at the Ordnance Factory, Kanpur, in presence of notable dignitaries from SIIC, IIT Kanpur and AW&EIL.

## **9. Kolkata Metro becomes India's first metro train to run under river**

- On 12 April 2023, the Kolkata Metro reached Howrah from Kolkata through a river tunnel for the first time in India, carrying only officers and engineers. This tunnel is built across the Hooghly River.
- Services on this route of Kolkata Metro will start from this year itself. Once the services start, Howrah will become the country's deepest metro station (33 meters below the surface). The tunnel is 32 meters below the surface of the water. The entire length of this tunnel is 10.8 km underground.

## **10. Solar Energy Corporation of India gets 'Miniratna Category-I' status**

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- SECI, which was established in 2011, is the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes/projects of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aimed at fulfilling India's international commitments. SECI has played a Central role in the rapid increase of RE generation capacity in the country and has contributed towards the nation's climate commitments, carbon emission reduction strategies and sustainable energy transition.

### **11.India's First Semi-High Speed Regional Rail Service Named 'RAPIDX'**

- India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services have been named 'RAPIDX' by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC). The trains will run on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, being implemented to connect key urban nodes across the National Capital Region (NCR). The brand name has been chosen as 'RAPIDX' since it is easy to read and simple to pronounce in various languages.

### **12.WhatsApp launches 'Stay Safe' campaign to educate users on online safety**

- In an effort to create user awareness around safer digital practices, WhatsApp has launched an integrated safety campaign 'Stay Safe with WhatsApp' highlighting product features that empower users to take control of their online safety and ensure a safer messaging experience.
- The campaign focuses on educating users about WhatsApp's in-built product features and safety tools that equip people with the necessary safeguards to help protect them from online scams, frauds and account compromising threats.

### **13.IAF to participate in multilateral international air exercise ORION in France**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) arrived at the Air Force Base Station of the French Air and Space Force (FASF) in Mont de Marsan, France to participate in the Orion exercise. The ORION exercise program is being conducted from 17 April to 05 May 2023.
- The IAF contingent for the exercise includes four Rafale aircraft, two C-17 and two Il-78 aircraft and 165 airmen. This will be the first overseas exercise for the Rafale aircraft inducted into the IAF. Apart from IAF and French Air and Space Force, air forces from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, UK, Spain and USA are also participating in the exercise.

### **14.ISRO successfully conducts landing experiment of the Reusable Launch Vehicle**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 2 April successfully conducted the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX).
- The test was conducted at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka. A Chinook Helicopter of the Indian Air Force carried the launch vehicle to a height of 4.5 kms and released it in mid-air. The RLV took off at 7.10 am and landed at the ATR airstrip at 7.40 am. It is noteworthy that the rocket can be launched again with the help of a reusable launch vehicle.

### **15.10th Edition of Indian – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 to take place in Colombo**

- The 10th Edition of the annual Indian – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 is scheduled to be held in Colombo on the 3rd of April. The

exercise is being conducted in two phases of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by Sea Phase.

- The Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri while Sri Lanka Navy will have SLNS Vijayabahu and SLNS Samudura. In addition, the Indian Navy Chetak helicopter and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft along with Sri Lanka Air Force Dornier and BEL 412 helicopters would also participate in the exercise. The exercise will also have the Special Forces of the two navies participate together.

#### **16.AAI gives target to airports to achieve 100% use of Green Energy by 2024**

- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has given the target to most of the airports to achieve 100 percent use of Green Energy by 2024 and Net Zero by 2030. Currently Mumbai, Cochin and 25 other AAI Airports are using 100 per cent Green Energy. Cochin Airport is the first green airport in the world, fully powered by solar energy.
- The Airports Council International (ACI) has launched the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme, which is a global standard for carbon management at airports. The programme helps airports to assess their carbon emissions, develop a carbon management plan, and reduce their carbon footprint.

#### **17.PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended till June 30**

- Income Tax Department has extended the due date to June 30 from the earlier deadline of March 31. However, the linking will be possible only after paying a late fee of ₹1,000. More than 51 crore PANs have already been linked with Aadhaar so far.
- Under the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961, every person who has been allotted a PAN as on July 01, 2017 and is eligible to obtain Aadhaar Number, is required to intimate his Aadhaar to the prescribed authority on or before March 31, 2023, on payment of a prescribed fee (which is ₹1,000). If taxpayers fail to link their PAN with their Aadhaar, they cannot avail income tax refunds and have to pay TDS (tax deduction at source) and TCS (tax collection at source) at higher rates.

#### **18.Skyroot Aerospace test-fires advanced fully 3D-printed cryogenic engine**

- In Nagpur, private space vehicle company Skyroot Aerospace test-fired its 3D-printed Dhawan II engine for a duration of 200 seconds on 4 April. This is the second cryogenic rocket that has been successfully test-fired by Skyroot, following the Dhawan-I engine that was tested in November 2021.
- The achievement comes after the November 2022 launch of Vikram-S, making Skyroot the first Indian private company to send a rocket into space. The engine has been developed by the company for its heavy vehicle Vikram II. This cryogenic engine will be used as an advanced stage of the updated version of Vikram-II.

### **19. Amazon to launch first of 3,000 internet satellites to space in 2024**

- Amazon.com plans to launch its first internet satellites to space in the first half of 2024 as it prepares to vie with Elon Musk's SpaceX and others to provide broadband internet globally.
- Amazon's satellite internet unit, Project Kuiper, will begin mass-producing the satellites later 2023. This will be the first of over 3,000 satellites the technology giant plans to launch in low-Earth orbit in the next few years. The 2024 deployment target would keep Amazon on track to fulfil a regulatory mandate to launch half its entire Kuiper network of 3,236 satellites by 2026.

### **20. Reliance Retail ropes in former Amul chief RS Sodhi to drive grocery biz**

- Reliance Retail, the retail arm of Reliance Industries (RIL), has hired RS Sodhi, former MD of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF).
- Sodhi is expected to help Reliance Retail build its grocery vertical, especially in the fruits and vegetable space, besides helping its consumer brands segment. The company has been aggressively increasing its presence in the segment. Recently, it has launched a wide range of products, from beverages under the Campa brand to home items.

### **21. Ministry of I&B inks partnership with Amazon India in field of media, entertainment, public awareness**

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on 5th April announced a partnership between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Amazon India in the field of media, entertainment and public awareness.
- This partnership will help strengthen industry-academia ties through scholarships, internships, masterclasses for students at the Film and Television Institute of India and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute of India.

### **22. Nokia changes iconic logo for the first time in 60 years**

- Nokia has changed its iconic logo after nearly 60 years to revamp its brand identity for the first time in the company's history. The new logo is made up of five different shapes making the word NOKIA.
- Nokia redesigned its logo to avoid being associated with mobile phones, a sector it left almost ten years ago. CEO Lundmark said that Nokia is no longer just a smartphone company, but a "business technology company."

### **23. Andaman and Nicobar Command to conduct Indian Armed forces' joint military exercise 'Kavach'**

- A large-scale joint military exercise 'Exercise Kavach' will be conducted in the coming week under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), the only Joint Forces Command of India. The exercise involves assets of Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The tri-services exercise aims to fine-



tune joint war-fighting capabilities and SOPs towards enhancing operational synergy.

- It will also involve participation and deployment of elements of Army's Amphibious Brigade along with supporting forces including Special Forces of Navy, Armour/Mechanised components, Naval Ships comprising Destroyers, ASW Corvettes and Landing Ships with ship-borne helicopters of Eastern Naval Command and ANC.

## **24.Union govt approves Indian Space Policy 2023 to enhance role of Department of Space**

- The Union government has approved the Indian Space Policy 2023 on 6th April. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said, the price of natural gas should be 10 percent of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket.
- This step has been taken to ensure stable pricing in the regime and to provide adequate protection to the producers from adverse market movements. This would provide an incentive to increase production.

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## **25.India, Peru hold 2nd Joint Commission Meeting**

- The 2nd India-Peru Joint Commission Meeting was held in New Delhi on 15th April. In the meeting both sides reviewed their traditionally friendly relations and discussed ways to take forward cooperation in areas of mutual interest including trade and investments.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Ignacio Higuera, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru. They also discussed regional and multilateral issues of current relevance and underlined cooperation between the two countries in multilateral fora and international organizations.

## **26.NHAI enables FASTag based payments at forest entry points**

- To facilitate seamless and efficient entry process for vehicles entering into the forest area, Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), a company incorporated by NHAI to carry out Electronic Tolling, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve spread across the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- By enabling FASTag-based payments at forest entry points, visitors can avoid long queues and delays, allowing them to savour the natural beauty and wildlife of these areas without any hassle.



## **27.Army Commanders' Conference to be organized in Hybrid format**

- The first Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) for the year 2023 will be held on the 17th of April in Hybrid format. The conference is scheduled from 17 to 21 April 2023.
- For the first time, the ACC is being held in a hybrid format using available technology for secure communication, with the Army Commander and other senior officers meeting virtually on the first day. On the first day of the conference, the agenda points sponsored by various Command Headquarters will be discussed.

## **28.India retains top status in International Flight Safety Standards**

- India's International Aviation Safety Assessment rating will continue to remain in Category One as the country meets the international standards for aviation safety oversight. India received category one status after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States conducted an audit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the areas covering aircraft operations, airworthiness, and personnel licensing.
- FAA under its International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program determines whether a country complies with safety standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

## **29.European Space Agency's Juice mission launches to search for life on Jupiter's moons**

- The European Space Agency (ESA) has launched a new space mission to study the moons of Jupiter.
- On 14 April 2023, the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice) mission blasted off from French Guiana. The mission's spacecraft is now hurtling towards the largest planet in the Solar System to see if its moons have the potential to support life. One of the most enduring questions about space is whether or not there is extra-terrestrial life in the Solar System.
- A new ESA mission to Jupiter is hoping to find any possibility that other celestial bodies in the Solar System have the potential to support life. Blasting off from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, the Juice mission will head for the moons Ganymede, Callisto and Europa.

## **30.DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) has been inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology -Hyderabad (IITH). This is the biggest such facility in the country. DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat inaugurated the facility at the campus of the IIT-Hyderabad at Sangareddy in Telangana.

## **31.ISRO to launch 750 kg Singaporean satellite TeLEOS-02 on the PSLV rocket on April 22**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the Singaporean Earth Observation satellite TeLEOS-02 on Saturday, April 22. The launch will take place at 2.19 pm from the first launch pad at Sriharikota.
- The satellite on board will be TeLEOS 2—a 750kg earth observation satellite that has synthetic aperture radar capable of providing data in 1-meter resolution. The satellites arrived in India in February. This will be the third launch of the year for ISRO—all three using different launch vehicles. The first launch took place in February when the new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) successfully deployed three satellites and was declared operational by the space agency.

### **32.North Korea Tests Second Underwater Drone ‘Haeil-2’**

- To show off its strength against the United States of America (USA) and South Korea’s giant military exercise, North Korea tested its second nuclear-capable underwater attack drone “Haeil-2” test.
- The Haeil-2” test was carried out in Kajin Port, Kumya Country, South Hamgyong Province. Haeil-2 developed in 2012 and has carried out more than 50 tests in the past two years. North Korea’s drone covered an underwater distance of 1000 km (621.37 miles) in 71 hours and 6 minutes. Calculated average speed of 4.6 knots & this is much slower than a torpedo. Also, although depth has been quoted as 80-100 metres.

### **33.The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-23**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-23, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force, the air force of Greece. The exercise will be conducted at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from 24 Apr 2023 to 4 May 2023.
- The Indian Air Force will be participating with four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft. The exercise will be conducted in a realistic combat scenario involving a wide variety of air and surface assets. It will also enable participating parties to engage in professional interactions, providing valuable insight into each other's best practices.

### **34.DRDO and Indian Navy Conduct Successful Trial of BMD Interceptor**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal on April 21.
- The objective of the test was to target and destroy the effect of an enemy ballistic missile threat. The test could place the Indian Navy in an elite club of nations with BMD capabilities. Earlier, DRDO had successfully demonstrated the capability of the surface-based BMD system and thus achieved the capability to neutralize incoming ballistic missile threats from the enemy.

### **35.Wing Commander Deepika Misra becomes 1st woman IAF officer to get Gallantry Award**

- Wing Commander Deepika Misra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry medal. President had conferred Vayu Seva Medal

for gallantry on her at Independence Day last year and she received the medal from Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari at an investiture ceremony held in New Delhi.

- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra was detailed to undertake Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations in response to flash floods in northern Madhya Pradesh in August 2021. Braving deteriorating weather, strong winds and the near sunset time, she was the first and only respondent to reach the affected area the same evening. Her efforts helped in saving 47 lives.

### **36.Biofire Launches World's First Smart Gun with Fingerprint Unlock**

- Biofire Technologies, a Colorado-based company, has launched the world's first-ever biometric handgun, the Biofire Smart Gun. The Biofire Smart Gun is the first and only biometric firearm on the market.
- It is a 9mm handgun that uses fingerprint and facial recognition biometrics to ensure only authorised users can fire it. Designed for home defense, the Biofire Smart Gun enables firearm owners to defend themselves against external threats while preventing unauthorised access and misuse. Identification systems have been integrated with its firing mechanism. The smart gun is powered by a battery.

### **37.‘India-built Mongolia refinery by 2025’**

- Mongolia’s first oil refinery, built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by 2025, said the country’s Ambassador Dambajav Ganbold. In an interview, Ganbold said the first stage of Mongol Oil Refinery, built with a \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan, will be completed at the end of this year.
- The development comes with strategic implications as Mongolia is entirely dependent on Russia for its energy imports. Mongolia also hopes to attract Indian investment in its mining and metals, with plans to start shipping coking coal to India by 2024.

### **38.TCS tops LinkedIn’s 2023 Top Companies India list showcasing best places to work**

- Tata Consultancy Services has emerged as the top company in a list, which showcases the best places to work and grow careers, for 2023. TCS is followed by Amazon (2) and Morgan Stanley (3) in the ‘2023 Top Companies India’ list prepared by LinkedIn.
- There has been a shift from tech companies, which dominated the list last year, with companies across financial services, oil and gas, professional services, manufacturing and gaming featuring in this year’s list.

### **39.India, Guyana sign Air Services Agreement**

- India has signed an Air Services Agreement (ASA) with Guyana to facilitate easier travel between the two nations. The agreement was signed between Public Works Minister Bishop Juan Edghill and India’s High Commissioner to Guyana KJ Srinivas in the presence of EAM S Jaishankar, who is on a 3-day visit to Guyana.

- The agreement's signing is consistent with the government's objective to establish ties between Guyana and the rest of the world. It will also complement the more than 50 air service agreements Guyana has negotiated with other ICAO governments for the advancement of interstate air travel.

#### **40. India is third largest military spender after US and China**

- As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) global report India is the third largest military spender after the United States and China, with the expenditure going up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 to \$76.6 billion. India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world.
- This was up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 and by 33 per cent from 2012. The new data shared by SIPRI on global military spending acknowledges the Indian government's push to strengthen the indigenous arms industry and said that 64 per cent of capital outlays in the military budget of 2021 were earmarked for acquisitions of domestically produced arms.

#### **41. IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania**

- The first Indian Institute of Technology to be set up in Africa will come up in October in Tanzania. IIT Madras will set up its first International campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, with plans to start the classes by October 2023, said its Director V Kamakoti in his presidential address at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day. In February, a team of five professors from IIT Madras visited Tanzania and held discussions with various officials on starting the campus.

#### **42. WHO issues alert over India-made cough syrup Guaifenesin**

- The WHO has issued a red alert due to "unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol" in the tested samples of Guaifenesin TG syrup manufactured by Punjab-based QP Pharmachem Ltd.
- The World Health Organization has said that a consignment of this contaminated cough syrup made in India has been found in the Marshall Islands and Micronesia. Guaifenesin is used to relieve the symptoms of cough and tightness in the chest.

#### **43. 7th edition of bilateral training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior 2023' in India and the United Kingdom**

- India and the United Kingdom will soon begin the seventh edition of the bilateral training exercise Ajeya Warrior 2023. The exercise is part of an initiative to develop interoperability and share expertise with friendly foreign nations.
- Military forces of both countries participate in this joint military exercise. It is a bilateral training exercise between the armies of India and UK. The exercise will see the participation of an infantry company from India and a unit of equal strength from the British Army.

#### **44. INOX Air Products installs solar plant in UP for green oxygen supply**

- INOX Air Products (INOXAP), India's largest manufacturer of industrial and medical gases, has commissioned a 21.3 MWp Open Access Captive Solar Power Plant at Bangarmau in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh (UP). INOXAP's first dedicated Solar Power Plant is also the largest investment made by the Company in renewable energy.
- The plant has been commissioned by one of India's leading solar energy power developers, Sunsire Energy. It is built with an investment of ₹100 crore, the solar power plant will supply over 3.1 crore units of green power to INOXAP's units in Uttar Pradesh, enabling an offset of 28,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, for the next 25 years.

#### **45.IIT-Kanpur launches cybersecurity skilling programme**

- Kanpur (UP), C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur), supported by the Department of Science and Technology, under NM-ICPS Mission, along with its incubated start-ups Threat Guardians Pvt Ltd and Worker Union Support, has launched its Cybersecurity Skilling Programme.
- The programme aims to provide learners with a deeper understanding of the technical basics of cyberspace and cyber issues, introduce real-time cybersecurity techniques and methods, and focus on the models, tools, and techniques for enforcing security.

### **BOOKS AND AWARDS**

#### **1.Indian-American mathematician C R Rao awarded math 'Nobel Prize'**

- Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, a prominent Indian-American mathematician and statistician, will receive the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, the equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the field, for his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionised statistical thinking.
- The Rao-Blackwell process has been applied to stereology, particle filtering, and computational econometrics among others, while the Cramer-Rao lower bound is of great importance in such diverse fields as signal processing, spectroscopy, radar systems, multiple image radiography, risk analysis and quantum physics.

#### **2.The Great Bank Robbery by V. Pattabhi Ram & Sabyasachee Dash**

- A New Book Titled 'The Great Bank Robbery' is authored by V Pattabhi Ram and Sabyasachee Dash. Co-authored with Pattabhi Ram Published by Rupa Publications India
- In 'The Great Bank Robbery', the authors, both chartered accountants, explore how a bank works, the scandals that have rocked the banking world and focus on the role played by auditors, bankers, credit raters and directors. Set in 2036, the novel has been written in a conversational style. Authors have cited eleven major financial scams in post-independent India to highlight how vast amounts of public money have vanished from banks over the last few decades.

#### **3.Bharat Biotech wins award at World Vaccine Congress**



- Bharat Biotech has won the 'Best Production/Process Development' award as part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards at the World Vaccine Congress 2023. The Congress was held during April 3-6 in Washington, USA. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech was the only Indian company in the list of ViE awards in various categories, including best clinical trial company, best clinical trial network, best central/specialty laboratory award, best contract research organisation, best production/process development award, among others.

#### **4.Indian GM Gukesh wins title at World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event**

- In the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh, who is a teenager, pulled off a major upset by defeating former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final. Gukesh emerged as the winner in a thrilling summit clash that was full of ups and downs. The first game of the match ended in a draw after Gukesh employed a perpetual check strategy.

#### **5.Nilesh Sambare honored with the 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023'**

- Nilesh Bhagwan Sambare, also known as Appa, the founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation or Sanstha, was awarded the "Maratha Udyog Ratna" in the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023" organized by the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Development and Guidance Institute Maharashtra State." 2023" at Mahakavi Kalidas Kalamandir, Nashik.
- Nilesh Sambare (Appa), who has made an impression of his work in remote areas like Palghar, has done many jobs in the industry field through his tireless work. Due to his hard work and determination to work for society, he has created a respectable position in the industry.

#### **6.Kumar Mangalam Birla received AIMA's 'Business Leader of the Decade' award**

- Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, received the 'Business Leader of the Decade Award' at All India Management Association's (AIMA) 13th Managing India Awards ceremony.
- Birla, who is credited for taking control of the diversified group and successfully consolidating its operations since his early days, won the award for his contributions to the Indian industry over the last decade. Tata Steel Chairman T V Narendran was facilitated with 'AIMA-JRD Tata Corporate Leadership' award. Leading engineering services company ABB India bagged the 'MNC in India of the Year' award.

#### **7.Indian-American Richard Verma confirmed for powerful US State Department post**

- Richard Verma has served as Vice Chairman of The Asia Group, Partner and Senior Counsellor at Steptoe and Johnson LLP. The US Senate has confirmed Indian-American lawyer, diplomat and executive Richard Verma as the Deputy Secretary of State, Management and Resources, a position which is

normally seen as the CEO of the powerful State Department in the US government.

- He served as the US ambassador to India from January 16, 2015, to January 20, 2017, and is currently the chief legal officer and the head of global public policy at Mastercard. During the previous Obama administration, Verma served as the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

### **8.A new book titled “Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta” written by Piyush Babele**

- A new book in Hindi titled Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta (‘Gandhi: Politics and Communalism’) written by journalist-turned-author Piyush Babele, who currently heads the Madhya Pradesh Congress’ media department. He cites extracts from Dr. Ambedkar’s book Pakistan or the Partition of India and other sources, and claims to “contextualise the developments leading up to India’s Partition in 1947 to bust the illusion spread by the Hindu right wing that Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the Partition”.

### **9.Ukrainian president decorated with Poland’s top award**

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was awarded the Order of the White Eagle by his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda. It is the country’s highest order awarded to both civilians and the military for their merits.
- The Order of the White Eagle is the Republic of Poland’s oldest and most prestigious award. The Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland stated that Zelensky was given the award in acknowledgment of his contributions to enhancing ties between Poland and Ukraine, promoting security, and his unwavering commitment to protecting human rights.

### **10.Nandini Gupta from Rajasthan wins Femina Miss India 2023**

- Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta has been crowned Femina Miss India World 2023. Along with her, Delhi's Shreya Poonja became the first runner-up, while Manipur's Thounaojam Strela Luwang was crowned the 2nd runner-up. 19-year-old Nandini hails from Kota, one of biggest coaching hubs in the country for engineering and medical aspirants. The beauty with brains hold a degree in Business Management, Nandini is dedicated towards taking up challenges and succeeding.

### **11.Dr. Appasaheb Dharmadhikari has been awarded the "Maharashtra Bhushan" for the year 2022**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the "Maharashtra Bhushan" award for the year 2022 to Dr. Appasaheb Dharmadhikari at Raigarh, Maharashtra on 16th April. On this occasion, Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis were present.
- Appasaheb Dharmadhikari is a famous social reformer. His father Nanasaheb was Dharmadhikari.
- Nanasaheb Dharmadhikari Pratishthan undertakes many social welfare activities like health camps, blood donation camps, de-addiction, cleaning of

area, tree plantation, environment protection, distribution of educational material.

## 12. Renowned National Award-Winning actress Uttara Baokar passed away

- Noted actress and theatre artist Uttara Baokar passed away at the age of 79 in Pune city of Maharashtra. She acted in several notable plays, such as Padmavati in Mukhyamantri, Mena in Mena Gurjari, Desdemona in Shakespeare's Othello.
- She has appeared in popular TV shows like Udaan, Antaral, X Zone, Rishtey Kora Kaagaz, Nazarana, Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin, Kashmakash Zindagi Ki and Jabb Love Hua. In 1984, she won the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Acting (Hindi theatre). In 1988 she won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress for Ek Din Achanak.

## 13. FedEx CEO Raj Subramaniam Receives Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

- On 15 April, FedEx CEO Raj Subramaniam received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, India's highest civilian honour for persons of Indian origin and the diaspora.
- Due to travel restrictions, Subramaniam was presented the award by India's ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, at a ceremony held at India House. Subramaniam is a prominent Indian-American business leader. It is an award given by the Government of India to persons of Indian origin and diaspora who have made significant contributions in their respective fields.



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## 14. The new book 'Gandhi: Siasat aur Sampradayikata' written by Piyush Babel

- The new book 'Gandhi: Siasat aur Sampradayikata' written by journalist, and writer Piyush Babel is available in Hindi. The book is published by New Delhi-based Genuine Publications & Media Private Limited. He is the head of the media department of the Madhya Pradesh Congress.
- He quotes from Dr Ambedkar's book 'Pakistan or the Partition of India' and other sources and claims that "contextualizing the developments leading up to the Partition of India in 1947, he shows that the spread of the Hindu South was a serious underlying factor that Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the partition.

## 15. City Union Bank launches voice biometrics for logging into mobile banking app

- For City Union Bank (CUB) customers, their voice can now be their new password. The Kumbakonam-headquartered bank launched the country's first voice biometric authentication for logging into its mobile banking app.
- The voice biometric service was developed by Chennai-based deeptech start-up, Kaizen Secure Voiz Pvt Ltd, under the guidance of the 5G use case lab of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an RBI established institution focussed on research in banking technologies.

### **16.Asha Bhosle to receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar**

- Legendary singer Asha Bhosle will be felicitated with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award, the Mangeshkar family announced on Tuesday. The family and the trust instituted the award in the memory of Lata Mangeshkar, who died on February 6, 2022, following multiple organ failure.
- Bhosle, the younger sister of Lata Mangeshkar, will receive the recognition on April 24, the memorial day of their father and theatre-music veteran Deenanath Mangeshkar. This award, known as the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar, is given every year to an individual who has made a path-breaking contribution towards the nation, its people and society. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was its first recipient.

### **17.Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award conferred to innovator Sonam Wangchuk**

- The prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award, an initiative of Shree Ramkrishna Exports (SRK) a leading diamond crafting and exports company, and its philanthropic arm Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF), has been conferred on a notable engineer, innovator, educationist and sustainable development reformist and Founder-Director of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), Sonam Wangchuk.

### **18.Synergy Group wins prestigious Tanker Operator Award**

- Synergy Group, which operates a fleet of more than 560 vessels, has won the GREEN4SEA Tanker Operator award for its 'leadership role in global tanker management.' The award recognizes excellence in the tanker industry and is one of the most prestigious awards in the maritime sector.
- Founded in 2006 by Captain Rajesh Unni, the group took home the award through a representative during a hybrid event held in Athens. Instituted by the SAFETY4SEA shipping and maritime news portal, the awards recognise operational excellence and industry leadership in the tanker sector.

### **19.Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum wins London Marathon in 2nd fastest time**

- Kelvin Kiptum collapsed to the ground after winning the London Marathon and recording the second fastest time in history over the distance. The 23-year-old Kenyan runner set the course record with a time of 2 hours, 1 minute, 25 seconds and just missed out on Eliud Kipchoge's world record by 16 seconds.



**20.Carlos Alcaraz wins second consecutive Barcelona title**

- Carlos Alcaraz won his second consecutive Barcelona title on 23 April, defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets. Alcaraz has won his third trophy of 2023 and ninth of his career after victories in Buenos Aires and Indian Wells. It was Alcaraz's fourth win in four meetings with Tsitsipas.
- Barcelona is one of the most successful clubs in Spanish football history. The club was founded in 1899 by a group of Swiss, Spanish and English footballers. Barcelona is also known for their youth academy, La Masia, which has produced many of the club's greats such as Lionel Messi, Xavi and Andres Iniesta.

**21.Amitav Ghosh's non-fiction book 'Smoke and Ashes' to be released in July 2023**

- Amitav Ghosh's new non-fiction book, "Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories", will be published by HarperCollins Fourth Estate on July 15, 2023. The book is a combination of memoir, travelogue, and cultural and economic history, which explores the often overlooked effects of opium on society and history.
- Based on Ghosh's extensive research conducted while writing his trilogy of novels between 2005 and 2015, "Smoke and Ashes" takes a personal look at the author's engagement with the hidden history of opium. This book explores how opium has shaped the modern world and continues to play an important role in making it now.

**22.Ratan Tata honoured with Australia's highest civilian honour**

- Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata has received the Order of Australia (AO), Australia's highest civilian honour. The award was announced by Barry O'Farrell, Australia's High Commissioner to India.
- The award was given to Ratan Tata for his contribution in strengthening bilateral relations between India and Australia. Ratan Tata has been a strong supporter of the 2022 India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a subsidiary of Tata Sons, has the largest workforce of any Indian company in Australia with around 17,000 employees.

**23.Bureaucrat Ashish Kundra's new book 'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change' launched in New Delhi**

- Author, IAS officer, and senior bureaucrat Ashish Kundra's new book on the history of Northeast India and its people, 'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change', was released on April 21, 2023, at an event in New Delhi.
- The book was launched in the presence of Kiren Rijiju- Union Minister of Law and Justice; Hardeep Singh Puri- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and of Housing and Urban Affairs; Pema Khandu- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh etc.



## **SPORTS**

### **1.Sports Authority of India integrates Khelo India games certificates with DigiLocker**

- Sports Authority of India has integrated Khelo India Games certificates with DigiLocker for the first time. Athletes, support staff, technical officers, mission heads, competition managers, etc. can access their Khelo India certificates through the digital platform.
- Athletes and other stakeholders participating in the Khelo India Games will now be able to collect their certificates of qualification and participation from the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 in Madhya Pradesh. It aims to 'digitally empower' citizens.

### **2.Shakib Al Hasan wins ICC Men's Player of the Month award for the second time**

- On 13 April, Shakib Al Hasan and Henriette Ishimwe won the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards for March 2023. Shakib Al Hasan won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for the second time and first win in July 2021. He was recognized for his key role in Bangladesh's 3–0 T20I series victory over England.
- 19-year-old Rwandan Henriette Ishimwe won the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for her performances in the Nigerian Women's T20I tournament and the ICC Under-19 World Cup in South Africa.

### **3.Aman Sehrawat won gold medal in Asian Wrestling Championship 2023**

- Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat won the gold medal in the men's 57 kg freestyle category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 held in Astana, Kazakhstan. Sehrawat won the gold medal by defeating Almaz Samanbekov of Kyrgyzstan with a score of 9-4. India got its first gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2023.
- It was Aman Sehrawat's second podium finish of the year. He had earlier won the gold medal in the Under-23 World Championship held in Spain last year. India won 13 medals at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 with two freestyle medals, four Greco-Roman medals and seven women's wrestling medals.

### **4.Russian superstar Daniil Medvedev Wins Maiden Miami Opens Title 2023**

- Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev claimed his fourth title of the year by defeating Jannik Sinner in a closely-contested final match in Miami Opens 2023. Medvedev, who was once the top-ranked player in the world, has now won 24 out of his last 25 matches, including his latest victory at the prestigious Miami Open.
- The win marked his first-ever title win at the Miami Open. Medvedev clinched his fifth Masters 1000 title and 19th title overall by beating Sinner, who has also been in impressive form this season, with a scoreline of 7-5, 6-3. Interestingly, Medvedev has won each of his 19 titles in different

tournaments. This was also his first Masters 1000 title since winning in Toronto back in 2021.

### **5.Peru removed as host of this year's men's Under-17 World Cup**

- Peru was stripped of hosting the men's Under-17 World Cup because FIFA said the country was not ready to stage the tournament later this year. FIFA did not name a replacement host for the 24-team tournament scheduled to be played from Nov. 10-Dec. 2.
- The decision comes one week after FIFA took the men's Under-20 World Cup from Indonesia because that country did not want to host Israel at its tournament in May. Argentina wants to stage the Under-20 World Cup. FIFA is expected to confirm a host nation this week.

### **6.Argentina becomes number one football team in the world in FIFA rankings 2023**

- On 6th April 2023 The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) released the latest rankings of international football teams and Argentina topped the FIFA rankings for the first time in six years.
- The top five teams in the FIFA rankings as of April 2023 are Argentina, France, Brazil, Belgium and England. The next FIFA World Rankings will be published on 20 July 2023. FIFA is the governing body for association football, beach soccer and futsal at the international level.

### **7.PBKS' Kagiso Rabada becomes fastest to pick 100 wickets in IPL**

- Punjab Kings' bowler Kagiso Rabada became the fastest to pick 100 wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in terms of matches played.
- Rabada achieved this milestone during the match against Gujarat Titans at the IS Bindra Stadium and became the fastest bowler to reach the mark in terms of matches played. He took his 100th wicket as he removed Wriddhiman Saha in the 5th over of the match.

### **8.David Warner becomes most capped overseas captain in IPL, surpasses Adam Gilchrist**

- David Warner became the most capped overseas captain in Indian Premier League (IPL) history when he walked out for the toss for Delhi Capitals against Kolkata Knight Riders during an IPL 2023 game in Delhi. The 36-year-old Warner surpassed compatriot Adam Gilchrist with his 75th appearance as captain in the IPL.
- Warner first captained in the IPL during his previous stint with the Delhi Capitals (then Daredevils) in 2013, when he stood as the stand-in captain for Mahela Jayawardena. Warner was then roped in by Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2014 before the Australian took over the reins from Daren Sammy in 2015.

### **9.Jaden Pariat Becomes First Indian to Finish on Podium in British F4 Championship**

- Young Indian racing star Jaden Pariat of Argenti Motorsport displayed his immense talent with a podium in the first round of the ROKiT British F4 Championship at Donington Park here. He is only the second Indian to get an international podium in a Tatuus F4 car after Kush Maini's podium in 2017.
- The podium is being hailed as a big milestone for the younger generation looking to break through to higher levels of Formula racing.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1. Renowned theatre actress Jalabala Vaidya passed away**

- Theatre actress and co-founder of Akshara Theater Jalabala Vaidya passed away on April 9, 2023. Jalabala Vaidya started her theatrical journey in 1968 with 'Full Circle'. Vaidya was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Tagore Award, the Delhi Natya Sangh Award and the Andhra Pradesh Natya Akademi Award. Vaidya's passing is a great loss to the theatre community, and his legacy will continue to inspire and influence generations of theatre artists to come.

### **2. India's oldest billionaire Keshub Mahindra passes away at 99**

- Keshub Mahindra, India's oldest billionaire and chairman emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra, passed away on Wednesday aged 99. Mahindra had a net worth of \$1.2 billion, according to Forbes. After retiring from his position as Chairman, Mahindra Group, on August 9, 2012, he handed over the reins to his nephew, Anand Mahindra.

### **3. Former cricketer Salim Durani passes away at the age of 88**

- Former India all-rounder cricketer Salim Durani passed away on 2 April after a prolonged illness. He was 88 years old. Salim Durrani was living in Gujarat's Jamnagar with his younger brother, Jahangir Durani.
- He was born on 11 December 1934 in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. Later Durrani's family settled in Karachi. During the India-Pakistan partition, Durani's family had settled in India. He was known as a brilliant all-rounder. He made a significant contribution in the series against England in 1961-62. In the last two Tests, Salim led India to victory.

### **4. Malayalam Novelist and short story writer Sarah Thomas passed away**

- Veteran Malayalam novelist, short story writer & two-time Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award winner Sarah Thomas passed away at the age of 88 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

#### **About Sarah Thomas :**

- Sarah Thomas was born in September 1934, Trivandrum, Travancore. British Raj (now in Kerala).
- Sarah, who has written 17 novels and over 100 short stories.

- Her debut work 'Jeevitham Enna Nadi' (The river that is life) was published at the age of 34.

### **5. Japanese pop pioneer & Oscar-winning composer Ryuichi Sakamoto Passed away**

- Oscar-winning Japanese pop pioneer Ryuichi Sakamoto has passed away at the age of 71 in Tokyo, Japan.
- Ryuichi Sakamoto was born on January 17, 1952, in Tokyo, Japan. He was a Japanese composer, record producer, and actor who pursued a diverse range of styles as a solo artist and as a member of Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO). Sakamoto's most famous work is likely the title track of the film "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence," which became an international hit in 1983.
- In 1988, he won an Oscar Award for his score to Bernardo Bertolucci's 'The Last Emperor', which also earned a Grammy for the score.

### **6. Jharkhand Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto Passes Away in Chennai**

- Jharkhand minister Jagarnath Mahto has passed away. Mr Mahto, the minister for school education and literacy, was airlifted to Chennai last month due to health complications. He had undergone a lung transplant in November 2020 after suffering from COVID-19. Mr Mahto, the four-time JMM MLA from Dumri in Giridih district, was taken to Chennai in October 2020, where he had undergone the transplant as his lungs were damaged due to the COVID-19 infection.

### **7. Virginia Norwood, satellite imaging systems 'mother', Passed away**

- Virginia Norwood, an American aerospace pioneer who invented the scanner that has been used to map and study the earth from space for over 50 years, has passed away at the age of 86 in Topanga, Calif. Virginia Tower was born on January 8, 1927, at Fort Totten in New York City, United States (US).
- She was best known for her contribution to the Landsat program, having designed the Multispectral Scanner which was first used on Landsat 1. The scanner has been used for more than 50 years for scanning safe landing sites and mapping our planet from space.

### **8. Telugu actor and comedian Allu Ramesh passed away**

- Telugu actor and comedian Allu Ramesh passed away. He suffered cardiac arrest in his hometown, Visakhapatnam. Allu Ramesh started off his career as an actor by doing theatre performances. After that, he made his debut in Tollywood with Tarun's Chirujallu and starred in almost 50 films.
- Allu Ramesh acted in movies like Napoleon, Tholubommatala, Madhura Wines, and Ravana Desam. Over a two-decade-long career, Ramesh went on to appear in several popular and successful films and was last seen in Rajendra Prasad's Anukoni Prayanam on the big screens.

### **9. Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah passed away**

- On 24 April, Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah died of cancer at the age of 73. Fatah was born in 1949, shortly after Pakistan's independence, and described himself as "Midnight's Child".
- He was known for his criticisms of Islamic extremism and the Pakistani establishment, and was also a supporter of gay rights. Tarek Fatah began his career in journalism in Pakistan in 1970 as a reporter for the Karachi Sun. He later worked as an investigative reporter for Pakistan Television. In 1977, Fatah was accused of treason by the Zia-ul-Haq government, which forced him to flee to Saudi Arabia. He later settled in Canada in 1987.

#### **10. Former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal passed away**

- Former Chief Minister of Punjab and senior leader of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Parkash Singh Badal passed away at the age of 95 on 25 April 2023. Parkash Singh Badal was born on 8 December 1927 at Abul Khurana near Malot. He entered the state assembly from Malout in 1957 as a Congress candidate. In 1969, entered the Vidhansabha from Gidderbaha seat on SAD ticket and was elected MLA 11 times, lost only twice.
- He became the Chief Minister of Punjab in 1970, leading a coalition government for the first time. However, the government did not complete its term. Badal was the Chief Minister of Punjab from 1977 to 1980, 1997 to 2002, 2007 to 2012 and 2012 to 2017. He was known for his role in the Punjab insurgency and peace talks with militants in the 1990s.

#### **11. Dalai Lama Receives Ramon Magsaysay Award**

- Dalai Lama personally received the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award from members of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation at his residence. President of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Susanna B. Affan, along with Foundation Trustee Emily A. Abrera, presented the award to the Dalai Lama. The award was given in August 1959 by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation in the Philippines.
- The Dalai Lama's elder brother Gyalo Thonden accepted the Magsaysay Award on his behalf in August 1959 in Manila, Philippines. Since his exile from Tibet in 1959, the Dalai Lama has been living in India.

#### **12. Veteran Malayalam Actor Mamukkoya Dies At 76**

- Veteran Malayalam actor Mamukkoya, known for his work in Bollywood and the French film *Flammens of Paradise* died at the age of 76 in Kozhikode. He was considered an acting legend in South film industry. Mamukkoya suffered a heart attack as he had collapsed at the venue of a football tournament at Wandoor in Malappuram on , April 24, 2023.
- The actor underwent treatment at a private hospital in Kozhikode for the past few days. The cause of his death is being told due to brain hemorrhage, as reported by Matrubhumi.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. World Homeopathy Day 2023 observed on 10th April**

- The World Homeopathy Day is celebrated each year on April 10 to pay tribute to homoeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The day is observed on the occasion of the birth anniversary of German physician Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homoeopathy.
- **Theme:** One Health, One Family

### **2. 196th birth anniversary of Jyotirao Govindrao Phule is celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> April**

- Jyotirao Phule Jayanti is an annual observance in India, celebrated on April 11th every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jyotirao Phule. Jyotirao Phule was a prominent social reformer, philosopher, and writer who played a crucial role in women's education and the upliftment of the oppressed castes in India during the British rule. He was born on April 11, 1827, in Maharashtra, and his contributions to the Indian society and culture are celebrated on this day. life and legacy.

### **3. International Day for Mine Awareness is observed every year on 4<sup>th</sup> April**

- International Day for Mine Awareness 2023 is observed all over the world on April 4th. In 2023 the United Nations Mine Action Service will promote the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action under the theme "Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home".
- The United Nations' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is celebrated on the 4th of April every year. The General Assembly on 8 December 2005 declared that each year on 4 April would be officially proclaimed and observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

### **4. World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7<sup>th</sup> April**

- World Health Day is observed every year on 7th April to draw global attention to a specific health issue that affects people around the world. The theme of World Health Day 2023 is "**Health for All**", reflecting the achievements of public health over the past seven decades in enhancing the quality of life of people.
- The theme emphasises the need for the world to take necessary measures to deal with current and future health challenges. World Health Day aims to promote awareness and draw global attention to a specific health issue that affects people around the world. The first World Health Day was celebrated on July 22, 1949, but was later moved to April 7 to encourage student participation.

### **5. World Chagas Disease Day is observed every year on 14 April**

- World Chagas Disease Day is observed every year on 14 April to raise awareness about the deadly disease caused by the *Trypanosoma cruzi* parasite.
- The theme for World Chagas Disease Day 2023 is "**Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care**" to encourage universal care and surveillance at the most decentralised level of the health system. The disease is commonly known as American trypanosomiasis, the silent disease and mainly affects people living in rural areas with poor sanitary conditions, especially those who are poor.

## 6. World Voice Day is celebrated every year on 16<sup>th</sup> of April

- World Voice Day is a global annual event held on 16 April dedicated to the phenomenon of voice celebration. The aim is to show the enormous value of the voice in the people's daily lives. Voice is an important aspect of healthy and effective communication. The WVD brings worldwide awareness of the necessity of preventing voice issues, training the artistic voice, rehabilitating the sick or deviant voice as well as researching the application and function of the voice.

## 7. World Liver Day observed every on 19<sup>th</sup> April

- World liver day is observed on April 19 every year, across the world. The day aims to raise awareness about liver-related diseases and diseases. As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), liver ailments remain the 10th most common reason for death in India.
- The liver is the second largest and most complex organ, performing all vital functions. The liver plays an important role in the body's immunity, digestion, and metabolism. It is responsible for the conversion of glucose into glycogen, amino acid regulation, production of proteins for blood plasma and more.
- **Theme:** Be Vigilant, Do Regular Liver Check-Up, Fatty Liver Can Affect Anyone.'

## 8. Every year, on April 20, the United Nations Chinese Language Day is observed

- Every year, on April 20, the United Nations Chinese Language Day is observed. Its purpose is to celebrate the Chinese language, one of the six official languages of the United Nations. The day also aims to create a platform for people around the world to learn the Chinese language.
- The day creates general awareness about the Chinese language and promotes multilingual culture and diversity among the people. The day also aims to remember the contribution of Cangzi, a mythological figure who is believed to have invented Chinese characters. The date for Chinese Day was chosen from Gayu ("Rain of Millet"), the sixth of the 24 solar terms in the traditional East Asian calendar.

## 9. World Immunization Week is observed on 24 to 30 April

- World Immunization Week, celebrated in the last week of April, aims to highlight the collective action needed to protect people from vaccine-

preventable diseases. Under the theme of 'The Big Catch-Up', WHO is working with partners to accelerate rapid progress in countries to get back on track to ensure more people, particularly children, are protected from preventable diseases.

- 2023 is our global opportunity to catch-up on lost progress in essential immunization. We need to reach the millions of children who missed out on vaccines, restore essential immunization coverage to at least 2019 levels, strengthen primary health care to deliver immunization and build lasting protection in communities and countries.

## 10. World Malaria Day 2023 observed on 25th April

- World Malaria Day is observed annually on 25 April, to bring global attention to the efforts being made to bring an end to malaria and encourage action to reduce suffering and death from the disease.
- The theme for World Malaria Day 2023 is "**Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement**", emphasizing the urgency to invest resources, innovate strategies and implement actions towards achieving the goal of zero malaria.

## 11. World Intellectual Property Day 2023 observed on 26 April

- World Intellectual Property Day is observed on 26 April with an aim to highlight the importance and understanding of intellectual property (IP). It is also known as World IP Day. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is necessary to be safe therefore, WIPO is not organising any physical events, and encourages the community of World IP Day to celebrate via virtual channels.
- The day is celebrated to make people know how intellectual property (IP) rights encourage innovation and creativity. This year World IP Day puts innovation and supports the efforts to create a green future. It is a need to care for our earth our home.



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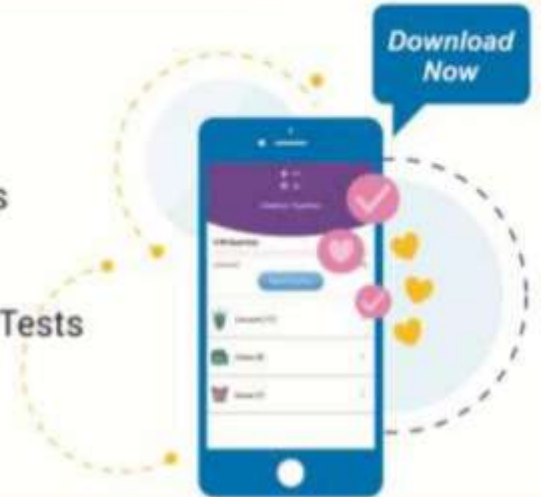
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